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# Pictograms

 Sites where visitors can take a look inside

 Museum


 Gallery

 Educational activities

 Free admission

 Concessions

 Accessible for wheelchairs

 Partially accessible for wheelchairs

 Lift / funicular

 Guide, tours

 Audio guide

 Observation deck


 Events

 Start of the route

 Marking of the route

1. Site

 Additional site

 Tourist information centre

 0 min  
0.0 km

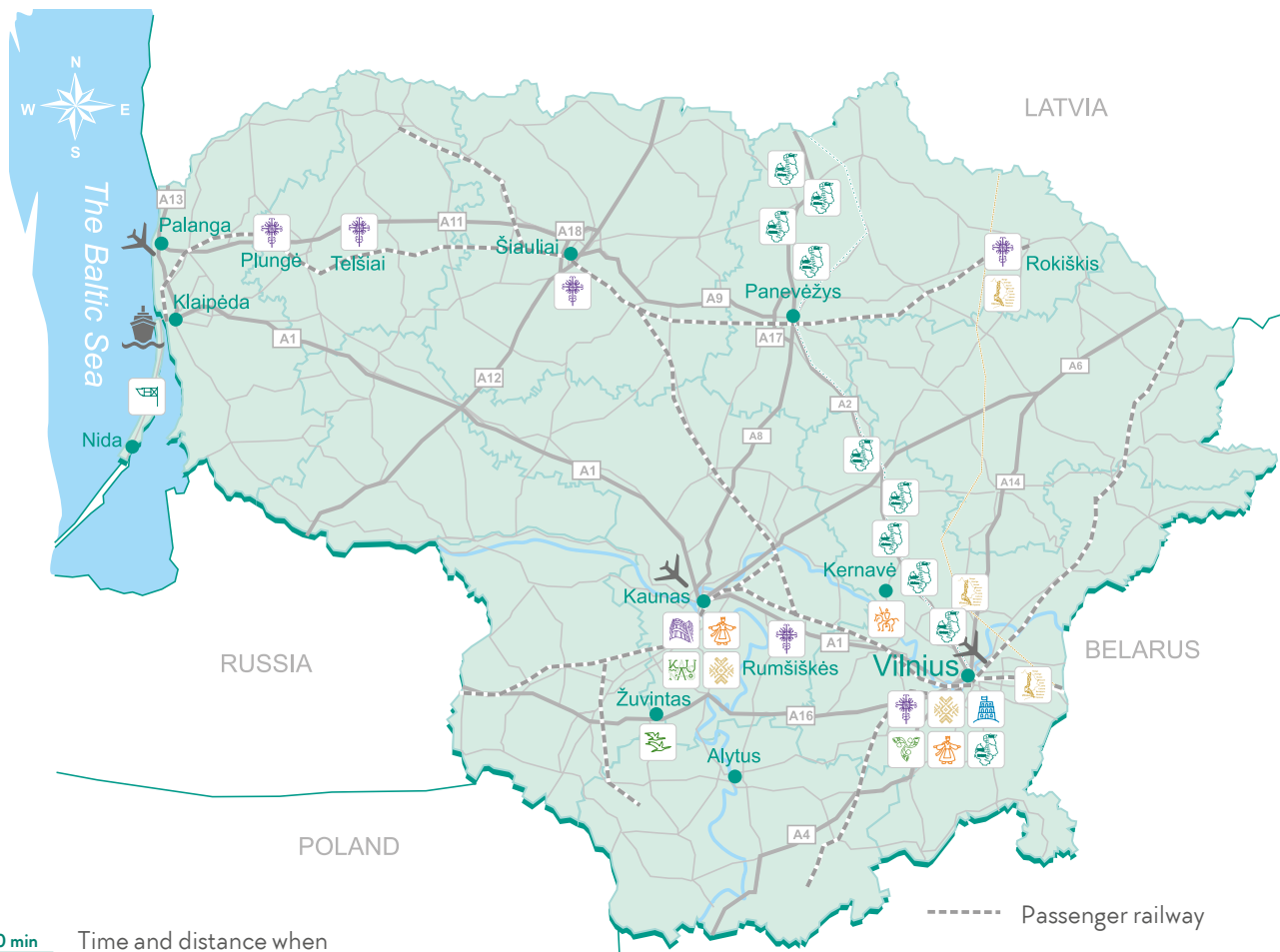
Time and distance when travelling by car

 0 min  
0.0 km

Time and distance when travelling by bicycle

 0 min  
0.0 km

Time and distance when traveling on foot



 Passenger railway

 Motorways

 National roads

 Airport

 Port



# Vilnius Historic Centre – The Multicultural Heart of the City



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Vilnius Historic Centre  
Inscribed on the  
World Heritage List in 1994



Vilnius historic centre

The **Vilnius Historic Centre** is not just the place where the capital was born. It comprises three castle grounds (Upper, Lower and Curved), the historic core (between the former defensive walls), and the historic neighbourhoods. Covering nearly 360 acres, this site was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1994.

The Vilnius Historic Centre saw substantial interaction between Eastern and Western cultures, and for centuries this influenced the development of politics, architecture, culture and science in a large part of Eastern Europe. The Vilnius Historic Centre is a unique example of a city that was formed in the Middle Ages, having maintained the radial street pattern that was typical of that time. Its spatial structure reflects the change in architectural styles and the evolution that was determined by political and natural events.

The Vilnius Historic Centre began to form on glacial hills that had been inhabited intermittently since the Stone Age. Around 1000 AD, a wooden castle was built at the confluence of the Neris and Vilnia rivers, but with Baltic tribes

fighting off Germanic invasions, the settlement did not develop as a town until the 13th century. Vilnius was first mentioned in written sources in the beginning of the 14th century, when the Grand Duchy of

Lithuania (the GDL, which existed between the 13th and 18th centuries and is the historical predecessor of the modern Lithuanian state) was ruled by Grand Duke Gediminas. It was at that time that, after changing the flow of the Vilnia River, the first structures of the brick castle were erected on the island that formed. Once Lithuania adopted Christianity in 1387, Vilnius was granted Magdeburg rights.

By the 16th century, Vilnius had become one of the largest cities in Central Europe. This is when the Jesuit Order was invited to Vilnius, which resulted in Vilnius University being founded in 1579. Thus, the city became one of the region's largest academic and cultural centres.

With their languages, religions and cultures, the other ethnic groups of the GDL – Jews, Ruthenians, Poles, Tatars, etc. – also contributed to the growth of Vilnius as a multicultural city. Their legacy is evident not only in objects of tangible heritage, but in culture and lifestyle traditions as well.

You can explore the Vilnius Historic Centre, with its medieval street plan and a variety of preserved architectural styles (Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Neoclassical, etc.), by taking one of four themed routes: *Excursion through the Origins of the City*, *The Multicultural Old Town by Foot*, *Acquaintance with Užupis and its Surroundings*, and *Behind the Defensive Walls of the Castles*.

## Excursion Through the Origins of the City

*Explore the places that gave Vilnius its beginnings. Visit the former castle grounds and the structures that have survived to this day or have been rebuilt. Take a look around the places that evoke Lithuania's pagan past and mark the main intersection points of paganism and Christianity.*

Begin your walk through the historic centre symbolically, at the monument to **Mindaugas, the first and only King of Lithuania (1)**. This ruler united the separate tribes throughout Lithuania into a centralised state. Thanks to him, a new state appeared on the geopolitical map of Europe. Mindaugas was crowned the King of Lithuania in 1253 and reigned until 1263.

If you stand in front of the Mindaugas monument, you will see the **New Arsenal (2)** behind it. This building is one of the oldest structures in the Vilnius Castle Complex. It is believed that the New Arsenal was the seat of the castle court of law and administrative office in the 17th and 18th centuries. This is currently a place where you can get closely acquainted with the history of Lithuania,

from the formation of the state to the first half of the 20th century.

Continue the route in the very heart of the city – **Cathedral Square (3)**. From the south-western corner of the square, the main surviving or rebuilt monuments and symbols of the Vilnius Historic Centre are visible, revealing a few intrinsic meanings of this place.

Firstly, the buildings that once stood on the site of Cathedral Square were there for defensive purposes. For example, the underground part of the **Cathedral Bell Tower (4)** contains remnants of a tower of the Lower Castle defensive walls that have survived to this day. Remnants of old (pre-Gothic) Baltic masonry can also be found in its lower part. The strips of red granite on the cobblestones of Cathedral Square mark exactly where the defensive





Cathedral Bell Tower



Tower of Gediminas



walls of the Lower Castle were situated, with their gates and other towers. Inside the bell tower, you can see a bell exhibition and the old town clock and study historical reconstructions of the bell tower and the Cathedral. You can also climb to the top of the bell tower for a panoramic view of the Vilnius Old Town.

Secondly, Cathedral Square marks the junction of paganism and Christianity. Lithuania was the last country in Europe to adopt Christianity. Christianisation paved the way for further social, political and cultural development, and Lithuania became one of the main pillars of Catholicism in Eastern Europe.

It is believed that **Vilnius Cathedral (5)** stands on the site where the first Christian cathedral in Lithuania was built. The Cathedral took on its present classical appearance in the late 18th century, when it began to be reconstructed according to the design of architect Laurynas Gucevičius. This building is the most notable and majestic monument of Neoclassicism in Lithuania.

You can admire the cathedral from the outside or by going inside, but you can also visit the crypts – the burial place of eminent GDL nobles and rulers, the

cathedral's bishops and their assistants, and members of the cathedral chapter.

The **monument to Grand Duke of Lithuania Gediminas (6)** that stands in the square turns yet another page in the history of Vilnius. In 1323, under the rule of the Grand Duke, Vilnius was first mentioned in written sources as the capital of Lithuania. Grand Duke Gediminas gave the townspeople more rights, and invited merchants, craftsmen and friars to come to Vilnius from abroad (primarily from Western Europe). Thanks to him, Vilnius became an open, multicultural city and established itself as the most important centre in Lithuania.

If you want to learn more about Grand Duke Gediminas, just talk to him! This monument is one of the 15 *Talking Statues of Vilnius*. All you have to do is pull out your smartphone, find the blue tag attached to the sculpture, and scan the QR code.

Next to Vilnius Cathedral is the reconstructed **Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania (7)**, which embodies the political power of the GDL and the age of cultural prosperity. The growth of the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania is closely related to the history of Lithuania and symbolises

its diplomatic, economic and cultural development during the periods of Gothic, Renaissance and early Baroque. The palace was demolished after the Third Partition of Poland (1795).

At the museum of the reconstructed Palace of the Grand Dukes, visitors can acquaint themselves with an extensive authentic archaeological heritage, the historical and architectural development of the palace and view the restored ceremonial halls as well as the depository and treasury of the Grand Dukes.

You can also try out new technology at the Palace of the Grand Dukes – take a 3D virtual reality tour into the past of the castle and the palace.

Alongside the Palace of the Grand Dukes is a historic place of Baltic culture – **Šventaragis Valley (8)**, which is believed to be the cremation and burial site of the dukes of the GDL. From this valley, go up to **Gediminas Hill (9)**, where remains of the Upper Castle that go back to the 15th century stand.

From the top of the hill, you can see the valleys of the Neris and the Vilnia, and the upland that descends along terraces down into them, forming a kind of amphitheatre where the Old Town is located.

Once you have captured the panorama of Vilnius in your memory, take a moment to admire the **Tower of Gediminas (10)**, perched on Gediminas Hill. Of the three towers that were part of the Upper Castle's defensive wall, this is the only one that has survived to this day. The tower is one of the main symbols of the city of Vilnius.

