

HIKING THE LITHUANIAN SEASIDE: Curonian Spit, Palanga, Ventė Cape

8 days guided or self-guided hiking tour from/to Klaipėda

The Baltic Sea coast in Lithuania with Palanga Resort and the Curonian Spit National Park, designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, explored individually or with a tour guide on very scenic hiking routes. Experience traditional Lithuanian country life and explore beautiful nature and its birdlife when hiking in the Nemunas River Delta. This region has one of the largest populations of storks in Europe and more than one million birds passing through Ventė Cape each migratory year.

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. You can choose to spend extra nights here either at the beginning or end of the tour.

During the tour you will spend 3 nights in Nida, the largest settlement on the Curonian Spit and most beautiful resort in Lithuania. It's the perfect place to enjoy a relaxing seaside break on white sand beaches or explore on foot its unique surroundings like the Great Dune of Parnidis (50 m. high); its birdlife, the influence of the Lagoon etc. There are many other gorgeous places worth to see and explore on foot on the Curonian Spit! The Dead (Grey) Dunes near Pervalka and a colony of grey herons and cormorants in Juodkrantė are just a few places which should not be missed during the tour.



Hiking grade: We rate this trip as Easygoing to Moderate. You will be hiking forest trails, meadows and partly on bike paths along the Baltic Sea and the Curonian Lagoon, small roads and with little car traffic in the Nemunas River Delta area. Probably the most interesting will be walking on sand beaches at the Baltic Sea. The terrain is dead flat most of the tour, except a few sand dunes 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 (35 km/22 mi. away from Klaipėda, www.palanga-airport.lt). Regular flights from Copenhagen (DK), Riga (LV), London Luton (GB) & London Stanstead (GB). Due to many connecting flights (SAS, Air Baltic) it is easy to reach this airport from many cities in Europe via Copenhagen and Riga.

Parking: car parking at the arrival hotel or in guarded car parking lot nearby the hotel (both chargeable).

Tour code (self-guided):	From Saturday*	To Saturday:	Price per person in EUR (self-guided)	Tour code (guided):	Price per person in EUR (guided tour)
23/SGH1-05-VI	June 17	June 24	DBL 599 SGL 889	23/GH1-05-VI	DBL 799 SGL 1089
23/SGH1-06-VI	June 24	July 1	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SG1H-07-VI	July 1	July 8	DBL 665 SGL 995	23/GH1-07-VI	DBL 885 SGL 1215
23/SGH1-08-VI	July 8	July 15	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-09-VI	July 15	July 22	DBL 665 SGL 995	23/GH1-09-VI	DBL 885 SGL 1215
23/SGH1-10-VI	July 22	July 29	On request		
23/SGH1-11-VI	July 29	August 5	On request		
23/SGH1-12-VI	August 5	August 12	DBL 665 SGL 995	23/GH1-12-VI	DBL 885 SGL 1215
23/SGH1-13-VI	August 12	August 19	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-14-VI	August 19	August 26	DBL 665 SGL 995	23/GH1-13-VI	DBL 885 SGL 1215
Tour code (self-guided):	From Sunday*	To Sunday:	Price per person in EUR (self-guided)		
23/SGH1-05-VII	June 18	June 25	DBL 599 SGL 889		
23/SGH1-06-VII	June 25	July 2	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-07-VII	July 2	July 9	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-08-VII	July 9	July 16	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-09-VII	July 16	July 23	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-10-VII	July 23	July 30	On request		
23/SGH1-11-VII	July 30	August 6	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-12-VII	August 6	August 13	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-13-VII	August 13	August 20	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-13-VII	August 20	August 27	DBL 665 SGL 995		
Tour code (self-guided):	From Wednesday*	To Wednesday	Price per person in EUR (self-guided)	Tour code (guided):	Price per person in EUR (guided tour)
23/SGH1-20-III	June 21	June 28	DBL 599 SGL 889	23/GH1-20-III	DBL 799 SGL 1089
23/SGH1-21-III	June 28	July 5	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-22-III	July 5	July 12	DBL 665 SGL 995	23/GH1-22-III	DBL 885 SGL 1215
23/SGH1-23-III	July 12	July 19	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-24-III	July 19	July 26	DBL 665 SGL 995	23/GH1-24-III	DBL 885 SGL 1215
23/SGH1-25-III	July 26	August 2	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-26-III	August 2	August 9	On request		
23/SGH1-27-III	August 9	August 16	DBL 665 SGL 995	23/GH1-27-III	DBL 885 SGL 1215
23/SGH1-28-III	August 16	August 23	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-29-III	August 23	August 30	DBL 665 SGL 995	23/GH1-29-III	DBL 885 SGL 1215
Tour code (self-guided):	From Thursday*	To Thursday	Price per person in EUR (self-guided)		
23/SGH1-20-IV	June 22	June 29	DBL 599 SGL 889		
23/SGH1-21-IV	June 29	July 6	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-22-IV	July 6	July 13	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-23-IV	July 13	July 20	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-24-IV	July 20	July 27	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-25-IV	July 27	August 3	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-26-IV	August 3	August 10	On request		
23/SGH1-27-IV	August 10	August 17	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-28-IV	August 17	August 24	DBL 665 SGL 995		
23/SGH1-29-IV	August 24	August 31	DBL 665 SGL 995		

