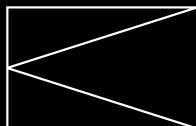


CONTEMPORARY **Kaunas**



From Temporary To Contemporary



Kaunas 2022
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2 p.
Intro to Kaunas

28 p.
Museums

30 p.
Walking trails
through history

34 p.
Interwar signs
in Kaunas

40 p.
Arts and culture

44 p.
Festivals and
events

50 p.
Active tourism

54 p.
Water
attractions

56 p.
Castles and
manors of
Panemunė

61 p.
Kaunas lagoon
regional park

66 p.
Good to know!

WELCOME TO KAUNAS –

the second city of Lithuania, where you will be welcomed by wonderful sights, unique architecture, a wide range of entertainment, and the unique atmosphere of a student-esque city!



Kaunas radiates contemporary European attitude and its vast history. It is strategically the most convenient meeting point in the country! Current architecture, impressive interwar modernism and the old town rooftops all complement each other. It's best to start your trip in the Old Town – enjoyable experiences await!

1. KAUNAS CASTLE

(Pilies g. 17)
www.kaunomuziejus.lt

The castle at the confluence of the Nemunas and Neris rivers was built in the 14th century to defend against the onslaught of crusaders. This is not only one of the first stone castles in Lithuania, but also the only one that has two rows of defensive walls. A settlement that grew into the current city was created around the Gothic defences. Kaunas castle first mentioned in written sources in 1361. According to legend, Queen Bona Sforza's troops mysteriously disappeared in the tunnels underneath. Although it was restored multiple times, the castle lost its importance in 1408 when Kaunas was granted Magdeburg rights and the life of the whole city moved to the Market (Town Hall) Square. The castle was home to a prison in the 16th century and the souls of the prison's inmates have not found peace to this very day, haunting the castle still by night. At present, the castle houses the Museum of Kaunas and annual cultural events are held in and around it.

2. ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR CHURCH AND BERNARDINE MONASTERY

(Papilio g. 7, 9)

This is one of the oldest churches in Kaunas, open since 1503. St. George the Martyr Church was given to the Bernardine monks settled in the city. The church was destroyed by fire and war many times and had to be rebuilt. In 1812 Napoleon's army turned it into a flour warehouse. The last great reconstruction took place in 1936. Later, the Soviet government closed the church and turned it into a warehouse. The Church was returned to the

Bernardine monks in 2005. The church was decorated with baroque wooden installations in the 18th century: a pulpit, organ choir with wooden galleries, and 8 altars. Some of them have survived to this day. The church interior is dominated by Gothic elements and Baroque features. There is an operating monastery on the south side of the church and next to it is the "Domus Pacis" guest house.

3. SANTAKA PARK

(Santakos g.)

What we call the heart of Kaunas. Walking around it you can see how the Nemunas and the Neris rivers converge. Santaka Park has plenty of tourist attractions: the altar that was used to perform pagan rituals, Pope Hill, where Pope John Paul II visited and held holy mass in 1993, a statue of John Paul II, St. George's church and the Bernardine monastery ensemble, Kaunas Castle.

4. KAUNAS TOWN HALL AND SQUARE

(Rotušės a. 15)
www.kaunomuziejus.lt

Kaunas was granted the Magdeburg rights in 1408, which meant the city could have self-government and control of trade. The marketplace and elected government (magistrate) headquarters comprised the nucleus of the city. The main trade route went through the current Town Hall Square; there was a market, too. Merchants' families stayed around this square, building houses and setting up shop. When the city joined the Hanseatic League, the square became even more important because it operated as a commercial centre for the city and the surrounding area. The square is where trade took place, but also served as the venue for publication of magistrate rulings and the pillory to punish offenders. Artwork combining three stlyic periods – Gothic, Renaissance, Classicism – stands at 29 Town Hall Square. There have been various premises in the building: a pharmacy, post office, small workshop, shops, and residential houses. The most important building in the Town Hall Square is Town Hall. Construction began in 1542. The stately building is filled with a Gothic, Baroque, and early classicist spirit; at all,



Vytautas the Great Bridge

slender tower like a swan's neck sprouts in the sky the main facade. Town Hall is often referred to as the White Swan because of its shape and colour. Its 53-meter-high tower is the tallest in the Old Town. The current Town Hall is not the first in Kaunas. The preceding one was destroyed by fire and then rebuilt. Through various centuries, the purpose of the Town Hall changed: this is where the city's markets, fairs, and trials took place; 9 wax melting furnaces, a prison, and warehouses were operated under the Town Hall building cobblestones. Currently, the Town Hall holds ceremonies and official events. At the town hall entrance you can see a unique 15th century wax melting furnace. Kaunas City Museum is located in the Town Hall (www.kaunomuziejus.lt). Its departments accumulate works of city history, science and industry, culture and the arts, and archaeology, as well as audiovisual materials. It is symbolic that the museum unveiled a commemorative plaque to Władysław Starewicz, a puppet animation pioneer, often called the European Walt Disney. Starewicz worked

in the building for a while. A memorial plaque to him is held by insect sculptures depicting the director's three main cartoon characters: a stag-beetle, an ant, and a grasshopper.

5. THE KAUNAS ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH (JESUIT)

(Rotušės a. 8)

The south side of Town Hall Square is dominated by a Baroque Jesuit church with a convent and school buildings on either side. Construction of this late Baroque style, rectangular, two-tower church began in 1666, but it was only consecrated in 1759. The Jesuit monastery terrace operates a viewing platform overlooking the Town Hall Square and the beauty of Old Town. Next to the school in the church in 1819-1823, romantic poet Adomas Mickevičius taught and lived. This is confirmed by a memorial plaque on the school building. At present, the school is a Jesuit Gymnasium.

6. THE HOUSE OF PERKŪNAS

(Aleksoto g. 6)

www.perkunonamas.lt

It is considered to be the only trading post in Lithuania that belonged to the Hanseatic merchants. This is an old monument to original Gothic architecture, built in the second half of the 15th century. It is a stone building with an ornate pediment and a spacious basement. The main facade of the building is decorated with rectangular niches and a decorative solar symbol composed of glazed stones. The real purpose of the house is unknown. Legend has it that a sculpture of the god Perkūnas was discovered in one of the walls here and that priestesses kept an eternal flame lit here. However, researchers have collected a number of items from the house and determined the bust to be purchased from Hanseatic merchants. Probably most homes were built for commercial affairs, and the name of the Perkūnas House was given to it later to point out Kaunas independence from foreign merchants and pay homage to ancient Lithuanian religious - pagan - traditions. The Adomas Mickevičius Museum is also located here; he was one of the most famous romantic poets who lived in Kaunas.

7. THE KAUNAS BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH (AKA THE VYTAUTAS THE GREAT CHURCH)

(Aleksoto g. 3)

This is oldest church in Kaunas, built in 1400. It is the only Gothic-style church with a crossshaped plan in Lithuania. According to historians, the Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas was beaten up in battle with the Tatars at Vorskla and almost drowned in the river. Upon his rescue, to show his gratitude, Vytautas promised the Virgin Mary to build a church on the bank of the river. The church first referred to in documents in 1439, belonged to the Franciscans. The waterfront at the Vytautas church was equipped with a marina so that sailboats could moor, and later steamers. In 1877 a Nemunas water level gauging station was established next to the church. The station meter is installed on a granite wall. Zero altitude is 20.8 meters above sea level.

8. VYTAUTAS THE GREAT BRIDGE

Aka the longest bridge in the world. In order to cross the bridge from one bank of the Nemunas to the other took 13 days, because Kaunas belonged to the Russian Empire and Aleksotas to the Prussian kingdom up to 1807. The different sides of the river had different calendars, which included a 13-day difference. During World War II the bridge was blown up twice, only to be reborn in 1948 (architect Levas Kazarinskis); the bridge retraction mechanism is still of use today. Having crossed the Nemunas you can try the funicular and the climb to the Aleksotas area where you will see a breathtaking panorama of Kaunas.



9. THE ALEKSOTOS FUNICULAR AND OBSERVATION DECK

(Amerikos Lietuviių g. 6)

Kaunas is the only city in the Baltics where you can use this type of transportation. It is one of the oldest funiculars in Europe, in operation since 1935, still used for transport, as well as an attraction. The Aleksotas funicular connects the old part of the city with the Aleksotas hillside overlooking the beautiful panorama of Kaunas Old Town.

10. BENEDICTINE MONASTERY AND ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

(Benediktinių g. 8)

The monastery complex is situated in the northern part of the Old Town in Kaunas, on the Antakalnis hillside. The building complex consists of the church, convent, and rectory. The Gothic church of St. Nicholas was built in the 15th century. In the beginning of the 17th century, nobleman Andriejus Skorulskis of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania appealed to King Zigmantas (Sigismund) III asking the church to donate to the yet-

to-be Kulum Congregation Benedictine monastery. During the 18th century, the Holy Heart of Jesus Brotherhood was founded at the St. Nicholas Church and for some time the monastery operated a school for girls. Until the beginning of the 19th century the monastery was wooden; a stone monastery building was only built in the 19th century. There was a refectory on the first floor, as well as cells and various utility rooms; on the second floor there were more cells. After the closure of the monastery the church was used as a public library books repository in 1948-1990. In 1990 the church was repaired and returned to the faithful; the Congregation of Benedictine Sisters returned to the monastery. The altar of Saint Benedict and three 18th-19th century paintings have survived from the old church facilities.

II. THE KAUNAS ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL

(Vilniaus g. 1)
www.kaunoarkikatedra.lt

This was established by Duke Vytautas the Great in about 1413. In 1430 Vytautas granted funding to the church, providing it with income. Other Grand Dukes of Lithuania also cared for the parish Church: Aleksandras, Žygimantas Senasis, Zigmantas Vaza, Jonas Kazimieras Vaza, and Stanislovas Augustas Poniatovskis. The church was one of the first and oldest brick buildings in Kaunas. Gothic and Renaissance styles dominate the architecture, and in the interior the most prominent is the Baroque layer with historicism (neo-gothic, neo-baroque) and 20th-21st century complements. The Cathedral has nine altars. Especially valuable are the sacristy's first and second floor crystal vaults. This is a late Gothic decorative design, the building of which was the highest testament of mastery to each craftsman who worked on it. This is one of the most extensive vaults in Europe. The western wall contains the grave of Jonas Mačiulis Maironis, priest and poet. Also buried in the cathedral are Žemaitija bishop Motiejus Valančius, as well as the first cardinal of Lithuania, Vincentas Sladkevičius.



The Kaunas St. Peter and St. Paul Cathedral

12. VILNIAUS GATVĖ (VILNIUS STREET)

It is the central and most beautiful street of the Old Town. It is the oldest street in the city, part of the former medieval road to Vilnius. Following reconstruction it became exclusively pedestrian and continues to be the axis of the old town. Many of the buildings on the road were wooden. Later came the red-brick houses of wealthy citizens, some of which have survived to this day.

13. HISTORICAL PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

(Vilniaus g. 33)

www.istorinepresidentura.lt

Construction of the Presidential building began in 1846. When Kaunas became the provisional capital (1919-1939), all the political, economic, and cultural life moved here. All three of the then-presidents of the Republic of Lithuania worked and lived in the Presidential Palace: Antanas Smetona, Aleksandras Stulginskis, and Kazys Grinius. In 1923-1924, during Aleksandras Stulginskis' presidency, the building was renovated. The first floor was turned into a residence for the President's family, central heating was put in, and the second floor gallery was encased in glass. During the presidency of Antanas Smetona, the territory of the Presidential Palace was en-

closed with a new fence, which remains to this day. The first floor premises at the Presidential Palace had been designated for work, and the second floor had two drawing rooms for official receptions. Official government delegation receptions took place in the larger one, such as foreign diplomats presenting letters of credence to the President. Nowadays the Museum of the Historical Presidential Palace in Kaunas is located in this building. Sculptures of the Presidents of the Republic of Lithuania who there worked can be seen in the courtyard.



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14. LAISVĖS ALÉJA (FREEDOM AVENUE)

When you visit Kaunas, you must walk down this important street in Naujamiestis (New Town), Kaunas, which is one of the longest pedestrian streets in Europe. The street is nearly 1.7 kilometers long and points exactly east and west. Walking down Laisvės Aléja you will have the unique opportunity to learn about the unique and plentiful Kaunas interwar modernist architectural heritage, which is a reflection of the intelligentsia, industry, government, and diplomatic institutions that once moved here. To this day, Kaunas remains probably the only city in the world where so many modernist, German Bauhaus style buildings were built and still stand: the Lithuanian Post, Kaunas State Musical Theatre, Bank of Lithuania, and many others. Also on Laisvės Aléja you will see the monument of Vytautas the Great, as well as a sculpture standing near the fountain of Danielius Dolskis, pop song pioneer of the Lithuanian interwar period. The avenue is full of restaurants, cafés, and cosy shops.



15. ST. GERTRUDE CHURCH

(Laisvės al. 101A)
www.gertrudosbaznycia.lt

Built in the second half of the 15th century. This is one of the most exclusive Lithuanian Gothic monuments. The crucifix sculpture, which has long been famous for its graces, is the most valuable sacred thing at the Church of St. Gertrude. Next to the church in the candle shrine donors can light candles that burn for 7 days, during which people pray for each other. It teaches compassion even to complete strangers.

16. KAUNAS STATE PHILHARMONIC

(L. Sapiegos g. 5)
www.kaunofilharmonija.lt

The place was built in 1928. It was designed by the architect Edmundas Frykas. The building is four stories high and is neoclassical style with Art Deco elements. Initially, the building was intended only for the Ministry of Justice, but later they decided to house the Seimas there too. Currently, national professional music culture and traditions are nurtured and developed at the Philharmonic, Lithuanian and foreign music is performed, and the world of musical culture is conveyed creatively.

