

# Different Lithuania

Private travel & concierge

Phone: +37065070055 | Email: [info@differentlithuania.eu](mailto:info@differentlithuania.eu) | Rodunios kelias 8, Vilnius | [www.differentlithuania.eu](http://www.differentlithuania.eu)

## DESTINATION INFORMATION FOR LITHUANIA & BELARUS

### What You Need to Know Before You Go

#### **PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION**

In order to enter Lithuania & Belarus as a citizen of the United States, you will need: A signed passport valid for 3 months beyond the completion of this trip. Please be aware that most countries require that your passport must remain valid for at least 6 months beyond the completion of the current trip. While this is not a specific requirement of your trip, this requirement could change without notice. We therefore strongly recommend that you follow this 6-month passport validity guideline. Make sure your passport has enough blank pages (excluding amendment pages) available for entry and exit stamps.

#### **Visa information for US Citizens traveling to Belarus**

[http://usa.mfa.gov.by/en/consular\\_issues/visas/](http://usa.mfa.gov.by/en/consular_issues/visas/)

#### **CONSULAR INFORMATION**

The US Department of State provides Country Specific Information Sheets for every country in the world, as well as Travel Alerts and Warnings. Find this information by calling 888 407 4747 or 202 501 4444 or online at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

#### **CURRENCY**

In Lithuania, the unit of currency is the euro. In Belarus, the unit of currency is the Belarussian Ruble. Exchange currency only at authorized outlets such as exchange kiosks, banks and hotels and exchange only what you think you will need during your trip. Converting your money back upon departure may be difficult. Coins cannot be exchanged. Save your exchange receipts; you may need these to reconvert local currency. In general, major credit cards are widely accepted, and there is easy access to ATM outlets. Overseas merchants and vendors are increasingly requiring cardholders to enter their personal identification number (PIN) instead of signing a receipt for sale transactions. Be careful to shield your PIN from view while punching in the numbers on a keypad and never verbally disclose your PIN information. ATM cards and debit cards are increasing in popularity to obtain cash and make purchases overseas. If you carry travelers' checks, use them as a supplement to an ATM card and credit cards, and be prepared to change them in banks if local businesses refuse to accept them. Before your trip learn where they can be cashed or accepted.

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## HEALTH

It is a good idea to read up on any health issues or concerns related to your destination. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers current health information; it can be reached at 800-232-4636 or online at [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel).

Required vaccination(s) None

We suggest that you see a healthcare provider at least 4-6 weeks before your departure to allow time for any vaccinations or treatments to take effect. In the Lithuania, travellers must carry proof of a medical insurance policy contracted for payment of all costs for hospitalization and medical treatment while in the country. A health insurance card or an internationally recognized credit card with health insurance included, will generally be accepted as proof of insurance to enter the country. In Belarus you should have extra insurance this insurance is also needed to get a visa.

## WEATHER

**Lithuania's** climate is characterized by seasonal weather changes, so when you come to our country in different seasons you can see how different it looks - we know what a really sunny spring, hot summer, long and warm autumn and a nippy winter are like. In recent decades the climate of Lithuania has become warmer – the average annual temperature in the whole territory is 6.5-7.9° C. The warmest month of the year is July (with an average temperature – about 19.7° C, and a maximum - over 30° C), and the coldest is January (with an average temperature – about -2.9° C, its lowest temperature during severe frosts may occasionally drop below -30° C). The strongest winds blow in the months between November and January (at speeds of 5-6 m/s near the coast and 3-5 m/s elsewhere), the weakest winds occur between May and September (4-5 m/s near the coast and 2-3 m/s elsewhere). Occasionally, the winds get dangerously strong, with gusts reaching over 15 m/s. Such winds occur on the coast on average 60 days a year. As the temperatures warm up, tornado-like winds are more likely to be seen.

**Belarus** has a moderate continental climate, with cool humid winters and warm summers. Average temperatures vary across Belarus. In January, temperatures average from -4.5°C to -8°C. In July the average temperature is +17°C to +18.5°C. Some parts of Belarus experience sub-zero temperatures for more than a third of the year. Belarus has an average annual rainfall of 600-700 mm. 70% of the rain falls from April to October. Belarus also enjoys 75-125 days of snow each year, with falls ranging from 15 to 30cm. Belarus rarely experiences the extremes of temperature that can make travelling difficult. Indeed, if you don't mind the cold then it can be very beautiful to visit during the winter months. If you prefer a warmer trip then you should go in the middle of the year (but take an umbrella just in case).

## ELECTRICAL SERVICE

Lithuania & Belarus – 220 volts and 50 hertz Voltage converters and adapter plugs needed. It could be purchased in any electronic store.

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## WHAT TO PACK

Daytime attire: Pack comfortable, casual clothing in natural, breathable fabrics that you can layer. European street wear tends to be somewhat more formal (especially in larger cities) than is usual in the United States, although jeans are acceptable daytime wear. Cotton and other light fabrics are comfortable choices for summertime. Late autumn and winter temperatures can be very cold. Pack a coat, hat, gloves, warm socks, and sleepwear, if you are visiting these countries between late October and April. Evening attire: Smarter clothing is appropriate for evening dining in city restaurants. At the very least a stylish slacks or skirt outfit for women and a shirt with collar and slacks for men (better restaurants may require a jacket). Formal clothing is not necessary. Cathedrals, churches, and other religious sites require conservative dress. Arms and shoulders should be covered. Comfortable, walking shoes with low or no heels  
Sweater or lightweight jacket  
Lightweight raincoat and/or umbrella  
Swimming suit  
Sunglasses, sun block and a sunhat  
Simple first-aid kit  
Prescriptions and medications (We recommend you carry these in their original bottles and/or packaging.)  
Charging cables for electronics  
Voltage converter and adapter plugs  
Note: Laundry service is available at your hotels.

