

# SELF-GUIDED CYCLING TOUR ALONG THE LITHUANIAN SEASIDE

8 days / 7 nights, from/to Klaipėda

*Discover the Baltic Sea coast visiting Palanga Resort and the Curonian Spit National Park, designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, explored individually by bicycle on very scenic cycling routes. Experience traditional Lithuanian country life when cycling in the Nemunas River Delta region. This tour partly covers the Seaside Cycle Route which was the first officially signposted, high quality cycle route in Lithuania opened a decade ago. The tour begins & ends in the historic coastal town of Klaipėda (known as Memel for many years) which boasts a rich, turbulent history from 13thC. Nowadays, it's a bustling, modern town offering many excellent leisure options ranging from history tours, to water sports. There's a wide range of cafes & restaurants & many annual festivals, e.g. jazz, folklore. Guests can choose to spend extra nights here either at the beginning or end of the tour. Guests spend 2 nights in Nida the largest settlement on the Curonian Spit. It's the perfect place to enjoy a relaxing seaside break or explore on foot, by cycle or canoe its unique surroundings; its geology, birdlife, the influence of the Lagoon etc.*







**Cycling grade:** We rate this trip Easygoing to Moderate. You will cycle on low traffic roads (a few stretches on gravel/sandy road) and separate cycle paths (half of the tour), including the Lithuanian Seaside Cycle Route. The terrain is dead flat most of the tour, except a few hills on the Curonian Spit.

#### **Arrival & departure information**

**Ferry terminal:** Klaipėda (DFDS ferries from Kiel, Germany & Karlshamn, Sweden; TT-Line ferries from Travemünde/Rostock, Germany & Trelleborg, Sweden)

**Airport:** Klaipėda/Palanga (30 km/19 mi. away from Klaipėda, [www.palanga-airport.lt](http://www.palanga-airport.lt)). Regular flights from Copenhagen (DK), Oslo (NO), Riga (LV), Warsaw (PL), London Luton (GB) & Dortmund (DE). Due to good connecting flights (SAS, Air Baltic, LOT, Wizz Air) it is easy to reach this airport from many cities in Europe via Copenhagen, Riga, Warsaw and London. (to be corrected later!!!)

**Parking:** free car parking at the arrival hotel - during your stay at the hotel (for longer period, car can be parked in guarded car parking lot nearby the hotel)

	Tour code:	From Saturday*	To Saturday:	Price per person in EUR
		21/SG1-01	May 22	May 29
	21/SG1-02	May 29	June 5	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-03	June 5	June 12	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-04	June 12	June 19	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-05	June 19	June 26	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-06	June 26	July 3	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-07	July 3	July 10	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-08	July 10	July 17	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-09	July 17	July 24	DBL 585 SGL 885
	21/SG1-10	July 24	July 31	DBL 585 SGL 885
	21/SG1-11	July 31	August 7	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-12	August 7	August 14	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-13	August 14	August 21	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-14	August 21	August 28	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-15	August 28	September 4	DBL 499 SGL 749
	Tour code:	From Sunday*	To Sunday:	Price per person in EUR
		21/SG1-01	May 23	May 30
	21/SG1-02	May 30	June 6	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-03	June 6	June 13	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-04	June 13	June 20	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-05	June 20	June 27	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-06	June 27	July 4	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-07	July 4	July 11	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-08	July 11	July 18	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-09	July 18	July 25	DBL 635 SGL 945
	21/SG1-10	July 25	August 1	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-11	August 1	August 8	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-12	August 8	August 15	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-13	August 15	August 22	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-14	August 22	August 29	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-15	August 29	September 5	DBL 499 SGL 749
	Tour code:	From Wednesday*	To Wednesday	Price per person in EUR
		21/SG1-16	May 26	June 2
	21/SG1-17	June 2	June 9	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-18	June 9	June 16	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-19	June 16	June 23	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-20	June 23	June 30	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-21	June 30	July 7	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-22	July 7	July 14	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-23	July 14	July 21	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-24	July 21	July 28	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-25	July 28	August 4	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-26	August 4	August 11	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-27	August 11	August 18	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-28	August 18	August 25	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-29	August 25	September 1	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-30	September 1	September 8	DBL 499 SGL 749
	Tour code:	From Thursday*	To Thursday	Price per person in EUR
		21/SG1-16	May 27	June 3
	21/SG1-17	June 3	June 10	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-18	June 10	June 17	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-19	June 17	June 24	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-20	June 24	July 1	DBL 499 SGL 749
	21/SG1-21	July 1	July 8	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-22	July 8	July 15	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-23	July 15	July 22	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-24	July 22	July 29	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-25	July 29	August 5	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-26	August 5	August 12	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-27	August 12	August 19	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-28	August 19	August 26	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-29	August 26	September 2	DBL 535 SGL 825
	21/SG1-30	September 2	September 9	DBL 499 SGL 749

