

CYCLING IN LITHUANIA

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

9 days self-guided cycling tour from Vilnius to Klaipėda (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, where you stay 2 nights. It’s the perfect place to enjoy a relaxing seaside break or explore on foot, by cycle or canoe its unique surroundings; its geology, birdlife, the influence of the Lagoon etc. Finally 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 routes range from 33 to 76 km (21-48 miles) each cycling day. The terrain is varied and rolling with some gradual hills on some riding days around Vilnius – Trakai and on the Curonian Spit, and dead flat most of the tour. The tour covers the whole country from the capital city to the Baltic Coast and therefore it includes a few rides by public buses equipped with special bike racks or (in case of larger group) minibus transfers in the places where safe cycling infrastructure is missing.

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.

ITINERARY

(by bike ~311 km/194 miles or 326 km/204 miles, by bus ~3 hrs, by boat ~ 14 km/9 mi.)

Day 1 Sunday: VILNIUS

Arrival in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania for more than 600 years. Individual transfer to your hotel (not included). Hotel check-in. OVERNIGHT: Vilnius; HOTEL: **COMFORT HOTEL LT***** or similar

Day 2 Monday: VILNIUS-TRAKAI (app. 14+39 = 52 km/33 miles)

Collect rental cycles at your hotel (if pre-ordered). Then you may join a 2-hour guided bike tour of Vilnius Highlights: Iconic Landmarks & Hidden Gems (14 km/9 miles). In the afternoon cycling to Trakai, a former capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, where you may visit the 14thC island castle on a small island in Lake Galvė. Arrive in Trakai, hotel check-in. OVERNIGHT: Trakai; GUESTHOUSE: **VIVA TRAKAI RESORT** or similar.



Day 3 Tuesday: TRAKAI-ELEKTRĖNAI-KAUNAS (cycling app. 45 km/28 miles or 60 km/38 miles, by bus ~1 hrs)

Optional return morning bike trip around Lake Galvė to see beautiful Užutrakis estate and picturesque views of Trakai Insular Castle (15 km/10 miles). Cycling on a picturesque, rolling road through the land of lakes and hills. Finish cycling in Elektrėnai where the most powerful thermal power station in Lithuania is located. Take a public bus equipped with bicycle racks or private minibus transfer (included) for an hour ride to Kaunas, the second largest city and former Lithuanian capital from 1919-1939.

Arrive in Kaunas, hotel check-in. OVERNIGHT: Kaunas; HOTEL: **VICTORIA KAUNAS******

Day 4 Wednesday: KAUNAS-ZAPYŠKIS-PANEMUNĖ CASTLE (app. 76 km/48 miles)

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, guesthouse check-in.

OVERNIGHT: Pilis I; GUESTHOUSE: **PANEMUNĖ CASTLE GUESTHOUSE** or similar

Day 5 Thursday: PANEMUNĖ CASTLE -JURBARKAS-ŠILUTĖ (app. 37 km/23 miles, by bus app. 1 hour 40 min)

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, nowadays a border town with Russian enclave of Kaliningrad. From there take a public bus equipped with bicycle racks or private minibus transfer to Šilutė (included). Arrive in Šilutė, check-in at hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Šilutė; HOTEL: **GILJA***** or similar.

Day 6 Friday: ŠILUTĖ -VENTĖ-NIDA (app. 33 km/21 miles+ boat to Nida)

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. This region is known as a land of storks and the White Stork truly deserves its place as Lithuanian's national bird. Cross the Curonian Lagoon by boat to Nida. Arrive in Nida, hotel check-in.

OVERNIGHT: Nida; HOTEL: **NERIJA***** or similar.

Day 7 Saturday: NIDA – leisure time by the Baltic Sea (~10 km/6 mi.)

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. Cycle or walk along impressive sand dunes, 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***** or similar.

Day 8 Sunday: Along sand dunes of the Curonian Spit NIDA-JUODKRANTĖ-KLAIPĖDA (~58 km/36 mi.)

Follow an asphalt bike path of the Seaside Cycle Route which takes you along the Curonian Spit to Klaipėda. En route you can stop to explore on foot the “Dead” sand dunes, watch a colony of grey herons and cormorants, visit the Hill of Witches which houses a hundred fanciful and folksy wooden sculptures of Lithuanian legends scattered along a forest path, or just relax, swim in the Baltic Sea and take the sun on golden beaches. Finally, take a local ferry from Smiltynė to the Old Town of Klaipėda (not included) and cycle to the hotel. Check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda; HOTEL: **THE OLD MILL***** or similar

Day 9 Monday: KLAIPĖDA

Breakfast at the hotel. End of the tour.

TOUR PRICES & DATES:

TOUR CODE:	TOUR STARTS - Sunday*	TOUR ENDS - Monday	Price per person in EUR:
24/SG2-03	June 9	June 17	DBL 950 SGL 1399
24/SG2-07	July 7	July 15	DBL 1045 SGL 1535
24/SG2-11	August 4	August 12	DBL 1045 SGL 1535
24/SG2-14	August 25	September 2	DBL 1045 SGL 1535
* This tour is available on any other dates May-September with minimum 6 people.			



THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:	THE TOUR PRICE EXCLUDES:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 nights at the hotels - All hotel taxes - Breakfast daily - Luggage transport - Bus tickets Elektrėnai-Kaunas & Smalininkai-Šilutė or in case of larger group - minibus transfers - 2-hour guided bike tour of Vilnius Highlights - 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 - Bicycle rent - Local ferries in Vilkija and Klaipėda - Entrance fees - Tips

OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

A. TRANSFERS

- **Arrival transfer by car** (up to 3 people) – 39 EUR per transfer from Vilnius Airport
- **Departure transfer by car** (up to 3 people) – 65 EUR per transfer (Palanga Airport) or 39 EUR per transfer (Klaipėda bus/train station/central ferry terminal);
- **Bus ticket Klaipėda-Vilnius or Vilnius-Klaipėda** – 49 EUR/per person (+5 EUR for reservation of bike space)
- **Train ticket Klaipėda-Vilnius or Vilnius-Klaipėda** – 49 EUR/ person 2nd class or 59 EUR/person 1st class (+24 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) – 145 EUR per person (Day 2-8)*
- **Rental E-bike / Pedelec (VDV)** equipped with 8-speed Shimano Nexus hub gears – 245 EUR per person (Day 2-8)*
- **Rental of carbon gravel bike (SILVERBACK Siablo CF)** – 265 EUR per person (Day 2-8)*
- **Rental of cyclocross bike (Kona Jake) or gravel bike ALU (Silverback Siablo)** – 185 EUR per person (Day 2-8 *
- **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) – 30 EUR per bicycle (Day 2-8)
- **Rental of helmet (size S, M, L, XL)** – 10 EUR per person

* 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

- 6 x 3 course dinners package all places excluding Vilnius & Trakai – 225 EUR per person

D. PRE/POST TOUR ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel in Vilnius COMFORT HOTEL LT*** <https://comforthotel.lt> or similar

SGL 85 EUR per room per night, including breakfast and city tax

DBL 95 EUR per room per night, including breakfast and city tax

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

OTHER RATES & CONDITIONS

- Minimum group size on fixed departure dates – 2 people, any other dates - 6 people.
- Tour price discount when using extra bed in DBL/TWIN room – 15 %