The Baltic Route of the European Route of Historic Theatres, runs through Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. If setting off from the South of Poland, it is recommended to start in Cracow in order to visit the building of the Adam Mickiewicz Theatre, which was erected in the Art Nouveau style to a design by the famous Viennese partnership, Fellner & Helmer, in 1910. Cracow is close to Lancut, where in 1889 one of the most precious monuments of eclectic theatre architecture was built – the Julius Słowacki Theatre.

Not far from Cracow is Lancut and its beautiful castle. The theatre on the 1st floor was created before 1792 at the order of Isabella Lubomirska. From Lancut, the Baltic Route leads to the capital of Warsaw, where the Royal Theatre in the Old Orangery Park in the Royal Lazienki Park and the Arnold Szyfman Polski Theatre are both worth seeing. The impressive Orangery building in Lazienki Park was erected to Domenico Merlini’s design from 1784 to 1788. Tucked away in the east wing is a theatre decorated by Jan Bogumił Piersz’s paintings depicting 18th century theatre audiences. The elegant, tiny building of the Polski Theatre, designed by Czesław Przybylski, is an example of early modernism. The Polski Theatre was the first modern theatre erected in Poland in the 20th century.

After crossing the Polish border to the north we arrive at Vilnius, to the Lithuanian Russian Dramatic Theatre, built in 1912. The theatre building remains one of the most significant cultural buildings. In Riga, in the most presentable spots of the city we will find two historic theatres. In the Latvian National Opera four thousand grams of gold were used to decorate the auditorium. Whereas Latvian independence was proclaimed in 1918 behind the beautiful façade of the Latvian National Theatre.

Before arriving in the capital of Estonia, the Baltic Route travels to the Vanemuine Theatre in Tartu. When the ‘Little Building’ opened in 1918, the journal ‘Postimees’ proudly wrote: ‘This beautiful, new building has enriched the country and we hope that its appealing energy will attract noble ideas straight to our homeland.’ And so we arrive in Tallinn, capital of Estonia, to enjoy the Estonian Drama Theatre, erected in 1910 in Art Nouveau style. It is the oldest preserved theatre building in the country.
The Journey Across The Baltic Countries

CIESZYŃ

Adam Mickiewicz Theatre

The famous Venetian architect Felzner & Helmer designed the theatre in the style of modernised late Venetian Baroque in 1910, which is why it is often called the Royal Theatra. The façade of the building is adorned with sculptures about Helen Moszynska by Józef Lomnicki that were shot here. The theatre organises performances of theatre, music and dance groups, as well as cabinets. The Theatre Theatre in the Old Orangery, the Cinema on the 'Broom' Weak Long Film Screenings as well as Theatre Master Workshops are held on a regular basis.

Cracow

Juliusz Słowacki Theatre

Operating uninterrupted since 1893, it is one of Poland’s most famous theatres. Since 1899, it is named after the great Polish poet, Juliusz Słowacki. The building, erected by Jan Zaborski, is regarded as one of the most precious monuments of the eclectic theatre architecture in Europe. On the façade, next to the inscription Kraków for the National Art, are sculptures symbolising Comedy, Drama, Poetry and Music. The interior is richly decorated with frescoes by the Venetian artist Anton Tuch; and the famous painted curtain is by Henryk Sienkiewicz. Next to the stage the beautiful historic dressing room of the famous actor Ludwik Solaki can be visited.

Lancut

Theatre in Castle Museum

The theatre in Lancut is the only public theatre in Poland preserved to this day; it was designed by Josef Haenny and built in 1792 for Princess Izabella Lubomierska. The theatre was remodelled in the neoclassical style by Christian Piotr Aigner from 1800 to 1802. The auditorium has a cupola supported by eight Corinthian columns. At the order of Count Roman Potocki it was restored by the famous Venetian architects Felzner & Helmer in 1910. From this period the theatre has kept the original design and technical equipment. From 1994 to 1995 the museum carried out a complete restoration of the theatre as part of the programme 'Support to conserve the European Architectural Heritage 1996'.

Warsaw

The Royal Theatre in the Old Orangery

Located in the Old Orangery in Łazienki Park, this is an authentically 18th century court theatre, the only one still preserved in Poland. It was erected from 1784 to 1788 on the order of King Stanislaw August Poniatowski by the Italian architect Domenico Merlini. The impressive trompe-l’œil painted ceiling shows Stanislaw August as Apollo on a quadrant, painted by Jan Bogumił Plersch, the king’s court painter. In the corners are the images of the best playwrights according to the king’s taste: Shakespeare, Moliere and Racine. The stage is still used for performances, concerts and classes. In another part of the Old Orangery the royal collections of sculptures is preserved. The lovely palace park is an example of Romantic parkland open-air theatre.

Tsar Nicholas II theatre

The theatre was established in 1914 to 1918 at the commission of the German theatre: it was established in 1914 to 1918 at the commission of the German architect Fellner & Helmer. In 1910. What attracts the attention is not only the beautiful Art Nouveau style, but also the building material – local limestone. The general construction of the building has not been changed since it was erected, though in the 1950s the embellishments and some decorations were removed. In the 1980s and after 2000 the theatre was renovated. The location, next to the entrance of the medieval city centre and the close neighbourhood of the Estonian National Opera, creates an inspiring ensemble.

Estonian Drama Theatre

The theatre is the oldest preserved theatre building in Estonia. It was erected as a German theatre to a design of Alois Bubry and Nikolai Vasilevich from St. Petersburg in 1910. What attracts the attention is not only the beautiful Art Nouveau style, but also the building material – local limestone. The general construction of the building has not been changed since it was erected, though in the 1950s the embellishments and some decorations were removed. In the 1980s and after 2000 the theatre was renovated. The location, next to the entrance of the medieval city centre and the close neighbourhood of the Estonian National Opera, creates an inspiring ensemble.

THE OTHER HISTORIC THEATRE BUILDINGS IN THE BALTIC COUNTRIES

The Polish Theatre in Poznan (1875)
The Cyprian Kamul Norwed Theatre in Jelenia Góra (1905)
The Polish Theatre in Bielsko-Bals (1890)
The Wilno Horcza Theatre in Toruń (1904)
The Juliusz Ostrowski Theatre in Lublin (1886)
The Liepāja Theatre in Liepāja (1917)
The Estonian National Opera in Tallinn (1913)

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