

BALTIC NATURE TOURISM

balticnaturetourism.com



Welcome to the third edition of Baltic Nature Tourism's updates, where we're excited to present to you the finest nature and outdoor activities in winter in Latvia and Estonia.



CHRISTMAS MARKET

IN RIGA AND TALLINN

Every year, the **Old Town in Riga** becomes a lively gathering place of holiday activity with its annual Christmas market. From December 2nd to January 7th, visitors can explore over 60 stalls offering handmade items and traditional food. The market also features DJ performances on Saturdays, a Christmas costume run, and a celebration to welcome the New Year. It's a key event in Riga's festive calendar, perfect for experiencing the season's joy. Join us for the tradition and the warm holiday atmosphere that only Riga's Old Town can offer.



Photo - Latvia Travel

Tallinn Christmas Market with a touch of a fairy tale will be held at the Town Hall Square of Tallinn. The fairytale land is decorated with trees, Christmas decorations, and Christmas lights. Local merchants will offer Estonian Christmas cuisine, from black pudding and sour cabbage to gingerbread and hot Christmas drinks, as well as various handicrafts. There are special programmes.



Photo - Riho Kirss

ACTIVE TOURISM

The world-famous travel guide publisher Lonely Planet has included the Baltic Trails in its latest guidebook, Best In Travel 2024 where the Baltics have been recognised, particularly in the context of sustainability. Experts highly value the natural beauty of the Baltic region and the extensive opportunities for hiking trail exploration, making it an exciting destination for those who want to embark on adventurous and nature-focused hikes. Across the three Baltic States we have two long-distance hiking trails - The Forest Trail (~2100km) and The Coastal Trail (~1200km).

You will find all the help (GPS, maps, guides etc.) to plan the hiking holidays on your own <https://baltictrails.eu/>



Photo - Lonely Planet

HIKING

Hiking has become increasingly popular, offering a perfect way to explore the abundance of nature. With a variety of trail sections from The Coastal Trail or The Forest Trail, there's something for every adventurer. Along these trails, you can stay in hiker-friendly guest houses or take a break and recharge in a cosy café. This is an ideal opportunity to explore scenic landscapes and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the natural world choosing any self-guided or professionally guided tour.

Tour Example - Self-drive and Hiking Tour in Latvia and Estonia

This 10-day grand hiking tour includes some of the best and most beautiful parts of the Forest Trail in Latvia and Estonia. Hikes in the forest trails and villages are combined with trips and excursions in cities, as well as other popular tourist sights in both countries.

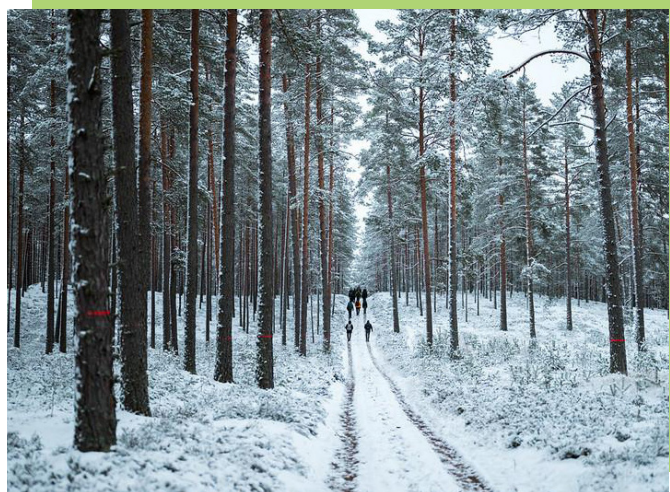


Photo - Andra Marta Babre

BALTIC NATURE TRAVEL





Photo - Purvu Bridēji

PURVU BRIDĒJI



SNOWSHOE HIKE

Have you ever walked on water? If it's winter or any other season in Estonia, you can use bog shoes to do it! Explore pristine and untouched landscapes, stepping lightly on the soft, moss-covered ground, and discovering the hidden wonders of the bog ecosystem. During the hike, you can be a bird watcher and animal paw print detector. It is a mesmerising day, a perfect gift to yourself or anyone you love.

Tour Example - The Paw Print Hike

We will follow whoever has set a path for us with their latest paw prints- whether it's a moose, fox, wolf, lynx or even a bear. On the way, we read what is written on the landscape as a trail line. In this way, we can participate in wild animals' fascinating and mysterious life and customs.

BOGSHOE HIKING

Bogshoe hiking offers a unique and eco-friendly method to explore diverse ecosystems and observe wildlife, perfect for nature enthusiasts. It's an accessible activity for all outdoor lovers, providing an up-close experience of a bog ecosystem in a sustainable way.

Tour Example - Bogshoe Hiking at Kemeru Bog

Purvu Bridēji is an outdoor organisation that specialises in guiding visitors through the unique landscapes of Latvia's bogs, also in winter. With expert guides leading the way, participants learn not only about the rich ecosystem of the bog but also the techniques of safe and responsible exploration. The tours, typically covering 5-8 km, are a blend of adventure, education, and eco-friendly practices, making them a go-to choice for nature enthusiasts looking to experience Latvia's winter wonderland.



