

National Parks of Lithuania

9 days / 8 nights

Vilnius, Aukštaitija National Park, Trakai, Dzukija National Park, Druskininkai, Kaunas, Rumsiskes, Klaipeda, Courland National Park, Palanga, Zemaitija National Park

Ecology, Nature, Discovery, Fun, Culture

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

Regional or national parks are among the most beautiful places in Lithuania. These are protected areas established to promote the preservation of natural and cultural sites. Despite its size, Lithuania has no less than 5 national parks: Dzūkija, Aukštaitija, Curonian Isthmus, Samogitia and the Trakai Historical Reserve. You are welcome to visit them all. If you are nature lovers, this circuit is for you. 9 days to discover the nature of Lithuania. The nature is beautiful, with beautiful lakes, forests and rivers. Visits to 4 National Parks: Courland National Park, Dzukija National Park, Aukštaitija National Park, Zemaitija National Park. Also visit Trakai National Historical Park.

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)

Day 2: Vilnius

Breakfast. Guided tour of the Old Town of Vilnius whose history is so well represented by historical and architectural monuments from the 16-19th centuries: the Vilnius cathedral, built for the first time in the 13th century on the site of an ancient pagan temple, Grand Duke Gediminas' castle tower, Gothic St. Anne Church, University of Vilnius as well as the famous Gate of Dawn with a miraculous image of the Virgin Mary. In the afternoon visit Vilnius University's Botanical Garden in Kairenai that is the richest in the region with its collections of about 9,000 plants belonging to 886 families. Return to the hotel for overnight. [B]

Recommended restaurant: D'Eco (4.6)

Day 3: Vilnius (Aukštaitija National Park)

Breakfast and departure to east Lithuania with a first stop at a restaurant where you can participate in the educational program "Cooking Sakotis", the famous Lithuanian cake. Then, continue to Aukštaitija National Park famous for its clean lakes, tumuli, ethnographic villages, rugged terrain, abundant forests and harmonious nature. Climb Ladakalnis Hill and enjoy a unique panorama of no less than six lakes and breathtaking beauty. Once we come to Ladakalnis, we'll visit the nearby Ginučiai water mill, with its original installation: a water wheel, a bag lifting mechanism, a grinding wheel, etc. You will be surprised by the creativity and willingness of Lithuanians to develop green tourism in this region. The cottages offering many services are growing and attracting more and more people thanks to new services such as mobile wheeled saunas or hot water wooden tubs. The Beekeeping Museum of Stripeikiai will offer you the opportunity to taste fresh honey to learn everything about the profession of beekeeper and Austėja, the protective goddess of bees. Visit the Apiculture Museum and an old wooden church in Palushė, built without a single nail. Return to Vilnius late in the afternoon for overnight at the hotel. [B]

Recommended restaurant: Žemaičių Asotis (4.6)

Signature option: Visit to the Museum of Ethnocosmology and Astronomical Observatory, the only museum of its kind in the world. The essence of the museum is the relationship of a human being and humanity to the cosmic world.

Day 4: Vilnius, Trakai, Dzukija National Park, Druskininkai

After breakfast we leave for the unique Trakai National Historic Park, the smallest in Lithuania, but offering the most important historical and cultural heritage. The historical centerpiece of the Park is the old town of Trakai and its castle on the peninsula with its majestic and romantic history. The castle

is the only one in Eastern Europe built on the island. The landscape of this unique cultural and natural heritage in its ensemble, reflects the most important periods of the country's history leaving an unforgettable memory to its many visitors. After visiting the castle continue to the southern part of Lithuania to Dzūkija National Park. Visit of the Zervynos Ethnographic Campaign, a remarkable example of the particular wood architecture in the coastal region of one of the most beautiful rivers in the park, that of Ula. Take a walk along one of the most picturesque paths in the pine forest and stop in the central part of the park, Marcinkonys, to visit the Ethnographic Museum. Then, we continue to the small historic village Merkine to visit its Kurgan that offers a beautiful view of the confluence of the rivers Nemunas (Neman) and Merkys. Overnight in neighboring Druskininkai a city that offers the best spa in the whole country. Maybe you want to schedule a thermal treatment for the evening. [B]