17. KAUNAS CHORAL SYNAGOGUE

(E. Ožeškienės g. 13)
www.kaunasjews.lt

This is the only surviving synagogue and Jewish prayer house still in operation in Kaunas, built in 1872. The synagogue is called choral, because ceremonies are carried out there accompanied by the choir singing. The reformed choral synagogue is a neo-Baroque building. The interior is decorated in typical Jewish art plant and animal motifs. Kaunas synagogue is one of three currently operating synagogues in Lithuania (the others are in Vilnius and Klaipėda).

18. COURTYARD GALLERY

(E. Ožeškienės g. 21A)

More than a decade ago an artist Vytenis Jakas moved into a house in this courtyard and noticed that neighbours are distant and fail to remember the shared past of the courtyard. V. Jakas started transferring photos of Jewish families that used to live here on building walls and received great support. One by one other objects appear in the courtyard, new artists leave their mark, neighbours' celebrations take place, tourists come round. However, let's not forget that people who live here have the right to peace and quiet.

A photograph of a woman with long, light-colored hair, seen from behind, looking up at a wall covered in a dense collage of various artworks. The wall features numerous portraits, some abstract pieces, and a blue banner with white figures. The overall atmosphere is artistic and eclectic.

COURTYARD GALLERY –
is the only gallery in
Lithuania open 24/7. Exhibits
are being updated
ALL THE TIME!

19. MONUMENT TO VYTAUTAS THE GREAT

(Laisvės al.)

In 1930, to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the death of Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas, a monument was created by sculptor Vincas Grybas. The original soviet era sculpture disappeared. It was never found, so a copy was made. It was erected in 1990. The history of Vytautas the Great is a stunning example of a political career. By the 14th century, Lithuania had already been at war with the Teutonic Order with the support of the whole of Western Europe for one hundred and fifty years; the Crusades were isolating Lithuania from the rest of the Western countries. Jogaila introduced Christianity in Aukštaitija (the Highlands) and began to eliminate the isolation, but turned control of the Lithuanian state over to Poland. In the year 1409, Vytautas the Great finally took back Žemaitija (the Lowlands) from the Teutonic Order, which he later christened. The greatest of Vytautas' merits is considered to be routing the Teutonic Order at the Battle of Žalgiris (Battle of Grunwald) in 1410. Vytautas won global fame as the greatest military leader of a late medieval battle.

20. KAUNAS STATE MUSICAL THEATRE AND THE CITY GARDEN

(Laisvės al. 91)

www.muzikinisteatras.lt

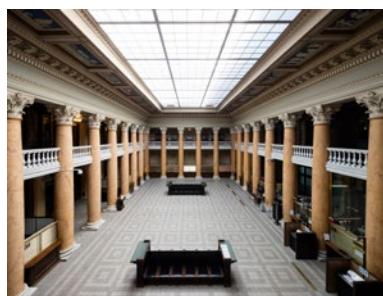
Lithuanian professional theater arts – theatre, opera, and ballet – were born in the hall of the theater and survived there throughout the entire period of independent interwar Lithuania. The first ballet was performed there in 1948 and the first opera in 1951. Next to the musical theatre is the city garden, which is decorated with busts of Lithuanian composers, artists, and singers. There is a monument built in the garden near Laisvės Alėja in honor of Romas Kalanta, known for his public self-immolation protesting Soviet regime in this spot. This act led to demonstrations in the city, people demanded freedom for Lithuania. The monument was unveiled in 2002.

21. KAUNAS STATE DRAMA THEATRE

(Laisvės al. 71)

www.dramosteatras.lt

The first professional stationary drama theatre in Lithuania, called the Drama Vaidykla in 1920-1922. The theatre building became one of the most prominent examples of 20th century socialist realism architecture in Lithuania. It is represented by a monumental and theatrical decorative facade. There are 6 different creative spaces for events at Kaunas Drama Theatre.

**22. CHAMBERS OF THE BANK OF LITHUANIA**

(Maironio g. 25)

www.pinigumuziejus.lt

Designed by the architect Michael Sonagaila in 1924, it is one of the most luxurious and presentable buildings of interwar Lithuania. Classical elements of architecture, expensive materials, and works of art testify to the independent Lithuania's rising ambitions in the young state's economic strength and faith in the country's future. The third floor of the building was Prime Minister Augustinas Voldemaras' apartment with a library, office, formal reception hall and bank keepers' apartments. The purpose of the chambers of the Bank of Lithuania has not changed since their construction to the present day. The chambers also house a functioning monetary museum whose collection consists of exhibits related to the history of money.



Kaunas State Musical Theatre

23. DEVILS MUSEUM

(V. Putvinskio g. 64)

www.ciurlionis.lt

Kaunas is home to the world's only Devils Museum. A collection of more than 3,000 devils is kept here. Museum exhibits come from Armenia, Yakutia, Mexico, Cuba, Ukraine, Japan, and other countries.

24. M. K. ČIURLIONIS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART

(V. Putvinskio g. 55)

www.ciurlionis.lt

M. K. Čiurlionis was a globally recognized Lithuanian painter and composer. His creative period lasted only a little more than a decade, but during this time he managed to create more than 400 works of music and painted more than 300 pictures. The artistic ideas of romanticism, symbolism, and Art Nouveau are interlaced in the works of M. K. Čiurlionis. The museum contains the creative legacy of the most famous Lithuanian composer and painter, M. K. Čiurlionis, Lithuanian folk art and artistic life in Lithuania archives, 15th-20th century Lithuanian fine and applied art, foreign fine and applied art, arts of the ancient world, as well as numismatics. Today,

together with M. K. Čiurlionis museum, the Military Museum is located in the same building, only on the opposite side.

25. THE VYTAUTAS THE GREAT WAR MUSEUM

(K. Donelaičio g. 64)

www.kariuomene.kam.lt

The Military Museum collection consists of archaeological finds, weapons and firearms, ammunition sets, a collection of foreign army uniforms, as well as belongings and documents from the Lituanica flight across the Atlantic. The continuously updated expositions and exhibitions will enable you to get acquainted with Lithuanian and global warfare from ancient times by noting the most important events in history. Construction of the museum began in 1919. At the same time the small garden was planted honouring those who died for Lithuanian independence. You will find a fieldstone monument to those who died for the freedom of Lithuania in this garden. Here stands the altar holding lit the eternal flame, the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, as well as the famous Bernardas Bučas "Séjikas" ("Seeder") sculpture, which seeds the night sky with stars. The "Laisvės" ("Freedom")

monument is the focal point of the garden and a symbol of the city. In the garden of the museum you can hear belfry carillon bells playing thirty-five different concerts and admire the wooden crosses memorializing those who died for the independence of Lithuania (Lithuanian cross crafting is a traditional Lithuanian branch of folk art entered into the UNESCO Humanity's Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritge List in 2001). It features a small book smugglers' garden, the "Knygnešys" ("Book Smuggler") monument and wall in honour of the famous book smugglers.

26. ŽALIAKALNIS FUNICULAR

(Aušros g. 6)
www.kaunoliftai.lt

The funicular is a unique vehicle still used today with working traction, authentic pre-war wagons, wooden benches, and station houses. Even today chairlift funicular raises people up onto the mountain to see best views of the city skyline. You can reach the monumental Resurrection Church from the city centre by taking the Žaliakalnis funicular. This is a sort of short railway with cables equipped on the steep hillside of Žaliakalnis. The funicular railway has been running since 1931, accommodates 36 passengers, and moves 2 m/s. The trip takes 1 minute 38 seconds.

27. MONUMENTAL CHRIST'S RESURRECTION CHURCH

(Žemaičių g. 31B)
www.prisikelimas.lt

When Lithuania regained its independence in 1922, the people of the temporary capital decided to build a church as a symbol of giving thanks to God for the regained freedom. The architect Karolis Reisonas designed the church, and construction began in 1932 funded by donations; but in 1940 the church building was seized. Work was already coming to an end when Lithuania lost its independence, only the interior was yet to be installed and the outside was not plastered. A radio factory mechanical workshop was installed there in 1952. The building was returned to the reli-

gious community in 1989. The church was consecrated just in 2004, 70 years after the beginning of construction.



28. MEMORIAL TO JAN ZWARTENDIJK

(In front of Laisvės al. 29)

In June 2018 on the Freedom Avenue in Kaunas Willem Alexander of the Netherlands, Zwartendijk's children, Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė and a hundred locals and visitors revealed a memorial by Dutch artist Giny Vos. This light installation is a subtle, hanging above the head construction that symbolises hope and lives saved from the holocaust.

29. KAUNAS PICTURE GALLERY

(K. Donelaičio g. 16)
www.ciurlionis.lt

Established in 1979. This place hosts Lithuanian and foreign artists' exhibitions, educational programs, and a variety of artistic projects. Most of the art and iconography exhibition was donated to the city by Prof. Algimantas Miškinis. An interesting highlight of the main hall galleries is the "Juodoji skyle" ("Black Hole") installation by Ay-O, the famous Japanese artist, who dedicated it to his associate Jurgis Mačiūnas (Kaunas-born pioneer of the avant-garde movement).



Monumental Christ's Resurrection Church



The Kaunas Sobor, St. Michael the Archangel (Garrison) Church

30. THE KAUNAS SOBOR, ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL (GARRISON) CHURCH

(Nepriklausomybės a. 14)

A neo-byzantine-style building, standing in the eastern part Laisvės Alėja, was specially designed for the centre of the square. In 1895 Russian Czar Alexander III ordered construction of the Orthodox Cathedral for the Kaunas fortress garrison, as a representational structure, expressing luxury and official status. The Sobor was designed by Russian architects and decorated by Petersburg artists. In 1919 it was transformed into a Catholic St. Michael the Archangel church garrison. In 1965 the church became a stained glass and sculpture gallery. After the restoration of independence, the St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church is now operating again, and once again the once removed crosses are raised high. Church music concerts and performances by actors are often held, and exhibitions are continually on display.

31. MYKOLAS ŽILINSKAS ART GALLERY

(Nepriklausomybės a. 12)

www.ciurlionis.lt

The gallery was built in 1989. The gallery was named after Mykolas Žilinskas, honoring the significant art collector who enriched many Lithuanian art collections. The gallery houses the donated collection of Mykolas Žilinskas, the art he gifted to Kaunas: Ancient Egyptian art, 17t-20th century European decorative-applied art, 17th-18th century Italian paintings, second half of 19th century and 20th century Western European paintings, first half of the 20th century Baltic paintings and sculptures. Petras Mazūras' famous sculpture, "Man", depicting a naked man stands in the gallery courtyard. "Man" is clothed during playful promotions and in particular to keep from freezing in winter. operating again, and once again the once removed crosses are raised high. Church music concerts and performances by actors are often held, and exhibitions are continually on display.

32. GEORGE MAČIŪNAS SQUARE

(Donelaičio g./ Parodos g./ Vytauto pr. junction)

It's the first square in the world where pedestrians can't get to and that isn't even visible to them. This idea was proposed and executed by painter Naglis Rytis Baltušnikas in July 2017. The square is painted in white paint at the foot of Parodos hill where Parodos street, K. Donelaitis street and Vytautas avenue meet. On the road surface a Fluxus Aztec is drawn showing his tongue. This particular place was chosen because Jurgis Mačiūnas lived in the house number 1 on Parodos street when he was a child. He is one of the founders of Fluxus movement so the inaccessible square was named after him.

33. KAUNAS MOSQUE

(Totorių g. 6)

It is the only stone mosque in Lithuania. Historicist forms and oriental motifs highlighting the structure's purpose intertwine in the compact, low-volume mosque. The silhouette of the building forms typical architectural features of mosques, i.e. an elliptical dome and tall slimming square tower, or minaret. The Kaunas mosque has only one entrance, but two floors, the second of which is a spacious balcony for women. Men pray on the first floor.

34. SUGIHARA HOUSE

(Vaižganto g. 30, 3.2 km from the city centre)

www.sugiharahouse.com

Established in 1999. This was set up through the efforts of Lithuanian and Belgian intellectuals and businessmen to commemorate the Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara. The Japanese Consulate operated in the building in 1939-1940. Chiune Sugihara became famous when he saved the lives of ten thousand Lithuanian, Polish, and German Jews during World War II. He issued them lifelong visas to Japan without official Japanese government approval.

35. OAK GROVE

(Sporto g., 3.6 km from the city centre)

The Kaunas Oak Grove is the largest in Europe. Its total area is 84.42 ha. Here you can see the "Stumbras" ("Bison") sculpture, walk through the valley of the poet Adomas Mickevičius, admire the monument to the legendary flight of the Lithuanian pilots Darius Steponas and Stasys Girėnas, as well as visit the "Dainų slėnis" ("Valley of Songs"). The Oak Grove is a popular place for walks and athletics.

36. BOTANICAL GARDEN OF VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY

(Ž. E. Žilibero g. 6, 5 km from the city centre) www.botanika.vdu.lt

You can see the most diverse plant collections set up in the garden first planted in 1923. Lithuania's largest conservatory, a unique beauty of a mature park with ponds and romantic bridges, the historic High Freda estate environment provides an excellent space for recreation.

37. STUMBRAS MUSEUM

(K. Bügös g. 7, 3.2 km from the city centre)

This is a unique opportunity for you to get acquainted with the history and evolution of the emergence of Lithuanian alcohol production, as well as the subtleties of tasting and the rules. The equipment used for the production process, the labels, packaging, and the process of how Stumbras is produced and bottled today are all presented here.