\* The tour can be started on any other dates May-September with minimum 4 people.

## **ITINERARY – from/to Saturday or Wednesday**

(~250 km/156 mi., by minibus ~ 40 km/25 mi., by boat ~ 14 km/9 mi.)

### **Day 1 Saturday or Wednesday: KLAIPĖDA**

Arrive in Klaipėda. Individual transfer to the hotel (not included). Check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda; HOTEL: THE OLD MILL\*\*\* [www.oldmillhotel.lt](http://www.oldmillhotel.lt) or similar

### **Day 2 Sunday or Thursday: Along the Seaside Cycle Route to Palanga / KLAIPĖDA-PALANGA Resort -KLAIPĖDA, (~58 km/36 mi.)**

9:00 a.m. information meeting at your hotel where you will be greeted by a BALTIC BIKE TRAVEL representative. Cycle to Palanga resort along the Lithuanian Seaside Cycle Route leading through Giruliai Forest and the Seaside Regional Park. En route explore the Dutchman's Cap – a 24-meter-high coastal cliff and Plazė Lake. In Palanga you can visit the Botanical Park and Amber Museum, explore J.Basanavičius pedestrian street with many cafes & restaurants and the 470m pier heading into the Baltic Sea. Return to Klaipėda using the same or slightly different route. Optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda; HOTEL: THE OLD MILL\*\*\* [www.oldmillhotel.lt](http://www.oldmillhotel.lt) or similar

### **Day 3 Monday or Friday: On Countryside Roads through Pamarys Meadows ŠVĖKŠNA-ŠILUTĖ (~44 km/28 mi., by minibus ~40 km)**

Transfer by minibus to the inland where start your cycling ride on picturesque countryside roads through Pamarys meadows to Šilutė. This region is known as a land of storks and the White Stork truly deserves its place as Lithuanian's national bird. En route stop in Švėkšna village to explore the estate with its beautiful park and impressive neo-gothic church of St.Jacob the Apostle. Arrival in Šilutė, check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Šilutė; HOTEL: GILIJA\*\*\* [www.silutesgilija.lt](http://www.silutesgilija.lt) or similar.

### **Day 4 Tuesday or Saturday: RUSNĖ Island & NEMUNAS River Delta (~ 47 km/29 mi.)**

Explore Šilutė, a town named after “Šilokarčema” (a pub in the pine forest) and go for a return cycling trip to Rusnė Island, Lithuania's only island, located in the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park. When you stand on the bank of the Nemunas River in Rusnė you see the Russian oblast of Kaliningrad just 100 metres across the river. En route you can explore Rusnė village with a new monument to Mahatma Gandhi and Hermann Kallenbach, the old water pumping station and the 19<sup>th</sup> C lighthouse in Uostadvaris Harbour. Optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Šilutė; HOTEL: GILIJA\*\*\* [www.silutesgilija.lt](http://www.silutesgilija.lt) or similar.

### **Day 5 Wednesday or Sunday: ŠILUTĖ-VENTĖ Cape- crossing the Curonian Lagoon to NIDA (~33 km/21 mi., by boat ~14 km/9 mi.)**

Cycling to Ventė Cape where you may visit a renowned bird ringing station with a museum of ornithology and the 19<sup>th</sup> C lighthouse which has a panoramic view of the unique landscape including a glimpse of the glistening Curonian Spit sand dunes. Today, one million birds pass through the station each migratory period. Take a boat to cross the Curonian Lagoon to Nida. Arrive in Nida followed by a bike ride to the hotel. Check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Nida; HOTEL: NERIJA\*\*\* [www.neringahotels.lt/nerija\\_en.html](http://www.neringahotels.lt/nerija_en.html) or similar.