Photo - Priidu Saart, Visitestonia

PREERIAKODA OÜ



WINTER ACTIVITIES



DOG SLED TOURS

Join for a winter adventure with our Dog Sled Tours and Hiking. Enjoy the snowy landscapes led by our team of huskies. These tours combine dog sledding with hiking, offering a fun experience for nature lovers and those looking for a bit of adventure. Glide through the trails and enjoy the quiet of the winter outdoors.

Tour Example – Sled Dog Tour on Bog Islands

A 45-minute car drive from Tartu takes you to Peipsiveere Nature Reserve, one of Estonia's wildest and least inhabited areas. Join us for a guided sled dog tour through forests and across numerous bog islands, where you'll encounter signs of moose and other wildlife activities.

NATURE TOURS ESTONIA



ICE HOLE FISHING

One-of-a-kind adventure in the second half of winter with our fishing guide! Join us as we take you to the frozen lakes and rivers, providing a unique opportunity to engage in the traditional and thrilling activity of ice fishing. If you are lucky, you may catch perch, or even pike. But definitely, you will catch loads of fun experiences for you to take home!

Tour Example – Ice-Fishing Experience

Ice-fishing is to try fishing in a whole new way. Our fishing instructor will provide you with all the necessary equipment and tips so you can enjoy the experience in the best possible way.



PRANGLI REISID OÜ



NATURE EXTREME

Most of us know what it's like to fly in an airplane, but have you ever wondered what it's like to fly in a hot air balloon? When there are no lines in the airport, no check-in and no baggage drop, just step in a basket and enjoy the views. Hot air balloon flights can be done throughout the year, but summer and winter are more prone for suitable weather. Winter is especially economical for hot air balloons because less gas is used due to low temperatures. It is always a wonder where the balloon will land as it is a vehicle without steering. Hot air balloon flights can be done in various locations, except near the sea or large forests, and flying you can enjoy the freedom of nature.

Tour Example - Hot Air Ballooning and Hiking Experience

This tour combines hot air balloon flight with hiking, so how does that work? As you never really know where the balloon will land, it will turn out as a real adventure. We shall start our hike from the landing point, with a spontaneously made hiking route. The adventure can be concluded with a good meal at a restaurant and/or sauna.



Photo - Andra Marta Babre

MOVEMENT SPONTANEOUS



FOOD & FORAGING



Photo - Līgatnes Pavāru māja

LĪGATNES PAVĀRU MĀJA



In summer we can easily go and pick berries or hunt mushrooms in the forests, but throughout the year we offer masterclasses from world class chefs, and cooking in the wilderness. You can forget about carrying your own sandwiches, because in Baltics you can get a restaurant in the forest, a great meal at a local café or a cook who makes the best pancakes on Sunday morning after your adventure, let's say in a bog.

Tour example - Excursion and Masterclass in Līgatne's Pavāru Māja (The Chefs' House)

Līgatnes Pavāru Māja in Līgatne, Latvia, has been honoured with the prestigious Michelin Green Star this November, reflecting their dedication to sustainable practices. A must-visit for culinary enthusiasts, the restaurant offers a unique blend of exquisite flavours and environmentally conscious dining, making every meal an experience in responsible delight. Līgatne is a 1.30h drive from Riga and an ideal location for a short, but fulfilling getaway. You can embark on a 1.5-2h guided excursion in Līgatne in collaboration with the adventure organisation "Pretspēks," exploring the local unique architecture and nature. Visit the old and renowned Līgatne paper mill, and afterwards, indulge in one of the masterclasses led by a world-class chef. You can also experience the tour in a vintage minibus named "Latvia" adding a touch of nostalgic charm to your journey.

NATURE RETREAT

In the Baltics, the sauna, or “pirts,” is a beloved tradition enjoyed year-round, but it becomes particularly special in winter. In the colder months, the warmth of the sauna offers a peaceful escape, followed by a gentle dip in icy water for full experience. This blend of hot and cold in the winter season provides a special way to find relaxation and refreshment, making it a memorable part of experiencing the local culture.

Tour Example - Sauna Retreat in Ziedlejas

At Ziedlejas, you have a variety of traditional sauna experiences. Alongside these authentic sauna options, you have the opportunity to enhance your experience with the guidance of a professional and skilled sauna master. Additionally, Ziedlejas offers comfortable accommodation, making it possible to extend your experience in nature and tradition, all within a setting that promises relaxation and a deep sense of well-being.



Photo - Ziedlejas

ZIEDLEJAS



*Merry Christmas
and Happy New year!*



Photo - Sergei Zjuganov, Visitestonia

In 2024 you will meet us

- The Nordic Marketplace 2024, on 20th February 2024, Tivoli Hotel & Congress Center, Copenhagen
- In the Nature Tourism product presentation event in Latvian Embassy in London spring 2024
- Captains of Industry Cruise August, Helsinki 2024, late August

More events to come in our following newsletters:
<https://balticnaturetourism.com/en/news>

Baltic Nature Tourism is a consortium of individual nature and outdoor specialists across Latvia and Estonia. Our range of tours is varied, covering everything from brief, peaceful nature excursions to extensive, fully-equipped adventure packages that last several days. Whether you're in search of a peaceful nature experience with comfortable lodgings or an adrenaline-packed outdoor adventure, we cater to many preferences. In addition, these experiences can be paired with visits to capitals of Latvia and Estonia, Riga and Tallinn, giving your trip a good balance between nature and city break.

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