

1-855-55-TOURS

#### Classic Lithuania 8 days – 7 nights

# Vilnius, Grutas, Druskininkai, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Juodkrante, Nida, Vente, Minija, Klaipeda, Palanga Discovery, Fun, Culture, History

## This program may be operated for individual or for groups This is a suggested itinerary - Please call us to customize

Lithuania lies between Poland and Latvia. This small country in Eastern Europe is a surprising destination both for its beauty and its fascinating past. Its capital Vilnius, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a historic sanctuary that attracts the curiosity of travelers. Bordered by the Baltic Sea, Lithuania is also a destination for swimming and other pleasures of the sea. In the heart of the country, it is the lakes and lush landscapes that first attract attention. Lithuania is a country with a rich and powerful history that has undergone several dominations since the 18th century. It was the first Baltic state to revolt against the Soviet yoke. The bloody birth of the second republic of Lithuania in 1990 opens a period of recovery that allowed in 2004 the accession to the European Union and in 2015 entry into the Euro zone. Appreciate the complementarity of the architectural styles of the ancient city of Vilnius, sign of the multitude of influences that marked it. Admire the half-timbered houses of the old town of Klaipeda. Recharge your batteries along the west coast while visiting natural parks and enjoy a thermal treatment in Druskininkai like the 20<sup>th</sup> century aristocracy used to do!

Then, head for the Curonian Spit to enjoy a bit of freshness for a walk. The only precaution to take: follow the marked trails and avoid tearing the flowers that serve to preserve the erosion of the dunes that are fragile.

## Day 1: Vilnius

Upon arrival at Riga's international airport you'll be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel in Brussels. The rest of the day is free. An optional dinner can be arranged for this evening. Recommended restaurant: Bistro 18 (4.7)

## Dav 2: Vilnius (Trakai)

The tour starts with a visit to the Cathedral and the chapel of St. Casimir, the only Saint of Lithuania. Continue to St. Theresa church and Gates of Dawn. Visit St. Anne's church, representing the peak of Gothic architecture in Lithuania and St. Peters and Paul's church, an example of Lithuanian baroque. Explore the medieval Jewish quarter, Gaon and Jewish streets, the history and the sad destiny of Great Vilna Synagogue. See the oldest one in Eastern Europe, the Town Hall, built in the end of 18th century and Gediminas tower. Travel to Trakai, the national park area with pine forests and lakes, and the former ancient Lithuanian capital. Back to Vilnius.

## Day 3: Vilnius, Grutas, Druskininkai

Travel to Grutas village and explore the Grutas Park, is an open-air museum created in 2001 dedicated to statues and other objects of the Soviet era in Lithuania. It is located on an area of 20 ha, presenting 86 works by 46 authors. Such a concentration of monuments and sculptures of ideological content in a single outdoor exhibition is a rare and perhaps unique phenomenon in the world. It contains the majority of statues erected to the glory of the occupants during this period, including those of Lenin. Continue to Druskininkai, the oldest health resort in Lithuania where you may try a mineral bath and relax. Overnight in Druskininkai

## Day 4: Druskininkai, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Juodkrante, Nida

Travel to Kaunas, a former capital of Lithuania to explore the ruins of the castle, Town Hall Square with its impressive monuments and to visit the Cathedral. Continue on to Klaipeda and take the ferry to the Curonian Spit. The Curonian National Park, included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, is the most visited protected area in Lithuania. It seeks to preserve animal and plant species characteristic of areas that are particularly important for pan-European biodiversity. Visit the Witches' Hill, located in Juodkrante, a unique and magical walking area, where you can see the Baltic Sea and even the Curonian Lagoon through the pines and spruce trunks. Legend has it that demons and

Recommended restaurant: D'Eco (4.6)

Recommended restaurant: Sicilia (4.7)

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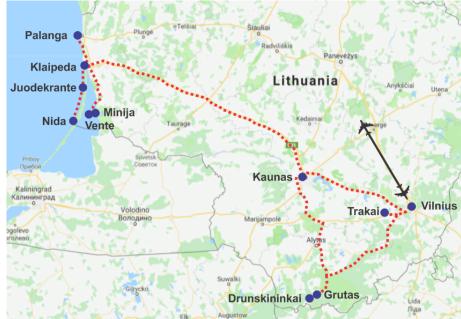
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witches used to organize pagan and animist festivals there, thus emerged the idea of installing more than 80 carved wooden characters from the stories and imaginary tales of the past. Then, continue to Nida for overnight. [B]

## Recommended restaurant: Senas Žvejas (4.6)

#### Day 5: Nida

Nida is a village dating from 1732, a time when fishermen were leaving their burial villages under the sands. The village, with its wooden architecture and the Sand squeaks underfoot, attracts many tourists. Visit its ancient



cemeteries, where you will find krikštai, ancient wooden monuments. Not far from Nida, you will find beautiful dunes that invite you to walk along. The highest of them is Parnidis with a solar clock, installed at its summit. Explore Nida resort, visit the Fisherman's House and the famous German writer Thomas Mann's House. Continue to Amber Gallery, an old ethnographic cemetery and neo-gothic church. Return to the hotel for overnight. [B]

