



## **BALTIC WINTER MAGIC WITH LADIES' ESCAPES**

**Cultural experiences & Christmas cheer in three beautiful capitals**

**NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 9, 2026**

In December, the Baltic capitals take on a soft sparkle. Streets and squares twinkle with Christmas lights, and the air carries the scents of cinnamon, roasted nuts and freshly baked pastries. Candlelit restaurants glow from behind frosted windows, offering a warm refuge for a hot chocolate or a mulled wine after wandering through the markets. Cosy corners appear everywhere - small cafés tucked down quiet lanes, firelit bars and inviting little stalls where artisans share their craft. Life moves at a gentler pace, giving you the space to enjoy the season rather than rush through it.

This journey brings together the region's winter traditions with the simple pleasures of good food, shared conversations, meaningful experiences and the joy of experiencing the festive season in places that embrace winter and feel welcoming and unhurried.

## Day 1 - November 29, 2026: Welcome to Lithuania's Festive Capital

Your private transfer brings you from the airport into the cobbled heart of Vilnius Old Town. The city feels especially inviting in December - candlelit windows, evergreen garlands on doorways, and a hint of woodsmoke in the air.

Tonight, gather in a cosy cellar restaurant for a warm welcome dinner where seasonal dishes and mulled wine ease you gently into Baltic winter. After dinner, enjoy an unhurried evening stroll. Cathedral Square glows beneath its impressive Christmas tree design, and the Old Town lanes feel alive with the sparkle of the season.

### Meals: D

### Accommodation in Vilnius:



## Day 2 - November 30, 2026: Old Town Stories, Christmas Market & Trakai Traditions

After breakfast, meet your local guide for a relaxed wander through Vilnius Old Town. As you weave through its narrow lanes, you'll hear stories about baroque façades, quiet courtyards and the mix of cultures - Lithuanian, Polish, Jewish and more - that shaped the city over centuries. You might pause to admire a church tower glinting in the winter light, or peek into small craft shops where locals prepare for the festive season.

Your walk leads you to the Christmas Market in Cathedral Square, where wooden stalls display knitted mittens, hand-thrown ceramics, beeswax candles and steaming cups of local winter drinks. The

atmosphere is friendly and unhurried, with music playing softly and people gathering around firepits to warm their hands.



Free time to enjoy a quick lunch (at your own cost).

In the afternoon, travel to Trakai, a historic town set among quiet lakes and evergreen forests. In winter, the red-brick island castle feels almost storylike, rising above the frozen water with a soft mist often lingering around its towers. Locals come here to walk on the lakeside paths, feed the ducks that never migrate, and enjoy the calm of the season.

After soaking in the atmosphere, continue to Pilaitės Malūno, where you'll step into a warm farmhouse kitchen for a traditional Christmas baking workshop - a lovely mix of laughter, doughy hands and learning the festive recipes families here have passed down for generations.

**Meals: B**



### Day 3 - December 1, 2026: Reflections & Manor House Hospitality

This morning, drive north to the Hill of Crosses - one of Lithuania's most moving cultural sites. Set on a small rise in the landscape, the hill is covered with tens of thousands of crosses placed by families over many decades, each carrying its own story of hope, remembrance or quiet determination.

In winter, the scene feels even more poignant: frost settles on the wooden carvings, metal rosaries chime softly in the wind, and the surrounding fields fall silent. It's a place that invites reflection, offering a powerful glimpse into the resilience of the Lithuanian spirit.



Continue to our hotel in Lithuania, a romantic 19th-century estate that feels particularly atmospheric in winter, its red-brick buildings framed by snow and bare trees.

After settling into our hotel, you'll have the chance to enjoy a charming vintage photoshoot. In the manor's photo studio, a group portrait will be taken with an antique camera using late-19th-century techniques, so you'll hold still for a few seconds while the image forms. Your group will be given period head pieces to wear for the shoot. Afterwards, step into the small darkroom to watch the photograph come to life, a surprisingly magical process that adds a lovely touch to your stay before you sit down to your seasonal dinner.

Dinner tonight features seasonal produce and regional wine served in atmospheric manor-house rooms - a lovely setting for a December evening.

**Meals: B, L, D**

### Accommodation in Lithuania





#### Day 4 - December 2, 2026: Baroque Elegance & Latvian Countryside Traditions

After breakfast, travel to Rundāle Palace - often called Latvia's "Little Versailles" for its grand Baroque architecture, sweeping staircases and beautifully restored state rooms. Designed by the same architect who created St. Petersburg's Winter Palace, it feels both elegant and welcoming. During the theatrical tour, costumed guides bring the palace to life with light-hearted stories about court life, festive celebrations and the people who once filled these gilded halls. You'll wander through ballrooms, galleries and rooms dressed in soft winter light, gaining a sense of how the palace looked and felt during its 18th-century heyday.



After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to Caunītes homestead for a hands-on activity making traditional Christmas decorations. Local artisans guide you through simple techniques passed down through the generations, using natural materials to create decorations that reflect Latvia's winter traditions.

Arrive in Riga late afternoon. Your boutique hotel is set near the Christmas Market, and you may hear festive music drifting from the square as you settle in.

