

# THE CITY OF CHAMPIONS



# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF VICTORIES

**1 ŽALGIRIO ARENA**  
Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50

The largest multifunctional arena in the Baltic states and the home of the legendary Žalgiris basketball team and its sea of thousands of fans. Attendance records have been broken here, momentous victories have been reached. This is the go-to place for a true spectacle of basketball, and fans from all over Lithuania and abroad will be there to attest to it. It is also a venue for the top artists and musicians from all over the world and hosts a number of different types of events.

**2 KAUNAS SPORTS HALL**  
Derkūno al. 5

The legendary sports hall came into existence at a record-breaking pace, as it was built in half a year before the 1939 EuroBasket. Some of the greatest basketball victories in Lithuanian history were achieved here, both during the First Republic period and during the Soviet occupation. The Žalgiris legend was nurtured between these walls, and once the renovation is complete, it will continue hosting basketball, futsal and handball competitions.

**3 S. DARIUS IR S. GIRĖNAS STADIUM**  
Derkūno al. 5

As soon as the stadium's renovation is complete, Kaunas will boast a stadium of the highest (fourth) UEFA category. The historic stadium was first opened in 1925 and reconstructed soon after. In 1936, the first international football game was played, as Lithuania defeated Estonia 2:0. It was the host venue for the first Lithuanian National Olympic and has hosted the World Lithuanian Games, World Lithuanian Song and Dance Festival, Baltic Sea Sports Games, European Athletics Championships, the meeting of Pope John Paul II, European U19 Football Championship. Among the most memorable football events were the Lithuanian National Team's games against France and Spain, and FBK Kaunas' pairing with Glasgow Rangers.

**4 LITHUANIAN SPORTS UNIVERSITY**  
Sporto g. 6

It'd be a tough ask to count all of the Lithuanian champions and their coaches who have graduated from this historical institution. While it has gone through several name changes, whether it'd be an institute, academy or university, the achievements of its graduates have been of the highest level. Besides the Physical Culture Palace, planned out by Vytautas Landsbergis-Zemkalnis in 1934, LSU also owns the track-and-field hall in Žaliakalnis.

**5 AŽUOLYNAS PARK**

The stadium, Kaunas Sports Hall, bike paths and plenty more opportunities to take on sports or support athletes in one of Europe's oldest oakwoods. It has an interesting detail behind it. In 1938, as the first National Olympiad approached, Napoleonas Petrusis' statue of a sitting man was revealed in Vydušo avenue. The sculpture, dedicated to a healthy body and lifestyle, depicts basketball player Petras Jankus, who was the torchbearer in the Olympiad's opening ceremony that year.

**6 VYTAUTAS PARK**

The beginning of sports in Lithuania is considered to be the 13th of July, 1919. That day marks the first sports event, or to be exact, the first track-and-field event to be held in the country. It took place in Vytautas Park, which was still called Petrovka back in the day. With the initiative of Lithuanian Sports Museum Director Pranas Majauskas, the location was marked with a memorial stone. It was also the location of the first basketball and football practices in an independent Lithuania.

**7 THE ARVYDAS SABONIS HOUSE**  
Derkūno al.

As impressive as its first owner, the Sabonis' house in Žaliakalnis was built in 1991 and reconstructed in 2009. The most convenient time to see it is, of course, on your way to the Sports Hall or the stadium (after the renovation is finished).

**8 KAUNAS TENNIS CLUB**  
Sporto g. 3

Established in 1924 and brought back to life in 1989, the Kaunas tennis club is one of the oldest organizations in Lithuania. Tennis was brought to the country around the year 1900 by Count Tškevičius, as the first court was built in Astravos manor.

**9 NATIONAL FOOTBALL ACADEMY**  
Aukštaičių g. 51

Besides training budding talents, this is the go-to place for professional and amateur teams in Kaunas to train. The renovation of the academy in 2009 was completed by unveiling the Lithuanian footballer sculpture. Right beside the stadium, in Petras Vileišis square, stands a composition called Festival, marking the location of the first Lithuanian Song Festival, held in 1924.

**10 KAUNAS BALŲ AINIAI ICE RINK**  
Aušros g. 42C

Lithuania's best figure skaters Povilas Vanagas and Margarita Drobiazko started their career in Žaliakalnis. It continues developing children who are looking to become ice skaters or hockey players. Curling is also being played here. Until the new arena comes to fruition, it is also the home of the Kaunas Hockey team.

