

Wattletree Garden Tours

Baltic States Europe

2027



Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Czech Republic.

Tour some hidden classic parts of Europe - Riga, Vilnius, Mikolajki,
Gdansk, Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw and Prague.

Followed by an optional 8 day Danube River cruise to Budapest!



Join Brian Sams
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My very first tour to the Baltic states includes many places I have always wanted to see. Starting in Latvia we will make our way to some historic and beautiful cities before reaching Prague. Then you have the option of joining me on an 8 day cruise down the Danube starting in Vilshofen, Germany and finishing in Budapest. Our guide will be good friend **Tunde Nozlopy** who has guided us on previous tours in Europe.

Brian Sams is a Toowoomba based horticulturist involved in running gardening workshops, consultation and leading garden based tours. Brian has been leading garden tours overseas and within Australia since 2006.

Why? He loves it!

Flight details and stopover options to be advised.

DAY 1: SATURDAY 03 JULY 2027: ARRIVAL IN RIGA, LATVIA

On arrival at Riga airport, we will be met by our Tour Director and transferred to our hotel for check-in. Tonight, meet for a welcome dinner at our hotel. (D)

Radisson Blu Dugava or similar for 2 nights

DAY 2: SUNDAY 04 JULY 2027: RIGA

This morning we will have a local guide for a sightseeing tour to see the Freedom Monument and Art Nouveau District, plus a walking tour along the cobbled lanes in the Old Town finishing with a Canal boat tour. This afternoon we will have some free time at the University of Latvia Botanical Gardens before returning to the hotel. (B)

DAY 3: MONDAY 05 JULY 2027: RIGA – VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

Join an escorted tour of House of Black Heads before we travel from Riga to the restored baroque Rundale Palace, the former summer residence of the Duke of Courland. The palace was built by the great architect Rastrelli, who also designed the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg. We then travel over the boarder to Lithuania and visit Hill of Crosses, a UNESCO World Heritage site of hundreds of thousands of crosses, brought by people from all over the world. We will end our day in Vilnius - the pretty Lithuanian wedding-cake capital since the 13th century and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B,L)

Radisson Blu Leibuva or similar for 2 nights

DAY 4: TUESDAY 06 JULY 2027: VILNIUS

This morning we will have a sightseeing tour to get acquainted with Vilnius's UNESCO listed Old Town to include Cathedral Square, a lovely looking Japanese Garden 'Sei Shin En' among other landmarks. This afternoon we journey into the medieval Trakai Castle, considered one of Eastern Europe's most striking castles, pass over the wooden bridge to its storybook island setting on Lake Galve. (B,D)

DAY 5: WEDNESDAY 07 JULY 2027: VILNIUS – KAUNAS - Mikołajki, POLAND

This morning we will take a short stop at Kaunas, Lithuania's second largest city. We will have some free time to explore before we travel over the Polish boarder as we make our way to Mikołajki. This looks very picturesque as it is located in the heart of Masurian Lake District. (B)

Mikotajki area – Hotel Golebiewki Mikolajki or similar for 1 night

DAY 6: THURSDAY 08 JULY 2027: GIŻYCKO – MALBORK - GDAŃSK

Today we begin our journey to coast of the Baltic Sea. We will stop at the Malbork Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where we will take a self-guided audio tour and some free time. This 13th - Century, brick-built castle looks most interesting. We then continue to Gdansk the centre for the world's amber trade. Upon arrival we will have a short guided tour of the Main Town and visit the Neptune Fountain. The fountain is a 17th-century symbol of the city topped by a bronze statue of the sea god. (B)

Hampton Old Town or similar for 2 nights

DAY 7: FRIDAY 09 JULY 2027: GDAŃSK

Today you have a free day to discover this beachside city at your pace. You could choose to discover some of the cities main attractions such as Oliwa Park and the Cathedral, Emigration museum or the Museum of the Second World War. If you like adventure, you may consider hiring a bike and taking in the sights along many cycle paths. This evening enjoy a dinner cruise on the Matlawa. (B,D)

DAY 8: SATURDAY 10 JULY 2027: GDAŃSK – BYDGOSZCZ – PŁOCK - WARSAW

An early morning departure will see us begin our travels towards Warsaw. Stopping at the storybook city Bydgoszcz, with its stunning variety of Gothic and Art Nouveau architecture, 18th-century granaries, cobblestone streets and outdoor cafes, there is plenty to discover and see during our free time. We continue to Płock for a



streets and outdoor cafes, there is plenty to discover and see during our free time. We continue to Płock for a short visit before ending our day in Warsaw. (B,D)

