

CYCLING IN LITHUANIA – FROM THE CAPITAL TO THE SEASIDE (Vilnius – Curonian Spit – Klaipėda)

9 days / 8 nights, self-guided (code: SG2)



Cycling from Vilnius through changing countryside & towns, this route takes cyclists through a little-known, fascinating corner of Europe. The tour begins in the capital, Vilnius, known as the ‘Jerusalem’ of the North because of its Jewish culture. The cycle route first leads to Trakai & its 14thC island castle before heading towards Kaunas, a former Lithuanian capital. Follow the Nemunas River from Kaunas to the coast, cross the unique Curonian lagoon by boat to the beautiful resort, Nida. Cycle along the spit to explore its treasures before taking a ferry back across the lagoon to 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 with a wide range of cafes & restaurants & many annual festivals, e.g. jazz, folklore.

Cycling grade: We rate this trip as moderate level. Daily biking routes mainly on low traffic roads, only a few stretches are on main roads with more car traffic, and cycle paths range from 33 to 76 km (21-48 miles) each day. The terrain is varied and rolling with some gradual hills on some riding days around Vilnius and on the Curonian Spit.

Arrival & departure information: Arrive in Vilnius or Kaunas (100 km from Vilnius) and depart from Klaipėda (by ferry) or Palanga (plane) or take a train back to Vilnius or Kaunas and fly out from there.

CYCLING ITINERARY

(cycling appr. 368 km)

Day 1: VILNIUS

Arrival in Vilnius. Individual transfer to your hotel (not included). Hotel check-in.
OVERNIGHT at central 3* hotel in VILNIUS

Day 2: VILNIUS-TRAKAI (app. 35 km or 40 km)

Collect rental cycles at your hotel (if pre-ordered). Morning free to explore Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania for more than 600 years. In the afternoon cycling to Trakai, a former capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, to visit the 14thC island castle on a small island in Lake Galvė. Arrive in Trakai, hotel check-in.
OVERNIGHT at central 3* hotel in TRAKAI

Day 3: TRAKAI-SEMELIŠKĖS-KAUNAS (cycling app. 46 km or 59 km)

Cycling on a picturesque, rolling road through the land of lakes and hills, pass Elektrėnai where the most powerful thermal power station in Lithuania is located. Finish cycling in Žasliai or Kaišiadorys, where you’ll take a train (not included) for a half-hour ride to Kaunas, the second largest city and former Lithuanian capital from 1919-1939. Arrive in Kaunas, hotel check-in.
OVERNIGHT at central 4* hotel in KAUNAS

Day 4: KAUNAS-ZAPYŠKIS-PANEMUNĖ CASTLE (app. 76 km)

Morning free to explore the Old Town of Kaunas, then cycling along the Nemunas River to Mikytai, where you'll take a ferry across the river to Vilkija. Continue cycling along the river to impressive Panemunė Castle (16th-17thC). En route cross the Dubysa River, pass Veliuona mound hill, the grave of the Grand Duke Gediminas and Raudonė Castle. Arrive in Panemunė Castle, hotel check-in. OVERNIGHT at 4* hotel.

Day 5: PANEMUNĖ CASTLE -JURBARKAS-TAURAGĖ (app. 60 km)

Continue cycling along the Nemunas River to Jurbarkas. From Jurbarkas cycle towards Smalininkai, for a long time a border town between Lithuania and the germanised Klaipėda Region. From there you'll leave the Nemunas River for a while and cycle through the woods towards Tauragė, passing the Viešvilė Nature Reserve. Arrive in Tauragė, check-in at 3* hotel.

Day 6: TAURAGĖ-VAINUTAS-ŠILUTĖ (app. 60 km)

Cycling on local, country roads to Šilutė, a town named after "Šilokarčema" (a pub in the pine forest). This region is known as a land of storks and the White Stork truly deserves its place as Lithuanian's national bird. Arrive in Šilutė, check-in at hotel. OVERNIGHT at central 3* hotel in ŠILUTĖ

Day 7: ŠILUTĖ -VENTĖ -NIDA (app. 33 km)

Morning cycle to Ventė Horn to visit the 19thC lighthouse and the Ornithological Station that retell their stories and have a panoramic view of the landscape including a glimpse of the Curonian Spit shining sand dunes washed by the Baltic Sea on one side and the Curonian Lagoon on the other. Cross the Curonian Lagoon by boat to Nida, former fishermen's village now the largest town on the Curonian Spit and one of the most beautiful resorts in Lithuania. In case of windy weather there might be a morning boat from Šilutė. Arrive in Nida, hotel check-in. OVERNIGHT at 3* hotel in NIDA

Day 8: NIDA-KLAIPĖDA (app. 58 km)

Explore Nida where you can cycle alongside impressive sand dunes and visit the most popular places of interest – the Fisherman's House, the summer house of famous German writer Thomas Mann, and the Amber Gallery. Afterwards cycle on an asphalt bike path through woods along the Curonian Spit to Klaipėda. Short stop after Pervalka for a walk on a wooden path to the Dead Dunes where you'll be rewarded with a panoramic view of the Curonian Lagoon and the Baltic Sea. Near Juodkrantė there's also a colony of grey herons and cormorants to see and the Hill of Witches, which has a hundred fanciful and folksy wooden sculptures scattered along a forest path in Juodkrantė village. Arrive in Klaipėda to take a ferry to the Old Town. Hotel check-in. Leaving rental bikes at the hotel. OVERNIGHT at central 3* hotel in KLAIPĖDA.

Day 9: KLAIPĖDA

Breakfast at the hotel. End of the tour.

