

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

8 days 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 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 and dunes at the Baltic Sea. The terrain is dead flat most of the tour, except a few sand dunes on the Curonian Spit.

Walking distances: daily from 5 km/3mi to 19 km/12 mi with a possibility to do one day an optional long distance hike of 28 km/18 mi.

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).

FIXED DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICES - 2024:*

Tour code:	From Wednesday*	To Wednesday	Price per person in EUR
24/SGH1-19-III	June 12	June 19	DBL 695 SGL 1045
24/SGH1-20-III	June 19	June 26	DBL 695 SGL 1045
24/SGH1-21-III	June 26	July 3	DBL 755 SGL 1145
24/SGH1-22-III	July 3	July 10	DBL 755 SGL 1145
24/SGH1-23-III	July 10	July 17	DBL 755 SGL 1145
24/SGH1-25-III	July 24	July 31	DBL 755 SGL 1145
24/SGH1-26-III	July 31	August 7	DBL 755 SGL 1145
24/SGH1-27-III	August 7	August 14	DBL 755 SGL 1145
24/SGH1-28-III	August 14	August 21	DBL 755 SGL 1145
Tour code:	From Thursday*	To Thursday	Price per person in EUR
24/SGH1-19-IV	June 13	June 20	DBL 695 SGL 1045
24/SGH1-20-IV	June 20	June 27	DBL 695 SGL 1045
24/SGH1-21-IV	June 27	July 4	DBL 755 SGL 1145
24/SGH1-22-IV	July 4	July 11	DBL 755 SGL 1145
24/SGH1-23-IV	July 11	July 18	DBL 755 SGL 1145
24/SGH1-25-IV	July 25	August 1	DBL 755 SGL 1145
24/SGH1-26-IV	August 1	August 8	DBL 755 SGL 1145
24/SGH1-27-IV	August 8	August 15	DBL 755 SGL 1145
24/SGH1-28-IV	August 15	August 22	DBL 755 SGL 1145

* The tour can be started on any other dates May-September for the same Low season (01.05 - 23.06 & 27.08 - 30.09.2023) and High season (24.06-26.08.2024) rates

- with minimum 4 people when a scheduled boat across the Curonian Lagoon is available.

- or with minimum 6 people when a charter boat across the Curonian Lagoon is booked

** Supplement to the tour package price if 1 person travelling alone on fixed departure dates

– 499 EUR (1544 EUR or 1644 EUR in SGL room)

ITINERARY – from/to Wednesday

Day 1 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 Thursday: Walking along the Baltic Seacoast to Palanga Resort (~17 km/11 mi./4 hrs., by minivan ~30 min)

9:00 a.m. information meeting at your hotel where you will be greeted by a BALTIC BIKE TRAVEL representative. A short minivan transfer 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 (not included). Optional dinner at the hotel.

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

Day 3 Friday: Hiking with storks along the Minija River (~13 km/8 mi. or ~19 km/12 mi./4 hrs, by minivan ~1 hr)

Minivan transfer takes you inland (included) where start walking along the Curonian Lagoon on small country roads and forest trails. Today hiking in the Nemunas River delta Regional Park. The route to Ventė will lead you along the Minija River and passing by Minija (Mingė) village which is like the Venice of Lithuania with houses of both sides of the river and no bridges connecting them. Finish your walking in the hotel at the Curonian Lagoon in Ventė Cape, check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Ventė; HOTEL: VENTAINĖ*** www.ventaine.lt or similar.

Day 4 Saturday: Walking along the Curonian Lagoon and crossing the Curonian Lagoon to NIDA (~5 km/3 mi./1 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. This region has one of the largest population of storks in Europe. The White Stork truly deserves its place as Lithuanian's national bird. 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 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 Monday: Hiking from the Dead Dunes to Pervalka and Preila (~9 km/6 mi/2 hrs or ~15 km/9 mi./3 hrs or 28 km/17 mi./5 hrs)

Morning transfer by minivan to the Dead (Grey) dunes (transfer included) where start your hike on picturesque trail in the Nagliai strict nature reserve (entrance not included). 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. Finish hiking in Pervalka or 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 or continue hiking along the Curonian Lagoon to Nida (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 Tuesday: Curonian Spit - Juodkrantė Hike (~13 km/ 8 mi./3 hrs, by boat or minivan ~1 hour)

Take a public bus to Juodkrantė (not 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 Wednesday: KLAIPĖDA

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

ITINERARY – from/to Thursday

Day 1 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: Nida; HOTEL: **NERIJA***** www.neringahotels.lt/nerija_en.html or similar.

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

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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 Thursday: KLAIPĖDA

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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 car/minivan Klaipėda – Seaside Regional park, Klaipėda – Kintai, Nida – the Dead Dunes - Boat trip across the Curonian Lagoon to Nida - Speed boat from Juodkrantė to Klaipėda (or minivan 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 bus tickets Palanga – Klaipėda, Nida – Juodkrantė - Rent of walking sticks - Lunches & dinner - Tour guide services - Entrances to museums and nature trails (Dead Dunes, etc.) - Tips

OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

A. TRANSFERS

- Arrival or departure transfer by car (1-3 people) – 65 EUR per transfer (Palanga Airport) or 39 EUR per transfer (Klaipėda central ferry terminal);
- Arrival or departure transfer by minibus (4-7 people) – 99 EUR per transfer (Palanga Airport) or 65 EUR per transfer (Klaipėda central ferry terminal);

C. MEALS

- 7 dinners package (3 courses with coffee/tea) in 3* hotels – 235 EUR per person (or 265 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 85 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

DBL 95 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

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

SGL 105 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

DBL 115 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

E. GUIDE SERVICES

- English speaking local tour guide services for 5 days (Days 2-7 excluding a free day in Nida), including guide's accommodation in Ventė, ferry across the Curonian Lagoon, tickets for public buses from/to Nida and local ferry in Klaipėda – 1195 EUR for a group of 1-10 people

OTHER RATES AND CONDITIONS:

- Upgrade to 4* hotel in Klaipėda (3 nights) – **NATIONAL****** <http://nationalhotel.lt/> or similar – 70 EUR/person in DBL room and 100 EUR/person in SGL room
- Tour price per person from 3 years old in extra bed in DBL room (with 3* hotels / 4* hotel in Klaipėda) – 15% discount from tour package price in DBL room
- For children up to 3 years old in parents' room without extra bed – no cost
- Minimum group size:
 - 2 people (or 1 person with a supplement) on fixed departure dates;
 - 4 or 6 people (departures on any other date May-September on request)