THREE COUNTRIES GUIDED CYCLE TOUR ALONG THE BALTIC COAST: LITHUANIA – RUSSIA (KALININGRAD DISTRICT) – POLAND

New! 9 days small group guided cycle tour from Klaipėda to Gdansk (Code: G8)

Tour code:	Language *	TOUR STARTS (Sunday):	TOUR ENDS (Wednesday)	Price per person in EUR
22/G8-1	EN / DE	June 11	June 19	DBL 1169 SGL 1429
22/G8-2	DE	July 9	July 17	DBL 1199 SGL 1459
22/G8-3	EN / DE	August 6	August 14	DBL 1199 SGL 1459
22/G8-4	EN	September 3	September 11	DBL 1169 SGL 1429

** Language of tour guide/-es: EN – English speaker, DE – German speaker, DE/EN – mixed group with 1 bilingual guide or 2 guides in case of larger group*
*** This tour is available on any other dates May-September with min 12 people*

Explore the Baltic coast of the three countries on very scenic routes. Travel from Klaipėda in the north, through the Curonian Spit and across the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad into Poland in the south; experience a wide variety of towns, villages and countryside for an excellent introduction to the very distinct characters of these quite different countries. The tour includes the former Hansa Cities - Kaliningrad (Koenigsberg) and Gdansk (Danzig), the latter one having the Old town designated as World Heritage Site by UNESCO; Lithuanian seaport of Klaipėda (Memel) and the Curonian Spit National Park, both Lithuanian and Russian parts. At the end of the tour you will explore Nicolaus Copernicus town of Frombork, the Elblag Canal – a famous early technical masterpiece and impressive Malbork Castle, the biggest medieval brick structure in the world built by the Teutonic Knights, and finally Gdansk (Danzig) - Poland's principal seaport and a city with over 1000 years of history featuring beautiful old town with the country's biggest cathedral.

Arrival / departure airports: *arrive in Klaipėda (Lithuania) and depart from Gdansk (Poland)*

Cycling grade: *We rate this trip Easy going to Moderate. Daily biking routes mainly on low traffic roads and cycle paths range from 32 to 57 km (20-36 miles) each day. The terrain is dead flat most of the tour except a few gradual hills on the Curonian Spit in Lithuania and hilly coastal terrain in the Landscape Park of the Elblag Upland, Poland.*

ITINERARY

(cycling ~269 km/168 mi., by minibus 290 km/181 miles)

Day 1 Saturday (Lithuania): KLAIPĖDA

Arrive in Klaipėda. Individual transfer to the hotel (not included). Check-in at the hotel.
7:00 p.m. (19:00) welcome meeting at the hotel with tour guide.
OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda;
HOTEL: **OLD MILL HOTEL*** or similar

Day 2 Sunday (Lithuania): CURONIAN SPIT & NIDA (cycling ~57 km/36 miles)

After breakfast we cross the lagoon by ferry (included) and start cycling on an asphalt bike path which takes us along the Curonian Spit to Nida, one of the most beautiful resorts in Lithuania, famous for impressive sand dunes, etc. En route we'll explore the "Dead" sand dunes and watch a colony of grey herons and cormorants, make a stop on the golden sand beach to relax or swim in the Baltic Sea. Arrive in Nida, check-in at the hotel and dinner in local restaurant (included).
OVERNIGHT: Nida; HOTEL: **NERIJA*** or similar

Day 3 Monday (Lithuania-Russia): CURONIAN SPIT - Russian Side (cycling ~ 56 km/35 miles, by minibus 35 km)

Today´s bike trip leads us through the Russian part of the Curonian Spit to Zelenogradsk, a popular seaside resort with elegant old villas. En route explore the Baltic Coast with picturesque dunes, the "dancing" forest and an ornithological museum, known as the first in the world such kind of bird observation field station. The Curonian Spit is known as place where almost one million migrating birds "pass/stop off"' each year. Finish the ride with a transfer to Kaliningrad, check-in at the hotel.
OVERNIGHT: Kaliningrad;
HOTEL: **KALININGRAD*** or similar

Day 4 Tuesday (Russia): SVETLOGORSK Seaside Resort & AMBER TOWN Yantarny (~50 km/31 miles, by minibus 65 km)

Morning transfer by minibus to Svetlogorsk (formerly Rauschen founded in 1228) which is another traditional seaside Spa town with its impressive 60 meters high coastal cliffs. Today's cycling takes us through Sambian peninsula to Yantarny, the town named after Amber in Russian. This place is famous for its open pit amber mines where more than 500 tones of amber is produced annually. Enjoy picturesque countryside by cycling towards Kaliningrad on small roads framed with tree alleys. Finish the ride with a transfer to Kaliningrad. Dinner at the hotel or local restaurant (included).
OVERNIGHT: Kaliningrad;
HOTEL: **KALININGRAD*** or similar

Day 5 Wednesday (Russia): KALININGRAD (KÖNIGSBERG) – on foot and by minibus (no cycling)

After breakfast a guided tour of Kaliningrad, a former German city of Königsberg, capital of East Prussia where Prussian kings were crowned. The city tour includes the King's Gate and the Konigsberg Cathedral with a grave of Immanuel Kant, city fortifications and bastions, etc. Afternoon free to explore Kaliningrad on your own.
OVERNIGHT: Kaliningrad;
HOTEL: **KALININGRAD*** or similar

