

Augustów with children: 7 mistakes that cost families thousands every summer

A practical guide for parents who want to choose a lakeside property without hidden extra charges, daily logistics or last-minute holiday planning.



Łukasz from VITA
Checklist author.



The VITA jetty on Lake Necko. You compare specific details: what is nearby, what is included in the price and what to ask about.

Author: Łukasz from VITA Augustów

A parent of two children and someone who knows the season on Lake Necko from the perspective of guests, weather, bookings and families' everyday questions.

This material is for information only and does not constitute a commercial offer. Check current prices and minimum stays in the [current price list](#), and confirm availability and the scope of services for your chosen dates.

Before you click “Book”

How to use this guide

This is not about finding the cheapest accommodation. It is about knowing what you actually receive as part of the price before paying the earnest money.

A family trip is rarely spoiled by one major issue. More often, it is spoiled by small decisions: no plan for rain, daily journeys, extra charges for equipment, parking or breakfast, along with children who start getting bored after two days.

For each property you are considering, enter three answers:

- **Included in the price:** things you receive at no extra charge and without an additional booking.
- **Extra charge:** things that are available but charged separately or depend on being ordered in advance.
- **No clear answer:** a sign that you need to ask for details before booking.

A point of reference from VITA

At VITA, the price of your stay includes, among other things: breakfast, a private beach 130 m from the rooms, a jetty, kayak, pedalo, rowing boat, sun loungers, life jackets, bicycles, a tennis court with rackets and balls, a playground, sports pitches, parking, billiards, table tennis and Wi-Fi.

Not every family needs everything. What matters is comparing the actual cost of the entire week before booking, not just the room price.

Mistake 1

Comparing room prices alone

The price per night looks good, but the family bill grows when the extra charges begin.

The biggest mistake is comparing two properties by room price and assuming that everything else will be similar. In practice, the difference lies in breakfast, parking, water sports equipment, bicycles, children's facilities, an extra bed, cot, meals other than breakfast and on-site activities.

If a family drives to the beach every day, pays for parking, hires equipment and looks for off-site attractions, cheap accommodation stops being cheap. Then there is the parents' time: packing, transporting, waiting, finding a place and organising the plan all over again.

The total cost of your stay

Enter the full amount for your stay. Enter 0 zł only when the property clearly confirms that the item is included in the price.

ITEM	PROPERTY A	VITA
Room	_____ zł	depends on the dates
Breakfast, parking, beach	_____ zł	included in the price of the stay
Water sports equipment, bicycles, activities	_____ zł	included in the price of the stay
Extra bed, cot, dog, evening meal	_____ zł	extra charge only if required

Mistake 2

Assuming that "for children" means safe and interesting

The phrase family holidays may mean a playground. It may also mean nothing more than a larger room.

Children quickly put marketing claims to the test. If there is only a lawn and a single piece of play equipment on site, parents start planning the trip all over again after two days. So do not merely ask whether the property is suitable for children. Ask what a child will do in the morning, after breakfast, after lunch and when the weather changes.

The second consideration is the water. By the lake, the details matter: whether there is a gentle entry, sand, a jetty, life jackets, sun loungers, shade and rooms nearby. For a parent, having the beach 130 m away and being able to return quickly for a jumper or snack can transform the entire day.

“The water is a paradise for little ones, with a sandy beach and a weed-free entry”.

Przemysław, June 2024

What is worth checking

- Is the beach private, close to the rooms and described in specific terms?
- Are there life jackets for children and water sports equipment for families?
- Are there activities on site that do not require driving?
- Are the grounds suitable for children of different ages?

Mistake 3

Having no plan B for rain and tiredness

The weather by the lake can be excellent, but a family trip cannot depend on a single scenario.

Parents often plan holidays as though every day will be sunny. Then come two days of rain, strong winds or simply tiredness after the journey. That is when you find out whether the property has facilities for a quieter day or whether you have to search for attractions on your phone.

Plan B does not have to be elaborate. A few things on site are enough: table tennis, billiards, games, an indoor space, a short walk and a good base for quick outings and returns. For children, simplicity often wins when a parent does not have to organise everything from scratch.

