



Music in the Baltic Region

WITH RICK PHILLIPS

April 26 – May 7, 2018

Although several countries border the Baltic Sea, the so-called “Baltic States,” are the nations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Settled millennia ago, it’s believed that the term “Baltic” dates back to the 11th century, and meant “white” or “fair,” referring to the complexion and hair colour of the native people. After centuries of foreign domination, since re-gaining their independence in the early 1990s, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have become three of the most popular countries to visit in Europe, and one of the most culturally fascinating regions of the world.

The Baltics states have long held music education as an important priority in their set of national values. In Estonia, for example, music is a compulsory subject in the school system, beginning in kindergarten right up to grade twelve. The school music program is designed with the belief that music is a crucial part in the development of young minds. As well as nurturing personal skills, confidence and teamwork, it also encourages better understanding and evaluation of cultures at home and around the world. Simply put, they believe that music makes better citizens, nationally and internationally.

As a result, the Baltics have turned out some of today’s top classical musicians. Conductor Andris Nelsons of the Boston Symphony and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestras is Latvian. One of today’s most popular living composers is the Estonian Arvo Pärt, with millions worldwide enthralled by his spiritual, mystical music. And the noted concert violinist Julian Rachlin is Lithuanian-born. Our 2018 Worldwide Quest music tour to the Baltics will feature marvelous concerts with such esteemed ensembles as the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra or the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre in their renowned concert venues. The capitals of Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius are vibrant cities, famous for their lovingly-maintained “old towns” - all listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites. But we will also witness the region’s music education system at work, visiting schools, observing choral rehearsals and hearing the results first-hand. And, if that’s not enough, our tour wraps-up in one of the world’s most beautiful cities – Stockholm, Sweden.

It will be my pleasure to be your personal host and guide for this fascinating and stimulating tour, featuring great concerts, cuisine, museums and galleries. It will be an unforgettable cultural experience in a region that truly loves music and values it as a necessary ingredient to a fulfilled life.

— Rick Phillips

Why travel to the Baltics with us?

- 🌀 Rick's pre-performance presentations set the tone
- 🌀 Meet Estonia's music educators and visit schools
- 🌀 Attend performances at top halls
- 🌀 Explore the spectacular Old Towns
- 🌀 Fill up on a mix of architectural styles
- 🌀 Get out to the beach at Jurmala
- 🌀 Tour Stockholm's art metro system
- 🌀 Enjoy great Baltic cuisine



TOUR LEADER

Rick Phillips worked in the Music Dept. of CBC Radio for 30 years, 14 of which he was Host/Producer of SOUND ADVICE, the popular guide to classical music and recordings heard across Canada every weekend. He's an experienced writer, reviewer, teacher, lecturer, broadcaster and musical tour guide – often a juror in the classical music categories of the Juno Awards, and the author of "The Essential Classical Recordings – 101 CDs."



Detailed Itinerary

Schedule permitting, we plan to attend five concerts during the tour. As soon as the final concert schedules are announced we will select the performances and finalize our itinerary. Please note that the dates of this tour may change to facilitate our concert dates.

Thursday, April 26: Meet in Vilnius

Our group meets today in Vilnius, the baroque beauty of the Baltic. You will be met on arrival and transferred to our hotel. Meet Rick and fellow participants at our briefing before our welcome dinner.

Overnight: Hotel Narutis, Vilnius

Meals: Dinner

Friday, April 27: Vilnius

Vilnius has the look and feel of continental Europe with the continent's largest baroque old town at its heart. The skyline is pierced with Orthodox and Catholic church steeples and the city is a delightful mix of cobblestoned alleyways and majestic hilltop views. We'll enjoy a guided walking tour this morning to see the bishop's palace, the 16th century 'Gates of Dawn', the Carmelite church of St Theresa, and the small Late-Gothic church of St. Anne. We'll visit the church of Saints Peter and Paul with their outstanding stuccowork and the freshly restored Grand Duke's Palace.

Overnight: Hotel Narutis, Vilnius

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Saturday, April 28: Drive to Kanaus

Our route today takes us first to Trakai, a pretty town on a peninsula jutting out between Lake Luka and Lake Totoriskiu. It's red-brick fairy tale castle and quaint wooden houses add to the lakeside charm. We continue on to Kaunas to see a wealth of interesting architecture in the Gothic and Art Deco styles. The Ciurlionis Gallery is home to paintings by Lithuania's greatest artist and composer and the city hosts a variety of musical festivals.

