

# Lithuania

**Continent:** Europe

**Languages Spoken:** Lithuanian

**Population:** 2,800,000

**Currency:** Euro (EUR)

**Area:** 65,300

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Vilnius Old Town', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site known for its well-preserved medieval architecture and vibrant cultural scene.'}
- {'name': 'Trakai Island Castle', 'writeup': 'A historic 14th-century castle located on an island in Lake Galvė, symbolizing Lithuania's medieval heritage.'}
- {'name': 'Hill of Crosses', 'writeup': 'A pilgrimage site featuring thousands of crosses, representing Lithuanian faith and resistance.'}

## Head of State / Government:

President Gitanas Nausėda

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Joninės (Midsummer Festival)', 'writeup': 'A traditional celebration marking the summer solstice with bonfires, singing, and dancing.'}
- {'name': 'Kaziuko Mugė (St. Casimir's Fair)', 'writeup': 'An annual folk arts and crafts fair held in Vilnius, celebrating Lithuanian culture and heritage.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Lithuanian cuisine features hearty dishes such as cepelinai (potato dumplings), kugelis (potato pudding), and cold beet soup, reflecting the country's agricultural traditions and seasonal ingredients.

## Brief History:

Lithuania was a powerful medieval state, later forming a commonwealth with Poland. It was occupied by the Soviet Union in the 20th century and regained independence in 1990, becoming a member of the EU and NATO.

## Important People:

- Vytautas the Great - Grand Duke who expanded the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.
- Adamkus Valdas - Former President known for leading Lithuania through post-Soviet transition.
- Rūta Meilutytė - Olympic gold medalist swimmer.

## Current Conflicts:

Lithuania is not involved in any active military conflicts but maintains heightened security concerns due to regional tensions with Russia.

## Youtube Links:

- Discover Lithuania: A Journey Through History and Culture

- Top 10 Places to Visit in Lithuania
- Lithuanian Traditions and Festivals Explained
- Lithuanian Cuisine: Traditional Dishes You Must Try
- The Hill of Crosses: Lithuania's Symbol of Faith and Resistance