

## European Route of Historic Theatres

### *Baltic Route*

Tour proposals across Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania



<p><b>Tour A</b> <i>Journey in km</i></p>	<p>Theatre architecture in Poland was influenced by Viennese and Italian architects from the late 18<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century traditionalist architects designed beautiful buildings in Viennese Baroque, neo-classical and eclectic style.</p>
<p><b>Day 01</b></p>	<p><i>Arrival in Cracow</i></p>
	<p><b>UNESCO World Heritage Cracow historic centre</b></p> <p>Poland's former capital, the 13<sup>th</sup>-century merchant town is situated at the foot of the Royal Wawel Castle.</p>
	<p><b>Juliusz Słowacki Theatre (1893)</b></p> <p>Named after a great Polish poet this theatre is one of the most precious monuments of eclectic theatre architecture in Europe. The interior is richly decorated with frescoes by a Viennese artist. And even the historic dressing rooms are impressive.</p>
	<p><i>Overnight stay in Cracow</i></p>
<p><b>Day 02</b> <i>150 km</i></p>	<p><i>Arrival in Cieszyn</i></p>
	<p>Cieszyn</p> <p>The Polish-Czech twin city Cieszyn / Český Těšín is a small historic town full of churches and monasteries.</p>
	<p><b>Adam Mickiewicz Theatre (1910)</b></p> <p>The famous Viennese architects Fellner &amp; Helmer designed the theatre in the style of modernist Viennese Baroque for the German speaking inhabitants in 1910. It perfectly blends in with the urban layout.</p>

300 km	<i>Arrival in Łańcut</i>
	<p>Łańcut Castle (1629 – 1642)</p> <p>The Castle is famous for its splendid theatre, its excellent interiors and its collection of horse-drawn carriages. It is beautifully surrounded by an English style park with orangery, pavilions and farm buildings.</p> <p>In May the castle ballroom is one of the venues of the <i>Łańcut Music Festival</i>, organized in co-operation with Rzeszów Philharmonic Hall.</p>
	<p><b>Theatre in Castle Museum</b> (1792/1802/1910)</p> <p>The neoclassical theatre, restored by the famous Viennese architects Fellner &amp; Helmer, is the only preserved palace theatre in Poland. The auditorium has a cupola supported by eight Corinthian columns.</p>
	<p>Baroque Synagogue (1761)</p> <p>Why not visiting the Baroque Synagogue too? It is a rare surviving example of a four-pillar, vaulted synagogue.</p>
	<i>Overnight stay in Łańcut</i>
<b>Day 03</b> 310 km	<i>Arrival in Warsaw</i>
	<p><b>UNESCO World Heritage Warsaw historic centre</b></p> <p>After the Second World War a reconstruction campaign by Warsaw citizens resulted in today's careful restoration of the Old Town. It is an outstanding example of a near-total reconstruction of a span of history covering the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p>
	<p><b>The Royal Theatre in the Old Orangery</b> (1784-1788)</p> <p>Poland's only preserved 18<sup>th</sup> century court theatre is located in the Orangery in the Łazienki Gardens. The charming theatre, erected by an Italian architect, is still a venue for performances and concerts.</p>
	<p>Łazienki Gardens</p> <p>The stunning Łazienki Gardens embrace the 18<sup>th</sup> century Royal Garden, the 19<sup>th</sup> century Romantic Garden and the 20<sup>th</sup> century Modernist Garden. The scenery is full of palace buildings, garden pavilions, sculptures and even host an 18<sup>th</sup> century open-air theatre.</p>
	<i>Overnight stay in Warsaw</i>
<b>Day 04</b>	<p><b>Arnold Szyfman Polski Theatre</b> (1913)</p> <p>The elegant, tiny building was Poland's first theatre erected in modernist classism style. And it is one of the few Warsaw buildings not destroyed during the Second World War. As a result, it is the only modernist theatre preserved in its original beautiful shape.</p>

	<p>Palace of Culture and Science(1952 -1955)</p> <p>The iconic, Socialist-Realist building was a controversial ‘gift of friendship’ from the Soviet Union. The 230 m high palace is still Poland’s tallest building. It has 30 floors, over 3,000 rooms and includes various theatres, concert halls, cinemas and museums.</p>
460 km	<i>Arrival in Vilnius. Overnight stay in Vilnius.</i>

<b>Tour B</b> <i>Journey in km</i>	In the Baltic cities in the early 20 <sup>th</sup> century, theatres often were built in prestigious spots of the medieval city centres. Many of these theatres were built in eclectic style. And in some of them, only a few years of their opening, national independence was proclaimed.
<b>Day 05</b>	<i>If only Tour B: Arrival in Vilnius.</i>
	<p><b>UNESCO World Heritage</b> <b>Vilnius historic centre</b></p> <p>Vilnius has preserved an impressive complex of Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and classical buildings as well as its medieval layout and beautiful natural setting.</p>
	<p><b>Lithuanian Russian Dramatic Theatre (1913)</b></p> <p>The eclectic building is nicely situated in the old town. In the Large Room, there is a chandelier decorated with masks and crystals. In 1917 the independent Lithuanian state was propounded here.</p>
	<i>Overnight stay in Vilnius</i>
<b>Day 06</b> <i>300 km</i>	<p><b>UNESCO World Heritage</b> <b>Riga historic centre</b></p> <p>Riga, a former Hanseatic city, is a living illustration of European history. The urban fabric reflects medieval prosperity and later developments with wooden buildings and a fine collection of truly outstanding art nouveau buildings. In 2014 Riga was the European Capital of Culture.</p>
	<p><b>Latvian National Opera (1863)</b></p> <p>Four thousand grams of gold were used to decorate the auditorium in Greek neo-classical style. As the composer Richard Wagner worked in Riga from 1837 to 1839, a bas-relief depicting his figure is located above the stage and is illuminated during performances of his operas.</p>
	<i>Overnight stay in Riga</i>

<b>Day 07</b>	<p><b>Latvian National Theatre</b> (1902)</p> <p>Designed in the beginning of the Art Nouveau era the former Russian city theatre is a fine example of eclecticism. Behind its beautiful façade Latvian independence was proclaimed in 1918.</p>
<i>250 km</i>	<i>Arrival in Tartu</i>
	<p>Tartu</p> <p>The university city of Tartu, famous for its mix of intellectual and bohemian ambience, is the cradle of Estonian Theatre and the Estonian Song Festival.</p>
	<p><b>Vanemuine Theatre</b> (1918)</p> <p>At the commission of the German Craft Association the theatre was erected when Art Nouveau was popular. In Germany this style was influenced by <i>Neobiedermeier</i> and <i>Heimatkunst</i>. Characteristic elements of these styles can be found on the façade and in the interior.</p>
<i>190 km</i>	<i>Arrival in Tallinn</i>
	<p><b>UNESCO World Heritage Tallinn historic centre</b></p> <p>Tallinn, another former Hanseatic city, still witnesses the architectural wealth of these times. Nowadays it is the city of music: the Estonian Song Festival is held here every five years.</p>
	<p><b>Estonian Drama Theatre</b> (1910)</p> <p>The limestone building was erected as German Theatre by Russian architects in Art Nouveau style. The location of Estonians oldest theatre, at the entrance of the medieval city centre close to the Estonian National Opera, creates an inspiring ensemble.</p>
	<i>Overnight stay in Tallinn or return journey.</i>