

# LITHUANIAN EXPERIENCE - 10 DAYS/9 NIGHTS



## **Day 1 (Friday) Arrive Vilnius**

Arrive Vilnius. Private transfer to the hotel. Welcome dinner at the National Lithuanian cuisine restaurant. Overnight at Hotel Amberton \*\*\*\* or similar..

## **Day 2 (Saturday) Vilnius**

Full day to explore the capital - Vilnius : Cathedral and it's square, Gediminas Castle, University campus, Pilies street with historical and architectural monuments of 16-18th century, Gothic corner of Vilnius with St Anne's and Bernardines churches, former Town Hall square, the Gates of Dawn with miraculous icon of Virgin Mary, spectacular Baroque church of St Peter and Paul. Visit to KGB museum. Overnight in Vilnius.

## **Day 3 (Sunday) Vilnius-Trakai-Vilnius**

Two ancient Lithuanian capitals in one day! Drive to Trakai (28 km) - the capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Visit the 15th century Insular Trakai Castle housing an exhibition on prehistoric findings and applied art of 17-18th century, the way of life of the Lithuanian Grand Dukes, and the Karaites, brought to Lithuania from the Crimean Peninsular. Later - visit to the first capital of Lithuania- Kernave. Here you will be able to climb 5 mounds and enjoy a superb breath-taking view of the river valley graced by the bends of the river Neris. After Kernave drive to "Geographical center of Europe". Continue to Vilnius for overnight.

## **Day 4 (Monday) Vilnius-Dzukija-Grutas Park-Druskininkai**

Day in tranquillity of unspoiled nature & past. Trip to Dzukija National Park located in Southern part of Lithuania, famous for wild forests, mushrooms and berries, authentic villages and friendliness of local people. You will visit ethnographic village and get acquainted with the lifestyle of locals. Here you'll have a chance to learn how to make and try "egg tree cake" (also called Bankuchen or Sakotis). This noble product of the baker's art is considered to be a symbol of the tradesmen's mastery of this profession. "Sakotis" is known since the 15th century. Lunch. Continue to Grutas Parkas, an outdoor museum of notorious Soviet political figures. Stay for overnight the Best Baltic Hotel Druskininkai\*\*\* or similar. Enjoy yourself at a spa or water amusement park.

## **Day 5 (Tuesday) Druskininkai-Rumsiskes-Kaunas**

Morning drive to Kaunas. Proceed to Rumsiskes - unique open air country life museum, depicting the 18-19th century architecture, traditions, crafts and the way of life of different ethnographic regions of the country. Later sightseeing tour of Kaunas Old Town, - second largest city and the capital of Lithuania between the World Wars. The tour includes: the Old Town of Kaunas with its St George's church, castle ruins, Theological seminary, the Town Hall Square, the Jesuit church, the Cathedral, the Church of Vytautas and the Perkunas House. Visit Ciurlionis Art Museum. Later trip to Convent of Pazaislis - famous for its architecture and wonderworking icon of Virgin Mary. Overnight at the Hotel Daugirdas\*\*\*\* or similar. .

## **Day 6 (Wednesday) Kaunas-Klaipeda**

Drive to the seaside by Panemune castle road with few stops and lunch along the way. Sightseeing tour of Klaipeda - Lithuania's third biggest city - a historic seaport and resort. Old Town of Klaipeda with the Theatre square and the statue of a girl Ann from Tharau, numerous old streets and buildings, Linden street with the old post-office, Mazvydas Sculpture Park. Overnight at the Hotel Navalis\*\*\*\* or similar

### **Day 7 (Thursday) Klaipeda-Nida-Palanga**

Full day visit to the Curonian Spit. Your first stop will be Juodkrante. Climb the Hill of Witches decorated with numerous wooden sculptures based on Lithuanian legends and folk tales. Stop at a bird sanctuary. Continue to Nida (30 km), a small old fishermen village famous for its majestic seashore sand dunes. You will also see Parnidzio big dune with sun clock and calender, a neo-gothic church and old ethnographic cemetery. Visit Vetrunge (weathervane) painting workshop. Get to know the story and of vetrunge - a unique example of ancient Lithuania's fishermen carving and Baltic folk art, which has no analogues in the world. Overnight in Palanga at the Best Baltic Hotel Palanga or similar.

### **Day 8 (Friday) Palanga-Kretinga-Palanga**

Morning sightseeing of Palanga offers a visit to the Amber Museum which houses very rich amber collection, a walk in the Botanical Park of Palanga central street full of souvenir shops, cafes, leading to the beach and the pier. Continue to Kretinga. Lunch. Visit Kretinga Museum, which exhibits the history, traditions, crafts, and lifestyle of this part of Lithuania. In addition, the tour will include an exotic winter garden of the former palace with an all year flourishing plants and nice water cascades. Return to Palanga. Free time to enjoy resort life and beautiful sunset. Overnight in Palanga.

### **Day 9 (Saturday) Palanga-Hill of Crosses-Vilnius**

Drive to Vilnius with en route stop in the holy site of Catholic Pilgrimage - The Hill of Crosses. This is an expression of a spontaneous religiousness of the people, and is a symbol not of grief and death but of Faith, Love and Sacrifice. From here the Pope blessed people of Lithuania and Christian Europe. Farewell dinner in the restaurant in the cozy Vilnius street. Overnight at the Hotel Congress\*\*\*\* or similar.

### **Day 10 (Sunday) Depart Vilnius**

End of the tour. Private transfer to the airport.

#### **Includes**

- Accomodations; 4 nights in Vilnius, 1 night in Druskininkai, 1 night in Kaunas, 1 night in Klaipeda, 2 nights in Palanga
  - Round trip airport transfers
  - Breakfast daily. 2 lunches
  - Welcome and Farewell dinners
  - Transportation throughout the tour
  - English speaking guided tours according to itinerary
- Entrance fees to museums: Vilnius University, Gediminas Tower, KGB museum, Trakai Castle, Open air Ethnographical museum; Soviet sculptures park Grutas, M.K. Čiurlionis Art museum, Pažaislis Monastery, Amber museum in Palanga, Weathervane gallery in Nida
  - Information Package

### **2018 Tour Dates and Prices (Per Person, Double Occupancy)**

Tour Begins	Tour Ends	Land Only Price
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<b>May 18</b>	<b>May 27</b>	<b>1400 EUR</b>
<b>June 15</b>	<b>June 24</b>	<b>1400 EUR</b>
<b>August 10</b>	<b>August 19</b>	<b>1400 EUR</b>
<b>September 7</b>	<b>September 16</b>	<b>1400 EUR</b>
<b>Single Supplement</b>	<b>250 EUR</b>	

Get your airfare quote in USD online at <http://www.vytistours.com> or call us for a quote at 1-800-778-9847. Deposit of \$100 USD due 7 days after confirmation. Final payment is due 45 days prior to departure. **The final amount will be converted from EUR's to USD at the time of final payment.**