The Baltics:
Journey Through Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania

James Salzman ’85
Donald Bren Distinguished Professor of Environmental Law, UCLA & UCSB
Dear Yale Traveler

Join an in-depth exploration of three of Europe’s biggest success stories. Stacked on top of each other along the chilly Baltic coast, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania stepped out from the shadow of the Soviet Union in the late 20th century. Lithuania was first to reclaim independence in 1990, and the others soon followed. Since then, these beautiful pastoral countries have become thriving members of NATO and the European Union.

The Old Towns of all three capital cities are World Heritage Sites. Estonia, home of the Singing Revolution, has northeastern Europe’s best-preserved medieval town center in its capital, Tallinn. Latvia is a green and pleasant land of rolling hills, pastures, farms, and forests. Its capital, Riga, is the country’s flourishing and lively center of the arts, Art Nouveau architecture, and nightlife. Lithuania boasts medieval Hanseatic ports, a restored 14th-century castle, and the UNESCO-listed Curonian Spit, a 60-mile strip of sand separating the Baltic Sea from the warm and shallow Curonian Lagoon.

The strategic location of the Baltic nations, wedged between Russia, Belarus, and the Baltic Sea, means that they are perennially attentive to the politics of Russia, serving as bellwethers for the rest of Europe. A modern outlook, an undercurrent of national pride, and a wealth of beautiful and historic architecture and art recommend these three countries to the discerning traveler.

To Register, use the form at the end of this brochure, call Yale Educational Travel at 203.432.1952, or visit yaleedtravel.org/baltics19.

Lauren Summers
Senior Director of Lifelong Learning and Travel Association of Yale Alumni

Highlights


Latvia: Take a tour through Riga’s famous Art Nouveau district, where Mikhail Eisenstein (father of film director Sergei Eisenstein) designed many of the buildings.

Lithuania: Explore the UNESCO-listed Curonian Spit, a narrow 60-mile strip of sand, formed over 5,000 years ago, that separates the mostly freshwater Curonian Lagoon from the Baltic Sea. Survey the strange landscape of corrugated dunes, little villages and forests of linden, elm, birch, and pine.
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James Salzman, Yale College Class of 1985, is the Donald Bren Distinguished Professor of Environmental Law with joint appointments at the UCLA School of Law and at the School of the Environment at UC Santa Barbara. An international expert on drinking water, he frequently appears as a media commentator and has lectured widely across the world. He has taught at Yale, Stanford, Duke, and Harvard, as well as at universities in Australia, China, Israel, Italy, Portugal, and Sweden. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, he worked with environmental experts from the Baltics and other economies in transition as they created new environmental protection strategies for the post-Soviet era.

In nine books and more than ninety articles and book chapters, his broad-ranging scholarship has addressed topics ranging from water to wildlife, from climate change to creating markets for ecosystems. There have been over 90,000 downloads of his articles. His most recent book, Drinking Water: A History, is in its second edition and has been featured in Scientific American, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and NPR’s Weekend Edition.

A dedicated classroom teacher, Salzman was twice selected as Professor of the Year by Duke students. He is active in the fields of practice and policy, serving as a Member of the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee and the National Drinking Water Advisory Committee, government-appointed bodies providing high-level counsel to the EPA Administrator. He also advises several environmental nonprofits. He and his wife, Heather Stanford (Yale College Class of 1980), are avid travelers.
ITINERARY
JULY 14–27, 2019

WELCOME PHONE CALL
Tuesday, July 1, 2019
(tentative)
Join the group at 4PM Eastern for a pre-trip welcome call with James Salzman, in order to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions.