A mini plan for bad weather

1. Morning: a leisurely breakfast and a decision on whether to go out briefly.
2. Midday: an indoor activity or a short route close to the property.
3. Afternoon: one thing for children, one thing for parents.
4. Evening: no rushing from one attraction to another, but rather rest and preparation for the next day.

Mistake 4

Driving children to attractions every day

Attractions are important, but your base should reduce the logistical burden rather than add to it.

There is plenty to do in Augustów, but a family trip should not look like a to-do list. If you have to pack a bag, drive, look for parking, return for forgotten items and keep track of opening times every day, the parents go home more tired than when they arrived.

A good base gives you options. You can go down to the water, play games or sports, cycle, return to your room and only plan something away from the property when the family has the energy. This is particularly important with school-age children, who need physical activity but do not always need another paid attraction.

The 2 plus 1 rule

Plan no more than two things on site and one thing away from your accommodation for each day. If the weather worsens or the family's energy levels drop, you remove the off-site item and the day still works.

Mistake 5

Not asking for details about your dog, cot, extra bed and meals

The most expensive surprises are often small: an extra charge here, a restriction there, a lack of information before arrival.

If you are travelling with a dog, baby or larger family, the information "we accept them" is not enough. You need to check the conditions. Can the dog enter the room, where can you walk it, are there weight restrictions, is there an extra charge and must you notify the property in advance?

The same applies to children. An extra bed, cot, additional set of bed linen, advance meal order or special diet may be straightforward, but these things must be arranged before arrival. This helps you avoid discussions at reception when the children are tired after the journey.

A short list of questions

- What is the extra charge for a dog and what are the rules for its stay?
- Is an extra bed or cot available on my dates?
- Do additional meals have to be ordered a day in advance?
- Does the room have a fridge, kettle and private bathroom?

Mistake 6

Not checking the daily schedule

A family trip works when the property's schedule matches your normal day.

For a couple, breakfast time may be a minor detail. For a family with children, it is often the anchor of the day. If breakfast finishes too early, meals must be requested in advance, the beach is far away or there is nothing to do in the evening without a car, parents have to start improvising.

Before booking, ask about specific times and rules. Not because regulations are the most important thing, but because they tell you whether the property suits your routine. Holidays should reduce the burden, not require additional management.

Daily schedule to check

- Breakfast times and the rules for additional meals.
- Distance from the room to the beach or main activities.
- The option to use the equipment without booking in advance.
- Quiet hours, parking, space for a pushchair, bicycles and wet items.

Mistake 7

Sending an overly general enquiry about dates

"Do you have any rooms available?" is not enough. A good email saves several rounds of follow-up questions.

The more precisely you describe your family and expectations, the sooner you will receive a useful answer. The property can then immediately tell you what is available, what is included in the price, what requires an extra charge and whether the dates really suit your plans.

Dear Sir or Madam,

we are planning a family stay in Augustów from [dates]. Our group consists of: [number of adults], [number and ages of children], and optionally [dog / cot / extra bed].

Please could you provide the following information:

1. Which room would be best for a group of this size?
2. What exactly is included in the price of the stay?
3. Are breakfast, parking, the beach, water sports equipment and bicycles included in the price?
4. What extra charges might apply to our family?
5. What can children do on site in good and less favourable weather?
6. What is access to the lake like and are life jackets available?
7. Do additional meals have to be ordered in advance?
8. What is the total amount and what are the earnest-money terms?

Kind regards,
[name]

Checklist

14 things to check off before paying the earnest money

Copy this list into your notes and use it when comparing 2 or 3 properties.

☐ Breakfast included	☐ Parking included
☐ Actual distance to the water	☐ Safe entry into the lake
☐ Life jackets for children	☐ Water sports equipment at no extra charge
☐ Bicycles or activities on site	☐ Plan B for rain
☐ Playground or children's area	☐ Private bathroom
☐ Fridge and kettle in the room	☐ Extra charges for an extra bed and cot
☐ Rules for staying with a dog	☐ Total amount before paying the earnest money

Would you like to check whether VITA is suitable for your dates?

Go to vita.augustow.pl/en/book/ and check availability. If you would prefer to provide details about your family group, write to: biuro@vita.augustow.pl.

VITA mobile number: +48 661 549 377. Landline: +48 87 643 39 67.

VITA Augustów, on Lake Necko. Material prepared to help families planning a holiday in Augustów.