After descending Gediminas Hill, turn left towards the bridge over the Vilnia and you will find yourself at the **Old Arsenal (11)**. This building was originally equipped with a cannon foundry, and later served as the largest storage facility for weapons and ammunition in the GDL. Now the arsenal displays the Lithuanian archaeology exposition of the National Museum of Lithuania, featuring over 4,000 archaeological finds. The Old Arsenal also houses the Museum of Applied Arts and Design, a unit of the Lithuanian Art Museum.

According to recent archaeological research data, it was precisely on the site of the Lower Castle's arsenals – both of them – that a settlement was established in the late 13th century which eventually gave Vilnius its beginnings.

Continue on to Curved Hill, which is now



called the **Hill of Three Crosses (12)**. One of the defensive castles of Vilnius once stood on this hill – the wooden Curved Castle, which was burned down by the Teutonic Knights in the late 14th century. Castle Hill and the Hill of Three Crosses are the best vantage points for Old Vilnius and the newer neighbourhoods



## 2. National Museum of Lithuania (New Arsenal)

M [www.lnm.lt](http://www.lnm.lt)

Arsenalų g. 1, Vilnius

## 4. Cathedral Bell Tower

M [www.bpmuziejus.lt](http://www.bpmuziejus.lt)

Katedros a. 1, Vilnius

## 5. Vilnius Cathedral (Vilnius Cathedral Basilica of St Stanislav and St Vladislav)

[www.katedra.lt](http://www.katedra.lt)

Katedros a. 1, Vilnius

## Vilnius Cathedral Crypts

M [www.bpmuziejus.lt](http://www.bpmuziejus.lt)

around it, providing an understanding of the city plan and the natural features of urban formation. From the hilltops you can see that the layout of the city's historic centre is circular – the streets radiate out in different directions from the original castle site.

## 7. Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania

M [www.valdovurumai.lt](http://www.valdovurumai.lt)

Katedros a. 4, Vilnius

## 10. Tower of Gediminas and observation deck

M [www.lnm.lt](http://www.lnm.lt)

Arsenalų g. 5, Vilnius

## 11. Old Arsenal

M [www.lnm.lt/senasis-arsenalas](http://www.lnm.lt/senasis-arsenalas)

Arsenalų g. 3, Vilnius

## Museum of Applied Arts and Design

M [www.ldm.lt/tdm](http://www.ldm.lt/tdm)

Arsenalų g. 3A, Vilnius

# The Multicultural Old Town by Foot

*Take this route to explore Vilnius as a field of interaction between different nations, cultures, architectural styles and religions. See how Vilnius adopted the values of European culture and how strongly it influenced the cultural and architectural development of a large part of Eastern Europe. As you walk through the narrow streets and squares, take in the Lithuanian historic heritage as well as that of the Poles, Jews, Russians and other ethnic groups that shaped – and continue to shape – the face of the city.*

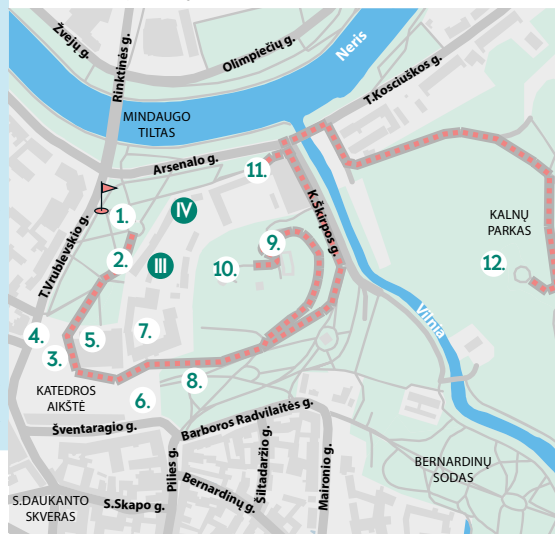
Begin your acquaintance with the multicultural Old Town of Vilnius with a pearl of late Gothic architecture – the **Bernardine Historical-Architectural Ensemble (1)**, consisting of the Bernardine Church, the Church of St Anne, and the Bernardine Monastery. In the Vilnius panorama of the early 16th century, the Bernardine ensemble along with the Church of St Anne stood out for their splendour. This is the best preserved example of Gothic architecture in the Old Town of Vilnius.

At the Bernardine ensemble, you will have a chance to admire the Bernardine Church's 15th century apse and Gothic south-eastern tower, and to learn about the history of the monasteries. The Bernardine ensemble also offers guided tours during which you can visit the Bernardine Church, walk around the renovated areas of the

old ensemble and the corridors of the monastery, go down into the church crypts, and take a spiral staircase up to the top of the defensive towers.

Not far from the Bernardine ensemble are the **Bernardine Gardens (2)**. According to historians, a garden that belonged to the Bernardine monks occupied the bulk of this territory from the late 15th century. The authentic 19th century environment created by artist Vladislovas Strausas has now been recreated in the park. Stop by to see the features of the old park that have been restored, such as the rock garden, the pond and the central square.

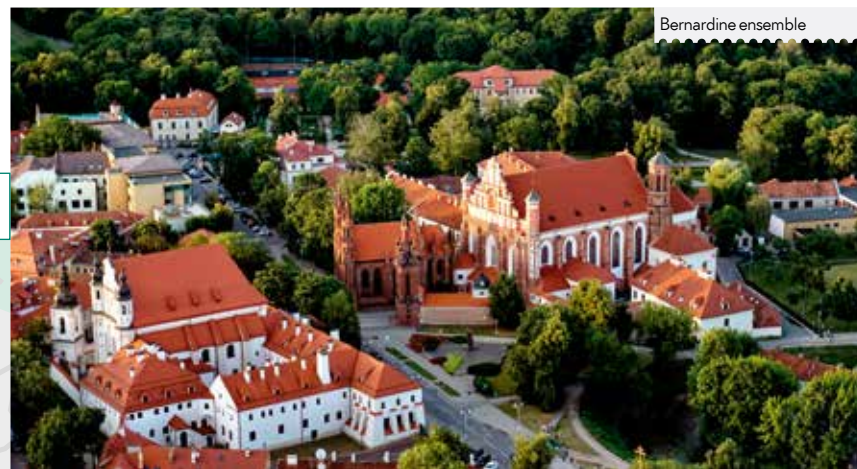
Once you have seen the Bernardine ensemble and park, visit the **Church of St Michael the Archangel (3)**, which was completed in the early 17th century. Alongside it you will see an



## Additional sites:

- I Bekešas (Bekes) Hill
- II Hill of Gediminas' Grave
- III Castle Steward's House (16th century)
- IV Foundations of the Churches of St Anne and St Barbara (14th century)

40 min  
2.7 km 20 min  
2.7 km



Bernardine ensemble



ensemble of Renaissance buildings where both Gothic and Baroque are also combined. This architectural ensemble reflects the tradition of the monastery and church foundation in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania – its construction was commissioned by the Chancellor of the GDL, Lew Sapieha. St Michael the Archangel Church served as a mausoleum for the Sapieha family. The church and individual buildings of the former Bernardine Monastery now house the Church Heritage Museum.

Next, take Sv. Mykolo Street down to Pilies Street. Stop by the residential building marked with the **number 12 (4)**. This building is considered one of the most complex and mature examples of 16th century Gothic domestic architecture in Vilnius.

Turn onto Skapo Street from Pilies Street and you will end up on Universiteto Street. A bit to your left you will see the **Presidential Palace of the Republic of Lithuania (5)** – the best example of the so-called Empire style of Neoclassicism (late 18th century – early 19th century) in the city. Bishops of Vilnius lived here during the GDL era. The ensemble of the Presidential Palace accommodates the modern Centre of Civil Education (entrance from Totorių Street).

Be sure to visit **Vilnius University (6)**,

which is right next to the Presidential Palace. Formed over entire centuries, this is a unique place in Vilnius that stands out for its numerous architectural styles and contemporary works of art. Founded on the initiative of the Jesuit Order in 1579, Vilnius University was the academic and cultural centre of the entire Eastern Europe, and became a guarantee of victory for the Counter-Reformation in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The university was attended by a number of prominent scientists, writers and public figures from various European countries. The university offers tours where you can even go to the top of the bell tower of the **Church of Sts Johns (7)** to take in a wonderful panorama of the Old Town of Vilnius. Part of the Vilnius University building complex, this bell tower is the tallest structure in the Old Town. Erected in the early 15th century, the Church of Sts Johns was the first parish church built near what was then the main town square (the present Town Hall Square). Looking at it, you will see the signs of Neoclassicism and Gothic architecture, but Baroque plays the most resounding note.

The **Vilnius Alumnatas (8)** also belongs to the Vilnius University ensemble. This Uniate seminary was founded by the Pope of Rome in the late 16th century and was an outpost for the penetration of



Town Hall

Catholic influence into Eastern Europe. The Alumnatas evokes the Renaissance spirit, while the use of space is typical of Mannerism. The ensemble consists of a closed and semi-closed courtyard. The latter overlooks the courtyard of the Presidential Palace.

Once you have become acquainted with the Vilnius Alumnatas, go up to Dominikonų Street. This street of churches and dignitaries is where the **Pociej Palace (9)** stands. Looking at the façade of the palace, which began to be constructed in the 17th century and was only completed in the 19th century, you will see early Baroque colour palettes, bas-relief horsemen and a two-storey arch gallery.

Then continue on to the historic Jewish quarter – from Dominikonų Street, turn onto Stiklių Street and progress towards **Zydy Street** and the **Vilna Gaon monument (10)**. Thanks to a Jewish sage named Elijah ben Solomon Zalman – better known as the Vilna Gaon – Vilnius became a Jewish spiritual centre and took on special meaning in Jewish life not only in Europe but also in the whole world.

Go back to Stiklių Street and take it to the end until you reach **Town Hall Square** and the **Merchants Guild building complex (11)**. Town Hall Square is the main node of the radial plan. Formed

in the Middle Ages, this street network has survived to this day. Standing in the square, admire the Neoclassical façade of the Town Hall and the Merchants Guild buildings that go back to the early 15th century. These are excellent examples of Gothic and Renaissance architecture in Vilnius that have stood the test of time. From Town Hall Square, it is hard not to notice the early Baroque (17th century) style of the **Church of St Casimir (12)**. Visible not only from above, but from the perspective of many streets as well, its cupola is one of the most impressive features of the city's panorama. Due to the elements of early Baroque and the cult of St Casimir, a prince of the Kingdom of Poland and the GDL, the Church of St Casimir is of particular importance to modern-day Lithuania.

Next take Didžioji Street towards Aušros Vartų Street. Stop for a moment at **Aušros Vartų Street 8 (13)**. Characterised by elements of Renaissance ornamentation (*sgraffito*), this is the only non-residential building left in the Vilnius Old Town with a Gothic layout. It is believed that these were commercial buildings (warehouses) used by merchants in the 15th and 16th centuries. A bit farther up Aušros Vartų Street, take a moment to become acquainted with the 'Holy Triangle of Vilnius' which is comprised of three churches of Christian

Architectural ensemble of Vilnius University





denominations. Two of the churches share a common wall and one is just across a street.

The first complex – the **Church of the Holy Trinity and the Basilian Monastery (14)** – belongs to the Uniates. In the 14th century, a wooden Orthodox Church stood on the site of the church; the present brick church was only erected in the 16th century. The Basilian Monastery Gate is one of the city's largest and most beautiful late Baroque structures.