Overnight: Hotel Kanaus, Kanaus

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday, April 29: Drive to Riga

Our route into Latvia brings us the Hill of Crosses, a pilgrimage site since 1831 with hundreds of thousands of crosses erected on the hillside. We'll stop to visit Rundale, one of the most impressive palaces of the Russian Empire and a splendid example of Baroque and Rococo art. We arrive in Riga at the end of the day.

Overnight: Hotel Neiburg, Riga

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre

Monday, April 30: Riga

Today we explore the fascinating mix of architectural styles in the Baltic's most cosmopolitan city. With our guide we'll explore the extensive Old Town with its medieval streets, Hanseatic warehouses, and Gothic and Baroque churches. Beyond the centre is the 19th century area of the city with grand tree-lined boulevards and Art Nouveau facades, recently restored to their brilliant lustre earning the city the "European Capital of Culture" honour in 2014.

Overnight: Hotel Neiburg, Riga

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tuesday, May 1: Riga

Just outside the city is Latvia's premier beach resort, fashionable since the days of the Russian Empire. We'll visit the string of little seaside villages at Jurmala to see the 33km-long stretch of sandy beach backed by more than 4000 historic wooden houses. The afternoon is at leisure for you to explore Riga independently.

Overnight: Hotel Neiburg, Riga

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Wednesday, May 2: Drive to Tallinn

Tallinn's Upper Town has wonderful views over the Baltic Sea and many fine historic buildings including the Gothic cathedral, the 15th century Town Hall and the Parliament building set in the remains of Toompea Castle. The Russian Orthodox Cathedral with its profusion of onion domes is a colourful contrast to the nearby Lutheran Cathedral of St. Mary's.

Overnight: Hotel Stackleberg, Tallin

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Thursday, May 3: Tallinn

Spend the morning with our guide wandering the Old Town's cobbled lanes and admiring the medieval streetscape with gabled houses and churches. We'll see the 12th century Saint Olav's church, once the tallest structure in the world and St Catherin's Passage, lined with craftsmen's workshops. Visit the Balti Jaama Turg, a wonderful Russian market selling anything from antiques to locally made jam.

Overnight: Hotel Stackleberg, Tallin

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Friday, May 4: Overnight ferry to Stockholm

This morning visit the Kadriorg Art Museum with the country's foreign art collection set in a former royal palace set in the beautiful park with ornamental lakes and formal gardens. Also in the park is KUMU, a modern structure housing works by Estonian artists. The afternoon is free to explore the city before embarking the ferry for the overnight transit to Stockholm.

Overnight: Cabin, Night Ferry

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday, May 5: Stockholm

Our guide will introduce us to the city in a tour this morning in a walk through the medieval lanes of the city's Old Town, the Gamla Stan with its imposing palaces and cobblestone streets. We'll take in the Vasamuseet, a custom-build home of the massive Vasa warship which sank minutes after setting off on its maiden voyage and was raised and rebuilt like a giant 14,000 piece jigsaw. The afternoon is free to explore the city independently.

Overnight: Collector Hotel, Stockholm

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Narrow Riga street

Sunday, May 6: Stockholm

Stockholm's metro is the world's longest art gallery. Initiated during Sweden's cultural boom in the 1950s, it is a 70-mile journey through five decades of European art history. We'll travel the metro this morning to see some of the most interesting stations. The afternoon is free to explore the city independently.

Overnight: Collector Hotel, Stockholm

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Swedish meatballs with blueberry jam

Monday, May 7: Depart Stockholm

Transfer to the airport for homeward bound flights or onward extension.

Note: The itinerary and accommodation described in this tour brochure are subject to change due to logistical arrangements and to take advantage of local events.



Kaunas old town

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Cost (per person): Approx. US\$3995
Plus performance tickets (TBA)
Taxes and Gratuities (per person): US\$300

Single Supplement: US\$950

We would be happy to try to match you with a suitable roommate. If we are unable to, the single supplement will apply. This will be collected at 90 days prior to departure.

Group Size:

14 - 18 participants

What's Included:

- Airport transfers at destination for passengers arriving and departing as per the group itinerary
- Accommodations based on double occupancy in listed hotels or similar
- Meals as indicated
- All ground transportation as listed
- Overnight ferry from Tallinn to Stockholm
- Rick's pre-performance seminars
- Excursions as listed with experienced English-speaking local guides
- All entrance fees
- Gratuities for escort, local guides, drivers, hotel and group meals (as indicated above)
- Taxes (as indicated above)
- Fully escorted by Rick Phillips

Not Included:

- Roundtrip international airfare from your home
- Airport and departure taxes
- Airport transfers if arriving or departing separately from group itinerary
- Meals and beverages not included in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature, ie laundry, drinks, phone calls, etc.
- Travel insurance
- Additional transport due to any emergency situation