* The tour can be started on any other dates May-September with minimum 4 people (self-guided) or 6 people (guided).

ITINERARY (guided / self-guided) – from/to Saturday or Wednesday

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 or similar

Day 2 Sunday or Thursday: Walking along the Baltic Seacoast to Palanga Resort (~18 km/11 mi./4 hrs)

9:00 a.m. information meeting at your hotel where you will be greeted by a BALTIC BIKE TRAVEL representative. Transfer by minibus to the Seaside Regional Park (included) where start your hiking tour along the Lithuanian Seaside to Palanga resort. En route visit the Dutchman's Cap – a 24-meter-high coastal cliff famous for gorgeous panorama of the Baltic Sea. In Palanga you can visit the Botanical Park and Amber Museum, explore J.Basanavičius pedestrian street with many cafes & restaurants and the 470 m pier heading into the Baltic Sea. Return to Klaipėda by public bus (self-guided) or get a private transfer (guided group). Optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda; HOTEL: THE **OLD MILL***** www.oldmillhotel.lt or similar

Day 3 Monday or Friday: Hiking with storks along the Curonian Lagoon (~19 km/12 mi./4 hrs)

A short minibus transfer takes you inland (included) where start walking along the Curonian Lagoon on small country roads and forest trails. Hiking towards the Nemunas River delta Regional Park, en route passing by the most popular kiting spot in Lithuania and Svencele coastal raised bog. This region has one of the largest population of storks in Europe. The White Stork truly deserves its place as Lithuanian's national bird. Finish your walking in a guesthouse surrounded by Kintai fishponds at the Minija River or the hotel at the Curonian Lagoon in Ventė Cape, check-in and optional dinner at the guesthouse/hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Kintai or Ventė; HOTEL/GUESTHOUSE: **MĚLYNASIS KARPIS** www.kintai.lt or **VENTAINĖ***** www.ventaine.lt or similar.

Day 4 Tuesday or Saturday: Walking along the Minija River and crossing the Curonian Lagoon to NIDA (~18 km/11 mi./4 hrs, by boat ~1.5 hours)

Hiking to Ventė Cape where you may visit a museum of ornithology and one of the first bird ringing stations in Europe, the 19th C lighthouse which has a panoramic view of the unique landscape - glistening waters of the Curonian Lagoon and the great sand dunes. Today, one million birds pass through Ventė Cape each migratory year. The route to Ventė will lead you along the Minija River and Minija (Mingė) village which is like the Venice of Lithuania with houses of both sides of the river and no bridges connecting them. In the evening take a boat to cross the Curonian Lagoon. Arrival in Nida followed by a short walk through the resort village to the hotel. Check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Nida; HOTEL: **NERIJA***** www.neringahotels.lt/nerija_en.html or similar.

Day 5 Wednesday or Sunday: NIDA – leisure time by the Baltic Sea (~10 km/6 mi./2 hrs)

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. Walk along impressive sand dunes to the Baltic Sea where you can enjoy white sand beaches and swimming in the sea, 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 or similar.

