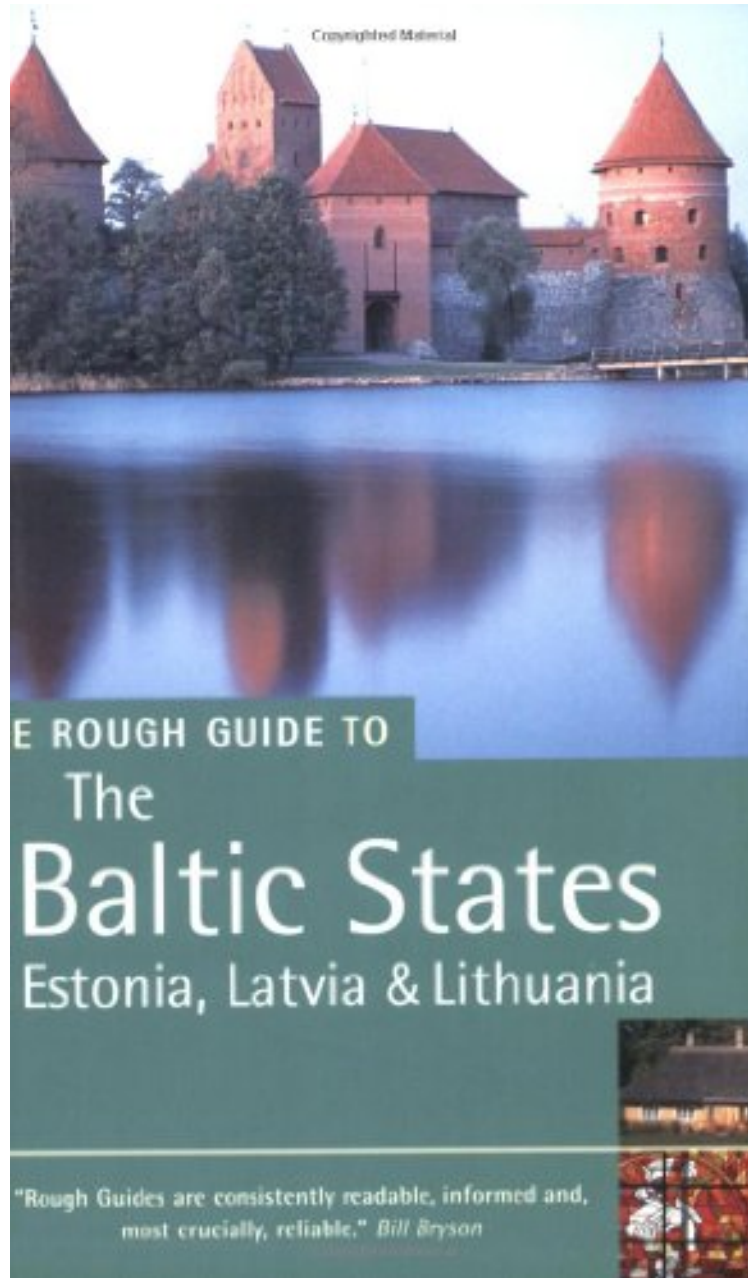


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## The Rough Guide to The Baltic States (Rough Guide Travel Guides)

*Jonathan Bousfield*

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**Jonathan Bousfield : The Rough Guide to The Baltic States (Rough Guide Travel Guides)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rough Guide to The Baltic States (Rough Guide Travel Guides):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great guide  
By Charlotte K. Howard  
Used this on trip to Estonia and Latvia. Had great historical info and very accurate listings of restaurants, museums, etc. Jam packed with pretty much any information you could want. Excellent assortment of places for all different \$ amounts. I was with a tour group, and our guide had a copy of this guidebook for his own reference. That's the second time I've been on an organized tour where the guide has constantly referred to his Rough Guide.  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.  
Useful guide to Baltic States (which I visited for a ...  
By syzygy  
Useful guide to Baltic States (which I visited for a week, spending some time in the capitol of each as well as time elsewhere). I had a rental car.  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good book, quick delivery.  
By Lawrence H. Oswald  
Excellent condition. Arrived quickly. The Baltics are worth visiting. Very interesting.

A comprehensive guide to one of Europe's most fascinating regions. There are definitive accounts of the up-and-coming city-break destinations of Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius as well as full coverage of the countries' unspoilt lakes, forests and national parks. For every city, town and village there are insider's reviews of accommodation, restaurants and nightlife and for outdoor enthusiasts there is practical advice on the best places for hiking, canoeing and birdwatching. Included are over 50 maps and 24 pages of colour photographs.

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Transport in the Baltic States presents no real hardships, providing you're prepared to put up with badly surfaced roads or don't mind travelling in rural buses that look as if they belong in a transport museum. Gloomy, Soviet-era hotels are everywhere outnumbered by spanking-new establishments offering high standards of accommodation at slightly less than Western-standard prices. Even though the three national capitals are beginning to take off as popular city-break destinations, the volume of visitors remains low by Western European standards, leaving you with the feeling that there's still much to be discovered. When to go  
Late spring and summer are the best times to visit the Baltic States, when there's usually enough fine weather to allow you to stroll around the cities and make significant forays into the great outdoors. On the whole though, the only thing that's predictable about the Baltic climate is the deep, dark winters – in all other seasons the weather can be changeable in the extreme. Summers are relatively short (roughly mid-June to late August), and although you may well experience a string of hot, dry days during this period, showers and chilly nights are equally likely. Remember to pack a waterproof jacket and warm sweater alongside your favourite T-shirts. Temperatures cool down rapidly from mid-September onwards, although autumn can be an extraordinarily beautiful season in which to travel, with the golden-brown leaves of deciduous trees contrasting with the dark-green pines. The first snowfalls can come as early as mid-November, and by early to mid-December winter sets in with a vengeance. Average daytime temperatures can remain below zero right through until March, plummeting to minus 15–20°C in particularly cold spells. Winter can of course be a magical time, with lakes, rivers and large expanses of the Baltic Sea freezing over, and crunchy snow cover adding an air of enchantment to medieval city centres. However, rural areas can be difficult to get to without a 4WD vehicle (only the main highways are ploughed), and you'll have to be well toggled up in order to endure anything but the shortest of walks. Wherever you are in winter, some form of hat or head covering is absolutely essential. Even when the spring thaw sets in, the countryside can remain grey and barren until well into April (or even May in northern Estonia), when a sudden explosion of colour transforms the landscape. The countryside takes on a green lushness, drawing cattle and horses out from their winter barns, while city dwellers indulge in a frenzied stampede for the pavement cafés.