

Iconic Capitals & Towns of the Baltic

From **16/07/2026**
to **24/07/2026**

Ship: ***Le Champlain***

From **Helsinki**
to **Copenhagen**



At the heart of the **Baltic Sea**, discover the **emblematic towns and capitals** of the region, a blend of **History** and **sumptuous landscapes**. During this 9-day cruise aboard *Le Champlain* fall under the spell of the majestic panoramas of northern Europe.

Over the course of your trip, at every port of call each guest will be able to choose one included excursion from the selection offered by PONANT. During this cruise, enjoy a visit to **Gdansk** and fall under the spell of the music at a **Chopin concert**; dive into the **history and tunes of ABBA** from Stockholm; or attend a **folkloric show** in Tallinn. The range of experiences on offer promises intense and varied moments (for the full list of excursions, click on the Itinerary tab).

Your cruise will start at **Helsinki**. Located on a peninsula surrounded by almost 300 islands, the verdant capital of Finland will charm you with its Art Nouveau architecture.

You will visit **Tallinn**, emblematic city of the Hanseatic League, the large trading network that dominated the Baltic Sea for several centuries. Listed as UNESCO Heritage Site, this once opulent city still has remarkably well-preserved public buildings, merchant houses and warehouses.

On **Saaremaa**, dive into the complex history of this island, Estonia's largest. First invaded by the Vikings, it became Danish then Swedish before being taken by the Russian Empire and later occupied by the Germans. In 1991, it finally became Estonian when the country gained its independence.

Le Champlain will then chart a course for **Stockholm**. Built on water, the Swedish capital embraces nature, which is omnipresent there. Its blend of medieval architecture, colourful houses and trendy neighbourhoods makes it a particularly enjoyable city to visit.

You will then sail to the Swedish island of Gotland and call at **Visby**, a site that was important for the Hanseatic League in the Baltic Sea around the 13th century. **UNESCO Heritage Site**, this once opulent city still has remarkably well-preserved ramparts, public buildings, merchant houses and warehouses.

Your ship will then call at **Gdansk**, famous for its amber stone and its shipyards. The former Hanseatic city will reveal some of its architectural treasures, in Gothic and Baroque styles, restored or rebuilt.

You will set a course for the charming fishing village of **Gudhjem**. Located on the small Danish island of Bornholm, it is very popular among the Danes for its gentle way of life and its beautiful landscapes of rock formations.

Your ship will finally reach **Copenhagen**, where you can explore its canals and historic districts.



The information in this document is valid as of 04/04/2026

Iconic Capitals & Towns of the Baltic

YOUR STOPOVERS :

HELSINKI

Embarkation 16/07/2026 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 16/07/2026 at 18:00

Seated in the southern peninsula of Finland, **Helsinki** offers the buzz of a cosmopolitan city that has opted for both elegance and beauty. Explore its historical centre where the soft hues of neoclassical buildings are juxtaposed with spectacular modern constructions. The bustling **Kallio** district is teeming with boutiques and restaurants where you can taste some local specialities like graavilohi - a sweet, marinated, aromatic salmon dish. **Keskuspuisto** park, a stone's throw from the centre, is a good place to sit and unwind.

TALLINN

Arrival 17/07/2026

Departure 17/07/2026 early evening

Opening onto the Baltic sea, to the far north of Estonia, the town of **Tallinn** will win you over with the picturesque charm of its architecture. You can meander through its little streets in the heart of the medieval centre where its gothic **town hall** has been standing since 1404. The **Kiek in de Kōk tower**, the **Orthodox Alexander Nevski cathedral**, or **Toompea castle** give visitors a taste of this town's rich past. The city was particularly active during the medieval period, as is demonstrated by the very beautiful monuments from this period that are still visible. Don't hesitate to lose yourself in the heart of Tallinn, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

SAAREMAA

Arrival 18/07/2026 early morning

Departure 18/07/2026 late afternoon

Welcome to Estonia's largest island, Saaremaa, with its age-old history and mysterious charm. Located in the Baltic Sea, it closes off the Gulf of Riga. The episcopal castle, a medieval fortress and preserved witness of the rich history of the Baltic States, stands proudly in the island's capital, **Kuressaare**. The island's soils and mild climate give it abundant and diverse nature, where forests, cliffs, dunes and beaches flourish, becoming a haven for thousands of migratory birds every year. The island offers many treasures, between wild nature, nature reserves, meteor craters and windmills.