38. KAUNAS FORTS

(IX fort: Žemaičių pl. 73, 7 km from the city centre) www.9fortomuziejus.lt

(VII fort: Archyvo g. 61, 3 km from the city centre) www.septintasfortas.lt

(VI fort: K. Baršausko g., 7 km from the city centre) www.atfort kaunas.lt

On the eve of the First World War, Kaunas was surrounded by nine forts, batteries, and other defensive fortifications there. The Kaunas fortress reflects the era's engineering solutions and building opportunities. The Seventh and Ninth forts have been adapted for visitors. They feature museums that present the history of the fortifications.



It is an absolute must to go to a Žalgiris basketball match! Feel the real emotions, the tears of joy and the love of supporters. 'Žalia balta žalia balta' (green white green white) is all you need to know.

39. ŽALGIRIO ARENA

(Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50)

www.zalgirioarena.lt

In 2011 Žalgiris arena in Kaunas was opened – it is the biggest multifunctional arena in the Baltic states that can accommodate up to 17 500 people. Various events are held here: from basketball, handball, volleyball, indoor football, body-building, figure skating competitions to concerts, theatre performances, film festivals, exhibitions and private events. There's also a cosy restaurant Sala. Žalgiris arena is the home arena of Kaunas Žalgiris basketball team which is the most beloved in Kaunas and the most accomplished in Lithuania as well as a team that takes part in the highest level European championship. For those, who want to find out more about arena's architectural solutions, Žalgiris history, basketball and fans, excursions are organised.

40. PAŽAISLIS (ST. VIRGIN MARY'S VISIT TO ELIZABETH CHURCH AND CAMALDOLESE ABBEY BUILDINGS) ENSEMBLE(T. Masiulio g. 31, 11 km from the city centre) www.pazaislis.org

This is one of the most beautiful baroque ensembles in Lithuania. It was built in the 17th century for the Camaldoles Monastery under the supervision of craftsmen from Florence (Michelangelo Palloni, Joan Merli, Pietro Perti). The beauty of the monastery was well-known in Europe. Swedish king Charles XII, as well as the Russian Emperors Alexander I and Nicholas I visited the monastery. International Pažaislis music festivals take place here every summer since 1996. In the southern part of the complex is a monastery officina where you will find an open sacred Pažaislis monastery ensemble museum, and next to it a unique hospitality complex is situated in "Monte Pacis", where you can taste historic monastic dishes with modern interpretations.



Pažaislis ensemble



Lithuanian Folk Museum

41. BIRŠTONAS RESORT

(Birštonas, 46 km from Kaunas city centre)

Birštonas is one of the oldest and the most beautiful resorts for balneotherapy in Lithuania which is also famous for its royal roots. The resort is rich in natural resources – gushing mineral springs, therapeutic mud, fresh air and favourable climate. There are spas, cosy hotels and restaurants.

42. LITHUANIAN FOLK MUSEUM

(L. Lekavičiaus g. 2, Rumšiskės,
Kaišiadorių r., 27 km from Kaunas city centre)
www.llbm.lt

At the Lithuanian Folk Museum, located in the open air Rumsiskes, you will find an exposition of 17th-20th century villages, towns, and estates buildings. Typical residential and outbuilding materials have been carried over from all regions of the country to the 174 hectare territory to rebuild historically based farmsteads and village facilities with

their characteristic small architecture, as well as plantations. The buildings reveal typical stylistic features, planning, construction, and decor items of different periods and social strata. Farmsteads are grouped into five sectors according to ethnic region: Žemaitija, Aukštaitija, Dzūkija, Suvalkija, and Mažoji Lietuva (Lithuania Minor). The most typical regional villages and farmstead types have been rebuilt. That is all of Lithuania in one place. From May to September you can even reach the museum by boat.

KAUNAS DISTRICT**43. RAUDONDVARIS MANOR ENSEMBLE**

(Pilies takas 1, Raudondvaris, Kauno r., 9 km from Kaunas city centre)
www.raudondvariodvaras.lt

Located just nine kilometres from Kaunas and situated above the river Nevėžis is the Raudondvaris manor architectural ensemble, the palace and other residential, outbuildings and a park. The officines, orangery, the stables and an ice-cream parlour within the vicinity of the manor which immediately attract every visitor's attention. In the period from the end of the 16th century until the beginning of the 20th century the manor was owned, managed and elaborated upon by noble families of Dzievaltauikiai, Kosakovskiai, Radvilos, Vorlovskiai, Zabieliš and Tiškevičiai. Currently the manor building accommodates rooms and halls used for high-profile events, concerts, celebrations and marriage ceremonies. The Northern section of the manor houses the Kaunas Region Museum, where the former ice cream parlour has been turned into the Kaunas district tourism and business information centre, and the restored stables were adjusted for art incubator activities next to the restaurant opened in the former orangery.

44. ŽEMAITKIEMIS – BABTYNAS MANOR

(Žemaitkiemio k., Kauno r., 34 km from Kaunas city centre)
www.senasdvaras.lt

The right bank of the Nevėžis opens a view to the white roofs of the Žemaitkiemis - Babtynas manor. The manor was established in the 16th c. by the Siukštis family. In the inter-war period, the manor was purchased by the general Vladas Nagevičius. In 1999, a businessman, Mindaugas Šventoraitis purchased the manor and started reviving this precious art and culture centre. In addition to restoring the buildings the project included the replanting of greenery, flower gardens, and the wayside shrines that had once marked the corners of the manor's territory. Nowa-

days the manor is a venue for elite art events – concerts of the Pažaislis music festivals, and art planers. The manor is famous for its collections of vintage transport collections.

45. THE OLD ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH

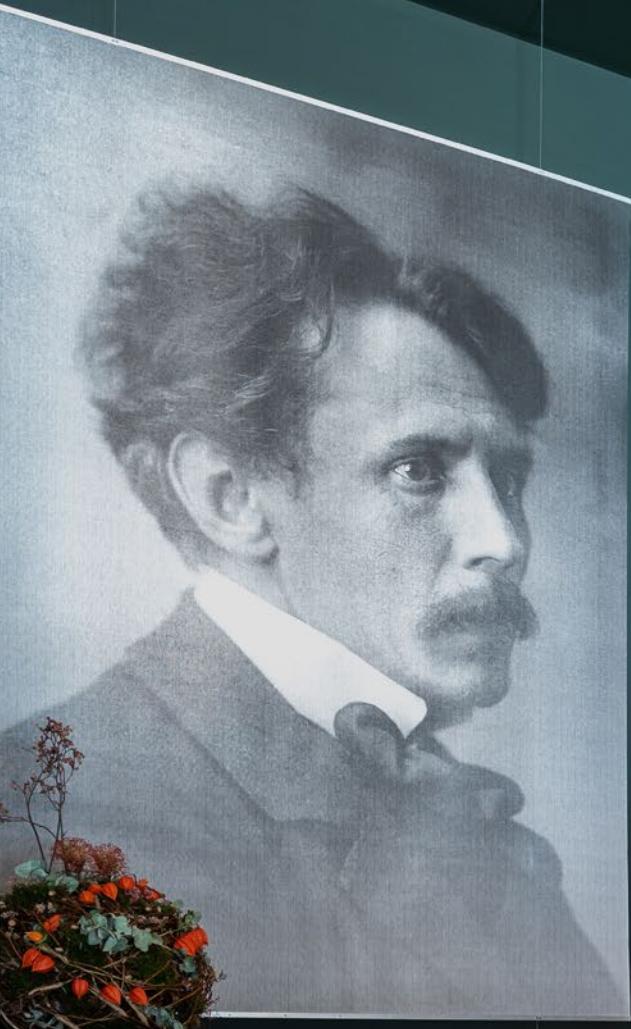
(Muziejaus g. 1, Zapyškis, Kauno r., 20 km from Kaunas city centre)

In 1578, a voivoda Povilas Sapiega, at the time the owner of large areas of land and woods, then built a church at his manor in Sapiegiškis that was later renamed "Zapyškis". The church today is one of the oldest brick buildings in Lithuania, a unique structure, built in bricks by local workers, a specimen of the second half of the 16th century gothic architecture. Since the beginning of the 20th century the church has not been used for worship services. In 2002, the church was assigned the status of a monument of culture. In the past year the church became one of art and culture centres.

46. TADAS IVANAUSKAS FARMSTEAD IN OBELYNĖ

(Obelynės g. 8, Akademija, Kauno r., 9 km from Kaunas city centre)

Obelynė Park – a botanical park established by naturalist and Professor Tadas Ivanauskas in his farmstead Akademija in the Kaunas district. In 1920, Prof. Ivanauskas purchased 8 ha land plot from the former Marva manor, built a residential house and other structures and established there the Obelynės botanical garden. The name of the garden was derived from the wild apple trees and hawthorns abundantly flowering in the slopes. Obelynės Park covers a territory of about 6.5 ha. The plant collection in the park counts more than 300 species and forms of trees and bushes. The Obelynė Park is proud of one of the oldest trees on the planet – a Ginkgo biloba, and a dawn redwood growing in the park since 1959.



Pasauli vaizduojos kaip didelė simfonija...

M.K. Čiurlionis

M. K. Čiurlionis National
Museum of Art is the only
place in the world that olds
almost the whole collection
of Lithuanian composer
and painter M. K. Čiurlionis
works.



Kaunas City Museum, Folk Music branch

When traveling in Kaunas, visit at least a few museums. Besides the permanent expositions you will also see continually changing exhibitions. History, art, memorial, and other sorts of museums all make it possible to get acquainted with the city and region's culture and history, broaden your horizons, and have a good time!

MUSEUMS IN KAUNAS:

1. National M. K. Čiurlionis Art Museum (V. Putvinskio g. 55) and its subdivisions:

2. Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery (Nepriklausomybės a. 12)

3. Kaunas Picture Gallery (K. Donelaičio g. 16)

4. Devils Museum (V. Putvinskio g. 64)

5. Historical Presidential Palace (Vilniaus g. 33)

6. The home of Adelė and Paulius Galaunės (Vydūno al. 2)

7. Liudas Truikys and Marijona Rakauskaitė Museum (E. Fryko g. 14)

8. Juozas Zikaras House and Museum (J. Zikaro g. 3) www.ciurlionis.lt

9. Kaunas City Museum (Rotušės a. 15) and its branches:

10. Kaunas Castle (Pilies g. 17)

11. Mikas and Kipras Petrauskas House (K. Petrausko g. 31)

12. Juozas Gruodis House (Salako g. 18)

13. Folk Music branch (L. Zamenhofo g. 12) www.kaunomuziejus.lt

14. Maironis Lithuanian Literature Museum (Rotušės a. 13) and its subdivisions:

15. Balys and Vanda Sruogos House-Museum (B. Sruogos g. 21)

16. Juozas Grušas Memorial Museum (Kalniečių g. 93)

17. Juozas Tumas-Vaižgantas Memorial Museum (Aleksoto g. 10-4)

18. Salomėja Nėris Memorial Museum (S. Nėries g. 7)

19. Museum of Children's Literature (K. Donelaičio g. 13) www.maironiomuziejus.lt

20. Vytautas the Great War Museum (K. Donelaičio g. 64) and its subdivisions:

21. Underground "AB" Printing House (Salių k., Domeikavos sen., Kauno r.) www.kariuomene.kam.lt

22. Kaunas District Museum (Pilies takas 1, Raudondvaris, Kauno r.) and its subdivisions:

23. Traditional Crafts Centre (Raguvo g. 66, Biliūnų k., Kauno r.)

24. A. and J. Juškai Ethnic Culture Museum (Kauno Mažoji g. 2, Vilkija, Kauno r.)

25. Babtai Ethnography Museum (Nevėžio g. 3, Babtai, Kauno r.)

26. Tadas Ivanauskas farmstead in Obelynė (Obelynės g. 8, Akademija, Kauno r.) www.krmuziejus.lt

27. Seventh Fort of the Kaunas Fortress (Archyvo g. 61) www.septintasfortas.lt

28. Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum (Žemaičių pl. 73) www.9fortomuziejus.lt

29. Kaunas Tadas Ivanauskas Museum of Zoology (Laisvės al. 106) www.zoomuziejus.lt

30. Lithuanian Aviation Museum (Veiverių g. 132) www.lam.lt

31. Museum of the History of Lithuanian Education (Vytauto pr. 52) www.lsim.lt

32. The House of Perkūnas (Aleksoto g. 6) www.perkunonamas.lt

33. Dažaislis Monastery Museum Exposition (T. Masiulio g. 31) www.pazaislis.org

34. Sugihara House (Vaižganto g. 30) www.sugiharahouse.com

35. Stumbras Museum (K. Būgos g. 7)

36. Atomic Bunker (Raudondvario pl. 164A) www.atominisbunkeris.lt

37. Jewellery (Gemmology) Museum (Kurpių g. 13) www.dusafyrai.com

38. Museum of the History of Lithuanian Medicine and Pharmacy (Rotušės a. 28) www.lsmuni.lt

39. Museum of Historical, Military Technology (S. Dariaus ir S. Girėno g. 29A) www.transportomuziejus.lt

40. Valdas Adamkus Presidential Library-Museum (S. Daukanto g. 25) www.adamkuslibrary.lt

41. The Kaunas Archdiocese Museum (M. Valančiaus g. 6) www.kaunoarkivyskupija.lt/kam

42. The Kaunas Puppet Theatre Museum (Laisvės al. 87A) www.kaunoleles.lt

43. Lithuanian Sports Museum (Muziejaus g. 7, 9) www.lietuovosportomuziejus.lt



Kaunas is the only Lithuanian town which became a member of the Hanseatic League in 1441. Every year we remember this event in a town celebration Kaunas Hansa Days.

The settlement of the Nemunas and Neris rivers, from which Kaunas arose, was first mentioned in 1361. Then they built the castle here to defend against the attacks of the Teutonic Order, which turned out to be vital not only for the city but also for all of Lithuania.