## Day 6: Nida, Vente, Minija, Klaipeda

This region, still not very touristy, is full of charm and beauty for all those who take the time to visit it. A swampy lowland on the east coast of the Curonian Lagoon, this delta is home to a multitude of small villages nestled at the edge of streams, red-brick fishing houses, green meadows and an incredible bird population! For the most poetic, a source of sweetness, tranquility and romance! For scientists and birdwatchers, a real gem with its 300 species of migratory birds! Enjoy a boat ride on the Neman (Nemunas) River Delta Regional Park. Stop in Uostadvaris to visit the lighthouse and the oldest water lifting station in Lithuania, a Polder Museum. Departure to the Vente Horn to visit the ornithological station and the lighthouse. Continue to Minija village, "the Lithuanian Venice". A last drive will take you to Klaipeda for overnight. [B]

## Day 7: Klaipeda, Palanga, Vilnius

The Palanga resort is often called the summer capital of Lithuania. Have a walk around Theatre Square and Old Town. Basanavičiaus is the main street of the city and the most popular place to walk in summer with its lively artery: there are a lot of cafes, bars, pubs, music, dance and other entertainment. This street leads to the Palanga Bridge. The bridge spans the Baltic Sea on 1550 feet. This is one of the symbols of this seaside resort. Every night, a crowd of visitors come to watch a beautiful sunset. Another equally attractive place in the city is the magnificent Tiškevičiai Palace with its most visited site: The Amber Museum! It gives an overview of the diversity and history of the "Lithuanian gold". Explore over 25,000 pieces of amber with about 15,000 of these having inclusions of insects. Continue to Vilnius for overnight. [B]

## Day 8: Vilnius, USA

Breakfast at the hotel and some free time depending on your flight schedule. At the appointed time you'll be picked-up and transferred to the airport to board your flight back home. [B]

[B] = Breakfast

# Recommended restaurant: Zuikio daržas (4.7)

Recommended restaurant: Momo Grill (4.8)

Recommended restaurant: Žemaičių ąsotis (4.6)



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## 1-855-55-TOURS

## Your Tour includes:

- Round-trip airfare USA-Vilnius
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Assistance at airports
- 7 nights' accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Full sightseeing program:
  - o Vilnius Cathedral
  - o Chapel of St. Casimir
  - o St. Theresa Church
  - o St. Peters and Paul's Church
  - o Great Vilna Synagogue
  - o Gediminas tower
  - o Trakai National Park
  - o Grutas Park
  - o Kaunas Castle ruins
  - o Curonian National Park
  - o Witches' Hill
  - o Nida krikštai
  - o Amber Gallery
  - o Neman (Nemunas) River Delta
  - o Minija Village

## **Recommended hotels for your Tour:**

•	Entrance fees	for sites visited
	Tranchartation	n ha A/Cychicla

- Transportation be A/C vehicle
- All local taxes

#### Tour does not Include

o Palanga resort

o Tiškevičiai Palace

• English speaking guide

- Airfare taxes and surcharges
- Lunches and dinners
- Travel insurance
- Wi-Fi at hotels
- Optional tours and activities
- All alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks
- Other meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Extras and gratuities
- Early check-in, late check-out (Most hotels begin check-in around 2:00pm).
- Expenses of personal nature
- Any service not specifically listed under "included"

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Galia	4	
Zunda		
Zunuu	3	
Memel	4.5	
First Class		
Artagonist Art Hotel	5	
SPA Vilnius Druskininkai	5	
Parnidzio Kopa Apts.	3.5	
∕lichaelson Boutique Hotel	5	
Deluxe		
Kempinski Hotel Cathedral	5	
SPA Vilnius Druskininkai	5	
Villa Elvyra	5	
Aichaelson Boutique Hotel	5	
	First Class Artagonist Art Hotel SPA Vilnius Druskininkai Parnidzio Kopa Apts. Aichaelson Boutique Hotel Deluxe Kempinski Hotel Cathedral SPA Vilnius Druskininkai Villa Elvyra	

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

## **Tour Prices:**

## From: \$2,635 including airfare

Add-ons available from all US gateways.

Prices are per person and may change without notice

These programs can be customized for individuals and for groups

Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request



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## • Airfare

We also be glad to add the necessary airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares

- Program
  - You may add or remove;
    - o Trip days
    - o Cities and sites
    - o Meals
- Other options
  - The program was designed with private services, however, we may substitute shared sightseeing where available
  - If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.
- Quotation

Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

## Tour Code: LT01VNO21VT

## Options:

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.

## **Group Quotations**

- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the lad journey.
- Booking both air an land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.
- We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.