Recommended restaurant: Sicilia (4.7)

Day 5: Druskininkai, Kaunas

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before a visit of Druskininkai, famous for its mineral waters and curative mud baths. The tour includes a visit to the Memorial Museum of Ciurlionis (museum called Echo for the Forest which is dedicated to this famous Lithuanian painter and composer). In the afternoon visit of Grutas Park of Soviet Sculptures ("Stalin World") that displays many sculptures of communist leaders. Late in the afternoon we leave for Kaunas, the second largest city of Lithuania, for overnight. [B]

Recommended restaurant: Uoksas (4.7)

Day 6: Kaunas, Rumsiskes, Klaipeda

This morning guided tour takes us to Kaunas with its castle a historic place at the confluence of the two largest Lithuanian rivers, the Neris and the Nemunas (neman). Visit the Town Hall Square, 15th-18th century Cathedral and other historical places as well as the city center with Lithuanian Independence monument. In the afternoon take a tour of Rumsiskes, an open-air ethnographic museum presenting an image of the daily life of Lithuanian peasants in the 18-19th centuries. Departure to the coast of the Baltic Sea, in west Lithuania, taking a scenic route along the banks of Neman River. Arrive in Klaipeda for overnight.

Recommended restaurant: Momo Grill (4.8)

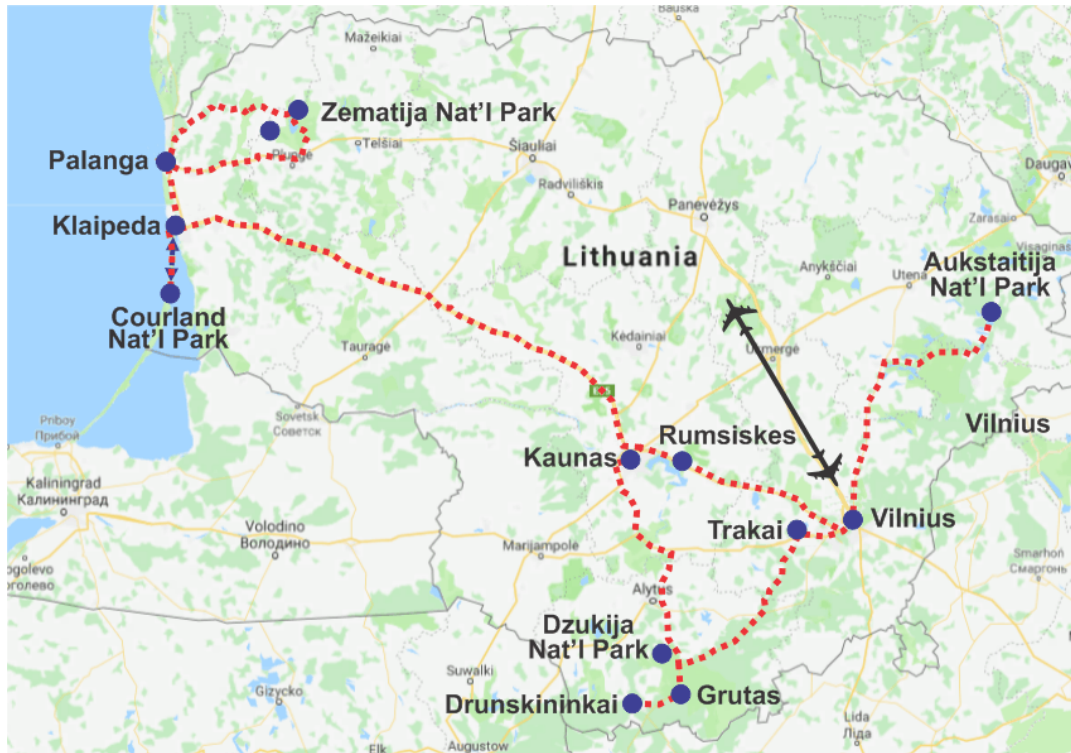
Day 7: Klaipeda (Courland National Park)