Historians believe that early as 1408 Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas granted Kaunas Magdeburg rights. It was on the basis of these rights that the city formed its first council, a privilege which was later confirmed by all of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania. A favourable geographical location played a significant role in the growth of Kaunas, as well as the waterways, Nemunas and Neris, which allowed the city merchants to gradually enter into trade with Danzig, Toruń, and Königsberg. From the 15th century Kaunas had customs authorities that regulated all national trade over water and land routes with neighbouring Prussia. Kaunas experienced an economic boom in the 16th century. The first school, hospital-shelter and a pharmacy, and craftsmen workshops were launched here. An abundance of brick buildings in Kaunas distinguished it from most of the other cities in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania at the end of century. In the first half of the 17th century it was surrounded by a stone wall. Still, there were the mid-17th century wars and the six-year Russian czarist military occupation (1655–1661), because of which many of the towns people were forced to flee to Prussia, and during which a fever epidemic struck a huge blow to the welfare of Kaunas. The recovering Kaunas was once again smacked down by the Northern War (1700–1721). In 1732 a great fire ravaged the city. Urban development was slowed by political turmoil in the state and the frequent presence of the Russian imperial army crew (1734, 1735, 1748, and 1767–1775).

A flourishing town

You could see signs of the city's recovery seen in the second half of the 18th century. It continued through the 1732 fire that severely affected the parish church

reconstruction, complete Town Hall reconstruction in 1781, Guest house was built in 1786, which can be called and the first hotel in the city, the city buildings were numbered in 1792, and bridges were built over the Nemunas and Neris in 1794.

Unrest continues

Kaunas fell to Czarist Russia after the third division of Lithuania and Poland in 1795. In 1801 another great fire ravaged the city. Kaunas found itself in the midst of the Franco-Russian War of 1812. The French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte himself moved his hundreds-of-thousands-strong Grand Army over the Nemunas near the city. Kaunas was the first city occupied by the French imperial army in this war. It was devastated twice during the war when the Grand Army marched into town and during their retreat.

Towards a modern city

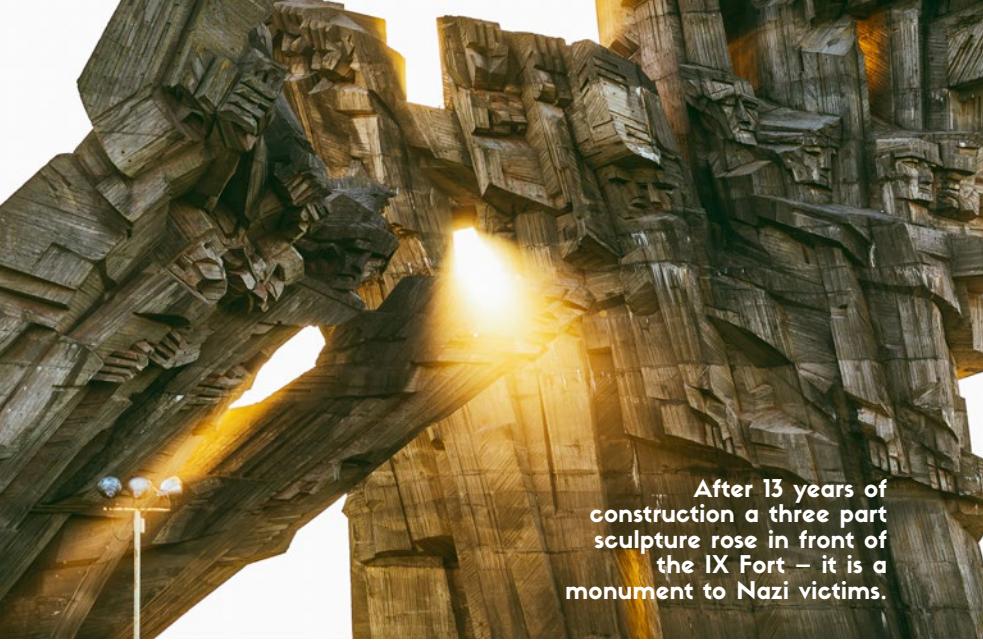
In 1843 Kaunas became the centre of the newly established province. Nicholas Avenue started to turn into a boulevard in 1847 (what is now Laisvės Alėja). A railway line built, as well as the first modern railway bridge over the Nemunas in 1862, and the first power plant was launched in 1898. The Czarist government resolution regarding transfer of the Žemaičiai (Telšiai) Bishopric centre from Varniai to Kaunas in 1864 brightened the city's cultural life. Kaunas amateur Reading Society was founded in 1870, which established the first public library in the city, but any proactive cultural expression was affected by Russian policies, which inhibited any national activities. Kaunas was awarded Class I fortress status by the Russian imperial border military in 1879. From 1882 until the First World War Kaunas was surrounded by fortifications, forts, and a ring of batteries (an orthodox church and military garrison sobor devoted to the Russian soldiers in Kaunas was built in 1895). The Konke horse-drawn tram began operating under contract with Swiss engineer Diuponu in Kaunas in 1892, a line stretching from the Town Hall Square to the railway station. A 500 person occupancy city theatre was also built that same year.

Kaunas – the temporary capital of Lithuania

During the First World War, Kaunas was occupied by Germans in 1915-1918. After the First World War, Lithuania began to build the Republic and because Vilnius was occupied by the Russians (1919), the State Council and the Cabinet of Ministers were established in Kaunas. When Vilnius was occupied by Poland, Kaunas became the temporary capital and most important city of Lithuania in 1920. The same year came the Constituent Assembly met and laid the legal foundations for restored state. Kaunas remained the temporary capital until 1939. Having become the political, cultural, and economic centre of the country, Kaunas came to life a little, taking on modernity and Europeanism in the interwar period. The city was decorated by new buildings (Kaunas interwar architecture), the old ones were renovated, and bridges were built. Buses started running in 1929. The city began to operate the Žaliakalnis and Aleksotas funiculars improving transportation connections in 1931 and 1935. The opera theatre opened in 1920. Two years later the national theatre opened. Also in 1922 the University of Lithuania was established, which was renamed Vytautas Magnus University in 1930. The first national Olympiad took place in Kaunas in 1938, and the European basketball championship was organized in 1939, for which a sports hall accommodating five thousand people was built. The Russian army occupied Lithuania in June 1940. During the Second World War, the Soviet army occupied Kaunas in 1944. The second Soviet occupation began. After the restoration of Lithuania's independence in 1990, Kaunas opened up for development and cooperation opportunities with foreign cities.

THE HISTORY OF KAUNAS FORTRESS

Two of the largest Lithuanian rivers are situated in Kaunas; they have long played an important role in defence. The exceptional strategic position of this place was appreciated by Russians taking over Lithuanian lands as far back as 1795. Ever deteriorating relations with neighbours forced us to consider strengthening our western border. Czar Alexander II signed a decree on the construction of the Kaunas fortress in 1879, and by February 1880 long-term fortification plans were drawn up. The city was surrounded by 7 forts and a stationary ring of 12 batteries. Two years later, 24 April 1882, Kaunas fortress construction officially began. The forts were built in several stages: first a road was laid to the fortification the location where the work was to be carried out, including building barracks, gunpowder warehouses, and other facilities. Construction of one fort took about 3-5 years. In addition to the forts and batteries, construction of central fortifications and the central warehouses on both banks of the Nemunas began in 1885. Outside the ring of forts, the fortress infrastructure was built: commandant headquarters, intendant office, main headquarters, board of engineers and engineering headquarters, residential houses of officials and construction workers, telephone-telegraph, electricity, water supply stations, military, railway stations, elevators, mill, grain storage, war pigeons station, fire station, and harbours. Military towns grew in Žemėjai Šančiai and Aukštöji Panemunė. Soldiers' spiritual affairs were not forgotten: the Saints Peter and Paul Sobor was built in 1891-1895. Construction of the eighth fort began the right bank of the Neris River in 1889. The newest and most modern ninth fort arose in the highlands northwest of Kaunas in 1903-1913. This is the first and only surviving fort of the Kaunas Fortress; they used masonry concrete for its construction. The plan to reinforce the fortress was approved 23 April 1913. It provides for the construction of an additional 12 forts



After 13 years of construction a three part sculpture rose in front of the IX Fort – it is a monument to Nazi victims.

and 12 base stations forming a second, larger, 47.17 km long fortification ring around the city. All work stopped on 28 July 1914, with the beginning of the First World War. Before the war, there was enough time to fully complete the construction of nine forts and ten batteries. The Russian Empire's 1st class terrestrial Kaunas Fortress was occupied by Germany on 18 August 1915.

Forts today

Since the end of the war and the restoration of Lithuania's independence, Kaunas Fortress has never again been used for its original purpose. The administrative buildings of Kaunas Fortress were taken over by Lithuanian state institutions and used for various other purposes: a prison, warehouses, archives, residents of apartments, etc. During World War II Lithuania was occupied by Nazi Germany, and the fourth, seventh, and ninth forts were used for the mass murder of civilians. Today Kaunas residents and guests are invited to get acquainted with these massive objects of defence – the Kaunas Fortress – as well as the history

of the seventh and ninth forts and the museums operating there.

Seventh Fort Museum

Archyvo g. 61
www.septintasfortas.lt

Ninth Fort Museum

Žemaičių pl. 73
www.fortomuziejus.lt

Kaunas Fortress Park

www.atfort kaunas.lt



The unique modernist architecture of Kaunas (1919–1940) got the European Heritage Label in 2015. European Heritage Label is a European Union initiative that seeks to hallmark the historical and cultural heritage sites and their importance to Europe and European Union's creation.

EUROPE STARTS IN
KAUNAS OF 1919-1940



The interwar architecture is a Kaunas city icon. The city became Lithuania's centre in the first part of the twentieth century and is still modern and forward-thinking.

After the First World War, with the restoration of Lithuania's statehood, and due to other historical circumstances, namely the Polish army occupied the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius and the eastern part of the country, Kaunas became the most important city in Lithuania. Public authorities and the intelligentsia rallied in Kaunas. Industry began to develop. Kaunas took over the helm of the national capital and became a modern symbol of independent Lithuania. Thankful circumstances also contributed to this: society was ready for change; the city needed various buildings, but they could only be designed by talented, gifted, learned architects who had studied abroad and brought their knowledge back to Lithuania to put to work. In carrying out the functions of the state capital in the first half of the 20th century, Kaunas suddenly acquired a unique significance on the map of Europe. The architects of our young state harmoniously integrated into the European context by developing an advanced city. Individual buildings, neighbourhoods, and complexes had a major impact on the entire city image emerging in the temporary capital. Kaunas became the centre of science, culture, and education: institutions such as the University of Lithuania, the Art School, higher education physical education courses, theatres, opera houses, the radio, the Military Museum, and the astronomical observatory were established. Industry developed rapidly in Kaunas, there was an active European lifestyle about, and great attention was paid to culture and sport. In this regard, the sports hall was built in 1939, where the Lithuanian men's basketball team won the European Championship title for the second time, as if hanging a wreath around the neck of Kaunas. This transformation of Kaunas into a European city left a significant mark in later Lithuanian state development: due to the country's willingness to fight for freedom, break out of the Soviet occupation, the city formed a

mental identity and a physical face. This is only the second architectural period (not counting baroque) when Lithuanian architecture went hand in hand with the whole of Europe. An abundant Kaunas interwar architecture accumulated over 20 years, its dense concentration in the city is a unique phenomenon in Europe; in the context of international modernism it reflects both the then Bauhaus style trends and unique style of Lithuanian nationalism which distinguishes a modern, highquality Kaunas interwar architecture from the European mainstream. Kaunas is the only city in the world where so much of the style of the buildings has survived to the present day.

INTERWAR BUILDINGS:

- 1. Kaunas Central Post Office**
(Laisvės al. 102)
- 2. Kaunas State Musical Theatre**
(Laisvės al. 91)
- 3. Kaunas City Municipal Building (the former Savings Bank)**
(Laisvės al. 96)
- 4. Kaunas State Philharmonic (formerly the Ministry of Justice and Seimas (Parliament) Building)**
(L. Sapiegos g. 5)
- 5. Chambers of the Bank of Lithuania**
(Maironio g. 25)
- 6. The complex of buildings on V. Putvinskio street**
(V. Putvinskio g. 52, 54, 56, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72)
- 7. M. K. Čiurlionis National Art Museum and The Vytautas the Great War Museum**
(V. Putvinskio g. 55)
- 8. Žaliakalnis Funicular**
(Aušros g. 6)
- 9. Jesus Christ's Resurrection Basilica in Kaunas**
(Žemaičių g. 31)
- 10. Jonas Jablonskis High School (formerly an elementary school)**
(Aušros g. 3)

- 11. The Former Headquarters of the Pienocentras Company**
(Laisvės al. 55/S. Daukanto g. 18)
- 12. The Former Office of Pažanga AB** (Laisvės al. 53)
- 13. Romuva Movie Theatre**
(Laisvės al. 54)
- 14. Officers club**
(A. Mickevičiaus g. 19)
- 15. The Jonas and Gediminas Lapėnas Apartment Building**
(Kęstučio g. 38)
- 16. Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Medical Academy**
(A. Mickevičiaus g. 9)
- 17. Jonas Basanavičius, MD, Military Medical Service**
(Vytauto pr. 49)



- 18. The Kaunas Children's Recreation Centre (formerly the Neo-Lithuania Centre)**
(Parodos g. 26)
- 19. Lithuanian Academy of Physical Education**
(Sporto g. 6)
- 20. Sports Hall**
(Perkūno al. 5)
- 21. Kaunas City Museum, Mikas and Kipras Petrauskas House**
(K. Petrausko g. 31)



WOODEN ARCHITECTURE IN KAUNAS

The tradition of wood construction was widespread in Lithuania. Many old rural homes and wooden church have been studied. Trees were a popular building material in interwar Kaunas because masonry construction costs were too high for many home owners. Today the wooden architecture of the city is perceived as an aesthetic and ethical value. Wooden architecture experts see the value of the houses; they discover it on the educational tours of Žaliakalnis, Panemunė, Šančiai, and Vilijampolė as well. For heritage lovers, the intrinsic value of wooden houses is indisputable. Without these houses the city would lose a very important part of its cultural identity. Unfortunately, only a small portion of the inter-war wooden houses passed the test of time and resisted the social and economic temptations, but they keep alive the interwar Kaunas suburban spirit.