Crowne Plaza the Hub or similar for 3 nights

DAY 9: SUNDAY 11 JULY 2027: WARSAW

A sightseeing day in Poland's capital city with a local guide. We will explore medieval old town and the impressive 14th-century Cathedral of St. John. The Cathedral has witnessed coronations of Polish kings, royal weddings and funerals. During World War II it suffered heavy damage as it was in the midst of the Warsaw uprising. Free time this afternoon to explore more of the city before attending a special Chopin concert. Enjoy a wonderful performance of passionate compositions by Frédéric Chopin in an elegant hall in Warsaw. Hear the moving music created by the legendary Polish composer and virtuoso pianist of the Romantic period. (B)

DAY 10: MONDAY 12 JULY 2027: WARSAW

Today we will visit some of the magnificent gardens of Warsaw including the Royal palace gardens and Łazienki Park. Lunch today will be after our Pierogi making cooking class with liqueur tasting all included. (B,L)

DAY 11: TUESDAY DATE YEAR: WARSAW – AUSCHWITZ/BIRKENAU - KRAKOW

Depart Warsaw to arrive early afternoon in Auschwitz/Birkenau for a moving guided visit of both former concentration camp sites. A visit to Auschwitz and Birkenau is a sobering and moving experience; a chilling reminder of an era in human history we shall never forget. In fact, the subject of the Holocaust is a mandatory part of the German school curriculum. Later, continue to Krakow. (B,D)

Novotel Krakow Centrum or similar for 2 nights

DAY 12: WEDNESDAY DATE YEAR: KRAKOW

This morning we meet our Local Guide for a city sightseeing walking tour to see the Kazimierz, the Old Jewish Quarter, Oskar Schindler's enamel factory and Nowa Huta. A Krakow kind of day. (B)

DAY 13: THURSDAY DATE YEAR: KRAKOW - WROCLAW

Some more time with our local guide this morning to visit the Market Square, a photo stop at Wawel Castle and sights of St. Mary's Church. En-route to Wroclaw see Gleiwitz Radio Station, location of a false flag operation that led to Poland being invaded. This afternoon, arrive in the vibrant and beautiful city of Wroclaw and join our Local Guide to explore this wonderful town on the Oder River in western Poland. Browse the Market Square, lined with elegant townhouses and see the Gothic Old Town Hall and astronomical clock. Learn about its turbulent history and be sure to keep an eye out for some of the 800 bronze gnomes scattered throughout the city, symbols of the 1980s anti-communist resistance. (B,D)

Double Tree by Hilton Wroclaw or similar for 2 nights

DAY 14: FRIDAY DATE YEAR: WROCLAW

This morning join your Tour Director for a sightseeing tour, visiting the, Centennial Hall, The Japanese gardens and Szczytnicki Park. Later we will take a boat cruise on the Oder River followed by some free time. (B)

DAY 15: SATURDAY DATE YEAR: WROCLAW – PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

This Morning we leave Wroclaw and drive over the border to the Czech Republic. Along the way we will stop to the so called Rock City in Adršpach, a stunning natural wonder. Take some free time to walk through the extensive city of rocks, which forms a maze of impressive gorges. This evening discover the magic of Prague on a guided walking tour featuring the city's illuminated icons, Czech beer and music at a local tavern. We will of course stroll across the world-famous Charles Bridge!, (B,D)

Prague Hotel to be advised for 3 nights

DAY 16: SUNDAY DATE YEAR: PRAGUE

Morning sightseeing with a Local Guide features a visit Hradeany Castle grounds, which has lovely views of St. Vitus Cathedral, and the castle's walls and bastions. Originally laid out in the 16th-century, the grounds reached the present park-like form in the early 20th-century. Also see the Old Town and stop for lunch, the Jewish ghetto and to see the famous Astronomical Clock This afternoon sample Czech beers and learn about the brewing process on a guided tour of local breweries. (B,L)

DAY 17: MONDAY DATE YEAR: PRAGUE

Today you will visit some of the spectacular gardens of Prague, including the Waldstein Garden, The Gardens Below Prague Castle and the Vrtba Gardens. This evening we will bid farewell to our Baltic states tour at our farewell dinner (B,D)

