



Lithuania: Discovering the Hidden Gem of the Baltics

August 20-29, 2016

Day 1 : _____ (D)

Upon arrival into Vilnius International Airport (VNO) you will be met by our representative who will assist you with arrival formalities and transfer to your hotel. We recommend you arrive by 3 pm. Relax after your flight before meeting your fellow Ethical Travelers at our hotel for our **Orientation Meeting** facilitated by our Ethical Traveler journey facilitator and Altruistas in country guide. **Welcome Dinner** tonight is traditional Lithuanian food.

Day 2: _____ (B, L)

This morning we start our day exploring the **“History of Lithuania”** (requested speaker is Dr Aida Macerinskiene from Vilnius University. After we start our guided **City Tour of this beautiful UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The tour includes the following; St. Peter and Paul’s Church, Cathedral Square with St. Stanislaw Cathedral and Bell tower, St. Ann’s and St Bernadine’s Church, Amber gallery-museum, Užupis -one of the oldest districts of Vilnius, mentioned in the historical sources as far back as the 16th century, novo days the artists’ “republic”, which has its own constitution, national anthem, calendar and map, the Gates of Dawn with a holy image of the Virgin Mary, the Russian Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit, Town Hall Square, Vilnius University (founded in 1579) and St. John’s Church. During the day we will have lunch in the old town. Next we are off to relax and learn about the **craft of beer making** at a local brewery and beer tasting (request Snekucio Alaus Psaulis). Our evening is free to enjoy local dining and cultural events.

Day 3 _____ **Vilnius.** _____ (B, L)

At 9 am we will be briefed by a specialist or **Lithuania’s Tourism**. After an engaging discussion about sustainable tourism, we learn why Lithuania was for years an Ethical Traveler’s “Top 10 Ethical Destination.” After our tour of modern Vilnius continues. Highlights today include: **touring of murals, a visit to an artist studio** and the **National Museum**. Our evening is free to enjoy local dining and cultural events.

Day 4- _____ **Vilnius-Nida** _____ (B, D)

This morning we check out of the hotel then we are off to start our day meeting

will learn about the role this area played in World War II, with an afternoon visit to this museum and memorial, and the **Kaunas Choral Synagogue**. We then leave to return to Vilnius to engage with a representative of **Missing Persons Families Support Center** for a discussion of human trafficking in the area and their advocacy and educational efforts.

http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Factsheet_Baltic_States.pdf

Check in to our hotel. Dinner is free for us to explore local venues.

Day 9 - _____ Vilnius _____ (B, D)

This morning we will meet with a representative **Department of Cultural Heritage** under the Ministry of Culture for a discussion on the direction of social and cultural development in the country. Lunch and some free time in the old town. We end our afternoon exploring the **vibrant Contemporary Art Centre** in Vilnius, known locally as Šiuolaikinio Meno Centras, it is one of the leading art institutions in the Baltic region. Its focus is on displaying the latest international trends by organizing up to six large-scale exhibitions per year, in addition to many smaller projects. Then we have time to refresh before enjoying our **Farewell Dinner**.

Day 10 - _____ (B)

We check out of the hotel after breakfast and are off to enjoy our last few hours in Lithuania strolling and shopping. Then we will have a group transfer to the International Airport of Vilnius (VNO) for our flights home.

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