



Danish Farmers
ABROAD



Danish Farmers Abroad trip to the baltics

October 28 – November 3 2024



After being part of the Soviet bloc since World War II, the three Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania) gained independence in 1991 and joined both the EU and NATO in 2003/04. Since then, the countries have undergone fantastic development, using and restoring old ties between the Scandinavian countries and the Baltics. Many Danish farmers and businesspeople have established themselves in all three countries, contributing to an increased cultural and financial integration with the West.

This allowed us to create a program that includes many exciting visits to a range of agriculture-related companies. The program is also designed to provide opportunities for networking with many businesspeople in each country through business/networking meeting held in each of the three capitals, with the participation of Ambassadors, politicians, and businesspeople. We hear about their political and cultural positions and differences after their independence and the new affiliation with Western Europe. This way, the trip will provide participants with an in-depth, detailed insight into the business environment of the countries and create opportunities for establishing profitable businesses and new trade connections.

The trip is for members of Danish Farmers Abroad and their relatives, and there are a limited number of spots available. We recommend registering quickly, but no later than September 30.

Register with Tom Axelgaard, email: tom@axelgaard.org

The program below is described as a day-by-day itinerary. Minor changes may occur.

Daily Program for the Trip

October 28: Arrival in Tallinn, City tour and networking

Individual arrivals in Tallinn throughout the morning.

13:00-14:30: Lunch at restaurant Scheli.

14:30-16:00: Guided walking tour of Tallinn's old town, which is on UNESCO's World Heritage list. Tallinn is the smallest of the three Baltic capitals with around 400,000 inhabitants, and this city tour focuses on the old town and Danish traces you often see here. Tallinn means "Danish town," and part of the city's historic buildings are still related to the Danish period about 800 years ago.



We will visit the city's beautiful landmarks, including the old town hall and Toompea Castle, where the Danish flag, Dannebrog, is said to have fallen from the skies in 1219. The tour also passes by beautiful cathedrals like the Virgin Mary Cathedral and the Orthodox counterpart, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, with its characteristic onion domes. After the tour we will return to the hotel.

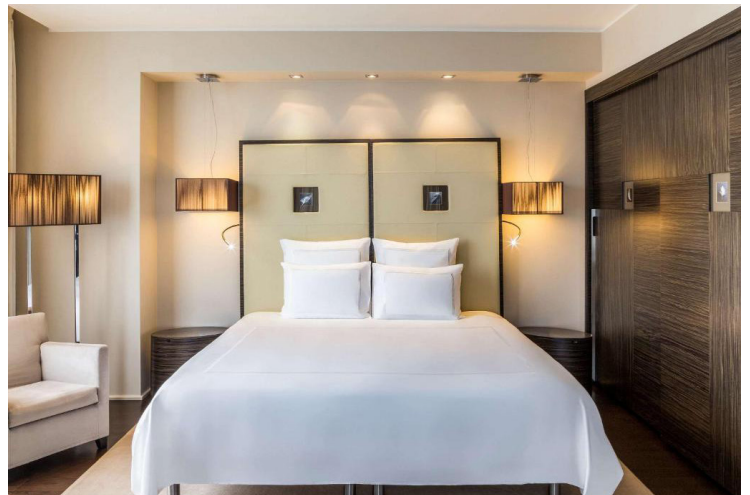
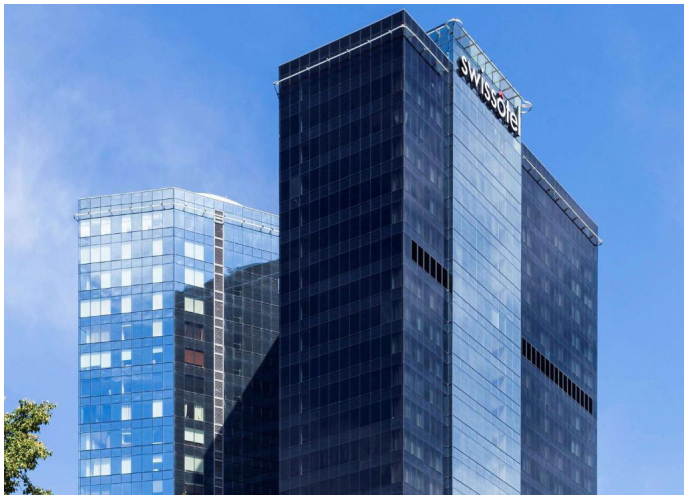
17:00-18:30: Meeting and presentations at the hotel with invited guests. Coffee/tea/water served.

19:00: 3-course dinner at the hotel's restaurant, including beverages.

*Overnatning på **Swissotel, Tallinn. 5***. ■

Note: Check-in at Swissotel is from 14:00. Luggage can be stored if arriving earlier.

