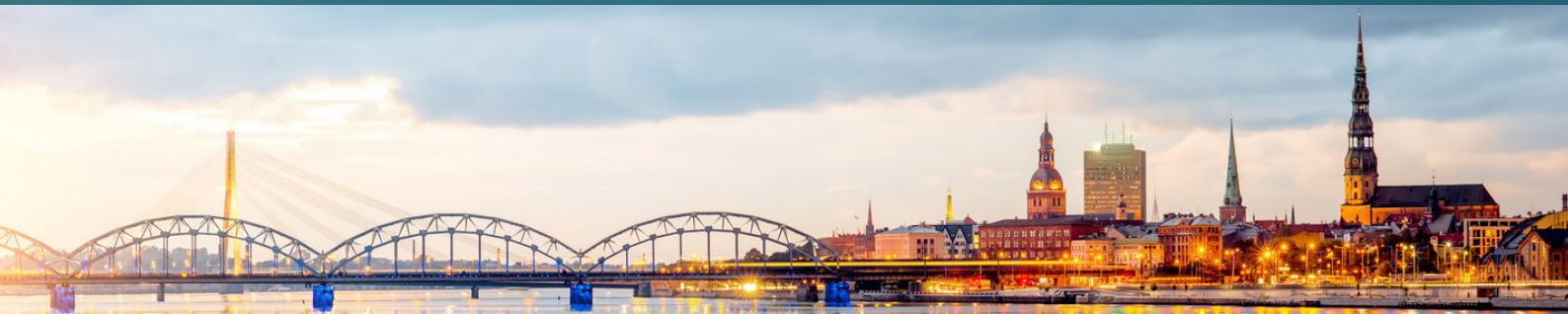




**SAMPLE TOUR**



**SCANDINAVIA AND THE BALTICS**



**PERFORMANCE TOUR**



**HELSINKI** - Helsinki, located on the shore of the Baltic Sea, has a maritime feel and an impressive mix of architecture telling of its road to become the proud independent capital of Finland today. Founded as a trading town of Sweden in the 16th century, it stayed under Swedish rule until it became an outpost of the Russian Empire in the 19th century. Yet during the 20th century, it became a showcase of Finnish independence, its buildings reflecting the rise of the republic. The city remains proud of its cutting-edge architecture and design to this day.



## 1 DEPARTURE

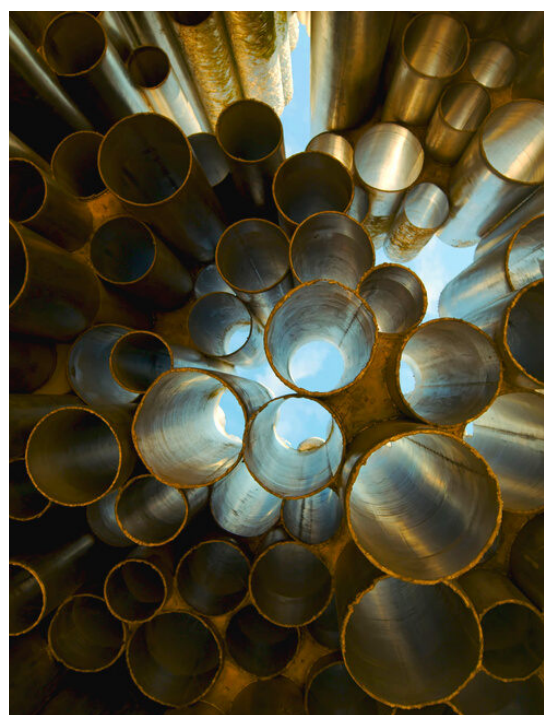
Depart to Europe on your overnight flight.

## 2 ARRIVAL

Arrive at Helsinki International Airport and meet your European Tour Manager, who will remain with you throughout the tour. Board your private coach and drive to the Old Market Square of Helsinki, located in the Old Harbor. Enjoy time to stretch your legs and to have lunch on own. Try the local fresh food this market is known for. After lunch, enjoy a City Tour of Helsinki with local guide.

Highlights of the tour include Esplanadi Boulevard, Senate Square (Senattintori) with the Tuomiokirkko Cathedral, Finlandia Hall, Sibelius Monument, Church in the Rock (Temppeliaukion Kirkko), Market Square (Kauppatori) in the Old Harbor and the Russian Orthodox Uspenski Cathedral.

