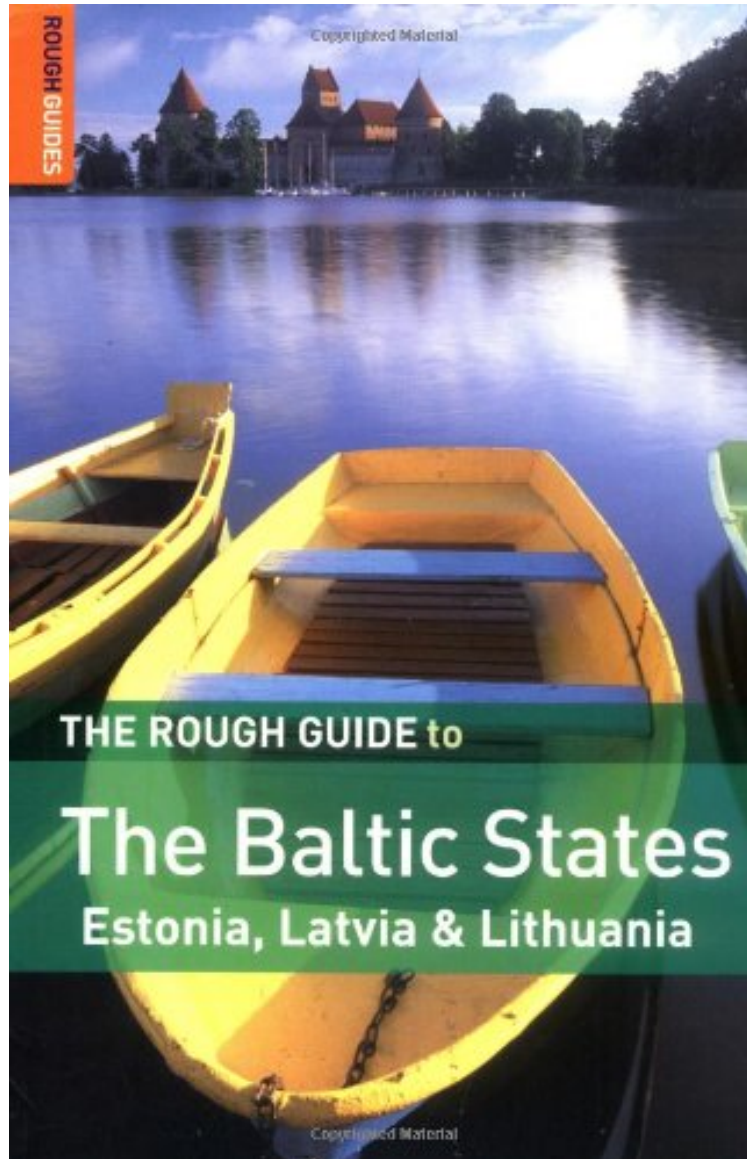


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## The Rough Guide to The Baltic States - 2nd Edition

*Jonathan Bousfield, Shafik Meghji*

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#3440899 in Books Rough Guides 2007-12-10 2007-12-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.81 x .87 x 5.131, .0 #File Name: 1843539225480 pages | File size: 24.Mb

**Jonathan Bousfield, Shafik Meghji : The Rough Guide to The Baltic States - 2nd Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rough Guide to The Baltic States - 2nd Edition:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. All Europe in miniatureBy Jon L AlbeeAny author of a travel guide to the Baltic States is left with a formidable task: Words and still photographs don't do justice to these truly

exceptional destinations. Add to that the daunting task of trying to keep listings current for three of the most dynamic and popular tourist destinations on earth. In particular, the capital cities are booming with prosperity, largely based on the tourist trade, and institutional details change constantly. Faced with these difficulties, this guide is still the best of the bunch. Bradt does a nice guide to the capital cities, but that doesn't help much for people interested in such lovely places as Kaunas and Tartu, or the idyllic rural settings outside the cities. This book crams an enormous amount of material into a dense, compact package. Despite one reviewer's claim to the contrary, Rough Guides are smaller and lighter than the Bradt guides. You'll need to buy three of those to gather the equivalent content offered in this book. Tallinn, Riga and (especially) Vilnius are so startling upon first sight, no amount of historic or cultural context is going to give you the blast of adrenaline you'll feel as your taxi scoots you through the town square on the way to your hotel. You simply have to see and feel these places directly. That said, Rough Guide has made (in this updated edition) a dedicated effort to improve the quality of the pragmatic material in the book. You're still not going to find the details of bus routes and timetables, but the hotel and restaurant listings are up-to-date and accurate. True to Rough Guide form, however, the author reveals his love of all things historic and cultural, which fits nicely with the book's standard format. A few words of caution: Remember, these three small countries are shaking off the communist experiment, and that takes some time. While the old town centers are generally restored, there's still a palpable grit to the Baltic States. Don't expect Vilnius to look like Vienna, or Tallinn to look like Prague, or Riga to look like Stockholm. These towns are far smaller than their central European and Scandinavian sisters, and they're ringed by nasty industrial suburbs that can (but shouldn't) put you off. I mention this because the guide doesn't make this observation. Also, don't buy this book if you're looking for a photo essay. Rough Guides are all about words and simple maps. Go to Flickr if you want a nice preview in pictures. From the medieval Protestant alleys of Tallinn to the baroque splendor of Catholic Vilnius, this guide's got your back. But as another reviewer noted, these destinations are among the most popular in the world (the wonderful combination of beauty and affordability), so sit down with this book and do your homework BEFORE you get on the plane.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. New edition, old information  
By Adventure Lady  
I had used the first edition to help plan our 3 plus week trip to the Baltic states during May, 2008. But since it was published several years ago, I decided to buy the the 2nd edition (early 2008) which came out a few weeks prior to our leaving for our trip. How frustrating and what a waste of money. Much of the information had not been updated, many places had been closed for over 2 years. There are mention of new things coming in 2006!!! So what happened??? - needed serious editing by folks that "had boots on the ground" - not just using the internet for some updates. Thankfully, I had the Bradt guide and, best of all, were the up to date "In Your Pocket" guides which you can download free or buy light small magazine style when you arrive (check out online for cities and countries) for about 2-3 dollars and have the most relevant info, including up to date cultural entertainment info. No more Rough Guides for me, if I can avoid it.

The Rough Guide to The Baltic States is an indispensable guide to this intriguing part of Europe. The full colour section introduces the highlights of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The guide features definitive accounts of the fascinating capital cities of Tallinn, Vilnius and Riga, as well as full coverage of the countries' distinctive landscapes of lakes, forests and national parks. Two new colour sections give the lowdown on the countries' cuisine and landscapes. The guide also contains practical advice on the best places for hiking, canoeing and birdwatching. Detailed maps for every region, and up-to-date reviews of accommodation, restaurants and nightlife, are also included. The Rough Guide to The Baltic States is like having a local friend plan your trip!

About the Author Jonathan Bousfield is also the author of The Rough Guide to Croatia and co-author of Rough Guides to Austria, Bulgaria and Poland.