- 22. Architect Antanas Jokimas Villa** (Minties Rato g. 2)
- 23. Soldier Antanas Gedmantas House** (Žemuogių g. 2)
- 24. Composer Juozas Gruodis Villa** (Salako g. 18)
- 25. Entrepreneur Pranas Urbonas Villa** (Žemaičių g. 20)
- 26. Construction technician Jonas Varneckis Villa** (Sietyno g. 17)
- 27. Juozas and Stasė Geniušas Villa** (Tulpių g. 21)
- 28. Barbora and Kazys Zukauskas Villa** (A. Smetonos al. 81)
- 29. Educator Jonas Dereškevičius House** (Minties Rato g. 24)
- 30. General-doctor Pranas Vaiciuška Villa** (J. Janonio g. 46, Kačerginė, Kauno r.)
- 31. Engineer Viktoras Rēklaitis Villa** (Janonio g. 86, Kačerginė, Kauno r.)
- 32. Writer Pranas Mašiotas House** (Janonio g. 38, Kačerginė, Kauno r.)



Lithuania Presidential Palace

Historical circumstances led to the 1919-1940 period being named the era of diplomacy in Kaunas.

Thanks to historical circumstances, Kaunas became the temporary capital of the reborn State of Lithuania (1918). Lithuania took the first steps to nationhood there: the country's most important institutions and foreign diplomatic missions were founded. Kaunas was never officially ratified in writing as the temporary capital. In diplomatic terms, Kaunas became the de facto capital of Lithuania when the provisional government moved to here from Vilnius on 2 January 1919. That same year, the central street of the town was renamed Laisvės Alėja (Freedom Avenue), and a street abutting it in honor of February 16th. And the streets still have those names today. The first president in the history of Lithuania was elected in Kaunas. On 4 April 1919, in Kaunas, the Council of Lithuania elected Antanas Smetona. The Constituent Assem-

bly of Lithuania gathered in the capital, Kaunas, for its first meeting on 15 May 1920, in the State Theatre, the current Musical Theater. The country's most important institutions operated in Kaunas, among them the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which had a critical challenge to establish diplomatic relations with foreign countries and represent Lithuania in the international arena. Diplomatic missions gradually began to settle here. First of all the diplomatic missions of the great powers visited Kaunas – the US, Britain, and France – and later permanent embassies and consulates of these and other countries settled in. These government agencies and foreign representative offices operated in Kaunas in 1939:

1. Lithuania Presidential Palace
(Vilniaus g. 33)

2. Lithuanian Seimas Chambers
(Gimnazijos g. 3)

3. Former Ministers Cabinet of the Lithuanian Republic
(K. Donelaičio g. 58)

4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1919-1922) (Maironio g. 27)

5. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1922-1935) (S. Daukanto g. 25)

6. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1935-1940)
(Corner of K. Donelaičio g./ Vienybės a.)

7. United States Consulate and Embassy (V. Putvinskio g. 68)

8. Czechoslovak Embassy and the Argentine Consulate
(V. Putvinskio g. 60)

9. Swedish Consul General
(V. Putvinskio g. 60)

10. Papal Nunciature Building
(V. Putvinskio g. 56)

11. Honorary Consulate of Hungary
(V. Putvinskio g. 54)

16. Polish Embassy
(Kęstučio g. 38)

17. British Embassy and Consulate
(Kęstučio g. 29)

18. Finnish Consulate
(Kęstučio g. 8)

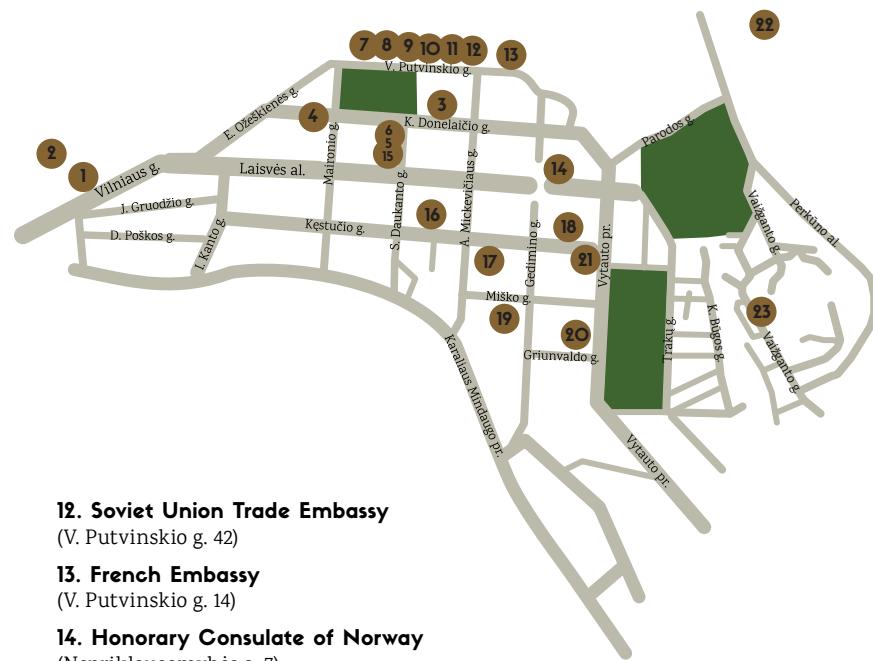
19. German Embassy
(Gedimino g. 19)

20. Danish Embassy
(Vytauto pr. 55/Griunvaldo g. 2)

21. Latvian Embassy
(Vytauto pr./Kęstučio g.)

22. Italian Embassy
(Vydūno al. 13)

23. Japanese Consulate
(Vaižganto g. 30)



12. Soviet Union Trade Embassy
(V. Putvinskio g. 42)

13. French Embassy
(V. Putvinskio g. 14)

14. Honorary Consulate of Norway
(Nepriklausomybės a. 7)

15. Metropolis Hotel
(S. Daukanto g. 21)



More than 6000 buildings in Kaunas embody the spirit of interwar modernism. Unique historical windows and other small architectural details catch the eye of every passerby.

KAUNAS – UNESCO DESIGN CITY

Launched in 2004, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) aims to strengthen cooperation with and among cities that have recognized creativity as a strategic factor of sustainable development as regards economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects. By joining the Network, cities acknowledge their commitment to sharing best practices, developing partnerships that promote creativity and the cultural industries, strengthening participation in cultural life and integrating culture in urban development plans. The UNESCO Creative Cities Network covers seven Creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Design, Film, astronomy, Literature, Media Arts and Music. In December, 2015 Kaunas has joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and became the first city in Eastern and Western European countries that received the Design City Status.

Cities of Design Network

Design network includes such cities throughout the world, as Montreal (Canada), Kobe (Japan), Helsinki (Finland), Detroit (USA), Bilbao (Spain), Singapore (Singapore), Berlin (Germany), Bandung (Indonesia), Puebla (Mexico), Budapest (Hungary), Curitiba (Brazil), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Shanghai (China), Nagoya (Japan), Seoul (South Korea), Saint-Étienne (France), Dundee (Scotland), Torino (Italy), and Graz (Austria).



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



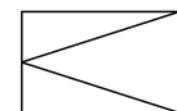
Designated
UNESCO Creative City
in 2015

KAUNAS – THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2022

The European Capital of Culture project travelling from country to country, and from one city to another will in 2022 make a stop in Kaunas – a city of excellent culture infrastructure and a well-developed network of international partnerships.

Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022 starts now! Starting from today we are changing the TEMPORARY capital to the CONTEMPORARY one. If we want to be CONTEMPORARY, we need to overcome the confusion of our fragmented history and censored mentality, thus understanding that we live not only at the confluence of two largest rivers in the country, but also at the junction of sometimes very different and sometimes even conflicting personalities and ideas. We ultimately have to develop our consciousness so that we can pave the way to a more successful community in the map of Europe. To us CONTEMPORARY means our connection with the entirety of Europe, and the creation of the new content our city, country and Europe. Time to log-in and establish a KAUNTact!

www.kaunas2022.eu
#kaunas2022

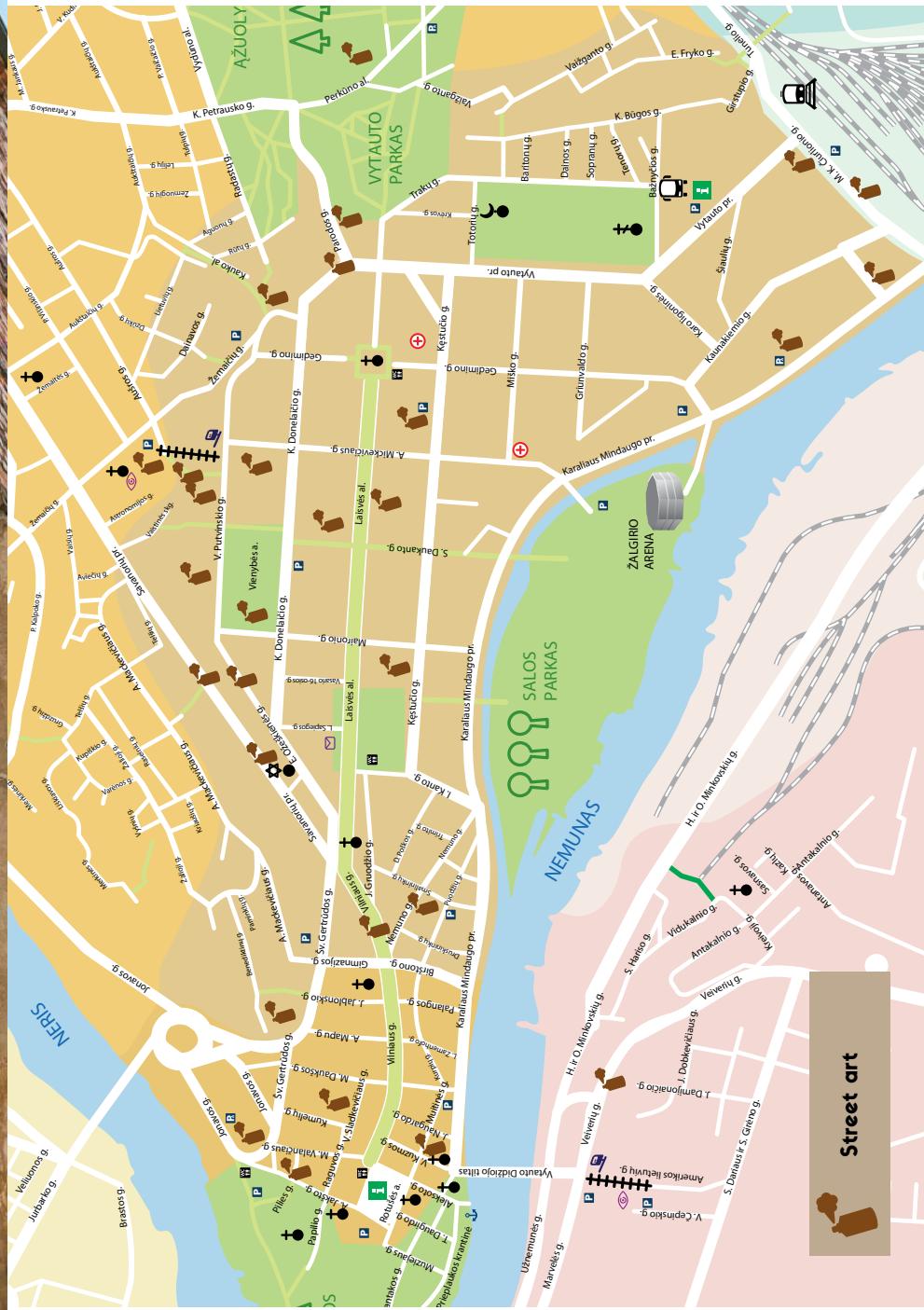


**Kaunas 2022
Contemporary
Capital**

European Capital of Culture



Professional artists do murals on the walls of Kaunas buildings in order to colour the city and make the public spaces more lively. The ideas for drawings come while thinking about the location, the life of the community and the current affairs. These creations are new attractions in Kaunas and live and memorable city signposts.





Kaunas is a city surrounded by an exclusive aura becoming the European Capital of Culture in 2022. Art and creativity are accompanying Kaunas on several levels: music, theatre, dance, design, and many others.

The city constantly encourages the development of both public and private spaces. Explore the wide range of cultural facilities and projects, from works of art turned into buildings, to galleries, interior design, bohemian cafes, etc. A variety of events will also surprise you. If you just plan your visit you will have a good time!

Full of new sensations and discoveries, life in Kaunas is a modern and youthful generator of culture so everyone who loves art in Kaunas will find his own corner. Every year Kaunas adds to immense events spaces. We look forward to seeing you at our well-established and brand new festivals! Certainly, this will contribute to the ambition of Kaunas Modernist Interwar Architecture to join UNESCO World Heritage List.