The second – the **Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit and the Orthodox Monastery (15)** – is an example of the intersection of Eastern and Western cultures in Vilnius (the late 16th century). Designed in late Baroque style in the second half of the 18th century, the interior of the church has survived until the present day. It is the only monastery in Vilnius that has been operating without interruption since its inception.

And the third – the early Baroque (early 17th century) **Church of St Theresa and the Discalced Carmelite Monastery (16)** – evokes the architecture of Rome. It is similar to the Carmelite Churches of Santa Maria della Scala and Santa Maria della Vittoria in Rome. The late Baroque interior frescoes are perhaps the largest example of late 18th century wall painting in Vilnius.

Complete the route at yet another symbol of Vilnius – a holy place for the three denominations and a major pilgrimage site: the **Gate of Dawn** (also known as the **Medininkai Gate**) and the **Gate of Dawn Chapel (17)**. With its Renaissance appearance, this is the only surviving gate of the Vilnius defensive wall. It was first mentioned in written sources in the early 16th century. We are reminded of the defensive function of the Gate of Dawn by the arrow-slits on the external side of the gate that are visible to this day.

A wooden chapel was built next to this gate in the 17th century which got its present Neoclassical look after being restored in the 19th century. Inside, you



Gate of Dawn

can see a painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary that was created expressly for the chapel in the 17th century. This is one of the most famous Renaissance paintings in Lithuania.



### 1. Bernardine Historical-Architectural Ensemble

[www.bernardinuansamblis.lt](http://www.bernardinuansamblis.lt)  
Maironio g. 10-2, Vilnius

### Church of St Anne

[www.onosbaznycia.lt](http://www.onosbaznycia.lt)  
Maironio g. 8, Vilnius

### Bernardine (St Francis of Assisi) Church

[www.bernardinuparapija.lt](http://www.bernardinuparapija.lt)  
Maironio g. 10, Vilnius

### 2. Bernardine Gardens

[www.vilniausparkai.lt](http://www.vilniausparkai.lt)  
B. Radvilaitės g. 8A, Vilnius

### 3. Church of St Michael the Archangel

[www.bpmuziejus.lt](http://www.bpmuziejus.lt)  
Šv. Mykolo g. 9, Vilnius

### 5. Presidential Palace of the Republic of Lithuania

[www.lrp.lt/prezidento-rumai](http://www.lrp.lt/prezidento-rumai)  
S. Daukanto a. 3, Vilnius

### 6. Architectural ensemble of Vilnius University

[www.muzejus.vu.lt](http://www.muzejus.vu.lt)  
Universiteto g. 5, Vilnius

### 7. Bell tower of the Church of Sts Johns (St John the Baptist and St John the Apostle and Evangelist)

[www.muzejus.vu.lt](http://www.muzejus.vu.lt)  
Šv. Jono g. 12, Vilnius

### 12. Church of St Casimir

[www.kazimiero.lt](http://www.kazimiero.lt)  
Didžioji g. 34, Vilnius

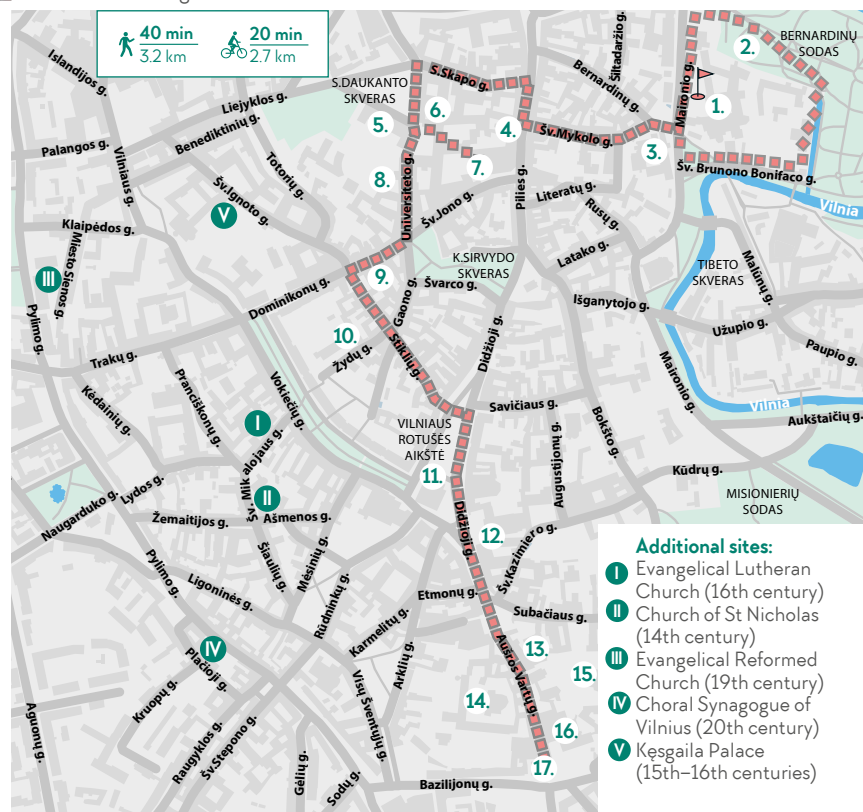
### 15. Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit

Aušros Vartų g. 10, Vilnius

### 16. Church of St Theresa

and  
**17. Gate of Dawn Chapel (the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy)**

[www.ausrosvartai.lt](http://www.ausrosvartai.lt)  
Aušros Vartų g. 14, Vilnius



#### Additional sites:

- I Evangelical Lutheran Church (16th century)
- II Church of St Nicholas (14th century)
- III Evangelical Reformed Church (19th century)
- IV Choral Synagogue of Vilnius (20th century)
- V Kęsgaila Palace (15th–16th centuries)



## Acquaintance with Užupis and Its Surroundings

*Užupis is the oldest suburb of Vilnius. Its street plan, architecture and layout are still similar to that of an old town. It is as if the Vilnius Historic Centre merges into this neighbourhood and continues in its streets, squares and courtyards. When travelling along this route, get to know both the old Užupis, with its historic buildings, as well as its new image, which is shaped by the people who live here. The present-day Republic of Užupis is an interesting example of community building, artistic expression and its relationship with the city.*

Begin your acquaintance with Užupis and its surroundings at the **Cathedral of the Theotokos (1)** on Marionio Street. Built in the early 14th century in the district near the Vilnia River inhabited by Orthodox Ruthenians, this is the oldest surviving Orthodox house of prayer in Vilnius. The church's architectural style is Gothic. This bears witness to a phenomenon characteristic of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania – the intersection of two European cultures. However, the current look and size of the building go back to the late 19th century, when the church was reconstructed in the Georgian style. From the church, go towards the bridge, where you will see the **Užupis sign (2)**. This announces that you are about to enter the Republic of Užupis. From the

very beginning of its formation, Užupis has always been like a separate 'organism' of the city – the natural boundaries and the bend of the Vilnia have preserved the relative isolation of the district. Originally, this neighbourhood was inhabited by craftsmen, merchants and townspeople who were less well-off, but it later became popular among artists who eventually turned the region into a separate 'republic'. In 1997, it was named the Republic of Užupis. Go across the bridge and straight up Užupio Street; turn onto Malūnų Street and stop by the building marked with the number 3. The **Monastery of Not Cloistered Bernardine Sisters (3)** (the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Bernardine



Bastion of the Vilnius Defensive Wall

Sisters (Colettines)) operated here from the end of the 15th century. This was the first women's monastery in Lithuania. Although the history of the monastery goes back to the 15th century, the current monastery buildings were only built at the end of the 18th century.

Continue along the Vilnia River, walk around the Vilnius Academy of Arts building and turn onto the pedestrian alley called Jono Meklo Skersvėjis ('Jonas Mekas' Crosswind'). From there, take the steps up to Užupio Street. In front of you, you will see the gates leading to the tiny **Church of St Bartholomew the Apostle (4)**, which is one of the most important historic monuments of the Užupis neighbourhood. It is a late Neoclassical church, but the tower added to its façade is typical of Historism. This house of worship has now been given over to the Belarusian Catholic community in Vilnius.

When exiting through the church gates, turn right and take Polocko Street to the **Bernardine Cemetery (5)** – a significant site of historic heritage in Užupis. Established in the early 19th century, this cemetery was managed by the Bernardine Monastery. Wander around the cemetery and visit the graves of notable Vilnius residents. Then

take Polocko Street followed by Užupio Street back to the square where the **Angel of Užupis (6)** stands. Created by sculptor Romas Vilčiauskas and architect Algirdas Umbrasas, this sculpture was erected in the square in 2001 and has since become the landmark of Užupis.

After taking a picture next to the sculpture, turn onto Paupio Street. Affixed to one of its walls, you will see special plaques with all 41 articles of the **Constitution of the Republic of Užupis (7)** laser-engraved in different languages – Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, English, French, German, Arabic and Estonian, among others. Both the angel sculpture and these constitution plaques – with the image of an open palm – symbolise the openness, tolerance and spirit of freedom without which Užupis is impossible to imagine.

Paupio Street will take you to Kūdrų Park – stretched along the outskirts of Užupis, this is a popular place to take a stroll among the city's locals. From Kūdrų Park, continue the route by crossing Marionio Street and going up to the **Bastion of the Vilnius Defensive Wall (8)**. Characterised by its original construction, this fortification is often called the 'Barbican'. This structure was

Angel of Užupis, sculptor R. Vilčiauskas





severely damaged during the wars with Moscow in the mid-17th century, and during World War II the German military used it as a shelter.

The Bastion consists of a tower that is part of the city's defensive wall and underground casemates connected by a corridor which forms a tunnel some 48 metres long. The Bastion houses a museum where you can learn about the history of the structure and the entire Vilnius defensive wall as well as the armament of that time. The Vilnius defensive wall provides a spectacular view of Užupis, which is spread out below.

Once you take in the view, continue the route by taking Subačiaus Street up to the Baroque **Missionary Church (the Church of the Ascension) (9)**, with the surviving buildings of the former Vilnius missionary monastery standing nearby. Construction of the Missionary Church began next to the monastery at the end of the 17th century, and was completed in the beginning of the 18th century. Finish the itinerary through Vilnius' oldest neighbourhood and its surroundings at the **Subačiaus scenic viewpoint (10)**, which provides a picturesque panorama of the Vilnius Old Town. A tower viewer is available for an even better perspective.



### 1. Cathedral of the Theotokos

Maironio g. 14, Vilnius

### 4. Church of St Bartholomew the Apostle

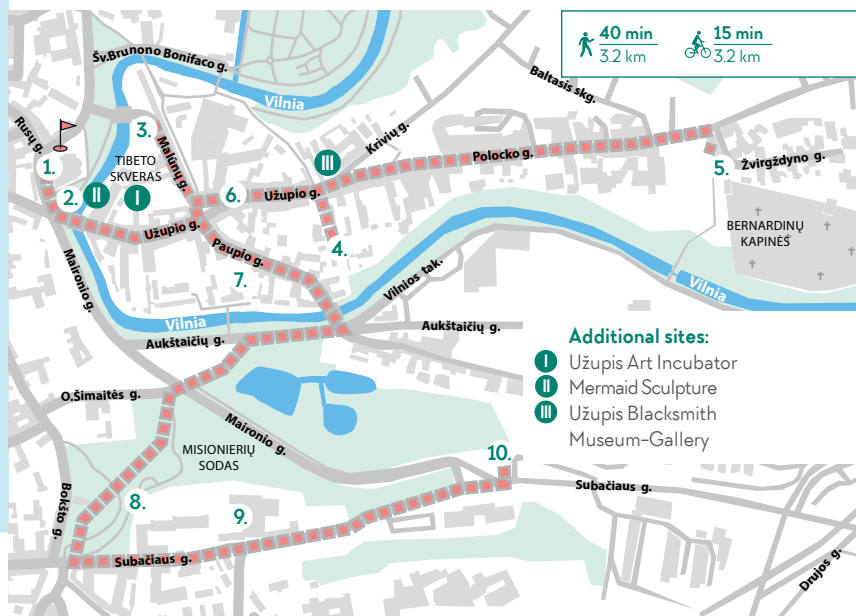
Užupio g. 17A, Vilnius

### 8. Bastion of the Vilnius Defensive Wall



www.lnm.lt

Bokšto g. 20 / Subačiaus g. 18, Vilnius



## Behind the Defensive Walls of the Castles

*This route will introduce you to the Vilnius Historic Centre suburbs that extend to the west and south-west of where the Upper Castle defensive wall once stood, down what are now Gedimino Avenue, Vilniaus Street and Basanavičiaus Street. You will see buildings that were erected during the period of rapid urbanisation.*

Up until the 19th century, the suburbs were reserved for residences, monasteries and their domestic infrastructure, while warehouses used by Vilnius merchants and a few wooden residential buildings stood along the river. However, the area already began to change in the beginning of the 19th century, since a new town centre had begun to be formed with Gedimino Avenue as the main axis.