[Swissotel Tallinn Estonia - Luxury Hotel in Tallinn Estonia - Swissôtel Hotels & Resorts](#)



October 29: Company visits in Estonia. Arrival and experiences in Tartu.

07:00-08:00: Breakfast at the hotel.

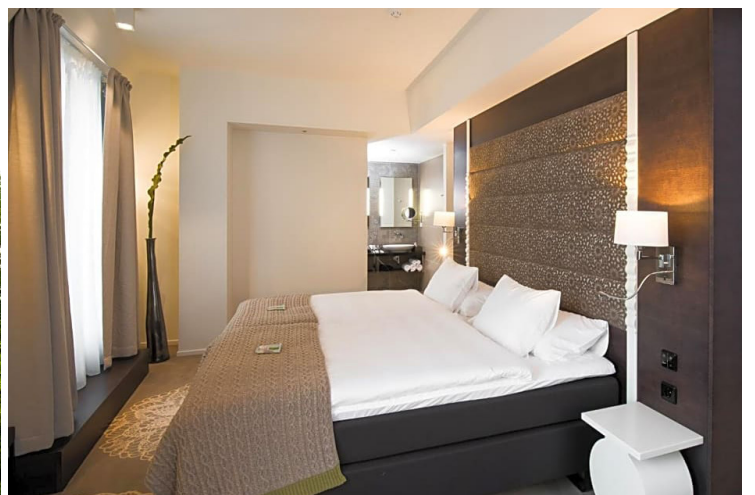
08:00: Departure by bus.

10:00-12:30: Visit at Härjanurme Mõis, a Danish-owned dairy farm with app. 1200 cows and 2000 hectares of land.

Tour and lunch at the site.

13:30-15:30: Visit at the Estonian University of Life Sciences in Tartu.

16:00 Check in at Hotel Lydia 4*.



17:00-18:30: Exploring Tartu with a local guide. Tartu is Estonia's second-largest city, known as the cultural capital of Estonia, primarily due to the old university. Danish traces are not as visible here as in Tallinn, but there are still many traces of Swedish influence. Our visit in Tartu also shows the significant differences between Tallinn and the rest of Estonia, and with our rural visit during the day, we will experience the contrasts between land and city.



After our excursion in Tartu, we will visit a local restaurant to experience the rural Estonian cuisine.

19:00: Dinner at restaurant Vilde – 3 courses including beverages.

Overnight at Hotel Lydia Tartu 4*. [Lydia Hotel Rooms And Rates - Guest Reservations](#)

October 30: From Tartu to Riga.

07:00-08:00: Breakfast at the hotel in Tartu.

08:00: Drive towards Latvia.

11:00-12:30: Company visit at Alex Rasmussen's farm with around 3000 sows, and 1650 hectares of agricultural land.

12:30-13:00: Drive to Ligatne.

13:00-14:15: Lunch at restaurant Zeit – 3 courses with wine and water.

14:30-15:30: Visit the secret Soviet bunker in Ligatne. 16:30: Arrival in Riga and check-in.

17:00-18:30: Meeting and presentations with invited guests, with coffee and water.

19:00: 3-course dinner at the hotel's restaurant with beverages.

Overnight at Pullmann Riga Oldtown 5* Hotel. [Hotel in Riga - Pullman Riga Old Town Hotel - ALL - ALL](#)



October 31: From Riga to Siauliai in Lithuania.

07:00-08:00: Breakfast at the hotel.

08:00-10:00: Walking tour in Riga with local guide. Riga is the largest of the Baltic capitals with around 900.000 inhabitants. Like the other Baltic capitals, it is listed on UNESCO's World Heritage list, particularly the old town, which is incredibly beautiful with many well-preserved buildings from various historical periods. Today, we will also look at another unique feature in Riga, the central market.



Located near both the station and the port, the Central market has become Northern Europe's largest market, consisting of numerous market halls. Here, you can buy almost everything you need for daily life, with a wide variety of foods, beverages, and clothing in many forms and qualities. It's fascinating, but the architecture of the market halls is quite unique. Established in the old Zeppelin hangars, where the Germans built the giant helium-filled machines, which were the most luxurious means of transport at the time.