ART GALLERIES

Meno Parkas Gallery

(Rotušės a. 27) www.menoparkas.lt

Kaunas Photo Gallery

(Rotušės a. 1 / Vilniaus g. 2)
www kaunaspallery.lt

Gallery "Post"

(Laisvės al. 51a) www.postgalerija.lt

VDU 101 Gallery

(Muitinės g. 7) www.galerija101.lt

Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery

(Nepriklausomybės a. 12)
www.ciurlionis.lt/zilinsko

Kaunas Picture Gallery

(K. Donelaičio g. 16) www.ciurlionis.lt

Art Form

(Savano r. pr. 166) www.menoforma.lt

PLACES OF EVENTS

Kaunas State Philharmonic

(L. Sapiegos g. 5)
www.kaunofilharmonija.lt

Kaunas State Musical Theatre

(Laisvės al. 91) www.muzikinisteatras.lt

Kaunas State Drama Theatre

(Laisvės al. 71) www.dramosteatras.lt

“Žalgirio” Arena

(Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50)
www.zalgirioarena.lt

Raudondvaris Manor Arts Incubator

(Pilies takas 1, Raudondvaris, Kauno r.)
www.raudondvariodvaras.lt



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Dinner 18:00 – 22:00

Address: Jonavos str. 7, Kaunas, +370 687 54044



April

"KAUNAS JAZZ"

www.kaunasjazz.lt

The Kaunas Jazz Festival has been organized each spring for more than two decades inviting music fans to listen to the most prominent Lithuanian and foreign jazz stars. The majority of urban spaces are filled with the spirit of jazz, so spring is not only outside, but also in people's hearts. Every last weekend in April this celebrations break free from the city that seems unable to contain it; it is an international jazz scene at the Lithuanian jazz capital.



INTERNATIONAL DOG CARTING SPORTS COMPETITION

The international dog carting sports competitions are organised every spring in Jadagonys. While enjoying the competition the viewers get to know some rare dog breeds and can watch traditional dog and children's races.

May

"DESIGN WEEK"

www.dizainoforumas.lt

Traditionally, on the first week of May five Lithuanian cities Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai and Telšiai, plunge into a design fiesta, during which guests are invited to take part in workshops, visit exhibitions, draw on expertise and share at international conferences; meanwhile developers present their latest work.

KITE FESTIVAL "KITES FOR EARTH AND SKY"

The kite festival is held every spring in Zapyškis, next to the Gothic church in the Nemunas valley. The programme of the festival includes working kite workshops, kite and plane competitions, large kite shows and other fun activities for the entire family.

FESTIVAL-COMPETITION CYCLE "KAUNAS CANTAT"

www.kaunascantat.lt

The largest choral festival where high professionalism of various styles of choral music is delivered to the audience.

INTERNATIONAL "SMILING PUPPETS AND CHILDREN" PUPPETS THEATRES FESTIVAL

www.kaunoleles.lt

The festival of professional Lithuanian and foreign ensemble performances, exhibitions, is already recognized by the



townspeople as the Puppet and Mask Parade, craftsmanship exhibitions, and seminars.

"KAUNAS HANSA DAYS"

www.kaunas.lt

More than 600 years ago Kaunas was granted the Magdeburg rights. Kaunas is the only city in Lithuania that is now a member of the New Hanseatic League, which gives the celebration a medieval identity and distinguishes this festival from all other Lithuanian city holidays. Spectators are invited to get acquainted with the culture of the time, music, dances, performances, games, crafts, and knights who fight in international tournament win a sword named for the Lithuanian Armed Forces.

KAUNAS SCHOOLCHILDREN SONG FESTIVAL

www.vmlr.lt

The festival features performances of various arts genres uniting children and

youth choirs, instrumental ensembles, folk and modern dance groups where as many as a few thousand students participate annually.

May–July

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL "OPERETĀ KAUNO PILYJE" (OPERETTA IN KAUNAS CASTLE)

This is the first operetta festival in Eastern Europe, with most beautiful performances by singers, musicians and orchestras from a variety of European countries.

May–August

"PAŽAISLIS MUSIC FESTIVAL"

www.pazaislis.lt

The best world-renowned musicians from classical, old music, jazz, and plenty of other project-based music and even more excitement throughout the summer invite you to experience the Pažaislis Music Festival!



June

"BIKE SHOW MILLENIUM" www.bikeshow.lt

The entire city takes joy in the festival that brings together the world's greatest bikers and motor sports enthusiasts.

June–September

KAUNAS BIENNIAL www.bienale.lt

It is the largest international contemporary art event in the Baltic region consisting of exhibitions, artist residency program, workshops, educational programs, as well as public and community arts projects.

July

BARD FESTIVAL "ACACIA ALLEY"

This Singing poetry festival brings together the most famous and talented bards of the country ranging from win-

ners of youth contests to scene masters, guests from foreign countries and notorious 'aliens' from the rock, blue, country, pop and national music worlds.

JULY THE 6TH STATE DAY'S CELEBRATION AT THE RAUDONDVARIS MANOR www.raudondvariodvaras.lt

September

"KAUNAS PHOTO" www.kaunasphoto.com

The Kaunas Photo Festival is the largest and most important photography event in the Baltics. The most frequented photography project takes place in a wide range of outdoor and indoor spaces. It is organized every year in Kaunas.



October

INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY DANCE FESTIVAL "AURA" www.aura.lt

Recognized foreign choreographers and troupe work, bringing together different art forms, techniques, and traditions are presented here.

November

MODERN MUSIC FESTIVAL "IS ARTI" (FROM CLOSE) www.isarti.lt

Presentation of the works of modern Lithuanian and foreign composers, and international exchange programs, lectures, workshops, and experiments.

INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL "SUKLEGOS" www.suklegos.lt

A contemporary glance at the folklore festival includes a variety of musical styles and projects based on ethnic culture.

September–October

"KAUNAS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL" www.kinofestivalis.lt

Film art development trends are reflected in the most interesting of recent international film successes all over the world and in Lithuania.

December

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND A CHRISTMAS MARKET www.kaunas.lt



It's the largest waterpark in the Baltic states. On the east side of Lampėdžiai lake you can find park figures that are up to 7 meters in height!

Forget about every day worries and go for an adventure – Kaunas can offer plenty of them: rock climbing, adventure parks, bungy jumping, beach volleyball arena, the only race circuit in Lithuania, rope park, paintball and many other possibilities for active free time!

Activities in the nature

Santaka and Nemunas Island Parks are among other places worth seeing in Kaunas. These parks are excellent recreational areas where you can not only go for a walk but also do some sport and take part in sport or entertainment events. Nemunas Island Park is open to everyone who is a beach volleyball enthusiast – there are four courts. Also in Santaka park there is a brand new skateboard, rollerblade and BMX park. In most of Kaunas parks there are equipment for outdoor fitness, children playgrounds and chess tables.

In Jadagoniai, a place near Kaunas, you can try out rock climbing outdoors – it's a unique place in Lithuania where you have to pull yourself up by grabbing different objects on trees or hold on a giant web. You can also play some outdoor tennis, beach volleyball and check out the mud route.



If you want to spend your free time actively without leaving the city, you should head to an adventure park nearby Lampėdžiai lake. Here are various routes: from the fast route for the little ones where they can feel confident and strong to the 16 metre Dramliaskrydis which lets you experience the free fall. If you don't mind getting wet, we suggest water trampolines and the wakeboarding park.

Challenge accepted!

The escape rooms is a great way to spend time with your friends, colleagues or family. It's a place where your logical thinking, imagination and attention to detail help you find different clues and solve problems in order to escape a locked room.

If you can't stay still, we suggest to pay a trampoline park a visit. Here's no ground under your feet nor the fear of heights.



A day not to forget for the little ones

Lithuanian Zoological Gardens in Kaunas invites you to see more than 2000 animals. There are over 250 species in this collection many of which are in the Lithuanian and the international The Red List of Threatened Species. Many educational events are organised in the zoo among which are the night at the zoo and others.

Another site to visit is Tadas Ivanauskas Zoology Museum in Kaunas that has already been running for 100 years. You can find 14 000 items in 2500 square metres! You simply must find the time to explore them all.

When one wants to play, experience, learn and feel at the same time, one must go to the CurioCity – the largest educational entertainment centre for children in the Baltic states. Here you launch into the sky in a spaceship, slide on a rainbow, solve detective mysteries and accept other challenges.

In the warm seasons our city is full of soap bubbles; you just need to go to the agreed location and enjoy the dance of colourful bubbles!

Don't forget to check the programmes of different city theatres – there's plenty of performances for children.



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MEGA shopping and leisure centre,
+37068833202, smalsu@curiocity.lt
www.curiocity.lt

CURIQCITY
city for curious kids



Water tourism in Kaunas offers many opportunities to enjoy both the city and the beautiful outdoors. All that remains is to choose the most suitable trip for you! Just do not forget to take care of tickets in advance!

www.visit kaunas lt
www.nemunoturas lt

KAUNAS LAGOON 1ST AND 2ND BEACHES

(T. Masiulio g.)

At Kaunas Lagoon you can ride around in the water on a rented water bike or boat, enjoy a game of beach volleyball, or enjoy an outdoor cafe.

LAMPEDŽIAI LAKE BEACH

(Raudondvario pl. 161A)

It is one of the favourite recreational and bathing places in Kaunas. There is camping here to, which makes it an ideal place for tourists. You can spend your time at Lampédžiai quarry renting kayaks, water bikes, canoes, and wakeboards. The wakeboard park has one of the longest tracks in Europe. Its length is 287 meters. You can try canoeing with oars, too. This is a universal sport with no age limits, so everybody can join. You can also spend your time at Lampédžiai playing basketball, beach

volleyball, mini golf, or tennis. There is also an adventure park here. Everyone will find various water attractions and other active leisure opportunities here!

DANEMUNĖ BEACH

(A. Smetonos al. 4)

Here you will find a newly built resort with athletics courts and playgrounds, gazebos, and benches for cheerful and purposeful recreation.

KULAUTUVA BEACH

(Nemuno g., Kulautuva, Kauno r.)

A beach established in the former gravel quarry offers playgrounds for children, and other equipment required for quality leisure time.

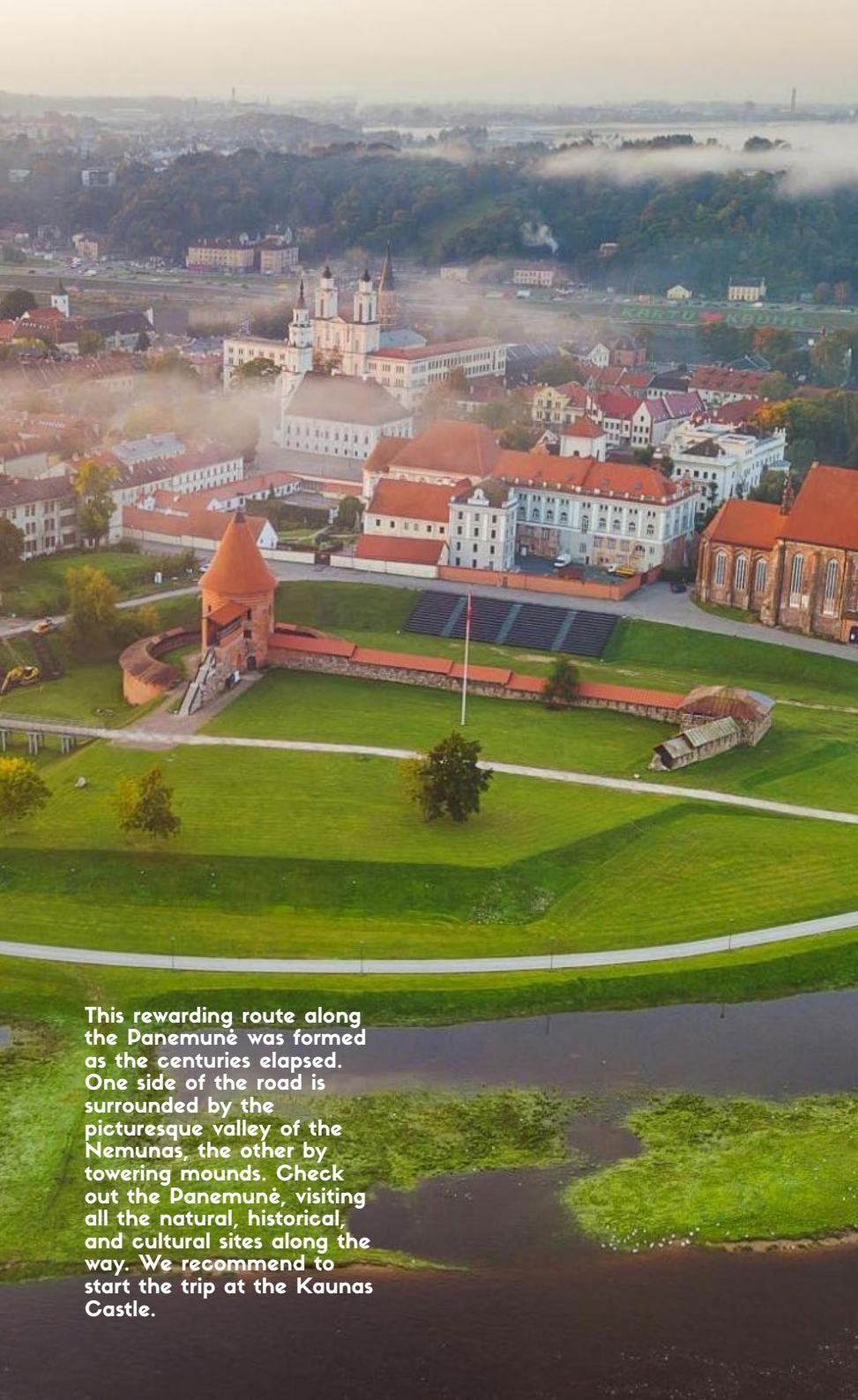


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tel.+370 (616) 98496,
www.agave lt



This rewarding route along the Panemunė was formed as the centuries elapsed. One side of the road is surrounded by the picturesque valley of the Nemunas, the other by towering mounds. Check out the Panemunė, visiting all the natural, historical, and cultural sites along the way. We recommend to start the trip at the Kaunas Castle.

