

HIKING TOUR IN LITHUANIA VILNIUS & PLUNGE

Vilnius – Plunge – Klaipeda – Plunge – Vilnius
8 Days / 7 Nights

Day 1: VILNIUS

Arrival in Vilnius. Transfer to the hotel and check-in.

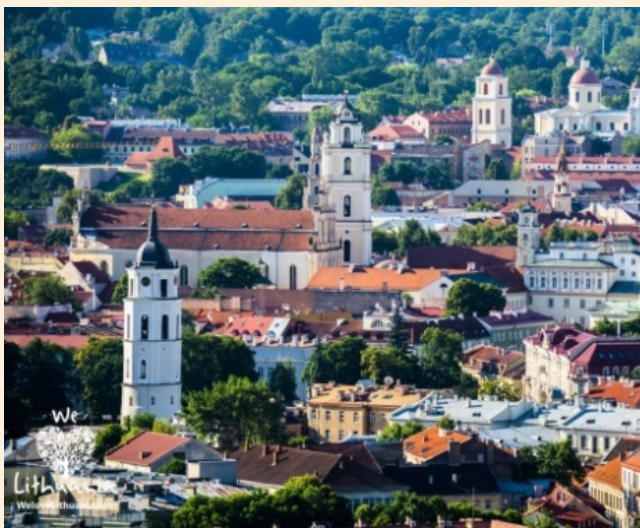
Day 2: VILNIUS – VARNIKAI – TRAKAI – VILNIUS

Vilnius City Tour (3 hrs). During city tour you will see the Cathedral Square, the bell-tower of the Cathedral, the Gediminas Castle, St. Peter and Paul Church, St. Anne's Church, Pilies street and more.

Transfer to the countryside of Varnikai where hiking at Varnikai **Cognitive Trail** awaits (3,5 - 4 km).

Educative path leads through the most beautiful and hardly accessible places of the preserve, provide the visitors with knowledge about nature, peculiarities of local landscape. Varnikai preserve boasts 600 species of higher plants (16 of them are in the Red Book of Lithuania), 118 species of moss, 15 species of protected insects.

Transfer to **Trakai**, for City Tour. Trakai is the city situated between 3 lakes, and represents Lithuania for more than two million tourists every year. It is well known for its natural beauty of landscapes, wildlife reserves, forests and the island castle on lake Galvė which is the only one of its kind in Europe.

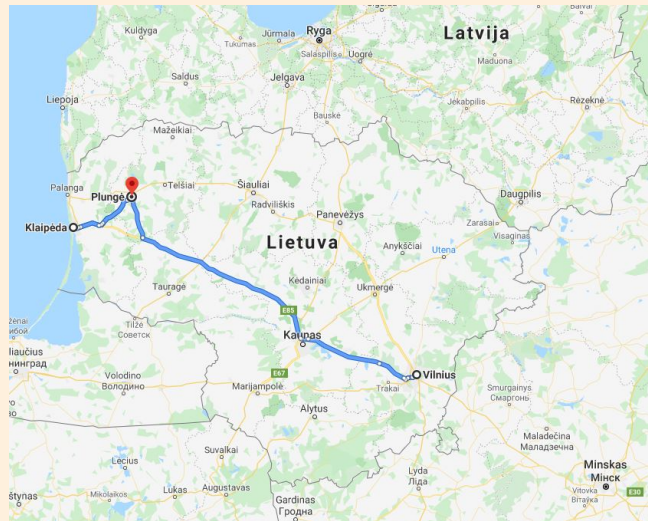


Day 3: VILNIUS – PLUNGE

After late breakfast walk to train station.

Take train **Vilnius – Plungė** (duration around 3,30 h) 12:00-15:30. Upon arrival you will be having a short City Tour in **Plungė** by bus.

The cultural heritage of **Plungė** region is rich in both material and nonmaterial senses. We can still hear the Samogitian dialect today in the region and find traces of the region's noble past in its old cemeteries, urban development, unique scenery and particularly alive traditions of folk art. There are 9 reservations, 6 natural landscape objects preserved by the state, 4 parks, 13 mounds, 40 monuments of architecture, 29 monuments of art and sculptures in Plungė region. The most unique preserved territory is Žemaitija National Park, the largest part of which is situated in Plungė's region. This is where most of the hiking will occur.