**11 KAUNAS BASKETBALL SCHOOL ŽALGIRIS**  
Daišlės g. 41

In the autumn of 2018, two of the oldest and most titled basketball academies in Kaunas, Sabonis' basketball center and Aisčiai joined to become Kaunas basketball school Žalgiris. The road to the top Lithuanian basketball club Žalgiris is now straighter than ever.

**12 GIRŠTUČIO POOL**  
Koro II-osios g. 26

A terrific place to learn how to swim, or just to splash around when the weather isn't being too kind. All in all, it's the number one choice for all of Kaunas' mermaids and mermen.

**13 TOWN HALL SQUARE**

We meet all our European and World champions, medalists and other deservedly sportsmen in this square that once had a bazaar buzzing. The news of Kaunas as the European capital of culture was also announced here. It is also the start and finish of the Kaunas marathon, and the location to celebrate the start of a new year. Town square is the heart of the city.

**14 LITHUANIAN SPORTS MUSEUM**  
Muziejus g. 7

Medals, trophies, diplomas, shoes, javelins, bikes, balls. Thousands of Lithuania's best athletes' memorabilia and personal items form a small museum that was founded by former sportsman Pranas Majauskas. This was the place Valdas Adamkus announced that he would be running for the Lithuanian President position.



**15 SANTAKA PARK**

In the birthplace of Kaunas, where Nemunas and Neris meet, you will meet people running or exercising at any time of the year. There is also a ramp for extreme sports enthusiasts, the Lithuanian Sports Museum and the location of the planned House of Basketball. The sports area in Santaka Park is also complemented by artistic inclusions, with a sculpture of an old-style weight designed and sculpted by Tadas Vosylius. The half-meter weight lays there with a weight of a ton.

**16 HOUSE OF BASKETBALL**  
Santaka park

The pantheon of Lithuanian basketball is still on the drawing board, but it is planned that this modern and majestic building will accommodate all the past and future basketball victories and will emerge in Santaka Park by 2020.

**17 ANTANAS MARTINAITIS SCHOOL OF ART**  
Šv. Gertrūdės g. 33

The building of Antanas Martinaitis School of Art has seen everything throughout its years since being built in the 18th century. In March, 1927 it marked the start of Lithuanian table tennis history. Lithuania's first game of table tennis, organized by the Jewish sports association Makabi, was played here. A memorial plaque on the facade of the school marks the occasion.

**18 SCULPTURAL COMPOSITION "THE RACE"**  
Kaunas castle roundabout

As sculptor Tadas Vosylius offered his idea of race horses running in a circle for the Kaunas accents competition, he noted that the Kaunas castle roundabout resembles a race track. It really does!

**19 KAUNAS MAKABI STADIUM (T.B. NONEXISTANT)**  
Jonavos g.

The present-day Jonavos St. was a Jewish inhabited area. Since up until 1888 they were not allowed to build houses in the Kaunas city center, the found home in Vilijampolė and on the other side of Neris, the current Jonavos street. A synagogue (that no longer stands) was built here, the Lithuanian rabbi union was active, and in 1920 the sports and gymnastics union Makabi was established. The union owned the stadium that held a capacity of 2500 spectators. During the Soviet occupation, the stadium was renamed to Lima under a nearby factory.

**20 MEETING OF BASKETBALL PLAYERS MURAL**  
Kurpių g. 29

Once the Lithuania men's basketball national team brought back gold from Sweden in EuroBasket 2003, everybody celebrated, even those who weren't really into sport. The following morning various artists wrote a thank you note on a postcard, which was a wall of one of the signers' office.

**21 LOCATION OF THE FIRST FOOTBALL GAME**  
Nemunas bank by the Kaunas State Musical Theater

Although the first football match in independent Lithuania dates back to 1919 and took place in what is currently Vytautas Park, to get to know the roots of this sport, we'd have to return to Tsarist times.

**22 RŪTA MEILUTYTĖ LIME TREE**  
Laisvės al.

Just two weeks after Rūta Meilutytė's fifteenth birthday, she struck gold in the 2012 London Olympics. In her honor, the citizens of Kaunas planted a lime tree right in front of a monument to Grand Duke Vytautas the Great. Look down when you're in search of it, the tree is marked with a special plaque.

**23 SIMONAS DAUKANTAS BRIDGE**

The monumental pedestrian bridge connecting the center of Kaunas and the Nemunas Island was built in 1988 when Lithuania had not yet regained its independence. Nevertheless, from the very beginning the bridge was decorated with symbols of our statehood. On the 4th of July in 1996 pilot Jungis Katsys legally flew under a bridge for the first time in the world (on the bridge, you will find a memorial plaque dedicated to this event). He repeated his flight four years later, this time upside down. Right after his accomplishment, the pilot met up with Formula-1 pilot Mika Häkkinen on the bridge itself.

