**Preliminary Schedule**

**Lithuania: Healing the Legacies of War and Oppression**

**October 14-24, 2024**

*The following general itinerary and schedule is provided to give those interested an idea of the travel study seminar content. All items are subject to change.*

**Day 0: Monday, October 14 - Depart U.S.**

**Day 1: Tuesday, October 15 - Arrival in Vilnius, Lithuania (VNO)**

 Settle in at Artagonist Art Hotel

 Stroll through the old city, begin to acclimate.

**Day 2: Wednesday, October 16 – Vilnius**

*Vilna Gaon Museum has 5 branches that focus on different parts of Jewish history and culture.*

AM We will learn from the Green House, a very small, old house in the center of Vilnius, that provides a comprehensive narrative of 600 years of Lithuanian Jewish history, focusing especially on the Jewish experience of the Holocaust.

Lunch Pyrmas Blynas is a social pancake restaurant in the Old Town employing members of the special needs community.

PM We’ll visit the Paneriai Memorial, the forest became a killing field between 1941-1944. Then we’ll head to the Tolerance Center which examines the historical, cultural and artistic heritage of the Jewish community in Lithuania. We’ll stroll through and have dinner in the Jewish Quarter.

**Day 3: Thursday, October 17 – Trakai Castle and the Crimean Tatar presence**

Trakai is a 15th Century castle on an island in Lake Galve. It was one of the main centers of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Trakai is also home to a community of Crimean Tatars that have lived in Lithuania since the 14th or 15th century.

**Day 4: Friday, October 18 - Vlnius to Klaipeda**

AM Train ride from Vilnius to Klaipeda

PM Visit to LCC International University to meet with and learn from the staff of the University and Center for Dialogue and Conflict Transformation.

**Day 5: Saturday, October 19 – Klaipeda**

AM We will take part in a Historical Harms Walk that looks at the Lithuanian experience and how the past shapes one’s world and the narratives that promote present behaviors.

PM We’ll have conversations with Ukrainian, Belarusian and Russian students and others from former Soviet Union, as well as Middle East and African nations affected by war.

**Day 6: Sunday, October 20 – Klaipeda**

AM We will worship with a local congregation in Klaipeda.

PM We will take part in a training event and listening circle at the Center for Dialogue and Conflict Transformation (CDCT)that will creatively share the peace center’s work and how it engages with students and the community.

**Day 7: Monday, October 21 – Klaipeda**

We will spend the day learning about the [Wolf Children](https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/history-and-civilisation/2019/08/thttps%3A/www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/history-and-civilisation/2019/08/the-forgotten-wolf-children-of-world-war-iihe-forgotten-wolf-children-of-world-war-ii). In the aftermath of World War II these East Prussian children living in an inhospitable USSR-occupied Lithuania were abandoned to survive in forests after the collapse of a system that was designed to favor them. [Read more](https://deepbaltic.com/2022/03/02/remembering-lithuanias-wolf-children-an-interview-with-alvydas-slepikas/).

**Day 8: Tuesday, October 22 – Siauliai**

AM We will visit the [Hill of Crosses](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/things-to-do-hill-of-crosses%20religious-tourism). The origins of the Hill of Crosses are a mystery, but this site, outside of the city of Siauliai, has persisted, rebuilt again and again, as civil authorities repeatedly tore it down.

PM Dinner with LCC Community members

**Day 9: Wednesday, October 23 – Klaipeda to Vilnius**

AM Train to Vilnius

PM Group seminar debriefing and reflection

 Farewell Celebration

**Day 10: Thursday, October 24 – Depart for U.S.**

Participants may schedule their departures from Vilnius (VNO) anytime on this day. They may also extend their stay on their own. See below for an option that may be available to those who wish to stay in Vilnius for an extended stay.

**Option for those staying in Vilnius for additional time:**

Visit to Hope Center – a center for the homeless of Vilnius to expand a ministry that already existed in the city. The new building opened a week before Russia invaded Ukraine. They had planned to start simply in this new location and did not yet have furnishings and equipment. They scrambled to get ready. They have managed to continue the homeless ministry, while taking on ministry with the refugees also.