


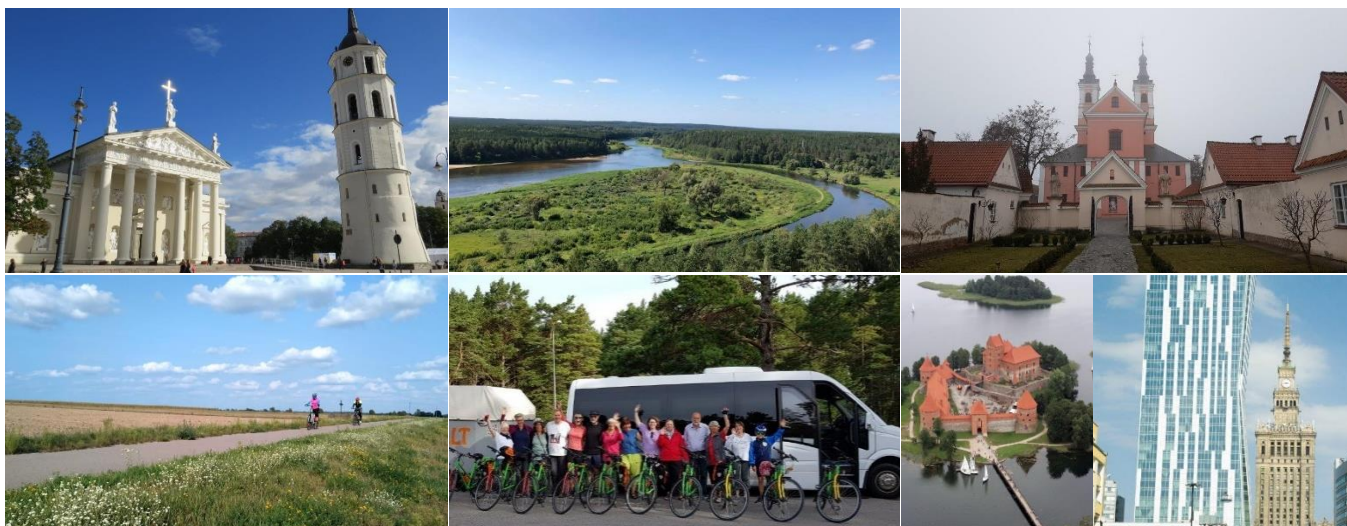
THE COMMONWEALTH GUIDED CYCLING TOUR: LITHUANIA – POLAND (ANOTHER COMMONWEALTH...)

Vilnius – Trakai – Druskininkai Spa Resort – Dzūkija, Wigry & Biebrza National Parks – Suwalki – Augustow – Warsaw

10 days guided small group bike tour from Vilnius to Warsaw (code G6)

	TOUR CODE:	Language *	tour starts (Friday):**	tour ends (Sunday):	Price per person in EUR:
	25/G6-1	EN	June 20	June 29	DBL 1799 SGL 2149
	25/G6-2	EN	July 25	August 3	DBL 1799 SGL 2149
	25/G6-3	EN	August 22	August 31	DBL 1799 SGL 2149
<p>* Language of tour guide/-es: EN – English speaker, DE – German speaker ** This tour is available on any other dates May-September with min 14 people</p>					

Explore a borderland of Lithuania and Poland which is the land of gentle hills, sandy plains, vast primeval forests, crystal clear lakes and deep river valleys. The tour starts with a walking tour in the Lithuanian capital city Vilnius and finishes with a cycling tour in the Polish capital city Warsaw, both cities famous for their Old towns designated as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. The tour program also includes Druskininkai Spa Resort and Dzūkija National Park in Lithuania, cycling around Suwalki Lakeland with Wigry and Biebrza National Parks in Poland. Experience a wide variety of towns, villages and countryside for an excellent introduction to the very distinct characters of these two different countries which had a common history known as the Polish – Lithuanian Commonwealth in 16-18th C!