DAY 18: TUESDAY 20 JULY 2027: PRAGUE – VILSHOFEN, GERMANY

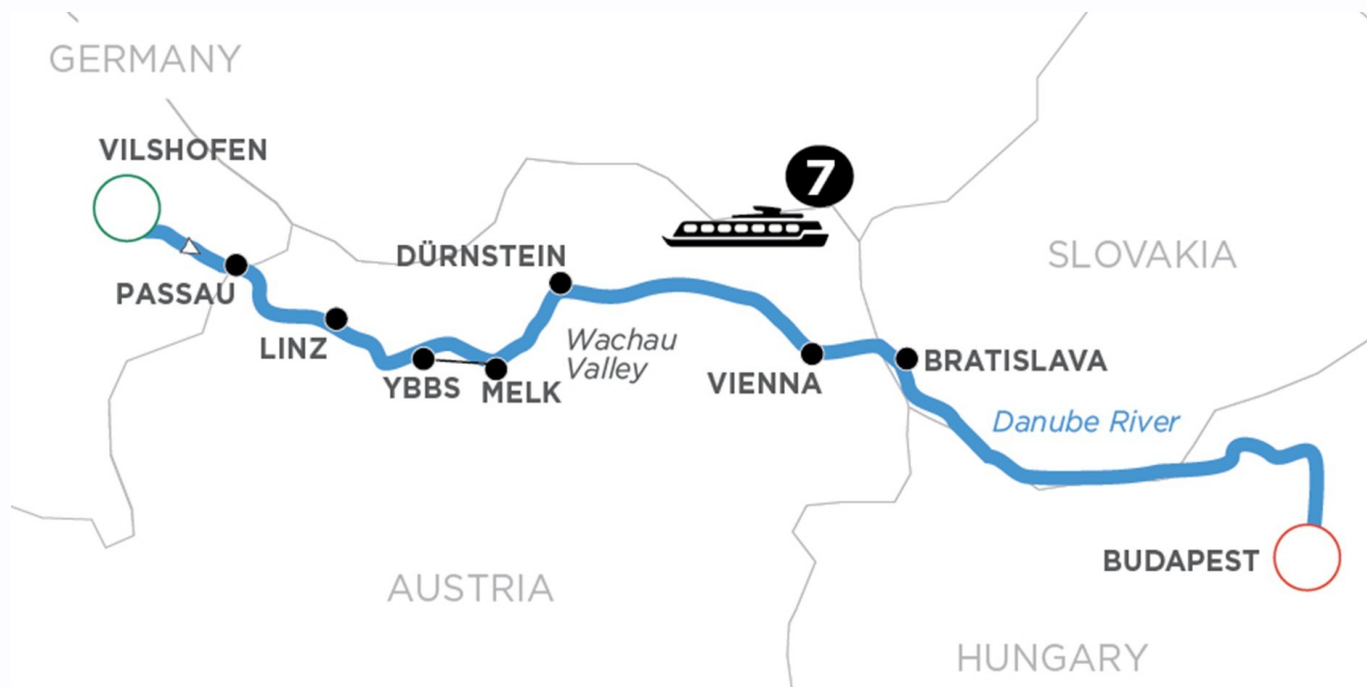
Following breakfast, check out of our hotel and take one of two transfers –

1. Transfer to the Airport, where your tour ends or
2. Transfer to join Avalon Waterways Danube Dreams departing from Vilshofen this afternoon. (B)

Danube River Cruise with Avalon

Join me on the Danube for an 8 day cruise ending up in Budapest! The cruise includes

1. All tipping
2. All shore excursions
3. All taxes and port charges
4. All meals
5. Transfers on Day 1



Day 1, Tuesday July 20, 2027 VILSHOFEN, GERMANY (EMBARKATION)

We will board our cruise by mid afternoon. We will then have time settle in before dinner on our first evening on board. EVENING CRUISE TO PASSAU (Dinner)

Day 2, Wednesday July 21, 2027 PASSAU–SCHLÖGEN OXBOW

Where the Danube, Inn, and Ilz rivers meet. You choice of activities today from

ACTIVE Follow your Avalon Adventure Host for Hiking from Oberhaus along a trail down to the valley and along Ilz River.

CLASSIC Join a guided City Walk to learn more about this beautiful “City of Three Rivers”.

Before sailing to Linz, take a little free time to explore Passau’s cobblestone streets and galleries of Artists’ Alley. Maybe stop at St. Stephen’s Cathedral to catch a concert rehearsal. This afternoon cruise to Linz through the Danube’s dramatic horseshoe bend called Schlögen Oxbow. Later, enjoy live entertainment on board.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN LINZ (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 3, Thursday July 22, 2027 LINZ, AUSTRIA

Linz is a lovely small town. Choices for included tours today include

ACTIVE Join your adventure Host for a bike ride along the Danube.

CLASSIC Take a guided walk through the city’s historic and beautiful sites along the shore of the Danube and see Hauptplatz—Austria’s largest medieval square—and the towering white-marble Trinity Column.

You also have the option to take a full-day excursion to either Salzburg—the city of Mozart, or to the picturesque Bohemian town of Cesky Krumlov. You may otherwise spend the afternoon on a biking picnic along the banks of the Danube or hike through Linz’s beautiful nature trails to Pöstlingberg for a bird’s-eye view of the city and river below. OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO YBBS (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Day 4, Friday July 23, 2027 YBBS. EXCURSION TO MELK–WACHAU VALLEY

A couple of stops today in this beautiful part of the world with tours likely to include

DISCOVERY Join a guided visit to two family-owned farms and discover how they produce delicious traditional specialties and products.