### **Day 6 Thursday or Monday: NIDA – leisure time by the Baltic Sea (~10 km/6 mi.)**

Free day to explore Nida which is a former old fishermen's village on the Curonian Spit washed by the Baltic Sea on one side and the Curonian Lagoon on the other. Today Nida is the largest settlement in Neringa region and one of the most beautiful resorts in Lithuania. Cycle or walk along impressive sand dunes, visit the most popular places of interest – the Fisherman's House, the summer house of famous German writer Thomas Mann and the Amber Gallery. Optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Nida; HOTEL: NERIJA\*\*\* [www.neringahotels.lt/nerija\\_en.html](http://www.neringahotels.lt/nerija_en.html) or similar.

### **Day 7 Friday or Tuesday: Along sand dunes of the Curonian Spit NIDA-JUODKRANTĖ-KLAIPĖDA (~58 km/36 mi.)**

Cycling on an asphalt bike path of the Seaside Cycle Route which takes you along the Curonian Spit to Klaipėda. En route you can explore the “Dead” sand dunes on foot, watch a colony of grey herons and cormorants, visit the Hill of Witches which houses a hundred fanciful and folksy wooden sculptures of Lithuanian legends scattered along a forest path, swim in the Baltic Sea or, relax, take the sun on golden beaches. Arrival in Smiltynė where you take a ferry to the Old Town of Klaipėda. Check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda; HOTEL: THE OLD MILL\*\*\* [www.oldmillhotel.lt](http://www.oldmillhotel.lt) or similar

### **Day 8 Saturday or Wednesday: KLAIPĖDA**

Breakfast at the hotel. End of the tour. It is possible to extend your stay in Lithuania.



## **ITINERARY – from/to Sunday or Thursday**

(~250 km/156 mi., by minibus ~ 40 km/25 mi., by boat ~ 14 km/9 mi.)

### **Day 1 Sunday or Thursday: KLAIPĖDA**

Arrive in Klaipėda. Individual transfer to the hotel (not included). Check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda; HOTEL: THE OLD MILL\*\*\* [www.oldmillhotel.lt](http://www.oldmillhotel.lt) or similar

### **Day 2 Monday or Friday: On Countryside Roads through Pamarys Meadows ŠVĖKŠNA-ŠILUTĖ (~44 km/28 mi., by minibus ~40 km)**

9:00 am information meeting at your hotel where you will be greeted by a BALTIC BIKE TRAVEL representative. Transfer by minibus to the inland where start your cycling ride on picturesque countryside roads through Pamarys meadows to Šilutė. This region is known as a land of storks and the White Stork truly deserves its place as Lithuanian's national bird. En route stop in Švėkšna village to explore the estate with its beautiful park and impressive neo-gothic church of St.Jacob the Apostle. Arrival in Šilutė, check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Šilutė; HOTEL: GILIJA\*\*\* [www.silutesgilija.lt](http://www.silutesgilija.lt) or similar.

### **Day 3 Tuesday or Saturday: RUSNĖ Island & NEMUNAS River Delta (~ 47 km/29 mi.)**

Explore Šilutė, a town named after “Šilokarčema” (a pub in the pine forest) and go for a return cycling trip to Rusnė Island, Lithuania's only island, located in the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park. When you stand on the bank of the Nemunas River in Rusnė you see the Russian oblast of Kaliningrad just 100 metres across the river. En route you can explore Rusnė village with a new monument to Mahatma Gandhi and Hermann Kallenbach, the old water pumping station and the 19<sup>th</sup> C lighthouse in Uostadvaris Harbour. Optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Šilutė; HOTEL: GILIJA\*\*\* [www.silutesgilija.lt](http://www.silutesgilija.lt) or similar.