Arrival / departure airports: arrive in Vilnius (Lithuania) and depart from Warsaw (Poland)

Cycling grade and conditions: We rate this trip Easy to moderate. Daily biking routes mainly on low traffic roads and cycle paths range from 32 to 57 km (20-36 miles) each day with a possibility to do more kilometres while cycling around Druskininkai Resort (Day 3-4) and Wigry Lake (Day 6). The terrain is dead flat most of the tour except a few stretches on rolling roads with some gradual hills in Lithuania (around Trakai and the route to Druskininkai) and Poland (Suwalki Lakeland and around Wigry Lake).

ITINERARY (cycling ~332 km / 208 miles, by minibus 555 km/347 miles)

Day 1 Friday (Lithuania): VILNIUS

Arrive in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania for more than 600 years. Individual transfer to the hotel (not included) and welcome meeting at the hotel with tour guide. Check-in at the hotel for 2 overnight stays.

OVERNIGHT: Vilnius; HOTEL: **COMFORT HOTEL LT ***** or similar

Day 2 Saturday (Lithuania): VILNIUS & TRAKAI (cycling ~23 km/14 miles, by minibus ~55 km)

After breakfast a guided tour of Vilnius Old Town. Afternoon trip to Trakai, the former capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Start your first cycle ride on gentle hills around Galvė lake. En route we'll stop in Trakai where you may visit the 14thC island castle built on a small island in Lake Galvė.

OVERNIGHT: Vilnius; HOTEL: **COMFORT HOTEL LT ***** or similar

Day 3 Sunday (Lithuania): Along the Nemunas River to DRUSKININKAI Resort (cycling ~42 km/26 miles, by minibus ~113 km).

Transfer by minibus to Merkinė. Cycle ride to Druskininkai which is one of the best climatic and wellness springs resorts in Europe. Today's cycle route goes via Liškiava famous for its 17-18thC Dominican monastery ensemble on the Nemunas River bank. Arrive in Druskininkai, check into the hotel for 2 overnight stays. Afternoon trip to Grūtas Park, which has a unique distinction of being the place where all unwanted statues of Lenin were taken after Lithuania regained its independence from the Soviet Union. Dinner at the hotel (included).

OVERNIGHT: Druskininkai; HOTEL: **REGINA***** or similar

Day 4 Monday (Lithuania): DZŪKIJA NATIONAL PARK by bike (cycling ~42 km/26 miles, by minibus ~55 km)

Morning transfer to Dzūkija National Park, the largest park in Lithuania overgrown with pine forests (90% of the territory) and one of 13 wild PAN parks in Europe. Here begins our cycle route through the woods and ethnographical villages. Afternoon free in the resort or going for a circular ride on asphalt bike paths in the woods.

OVERNIGHT: Druskininkai; HOTEL: **REGINA***** or similar

Day 5 Tuesday (Lithuania-Poland): SUWALKI LAKELAND & TOWN (cycling ~47 km/29 miles, by minibus ~85 km)

Morning bus transfer to Poland. After crossing the border we start cycling on rolling hills with picturesque views to beautiful lakes and Polish countryside. Wigry National park is our destination. En route we visit Suwałki, the largest town and the capital of the historical Suwałki region. Check into the hotel for 2 overnight stays. Dinner at the hotel (included). OVERNIGHT: Wigry National Park; HOTEL: **NAD WIGRAMI***** or similar

Day 6 Wednesday (Poland): WIGRY NATIONAL PARK (cycling ~47 km/29 miles)

Circular bike tour on marked trails around Wigry Lake which is the largest with 15 islands, one of the deepest (73 m) and most beautiful lakes in Podlasie region. En route explore a former monastery, built by the death-obsessed Camaldolese monks in 17thC. The whole complex, complete with a church and 17 hermitages, is spectacularly located on a peninsula in the lake. OVERNIGHT: Wigry National Park; HOTEL: **NAD WIGRAMI***** or similar

Day 7 Thursday (Poland): AUGUSTOW TOWN & CANAL (cycling ~55 km/34 miles, by minibus ~67 km)

Today we leave Wigry National Park and go cycling partly along the GreenVelo route to Augustow, en route passing by several lakes and Augustow canal. Augustow is a small but appealing town, the gateway to the Suwałki region at the Netta River and Augustow Canal bearing the town's name. After a short bus transfer, arrive in Goniadz, check-in and dinner at the hotel (included). OVERNIGHT: Goniadz; HOTEL: **BARTLOWZINA***** or similar