10:00-12:30: Drive to Balsiai, Lithuania

12:30-13:30: Lunch at the old water mill in Balsiai, Lithuania

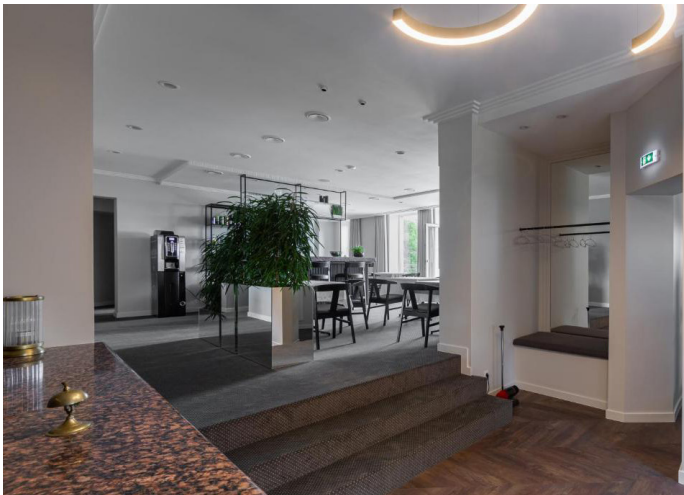
13:45: Arrival at UAB Nissen Farms. HC Nissen manages about 4000 hectares of crop production and has one of Lithuania's most modern dairy farms with 1300 dairy cows.

15:30: Drive to Siauliai.

On the way to the hotel in Siauliai, we will make an interesting stop at the Hill of Crosses, located 12 km north of Siauliai. The Hill of Crosses is a well-known pilgrimage site for Catholics, filled with crosses of all sizes and shapes. Historians are unsure how the tradition of placing crosses began, but today, there are well over 100,000 crosses on the hill. If we are lucky and arrive at dusk, the setting sun gives a special atmosphere to the thousands of crosses.



Overnight and dinner at Nissen's Park Hotel Siauliai 4* Hotel. [Hotel Rooms - Park Hotel Siauliai.](#)



November 1: From Siauliai to Vilnius.

07:00-8:00: Breakfast at the hotel.

08:00-09:30: Drive to Smilgiai.

09:30-11:00: Visit to AUGA, a large publicly traded agricultural company with over 40.000 hectares of land, animal production, biogas, and its own production of biomethane tractors, amongst other things. The production is organic, constantly developing new techniques to enhance sustainability.

11:00-12:30: Drive to Ukmerges.

12:30-14:30: Lunch at Red Brick and presentation of Farmers Circle by Niels Peter Pretzmann. Niels Peter runs a fully integrated production and sale of vegetables, 400 Angus cattle, and 1000 free-range hens, as well as Michelin-starred restaurants.

14:30-15:30: Drive to Vilnius.

15:30-16:30: Visit to Leafood vertical farm, also owned by NP Pretzmann.

17:00: Check-in at the hotel in Vilnius.

18:00-19:00: Meeting and presentations with invited guests, with coffee and water.

19:30: Dinner at 14 Horses (Michelin – restaurant).

Overnight at Radisson Collection Vilnius 5*. [Stay in the spirited heart of Vilnius Old Town | Radisson Hotels](#)



November 2: Vilnius.

08:00-09:00: Breakfast at the hotel.

09:00-12:00: Visit yet to be finalized.

12:00-13:30: Lunch in central Vilnius. 3 courses with wine and water.

13:30: Guided tour of central Vilnius. Vilnius is the second-largest of the Baltic capitals, with around 600.000 inhabitants. The population is predominantly Catholic, as evidenced by the many beautiful Catholic churches and cathedrals. We will see the white cathedral, which uniquely has its tower separate from the nave. Vilnius also has a rich and dramatic history, especially the Jewish history around World War II, where before the war, the city had one of the largest Jewish populations in Europe. Like the other Baltic capitals, the old town of Vilnius is also listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.



After the tour in central Vilnius, we will head to the Trakai Castle, one of Lithuania's most famous attractions. The small town of Trakai is located about 30 km west of Vilnius in a scenic area surrounded by forests and lakes. The castle's location in a lake, connected to the land by a wooden bridge, is itself very spectacular and beautiful.



After the excursion, we return to the hotel in Vilnius.

19:00: Farewell dinner at restaurant Ertlio Namas – 4 courses including beverages.

November 3: Departure

07:00-09:00: Breakfast at the hotel. 09:00-11:00: Individual departures from Vilnius airport.

Price per person in a shared double room – DKK 17995

Included in the trip:

1 night at 5* Swissotel in Tallinn
1 night at 4* Hotel Lydia in Tartu.
1 night at 5* Pullmann Riga Old Town Hotel
1 night at 4* Park Hotel in Siauliai
2 nights at 5* Radisson Collection Astorija, Vilnius
6 x Breakfast
6 x Lunch including beverages.
6 x Dinners 3-4 courses including beverages (welcome drink + 2 glasses of wine/water).
Conference rooms including AV equipment at hotels in Tallinn, Riga, and Vilnius – with coffee/water.
Deluxe bus from Day 2 – 6
Transportation – company visits – guided tours – network meetings according to the program
Danish-speaking tour escort/guide

Not included in the trip:

Airfare
Travel- and cancellation insurance
Single room supplement – DKK 2995