Over the course of a few centuries, one of Vilnius' oldest rural areas went from being an uninhabited and empty field to a suburb, which later became the outskirts of the city and is now part of the centre. On your journey, you will see structures that were erected in the 19th and 20th centuries which reflect the city's rapid urbanisation process and its influence on urban space. During this period, new buildings were constructed in this area that met the city's new functions and needs.

Start your trip from **Odminių Square (1)** in front of Vilnius Cathedral. The square was long the boundary of the old city of Vilnius – a place outside of the defensive wall. Not far from the square, a bell foundry operated in the 19th century where Liejyklos ('Foundry') Street is now located, while the area around the present Odminių ('Tanner') Street housed tanneries, which also gave name to the square.

Once you look around the square, turn onto Gedimino Avenue. Across the way you will see a building marked by the number 3 – this is the **Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (formerly the Palace of the Russian State Bank) (2)**, which was built in the early 20th

century. The architecture of the façade is a combination of Neoclassicism and early Modernism.

Just a few metres down Gedimino Avenue, you will see the **Bank of Lithuania (formerly Vilnius Land Bank) (3)** on the other side. In the late 19th century, the place where the bank now stands was almost empty, only occupied by a few wooden houses. It was decided to build the Land Bank in this location. Completed in the late 19th century, this was the first building in Vilnius specially built for a bank. The building is an excellent example of Historicism with Neo-Renaissance and Neoclassical elements. A nearby merchant's house situated on the corner of Gedimino Avenue and Totorių Street now accommodates the Money Museum. From the Bank of Lithuania, go down K. Sirvydo Street until you see the **Church of St George (4)**, which is part of the former Carmelite monastery building ensemble. The original Gothic, single-nave church that was built in the early 16th century was destroyed by a fire in the mid-18th century, and only parts of its walls remain. Later, under the initiative of Navahrudak voivode Jerzy Radziwiłł, the church was almost completely rebuilt in late Baroque style.

Next to the church you will see a building marked by the number 6 – this is now the seat of the **Lithuanian Writers Union (formerly Ogiński Palace) (5)**. At the end of the 19th century, a merchant Edward Wojnicki built a two-story building. The building was later redesigned and renovated several times. In the 20th century, much of the palace interior was





Church of St Catherine

restored, including the stove mouldings, the ceiling relief, the wooden flooring and carvings, and the wrought iron detailing. It is one of the most beautiful Neo-Baroque interiors in the capital. The building is open to visitors.

Once you leave the palace, look to the right and you will see the rear façade of the **Central Lithuanian Post Office (formerly the Jędrzej Śniadecki House) (6)**. Walk around the building and go inside. Built in 1886, this is one of the best examples of Historicism in Vilnius, though the influence of Renaissance palaces can also be felt with the wide profiled cornice, balustrades and attic.

Continue your trip down Gedimino Avenue. Stop to admire the **bank building (formerly the Polish Post Office Savings Bank) (7)** across the street from the post office. Construction of this building began in the first half of the 20th century. With its integral volume and elegant proportions, this monumental building is one of the best examples of Constructivist architecture in Vilnius.

As you continue down the avenue, take notice of the **shopping centre (8)** marked with the number 18. During the inter-war period, this modernist building housed the Jabłkowski Brothers

Department Store. Continue your trip down Vilniaus Street. At the intersection of Islandijos Street, you will see **Radziwiłł Palace (9)** on the left. This palace, which belonged to Janusz Radziwiłł, is the most mature example of early 17th century palace architecture in the city. The building was devastated during the war with Moscow; it later came close to being demolished, and was damaged by fire in the 18th century. One of the five three-storey pavilions that belong to the palace was rebuilt in 1983. This now houses the Radziwiłł Palace Museum.

Continue down Vilniaus Street until you reach the **Church of St Catherine (10)**. Though construction of the church began in the early 17th century, it only took on its current appearance after the renovation that was done in the mid-18th century. The church is connected to the former Benedictine Monastery complex. In recent years, the church has been used to hold various concerts.

From the Church of St Catherine, take Klaipėdos Street until you reach **Reformatų Square (11)**. The history of this square dates back to the 17th century, when, by order of Grand Duke of the GDL Władysław IV Vasa, the Evangelists-Reformists were banished

beyond the defensive wall of Vilnius. They founded their own cemetery here (where the square is now situated) and built a wooden church. In the 19th century, the church was torn down and a new one was built – a masonry church that has survived to this day.

Taking Pylimo Street towards Trakų Street, you will see Stanislovas Kuzma's sculpture *The City Gatekeeper* in the niche of the building on the corner (Trakų g. 2 / Pylimo g. 24). This is a reminder that **Trakai Gate (12)** – one of the nine gates of the defensive wall that surrounded Vilnius – once stood here.

Take J. Basanavičiaus Street up the hill to find the other sites on the itinerary. On the right, you will see the **Russian**

**Drama Theatre of Lithuania (formerly the Polish Theatre) (13)**. Construction of the building, which is attributed to the styles of Eclecticism and Art Nouveau, was completed in the early 20th century. On the other side of J. Basanavičiaus Street, take in the last site on the route – the seven-story **Lithuanian Railways Administration Building (formerly the Polesia Railway Palace) (14)**, which was built on one of the highest hills next to the Old Town in 1903.

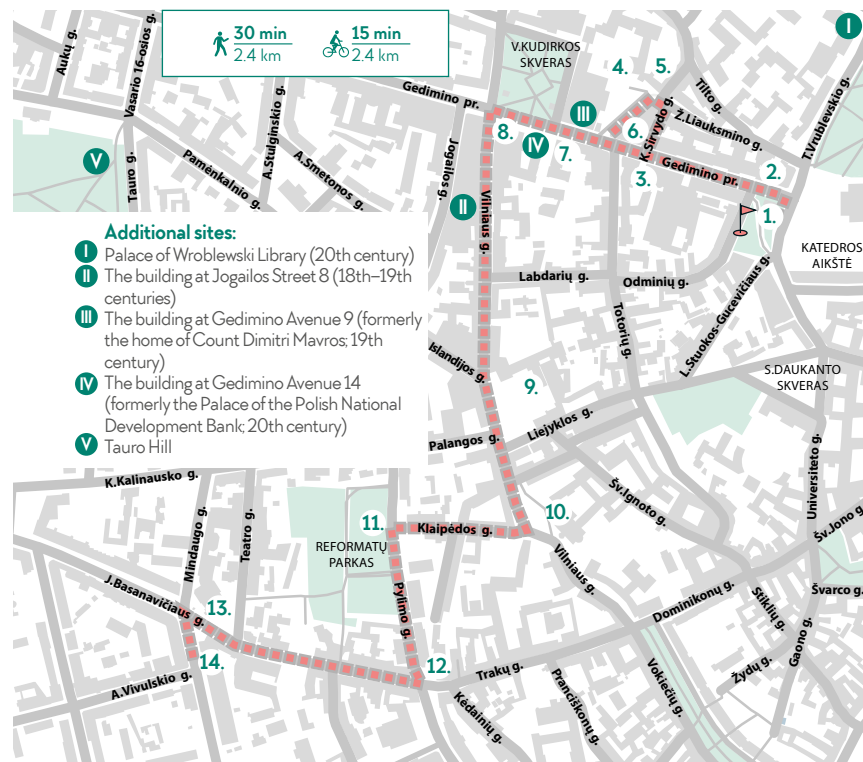


## 9. Radziwiłł Palace Museum

M ⓘ % 🚶 🎵 🦽

[www.ldm.lt/rrm](http://www.ldm.lt/rrm)

Vilniaus g. 24, Vilnius



### Additional sites:

- I Palace of Wroblewski Library (20th century)
- II The building at Jogailos Street 8 (18th–19th centuries)
- III The building at Gedimino Avenue 9 (formerly the home of Count Dimitri Mavros, 19th century)
- IV The building at Gedimino Avenue 14 (formerly the Palace of the Polish National Development Bank; 20th century)
- V Tauro Hill



## Events

Every year, the vibrant **Kaziukas Fair** (held on the weekend closest to March 4, the Feast of St Casimir) fills the streets of the Vilnius Old Town with merriment. This is the largest gathering of folk artists and craftspeople in the country. This festival has century-old traditions and features a wealth of hand-crafted items and the opportunity to become acquainted with customs such as cross-crafting. The fair attracts thousands of visitors each year. The origins of Kaziukas Fair date back to the beginning of the 17th century.

In mid-June, Lithuania's capital – and the historic centre in particular – is taken over by **Culture Night**. During the one-night festival, various types of art projects – music, dance, theatre, cinema, photography, modern installations, and so on – fill the streets, squares, parks and the most unusual spaces.

**Days of the Capital City**, one of the largest festivals in Vilnius, takes place

on the first weekend of September. The festival features multi-genre events of a high artistic quality, which satisfy different needs and attract a large audience of locals and out-of-town visitors. The events take place in the largest open spaces of Vilnius: Cathedral Square, Gedimino Avenue, Vingio Park, etc.

During **Christmas**, the most anticipated holiday of the winter season, the air in Cathedral Square, the heart of Vilnius, is filled with the aroma of gingerbread, creating a festive atmosphere. The stalls of the Christmas market, clustered around a Christmas tree, offer visitors to purchase unique gifts and delicious treats.