### **Day 4 Wednesday or Sunday: ŠILUTĖ-VENTĖ Cape- crossing the Curonian Lagoon to NIDA (~33 km/21 mi., by boat ~14 km/9 mi.)**

Cycling to Ventė Cape where you may visit a renowned bird ringing station with a museum of ornithology and the 19<sup>th</sup> C lighthouse which has a panoramic view of the unique landscape including a glimpse of the glistening Curonian Spit sand dunes. Today, one million birds pass through the station each migratory period. Take a boat to cross the Curonian Lagoon to Nida. Arrive in Nida followed by a bike ride to the hotel. Check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Nida; HOTEL: NERIJA\*\*\* [www.neringahotels.lt/nerija\\_en.html](http://www.neringahotels.lt/nerija_en.html) or similar.

### **Day 5 Thursday or Monday: NIDA – leisure time by the Baltic Sea (~10 km/6 mi.)**

Free day to explore Nida which is a former old fishermen's village on the Curonian Spit washed by the Baltic Sea on one side and the Curonian Lagoon on the other. Today Nida is the largest settlement in Neringa region and one of the most beautiful resorts in Lithuania. Cycle or walk along impressive sand dunes, visit the most popular places of interest – the Fisherman's House, the summer house of famous German writer Thomas Mann and the Amber Gallery. Optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Nida; HOTEL: NERIJA\*\*\* [www.neringahotels.lt/nerija\\_en.html](http://www.neringahotels.lt/nerija_en.html) or similar.

### **Day 6 Friday or Tuesday: Along sand dunes of the Curonian Spit NIDA-JUODKRANTĖ-KLAIPĖDA (~58 km/36 mi.)**

Cycling on an asphalt bike path of the Seaside Cycle Route which takes you along the Curonian Spit to Klaipėda. En route you can explore the “Dead” sand dunes on foot, watch a colony of grey herons and cormorants, visit the Hill of Witches which houses a hundred fanciful and folksy wooden sculptures of Lithuanian legends scattered along a forest path, swim in the Baltic Sea or, relax, take the sun on golden beaches. Arrival in Smiltynė where you take a ferry to the Old Town of Klaipėda. Check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda; HOTEL: THE OLD MILL\*\*\* [www.oldmillhotel.lt](http://www.oldmillhotel.lt) or similar

### **Day 7 Saturday or Wednesday: Along the Seaside Cycle Route to Palanga / KLAIPĖDA-PALANGA Resort -KLAIPĖDA, (~58 km/36 mi.)**

Cycle to Palanga resort along the Lithuanian Seaside Cycle Route leading through Giruliai Forest and the Seaside Regional Park. En route explore the Dutchman's Cap – a 24-meter-high coastal cliff and Plazė Lake. In Palanga you can visit the Botanical Park and Amber Museum, explore J.Basanavičius pedestrian street with many cafes & restaurants and the 470m pier heading into the Baltic Sea. Return to Klaipėda using the same or slightly different route. Optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda; HOTEL: THE OLD MILL\*\*\* [www.oldmillhotel.lt](http://www.oldmillhotel.lt) or similar

### **Day 8 Sunday or Thursday: KLAIPĖDA**

Breakfast at the hotel. End of the tour. It is possible to extend your stay in Lithuania.

THE TOUR INCLUDES:	THE TOUR EXCLUDES:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7 nights stay at the hotels including all hotel taxes</li> <li>- Breakfast daily</li> <li>- Luggage transport Klaipėda – Šilutė, Šilutė – harbour – Nida and Nida – Klaipėda</li> <li>- Transfer by minibus Klaipėda – Veiviržėnai</li> <li>- Boat trip across the Curonian Lagoon to Nida</li> <li>- Individual information package (city guide, maps, program and route description)</li> <li>- GPS Tracks</li> <li>- Emergency contact numbers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrival and departure transfers</li> <li>- Bicycle rent</li> <li>- Lunches &amp; dinner</li> <li>- Tips</li> </ul>

### OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

#### A. TRANSFERS

- Arrival or departure transfer by car (1-3 people) – 49 EUR per transfer (Palanga Airport) or 30 EUR per transfer (Klaipėda central ferry terminal);
- Arrival or departure transfer by minibus (4-7 people) – 79 EUR per transfer (Palanga Airport) or 49 EUR per transfer (Klaipėda central ferry terminal);