**24 V. ADAMKUS PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY-MUSEUM**  
S. Daukanto g. 25

The future President of Lithuania lived in Žaliakalnis during the interwar period. As a kid, he was fascinated by the basketball games in Kaunas Sports Hall, to which he would sometimes sneak in without a ticket. As he was in Germany during the war, he won a number of medals in the Games of the Suppressed Nations. You can get to know more about Valdas Adamkus' biography in one of the few presidential libraries in Europe.

**25 VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY**  
K. Doneičio g. 52

Since 2017, besides many other interesting study programs, Vytautas Magnus University offers the Sports Business MBA by EB Institute. It is the only international study program in Europe that is carried out together with the EuroLeague. Of all universities in Europe, the organization chose the one in Kaunas. Another great thing about the university is that it has got its own esports venue.

**26 STONE OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ISAKAS ANOLIKAS**  
Laisvės al. 3

The author of idea for stones of remembrance (german - stolpersteine) is a german artist Dornig, who has laid out more than 50 thousand symbols across Europe in memory for the victims of the Holocaust. One of such stones in Kaunas marks the location of the velodrome where the first Lithuanian Olympian Isakas Anolikas trained.

**27 RIO ARENA**  
Kounakimio g. 5

We know a place in Kaunas where summer and white sand is ever present! Just missing the sea, you say? What for? The beach is dominated by beach volleyball, tennis and badminton.

**28 A. ŠOČIKO STREET**

In 2014, the city council decided it was time to commemorate the great boxer, coach and European champion Algirdas Soćikas. Since the athlete was from Sančiai, his name was given to part of the Šilalė street that extends in the area, very close to where he used to live.

**29 MONUMENTAL STONE TO THE OLYMPIANS**  
A. Juozapavičiaus pr. (next to house 87)

After returning from Lithuania's debut at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris, the athletes planted an oak in Sančiai. Despite the fact that no medals were brought back home, they paved the way for future generations and were commemorated 84 years later. The author of the monument stone is Arvydas Rymekis.

**30 ŽALGIRIS KAUNAS YACHT CLUB**  
R. Kalantos g. 124

Did you know that Kaunas' first yacht club operated in the very center of the city, on the Nemunas Island? After all, during the interwar period this was the location of a winter port. Once the Kaunas Reservoir emerged with the damming of Nemunas, sails soon became an integral part of Kaunas' landscape.

**31 KAUNAS SPORTS SCHOOL GAJA**  
Partizanų g. 180

Kaunas' largest sports school teaches as many as 15 sports: badminton, boxing, cycling, judo, fencing, wrestling, orienteering, table tennis, skeet shooting... The school's history dates back to 1951, when a Complex Sports School for Children and Youth was established here. The next page in the book dates to 1963, when the School of Sports Excellence was established in Kaunas, near the Institute of Physical Education.

**32 KAUNAS SWIMMING SCHOOL**  
Baltų pr. 8

Olympic champion Rūta Meilutytė started her career here in Šilainiai swimming pool, which is well-documented in the documentary Rūta (2018). Thousands of young Kaunas citizens overcome their fear of water in these tracks. Water polo is also played in the pool, as it often hosts various competitions.

**33 LAMPĖDŽIAI ROWING BASE**

The wind is becoming increasingly favorable for rowers - a modern base for this sport will soon be opened here. Wish the students of Kaunas Sports School Bangutys the best of luck! The atmosphere has always been sportive here: the UNO adventure park is on one shore of the lake, while wakeboarding enthusiasts gather on the other.

**34 STEPONAS DARIUS AND STASYS GIRĖNAS AERODROME**  
Veiverių g. 132

One of the oldest in Europe, the century-old aerodrome received its name after the tragic flight of Lithuania. It was the intended landing location for pilots Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas. There has been more and more aviation festivals at the airport and the constantly improving infrastructure has been drawing thousands of fans from all over the world.

**35 LITHUANIAN AVIATION MUSEUM**  
Veiverių g. 132

Nearly 20 thousand exhibits help us appreciate the rich history of our country's aviation, both military, civilian and sportive. The museum is located in Lithuania's oldest aerodrome and draws in with exhibits such as ladybug-like glider inside or the steel birds outside of the exhibition.