3D virtual reality tour  
of the Palace of the  
Grand Dukes



[www.vilnius-tourism.lt](http://www.vilnius-tourism.lt)  
[www.vilnius-events.lt](http://www.vilnius-events.lt)

# The Curonian Spit – The Golden Strand of the Baltic Sea



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



**Curonian Spit**  
• Inscribed on the  
World Heritage List in 2000



Educational trail of the Nagliai Nature Reserve

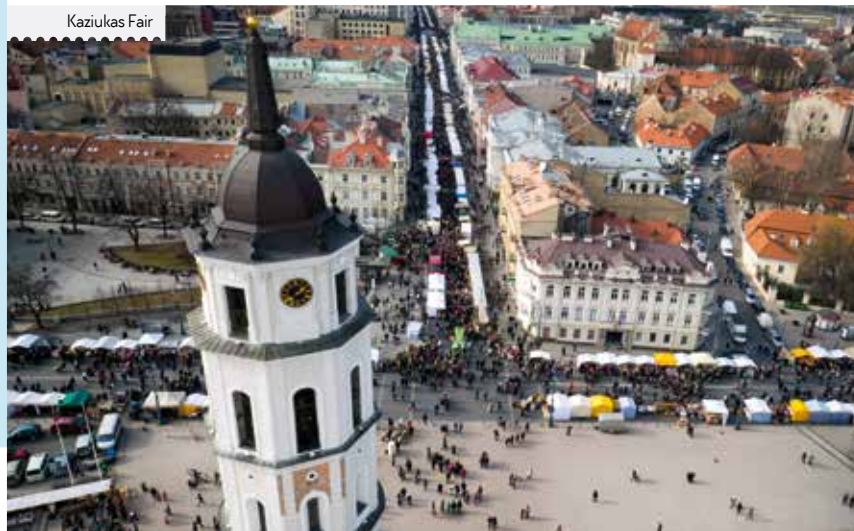
The **Curonian Spit** is a sand-dune peninsula, created by the waves of the sea, drifted by the wind, and preserved through the tedious efforts of humans. It extends 98 kilometres through two countries – Lithuania and Russia (Kaliningrad Oblast) – and separates the Curonian Lagoon from the Baltic Sea. The most important natural accent of the Curonian Spit is the wind-blown dunes, whose sand has buried numerous fishing villages over the years, and part of which is overgrown with century-old spruce and pine trees now known as the Curonian Spit Ancient Forest. The unique fishing settlements that have survived to this day present an opportunity to become acquainted with important elements of the Curonian Spit's cultural landscape, such as the sailboats and weather vanes that represent the sociocultural traditions of the local people as well as the changes in the environment and its evolution. The Curonian Spit was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2000.

## The Curonian Spit: From Smiltynė to Nida

Begin your excursion by stopping by the seaside in Smiltynė. As you make your way to the water, you will have to surmount a small dune – the **protective**

**coastal dune ridge (1)**, which has a unique history behind it. This dune began to form more than 200 years ago. People made fences out of branches

Kaziukas Fair





and planted sandy soil ground cover in order to create a barrier that would trap the sand from the sea and keep it from covering the settlements. This resulted in the formation of a 100 kilometre long protective dune ridge, the maintenance of which is now one of the community's greatest concerns.

As you continue on to Nida, you can visit Juodkrantė, Pervalka and Preila. First stop by the **Old Villa Quarter of Juodkrantė (2)**, where cosy resort buildings that were constructed in the 19th century and early 20th century as hotels, summer villas and boarding-houses still stand.

After you stroll through the quarter, climb up the **Hill of Witches (3)** in the very centre of Juodkrantė; then stop by one of the oldest and largest **grey heron and great cormorant colonies (4)** in Lithuania. Some dozens of grey herons and several thousands of great cormorants pair here every year. This

is estimated to be one of the largest cormorant colonies in all of Europe.

As you continue on towards Pervalka, make a stop at the **Nagliai Nature Reserve Educational Trail (5)**. The reserve is a protective area for a unique landscape featuring the Grey ('Dead') Dunes, the coastal flat, rare plants and animals, and the sites of two old graveyards and four villages buried by sand. Compared with other areas of the Curonian Spit, the dunes that stretch out over the Nagliai Nature Reserve are virtually untouched by humans and are valuable for their primordial nature.

Not far from Preila is **Vecėkrugas Dune (6)** – covered with creeping pine, it is the highest dune on the Curonian Spit (67.2 m). It offers an impressive panorama of the Curonian Spit's forests, lagoon and sea, interspersed with the small settlements of Nida and Preila.

Complete the route in the largest settlement on the Curonian Spit – Nida. Take the Parnidis Educational Trail to the top of **Parnidis Dune (7)**. Locals believe the name of this dune originated from the phrase '*perėjusi Nidą*' ('passed through Nida'), since this wind-blown dune 'passed through' the settlement of Nida several times. The dune now features an observation point with a sundial. From here you can survey the Parnidis Landscape Reserve and the Grobštas Nature Reserve as well as the beautiful white dunes. The sands in the Russian part of the spit are also visible from this dune.

Once you come down from the dune, turn into the **Old Town of Nida, which has been declared an urban reserve (8)**. Take a walk through Naglių Street and Lotmiškio Street, where buildings with cultural value from the late 19th and early 20th centuries still stand. The majority of them were reconstructed or rebuilt in the 1920s and 1930s.



Nida

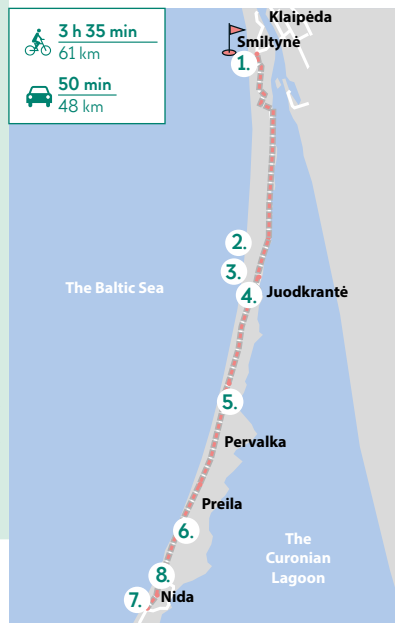
## Nida: From the Fishing Village to the Nida Art Colony

Start the route through Nida from one of the settlement's most famous cultural sites: the house that belonged to the German writer and Nobel Prize laureate Thomas Mann (1875–1955) which now houses **Thomas Mann cultural centre and museum (1)**. The writer spent two summers (1930 and 1932) at this house with his family, and it is where he wrote his renowned four-part novel *Joseph und seine Brüder* ('Joseph and His Brothers'). From the museum, take Pamario Street towards the Old Town of Nida and stop by the **Curonian Spit History Museum (2)**. The museum provides an overview of the occupations of the Curonian Spit residents, and its exhibitions feature fishing tackle, models of the flat-bottomed boats that have been known since the 16th century, and the attribute of flat-bottomed boats that has been known since 1844 – the weather vanes that decorated the masts. Don't miss the chance to visit the adjacent Skruzdynės Street, where you can become acquainted with artists who have worked in Nida. In the second half of the 19th century, Nida was discovered by

writers and painters, and professors from the Kunstakademie Königsberg began frequenting there with their students. Most of them stayed at the **Hermann Blode Hotel (3)** that was founded in 1867. Part of this building now houses the Hermanas Blodė Museum, where facts and photographs from the hotel's history are on display.

As you continue your journey, you can see another important site on Pamario Street – the late 19th and early 20th century **Ethnographic Cemetery of Nida (4)**, as well as the church that was erected in the late 19th century. The cemetery is famous for its original *krikštai* – wooden burial markers that were used in place of tombstones. This is one of the oldest forms of marking graves in Lithuania. Unlike Catholic crosses, *krikštai* were placed at the foot of the grave. They were crafted from a single board, and their shaft was supposed to reach the bottom of the grave.

While you are on Pamario Street, also be sure to stop by the **Amber Museum-Gallery (5)**, where a collection of 'Baltic gold' painstakingly assembled piece by





Nida Fisherman's Ethnographic Homestead







Villa in Juodkrantė

piece over 20 years is on display. There is a workshop alongside the museum which also offers lessons on amber crafting. Continuing down Naglių Street, you will come to the noteworthy **Old Town of Nida (6)**, which has preserved the ethnic architecture and urban structure typical of a fishing village. This is best illustrated by the **Nida Fisherman's Ethnographic Homestead (7)**, where the main building is a house that was built in 1900. The exhibition inside the house introduces visitors to the way of life of the Curonian Spit fishermen.





An artist with a unique style, sculptor **Eduardas Antanas Jonušas** preserved and gave new meaning to the distinctive cultural and spiritual heritage of the local people. His wooden and copper sculptures grace the entire Curonian Spit. In Nida, you can visit the **Eduardas A. Jonušas Studio (8)**

and become acquainted with the artist's work and legacy. Turning off of Taikos Street onto E. A. Jonušo Street, you will see the **Nida Art Colony (9)** – located in a modern building complex, this department of the Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts is continuing the traditions of the old artist colony.





### 1. Thomas Mann Memorial Museum

      
www.neringosmuziejai.lt  
Skrudynės g. 17

### 2. Curonian Spit History Museum

     
www.neringosmuziejai.lt  
Pamario g. 53





### 3. Hermann Blode Museum

     
www.visitneringa.com  
Skrudynės g. 2

### 5. Amber Museum–Gallery

     
www.ambergallery.lt  
Pamario g. 20

### 7. Nida Fisherman's Ethnographic Homestead

     
www.neringosmuziejai.lt  
Naglių g. 4

## Juodkrantė: A Fishing Village's Transformation into a Resort

In Juodkrantė, you can see the largest wooded parabolic (shaped like a stretched-out horseshoe) dune massif, which surrounds the entire settlement from the west. Before World War II, Juodkrantė was known for its spectacular historic forest park. You can take the dendrology trail to judge the beauty of the former park for yourself, and the giant wooden **Forest Megaphone (1)** that is three metres high and three metres wide is the perfect place to listen to the sounds of nature.

The 1.6-kilometre **dendrology trail (2)** is located in the northern part of Juodkrantė and is the perfect place to begin your acquaintance with the settlement. The trail stretches through the parabolic dunes covered by the **Curonian Spit Ancient Forest (3)**. The trail has 16 stations where you can learn about different types of trees and shrubs. In the northern part of the village, the small and calm **Amber Bay (4)** recalls the times of amber mining. While deepening the bottom of the Curonian Lagoon for navigation in the second half of the 19th century, amber was discovered in the bay, and businessmen quickly took an

interest. Every year, the Autumn Equinox Festival is held at the bay.

From nature's refuge, the route takes you to the **Old Villa Quarter of Juodkrantė (5)**. This area began to form at the turn of the 20th century, when the fishing village was slowly transforming into a resort. This period brought fashionable dress and entertainment to the Curonian Spit, and – most importantly – a new style of architecture. Villas, cottages, hotels and guest houses began to spring up. Some of them have survived to this day.

Right in the centre of Juodkrantė is a 42-metre high parabolic dune – John's Hill, which people now call the **Hill of Witches (6)**. This hill calls up the celebrations Saint John's Eve that have long taken place here. Choir singers and musicians would come in through the Curonian Lagoon on sailboats and steamboats from Tilžė, Rusnė and Klaipėda to celebrate the shortest night of the year. Since 1979, the hill has been home to a folk art sculpture park with 80 tree sculptures which depict good and bad characters from Lithuanian legends and fairy tales.





Forest megaphone

# The Kernavė Archaeological Site – Where Lithuania Began



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Kernavė Archaeological Site  
• Inscribed on the  
World Heritage List in 2004

## Events

The **Vimba Vimba Festival** is traditionally held in Nida on 28–30 April. These dates were not selected by chance – vimba vimbas leave the Baltic Sea in spring, swimming upriver to spawn. The big attraction at the festival is the opportunity to cook up a vimba vimba the same way fishermen used to.

