

RIGA OPERA FESTIVAL with TALLINN and VILNIUS

Tallinn, Riga, and Vilnius – 13 days

Depart: May 30, 2025

Return: June 11, 2025

Discover the Baltic's hidden gems with an extraordinary opera odyssey to Tallinn, Riga, and Vilnius, culminating in the renowned Riga Opera Festival!

***Tallinn, Estonia:** Begin your journey in the charming city of Tallinn, where you will stay at the luxurious **Radisson Collection Hotel**. The Estonian National Opera sets the stage for Johann Strauss's lighthearted and effervescent operetta, **Die Fledermaus**. The enchanting performance, set against the elegant backdrop of the **Estonian National Opera**, promises an evening filled with joy and captivating music.*

***Riga, Latvia:** The heart of your journey lies in Riga, home to the celebrated Riga Opera Festival. Your stay at the sophisticated **Grand Hotel Kempinski** places you steps away from the Latvian National Opera. While the festival features various operas, ballets, and performances, we have selected highlights to complement the rest of your Baltic journey. Donizetti's beloved comic opera **L'elisie D'amore** enchants with its bubbly romance and charming arias, providing a lighthearted yet emotional experience.*

*Adding to the festival's grandeur, **Richard Strauss's** intense and dramatic opera **Salome** immerses audiences in a world of dark allure and powerful vocal performances. Ballet enthusiasts can revel in the ethereal beauty of **Swan Lake** by **Tchaikovsky's** timeless score breathes life into this iconic production.*

*You will also experience **Juris Karlsons'** ballet **Antonija Silmaci**, which showcases Latvian ballet's rich cultural heritage and captivating storytelling.*

***Vilnius, Lithuania:** No visit to Riga is complete without experiencing Vilnius. Conclude your journey in the historic city of Vilnius, where the **Grand Hotel Vilnius** offers unmatched luxury and comfort. Here, audiences will experience **Verdi's** powerful and moving opera, **Aida**, which will provide a stirring conclusion to your operatic exploration.*



As you traverse these Baltic cities, your journey will extend beyond the performances, allowing you to soak in each location's cultural treasures and architectural marvels. From Tallinn's medieval charm to Riga's elegance and Vilnius's historical beauty, this operatic tour provides a harmonious blend of art, history, and luxury.

Let the Riga Opera Festival and the magnificent productions across the Baltics leave an indelible mark on your heart, making this an unforgettable cultural and musical experience.

Opera Performances

In Tallinn:

June 1 – **Die Fledermaus** by Johann Strauss (Operetta)

In Riga:

June 4 – **L'elisir D'amore** by **Donizetti**

June 5 – **Antonija Silmaci** by **Juris Karlsons** (Ballet)

June 6 – **Salome** by **Richard Strauss**

June 7 – **Swan Lake** by **Tchaikovsky** (Ballet)

In Vilnius:

June 8 – **Aida** by **Verdi**

Friday, May 30. (D)*. DEPART FOR TALLINN

Depart this evening, aboard any airline of your choice from USA to Tallinn, Estonia. Dinner and light breakfast served on the plane.

Saturday, May 31. (B.D). TALLINN

Upon arriving at the Tallinn International airport, take a taxi to the deluxe, RADISSON COLLECTION HOTEL where we stay three nights. Briefing, cocktails, and Gala Welcome dinner at the hotel.

Sunday, June 1. (B). TALLINN

Morning sightseeing to stop by Toompea, and see the Parliament Building, enjoy fantastic views from Harju Hill, wander through Freedom Square and Town Hall Square, and discover romantic courtyards. This evening, we will see operetta **Die Fledermaus** by **Johann Strauss** at the Estonian National Opera.



Tallinn, the capital of Estonia is strategically located on the shores of the Gulf of Finland and the Baltic Sea and is one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe with distinctive cobblestone streets, boasting Gothic spires, and enchanting architecture. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Tallinn was occupied in 1219 by King Valdemar of Denmark. Then followed a period of alternating Scandinavian and Tutonic rules. Due to its strategic location, the city became a major trade hub, especially from the 14th to the 16th century, when it grew in importance as part of the Hanseatic League.

Monday, June 2 (B). TALLINN

Today we take a general sightseeing by bus to the surroundings of Tallinn. This evening is free.

Tuesday, June 3. (B,L,D). TALLINN – RIGA

Today we drive from Tallinn, Estonia, stop for a lunch enroute in Parnu and continue to Riga, Latvia where we five nights at the charming GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI near the opera house. This evening or the next, we will have dinner in the hotel's gourmet restaurant.

Wednesday, June 4. (B). RIGA

This morning, we will take a walking tour of Riga to see how Peter the Great of Russia expanded this seaport on the Baltic and made it into the important trading center that it is today. A UNESCO World Heritage site, Riga's historic center has been a monument to human creativity for many centuries. On this tour, you'll experience wonderful buildings and stories about the people living there. Amongst the sights are St. Peters Church, House of the Blackheads, St. Johns Church, Koventa Seta and Dome Cathedral, and the square. Riga's Old Town, a medieval pearl is full of fascinating sights and stories. Discover why Riga's church steeples have roosters, not crosses, which house Sherlock Holmes lived in, and other interesting sights. Then we wander through some luscious parks, where our local guide will tell you about the beavers in the canal, show you the Freedom Monument, and explain how this symbol of independence survived Soviet demolition plans. Time permitting, we will explore Riga's Central Market. Its five giant pavilions offer a wonderful selection of local bread, cheeses, fish, pickles, and much more in a lively atmosphere. This evening, we will see **L'elisir D'amore** by **Donizetti** at the Latvian National Opera.

