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Sample Tour Program

featuring *Jurmala, Liepaja, Kuldiga, Riga, Sigulda, Parnu, Kihnu, and Tallinn*

day 1 – Overnight flight

Begin your 8-day Baltic tour with this evening's overnight trans-Atlantic flight.

day 2 – Liepaja

Arrive at Riga International Airport, where your **full-time bilingual tour manager** will welcome you to Latvia. Explorations begin right away as you transfer to nearby coastal and cosmopolitan Jurmala. Enjoy free time to walk along Juras Street to see shining examples of the city's architectural styles. Running parallel is pedestrian Jomas Street, well known for its restaurants and shopping. Continue to the country's ruggedly beautiful west coast and Liepaja, a proud port city with an artistic soul, and check-in to your hotel. There is a welcome briefing this evening, and **dinner** is served at a local restaurant within walking distance of the hotel.

day 3 – Liepaja

Breakfast is served at the hotel, and each morning for the remainder of your trip. Join a **local guide** for an introduction to "the city where the wind is born" reflecting a town with a strong individualistic streak. With its pristine Blue Flag beach, market stalls offering fresh local fish and the local specialty cod dish "Liepajas Mencini" on every menu, Liepaja is a place with the sea running through its veins. At the Craftsmen House, you will get a chance to peek into a maze of rooms all occupied by different masters—jeweler, candle makers, knitters, and amber artists among others—the perfect opportunity for Latvian souvenir of your own. Enter the stunning Russian Orthodox **St. Nicholas' Naval Cathedral**. The afternoon is at leisure to explore this seaside town on your own, or with your tour manager. **Present an area concert this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! There is the opportunity to make this an exchange and joint performance with a local ensemble. A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** **Dinner** is served at a local restaurant.

day 4 – Riga

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart Liepaja this morning for Kuldiga, long ago bypassed by the busy world, and nicknamed the "Venice of the North". The town is an endearing blend of flowing water and historic buildings, and a **local guide** will lead a stroll to see landmarks such as the Baroque Town Hall, cobblestone streets lined with restored timber houses, and Ventas Rumba, Europe's widest waterfall—and perhaps step in the water of the river's rapid. Continue to the small town of Sabile, and their Wine Hill. Approximately 25 varieties of grapes are found here, along with exotic fruits and plants. Included is a **wine tasting with local snacks**, serving as an included lunch today. Your day ends in the historic capital city of Riga. Check-in to your hotel and relax. The evening is yours to explore, and dinner is on your own.

KUONI
TUMLARE

day 5 – Riga

Breakfast at the hotel. Sightseeing continues as a **local guide** joins you for an introduction to Riga, a major Baltic port situated at the mouth of the Daugava River. The center has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its rich history and remarkable concentration of Art Nouveau (Jugendstil) buildings. Wander through Town Hall Square, which has long been the economic and administrative center of the city, and is home to the House of the Blackheads, town hall with its Baroque clock tower, and the **Latvian Occupation Museum** located in a former KGB facility. A highlight is your tour of the **Latvian National Opera House**. The afternoon is at leisure for lunch and exploration on your own or with your tour manager. **Present an area concert this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** Enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant. Your return transfer provides a short drive to see the evening lights.

day 6 – Tallinn

Breakfast at the hotel. Say goodbye to Riga, as you make your way to neighboring Estonia. Along the way visit the natural wonderland of Sigulda, with a **locally guided** tour of the Turaida Museum Reserve. Visit the impressive **Turaida Stone Castle** with a stroll through the Folk Song Garden and up the Folk Song Hill, both of which hold sculptures depicting Latvian folk song elements and have become a symbol of their rich musical heritage. After crossing the border, there is a stop for lunch in one of the medieval neighborhoods of Parnu. Continue to Tallinn, and visit the **Song Festival Grounds**. Here the “Singing Revolution” helped to set Estonia on track for independence from Soviet Russia in 1988. Check-in to your hotel, and enjoy the evening and **dinner** at a local restaurant.

**Alternatively extend your stay in Parnu with an overnight, and a visit to nearby Kihnu—The Island of Women, including round-trip ferry to the island, boxed lunches, and an introduction to the women, their history, and the opportunity for a musical exchange.*

day 7 – Tallinn

Breakfast at the hotel. A **local guide** will familiarize you with some of Europe’s best-preserved medieval fortifications during your walking tour of Old Town. Highlights include a visit of **Toompea Castle**, and you will see the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Freedom Square, and St. Catherine’s Passage, a collection of craft workshops where artisans use traditional methods in their creations. Town Hall Square is the heart of Lower Town, and in summer is filled with outdoor cafes and open-air concerts, handicrafts fairs, and medieval markets—perfect for an afternoon at leisure. **Present an area concert finale this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** **Dinner** is provided at a local restaurant, where you can celebrate your week in the Baltics!

day 8 – Departure

A final **breakfast** is served at the hotel before transferring to the airport for your return flights home. Your tour manager will assist with airport check-in, and there is time for one last *ardievas* and *huvasti*!