**36 JURGIS DOBKEVIČIUS PROGYMNASIUM**  
V. Cepinskio g. 7

Jurgis Dobkevičius was still very young when he became Lieutenant and took the reigns of the Air Squadron. He was the first to carry out the death loop and constructed three planes. Unfortunately, the third one ended up being a fatal plane for him. Dobkevičius died testing it in the Alekotas aerodrome. A progymnasium nearby the crash site was named in his honor and holds a memorial museum and a memorial stone outside of it.

**37 MARVELĖS EQUESTRIAN CENTER**  
Marvelės g. 199

The oldest and currently only equestrian center in Kaunas is located on a picturesque location nearby Nemunas. It has undergone a renovation from the ground up, starting in 2018 and is planning to host international equestrian competitions in few years time.

**38 NEMUNO RING**  
Kačerginė, Kauno r.

Smoke, oil and screeching tires! The only circular racing track in Lithuania with a length of 3350 m was opened in 1960 for a stage of the USSR rally championship. Most motorsports enthusiasts call this place home and would get hooked on the sport right here in Kačerginė.

**39 KAUNAS AIRPORT**  
Karmėlava, Kauno r.

One day in April, 1999, all of Kaunas and a big part of Lithuania gathered in the small town of Karmėlava. Everyone wanted to see the newly-crowned EuroLeague champions with their own eyes, as they returned home from Munich.

**39 MONUMENTAL STONE TO THE OLYMPIANS**  
A. Juozapavičiaus pr. (next to house 87)

After returning from Lithuania's debut at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris, the athletes planted an oak in Sančiai. Despite the fact that no medals were brought back home, they paved the way for future generations and were commemorated 84 years later. The author of the monument stone is Arvydas Rymekis.

**30 ŽALGIRIS KAUNAS YACHT CLUB**  
R. Kalantos g. 124

Did you know that Kaunas' first yacht club operated in the very center of the city, on the Nemunas Island? After all, during the interwar period this was the location of a winter port. Once the Kaunas Reservoir emerged with the damming of Nemunas, sails soon became an integral part of Kaunas' landscape.

**31 KAUNAS SPORTS SCHOOL GAJA**  
Partizanų g. 180

Kaunas' largest sports school teaches as many as 15 sports: badminton, boxing, cycling, judo, fencing, wrestling, orienteering, table tennis, skeet shooting... The school's history dates back to 1951, when a Complex Sports School for Children and Youth was established here. The next page in the book dates to 1963, when the School of Sports Excellence was established in Kaunas, near the Institute of Physical Education.

**32 KAUNAS SWIMMING SCHOOL**  
Baltų pr. 8

Olympic champion Rūta Meilutytė started her career here in Šilainiai swimming pool, which is well-documented in the documentary Rūta (2018). Thousands of young Kaunas citizens overcome their fear of water in these tracks. Water polo is also played in the pool, as it often hosts various competitions.

**33 LAMPĖDŽIAI ROWING BASE**

The wind is becoming increasingly favorable for rowers - a modern base for this sport will soon be opened here. Wish the students of Kaunas Sports School Bangutys the best of luck! The atmosphere has always been sportive here: the UNO adventure park is on one shore of the lake, while wakeboarding enthusiasts gather on the other.

**34 STEPONAS DARIUS AND STASYS GIRĖNAS AERODROME**  
Veiverių g. 132

One of the oldest in Europe, the century-old aerodrome received its name after the tragic flight of Lithuania. It was the intended landing location for pilots Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas. There has been more and more aviation festivals at the airport and the constantly improving infrastructure has been drawing thousands of fans from all over the world.

**35 LITHUANIAN AVIATION MUSEUM**  
Veiverių g. 132

Nearly 20 thousand exhibits help us appreciate the rich history of our country's aviation, both military, civilian and sportive. The museum is located in Lithuania's oldest aerodrome and draws in with exhibits such as ladybug-like glider inside or the steel birds outside of the exhibition.

**36 JURGIS DOBKEVIČIUS PROGYMNASIUM**  
V. Cepinskio g. 7

Jurgis Dobkevičius was still very young when he became Lieutenant and took the reigns of the Air Squadron. He was the first to carry out the death loop and constructed three planes. Unfortunately, the third one ended up being a fatal plane for him. Dobkevičius died testing it in the Alekotas aerodrome. A progymnasium nearby the crash site was named in his honor and holds a memorial museum and a memorial stone outside of it.