Welcome Dinner and overnight in Helsinki.



## 3 HELSINKI - PERFORMANCE #1

Have breakfast at your hotel, followed by a Masterclass or sectional clinics at the Sibelius Academy or the Helsinki Conservatory.

In the afternoon, continue to your concert venue for rehearsal. After dinner, get ready for an evening performance at one of Helsinki's famous venues, such as the Helsinki Music Center, Finlandia Hall or Temppeliaukion Church, possibly shared with a local ensemble. After your performance, return to your hotel for your overnight.





**TALLINN** - With a great medieval center, which is still exceptionally complete and well-preserved, Tallinn has rightfully received its UNESCO World Heritage status. Tallinn was the center of the Hanseatic League trading organization, at its peak between the 13th and 16th century. The expressive skyline of this picturesque city can be seen from a great distance from the country and the sea.

4

#### HELSINKI - TALLINN

After breakfast at your hotel, transfer to the Port of Helsinki. Board your ferry to enjoy a 2-hour boat trip across the Baltic Sea to Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. Upon arrival in Tallinn, enjoy a Guided Walking Tour of Tallinn with a local guide.

Despite the boom of 21st-century development, Tallinn safeguards the fairy-tale charms of its UNESCO-listed Old Town as one of Europe's most complete walled cities. Highlights of the tour include Raekoja plats (market square), Kiek-in-de-Kök Tower, the 14th-century Church of the Holy Ghost (Puhä Vaimu), Toompea Hill and Castle (home of the Estonian Parliament), Aleksander Nevsky Cathedral and beautiful panoramic views of the Old Town. Make a stop at the Lauluväljak Amphitheater, the location of Estonia's Song Festivals, where a 25'000-strong choir has been featured every five years since 1869.

This afternoon, enjoy some time at leisure in the Old Town before you continue to your hotel to check in. Have dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight at your hotel in Tallinn.

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#### TALLINN - PERFORMANCE #2

Have breakfast at your hotel, then visit the Estonian Open Air Museum.

Located in a beautifully forested park, you will find a unique collection of historic buildings (houses, windmills, churches) influenced by 18-20th century Estonian architecture from all over the country. Local staff, dressed in traditional costumes, will be present to tell the story behind each building. In spring and summer you can see demonstrations of different traditional handicrafts and join traditional activities like folk dancing.

After lunch, enjoy a visit to the Tallinn TV Tower.

Take the elevator to the top and enjoy the spectacular views across the city and on clear days even to Finland!

Late afternoon rehearsal followed by dinner. Enjoy an evening performance at, for example, the Nokia Concert Hall or St Charles's Church Tallinn, possibly with a local Estonian ensemble.

**RIGA** - Due to its excellent geographical location on the Baltic Sea, Riga played a key role in the trade activities of the Hanseatic League from the 13th to the 15th century. The wealth it gained then is still visible in its Old Town and medieval buildings there that survived until today. When the city was part of the Russian Empire in the late 1800's, it developed into one of Russia's wealthiest and most industrialized cities. In 1997, Riga gained the status of UNESCO World Heritage Site thanks to its well-preserved medieval Old Town and the 19th century semi-circle of boulevards with the finest collection of Art Nouveau buildings.

## 6 TALLINN - PÄRNU - RIGA

Have breakfast at your hotel, then board your private bus and transfer to Riga. En route you will stop in Pärnu. Enjoy a Guided City Tour upon arrival.

Pärnu, Estonia's fourth largest city is located on the coast of Pärnu Bay, an inlet of the Gulf of Riga in the Baltic Sea. This charming seaside town with large beaches has always been Estonia's premier seaside resort and the nation's 'summer capital'. On the tour, discover the pretty sites of Pärnu Beach and its picturesque Old Town with St Elisabeth's Lutheran church, St Catherine's Orthodox Church, Tallinn Gate and the Town Hall.

Lunch in Pärnu before your transfer to Riga, the capital of Latvia. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel. Enjoy dinner and overnight in Riga.

## 7 RIGA - PERFORMANCE #3

After breakfast at your hotel, go on a Guided Walking and Bus Tour of Riga with local guide, focusing on the city's center, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Highlights of the tour include Old Riga (Vecrīga) with its medieval curving cobbled streets, Blackheads Guild House (1344), Riga Cathedral (15th-century Gothic) and the elegant 19th century boulevards with beautiful Art Nouveau buildings and the Freedom Monument. End your tour with a visit of Riga Central Market, housed in five enormous 35m-high German-built Zeppelin hangars. Today you'll find a hip food court and lots of Latvian foods. Look for all kinds of pickled treats, unusual cheeses, luxuriously smoked fish, wild berries, unusual mushrooms and much more.