Day 6 Thursday or Monday: Hiking from the Dead Dunes to Pervalka and Preila (~15 km/9 mi./3 hrs or 28 km/17 mi./5 hrs)

Morning transfer by minibus to the Dead (Grey) dunes (included) where start your hike on picturesque trail in the Nagliai strict nature reserve. This is the place where 4 former villages were buried in the sand a few centuries ago. Strong winds here create a unique landscape – steep sand dunes with hollows and washouts. Continue hiking along the lagoon to Preila en route passing the most picturesque places in all Curonian spit: Horse Cap and Lighthouse, Pervalka and Karvaičiai Bays with towers for birdwatching, etc. From Preila you can return back to Nida by public bus (self-guided) or take a minibus transfer (guided group). You can also continue Preila to Nida walking along the Curonian Lagoon (13 km extra) including a climb up to the highest Vecekrugas Dune (67 m). Optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Nida; HOTEL: **NERIJA***** www.neringahotels.lt/nerija_en.html or similar.

Day 7 Friday or Tuesday: Curonian Spit - Juodkrantė Hike (~11-15 km/ 7-9 mi./2-3 hrs, by boat ~1 hour)

Minibus transfer to Juodkrantė (included) where go hiking on a circular route with a few natural and cultural highlights of the Curonian spit. Start your route at the Amber Bay, continue into the primaeval forest, pass along the mystical wooden sculptures of Lithuanian legends scattered along a forest path on the Hill of Witches, walk through an acid forest shaped by one of the biggest Cormorant colony in Europe. Afternoon is free to spend more time in one of many local restaurants, or just relaxing and taking the sun on white sand beach, swimming in the sea, etc. Finally, take a speed boat from Juodkrantė to Klaipėda (or a minibus transfer, included). Check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda; HOTEL: THE **OLD MILL***** 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 (self-guided only) – from/to Sunday or Thursday

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 or similar

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OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda; HOTEL: THE **OLD MILL***** 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.

SELF-GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES:	THE TOUR EXCLUDES:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 nights stay at the hotels/guesthouses including all hotel taxes - Breakfast daily - Luggage transport from/to hotel as per itinerary - Transfers by comfortable air-conditioned minibus Klaipėda – Seaside Regional park, Klaipėda – Dreverna, Nida – the Dead Dunes, Nida – Juodkrantė - Boat trip across the Curonian Lagoon to Nida - Speed boat from Juodkrantė to Klaipėda (or minibus transfer) - Individual information package (city guide, maps, program and route description) - GPS Tracks - Emergency contact numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrival and departure transfers - Public buses - Rent of walking sticks - Lunches & dinner - Tour guide services - Tips

GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES:	THE TOUR EXCLUDES:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 nights stay at the hotels/guesthouses including all hotel taxes - Breakfast daily - English speaking tour guide services for 5 days - Luggage transport from/to hotel as per itinerary - All transfers by comfortable air-conditioned minibus as per program - Boat trip across the Curonian Lagoon to Nida - Speed boat from Juodkrantė to Klaipėda (or minibus transfer) - Individual information package (city guide, maps, program and route description) - GPS Tracks - Emergency contact numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrival and departure transfers - Public buses - Rent of walking sticks - Lunches & dinner - Tips

OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

A. TRANSFERS

- Arrival or departure transfer by car (1-3 people) – 55 EUR per transfer (Palanga Airport) or 33 EUR per transfer (Klaipėda central ferry terminal);
- Arrival or departure transfer by minibus (4-7 people) – 88 EUR per transfer (Palanga Airport) or 55 EUR per transfer (Klaipėda central ferry terminal);

C. MEALS

- 7 dinners package (3 courses with coffee/tea) in 3* hotels – 155 EUR per person (or 169 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 or similar

SGL 79 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

DBL 89 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

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

SGL 89 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

DBL 99 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 (self-guided tour only)
- Tour price per person from 5 years old in extra bed in DBL room (with 3* hotels / 4* hotel in Klaipėda) – 25% discount from tour package price in DBL room
- For children up to 5 years old in parents' room without extra bed – no cost
- Minimum group size on fixed departure dates – 2 people (self-guided tour) or 4 people (guided tour), on any other dates May-September – 4 people (self-guided tour) or 6 people (guided tour)