STOCKHOLM

Arrival 19/07/2026 early morning

Departure 20/07/2026 late afternoon

The capital of Sweden occupies an archipelago in the east of the country at the junction of Mälär Lake and the Baltic sea. In **Gamla stan**, meaning “old town” in Swedish, you can stroll at your leisure in picturesque medieval streets until you reach the majestic Royal Palace. On the green island of **Djurgården**, you can visit several very different kinds of cultural centres: the Vasa museum is dedicated to a 17th century three-mast, the ecomuseum of Skansen presents traditional customs, and the ABBA museum is dedicated to the legendary pop group. For a fantastic, all-encompassing view of Stockholm, you can take a ride in **SkyView**, a glass-encased sphere gondola that takes you to the top of the world’s largest building, the Ericsson Globe, a Stockholm landmark.

VISBY, GOTLAND

Arrival 21/07/2026 early morning

Departure 21/07/2026 midday

This old Hanseatic city lies to the west coast of Gotland, a Swedish island in the Baltic sea. Pass through the spectacular Visby fortifications and visit the **old town**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. You’ll discover the grand Visby homes of rich merchants as well as the lovely low wooden houses in the little cobbled streets. Don’t miss **Saint Mary’s cathedral** with its octagonal steeples, as well as Powder tower along the fortifications. Make sure you stop over in one of the rose-adorned cafés; indeed roses abound in this town where you can taste one of the island’s specialities, namely saffron pancakes with red fruit.

GDANSK

Arrival 22/07/2026 early morning

Departure 22/07/2026 late afternoon

This ravishing city on the Baltic sea is nicknamed “the golden door of Poland”, and you’ll understand why when you see its beautiful Hanseatic architecture. You’ll be charmed by the mouldings and gables that enhance the colourful façades of the houses. Along the **Vistula Quays**, you can take a pleasant stroll among the crafts shops. In elegant Mariacka street, the **amber jewellers** will most certainly tempt you into their boutiques. You can visit the church of Saint-Mary and its astronomic clock. Not far, the majestic Long Market square offers the famous Artus Court and the rich Gdansk History Museum.

CHRISTIANSOE

Arrival 23/07/2026 early morning

Departure 23/07/2026 midday

In the very heart of the **Baltic Sea**, in the **Ertholmene archipelago**, the small island of **Christiansoe** – less than 0,5 km² (barely 0,3 square miles) – awaits you. Thanks to its geographic form, which constitutes a natural harbour with the island of Frederiksø, it has been used as such for more than a thousand years. Pirates and fishermen succeeded one another here before the construction of its fortress, built between the 17th and 18th centuries, in the time of the Danish-Swedish wars. Visiting Christiansoe, you see the shaping of great history, the re-emergence of the rivalries and alliances that took place in the Baltic Sea. Today, this peaceful island offers you wild and preserved nature. **A natural reserve** since 1926, it is home in particular to a very large population of nesting and migrating birds that find food and tranquillity here.

GUDHJEM, BORNHOLM

Arrival 23/07/2026 midday

Disembarkation 24/07/2026 at 08:00

Lying in the south-west of the Baltic Sea, the medieval village of **Gudhjem**, on the island of Bornholm, is one of the most visited and most popular villages in Denmark. As you stroll along its picturesque streets, you will fall under the spell of its varied landscapes, its easy way of life, and the authenticity of this charming town with half-timbered houses topped with red roofs, in the Danish tradition. It is here, along these charming streets, that the first herring smokehouses were built in the mid-19th century, attracting all the region's fishermen. Tucked away in a gorgeous natural setting composed of rocky cliffs, dense forests and beaches of white sand, Gudhjem will provide an unforgettable interlude where time will seem to stand still.