

# Invitation

*On Commemoration of European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism and the Baltic Way we kindly invite you to the Memorial cycle tour*

**MEMORIAL PELOTON,**

**which will start at 12.00 pm on FRIDAY 23 AUGUST 2024**

**at the Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights (Aukų str. 2A, Vilnius)**

**and will end at Tuskulėnai Memorial (Žirmūnų str. 1F, Vilnius).**

*You are welcome to drive your own vehicle, decorated with national or organisational (team) symbols.  
You can also walk to the opening of the exhibition(s) of your choice.*

Please notify your participation by 19 August 2024 by email: [kommunikacija@genocid.lt](mailto:kommunikacija@genocid.lt)

ORGANISERS:



MUZEUM  
PAMIĘCI  
SYBIRU



LITVAOS VYKIAUSIOJI GENOCIDŲ IR REZISTENCIJOS TYRIMO CENTRAS  
LGGRTC



LATVIJAS  
OKUPĀCIJAS  
MUZEJS



MUZEULUI NATIONAL DE ISTORIE A ARHEOLOGIEI

**Memorial  
peloton 2024**

▶ 23rd. of August



# International cycling tour MEMORIAL PELOTON

## PROGRAMME

### **11.45 am**

Arrival at the Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights

### **12.00 pm**

Opening of the exhibition "FROM THE SOVIET RED FLAG TO LITHUANIAN TRICOLOUR: 50 YEARS OF STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM" in the museum's conference hall.

The aim of the exhibition is to preserve and update the memory of the crimes of the totalitarian communist regime, to highlight the 50 years of persistent struggle of the people of the occupied country against the invader, the victory they won, and the leadership they demonstrated in the face of a threat to the independence and democratic principles of the countries.

The exhibition is in English. In March 2024, it was presented at the Victims of Communism Museum in Washington DC, USA. The exhibition in Lithuania is shown for the first time.

### **12.30 pm**

Start of the bicycle tour (Aukų str. 2A, Vilnius)

The history of the former KGB prison (interrogation isolator) will be told by the tour guide of the Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights.

### **1.00 pm**

Stop of Old Vilnius Detention House (T. Kosciuškos str. 1, Vilnius)

The history of the site will be told by the tour guide of the Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights.

### **1.30 pm**

Stop of Vilnius Sports Palace (Rinktinės str. 1, Vilnius)

The history of the site will be told by the tour guide of the Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights.

### **1.45 pm**

Tuskulėnai Memorial stop - end of the bicycle tour. The history of Tuskulėnai Manor is told by the tour guide of the Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights (Žirmūnų str. 1F, Vilnius)

### **1.55 pm**

Laying of memorial flowers and candles in the chapel-columbarium.

### **2.00 pm**

Opening of the exhibition "YOUTH REBELLION"

The aim of the exhibition is to show how the policy of Russian chauvinism under the guise of internationalism was resisted by setting up underground youth organisations, preparing and distributing illegal press, slogans, publishing forbidden patriotic symbols, revitalising the national and state traditions, promoting self-education, and creating literary and artistic works.

### **2.40 pm**

Closing of the event. Speeches by Dr. Arūnas Bubnys, Director General of the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, and a representative of the Sybir Memorial Museum in Białystok.

### **2.50 pm**

Informal socialising over a cup of coffee.

## OBJECTS OF THE CYCLING TOUR “MEMORIAL PELOTON“

### MUSEUM OF OCCUPATIONS AND FREEDOM FIGHTS (Aukų str. 2A, Vilnius)

The Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights is housed in the building where the Soviet security services, best known to the world as the KGB, operated for almost 50 years. In this building operations against Lithuanian partisans were planned, deportation plans were coordinated, and the people of the occupied country were imprisoned, interrogated, tortured and murdered. Executions were carried out in the execution chamber in the basement of the building until 1969. The Soviet security services occupied the building until autumn 1991.



### OLD VILNIUS DETENTION HOUSE (T. Kosciuškios str. 1, Vilnius)

The Old Vilnius Detention House is a remained 18th-century private manor house. The building and the entire estate were expropriated by the Tsarist Russian authorities at the beginning of the 19th century from the last owner of the estate, Jonas Chodasevičius. Soon after, Gediminas Hill and the surrounding area were turned into a military fortress and the building was adapted for military use. Initially, it was used as a military barracks and later as a prison for political prisoners. The old walls of the Vilnius Detention House commemorate the years of the 1863-1864 uprising. Over 1000 rebels were imprisoned here. Uniquely, from the 19th century until 2019, the building has always been used as a detention house. Now it belongs to the National Museum of Lithuania. It hosts exhibitions.



### VILNIUS SPORTS PALACE (Rinktinės str. 1, Vilnius)

Vilnius, once known as the intellectual, spiritual and political capital of European Jews and proudly known as the Jerusalem of the North, was lost in the storms of two totalitarian regimes: the Nazis destroyed the Jewish community and the Soviets destroyed the material and cultural heritage of the Jews.

In 1971, the Vilnius Sports Palace was built on the site of the old Jewish cemetery. The old Jewish cemetery has been here since the 16th century. It was closed in the 18th century and the land with the cemetery was sold to the city. After the Second World War the cemetery was liquidated. The last monuments were demolished in 1955. Until 1990, the Sports Palace was one of the most important venues in the city for basketball tournaments and concerts by rock bands. One of the first events to be held at the Sports Palace was the funeral of the long-time leader of the Lithuanian SSR, Antanas Sniečkus, in 1974. All those who wished to bid farewell to Sniečkus could come here.