RIGA the capitol of Latvia lies at the mouth of Daugava River, where it meets the Baltic Sea. Riga has the largest collection of Art Nouveau houses built between 1904 to 1913. Riga is famous for its Old Town and city center, in which over 800 buildings are of the Art Nouveau style of architecture. The Art Nouveau style involves intricate building facades, with carvings of flowers and mythological creatures, with ornate doorways and windows. RIGA is a wonderful surprise to many visitors. A big city in feeling and sophistication, she has come to life again after half-a-century of Soviet domination. The moment you walk her streets, you understand why in the 1930s she was known as "The Little Paris of the North." Perhaps the best indicator of Riga's cultural strength is that far from old buildings being torn down to make way for high risers, they



are being lovingly restored. Almost symbolically, one of the first to be brought back to its former glory, was the Opera House.

Thursday, June 5. (B). RIGA

This morning, it is time to discover the Art Nouveau district (by bus) with its magnificent buildings. Riga is celebrated for its astonishing number of Art Nouveau buildings. One of the most prolific designers was Russian-born Mikhail Osipovich Eisenstein, who created several structures, including many of the highly ornamented apartment buildings on Albert Street. We will also visit the museum located in one of these buildings.

This evening, we will see the ballet **Antonija Silmaci** by **Juris Karlsons** at the **Latvian National Opera**.

Friday, June 6. (B,L). RIGA

Today, we will take a private bus tour to Sigulda, northeast of Riga, to see natural attractions along the Gauja River and two main attractions in the area: the Castle of The Livonian Order and the Turaida Museum Reserve. This place, with its picturesque nature and ancient castles, will leave you with an unforgettable experience. Enjoy a local lunch enroute. This evening, we will see the ballet **Swan Lake** by **Tchaikovsky** at the Latvian National Opera.

Saturday, June 7. (B,L). RIGA

Today, we take another bus tour, driving south of Riga to visit the Rundale Palace Museum and Garden. In 1735, Duke of Courland Ernst Johann von Biron bought land in Rundāle with an old medieval castle in the territory of a planned summer residence. The old castle was demolished, and construction began after the design of Bartolomeo Rastrelli started in 1736. Under the supervision of Rastrelli, its construction was finished in 1768. Johann Michael Graff produced lavish stucco decorations for the palace during this time. Ernst Johann von Biron loved the palace and moved there in 1768. He often visited the palace and spent summers there until he died in 1772. After the German occupation in World War I, the German army established a hospital and a commandant's office there. During the French invasion of Russia in 1812, the palace served as a hospital for Napoleon's army. At the end of the 19th century, the palace and park were restored and reconstructed. Lunch in a local restaurant. This evening, we will see the Opera **Salome** by **Richard Strauss** at the Latvian National Opera.

Sunday, June 8. (B). RIGA – VILNIUS

Today, we drive from Riga, Latvia, to Vilnius, Lithuania, where we will stay three nights at GRAND HOTEL VILNIUS. This evening, we will see **Aida** by **Verdi** in the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre.

Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, is a city brimming with history and culture. It is one of Europe's most well-preserved medieval cities, with charming cobblestone streets, Gothic spires, and captivating architecture. Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Vilnius offers a journey



through time with its rich historical tapestry. The 17th-century Saints Peter and Paul's Church is a pearl of baroque architecture, inside and out. Vilnius's strategic location on the Gulf of Finland and the Baltic Sea shores has made it a pivotal trade hub throughout history, particularly during its time as part of the Hanseatic League.

Monday, June 9. (B). VILNIUS

Today, you will immerse yourself in the captivating allure of Vilnius. We will start our day by sightseeing the city's historic Old Town. Visiting the iconic Gediminas Tower symbolizing the city's strength. You'll have the chance to discover the city's unique courtyards and their romantic atmosphere. Our journey continues with a visit to the Vilnius Cathedral, a significant religious and cultural symbol of Lithuania. We'll explore the quirky and artistic district of Užupis, known for its constitution and vibrant atmosphere. The afternoon is at leisure.

Tuesday, June 10. (B,D). VILNIUS

Today, we'll take a morning sightseeing trip by bus to explore the picturesque surroundings of Vilnius. Our first stop will be Trakai Island Castle, a captivating medieval fortress on an island amid Lake Galvė. We visit Gedeminas Castle there. You'll have the opportunity to immerse yourself in the serene landscapes of Trakai and take in the stunning views of the surrounding area. In the late afternoon, we'll return to Vilnius. We will have our Gala Farewell dinner in a gourmet restaurant this evening.

Wednesday, June 11. (B). VILNIUS – BACK HOME

Depart from the hotel to the Vilnius International airport for departure aboard your airline back home arriving the same afternoon. See you on another European Opera Tour.

* B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner (including wine)



LAND COST

DOUBLE: \$9,900 PER PERSON

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1,450 PER PERSON

DEPOSIT: \$2,500 PER PERSON

BALANCE DUE: MARCH 1, 2025

TOUR INCLUDES

- 1st Category Orchestra Level seats in theaters
- Transportation by bus between Tallinn to Riga and Riga to Vilnius
- Six Performances
- Three operas, Two Ballets and One Operetta
- Deluxe centrally located hotels
- Buffet breakfast daily, 3 dinners with wine in gourmet restaurants, and 2 lunches
- Welcome reception with drinks
- Private sightseeing in each city
- Experienced English-speaking guides
- Entrance fees to museums
- Transportation to and from theaters
- Baggage handling
- Guide, driver, and bellboy's gratuities
- Complete package with details of operas listed