1. RAUDONDVARIS

Today, it is a cosy town in the middle of Lithuania, located on the confluence of the Nemunas and Nevezis rivers. Raudondvaris manor is mentioned in chronicles as early as the 17th century, run by and cherished by the Radivil and Tiškevičius families. In its time, the manor was known as a cultural and artistic centre, and had a good art gallery and library. Raudondvaris manor house (traditionally called a castle) is a reason for the town's emergence and current tourism attraction centre. The castle is only one of the architectural ensembles of elements of Raudondvaris. Everyone should take note of the officina, conservatory, and stables built next to the castle. All this is surrounded by greenery, a park. Now a variety of concerts, festivals, exhibitions and other events are often held here. The castle also houses the museum Kaunas District. Raudondvaris church is the tallest and most visible building in town, with neo-baroque and neoclassical features. Right next to the church you can see design work contributed by the famous Italian architect Wawrzyniec Cezary Anichini. It was built in 1846-1857 by the then-owner of the manor, Count Benediktas Emanuelis Tiškevičius.

2. KULAUTUVA

One of the most beautiful places in Kaunas District located on the right bank of the Nemunas. During the interwar period it became a prominent resort; Kulautuva still entices people who want to relax in the evergreen pine forest and tranquillity. Currently the name Kulautuva is best-known by bard fans, because every summer the town becomes a bard capital. Every year in July a festival takes place here. During the summer, you can get to Kulautuva by boat. The Kaunas-Kačerginė-Kulautuva-Kaunas tourist-educational route takes you around to show off local innovations to tourists interested in learning.

3. PAŠTUVA CARMELITE MONASTERY

The monastery of St. Joseph and St. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux in Paštuvą,

which is divided into two parts, public and private, was restored in 1994. The public area is a place where people who want to pray together with the nuns can stay. The Carmelite Order name is associated with the Carmel mountain range, located in the Holy Land, from where the prophet Elijah once lived in a hermit community.

4. VILKIJĀ

The whole town is a valuable architectural whole, starting from the 16th century. The town's old street dates from the 14th century; they are noteworthy and protected by the state. When you visit the town you also have to check out St. George's church built in 1900-1908 and the Antanas and Jonas Juška Brothers Ethnographic Museum (Kauno Mažoji g. 2) located in the oldest building in town, calculated to be ~300. Its walls are hung with the works of well-known Lithuanian artists, but the sharpest footprints are left behind by the most famous Lithuanian folk artist, Antanas Juška. The spiritual riches of Lithuanian folk art he accumulated impress us with their abundance even today. Antanas Juška's contemporaries had collected and put together a dictionary of more than 70,000 old Lithuanian words, a songbook with 7,000 songs set out to about 2,000 melodies, Vyduinas handwritten letters, Balys Buračas autographs books, dozens patterns of flashy fabric, chests, and hundreds of old household utensils. Each year, a Juška brothers traditional song holidays is held here together with exhibitions and meetings with interesting people. During the summer season you can cross the Nemunas River with the Vilkija ferry.

5. SEREDŽIUS

Seredžius has a mound, as do other castle mounds; it is reminiscent of a bitter struggle with the Crusaders and is called Palemonas Hill. This is one of the tallest and most picturesque Lithuanian mounds (about 40 m). According to legend, this mound was established as a residence for the Roman Empire's Duke Palemonas, who escaped with 500 Roman nobles to live there. Palemonas sons and grandchildren



Raudondvaris Manor

ruled large territories and founded cities. The grandson, Kernius, established further away from Seredžius, on the right bank of the Neris and the area called it Kernavė. Peter of Duisburg's "The Chronicle of the Prussian Land" mentioned the mound castle in 1293. The Crusaders attacked the castle from 1293 to 1363. That was the year the castle was burned and never rebuilt. The southern part of the city has burial grounds dating back to the 3rd-4th century.

6. BELVEDERIS MANOR

Belvederis Manor was built according to a design by the Italian Pietro de Rosio around 1840 (Belvedere means beautiful view). Nobleman Kazimieras Burba ordered of the manor built according to simulate an Italian Tuscan villa. This two-story brick house within irregular plan with a three-story tower was luxuriously furnished inside. The manor included not only the chambers and park. There was a huge residential and farm building complex, which consisted of about twenty buildings. At the end of

the park there stands a small neo-gothic chapel: the mausoleum of Burba's kin. Although this place was once flashy, shiny, beautiful, and luxurious, and now the chambers and other buildings of the estate are almost completely ruined, and the park abandoned: this place radiates a special aura, and traveling to visit Panemunė is a must.

7. VELIUONA

Folks say that this is one of the oldest settlements in Lithuania. It is often referred to in history because it is next to the flowing Nemunas; that was a natural limit to the Prussian lands, which were established by the Teutonic Order as early as the 13th century. According to historical sources, Lithuania Grand Duke Gediminas visited Veliuona, as well as fought and died there. In Veliuona, the Nemunas valley slope offers a historic monument: an archaeological complex of mounds. The western mound is called the Hill of Peace. This is a 32 m high steep frustoconical mound.

The second mound is called the Hill of Gediminas Grave. According to legend, Lithuania Grand Duke Gediminas died in Veliuona attacking Bayerburg and defending Veliuona castle, and the mound was poured over his body as a tomb. A monument built to Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas stands on the mound. The Classicist 19th century manor house built by Michael Zaleckis has survived in the town to the present day. They are wooden, with a four-column portico facade. Trees brought from other countries grow in the manor park. There was a school here, on and off, through the 20th century, where the writer Petras Cvirkė studied.



8. RAUDONĖ

During the 16th-17th century, once the Nemunas became an important trade artery, castles took on a new form: rich men, merchants, and nobles began to build castles type residences, where the only decorations were shooting holes reminiscent of the previous more-functional castles. At the end of the 16th century the castle was erected in this quadrilateral shape. You can admire the scenery and the curves of the Nemunas from a restored 33.5 m high castle tower. The castle is surrounded by an entire old park of rare trees. Unfortunately, the Gediminas oak tree, under which, according to legend, Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas last dined having arrived in Veliuona, no longer blooms. There is a stone mill built in 1887 as a farm building and later equipped with a mill.



9. PANEMUNĖ CASTLE

Panemunė Castle name changed several times. It was first named Panemunė Manor for the land where it was built. The timber merchant Janušas Eperješas moved here from Hungary and started to build this castle in about 1604. The castle was not supposed to be a defensive fortress, but rather a typical 17th century feudal castle with defensive equipment, as well as residential and farm buildings. Panemunė Castle was completed in 1610. The castle's tower has a lockup cell in the basement where unlucky peasants ended up if they offended their masters. The longest term was three months. Seeing this place today will make your skin crawl. Ghosts quietly speak of their suffering. Panemunė Castle awaits you on a high hill, cradled in an old park, surrounded by five cascading ponds.

10. ŠILINĖ TAVERN

A few kilometres to the west of Panemunė Castle stands the formerly famous Šilinė tavern. This is a mid-18th century wooden folk architecture building. At present, the former Šilinė tavern is occupied by the Panemunė Regional Park and Information Centre and a nature school. The building has natural and the everyday life expositions on display. You can devote some time to the Medaus Slénis (Honey Valley) educational program in Šilinė.

11. JURBARKAS

On the left bank of the Mituva River, the Jurbarkas Regional Museum operates in the superb former manor buildings in the large park, as well as the Grybas memorial museum and Tourism and Business Information Centre. The rebuilt

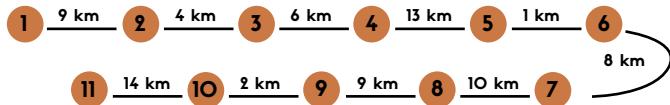
portico decorates the central building foundations and attracts visitors. While visiting Jurbarkas you should also visit the Church of the Blessed Trinity and Jurbarkas mound, known as Bišpilis.

Tourism information on your way:

Kaunas District Tourism and Business Information Centre
Pilies takas 1, Raudondvaris, Kauno r.
Tel. +370 37 548118
info@kaunorajonas.lt
www.kaunorajonas.lt

Jurbarkas District Tourism and Business Information Centre
Vydūno g. 19, Jurbarkas
Tel. +370 447 51485
turizmas@jurbarkas.info.lt
www.jurbarkotic.lt

ROUTE:



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Arlaviškiai Educational Trail

1. THE INTERNAL EXPOSITION OF KAUNAS LAGOON REGIONAL PARK

The transformation of the Nemunas River into a lagoon is the main theme of the exposition, which combines a rich and dramatic history of certain villages and the most significant changes in the 20th century Lithuanian landscape. The main highlight of the exhibition is the layout on which the image is projected, which, like a time machine, takes us to a distant past: we will get to see how the last glaciers retreated, the formation of the Nemunas and its valley, and how it eventually turned into Kaunas Lagoon.

2. FIFTH FORT OF THE KAUNAS FORTRESS

Alongside Kaunas Lagoon there are two unique pieces of Eastern European fortification architecture and military history within the monumental Kaunas fortress ring: the Fifth Fort, reminiscent of Imperial Russia, the two Vaišvydava bunkers, and the remains of the First

World War Railway (Palemonas) fort bunkers circuit. The Fifth Fort was built in 1889 and is distinguished by its layout: pentagonal-shaped, asymmetrical, and adapted to the environment. Fort territory plantations and antiaircraft missile base buildings construct during the Soviet period shape the territory landscape. The fort successfully promotes a paintball club at present.

3. ŽIEGŽDRIAI GEOLOGICAL TRAIL

The 1.6 kilometre trail begins near Žiegždriai village. For those interested in genealogy it will be a great opportunity to learn to read the history recorded in the edges of crustal layers. The educational trail shows you porous clay and conglomerate outcrops, as well as grottoes.

4. PAKALNIŠKIAI EDUCATIONAL TRAIL

We suggest this trail for those interested in flora, birds and forest fauna. Journey

time is about 2 hours, distance is 3 km. The route begins on Piliuonos Gatvė, the spot is marked on an information booth.

5. ARLAVIŠKIAI EDUCATIONAL TRAIL

Pedestrian trail with information stands and wooden benches on a slope edge stretching 1.3 km. The trail overlooks not only the slope which runs along Kadagiai (Juniper) Valley, but also the Kaunas Lagoon curled tail and Dabinta Island breaking through it.

6. DUBRAVA MINOR RESERVE EDUCATIONAL TRAIL

The area of Dubrava Minor Reserve is 120 ha where pines, which a man is not capable to embrace, of 33 meters high grow. About a quarter of the Dubrava minor reserve area are occupied by slender birch trees and small pine trees covered with moss and a tussock furrowed bog. The 1.9 km long educational trail with 8 information stands on the way introduce visitors to local flora and fauna features; it winds through all the most interesting places the Dubrava Reserve.

7. MERGAKALNIS OBSERVATION DECK

Mergakalnis is the highest point above Kaunas Lagoon. They say that in ancient times promiscuous women were tied up in bags and thrown from the cliff at this point. This place is now a resort with a beautiful landscape. Beside is you will see the Dovainoniai barrows, which according to findings date back to the 9th-12th century.