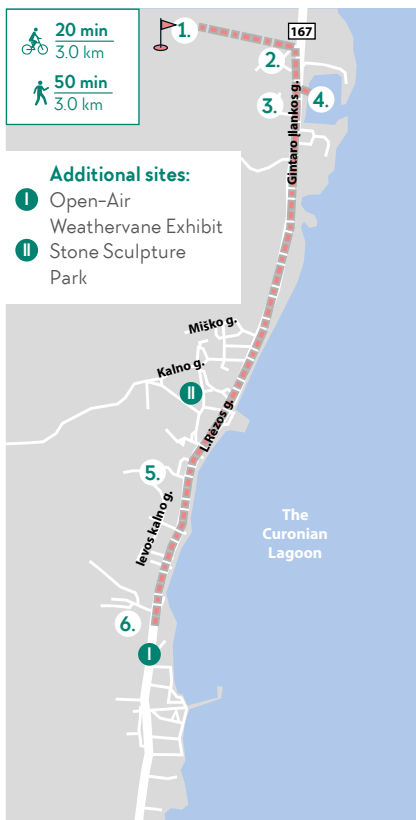
Welcoming the **autumn equinox** on 22 September by setting reed sculptures on fire in Amber Bay has been a tradition in Neringa for more than 10 years. These sculptures are created for the spring equinox, and after delighting Neringa locals and guests all summer long, they become fire sculptures in autumn.



Images of the  
Curonian Spit



[www.visitneringa.com](http://www.visitneringa.com)



Kernavė hill forts

**Kernavė** is the land of Lithuania's beginning. It is believed to have been the first capital of pagan Lithuania. The **Kernavė Archaeological Site (National Cultural Reserve of Kernavė)** is a unique complex of archaeological and historical values that was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2004.

The Kernavė Archaeological Site bears witness to the development of settlements in the Baltic region that took place over some 10 millennia, from the Palaeolithic era to this day. The structure of settlements and the scenic hill forts that loom here are truly unique. In the 13th and 14th centuries, Kernavė was one of the main centres of the pagan Lithuanian state, but research has also revealed the influence of Christianity, which is most reflected in the burial traditions.

## A Journey Through Kernavė's Millennia-Old History

Begin your acquaintance with the authentic area at the **Archaeological Site Museum of Kernavė (1)**. The museum safeguards over 25,000 archaeological finds, and the most important

archaeological values are on display. The exhibit provides an introduction to Kernavė's prehistoric and medieval history and archaeological research material. Afterwards, continue the tour by exploring



the archaeological site yourself while walking around the National Cultural Reserve of Kernavė. Its 194.4-hectare territory includes 16 archaeological heritage sites and three architectural heritage sites: hill forts, fragments of the ancient town, grave fields, chapels, and so on.

As you walk from the museum towards the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, you will see the main entrance to the reserve on your left. It begins with a scenic overlook which offers a spectacular view of the Kernavė hill fort complex, with the Pajauta Valley and the bend of the Neris River. The hill forts were given names in the 19th century: Pilies Kalnas ('Castle Hill'), Aukuro Kalnas ('Altar Hill'), Mindaugo Sosto Kalnas ('Throne of Mindaugas Hill'), Lizdeikos Kalnas ('Lizdeika's Hill') and Kriveikiškio Kalnas ('Kriveikiškis Hill').

Begin your tour of the hill forts at **Pilies Kalnas (2)**. An artisan quarter developed on this hill and in the upper part of the terrace bordering with the defensive hill fort complex, becoming an established part of the upper town of Kernavė.

Immediately behind Pilies Kalnas is the **Open-Air Museum Exhibition (3)**. Archaeological research in the lower town of Kernavė, which was located in Pajauta Valley, unveiled the structure of the medieval city. It was found that the 700–900 m<sup>2</sup> yards were enclosed with tall fences; in each one there was a house and two or three farm buildings or workshops. An abundance of surviving organic articles have been found: made from wood, birch-bark, leather and horn, these items have provided invaluable information about the living environment, households and crafts of the townsfolk of that time. Based on this archaeological material, a fragment of the 13th/14th-century town of Kernavė featuring the yards of craftsmen (a bone carver, a blacksmith and a jeweller) has been

recreated as an open-air exhibition.

After seeing the exposition, climb up onto the central Kernavė hill fort – **Aukuro Kalnas (4)**. Legend has it that there was once a pagan temple on this hill fort. According to archaeological data, this hill fort was the first to be inhabited – a settlement was established here around the turn of the epoch, in the 1st century, and a castle that served as a duke's residence stood on Aukuro Kalnas in the Middle Ages.

Once you come down from Aukuro Kalnas, go up onto its outwork – Mindaugo Sosto Kalnas (5). Romantics associated this hill with the coronation site of King Mindaugas. Archaeological research has revealed that a defensive castle stood here in the 13th and 14th centuries to protect the duke's residence on Aukuro Kalnas.

To the left of Aukuro Kalnas, another one of its outworks loom – **Lizdeikos Kalnas (6)**. This hill fort also protected the approaches to Aukuro Kalnas. Farther off from all of the other hill forts is **Kriveikiškio Kalnas (7)**, which was used either as a sacred hill or as a lookout. You will get the best view of it from Pilies Kalnas or Lizdeikos Kalnas.

**Pajauta Valley (8)** will open up before you as you walk from the hill forts towards the river. A fragment of the timber trackway – the oldest known surfaced road in Lithuania (4th century) – has been reconstructed and is on display in the valley. Complete the route by examining the reconstruction of the 1000 BC brushed pottery archaeological culture grave field.



### 1. Archaeological Site Museum of Kernavė

M ⓘ ♿ 🗺️ 🎧 🎵 🎶  
Kerniaus g. 4A

### 3. Open-Air Museum Exhibition of Kernavė

M ⓘ 🗺️ 🎵 🎶  
www.kernave.org



Days of live archaeology in Kernavė

### Events

Every year in the beginning of July, the **Days of Live Archaeology in Kernavė** – an international festival of experimental archaeology – take place in Kernavė. Visitors are invited to become acquainted with ancient crafts, food preparation, music making, medieval fights, and so on.

The traditional **Rasos ('Dew') Festival** is also held in Kernavė to celebrate the shortest night of the year. The festivities include bonfires, weaving wreaths and

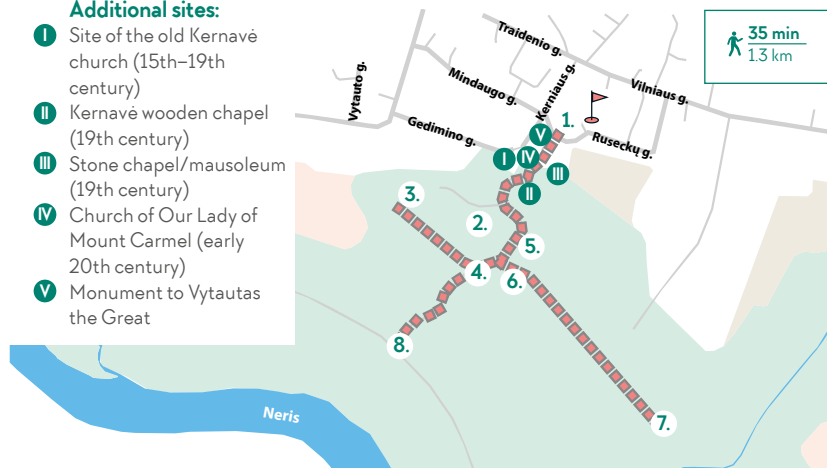
floating them down the river, looking for the elusive fern flower, as well as singing and dancing. The event begins on the night of June 23rd and ends on the 24th by greeting the morning sun.



Virtual tour of the Kernavė Archaeological Site  
(in English)

### Additional sites:

- I Site of the old Kernavė church (15th–19th century)
- II Kernavė wooden chapel (19th century)
- III Stone chapel/mausoleum (19th century)
- IV Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (early 20th century)
- V Monument to Vytautas the Great





# The (Un)Discovered Modernist Architecture of Kaunas



Post office

The **Modernist Architecture of Kaunas** emerged over a period of just 20 years – from 1919 to 1939 – and shaped the image of Kaunas as a modern European capital. The modernist ideas that were brought to Kaunas by architects who had studied abroad took on a distinctive form which gradually became known as the Kaunas school of architecture.

Each architect had a unique style characterised by different modern variations. In them, historical elements, searches for 'national style' and attempts to convey the basic principles of modernism under local conditions were pronounced.

The buildings that were constructed during the inter-war period are among the most prominent examples of early regionalism in the history of modernist architecture, and were added to a UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage tentative list in the beginning of 2017.

## Modernist Kaunas on Foot

On this special route, you will become acquainted with the modernist architecture of Kaunas. Start at the **Central Post Office (1)**, where modernity is incorporated wonderfully with 'national style'. The latter is manifest

through the interior and exterior décor imitating wood carvings.

If you look at the ceiling on the ground floor of the building, you will see a lily frieze and edging decorated with Lithuanian postage stamps – unique

decorative elements from the inter-war period. It is said that a tie woven by an unknown weaver from Skapiškis was used to decorate the interior.

Another site on the itinerary is on Laisvės Avenue, not far from the post office – the **Kaunas City Municipality (formerly the Savings Bank) (2)**, which is notable for the subtle attention to national motifs, Art Deco stylistics and functionality. This building contained what was then the one and only pneumatic post in Lithuania.

From the municipality building, turn onto L. Sapiegos Street and you will see the **Kaunas State Philharmonic Society (3)** on your left. Designed by architect Edmundas Frykas, this building was originally intended to be the seat of the Ministry of Justice and the Parliament. A Neoclassical building with striking Art Deco elements, it stands out for the monumentalism characteristic of the 'official style'.

Continue your walk down K. Donelaičio Street, where the **Bank of Lithuania (4)** stands at the intersection of Maironio Street. This building is considered to be a nugget of Neoclassicism. Natural and artificial marble, granite, moulding

and painted décor, various styles of furniture, and splendid light fixtures and chandeliers were used for the bank's luxurious interior.

After turning onto Maironio Street from the Bank of Lithuania, head towards V. Putvinskio Street, which was one of the most exclusive streets in the city during the inter-war period.

On the left, you will see several buildings that are a marvellous reflection of modernism: the three-storey **house of artist Antanas Zmuidzinavičius (5)**, the **building of the former Antanas Cyls Hospital (6)**, and the **Kaunas Artists' House (formerly the Apostolic Nunciature to Lithuania) (7)**.

To your right you will see a building that is considered a masterpiece of modernist architecture, which now houses the **National M. K. Ciurlionis Art Museum (8)** and the **Vytautas the Great War Museum (9)**.

Founded in the beginning of the 20th century, the National M. K. Ciurlionis Art Museum is the oldest museums of art in Lithuania. It features a permanent display of works by one of Lithuania's most prominent artists – painter and composer Mikalojus Konstantinas Ciurlionis (1875–1911) – as well as an exhibition dedicated

Vytautas the Great War Museum







Pienocentras building



Kaunas Basilica of the Resurrection of Christ

to folk art. The museum also hosts various temporary exhibitions.

At the adjacent Vytautas the Great War Museum, which was also founded in the beginning of the 20th century, you can learn about the history and evolution of Lithuanian military attributes, the art of military science, the Lithuanian freedom struggles and the ensuing independence. The museum also has archaeological finds and weaponry collections on display.

Take a right off of V. Putvinskio Street and you will find yourself in Vieniybės Square. At the south side, you will see the **Kaunas University of Technology (KTU) Central Administration Building (10)**, which used to be the Land Bank. This building reflects the stylistic changes in architectural forms and the searches towards functionalism. Walking down S. Daukanto Street, you will find yourself back on Laisvės Avenue, right in front of the former **Pienocentras Building (11)**, which was one of the first multifunctional buildings in the city. The Pienocentras shop and cafeteria occupied the ground floor, and a hair salon for men and women owned by the Muralis brothers was spread out over two floors. The second floor was for administrative premises, and there were flats on the third.

Not far away you will see the former

**Pažanga Building (12)**, which is notable for its beautiful congruence of inter-war modernism and 'national style'. The vast tradition of modernist architecture is continued on the other side of the avenue with the **Romuva Cinema (13)**, where Art Deco style is melded with the trends in cinema architecture that were prevalent around the world – particularly in the United States.