Day 8 Friday (Poland) BIEBRZA NATIONAL PARK & WARSAW (cycling ~39 km/24 miles, by minibus ~180 km)

Morning is dedicated for a cycling ride along the Royal Route (Polish: Trakt Królewski) through Biebrza National Park which protects vast and relatively untouched fenlands with a unique variety of plants, rare wetland birds and mammals such as Elk and Beaver. In the afternoon, transfer by bus to Warsaw, capital of Poland. Check-in at the hotel followed by a guided tour of Warsaw Old Town. Dinner in local restaurant (included).

OVERNIGHT: Warsaw; HOTEL: **METROPOL***** or similar

Day 9 Saturday (Poland): WARSAW BY BIKE (cycling ~36 km/22 miles)

On this final morning cycling of the trip, we'll explore Warsaw beyond the Old town and Central district, riding on both sides of the river Vistula through many green areas of Warsaw by some cultural and historic landmarks that you may choose to visit individually without bikes that afternoon. After lunch (not included) drop off the bikes with equipment and say good bye to your tour guide and driver. Free time in the afternoon to explore Warsaw on your own.

OVERNIGHT: Warsaw; HOTEL: **METROPOL***** or similar

Day 10 Sunday (Poland): Warsaw

Breakfast at the hotel. End of the tour.

THE TOUR INCLUDES:

- 9 nights stay in hotels, including all taxes
- Breakfast daily
- Welcome meeting with a glass of beer or wine
- 3 x dinners (3 courses; 1x Druskininkai, 1x Wigry, 1x Goniadz)
- Farewell 3-course dinner in Warsaw
- Mineral water at your disposal on cycling days
- English speaking guide escort on days 2-9
- Rent of trekking bicycle with waterproof pannier (+ helmet on request / should be ordered in advance)
- Transfers as per itinerary by air-conditioned mini/-bus
- Luggage transport as per itinerary
- Excursions as shown in itinerary
- Entrance to Grūtas Park of Soviet Sculptures, Wigry Monastery
- Visitor's fee of Wigry National Park
- Individual information package (city guides, maps and program)

THE TOUR DOESN'T INCLUDE:

- Arrival and departure transfers
- Lunches and 4 dinners
- Tips

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

A. RENT

- supplement for an E-bike/Pedelec (Bosch driving system) with a waterproof pannier – 199 EUR per person
- waterproof handlebar bag with a plastic cover for GPS/smartphone (Ortlieb) - 25 EUR

B. TRANSFERS FROM/TO AIRPORT:

- Arrival transfer from Vilnius Airport by car for 1-3 people - 55 EUR per transfer
- Arrival transfer from Vilnius Airport by minivan for 4-7 people - 65 EUR per transfer
- Departure transfer to Warsaw Chopin Airport by car for 1-3 people - 55 EUR per transfer
- Departure transfer to Warsaw Chopin Airport by minivan for 4-7 people - 85 EUR per transfer
- Departure transfer to Warsaw Modlin Airport by car for 1-3 people - 115 EUR per transfer
- Departure transfer to Warsaw Modlin Airport by minivan for 4-7 people - 155 EUR per transfer

C. PRE/POST TOUR ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel in Vilnius COMFORT HOTEL LT * or similar**

SGL 89 EUR per room per night, including breakfast and city tax

DBL 99 EUR per room per night, including breakfast and city tax

Hotel in Warsaw METROPOL* or similar**

SGL 119 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

DBL 129 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

NOTES

- Discount for extra bed in double/twin room – 15 %
- Minimum group size:
 - 6 people (3 x fixed departures)
 - 14 people (any other date May-September on request)
- Maximum group size – 16 people with one guide, 22 people with two guides!
- Language of cycling tour guide/-s (for a group from 8 people) or driver/guide (group up to 7 people):
 - DE** - German speaker tour guide or driver/guide,
 - EN** - English speaker tour guide or driver/guide,