**37 MARVELĖS EQUESTRIAN CENTER**  
Marvelės g. 199

The oldest and currently only equestrian center in Kaunas is located on a picturesque location nearby Nemunas. It has undergone a renovation from the ground up, starting in 2018 and is planning to host international equestrian competitions in few years time.

**38 NEMUNO RING**  
Kačerginė, Kauno r.

Smoke, oil and screeching tires! The only circular racing track in Lithuania with a length of 3350 m was opened in 1960 for a stage of the USSR rally championship. Most motorsports enthusiasts call this place home and would get hooked on the sport right here in Kačerginė.

**39 KAUNAS AIRPORT**  
Karmėlava, Kauno r.

One day in April, 1999, all of Kaunas and a big part of Lithuania gathered in the small town of Karmėlava. Everyone wanted to see the newly-crowned EuroLeague champions with their own eyes, as they returned home from Munich.

# HELLO!

WELCOME TO THE CAPITAL OF LITHUANIAN SPORTS. KAUNAS IS THE HOME OF ŽALGIRIS AND NUMEROUS LEGENDARY BASKETBALL PLAYERS, AND HAS ENCHANTED EUROPE AND THE ENTIRE WORLD WITH THE POPULATION'S DEDICATION TO THE SPORT. NEVERTHELESS, DESPITE BASKETBALL BEING THE COUNTRY'S SECOND RELIGION, AND MOST LIKELY THE CITY'S FIRST ONE, TO BE ABLE TO CALL ITSELF THE CAPITAL OF LITHUANIAN SPORTS, KAUNAS HAS TO OFFER MUCH MORE THAN JUST THAT. AND IT DOES. YOU'D NEED NUMEROUS VOLUMES OF ENCYCLOPEDIAS TO WRITE DOWN AND INTRODUCE ALL THE OLYMPIANS, CHAMPIONS, MEDALISTS AND FOUNDERS WHO CALL KAUNAS THEIR HOME. THIS TOUR ROUTE IS JUST THE START OF IT ALL, AS WE STROLL OUR WAY TO VICTORY.

# SPORTS

## BASKETBALL

It sometimes feels like the ancient Baltic tribes must have played basketball on the seven hill forts surrounding the city of Kaunas. Truth is, we're only getting ready to celebrate the Lithuanian and Kaunas birthday of this sport. The importance of the sport to the city is obvious in every step, whilst the historic facts are just as impressive. All four of the Lithuanians that took gold in the 1988 Seoul Olympics with USSR were from Kaunas. Besides that, Arvydas Sabonis (1997), Vladas Garastas (2002) and Šarūnas Jasikevičius (2018) have all been named honorary citizens of the city.

## FOOTBALL

The first football games in Kaunas were played a couple years before the end of the czarist rule. In the first inter-city football game between Kaunas and Vilnius, the latter team won 10:5. The first ever Lithuanian football championship that was held in 1922 had a whopping 10 teams participating from Kaunas! Nearly a century later, in 2020, Lithuania, and of course Kaunas, will have the chance to host the world futsal championship.

## ICE HOCKEY

Ice hockey came to life in 1922 in Lithuania when Steponas Darius put together the first ever Lithuanian ice hockey team and organized the first game. Lithuania's first hockey championship took place four years later, in 1926. Currently, the sole representative of Kaunas in the national hockey league is the Kaunas Hockey team. In the meanwhile, few remained unmoved during the 2018 World Championship that took place in Kaunas, as they witnessed Lithuania take gold in their division.

## RUGBY

Lithuanian rugby counts its days back to 1961, when the first game was played. In the face-off between USK Mokslas Vilnius and KKI Atletas Kaunas, the Kaunas side emerged victorious. Throughout the last couple of years, we've been rooting for the men in green-and-white of the Žalgiris rugby team.

## HANDBALL

The one exception from the Kaunas rule - Lithuanian handball traditions date back to Klaipėda, 1927. However, Žalgiris Kaunas' women's handball team has ingrained its name as four-time USSR champions and two-time European club champions. Kaunas handball history continues to be written by Granitas-Karys Kaunas.

## BOXING

Steponas Darius was also the founder of Lithuanian boxing, as he organized the first championship in the interwar. Lithuanian boxers won 10 European championship gold medals and had a podium finish in the Olympics five times. During the Soviet occupation, the fights between Algirdas Šocikas and Russian Nikolay Korolyov were a landmark event as seen as a true symbol of struggle for Lithuanian independence.

## TRACK-AND-FIELD

The first Lithuanians stepped on the big stage in track-and-field during the 1928 summer Olympics in Amsterdam. Kaunas is proud of its numerous Olympic and world champions, with discus thrower Andrius Gudžius being the latest one to step on the podium.