As you stroll around the city centre, take a moment to stop by the **Kaunas Officers' Club (14)**. This building is something of a mosaic of styles, where the representative functionality of both the government and the officers' association are compatible.

From here, turn left and go straight down A. Mickevičiaus Street until you reach V. Putvinskio Street. Across the way you will see the lower pavilion of one of Kaunas' two cable railways – the **Zaliakalnis Funicular (15)**. Built in 1931, the Zaliakalnis Funicular was the first cable railway in Lithuania and is now one of the oldest operating funicular railways in Europe.

Take the funicular up to Aušros Street to admire one of the most dominant pieces of architecture in the city – the **Kaunas Basilica of the Resurrection of Christ (16)**. This church was designed as the largest structure of monumental architecture in the Baltic States.

The spirit of the edifice is modern, ecclesiastical and monumental – that of Lithuanian independence. There is an observation deck on its roof that offers a spectacular view of the Kaunas Old Town. This church is visible from many vantage points in Kaunas.

Take the funicular back down and walk along Žemaičių Street until you reach the **Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts (17)**, the interior of which is decorated with pieces by the most prominent artists of the time period. A huge sphere stands by the entrance like an architectural pinpoint.

Continue your journey by visiting the **Sugihara House (18)**, which has preserved the spirit of Kaunas modernism. In 1940, Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara issued numerous Japanese transit visas to Jews, thus helping them avoid a tragic fate. The building houses a small museum dedicated to Chiune Sugihara that acts as a reminder of this story.

Complete the itinerary a bit outside of the city centre with a visit to the **KTU Faculty of Chemical Technology (formerly the Research Laboratory) (19)**. The easiest way to get there is via public transport from the Sporto g. bus stop on K. Petrausko Street, but you can also take a walk through

Ažuolynas Park.

This building embodies the manifestations of modernism in the city and is one of the best examples of pure modernism in Kaunas. It still contains the original laboratory equipment that was used to advance the military and other branches of industry. The equipment is functional and still in use. The laboratory features a distinctive element – special fume hood chimneys that dot the roof. Back in the day, the building was dubbed the 'chemical factory'.



#### 1. Kaunas Central Post Office



[www.post.lt](http://www.post.lt)

Laisvės al. 102, Kaunas

#### 5. Antanas Žmuidzinavičius Creations and Collections Museum and Devil Museum



[www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

V. Putvinskio g. 64, Kaunas

#### 8. National M. K. Čiurlionis Art Museum



[www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

V. Putvinskio g. 55, Kaunas





## 9. Vytautas the Great War Museum

M (👁️) (📱) (🗺️) (🔊) (🎵)  
www.kariuomene.kam.lt/lt/karo\_muziejus.lt  
K. Donelaičio g. 64, Kaunas

## 15. Žaliakalnis Funicular

🚡 (🌟)  
Aušros g. 6

## 16. Kaunas Basilica of the Resurrection of Christ

🕌 (🗺️) (🔊) (🎵)  
www.prisikelimas.lt  
Žemaičių g. 31A, Kaunas

## 18. Sugihara House

M (📱) (🗺️) (🔊) (🎵)  
www.sugiharahouse.com  
Vaižganto g. 30, Kaunas

Android



iOS

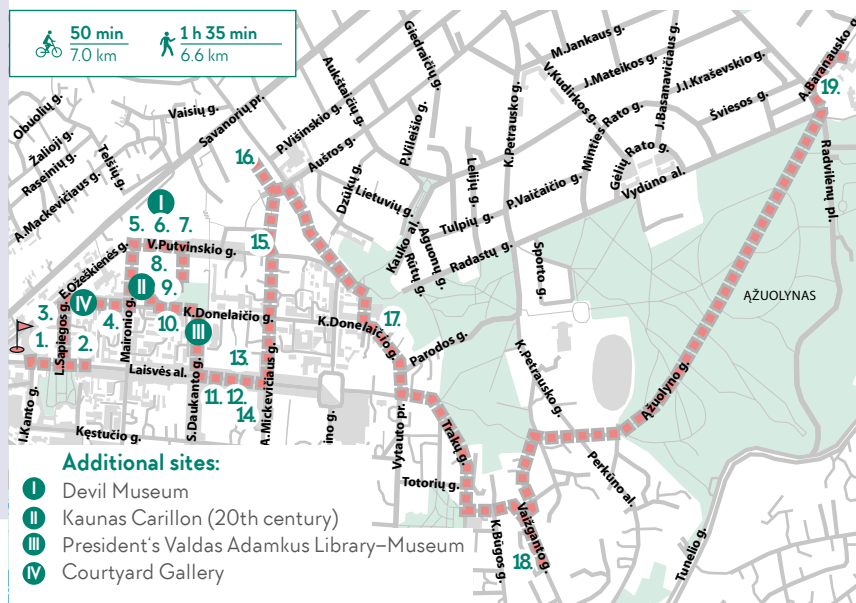


Mobile app Kaunas of 1919–1940



www.visit.kaunas.lt

🚲 50 min  
7.0 km  
🚶 1h 35 min  
6.6 km



### Additional sites:

- 📍 Devil Museum
- 📍 Kaunas Carillon (20th century)
- 📍 President's Valdas Adamkus Library–Museum
- 📍 Courtyard Gallery

## Events

The **Kaunas Hanseatic Days** take place in the city every May. The city of Kaunas was granted Magdeburg rights over 600 years ago. Kaunas is now the only city in Lithuania that belongs to the new Hanseatic League. Spectators are invited to become acquainted with medieval culture, music, dances, performances, games, crafts and knights. The festival takes place over three days, on the second to last weekend in May.

Going strong for more than two decades, **Kaunas Jazz** is an annual festival held on the last weekend in April that features the brightest jazz stars from Lithuania and abroad. During the festival, nearly every corner of the city is filled with the spirit of jazz.

# Kaunas – A City of Design in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Designated  
UNESCO Creative City  
in 2015



Wall painting *The Old Wise Man*, artists Ž. Amelėnas and T. Šimkus

In 2015, Kaunas was one of 47 cities to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, which encourages cities to strengthen international cooperation, pursue sustainable development, expand opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector, and fully integrate culture and creativity into local development strategies and plans. Cities around the world participate in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network within the fields of crafts and folk art, design, music, media arts, literature, film and gastronomy.

Kaunas' exceptional design opens up in two directions. The first is through its extensive architectural legacy – the buildings that were erected in Kaunas

in less than 20 years during the inter-war period. Kaunas' modernist architecture has led to the continuation of the traditions of many generations of Lithuanian architects and designers, both then and now. The second is through unique design events that, every year, generate original ideas and kindle the city's colourful image.

How and why did post-World War I Kaunas become the place for many artists of the younger generation to fulfil their ideas and aspirations? What aesthetic taste did people have back then? How did modernist and Art Deco styles spread in Kaunas? Get the answers to these questions and other extraordinary facts during a special

### excursion – Kaunas: A City of Design.

The two-hour excursion around the Centras and Žaliakalnis areas provides a remarkable opportunity to learn about the most significant artists and figures of the inter-war period and even visit private homes where unique interiors have been preserved to this day.

One of the city's driving forces in design is the **Kaunas Biennial** – the largest contemporary art event in the Baltic States. The biennial is like a magnet, bringing prominent artists from Lithuania and abroad together every two years, in September–November.

Held every two or three years in September and October, the **Kaunas Architecture Festival** takes a look at architecture's past and the interesting processes of the present. **Design Week**, which is spread out over several Lithuanian cities, also fills the urban space with design every May.

In early autumn, locals flock to the streets for the **Nykoka Street Art Festival**, which is meant to draw attention to the problems of public spaces and help understand each of our roles in the



Street art

urban development process. Every year, the **Kaunas Photo** festival addresses the question of what photography is today. The International Media Arts and Music Festival **Centras** focuses on opportunities for the synthesis of technology and various fields of art, while the long-established **Aura Dance Festival** demonstrates the heights of the human body's 'design' every October.

Wall painting *The Pink Elephant*, artist V. Jakas



## The Tradition of Song and Dance Festivals in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia



**The Baltic Song and Dance Celebrations**  
Intangible Cultural Heritage

United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Song and Dance Festival

A cultural expression that has existed for over 100 years, the tradition of song and dance celebrations in the three Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – was proclaimed a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2003 and was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2008. The origins of song festivals lie in mid-19th century Western Europe. The first song festival was held in Switzerland; they then become popular in Germany, and eventually reached Estonia, Latvia, and later – Lithuania through Scandinavia. This tradition caught on in the Baltic

States, and – unlike elsewhere in Western Europe – has survived to this day.

The first song festival in Lithuania was held in Kaunas in 1924. It was called Song Day, and only choirs participated. Dance Day was added in 1950.

Since 1990, when Lithuania regained its independence, the Lithuanian Song and Dance Celebration has been held every four years in the beginning of July. The festival takes place in Vilnius' Vingio Park and Kalnų Park, as well as at stadiums, concert halls and other open spaces around the Lithuanian capital. The festival will next be held in 2018 and 2022.

The song festival programme includes Folklore Day, which is dedicated to



traditional culture, Dance Day, which features dance compositions designed by professional choreographers that interpret Lithuanian customs and symbols, the colourful, theatricalised Ensemble Evening, Theatre Day, folk art exhibitions, *kanklės* (a Lithuanian plucked string instrument) and wind orchestra concerts, and festive processions. The celebration is topped off by Song Day, which brings thousands of singers together into a gigantic choir. The Lithuanian song festival tradition is beautifully carried on by the Schoolchildren's Song Festival, the Gaudeamus Student Song and Dance Festival, and regional song festivals, including ones that take place where it all began – in Dainų ('Song') Valley in Kaunas – as well as numerous colourful events that reflect different artistic branches and genres.

The song festival is notable for cultural forms of expression that are unmatched by anything in the entire world. During the celebration, the song festival

brings together various amateur and professional art groups from all over Lithuania; emigrants are also included, with over 40,000 people coming from different parts of the world to participate.

The song festival has become a vivid expression of cultural identity and a vehicle for its preservation; one that constantly revives the legacy of traditional culture and reveals the most significant strata of the professional creativity of the past and the present. Its idea and tradition are handed down from generation to generation – in families, schools and cultural institutions.



Song and dance festival



For more information:  
[www.dainiusvente.lt](http://www.dainiusvente.lt)

Song and Dance Festival. The Dance Day



# Sutartinės: A Lithuanian Folk Music Phenomenon



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

**Sutartinės**  
**Lithuanian multipart songs**  
Intangible Cultural Heritage



Skamba Skamba Kankliai festival. The evening of sutartinės

*Sutartinės* are Lithuanian multi-part songs that were inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010.

This is a phenomenon of traditional Lithuanian music – an extremely old form of polyphony that emerged even before the Christianisation of Lithuania (1387). *Sutartinės* were mentioned in written sources in the 16th century, but they were only collected in the 19th and 20th centuries, when they lost their connection with ancient rites and the community tradition of singing them began to fade.

Lithuanian multi-part songs are distinctive for their abundance of onomatopoeia, cyclical concepts of time, and sharp consonances. Pieces with a similar structure have only been discovered in a few places in the world. *Sutartinės* are considered a syncretic art

which reflects the connection between music, text and movement. In European music theory, they are considered a paradox: accords of dissonance intervals – seconds – create harmony.