DEPART USA–ARRIVE TALLINN
Sunday–Monday, July 14–15
Depart USA on flights bound for Tallinn, Estonia. Upon arrival, transfer to the city-center hotel and gather in the evening for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.
(Palace Hotel; Inflight, D)

TALLINN–TARTU
Tuesday–Wednesday, July 16–17
Located across the narrow Gulf of Finland from Helsinki and not far from St. Petersburg, Estonia’s capital, Tallinn, has been a trading and strategic center for hundreds of years. Take a walk in the Old Town, stopping at the Dome Church, first mentioned in 1219; Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, designed in the Russian Revival style; and one of the oldest continuously running pharmacies in Europe. Visit the Seaplane Harbor Museum, where you can see and touch a British-built submarine from the 1930s, as well as a full-size replica of the WWI Short 184 seaplane. Discover the stunningly modern Kumu Museum of Modern Art, and admire Peter the Great’s summer palace in Kadriorg Park. Survey the Tallinn Song Festival Grounds, where Estonians defied the Soviet Union in 1988, then drive to Tartu, known as the cultural capital of Estonia.
(Hotel London; 2B, 2L, 1D)

TARTU–RIGA
Thursday–Saturday, July 18–20
After visiting the University of Tartu, founded in 1632, head to Latvia’s capital, Riga, a flourishing and lively center of the arts, Art Nouveau architecture, and nightlife. Here, discover Latvia’s rich chocolate-making tradition at one of Riga’s best-known shops, as well as a neighborhood dominated by buildings decorated in the imaginative Art Nouveau style. Visit the open-air Ethnographic Museum to relive the lives of Latvian farmers hundreds of years ago, and wind your way through Riga on a historic tram car.
(Grand Hotel Kempinski; 3B, 3L, 1D)

RIGA–KLAIPEDA
Sunday, July 21
Depart Riga, stopping at the Palace of Rundale, former home of the Duke of Courland, a favorite of Russia’s Empress Anna. A short distance after entering Lithuania, climb the Hill of Crosses, a powerful symbol of faith and perseverance, where local people and travelers placed thousands upon thousands of crosses in defiance of the Soviet Union’s enforced atheism. Arrive in Klaipeda, the third largest city in Lithuania and an important port on the Baltic Sea.
(Radisson Blu; B, L, D)

KLAIPEDA–CURONIAN SPIT
Monday–Tuesday, July 22–23
Set out on a day trip to the UNESCO-listed Curonian Spit, a 60-mile strip of sand running south from Klaipeda into the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad. For 300 years, the winds and waves battered the area, burying 14 villages under the encroaching dunes. In 1825, a postal worker named G. D. Kuvertas began planting trees to help stabilize the dunes around Nida, and since then an ongoing reforestation project has helped to protect the spit from destruction. Climb the Hill of Witches, explore the little town of Nida at the end of Lithuania’s section of the spit, visit the summerhouse of German writer Thomas Mann, and enjoy a walk along the sand dunes.

Explore the three small but strategically important Baltic nations, their multi-cultural heritage, their maritime legacy, and their surprising impact on history.

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Returning to Klaipeda, take a walking tour to admire the riverside warehouses, big timber-framed buildings built during Hanseatic times in the German fachwerk style. Klaipeda was originally a fishing village founded by the Balts. Soon after its entry into written history, it was captured by the Teutonic Knights and ruled by Germany for 700 years. Head outside of Klaipeda to Palanga, Lithuania’s liveliest beach resort, visiting the Amber Museum, which gives a complete history of "Lithuanian gold," including fossilized insects from millions of years ago.

(Radisson Blu; 2B, 2L)

KLAIPEDA–KAUNAS–VILNIUS
Wednesday, July 24
Make the drive to Vilnius today, with a stop en route in Kaunas, an important business center and home to seven universities. Here, visit the Perkunas House, built in the Brick Gothic style that will also be seen at St. Anne’s Church in Vilnius; the 16th-century Gothic Kaunas Town Hall, sometimes called the White Swan because of the 170-foot tower rising like a swan’s neck from the body of the hall; and the Gothic-style Vytautas Church, built at the beginning of the 15th century. Arrive in Vilnius in the afternoon and gather for dinner at a local restaurant.