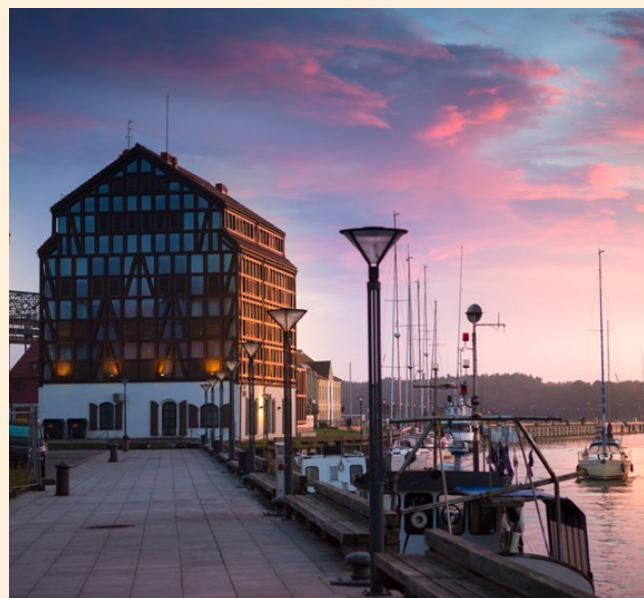
Day 4: PLUNGE

Morning transfer to Plateliai visitor centre (Starting point of hiking).

Welcome to **Žemaitija National Park** with its majestic Lake Plateliai and picturesque landscape including a great variety of unique natural, historical and cultural values. Today you will be hiking **Blue Route** (16 km*). The route is suitable for cycling and hiking. It has many scenic landscapes (forests, lakes, swamps, etc.) You will visit the 3 largest lakes of the Žemaitija National Park - Ilgis, Beržoras and Plateliai, other natural and cultural objects.

Day 5: PLUNGE – KLAIPEDA – PLUNGE

Upon arrival to **Klaipeda** take a ferry (without bus services) to northern tip of the **Curonian Spit** called Smiltynė. Here you will start your hiking. Hiking **Green Route** 13 km Return to Klaipeda by ferry. From this point you will be having **Klaipeda City Tour** by bus. Klaipeda is the 3rd biggest city in Lithuania, an important port and Lithuania's only gateway to the Baltic Sea. The city has a long history starting as a fishing village of ancient Balts and experiencing the arrival of German Crusaders in the 13th century naming it Memel. During the city tour you will see the old Castle territory and the Old Town with the fascinating merchants warehouses in the typical German style with "fachwerk" (half timbered) decorations.



Day 6: PLUNGĖ – PLOKŠTINĖ – PLATELIAI – PLUNGĖ

Transfer to **Cold War Museum in Plokštinė** – the former underground missile base. Tourists can visit the underground and the missile silos labyrinth and get knowledge of the Cold War period, propaganda strategies, consequences of the nuclear explosions and the life in the military base. It offers a rare opportunity to enter the shafts where Cold War nuclear missiles used to stand ready to be launched any minute. Once top secret and still reachable only by a gravel road through a forest, this underground military installation was dug by soldiers using only shovels. Multi-storey complex is barely visible from the outside and can be visited only together with a guide. Museum combines authentic machinery and propaganda posters with new dioramas, plans and screens with period sights and sounds.

After the tour hiking starting from Cold War museum, finishing at Plateliai Visitor Centre (12 km) where the trail leads around the **Plateliai lake**.

Day 7: PLUNGĖ – ŽEMAIČIU KALVARIJA – PLUNGĖ

Transfer to **Žemaičių Kalvarija** (30 km/ 20 min). Hiking starting from Žemaičių Kalvarija, reaching Gardai Esker and ending at Žemaičių Kalvarija (10 km). Gardai Esker. This trail is located on the Gardai Esker, the largest and most imposing esker in Žemaitija (Samogitia). This is a unique in geomorphologic sense shape of land and one of the most picturesque in Lithuania. An esker is a long narrow hill composed mostly of sand and gravel.



Day 8: PLUNGĖ – VILNIUS

After taking a late morning breakfast, transfer to the train station in Plungė and take train to Vilnius. Departure Plungė – Vilnius (~ 3,30h) 12:53-16:28. Upon arrival to Vilnius train station, change your trains and head to Vilnius airport. Departure from Vilnius.



ASK PRICE IN 3* HOTELS

INCLUDED:

- 2 x overnight stays / BR 3+* Panorama hotel, Vilnius.
- 5 x overnight stays / BR 3* Hotel Porto, Plungė .
- BB 7 x breakfast.
- 1 x kibinai tasting lunch
- English speaking leading guide throughout the whole tour.
- Entrances: Cold War museum.
- Comfort bus according to the itinerary
- 2nd Class train tickets: Vilnius – Plungė, Plungė – Vilnius train station, Vilnius train station – airport.
- Ferry Klaipėda port- Smiltynė – Klaipėda Port.
- Vilnius city tax.

NOT INCLUDED:

- Porterage
- Water
- Tips for driver and guides (recommended 2 EUR pp for each)