

## ② LITHUANIA'S REGIONAL PARKS AND THE RIVER NEMUNAS



### DAY 1

#### Arrival in Kaunas.

Sightseeing in Kaunas.

**Alternative I:** Can hike till Lampėdžiai and overnight there.

**Alternative II:** You can rent a bike and have a tour in Kaunas.

**Accommodation:** in Kaunas.

### DAY 2



Public bus to Lampėdžiai.



**Lampėdžiai - Kulautuva**

→ 16 km ⌚ 4 - 6 h



Asphalt pavements and pedestrian / bicycle path, in a short section – trails.



Easy

**Accommodation:** in Kulautuva.



Itinerary: KAUNAS - LAMPĖDŽIAI - KULAUTUVA - VILKIJA - KIRKŠNOVĖ - KAULAKIAI - LYDUVĖNAI - ŠILUVA - DENGILTIS - KURTUVĖNAI - ŠAUKĖNAI - ŠIAULIAI

Hiking route length: → 114 km

Duration: **8 days**

Difficulty level: ●●

🚩 **Kaunas**

🚩 **Šaukėnai** (there are regular buses to Šiauliai)

*The route brings you to Kaunas, multiple Lithuanian regional parks and allows to enjoy the landscapes of the river Nemunas.*

*Kaunas is Lithuania's second largest city. It is notable for its modernist architecture. The city is located at the confluence of*

*the two largest Lithuanian rivers: Nemunas and Neris. Moving further from Lampėdžiai to Vilkija, the Forest Trail runs for two days along trails and small countryside gravel roads next to the right bank of the river Nemunas. This section is shaped by beautiful landscapes with views of the river, the waterfront meadows and small villages. Do not miss the ferry in Vilkija crossing over the river Nemunas, one of the few still in operation in the Baltic States. For the next two days from Vilkija, the Forest Trail runs through its most spectacular sections in the Dubysa Regional Park from Kirkšnovė to Šiluva with mounds on riverbanks and historical churches now and there. This regional park covers the impressive Dubysa river valley, which reaches a depth of 40 m and a width of up to 500 m. Be prepared for a rolling terrain. Next, the route will take you to the town of Šiluva – the Catholic pilgrimage site – and to the Kurtuvėnai Regional Park. It is among the most forested areas of Central Lithuania; thus, the regional park with its glaciated valleys is a wonderland of forests, waters and wetlands. The Forest Trail leads along small forest paths, tourist trails, beautiful tree alleys and wetlands. The walk ends in Šaukėnai village, from where the city of Šiauliai is easily reached.*







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## DAY 3



### Kulautuva - Vilkija

→ 14 km ⌚ 4 – 5 h



Small country roads with gravel pavement, trails, in a small section – asphalt.



Easy



In wet weather, there may be wet spots and puddles on some sections of the route.



It is worth seeing Vilkija town and trying a ferry in Vilkija, because such a vehicle is preserved in only a few places in the Baltic States.



Public bus back to Kaunas.

**Accommodation:** in Kaunas.



## DAY 4



Public bus from Kaunas to Ariogala and then at 10:13 to Kirkšnovė (bus goes only on working days, on weekends there can be private transfers organised, also a taxi is available from Ariogala to Kirkšnovė).



### Kirkšnovė - Kaulakiai

→ 25 km ⌚ 7 – 9 h



Very small country gravel or natural roads, trails.



Hard



In some places the trail may be overgrown.



Some places have steep slopes, coastal erosion has occurred in one.



This day is for active hikers, it is rather difficult, the trail winds up and down the steep slopes of the shores. Shops are only in Betygala village, located just over a kilometre from the main route, and in Kaulakiai village.

**Accommodation:** in Kaulakiai.





## ② LITHUANIA'S REGIONAL PARKS AND THE RIVER NEMUNAS



### DAY 5



**Kaulakiai - Lyduvėnai or Šiluva**

→ 14 or 28 km

⌚ 4 - 5 h or 8 - 9 h



Asphalt and gravel roads.



Medium / Hard



The shop is only in Šiluva.



If you only hike till Lyduvėnai, a private transfer to Šiluva can be organised.

**Accommodation:** in Šiluva.



### DAY 6

Private transfer to Dengtiltis.



**Dengtiltis - Kurtuvėnai**  
in Kurtuvėnai Regional Park

→ 15 km ⌚ 4 - 6 h



Mainly small forest roads and trails, in some places gravel roads, in Kurtuvėnai and in the vicinity – asphalt.



Easy



Steep slopes can be slippery in wet weather.



It is advisable to carefully follow the markers in nature and use GPX files, because the network of off-road trails is very dense and the terrain is difficult.



From Kurtuvėnai to Šiauliai.

**Accommodation:** in Šiauliai or Kurtuvėnai.

### DAY 7

Bus or private transfer to Kurtuvėnai.



**Kurtuvėnai - Šaukėnai**  
in Kurtuvėnai Regional Park

→ 16 km ⌚ 4 - 6 h



Small forest trails and small forest roads, wooden footbridges in wet places, asphalt in Šaukėnai.



Easy



In this section, the Forest Trail intersects with other hiking routes.



Bus to Šiauliai.

**Accommodation:** in Šiauliai.



### DAY 8

Departure to Vilnius or back to Kaunas.