TOUR PRICES:

HIGH SEASON: departure dates from Vilnius **25.06-25.08.2021**

Price per person in DBL/TWIN - 525 EUR

Price per person in SGL – 525+295=820 EUR (Single room supplement – 295 EUR)

Price per person in SGL (when travelling alone) – 525+295+20=840 EUR

MIDDLE SEASON: departure dates from Vilnius **26.05-24.06.2021** (start in Vilnius on Mo., Th., Su)

Price per person in DBL/TWIN – 495 EUR

Price per person in SGL - 495+275=770 EUR (Single room supplement – 275 EUR)

Price per person in SGL (when travelling alone) – 495+275+20=790 EUR

LOW SEASON: departure dates from Vilnius **01.05-26.05.2021 & 26.08-30.09.2021** – for 1-2 people

MIDDLE SEASON: **27.05-23.06.2021** (start in Vilnius on Tu., We., Fr., Sa.) – for 1-2 people

Price per person in DBL/TWIN – 495+90 EUR=585 EUR (boat across the Curonian lagoon supplement – 90 EUR)

Price per person in SGL – 495+275+90 EUR=860 EUR (Single room supplement – 275 EUR)

Price per person in SGL (when travelling alone) – 495+180+275+20=970 EUR

LOW SEASON: departure dates from Vilnius **01.05-26.05.2021 & 26.08-30.09.2021** – for 3-4 people

MIDDLE SEASON: **27.05-23.06.2021** (start in Vilnius on Tu., We., Fr., Sa.) – for 3-4 people

Price per person in DBL/TWIN – 495+60 EUR=555 EUR (boat across the Curonian lagoon supplement – 60 EUR)

Price per person in SGL – 495+275+60 EUR=830 EUR (Single room supplement – 275 EUR)

LOW SEASON: departure dates from Vilnius **01.05-26.05.2021 & 26.08-30.09.2021** – for 5-6 people

MIDDLE SEASON: **27.05-23.06.2021** (start in Vilnius on Tu., We., Fr., Sa.) – for 5-6 people

Price per person in DBL/TWIN – 495+40 EUR=535 EUR (boat across the Curonian lagoon supplement – 40 EUR)

Price per person in SGL – 495+275+40 EUR=810 EUR (Single room supplement – 275 EUR)

LOW SEASON: departure dates from Vilnius **01.05-26.05.2021 & 26.08-30.09.2021** – for 7 people

MIDDLE SEASON: **27.05-23.06.2021** (start in Vilnius on Tu., We., Fr., Sa.) – for 7 people

Price per person in DBL/TWIN – 495+30 EUR=525 EUR (boat across the Curonian lagoon supplement – 30 EUR)

Price per person in SGL – 495+275+30 EUR=800 EUR (Single room supplement – 275 EUR)

THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:	THE TOUR PRICE EXCLUDES:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 nights at the hotels - All hotel taxes - Breakfast daily - Boat trip across the Curonian Lagoon - Individual information package (city guide, maps, program and route description) - GPS tracks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrival and departure transfers - Lunches & dinners - Luggage transport - Bicycle rent - Bus/train tickets - Tips

OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

A. TRANSFERS

- **Arrival transfer by car** (up to 3 people) – 30 EUR per transfer from Vilnius Airport
- **Departure transfer by car** (up to 3 people) – 49 EUR per transfer (Palanga Airport) or 30 EUR per transfer (Klaipėda bus/train station/central ferry terminal);
- **Luggage transport** (Vilnius-Trakai, Trakai-Kaunas, Kaunas-Panemunė Castle, Panemunė Castle-Tauragė, Tauragė-Šilutė, Šilutė-ferry-Nida, Nida-Klaipėda) – 499 EUR per group (up to 8 people)
- **Luggage transport Vilnius-Klaipėda** (directly) - 39 EUR per piece of luggage up to 20 kg
- **Bus ticket Klaipėda-Vilnius or Vilnius-Klaipėda** – 30 EUR/per person (+5 EUR for reservation of bike space)
- **Train ticket Klaipėda-Vilnius or Vilnius-Klaipėda** – 25 EUR/ person 2nd class or 30 EUR/person 1st class (+10 EUR per bike only in 2nd class)

B. RENTAL

- **Rental of hybrid trekking bicycle** (*VDV, KTM*) equipped with 8-speed Shimano Nexus hub gears or 24-speed Shimano derailleur gears (optional) – 99 EUR per person (Day 2-8), 12 EUR for extra day*
- **Rental E-bike / Pedelec** (*VDV, Kalkhoff*) equipped with 8-speed Shimano Nexus hub gears – 245 EUR per person (Day 2-8), 30 EUR for extra day*
- **Rental of cyclocross bike** (*Kona Jake*) – 185 EUR per person (Day 2-8), 23 EUR for extra day*
- **Rental & fitting of bicycle tachometer** (*min. 4 functions*) – 10 EUR per bicycle
- **Rental of a pair of waterproof panniers** (*Ortlieb*) for mounting on back rack (total capacity 40 litres) – 25 EUR per bicycle (Day 2-8), 3 EUR for extra day
- **Rental of helmet** (*size S, M, L, XL*) – 10 EUR per person, 1 EUR for extra day

* included extra equipment and services:

- waterproof handlebar bag with a map/smartphone holder (*Ortlieb*)
- repair set with spare inner tubes (one repair set per booking)
- delivery of bikes to the hotel in Vilnius/collection from the hotel in Klaipėda
- tachometer (one per booking)

C. MEALS

- 8 dinners package (3 courses + coffee/tea) – 215 EUR per person

OTHER RATES & CONDITIONS

- Minimum group size – 1 person
- Start any day from 01.05-30.09.2021
- Tour price discount when using extra bed in DBL/TWIN room – 15 %