## What You Need to Know When You Arrive

### TIME ZONES

Lithuania operate on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) +2 hour.

Belarus operate operate on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) +3 hour.

### LANGUAGE

**Lithuanian** belongs to the family of Baltic languages. Currently there are only two Baltic languages spoken in the world: Lithuanian and Latvian but in the past there were more, such as: Galindian, old Prussian, Yotvingian, Skalvian, Selonian, Semigallian. They became extinct during the course of history. Lithuanian is a very old language. Linguists are particularly interested in Lithuanian because it is considered to be the oldest surviving Indo-European language. It retains many archaic features, which are believed to have been present in the early stages of the Proto-Indo-European language. What does that mean? Well, it means that Lithuanian is as archaic in many of its forms as Sanskrit, a classical Indian language, which also evolved from the Proto Indo-European language. Lithuanian has over 3 million speakers worldwide, the majority of them being in Lithuania. However, if you are in the UK, USA, Spain, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Russia, Sweden or Uruguay you may want to try learning Lithuanian as there are quite big Lithuanian communities there. Please consult with your guide on translations, if needed.

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**Belarusian** is an Eastern Slavonic language with about 7.5 million speakers in Belarus. It is closely related to Russian and Ukrainian. Most Belarusians are bilingual in Belarusian and Russian. The country now known as the Belarus was part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania from the mid 13th century until the end of the 18th century. An archaic form of Belarusian known as "Old Belarusian" was the official language of the Grand Duchy and was initially written with the Cyrillic alphabet. Due to the domination of the Greek Orthodox Church in the region, the written form of Belarusian was heavily influenced by Church Slavonic, the liturgical language of the Orthodox church.

## AIRPORT INFORMATION

At most international airports, passengers cannot be met inside secured areas. This includes Immigration, Customs halls and Baggage Claim. Your Different Lithuania representative will greet you as you exit these restricted areas; look for the person holding the distinctive Different Lithuania signboard.

## PROTECTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS

Use the safes where available in your accommodations to secure your valuables, especially passports, medications, jewelry, money and electronics. If you must carry valuables, keep them on your person at all times. Be mindful of your surroundings and take extra caution in crowds. Photocopy the personal information pages of your passport; leave one copy with a family member or friend and pack another separately from the passport itself. You may want to scan and email a copy to yourself for easy, online access. This will help speed up the replacement process.

## ETIQUETTE AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Unless you are shooting a crowded public scene, it is considered courteous to ask permission before taking pictures of local people, especially small children. Please be respectful of local people who do not wish to be photographed. Photography is not permitted at some locations, which may include government buildings, museums, art galleries, private houses, etc. These areas are usually clearly marked. If in doubt, please ask. Be sure to pack ample amounts of batteries and memory cards or film for your camera and video equipment, along with the appropriate charging cables. A dustproof case or sealable plastic bags and lens brush are also recommended.

## CONCIERGE SERVICE

Different Lithuania is offering a unique possibility using a private concierge services during your journey. Appointed concierge is ready to fulfil all your wishes. His recommendations could be helpful for you booking a tickets to a classical music concert, suggesting a cozy place for a dinner or organising you a private shopper. Your concierge is ready 24h/7days a week .

## FOOD AND DRINK

Tap water in these countries is considered safe to drink however, bottled water is recommended for consumption. Regardless of precautions, changes in water and diet can result in mild abdominal upsets and nausea. To prevent serious illness, avoid suspect foods such as uncooked vegetables, peeled fruit, un-pasteurized milk and milk products. Beware of any food or drink sold by street vendors.

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## SHOPPING

Many Different Lithuania guests enjoy the chance to purchase items that reflect their destination, and so as a courtesy, your guide may recommend a particular shop or arrange a shopping visit. Please note, however, that these recommendations should not be taken as Different Lithuania's endorsement of the shop, merchandise and/or pricing. You assume all responsibility for any transactions that take place, including shipping arrangements that are made. The decision to shop while travelling is a personal choice and shopping is never compulsory. If at any point during your journey you feel pressured to shop or make purchases, please immediately discuss the matter with your Different Lithuania representative. To avoid disappointment, we suggest the following guidelines:

Compute the exchange rate and thoroughly review credit card receipts before signing. Take your purchases home with you whenever possible. Airfreight can take many months and actual shipping charges can be quite excessive. Customs delays, fees and regulations can further complicate the issue. Duty taxes, if applicable, are paid as you re-enter the United States. Regardless of assurances by merchants, these cannot be prepaid on your behalf. Keep all sales receipts for items purchased throughout your trip and try to pack all items that you will need to declare together. This will ease the Customs process upon re-entry into the U.S. Consult the U.S. Department of State for current customs and import restrictions:

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips\\_1232.html#customs](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#customs).

## COMMUNICATIONS

Contact your cellular telephone provider to determine if your phone operates on the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) and what, if any, activation may be required. If your phone is not GSM-enabled, you may find that renting a phone specifically designed for use overseas is the most practical option.

## TIPPING GUIDELINES

Private or Tailor Made Journeys If you are traveling on a Private or Tailor Made Journey, or you have arranged extra services in addition for you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars):

Local Guides \$25 per person, per day (full day)

Drivers \$15 per person, per day (full day)

Airport Transfer Drivers \$5 per person, per transfer

Hotel Porters \$2 per bag

Housekeepers \$2 per person, per night

Room Service 10-15% unless already added

Restaurants 10-15% unless already added