Breakfast. The whole day dedicated to the Curonian Isthmus with access from Klaipeda by ferry to Neringa, a Lithuanian village of this long narrow peninsula, separating the Curonian Lagoon from the Baltic Sea. The Curonian National Park, created by nature and the inhabitants, is included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites and 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. The great beauty of the Courland Isthmus landscape is a unique creation of nature and man's efforts. From the 14th to the 18th century, the sand dunes covered more than one fishing village. The locals were fighting inexorably with the wind and at the end of the 18th century, they replanted the deforested areas and installed reinforcements in the sand, so that the dunes are tamed by the Courland Isthmus. Today, the Lithuanian coastal dunes are the highest in Europe. When visiting the Curonian National Park, be sure to climb the Great Dune, or stroll the gray dunes between Juodkrante and Pervalka. The first stop in Juodkrante particular by its Hill of Witches - famous exhibition in the pine forest of impressive sculptures in wood - heroes of different legends. Continue towards Nida, exceptional by its sand dunes and see Thomas Mann Memorial House as well as the Amber Gallery. Late in the afternoon, return to Klaipeda for overnight. [B]

Recommended restaurant: Monai (4.7)

Day 8: Klaipeda (Palanga, Zemaitija National Park)

In the morning, visit Palanga, one of the most popular seaside resorts in Lithuania and visit the Amber Museum. In the afternoon departure for Samogitia National Park, the most mystical Lithuanian park. In the rustling fir stands are protected from many plant and animal species, relics of plants from the ice age have also been found. In the park are protected birds not only inscribed in the Lithuanian Red Book but also throughout Europe: the tetrastes, rattles of brooms and swan singers, whose voice recalls the sounds of a trumpet. The ornament of the park is the picturesque Plateliai Lake, the largest and deepest of Samogitia, surrounded by legend, its seven islands, wooden buildings from the 19th to the beginning of the 20th century and crosses and shrines along the paths that are folkloric works of local artists. The people who live in this region are called "zemaiciai", known for their stubborn and



hard nature, whose dialect is almost incomprehensible. One of their favorite sayings: "better worth a long sausage than a long speech"! Return to Klaipeda for overnight. [B]

Recommended restaurant: IQ Baras (4.7)

Day 9: Klaipeda, 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

Your Tour includes:

- Round-trip airfare USA-Vilnius
- Arrival and departure transfers
- 8 nights' accommodation:
 - Vilnius – 3 nights
 - Druskininkai – 1 night
 - Kaunas – 1 night
 - Klaipeda – 3 nights
- Daily breakfast buffet
- Sightseeing program:
 - Botanical Garden of Vilnius University
 - Trakai Castle
 - Ciurlionis Memorial Museum
 - Grutas Park
 - Rumsiskes
 - Amber Museum
 - Vilnius old town
 - Kaunas old town
 - Klaipeda old town
 - Druskininkai old town

- Educational program "Cooking Sakotis"
- Assistance by local English-speaking guides.
- A/C vehicle for the tour
- All Hotel taxes

Tour does not Include

- 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"

Recommended hotels for your Tour:

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
Superior Tourist		
Vilnius	City Hotels Algirdas	4.5
Druskininkai	Galia	4
Kaunas	Hof	4.5
Klaipeda	Memel	4.5
First Class		
Vilnius	Artagonist Art Hotel	5
Druskininkai	SPA Vilnius Druskininkai	5
Kaunas	Kaunas City	4.5
Klaipeda	Michaelson Boutique Hotel	5
Deluxe		
Vilnius	Kempinski Hotel Cathedral	5
Druskininkai	SPA Vilnius Druskininkai	5
Kaunas	Kaunas City	4.5
Klaipeda	Michaelson Boutique Hotel	5

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Prices:

From: \$2,945 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

- 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;

- Trip days
- Cities and sites
- 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: LT02VNO21VT

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 land journey.
- Booking both air and 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.