During **Skamba Skamba Kankliai**, an international folklore festival that takes place every May, Vilnius hosts an evening of *sutartinės* singing called **Rimo Rimo Tūto**. *Sutartinės* can also be heard at **Sutarjėla**, an annual festival that takes place in the Aukštaitija region. Another *sutartinės* festival – **Sesė Sodų Sodina** – is held in the Kaunas district in December.



Listen to Sutartinės

For more  
information:  
[www.savadas.lnk.lt](http://www.savadas.lnk.lt)





# The Legacy of the Nobles: The Radziwiłł Archives and Niasvzh (Nieśwież) Library Collection



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Radziwiłł's Archives and  
Niasvzh (Nieśwież) Library Collection  
• Inscribed on the Register in 2009  
• Memory of the World



Manuscript of the Radziwiłł archive

The Radziwiłł Archives and Niasvzh (Nieśwież) Library Collection contain historical documents of the State of Lithuania and are a copious legacy of the Radziwiłł family – one of the most prominent aristocratic families in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. These documents were added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register in 2009. The archives began to be compiled in 1570, when Mikołaj Krzysztof Radziwiłł chose Nieśwież (now the Belarusian city of Niasvzh) for his residence. Along with the family's correspondence, the collection contains an extensive number of documents of national significance as well as memoirs, diaries, contracts and over 10,000 records.

The largest surviving noble archive, it is constantly being supplemented with newly discovered documents. It contains as many as 70,000 original documents. The documents are written in Old Belarusian, Russian, Latin, Polish, German, English, French, Italian and other languages. They provide valuable insight into Central and Eastern European cultural history, cultural and social relationships and daily life. The collection is scattered among the archives of Lithuania, Poland, Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, and Finland. Part of the Radziwiłł Archives is safeguarded at the **Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania**, and separate documents are available at the **Vilnius University (VU) Library** (the Department of Manuscripts) and other institutions of memory.



# The Struve Geodetic Arc: A Landmark in the History of Science



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



**Struve Geodetic Arc**  
• Inscribed on the  
• World Heritage List in 2005



Struve Geodetic Arc in Gireišiai

A chain of survey triangulations that extends over nearly 3,000 kilometres, this is a unique monument to the concord of science and technology. It was designed to accurately determine the length of the meridian arc and to calculate the size and shape of the Earth. It was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2005. The arc was named after the German astronomer Friedrich Georg Wilhelm von Struve, who in 1816 expanded on the methodology for measuring the meridian arc that was developed back in the 16th century. After heading numerous expeditions measuring and fitting out a chain of triangulations comprised of 258 main triangles (points) with different markings, Struve completed the chain and presented it to the public in 1855.

The Struve Geodetic Arc was the most accurately measured and longest meridian arc, and is one of the largest cross-border UNESCO World Heritage sites. The chain extends from the mouth of the Danube at the Black Sea to northern Norway at the Arctic Ocean, through a total of 10 countries. Lithuania has 18 station points in all, of which three are part of the inscribed property:  
**Karischki** (Gireišiai; in the district of Rokiškis),  
N 55°53'49" E 25°25'52"  
**Beresnāki** (Paliepiukai; in the district of Vilnius),  
N 54°37'55" E 25°26'31"  
**Meschkanzi** (Meškony; in the district of Vilnius),  
N 54°55'48" E 25°18'43"



# The Baltic Way: A Human Chain Linking Three States in Their Pursuit of Freedom



The Baltic Way - Human Chain Linking Three States in Their Drive for Freedom  
Inscribed on the Register in 2009  
Memory of the World



Baltic Way, 1989

As a show of unity in their pursuit of freedom, almost two million people joined hands on 23 August 1989 to form the 600-kilometre Baltic Way that spanned across Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. A collection of documents recording this peaceful political demonstration were added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register 20 year later. In Lithuania, the documents are safeguarded at the Office of the Chief Archivist.

The Baltic Way was a response to the 50th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, which abolished the independence of the Baltic States.

This pact allowed the Soviet Union to expand its influence in Central and Eastern Europe and occupy entire nations.

Later, the situation began to change. In the 1980s, anti-Soviet movements emerged in the Baltic States which drew crowds of thousands to rallies in Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn. One of the outcomes of these movements was the Baltic Way.

Distinguished for its magnitude and peacefulness, the Baltic Way captured and amazed the entire world. Not only did it demonstrate the joint struggle of the three countries on

an international level – it also gave impetus to democratic movements in other parts of the world.

The strong feeling of brotherhood, unity and a common goal among the three nations became an important political factor in the restoration of freedom and independence.

You can revisit the Baltic Way at several sites that are scattered around Lithuania. A few of them are in Vilnius. In Cathedral Square, you can stand on the **Baltic Way commemorative tile** that was created by artist Gitenis Umbrasas. The tile features the footprints of an unknown Baltic Way participant, and a time capsule with a message for future generations is buried beneath it.

**Gediminas Hill**, which is next to Cathedral Square, was where the Baltic Way began. You can go up the hill to the Tower of Gediminas to see the map and pictures of the Baltic Way that are on display, as well as a special documentary film.

Another symbol of the Baltic Way is

the **Road of Freedom** sculpture at the junction of Konstitucijos Avenue and Geležinio Vilko Street. Constructed from more than 20,000 donor bricks, the sculpture is 63 metres long and 3.5 metres high.

Commemorative signs/information stands were unveiled at five rest stops along the Vilnius–Panevėžys highway to mark the 25th anniversary of the Baltic Way: at kilometres 32.1 and 80.1 on the left side, and kilometres 38.5, 55.6 and 99.9 on the right side.

Four other information stands were erected along the road from Panevėžys to Pasvalys, which continues on to the Lithuanian–Latvian border: at kilometres 19.5 and 62.9 on the left side, and kilometres 27.8 and 47.5 on the right side..



Baltic Way hymn



For more information:  
[www.thebalticway.eu](http://www.thebalticway.eu)

Road of Freedom, sculptor T. Gutasauskas







# Cross-Crafting and Cross Symbolism in Lithuania



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

**Lithuanian Cross-crafting  
and its Symbolism**  
Intangible Cultural Heritage



Samogitian Museum in Telšiai

Cross-crafting (*kryždirbystė*) is a traditional branch of Lithuanian folk art which – due to its vitality, artistic maturity and special significance in the lives not only of individual people, but of the nation as a whole – was proclaimed a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2001 and was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2008. The practice of erecting crosses goes way back to ancient times. Lithuanians have built crosses since the 15th century to show respect for God and the dead, to express gratitude, to ask for grace or protection from misfortune, and so on.

The cross was linked in many ways to human life in its entirety, so it is not by chance that *kryždirbystė* evolved into a symbol of national/ethnic unity and identity in the late-19th and early-20th centuries. Cross-crafting even survived the periods of occupation (tsarist and Soviet) when the construction of crosses was either banned or restricted. Lithuanian cross-crafting is a synthesis of faith, customs, art and crafts. Elements of architecture, sculpture, smithery and painting meld in the sacred wooden monument. Cross-crafting was never taught in special schools as a trade. Crosses were – and still are – made out of wood, metal

and even stone by self-taught artisans, who merge Christian iconography, the specific features of folk devotion, primitive art forms and the archaic relationship between man and nature in their work.

*Kryždirbystė* encompasses wooden crosses, wayside shrines, chapel posts, altars, and the components that these monuments are made of: wooden sculptures from various religious scenes, ornamented iron crosses that top the objects and primitive paintings.

There are an abundance of traditional and modern crosses and shrines on roadsides and in churchyards, towns, villages, homesteads, forests and so on. Lithuanian museums have old 19th-century wooden sculptures and iron crosses on display.

Those who are interested in this craft can visit the workshops of renowned artisans or meet with them at the **Kaziukas Fair** that takes place in Vilnius in early March, or at folklore festivals and song celebrations.

Over 100,000 various crosses have been erected on the Jurgaičiai hill fort

at the **Hill of Crosses** (Šiauliai district); these crosses echo the traditions and current trends of cross-crafting.

Also worth visiting are the **Rumšiškės Open-Air Museum of Lithuania**, which has examples of cross-crafting from different regions of Lithuania, the **Rokiškis Regional Museum**, which houses an impressive exhibition of works by folk artist Lionginas Šepka, the **Samogitian Museum in Telšiai**, and the **Zemaitė Memorial Museum at Bukantė Manor** (Plungė district), where unique examples of *kryždirbystė* are on display and special excursions are available.

You can also find a comprehensive cross-crafting exhibit at the National Museum of Lithuania (Arsenal g. 1, Vilnius, [www.lnm.lt](http://www.lnm.lt)).



Narrative about  
cross-crafting  
(in English)

For more  
information:  
[www.savadas.lnk.lt](http://www.savadas.lnk.lt)



Hill of Crosses





# Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve: A Rare Bird Kingdom



Lake Žuvintas

With its exceptionally valuable and unique natural complex, this is one of the country's largest biodiversity areas. UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme added the Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2011. This is the first – and so far the only – Lithuanian site in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The reserve is located in the southern part of Lithuania, on the southwestern border of the physiographic region of the Lower Neris and Middle Nemunas plateau. It includes the Žuvintas and Amalvas wetland complexes, Lake

Žaltytis and its mires, and part of the Bukta Forest. Covering a total of 6,940 ha, the Žuvintas wetland is the largest in Lithuania. It is a natural complex that encompasses an overgrown shallow lake and a very natural and diverse wetland nearly untouched by humans. The reserve has a high concentration of rare and endangered plant and animal species, as well as communities and habitats of wetland plants that can no longer be found in most other parts of Lithuania. However, the reserve is best known for its birds. Since 1980, as many as 239 species of feathered vertebrates

have been observed here, of which 153 species have bred or breed here.

The Žuvintas wetlands are one of the most important places in Lithuania for biodiversity, and for birds in particular. This is where the largest populations of marsh harriers, little crakes, cranes and bluethroats in the country breed. During migration, flocks of cranes, geese, ducks, sandpipers and other birds stay at the reserve. The Žuvintas wet meadows are one of the two locations in Lithuania where the extremely rare and globally threatened aquatic warbler breeds.

The administration building houses the **Žuvintas Reserve Nature Exhibition**. This is where you can become acquainted with the natural complexes and the wildlife, bird and fish species that are typical of the reserve, and learn about how lakes appear and disappear, how wetlands form, and how nature is protected at the reserve.

You can take in the expanses of the lake from the tower nearby the administration building or by strolling

along the **Lake Žuvintas Nature Trail**, which is open to visitors from 8 am to 8 pm. Take a walk down the 350-metre trail in spring or summer to hear the chirping of great bitterns, bearded reedlings, European penduline tits and other reed birds. There is a tower at the end of the trail where you can observe the bird species that live and migrate by the lake.

The hornbeam groves along the **Bukta Forest Nature Trail** are reminiscent of the ancient woods of Lithuania. With its abundance of rare plants, the nearby scrubland is a joy for botanists, and all visitors are welcome to enjoy the well-kept surroundings of its renovated, 2-kilometre nature trail.



Morning over the Žuvintas Reserve

[www.zuvintas.lt](http://www.zuvintas.lt)



Aquatic warbler



**UNESCO** is the United Nations organisation for education, science and culture, uniting the different countries, nations and communities of the world.

Founded after the Second World War in 1945, UNESCO promotes peaceful international cooperation and harmonious coexistence, encouraging activities that foster universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. By strengthening cooperation between the world's races, religions

and people irrespective of their language and gender, UNESCO actively contributes to promoting tolerance across the world.

The multi-faceted relations in the field of science, culture and communication are seen as the most effective way to contribute to the strengthening of peace and security in the world. UNESCO unites 195 member states and 10 associate members. Lithuania has been a UNESCO member since 1991.