**Meals: B, L**

**Accommodation in Riga:**

### Day 5 - December 3, 2026: Markets, Festive Cooking & Art Nouveau Beauty

Begin the morning at Riga Central Market - lively even in winter, with traders calling out greetings and rows of pastries, smoked fish, cheeses and fragrant spices filling the old Zeppelin hangars. Locals come here for their daily shopping, so it's a wonderful place to get a sense of everyday life. After exploring the different pavilions, join the chefs at a nearby restaurant for a Christmas cooking experience, learning festive Latvian dishes in a warm, relaxed kitchen where everyone gets involved.



In the afternoon, explore Riga's Art Nouveau district, home to one of the largest and most impressive collections of Art Nouveau buildings in the world. Your guide will point out elegant façades along streets like Alberta iela - swirling lines, sculpted faces, balconies, and detailed ornamentation that show just how significant this architectural movement was in shaping the city at the start of the 20th century.

Your walk continues into the Old Town, where medieval lanes lead past the House of the Black Heads, St Peter's Church and the old guild halls that once anchored the city's trading life. Festive decorations add a warm glow to the cobblestones, making it a lovely time for unhurried wandering.

Dinner this evening is in a cellar restaurant, where winter Latvian cuisine brings deep, comforting flavours to the table.

**Meals: B, L, D**



## Day 6 - December 4, 2026: A Day to Spend as You Wish

Today is yours to enjoy at your own pace. You might retreat to a spa for a slow morning, browse small boutiques tucked into side streets, or return to the Christmas Market to pick up handmade gifts and enjoy a warm drink. Riga is a wonderful city for unhurried wandering - hidden courtyards, cosy bakeries, and shops selling linen, amber and thoughtful handmade decorations are never far away.

If you're in the mood for something cultural, the Art Nouveau Museum offers a beautifully restored apartment that shows how people lived during Riga's most creative architectural era. It's a lovely addition to a relaxed day, especially if you enjoyed yesterday's walk through the district.

**Meals: B**



## Day 7 - December 5, 2026: Seaside Calm, Elegant Lunch & Arrival in Estonia

Depart Riga by private bus and stop in Pärnu, Estonia's much-loved seaside town. Even in winter, the beach has a quiet beauty - wide, open and calm, with only the sound of the Baltic waves and the crunch of snow underfoot. The town itself feels welcoming, with wooden villas and colourful houses adding a bit of brightness to the colder months.

Lunch at Ammende Villa - a beautifully restored Art Nouveau residence - brings a touch of old-world elegance to the day. Its rooms are thoughtfully decorated for December, and the warm, homely atmosphere makes it a lovely place to pause before the final stretch of your journey.

Continue to Tallinn in the late afternoon. As dusk settles, head out for an evening walk through the medieval Old Town, where lantern-lit archways, snow-dusted rooftops and cobbled lanes create the perfect winter setting. It's an ideal first introduction to Estonia's capital.

**Meals: B, L**

**Accommodation in Tallinn:**



### **Day 8 - December 6, 2026: Old Town, Christmas Market & Gin Blending**

Meet your guide for a walking tour through Tallinn's UNESCO-listed Old Town, a place that feels especially welcoming in December. The narrow streets are lined with colourful houses, the red rooftops often dusted with snow, and the cafés glow with the kind of warmth that draws you straight inside.

The Christmas Market is the heart of it all - stalls selling handmade ornaments, traditional felt slippers, knitted scarves, spiced nuts and steaming cups of mulled wine. Your guide will share stories of merchants, guilds and winter traditions as you wander through the lanes and small squares.

In the late afternoon, visit Gin School for a relaxed tasting and blending workshop, where you'll create your own personalised bottle using local botanicals. Dinner tonight is in a historic restaurant serving a seasonal Estonian Christmas menu, a lovely way to end the day in Tallinn's winter atmosphere.

**Meals: B, D**



## Day 9 - December 7, 2026: Festive Crafts & Afternoon Culture

This morning begins with a hands-on gingerbread baking workshop, where you'll learn how Estonians make and decorate traditional *piparkoogid* - a fun, festive experience that fills the room with the warm smell of spices. Afterwards, enjoy lunch at a cosy restaurant in Tallinn's Old Town, a good chance to warm up and sample local flavours.



In the afternoon, continue to Kadriorg Palace, Peter the Great's beautifully restored Baroque residence set within quiet parkland. The colours of the façade stand out against the snow and the dark winter trees, creating a striking winter scene. Inside, the halls and galleries offer an elegant and insightful look into Estonia's cultural heritage.

**Meals: B, L**



A relaxed morning gives you time to explore Tallinn at your own pace. You might wander through Kalamaja with its colourful wooden houses, or head to the creative Telliskivi district, home to small design shops, cafés and street art. For those keen on culture, Tallinn has plenty to offer - from contemporary galleries to small museums that highlight the city's history and creativity. It's a lovely opportunity to enjoy the parts of Tallinn that speak to you most before gathering again this evening.

Tonight's farewell dinner brings everyone together for a warm, celebratory final evening, complete with entertainment and a small gift exchange - a lovely way to wrap up your shared December journey.

**Meals: B, D**

#### **Day 11 - December 9, 2026: Departure**

After breakfast, private transfers take you to Tallinn Airport. You leave with full hearts, new friendships and a beautiful collection of Baltic winter memories.

**Meals: B**