

Baltic Nations

August 29, 2023 • vajiramandravi.com



About Baltic Nations

- The Baltic nations, often collectively referred to as the “Baltic States,” are a **group of three countries in Northern Europe located along the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea.**
- They are **Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.**
- They are **bounded on the west and north by the Baltic Sea**, on the **east by Russia**, on the **southeast by Belarus**, and on the **southwest by Poland** and an exclave of Russia.
- **Capitals: Tallinn (Estonia), Riga (Latvia) and Vilnius (Lithuania).**
- **Languages:** Spoken languages are **Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian. In Estonia and Latvia, about one-quarter of the population are ethnic Russians.**
- **Independence:** They **gained their independence first from the Russian Empire at the end of World War I in 1918 and later from the Soviet Union in the early 1990s.**
- The Baltic States have been **members of the European Union (EU) since 2004.**

Who are the Wagner Group of Mercenaries?

- The Wagner Group, also **known as PMC Wagner, is a Russian paramilitary organization.**

- **Origin:** The group is believed to have been **founded in 2014 by a Russian veteran of the Chechen war** who so **admired Hitler he named the group after Richard Wagner, the führer's favorite composer.**
 - **The skull is the symbol** of the Wagner Group.
 - The organization first **came to the world's attention in 2014, fighting alongside Russian-backed separatists in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine.**
 - The organization has also been **active across Africa in recent years** — Libya, Sudan, Mozambique, Mali and the Central African Republic.
 - Today, there are **thought to be some 10,000 Wagner Group members.**
 - The U.S. government has called Wagner a “proxy force” of Russia's defense ministry.
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Q1) Which are the countries bordering the Baltic Sea?

There are nine countries with a shoreline at the Baltic Sea: Denmark, Germany, Poland, Russia (at the Gulf of Finland, and the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad Oblast), Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, and Sweden.

Source: [Poland and Baltic states urge Belarus to expel Russian fighters](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/baltic-nations/>

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