

LITHUANIA

SIGGY AND HEATHER | EUROPE 2015 | FRIDAY, 29 MAY 2015



Trakai

Lake Galve is pictureque. The water is crystal clear and water-reed rings the shores. This location is ready made for an avid photographer like myself! The Island Castle harks back to a time when Trakai was the capital of Lithuania. It was built in the 14th century, destroyed and then rebuilt from original plans in the 19th century. The town is famous for being the home of a jewish sect who were bought to Lithuania as body guards for one of the noblemen.

We rode into the town early this morning. It was chilly, but warming sunshine bathed our route. Few people were around when we arrived. We rode around the edge of the lake and across the bridge to the island dominated by the castle. Gauging by the number of moored paddle boats and yachts the lake must come alive in peak times.

The castle is picture perfect - red brick against blue water. It's pretty turrets were reflected in the calm water. We continued our ride further around the shoreline and on through the town. What a delightful time. Wooden houses dominated the small, classy little town.



SIGNS Sometimes the signs leave us Aussies perplexed. Why are there different speed limits in a parking area? Are there restrictions on noisy cars?



WOOD Saw this house being built. Quite different to the houses in Poland (very thick block walls). Here it was two planks of wood with a little insulation in between. Don't understand - is must be warmer in Lithuania?

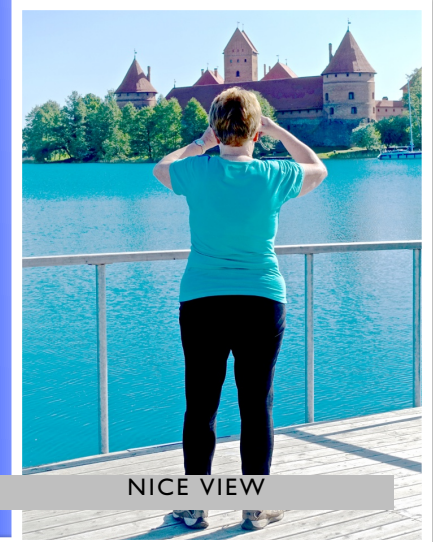


SUPER STORE A Segway parked outside caught my eye. Not something you see every day. This business sells its products all over the world. Why Lithuania of all countries?



TRAKAI = ISLAND CASTLE

SIGHTS

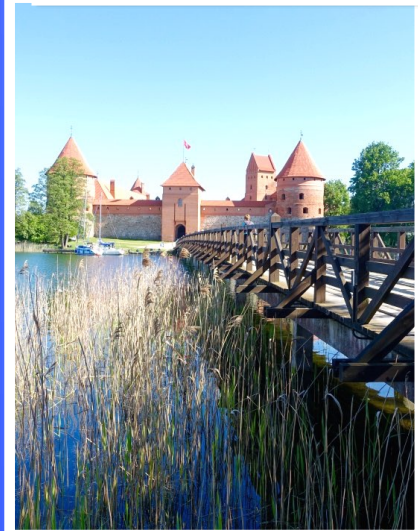


NICE VIEW

Vilnius

We travelled the 30km to the capital, Vilnius. It is a city of 544,000 people, so we were expecting it to be very busy and maybe difficult to negotiate. However our technique of heading into the city centre and asking our GPS to then direct us to a nearby motorhome parking place, worked a treat. We are camped below the main castle, not 250 metres from one of the main squares.

Bikes at the ready, we set off to explore. The first place of interest was the ruins of a very old castle, right above our park. We went up by the cog wheel venicular and enjoyed a great view of the World Heritage Listed "old city". What a magnificent place - reminiscent of the capital of Slovenia. Not like many we have seen in that the streets are quite wide and the buildings very different from one another. The great thing about the place, is the atmosphere. All of the squares were busy with people and market stalls. At one location an expo was in progress. It looked like a cross between country fire brigade demo and a wood chopping competition. The inner city has lots of green space and classy shops. Amber seems to be a major tourist offering.