Birutė Kalėdienė (born in 1934) was the first Lithuanian athlete to set a world record, when she threw the javelin 57 m 49 cm in 1958. Starting 1966, she worked as a coach in Kaunas and became the president of the Kaunas track-and-field seniors club and member of the Ažulynas Kaunas sports club board. During the 2008 European track-and-field veterans games, she set the world record for javelin throw in the women's 75+ age category.

## WRESTLING

Wrestling is one of the world's oldest sports and Lithuanians have their own, traditional form of fol wrestling called ristytes. The first Lithuanian wrestler to have a podium finish in the Olympics was Kaunas-born Mindaugas Mizgaitis (born in 1979), who took silver in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. The talented Greco-Roman wrestler and multiple-time Lithuanian champion was coached by his father, Valentinas Mizgaitis.

## CYCLE SPORTS

The first bicycle race in the world took place in 1868, but it only reached Lithuania after World War I. The first official race in an independent Lithuania was held in 1922, and Kestutis Bulota (1896-1941) was considered the father of the sport in the country. Bulota, Lithuania's first participant in the winter Olympics (1928) died during World War II, as did the maiden summer Olympics contestant - cyclist Isakas Anolikas.

## CHESS

Apparently, the Grand Dukes of Lithuania would strategize battles over a chess board. Chess figurines were found excavating the hillforts in Kaunas and locations all over Lithuania. With the initiative of Kaunas chess enthusiasts, the Kaunas chess society was founded on the 3rd of August, 1921. Aviator Antanas Gustaitis (1898-1941) became the first-ever Lithuanian chess champion in 1922.

## AIR SPORTS

Part of the national defense system, a lifestyle or a sport? Aviation is a very wide topic and the Lithuanian history runs wide. However, all Lithuanians know their heroes Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas, who flew across the Atlantic, or Antanas Gustaitis, who constructed planes with a romantic name 'Antanas wants to be in the air' (ANBO) and his colleague Jurgis Dobkevičius (1900-1926). In more recent times, Jurgis Kalrys (born in 1952) has oohed and aahed the world with his acrobatic tricks.

## MOTORSPORTS

It didn't take long for people to start racing once the car was invented. The national rally Around Lithuania, that took off on July 24th, 1931, is widely considered to be the start of motorsports in the country. The rally drew crowds of well-known Lithuanians, including the president of the Republic of Lithuania, Antanas Smetona, who took Around Lithuania under his wing and was there to award the winner.

Later on, Nemanas' race track in Kačerginė kept the sports enthusiasts entertained. After regaining independence, the Lithuanian automobile sports federation was established in Kaunas. We could go on and on about motorcycle sports in Lithuania, but the key take from the recent years would be multiple-time Lithuanian champion Arūnas Geležininkas' performance in the 2019 Dakar Rally.

## CRICKET

Several hundred students from Southeast Asia currently attend Kaunas University of Technology and with their initiative, a cricket team was established in 2013. If you'd like to try out this sport, contact the cricket ambassadors!

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Americans consider it to be a national treasure, while Lithuanians are slowly getting accustomed to the sport. The maiden official American football game in Kaunas was played in 2017, and the Kaunas Dukes continue their search for new talent. The team practices both in Santaka park and Šilainiai, with Audrius Avižienis bringing home the knowledge for the sports from California.

## BASEBALL

Having returned home to Lithuania from the US, Steponas Darius popularized numerous different sports, including baseball. Two teams from Kaunas participated in the first Lithuanian championship that saw its first pitch in 1922, LFPS and Aviacija. Historical circumstances stopped the development of Lithuanian baseball, and the championship's second iteration was only played in 1987. In 1993, the baseball club Kaunas came

into existence officially, despite its appearance on the fields in 1960. The torch was passed on to Lituania, as the continue writing the history of baseball in the city to this day.

## TABLE TENNIS

The sport of table tennis came into existence more than a century ago and the founders of the sport in Lithuania was the Makabi sports club. On the map you will find the location that hosted the first table tennis championship. The Lithuanian table tennis association was founded during the interwar, but soon came to a halt and was only reinstated in 1992.

## BADMINTON

The sport of badminton entered Lithuania through Moscow. During a festival in 1957, when a Chinese delegation introduced the sport. In the 1989 European youth games in Manchester, Kaunas-born Aušrinė Gabrėnaitė took home bronze, while Aivaras Kvedaruskas ranked amongst the top 100 badminton players in the world between 1999-2002. The brightest talent of recent days Kestutis Navickas (born in 1984) represented Lithuania in the Beijing Olympics, and took on an educational role afterwards.