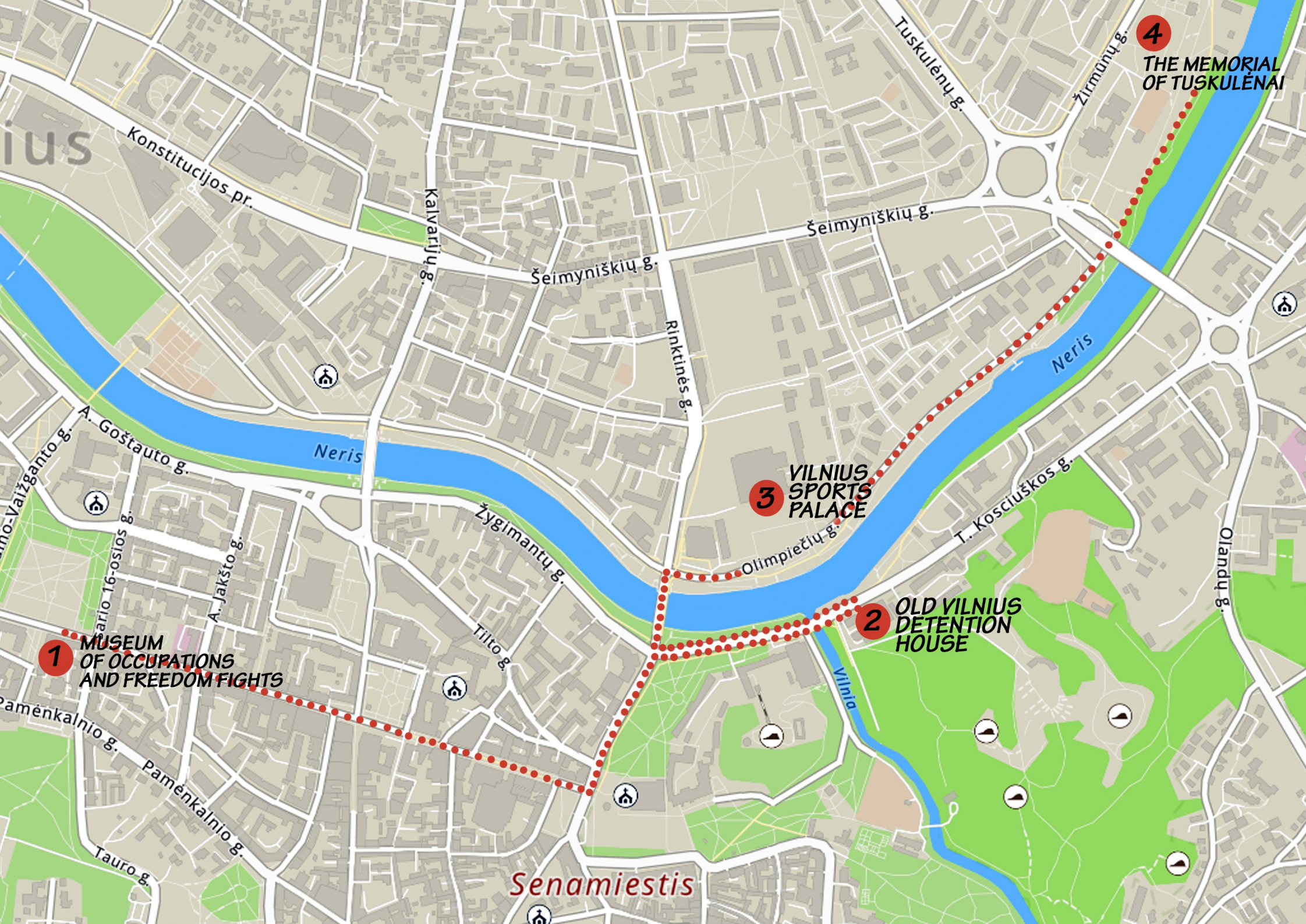
In 1988, the founding congress of the Lithuanian Movement for the Reorganisation of Lithuania was held here, and in January 1991, the public bid farewell to the Lithuanian freedom fighters who perished at the Vilnius TV tower on the night of 13 January.



### THE MEMORIAL OF TUSKULĖNAI (Žirmūnų str. 1F, 1N, Vilnius)

The Memorial of Tuskulėnai is a unique place that brings together two quite different epochs – the glorious past and the traces of the crimes committed there. Tuskulėnai Manor, established there in the 16th century, had a royal status. Until the mid-19th century the magnificent Classicism-style manor house was one of the popular cultural sites in Vilnius. However, in the 20th century the pages of the history changed. The persons, sentenced to death by the USSR tribunal, who had been tortured and murdered in the NKGB (later – MGB, KGB) inner prison in Vilnius, were secretly put to the mass graves there between 1944 and 1947. The occupying Soviet authorities charged the majority of them with the treason against homeland and imposed a death sentence under Article 58 of the Penal Code of the RSFSR. Over the period, mentioned above, 767 persons were executed.





**1** MUSEUM OF OCCUPATIONS AND FREEDOM FIGHTS

**2** OLD VILNIUS DETENTION HOUSE

**3** VILNIUS SPORTS PALACE

**4** THE MEMORIAL OF TUSKULĖNAI

Senamiestis

ius

Konstitucijos pr.

Tuskulėnų g.

Žirmūnų g.

Kalvarijų g.

Šeimyniškių g.

Šeimyniškių g.

Rinktinės g.

Neris

Neris

A. Goštauto g.

Olimpiečių g.

T. Kosciuškos g.

Žygimantų g.

Olandų g.

A. Jakšto g.

Mario 16-osios g.

Tilto g.

Vilnia

Pamėnkalnio g.

Pamėnkalnio g.

Tauro g.