Payment Details:

A deposit of US\$500 per person is required to reserve your space on this tour. A payment of US\$1000 is due six months prior to departure. The balance is due 90 days prior to departure.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Joining Instructions

This tour begins with our briefing and at 5PM on April 26th. Please ensure that you arrive in Vilnius by this time to join the group. When you make flight arrangements or any pre-trip night booking with Worldwide Quest, your transfer from the airport to our group hotel on arrival is included. If you are making your own flight or pre-trip hotel arrangements, this transfer can be provided at additional cost. The tour concludes with a single complimentary transfer from the hotel to the airport on May 7th. Please contact us to verify timing of this transfer prior to making any flight arrangements.

Level of Activity: Moderate

Please note that we will be walking extensively as we explore the old city centres with walks of up to 60 - 90 minutes over cobblestone streets. You will best enjoy this trip if you have unimpaired mobility and can cope with everyday walking and stair climbing without difficulty.

Accommodation

We are staying in hotels at the four-star level selected for location, charm, and service. All rooms have private facilities and all hotels have WiFi.

Transportation

We are travelling by comfortable air-conditioned coach. There are no long drives on this itinerary.

Weather

We expect clear, sunny skies. Temperatures range from highs of 25°C to overnight lows of 14°C.

Travel Documents

You will require a passport for your trip to the Baltic countries and Sweden.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Extend your Stay

If you are interested in exploring more of this region, we would be happy to design a personalized extension for you either before or after this tour. Please let us suggest some options, based on your time available, budget and interests.

Terms and Conditions

For additional information about our terms and conditions, please refer to your booking form, the current brochure or our website. All participants booking with Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario - License # 2667946).

Cancellation Policy

All payments are non-refundable, however you may transfer your initial deposit for any land tour to another tour 90 days or more prior to your scheduled departure date. Initial deposits for cruises are non-refundable and non-transferable. Your second payment and your final payment are non-refundable and non-transferable. If you cancel within 90 days prior to trip departure, all associated trip costs are non-refundable. The tour price is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credits will be given for services not used. In the event of a cancellation, you must notify Worldwide Quest immediately and in writing.

Travel Insurance

We urge you to ensure that you have adequate cancellation and medical insurance in place, should an unexpected event cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip or should the tour not be operable per our terms and conditions. We will offer you Manulife insurance coverage. Medical insurance including emergency medical evacuation coverage is mandatory on all our tours.

Worldwide Quest Explorers Club

We'd like to make sure that you know about our Worldwide Explorers Club. Travel twice with us and we'll say a special thank you with a 5% discount on your third trip. The discount applies to our brochure trips only and you'll find many there to choose from.



The Worldwide Quest Experience

Designing travel is an art and a craft. It's creating a combination of special unforgettable experiences complemented by flawless technical proficiency. Making sure you travel well is a skill that comes with insider knowledge, know-how and imagination. It's something we've been doing since 1970; creating unique itineraries for curious travellers to some of the world's most intriguing destinations. Every trip we create features these essentials:

Discovery and Enrichment

Our expert leaders and hosts, both North American and local, bring scholarship, specialized knowledge, and congeniality. They ensure not only that all the details of your travels are flawlessly taken care of but also provide a grass roots understanding of the context of what you're seeing and experiencing.

Small Group Size

Small truly is beautiful. Small allows us the joy of intimate experiences in accommodation and touring. Small means we can all sit around a table for meals and get to know each other, to hear what our tour leaders are saying, ask questions, and delve deeper.

Responsibility

We consider the impact of our travels on the places we visit and travel to reduce our footprint. We connect with local communities where we travel.

Value

We respect the investment you make in your travels. It's important to us that you are delighted by your experience; that your anticipation is not only satisfied but rewarded. We strive to fill our tours with Signature Moments that you carry home in your heart.

Our Commitment to You

We design each and every itinerary we offer and we offer an outstanding variety of unique experiences on every journey. We relentlessly stay abreast of accommodation choices for exceptional location, quality and service. We constantly monitor destination developments for special opportunities and any changes in security.

Because we manage the quality of the experience on all our Small Group Tours and Private Journeys firsthand, we are confident that we will meet your expectations. We respect your time and your budget and are keenly aware that your travel dreams are precious. Travellers who enjoy the Worldwide Quest experience return to us to enjoy our fine portfolio of tours because they know where ever they travel around the world we deliver what we promise.

We invite you to call us, email us or visit us in our Toronto office and let your travels begin...