(Stikliai Hotel; B, L, D)

VILNIUS
Thursday–Saturday, July 25–27
A walking tour of Vilnius’ Old Town leads through the Gates of Dawn, one of the original gates of 16th-century Vilnius. Admire St. Anne’s Church, a diminutive red brick structure that represents the pinnacle of Gothic architecture in Lithuania; built around 1500, the building displays a remarkable 33 kinds of brick. Pay a visit to the KGB Museum, where thousands of Lithuanians underwent interrogations before their deportation to Siberia. Visit Trakai Castle, a few miles outside of Vilnius. The restored island castle was built in the Brick Gothic style on a little island in Lake Galve. At the end of the 14th century, when Lithuania expanded its territories as far as the Black Sea, this castle became the residence of the Lithuanian Grand Dukes. Return to Vilnius for a farewell dinner.

(Stikliai Hotel; 3B, 1L, 1D)

DEPART VILNIUS
Saturday, July 27
The tour concludes this morning with transfers to the airport for international departures.

(1B; In flight)

What is Included:

• Series of lectures and discussions with Professor James Salzman.
• All accommodations based on double occupancy per itinerary with breakfast daily, local service charge and tax (standard hotel check-in/out times apply unless otherwise noted): Tallinn (2 nights); Tartu (1 night); Riga (3 nights); Klaipeda (3 nights); Vilnius (3 nights).
• Arrival and departure airport transfers for guests arriving and departing on the tour’s scheduled start and end dates.
• Land transportation per itinerary by a private, air-conditioned coach.
• Sightseeing and excursions, including entrance fees per itinerary.
• Local English-speaking guides for touring per itinerary.
• Services of a professional bilingual MIR Tour Manager.
• Gratuities for local guides, drivers and the Tour Manager.
• Baggage handling at hotels.
• Meals as listed in the itinerary: hotel breakfast daily, 10 lunches, 6 dinners.
• Beverages with included meals: water, tea, and coffee.
• Welcome and farewell dinners, including local beer and wine.
• Bottled/purified water on buses during tours and transfers.
• Packet of preparatory information
• Emergency medical evacuation services through UHC Global Assistance

What is Not Included:

• International airfare between the U.S. and the start and ending cities; air taxes or fuel surcharges; pre- or post-tour services; visa or passport fees; medical and trip cancellation/interruption insurance; emergency evacuation costs; baggage handling at airports; food or beverages not included in group meals; items of a personal nature, such as laundry, alcohol, telephone expenses, excess baggage fees, photo/video passes inside museums (where allowed); other items not expressly listed as included.

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Program Cost

The base cost of this program is:
$8,595
(based on double occupancy)

Single Supplement:
$1,075 (limited availability)

Note: Itinerary is subject to change. Some excursions in this program involve a significant amount of walking.

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MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL
The right is retained to decline to accept or to remove any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of Yale Educational Travel ("YET"), is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip. Passengers requiring special assistance, including, without limitation, those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

CANCELLATION
YET must strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include but are not limited to: advance payments to land operators; ship charters; communication expenses; development/promotional expenses; and loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space. All cancellations must be made in writing to YET, and are subject to a $300 non-refundable administrative fee. At the time YET receives written notification of cancellation, the following charges will apply: cancellations received more than 91 days prior to departure, full refund less the non-refundable administrative fee; no refunds will be given for cancellations received within 90 days of departure.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
A deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to MIR Corporation, of which $300 is nonrefundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment must be received 90 days prior to departure. Mail to: Yale Educational Travel, Association of Yale Alumni, Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Or call: 203-432-1952. Complete Terms and Conditions will be sent after registration and are available at: www.yaleedtravel.org/faqs. Photo Credit: Kestutis Ambrozaitis, Jaak Nilson, Toomas Tuul, Latvia Tourism, Lithuanian Tours, Estonia Tourist Board, Lithuanian State Department of Tourism, MIR Corporation.

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Wend your way through the verdant countryside and capital cities of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

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Discover the beautiful Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, the three lesser-known countries that lie between the Baltic Sea to the west and Russia to the east. With their complicated histories, austere northern climes, and charming medieval town centers, they inspire a sense of awe, intrigue, and fascination.