

# BALZEKAS MUSEUM OF LITHUANIAN CULTURE

6500 S. PULASKI RD., CHICAGO IL 60629 Tel. 773-582-6500

## TOUR TO LITHUANIA

May 20-30, 2012

- May 20  
Sunday  
Depart from Chicago O'Hare on LOT Polish Airlines with a change of planes in Warsaw.
- May 21  
Monday  
Vilnius  
After arrival in Vilnius, you will be transported to your hotel. In the evening there will be a Welcome Dinner at a typical Lithuanian restaurant  
Welcome dinner
- May 22  
Tuesday  
Vilnius  
This morning you will visit Trakai, the medieval capital of Lithuania, with its restored castle in the middle of Galve Lake. After a regional lunch you'll visit Kernave, the ancient site in the Neris valley, the government seat of King Mindaugas 750 years ago. One still can admire and climb the many mounds where hundreds of years ago great castles stood. Upon returning to Vilnius, you will make a stop at the TV Tower, the site of the January 13<sup>th</sup> massacre. There will be enough time to establish business contacts or visit with your Lithuanian relatives. Breakfast/lunch
- May 23  
Wednesday  
Vilnius  
Today you will tour Vilnius with its beautiful churches, Vilnius Cathedral with its catacombs and a stop at the Vilnius University. After lunch, you will visit the KGB museum where so much suffering was endured by the people of Lithuania during the Soviet occupation. The rest of the day is free. Breakfast/lunch
- May 24  
Thursday  
Kaunas  
This morning you will depart for Kaunas, Lithuania's second largest city, with a stop in Rumsiskes, the unique open-air museum exhibiting farm structures from different regions of Lithuania that were typical during the XVII-XX centuries.  
Upon arrival, you will tour Kaunas Old Town, Cathedral Square, Rotuse, as well as the Kaunas castle. No visit to Kaunas is complete without a special visit to the museum of the most famous artist and composer, Ciurlionis, and time permitting, a visit to the Devil's Museum will conclude your tour. After hotel check-in enjoy Kaunas on your own. Breakfast/lunch
- May 25  
Friday  
Palanga  
After breakfast you will depart for Palanga with a special stop at Kedainai and a visit to Momkutes Marks museum, a beautiful gift from a famous artist from Chicago. After a tour of the fully restored Old Town of Kedainai with its unique buildings you will have lunch in the Old Town. After arriving in Palanga, you will have enough time to enjoy the resort on your own. Breakfast/lunch
- May 26  
Saturday  
Palanga  
This morning you will tour Palanga. You will visit The Amber Museum, Hill of Birute and the beautiful Botanical Garden. Lunch will be at the unique Lithuanian Restaurant Pas Juozapa. The rest of afternoon and evening you may enjoy the resort on your own. Breakfast/lunch

May 27  
Sunday  
Palanga

Today you will visit the Curonian Spit, Neringa. After a short stop in Klaipeda, and a visit to Svyturys Brewery, you'll be transported by ferry to Neringa. Your first stop will be the Witches Mountain in Juodkrante, where you will be able to admire the many unique wooden sculptures and other artwork. You will continue to Nida, the beautiful fishing village, where you will have an opportunity to shop for some beautiful amber jewelry and visit the highest dune in Neringa. Upon return in the afternoon, you will dine in Kretinga at one of the most beautiful Tiskevicius mansion amidst an enclosed winter garden. The mansion was build in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by nobleman Zubovas and bought in 1874 by Juozapas Tiskevicius. After returning to Palanga, join into the tradition of the resort, to go to the famous Palanga bridge and enjoy the beautiful sunset. Breakfast/dinner

May 28  
Monday  
Vilnius

Today the tour will take you to one of the most revered places in Lithuania, The Hill of Crosses. It is a place where thousands of crosses were placed by people asking God for special favors or thanking Him for favors granted.

After a short stop, continue towards Latvian border and a stop at Rudale Palace, the most beautiful baroque palace in Latvia. The Palace was build in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by architect Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli who also designed the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg. After lunch and the Palace tour continue to Vilnius with the evening free for independent activities. Breakfast/lunch

May 29  
Tuesday  
Vilnius

Today enjoy Vilnius on your own. Do some shopping, and there will be enough time to establish business contacts or visit with your Lithuanian relatives. In the evening there will be a Farewell Dinner. Breakfast/Dinner

May 30  
Wednesday

After breakfast you will be transported to Vilnius Airport for your flight home. Breakfast.

Full tour includes:

Tour Price: Only \$3,995.00

- Round trip airfare from Chicago on LOT Polish Airlines;
- Lithuania's first class hotels with private bath or shower;
- Meals and entrance fees to museums as per itinerary;
- Sightseeing tours by bus with an English speaking guide;
- Baggage handling in the hotels;
- All prices are per person sharing a twin bedded room;
- Single rooms are available at single supplement

**For reservations or information, please call Stanley Balzekas at 773-582-6500 or e-mail at [info@balzekasmuseum.org](mailto:info@balzekasmuseum.org).**

**Balzekas Museum FALL TOUR will take place on September 9–19, 2012. The itinerary is the same for both tours. The dates differ for your convenience.**