

Lithuania Trip.

Saturday, June 22

Arrival day in Vilnius Lithuania from your starting destination.

Sunday, June 23 (1)

The morning following breakfast will be a guided walking tour of the old town Vilnius.

Activities for the afternoon and evening may include a service at the Cathedral and a guided visit to the KGB museum and Soviet occupation. Saint John's Day celebrations will be happening on Sunday and into Monday. The schedule will be adjusted for when the big event happens in Vingas Park.

Monday, June 24 (2)

We will visit Paneriai, the wooded site where the largest number of Jews were killed in Lithuania. In preparation we will talk about the start of the Holocaust, and the early actions of the Nazis.

We will then travel on to Trakai to explore the castle and government location of early Lithuania. You will have the chance to grab some Kibinai a traditional food of the Karaites, a Turkic-speaking Jewish group.

After this long day we will enjoy a dinner together.

Tuesday, June 25 (3)

A guided excursion of the Duke's Palace and possibly the Parliament will fill our morning.

We will then drive to Kaunas, which served as the capital during those times when Vilnius was part of Poland or occupied. Along the way we will stop to visit the Puzis Monastery.

Wednesday, June 26 (4)

We will start the day with a walking tour of Kaunas, visit the Presidential Palace and the museum of one of the most famous Lithuanian painters, Čiurlionis.

Early evening will send us on the way to Klaipėda

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Thursday, June 27 (5)

We will start with a guided walking tour of Klaipėda, have lunch on your own in numerous cafes in old town and visit the new Castle Museum.

In the evening, if you always wanted to learn to dance traditional Lithuanian dances join in at the Ethnographic museum dance night,

Friday, June 28 (6)

We will journey to Nida, with beautiful sand dunes and quaint houses. On the way we will stop and explore the carvings at Juodkrantė.

In the evening we will visit the 20th floor apartment of Marlene Wall, the LCC president, that looks over the harbor and sea for some nibbles and beautiful views.

Saturday, June 29 (7)

Hope on for a short ride to Palanga, which was a favorite resort of Brezhnev's. The Amber museum, will help us understand this object that is found at every souvenir stop in all of the Baltics.

Dinner will be at HBH, where traditional foods are a must, and you can explore the outdoor extras like a zoo and adventure park.

Options in Klaipėda:

- You can choose a worship venue, with possible trips to the Orthodox Church, several Catholic Churches, or the City Church which meets on LCC campus.
- Visit the Sea Museum and the Dolphinarium.
- Walk to the beach through the woods and be sure to check out the ruins of the German bunkers.

Sunday, June 30 (8)

Walk among the sculptures of Vilius Orvidas, consider again how he considered Mary and her stubborn faith.

A guided excursion in Telsia, a small town with a sizeable Jewish population at the beginning of WW2, will offer us an understanding of Jewish Community in Lithuania.

Monday, July 1 (9)

Pack our bags, make a stop at the Samogitian Calvary where we can walk around the small town visiting the twenty chapels, each representing a station of the cross.

After this we will see a few of the more ½ million crosses at the Hill of Crosses. You can try to count them if you don't want to believe that number. Take some photos, explore, add a cross to the hill, think about what this place has meant spiritually and politically.

Say goodbye to Lithuania as we move on to Riga, Latvia.

Tuesday, July 2 (10)

Start the day with a walking tour of Riga.

In the afternoon visit the Riga Jewish Ghetto, with lists of names you might recognize, and make a stop at the remains of the synagogue where the doors were locked with the Jews inside and set on fire. A monument stands beside this to recognize some Latvians who rescued Jews.

A break from the pain will include the choice between visiting the Laima Chocolate Factory or the Art Nouveau Museum.

Wednesday, July 3 (11)

The outdoor Latvian Ethnographic Museum will let us imagine what it was like in agrarian Latvia a century ago.

On the way back to the city we will stop and have a provided lunch at Lido, which has more choices than we have the ability to consume.

In the afternoon we will switch times to that of the freedom movement, the Baltic Way and the resistance to Soviet Occupation with visits to the Parliament building and the Museum of the Barricades.

Thursday, July 4 (12)

After breakfast we will begin our journey to Tallinn, Estonia.

The sound of a heartbeat, will accompany us as we visit Salispils, a POW prison and then concentration camp. The massive sculptures will give us a last time to consider the varied trauma's that the people of these three-sisters on the Baltic Sea have endured.

Of course after we settle in to our lodging in Tallinn we will take a walking tour of the old city. Be prepared for throngs of people since we are coming to Tallinn during the Song and Dance Festival.

Friday, July 5 (13)

On Friday we will visit Alexander Nevsky Orthodox church for a peak at the icons and see the interior of the Dome Church, one of the oldest in the Baltics. A final look at religious art will end with a visit to the Niguliste Church Museum and the interesting collection there.

Tallinn will be full of original art and handcrafts so we will give you a little time to explore and lighten the load of your money. We can also explore Teliskivi, which features the old wooden houses merging with the hipster economy of art and food.

Dinner will be at the Olde Hansa, so you better come with an appetite (provided).

Saturday, July 6 (14)

We will visit Kadriorg (Katherine the Great's summer palace grounds) as we make our way to the Song Festival Grounds. We end our trip listening to 20,000 voices singing traditional Estonian songs. Settle in for hours of music and festivity. (This is the basis for the documentary, The Singing Revolution.)

Sunday, July 7

Travel on home after visiting some of the most beautiful parts of the world and the tunes still ringing in your heart.

The cost includes six lunches/dinners and breakfast at our lodging. The cost of museums described in the itinerary is also included.