## SWIMMING

By now, most likely every Lithuanian could name the achievements of wondergirl and Olympic champion Rūta Meilutytė (born in 1997). Her gold medal in the 2012 London Olympics encouraged many to take up swimming, which is considered to be one of the healthiest sports. We would also encourage an ovation for the first Lithuanian swimmer in the Olympics (1972, Munich), Birutė Užkuraitytė-Statkevičienė (born in 1953). The sports veteran and academic carried the Olympic torch in 2012.

## WATER FORMULA

The powerful water formulas, that reach a speed of over 170 km/h is only slowly making its way up the popularity charts in Lithuania, but Kaunas already has a European champion, Edgaras Rlaško earned the title in 2018. For the last several years, the world's top sportsmen keep coming back to kaunas for the championship stages in Kaunas Reservoir.

## ROWING

In 1885, Neptūnas, the first rowing sports club in Lithuania, was established in Klaipėda, which was still in the territory of Prussia. In 1913, a pier was opened on the bank of Nemanas to which Count Tiškevičius donated several boats. In 1932-1936, the Kipras rowing club, named after opera soloist Kipras Petrauskas, operated in Kaunas. After regaining independence, Kaunas sports school Bangpūrys has developed a number of excellent rowers, including Rio 2016 medalist Donata Vištartaitė, Ieva Adomavičiūtė and many others.

# ŽALGIRIS KAUNAS

## 75 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

You can also get acquainted with episodes of Žalgiris history at Žalgirio Arena, where an exhibition with historical photos and awards is ever-present.

1944 - Žalgiris Kaunas Sports Fellowship was established in Kaunas. The first game was organized on the 13th of October of the same year.

1947 - Žalgiris triumphed in the USSR championship for the first time. By 1989, the tally has already reached five.

1981 - Žalgiris participated in the European Cup winners' tournament for the first time and reached the quarter-finals.

1986 - Žalgiris made its debut in the FIBA European Champions Cup, where they only lost to the Drazen Petrovic-led Cibona Zagreb in the tournament final.

1986 September 15th - After defeating Ferro Carril Oeste from Buenos Aires (Argentina) 84-78, Žalgiris won the intercontinental William Jones Cup - the highest achievement in the world on a club level.

1998 April 14th - Having defeated Stefanel Milan (Italy) 82-67, Žalgiris won the FIBA European Cup Winners' Cup, allowing them to participate in the EuroLeague for the first time.

1999 April 22nd - By defeating Kinder Bologna (Italy) 82-74, Žalgiris claimed the European basketball throne and their first ever Euroleague champions trophy.

2011 October - Žalgiris played its first game in the brand new Žalgirio Arena. By January 2018, 5 million spectators had already visited the arena, with the lion's share of them coming to see a Žalgiris game.

2018 May 20th - In the EuroLeague Final Four game for third place, Žalgiris overcame CSKA Moscow 79-77 to claim bronze. That same year Žalgiris earned the 20th overall and 8th consecutive LKL champions trophy and defended their claim for the King Mindaugas Cup.

## Become a fan!

Žalgirio Arena Ticketing Office | Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50 | zalgirioarena.lt

Žalgiris Shop | S. Daukanto g. 8, Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 49 (Akropolis) | zalgirishop.lt

## Žalgiris hall of fame

Žalgiris history has counted 75 years already. How well do you know the team's heroes?