8. EXPOSURE OF CONGLOMERATES IN LAŠINIAI

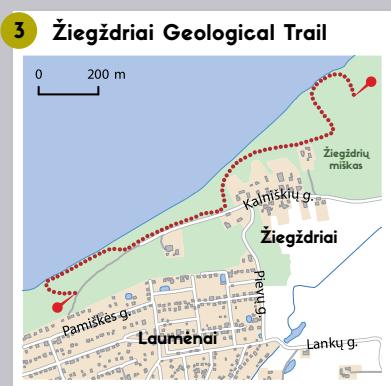
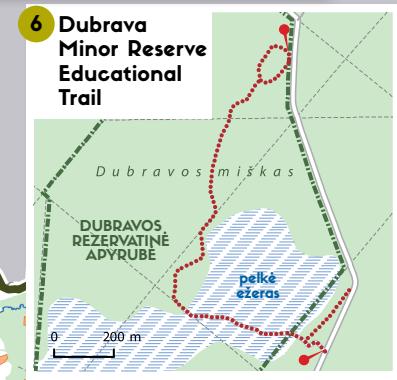
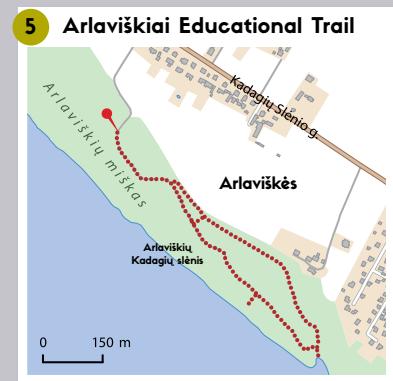
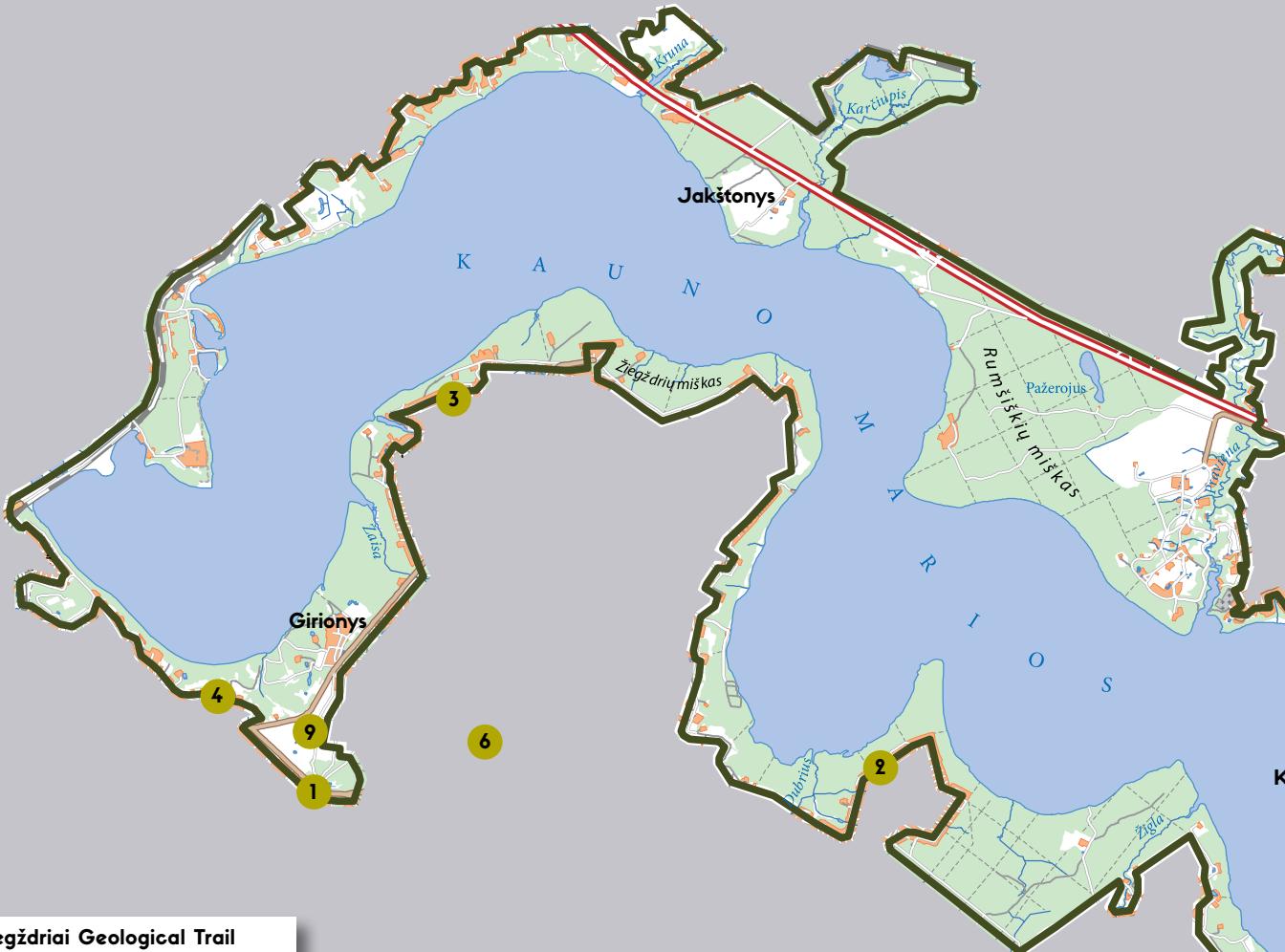
This is a geological natural heritage site in Strėva Landscape Reserve of Kaunas Lagoon Regional Park. On the right bank of the river there is the Strėva ravine rock outcrop in Lašiniai village, Rumšiškės, Kaišiadorys District. A huge Lašiniai stone stands on the edge outcrop 200 meters south of the Strėva riverbank that opens up to the impressive Strėva exposure where geologists have found traces of amber.

9. DUBRAVA ARBORETUM

The Dubrava arboretum is currently the only one in Lithuania. Construction of the Arboretum began in 1958 at the Dubrava forest research station in the village of Vaišvydava, Kaunas. Over 1,000 taxonomic units of woody plants have been collected and analysed here (botanical species, subspecies, forms, and cultivars).

Direction of Kaunas Lagoon Regional Park / Visitors Centre

Miškininkų g. 2, Vaišvydava, Kauno r.
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www.kaunomarios.lt





Street art painting „The Wise Old Man“

Kaunas holds a number of secrets and extraordinary facts. It's impossible to write them all down on paper, however, we believe that some are really worth knowing!

- Kaunas is where you will find the Vytautas the Great Bridge, aka the longest bridge in the world. In order to bridge the transition from one bank of the Nemunas to the other took 13 days, because Kaunas belonged to the Russian Empire and Aleksotas to the Prussian kingdom up to 1807. The different sides of the river had different calendars, which included a 13-day difference.

- It would probably be difficult to find out when a Lithuanian drank the first mug of beer but breweries were known in Lithuania from the oldest times. The beginning of brewage in Kaunas was the steam beer and malt factory built by the merchant I. B. Volfas in 1853 where "Volfas beer" was brewed for the first time.

- In 1910 the first puppet cartoon in the world "Fight of Stag Beetles" was created in Kaunas. The author of the cartoon is Vladislovas Starevičius. The main char-

acters of the cartoon were huge insects stag beetles. Starevičius dried them, attached mechanical legs and joints and moved them in front of the camera.

- There was a horse-drawn tram in Laisvės avenue until 1929 which was called this way because a tram on a railing (Lith. konkė) was drawn by horses.



- S. Darius and S. Girėnas Airport, which still operates until the present day which was established in honour of pilots Stasys Darius and Steponas Girėnas,

famous all over the world for their successful flight across the Atlantic in 1933 and plane crash under vague circumstances when less than a tenth of their trip was left.

- The story goes that if one makes a wish in lovers favourite Santaka park where the bends of two rivers, the river Nemunas (in other words, man) and the river Neris (in other words, woman), join it will come true. The confluence of two rivers is like the sacrament of marriage when two rivers join and never separate.

- Kaunas is called the capital of basketball, because the basketball team Kauno "Žalgiris" has existed for almost 70 years in this town. Such basketball stars as Arvydas Sabonis, Rimantas Kurtinaitis, Šarūnas Marčiulionis, Šarūnas Jasikevičius, Mantas Kalnietis, Žydrūnas Ilgauskas, Donatas Motiejūnas, Paulius Jankūnas and Linas Kleiza were brought up in the capital of basketball.



- The business centre "1000" in Kaunas got into the Top 11 of the most unusual buildings of Europe composed by CNN.com and took a respectable second place. In 2010 the prestigious album of architecture "Collection: Offices" included it into the list of the 300 best world's office buildings. In 2009 Lithuanian a record registration agency "Factum" recorded that a banknote of one thousand litas depicted on the building is the biggest stained glass in our country.

- The most beautiful Christmas trees are in Kaunas. According to the people of Lithuania. Four years in a row the most originally decorated Christmas trees are the decoration of the Kaunas Old Town. In 2012 an emerald 16 metre high Christmas tree was acknowl-

edged as the highest sculpture made of plastic bottles in the world and was included in the Guinness World Records.

- "Fluxus Ministerija" operated in Kaunas in 2012-2013. It is decorated with the greatest graffiti drawings in Lithuania, „The Wise Old Man“ (by Tadas Šimkus and Žygimantas Amelynas). This drawing decorates not only the facade of the Ministry of Fluxus, but also the Kaunas panorama: the design is near the Confluence and well-visible from both rooftops and from both sides of the river.

- There is "Séjikas" (Seeding man) sculpture in the garden of Kaunas War Museum which sows stars at night.



- In 2018 Kaunas purchased 85 new trolleybuses that will replace the old Skodas which were in use for 25 years. Kaunas found an original way to say goodbye to the old trolleys - all of them became street art and decorated the city streets for more than half a year.

Exercises for strengthening neck and back muscles



Long walks in a big city certainly exhaust not only your legs, but the back as well. Besides fatigue, neck, back muscles get tense as well, so it is necessary to relax and strengthen them. Everyone can do that simply at home. Help yourself avoid back pain, feel wonderful, and continue strolling along Kaunas streets!



Sitting position, straight back, palm over the ear.
Breathe in; breathe out and simultaneously push the head into the palm (resist this movement with the palm).
Repeat for the other side.



Sitting position, straight back, lock hands behind your neck. Breathe in; breathe out and simultaneously push the head back (resist this movement with your hands).



Sitting position.
Stretch forward with your straight arms clasped (tilt your head toward your chest), hold for 15 sec and relax.



Back-lying position, knees bent.
Raise the pelvis upward, hold it for 4-5 sec and go back to the starting position slowly.



Back-lying position, knees bent.
Breathe in; breathe out (exhalation time 5 sec) and simultaneously push the waist down.



On all fours.
Lower your buttocks on the heels, simultaneously stretching your arms forward, hold this position for 15 sec.



More information on sanatorija.lt

LITHUANIA

Capital: Vilnius
Currency: Euro (EUR)
Time Zone: UTC +2/Summertime UTC +3
Climate: average annual temperature +7.2° C, July +18.4° C.

Religion: Roman Catholic
Internet top-level domain extension: .lt
Telephone code: +370

KAUNAS

The city's foundation date: 1361 (mentioned in written sources for the first time)
City area: 158 km²
Population: 288363
Ethnicity: 93% Lithuanian, 4% Russian, 3% other.
Official city website: www.kaunas.lt

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (NON-WORKING DAYS)

January 1 - New Year, Lithuanian Flag Day
February 16 - Lithuanian Independence Day
March 11 - Lithuanian Independence Restoration Day
May 01 - International Labour Day
June 24 - Rasos (Dew Day – pagan version of St. John's Day)
July 06 - State Day (Coronation of King Mindaugas of Lithuania)
August 15 - Žolinės (Grass Day – pagan version of Assumption of Mary)
November 01 - All Saints Day, Day of the Dead
December 24 - Christmas Eve
December 25-26 - Christmas

UNDERSTAND LITHUANIAN

The Lithuanian language is the state language of Lithuania and an official language of the European Union. Most Lithuanians speak this language. The Lithuanian alphabet consists of 32 capital and small Latin letters.

POLITE EXPRESSIONS

Hello – labas (informally)
Hello – laba diena (formally)
Goodbye – iki (informally)
Goodbey – viso gero (formally)
Please – prašau
Thank you – ačiū

Yes – taip

No – ne

Sorry – atsiprašau

Cheers – į sveikatą

Nice to meet you – malonu susipažinti

USEFUL PHRASES

The Old Town – senamiestis
Do you speak English? – Ar kalbate angliskai?

I don't understand – nesuprantu

How much (does it cost)? – Kiek (kainuoja)?

What's your name? – Koks tavo vardas?

Where is...? – Kur yra...?

Could you help me? – Ar galėtumėte man padėti?

Tea – arbata

Coffee – kava

Beer – alus

Shop – parduotuvė

ADVICE

EMERGENCY NUMBER

In case of an accident or if you need the help of the police, a doctor or firefighters, call 112. An additional code is not necessary when calling from mobile or fixed phone.

GROUND FLOOR

The ground floor in Lithuania is known as the first floor.

SMOKING IN PUBLIC

Smoking is banned in cafes, restaurants, and public buildings. Smoking is also prohibited in some urban areas marked by special signs.

TIPS

It is not obligatory to leave tips. However, it is recommended to leave about 10 % of the sum for good service.

DRINKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

Drinking alcohol in public places (streets, parks and public transport) is prohibited. You may savour alcoholic drinks in bars, cafés or restaurants. The sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited from 8 p.m. until 10 a.m. (I-VI) and from 3 p.m. until 10 a.m. on Sundays (except in bars, cafés, restaurants, etc.).



TASTE IT!

BLACK BREAD

It is the pride of Lithuanian cuisine. It was highly valued and even called "sacred". From old times Lithuanians related it with magic and superstitious beliefs.

COLD BEETROOT SOUP "ŠALTIBARŠČIAI"

Traditional pink cold soup made of beetroots and served with boiled potatoes. This dish is especially popular in summer.

POTATO DUMPLINGS "CEPELINAI"

This dish made of grated and/or mashed boiled potatoes with meat, curds or other things, also called "big dumplings". It is an inseparable part of traditional cuisine.

BAROQUE TREE CAKE "ŠAKOTIS"

This high branched hollow baked product which resembles a fir is one of the most popular confectionery products in Lithuanian cuisine. Lithuanian monasteries started to bake "Šakotis" in 20th century. It's a great dessert!

TAKE IT HOME

BLACK BREAD

Lithuanians special pride which was the main meal in Lithuanian villages up to the 20th century. The types of traditional Lithuanian bread are the following: rye bread, wheat bread and triticale bread.

AMBER

It is called "Lithuanian gold". Amber is used to create unique jewellery and unusual art works; it is distinguished for its stimulating and strengthening properties. Therefore, from old times it has been used not only for decoration but also for treatment. Lithuanians' ancestors protected themselves from the dark powers by wearing amber amulets. Amber therapy is becoming more and more popular: amber spirits and preparations with amber acid, oil or powder are made, healing and strengthening amber tea is drunk.

FLAX

Also called "North silk". Through the centuries Lithuanians have cherished traditions of flax growing and processing which are valued not only in Lithuania. We suggest that you buy flax textile products of high quality in specialized shops.

WOOD

You may buy unique wooden craftwork the stock of which is really large: from housewares up to jewellery.



ARRIVAL

KAUNAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Oro uosto g. 4, Karmėlava, Kauno r.
www.kaunas-airport.lt

KAUNAS BUS STATION

Vytauto pr. 24, Kaunas
www.autobusubilietai.lt

KAUNAS TRAIN STATION

M. K. Čiurlionio g. 16, Kaunas
www.littrail.lt

IN THE CITY

CITY BEE

Car and bike sharing service on your phone!

TAXIFY

Transportation network in Kaunas. With a promo code KAUNASIN get a 7 Eur discount for your first journey.

TRAIFI

Follow the public transport movement in real time with Trafi app or on the internet.

LUGGAGE STORAGE

AT THE TRAIN STATION

www.littrail.lt

AT KAUNAS BUS STATION

www.siuntosautobusais.lt

AT KAUNAS AIRPORT

www.packandfly.lt

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