#### B. RENTAL

- Rental of trekking bicycle (*KTM, VDV*) with 7-speed Shimano Nexus hub gears & back-pedal break or 24-speed Shimano derailleur gears & free-wheel (optionally), equipped with a waterproof back pannier (20 litres, *Ortlieb*) – 55 EUR per person, 11 EUR for extra day
- Rental of trekking bicycle (*KTM, VDV*) with 7-speed Shimano Nexus hub gears & back-pedal break or 24-speed Shimano derailleur gears & free-wheel (optionally), equipped with a waterproof back pannier (20 litres) + **handlebar bag with map/smartphone holder (*Ortlieb*) + tachometer** – 69 EUR/person, 12 EUR for extra day
- Rental of E-bike/Pedelec with Bosch driving system (*Kalkhoff, VDV*) equipped with a waterproof back pannier (20 litres) – 145 EUR per person, 25 EUR for extra day
- Rental of E-bike/Pedelec with Bosch driving system (*Kalkhoff, VDV*) equipped with a waterproof back pannier (20 litres) + **handlebar bag with map/smartphone holder (*Ortlieb*)** – 159 EUR/person, 26 EUR for extra day
- Rental of cyclocross bike (*Kona Jake*) equipped with a waterproof back pannier (20 litres) – 110 EUR per person, 19 EUR for extra day
- Rental of cyclocross bike (*Kona Jake*) equipped with a waterproof back pannier (20 litres) + **handlebar bag with map/smartphone holder (*Ortlieb*) + tachometer** – 125 EUR per person, 20 EUR for extra day
- Rental of bicycle tachometer (*min. 4 functions*) and it's installation on the bicycle – 10 EUR per bicycle
- Rental of waterproof handlebar bag with map/smartphone holder (*Ortlieb*) – 15 EUR per bicycle
- Rental of bicycle trailer (*Winther Dolphin*) for children from 6 months old – 69 EUR per person
- Rental of trailer-bike (tagalong) for children of 5-10 years old – 40 EUR per person
- Rental of child seat (up to 22 kg) – 15 EUR per bicycle
- Rental of helmet (size S, M, L, XL, XXL) – 5 EUR per person

#### C. MEALS

- 7 dinners package (3 courses with coffee/tea) in 3\* hotels – 145 EUR per person (or 159 EUR per person in case of 3 overnights in Klaipėda are booked at 4\* hotel instead of 3\* hotel)

#### D. PRE/POST TOUR ACCOMMODATION

Hotel in Klaipėda **OLD MILL HOTEL**\*\*\* [www.oldmillhotel.lt](http://www.oldmillhotel.lt) or similar

All period except **July 23-25, 2021 / the Sea Festival period July 23-25, 2021**

SGL 75 EUR / 125 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

DBL 85 EUR / 150 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

Hotel in Klaipėda **NATIONAL**\*\*\*\* <http://nationalhotel.lt/> or similar

All period except **July 23-26, 2021 / the Sea Festival period July 23-26, 2021**

SGL 85 EUR / 125 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

DBL 99 EUR / 150 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

#### OTHER RATES AND CONDITIONS:

- Upgrade to 4\* hotel in Klaipėda (3 nights) – **NATIONAL**\*\*\*\* <http://nationalhotel.lt/> or similar – 70 EUR/person in SGL/DBL room
- Tour price per person from 5 years old in extra bed in DBL room (3\* hotels / with 4\* hotel in Klaipėda)  
375 EUR / 427 EUR (SG1 01-05 & 15-20 & 30)  
397 EUR / 454 EUR (SG1 06-14 & 21-29)  
439 EUR / 491 EUR (during the Sea Festival SG1-09 & SG1-10, from Saturday)  
476 EUR / 529 EUR (during the Sea Festival SG1-09, from Sunday)
- For children up to 5 years old in parents' room without extra bed – no cost
- Minimum group size on fixed departure dates – 2 people, on any other dates May-September – 4 people