CLASSIC Walk through the doors of Austrian history with a guided sightseeing tour of Artstetten Castle.

CLASSIC Take a Guided Tour of Melk's magnificent Benedictine Abbey to marvel at its frescoed ceilings, statues, incredible library, and ornate pipe organ.

ACTIVE Alternatively, experience the Wachau Valley from a unique perspective, join your Adventure Host for a bike ride along some of Wachau's bike trails

Later, stretch out on the Sky Deck as you sail through the Wachau Valley past vineyards, castles, and charming villages on your way to Dürnstein. Options there include

ACTIVE Join a Guided Hike up to the castle ruins to take in the spectacular view of the village, Danube, and the Wachau Valley below, OR:

CLASSIC Join a Guided Walk, and hear the legendary tale of King Richard the Lionheart—who was imprisoned in the castle here during the Crusades.

DISCOVERY Join an onboard lecture to learn about Austrian winemaking traditions. Later, enjoy live entertainment on board your ship.

OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO VIENNA (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 5, Saturday July 24, 2027 VIENNA

Time to experience the magic of Vienna with these options

ACTIVE Explore Vienna's Danube Island by bike with your Adventure Host.

CLASSIC Enjoy a Guided Visit to House of Strauss and embark on an interactive journey through Vienna's illustrious past at an immersive audio-visual experience. Afterwards, enjoy a coffee and homemade cake,

CLASSIC Explore the Habsburg empire with a morning Guided City Tour of Vienna's gilded landmarks.

See the Imperial Palace complex—Winter residence of the Imperial Family, the grand Vienna Opera House, and stunning St. Stephen's Cathedral.

You may decide to take a Guided Optional Excursion to Schönbrunn Palace—the former imperial summer home of the Habsburg monarchy. Spend free time strolling in the pedestrian Kärntnerstrasse—the most famous shopping avenue in central Vienna. Take a bike ride through the city and stop in a local café to enjoy Sachertorte or Apfelstrudel. This evening, enjoy an unforgettable musical performance with an Optional Excursion to attend a Royal Waltz Concert in an elegant hall.

OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BRATISLAVA (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 6, Sunday July 25, 2027 BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

Today we visit the medieval town of Bratislava. Options are

ACTIVE Follow your Avalon Adventure Host on a hike to lofty Bratislava Castle.

CLASSIC Take a Guided City Walk, including the quaint streets of Old Town, Town Hall, and the sight of royal coronations at St. Martin's Cathedral. Enjoy free time to discover on your own Bratislava, the beautiful capital of Slovakia, rich in history and culture, but also a green city with its forests and parks just a hop away from the city centre.

EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BUDAPEST (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 7, Monday July 26, 2027 BUDAPEST, HUNGARY Monuments and Markets

ACTIVE Hike up to a magnificent viewpoint in Budapest with your Adventure Host,

OR: **CLASSIC** Enjoy a Guided City Sightseeing, including the iconic Heroes' Square.

This afternoon, choose from a wide range of Optional Guided Excursions. Spend free time exploring famous sights like the Chain Bridge or Fisherman's Bastion. Linger in one of the city's beautiful cafés, browse the Central Market Hall, or hike the hills above the Danube.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN BUDAPEST (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 8, Tuesday July 27, 2027 BUDAPEST (DISEMBARKATION) Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning. (Breakfast)

2 Cabin options

Panorama suite with full balcony window

or

Deluxe cabin with picture windows



Pricing details

Main tour	
Land tour price including fully guided tour, all transport, meals as indicated, accommodation and entry to all sites indicated per person twin share	\$10995
Tour deposit—deductible from final tour price	\$500
Single supplement	\$1960
Avalon River Cruise (twin share per person).	
Panorama suite pp - see pics previous page	\$6890
Deluxe suite pp - see pics from previous page	\$6099
Single use cabins - price on application. Some promotional deals available for early birds.	



Important dates

1. Deposit – Payable asap to secure a place as seats are limited, please complete booking form and send together with a copy of your passport.
2. Final payment 70 days before departure

The tour prices includes:

- Beautiful hotel accommodation. Hotels subject to change but will be of the same or higher standard as those listed.
- Exclusive coach travel
- All tipping for national guides, drivers and portage where available
- Entry to all sightseeing as detailed in itinerary
- Quality meals listed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- English speaking guide and accompanied all the way with Australian garden guide – Brian Sams
- Taxes where appropriate (subject to change based on prevailing rates)
- Airport transfers in Europe (for whole group only - other arrangements to be made as required at cost)

The tour price excludes:

- Airfares
- All items not stated as included
- Travel insurance—recommended for all travelers.

Full terms and conditions are on the booking form.



www.wattletreehorticulture.com.au

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