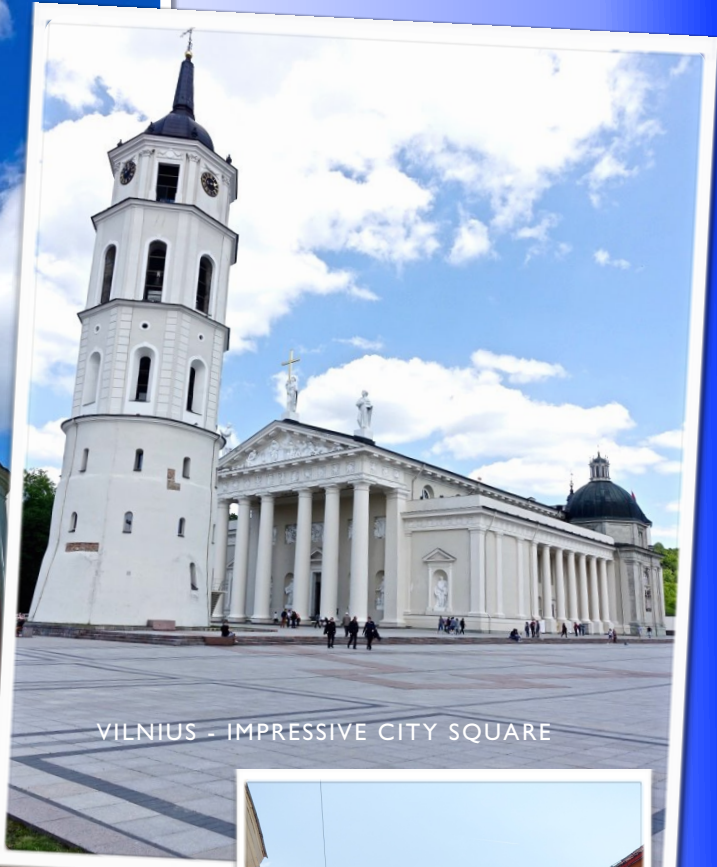
ISLAND CASTLE

19th Oct 2013

PHOTOS



VILNIUS - CITY OF CHURCHES



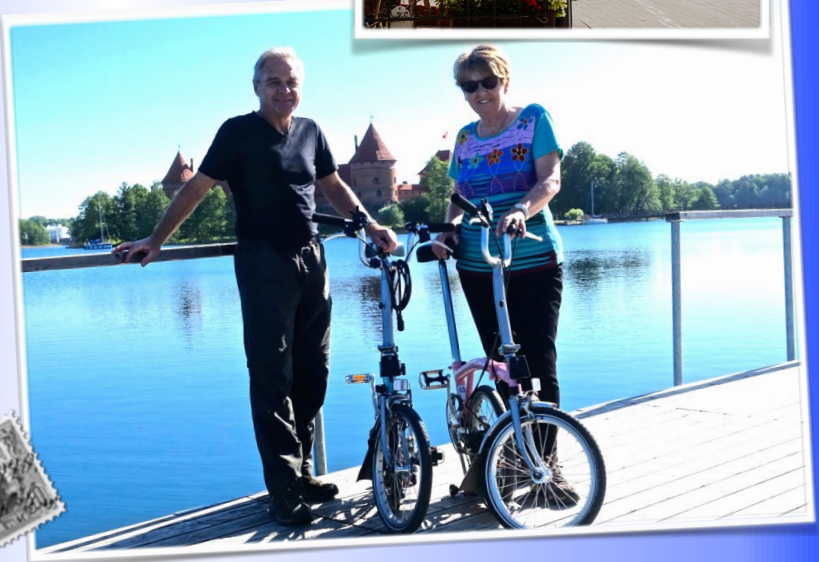
VILNIUS - IMPRESSIVE CITY SQUARE



CITY MARKET - TRADITIONAL DRESS



VILNIUS



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VILNIUS CASTLE



VIEW FROM VILNIUS CASTLE



ALFRESCO DINING



GATE TO OLD TOWN