Day 6 Thursday (Russia-Poland): Along GREEN VELO Route to Frombork (~32 km/20 miles, by minibus 50 km)

Morning transfer to Mamonovo where start cycling and crossing the Polish border. Continue cycling to Frombork following the newly established Green Velo cycle route along the Vistula Lagoon. Arrive in Frombork known as "The Jewel of Warmia" with an intriguing astronomical legacy. Traditionally a home of merchants, farmers and fishermen, Frombork's most illustrious inhabitant was the astronomer and mathematician Nicolaus Copernicus who lived and worked here as a priest. Visit the Cathedral Hill famous for its 700-year-old gothic cathedral, Old Bishops' Palace (Museum of Copernicus), etc. Check-in and dinner at the hotel (included).
OVERNIGHT: Frombork;
HOTEL: **KOPERNIK*** or similar

Day 7 Friday (Poland): Hilly GREEN VELO Route & Elblag (cycling ~42 km/26 miles)
Cycle partly along the picturesque coast of Vistula Lagoon and party on newly built asphalt cycle trail rolling through a Landscape Park of the Elblag Upland (hilly terrain). Arrive in Elblag town, a former Hanseatic Elbing founded by Teutonic Order and nowadays famous for its reconstructed Stare Miasto (the Old town). Check-in at the hotel.
OVERNIGHT: Elblag;
HOTEL: **ELBLAG****** or similar

Day 8 Saturday (Poland): the Elblag Canal – Malbork Castle & Gdansk (cycling ~ 32 km/20 miles, by minibus ~ 120 km)
Morning ride to the Elblag Canal - the famous early technical masterpiece. Take a leisure cruise on Buczyniec Ramp (~2 hours, included), a winch which was used to lift boats 100 m up and across dry land before returning them back to the Elblag Canal above. In the afternoon transfer to Gdansk. En route stop in Marienburg (Malbork), the capital of Teutonic Knights, where the greatest European fortress from the Middle Ages is located (it needs a whole day to explore the castle, and you can come here by train after the tour). Arrive in Gdansk, check-in at hotel. Farewell dinner at the hotel or city restaurant.
OVERNIGHT: Gdansk;
HOTEL: **DOM MUZYKA***** or similar

Day 9 Sunday (Poland): Gdansk
Morning city tour of Gdansk (Danzig) - a city with over 1000 years of history. End of the tour.

THE TOUR INCLUDES:
- 8 nights stay in hotels, including all taxes
- Breakfast daily
- Welcome meeting with a glass of beer or wine
- 4 x dinners (3 courses with coffee/tea; 1xNida, 1xKaliningrad, 1xFrombork, 1xGdansk)
- Mineral water at your disposal on cycling days
- Guide escort on days 2-8
- Rent of trekking bicycle with a waterproof pannier (+ helmet on request)
- Transfers as per itinerary by air-conditioned coach /minibus
- Luggage transport as per itinerary
- Excursions as shown in itinerary
- Ferry ticket to the Curonian Spit
- Ecological fee to the Curonian Spit National Park (Lithuanian & Russian sides)
- A leisure cruise on Buczyniec Ramp of Elblag Canal in Poland (~2 hours)
- Entrance to: Ornithological museum in Rybachy, Amber Mines in Yantarny
- Official invitation for Russian visa (since 2019, citizens of 51 countries can apply for eVisa to Kaliningrad District)
- Individual information package (city guides, maps and program)

THE TOUR DOESN'T INCLUDE:
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Lunches and 4 dinners
- Russian visa
- Tips

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

A. TRANSFERS:
- Arrival transfer by car (1-3 people) – 49 EUR per transfer (Palanga Airport) or 30 EUR per transfer (Klaipeda central ferry terminal)
- Arrival transfer by minibus (4-7 people) – 79 EUR per transfer (Palanga Airport) or 49 EUR per transfer (Klaipeda central ferry terminal);
- Departure transfer by car for 1-3 people – 35 EUR per transfer (Gdansk Airport) or 30 EUR per transfer (Gdansk bus/train station)
- Departure transfer by minibus for 4-7 people – 69 EUR per transfer (Gdansk Airport) or 59 EUR per transfer (Gdansk bus/train station)

B. RENT
- supplement for an E-bike/Pedelec (Bosch driving system) with a waterproof pannier – 145 EUR per person

D. PRE-TOUR ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel in Klaipeda OLD MILL HOTEL* or similar**
All period except July 29-31, 2022 / the Sea Festival period July 29-31, 2022
SGL 75 EUR / 125 EUR per room per night, including breakfast
DBL 85 EUR / 150 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

D. POST-TOUR ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel in Gdansk DOM MUZYKA* or similar**
SGL 89 EUR per room per night, including breakfast
DBL 99 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

NOTES
- Discount for extra bed in double/twin room – 15 %
- Minimum group size:
  - 6 people (4 x fixed departures)
  - 12 people (any other date May-September on request)
- Maximum group size – 15 people with one guide and 21 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,
  EN / DE - mixed English/German speaking group with bilingual tour guide (smaller group up to 15 people) or two guides (for group up to 21 people); separate English and German speaking groups might be organised