After lunch, transfer to tonight's venue for an afternoon rehearsal. Have dinner, then enjoy performing at one of Riga's impressive concert venues, such as the Latvian National Opera or St Albert's Church (for choirs), with a local Latvian ensemble. Overnight in Riga.





**STOCKHOLM** - Hej! Welcome to Stockholm, the capital and most populous urban area of Sweden. Located in a unique setting, the city stretches across fourteen islands, with Lake Mälaren eventually flowing into the Baltic Sea. Stockholm started as a settlement in the Stone Age, and was founded as a city in 1252. Today, it is a truly unique city with beautifully preserved historic buildings and each district having its own unique charm and atmosphere.

## 8 RIGA - CRUISE

Breakfast at your hotel, then board your private bus. Two options today:

Transfer to the nearby seaside town of Jūrmala. Explore the beautiful beaches of the Latvian Riviera.

Jūrmala, a peninsula stretching from Lielupe to Vaivari has been the holiday destination of many for over a hundred years. Back in the day, the USSR and tourists from across the union came here for their vacation time in summer.

Or visit the most stunning town in Latvia, Cēsis.

Cēsis is one of the most beautiful towns in Latvia, hence a popular town for local and foreign tourists. It is also among the oldest towns in the country, and knows lots of history. The general vibe is very contemporary though, and is influenced by visitors and creative entrepreneurs from all over the world.

Have lunch, then return to Riga. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure for shopping and sightseeing. In the late afternoon, transfer to the Port of Riga, board a cruise ship and locate your cabins. Enjoy a true Scandinavian dinner buffet (including drinks) and an evening of on-board entertainment. Overnight cruise to Sweden.

## 9 STOCKHOLM

Have breakfast aboard the ferry. Upon arrival in Stockholm enjoy a Guided Sightseeing Tour.

Highlights of the tour include the Old Town "Gamla Stan" with its pretty 17th century merchant houses, the winding medieval streets, Kungliga Slottet (18th century Royal Palace), 13th century Storkyrkan (Stockholm Cathedral) and Stockholm City Hall (home of the Nobel Banquet).

After lunch, enjoy a visit of the Vasa Ship Museum.

The Vasa Ship was a powerful warship which sank on its first voyage. It had 64 cannons and 300 men on it and is to this day wholly preserved; a unique piece of history. The museum offers exhibitions, multimedia installations and other finds that will bring you straight to the 17th century.

Check into your hotel, have dinner and overnight in Stockholm.

## 10 STOCKHOLM - PERFORMANCE #4

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel. This morning transfer to the Skansen Open Air Museum.

Skansen is Stockholm's largest outdoor destination and known as an open-air museum. It offers a beautiful view across to the Baltic and also towards the seaway to the city. The museum shows around 150 different miniature buildings from across the city, giving an impression of how people lived between the Middle Ages and the 20th century.

After lunch, transfer to tonight's concert venue for an afternoon rehearsal. Enjoy dinner before your evening concert at one of Stockholm's grand venues, such as the Musikaliska, the Stockholm Konserthuset (home of the annual Nobel Prize award ceremony), or the St Gertrud's Church (for choirs and classical orchestras). Overnight in your hotel in Stockholm.



## 11 STOCKHOLM

Have breakfast at your hotel. Then enjoy a visit of the Swedish Museum of Performing Arts.

This museum offers interactive exhibitions and insights into the history and future of performing arts in Sweden. Make your own piece of music with instrument samples or try on a theatre mask. The Swedish Music Hall of Fame is also located in the museum, which offers a growing exhibition showing important milestones in the history of Swedish music.

This afternoon, have time at leisure for sightseeing and shopping on your own. Enjoy a Farewell Dinner and overnight in your hotel in Stockholm.



## 12 FLIGHT HOME

Have breakfast and transfer to Stockholm Arlanda International Airport for your flight home!

### **END OF TOUR**

## TAILOR-MADE TOURS

### **For your clients' most satisfying experience**

Any itinerary can be adjusted according to your personal requests. Please contact us for the possibilities and more information.