<b>ALGIRDAS LAURITENAS</b> (1932–2001) CENTER 1952–1963	<b>MODESTAS PAULAUŠKAS</b> (born 1945) SMALL FORWARD 1948–1976	<b>VALDEMARAS CHOMICIUS</b> (born 1959) GUARD 1979–1989	<b>DIMAS KURTIŅAITIS</b> (born 1960) SHOOTING GUARD 1983–1989, 1992–1993, 1995–1996	<b>ARYVDAS SABONIS</b> (born 1964) CENTER 1981–1989, 2001–2002, 2003–2004	<b>ARŪNAS VIŠOCKAS</b> (born 1965) POWER FORWARD 1985–1996	<b>DARIUS KURKMIŅAS</b> (born 1968) SHOOTING GUARD 1990–1996	<b>STANISLOVAS STONKUS</b> (1931–2012) FORWARD 1946–1958
<b>DARIUS MĄSKOLIŪNAS</b> (born 1971) POINT FORWARD 1992–1995	<b>TANOKA BEARD</b> (born 1971) CENTER 2002–2007	<b>TOMAS MASIULIS</b> (born 1975) POWER FORWARD 1995–2002, 2008	<b>PAULIUS JANKŪNAS</b> (born 1984) POWER FORWARD 2003–2007, 2010–NOW	<b>JONAS MAČIULIS</b> (born 1985) SMALL FORWARD 2005–2009	<b>MANTAS KALNIETIS</b> (born 1986) POINT FORWARD 2006–2018, 2018	<b>ARTŪRAS MILAKNIS</b> (born 1986) SHOOTING GUARD, 2007–2011, 2013–2018, 2018–NOW	<b>EDGARAS ULANOVAS</b> (born 1992) SMALL FORWARD 2014–NOW
<b>VYTAUTAS BILBA</b> (1927–2001) HEAD COACH 1968–1975	<b>VLADAS GARASTAS</b> (born 1954) HEAD COACH 1979–1990	<b>JONAS KAZLAUSKAS</b> (born 1954) HEAD COACH 1994–2000	<b>ŠARŪNAS JASIKEVIČIUS</b> (born 1976) HEAD COACH 2016–NOW	<b>KAZIMIERAS DETKEVIČIUS</b> (2008–2008) GUARD 1946–1951	<b>STANISLOVAS STONKUS</b> (1931–2012) FORWARD 1946–1958		

# HAVE A SNACK

### 40 BARAS II

Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50

A mini-museum inside the Žalgirio Arena bar. It is an embassy of basketball, where green-and-white fans gather to watch the team's road games and discuss the hottest action after home matches.

### 41 SALA

Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50

The restaurant in Žalgirio Arena offers the most scenic lunch in town. If you ever head out to purchase a ticket to the game, don't miss out on the chance to see it for yourself.

### 42 MCDONALD'S FAST FOOD RESTAURANT

Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 18

Even the Žalgiris players will confirm, that a cheat day is good for you sometimes. Especially if you're looking to go all-out during the game!

### 43 MCDONALD'S STAR ALLEY

Savanorių pr. 321

Arvydas Sabonis, Modestas Paulauskas, Tanoka Beard, Edgaras Ulanovas and Brandon Davies are just a few of the notable Žalgiris players to leave their handprint in Lithuania's only walk of fame. The first prints were stamped back in 2004!

### 44 JĖGAINĖ

Sporto g. 3

After a run, a game of tennis, a session in the sports club or beauty procedures in the nearby SPA, the body will always ask for some healthy food, balanced for a moving body. That's exactly what Jėgainė offers.

### 45 REPUBLIC

Laisvės al. 57

Basketball, football and hockey games, Formula-1 and many other sports are a daily draw in these bars. If your game is on one of the channels and there's nothing bigger going on, feel free to ask the bartender to turn it on!

### 46 CAFĖ KREGŽDUTĖ

Sporto g. 1

One of the first private café in Kaunas opened back in 1986 and has fed generation after generation going to the games in the Kaunas Sports Hall or the nearby stadium.

### 47 CASA DELLA PASTA

Laisvės al. 29

There are plenty of Italian cuisine fans on the Žalgiris roster. Don't be surprised if you'll have to look up at a recognizable big man.

### 48 DIA

Maironiu g. 9

Žalgiris athletes have nothing but good things to say about both the restaurant's kitchen, and the impeccable service.

### 49 REŽISIERIUS

Vilniaus g. 10

Another go-to spot for basketball stars, where asian cuisine is portrayed through a movie filter.

### 50 MOMO GRILL

Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 18A

Right on the way to the arena, or on the way back from a sweet sweet victory, Žalgiris training staff wouldn't let us lie.

### 51 ARENA BILLIARDS

Savanorių pr. 343

The billiards club that opened its doors in the Autumn of 2018 has raised the bar for this sports not only in Lithuania, but in the whole region. Two floors, a number of tables and time flying by. They've got darts, they've got pizza, they've got drinks. If you ever stayed a bit too long and are about to miss the basketball or football game, no worries. They're going to be broadcasting it live.

### 52 ENTRY

Kęstutis g. 71

This billiards club was opened back in 2003 by two Lithuanian champions. Be sure to ask how many champions it has trained through the years. There's plenty more to do there, too - you'll always have the chance to follow your favorite team's games live.

### 53 REBELS IRISH PUB

Laisvės al. 31

Fans of basketball, football, hockey and numerous other sports gather in this Irish pub to watch their teams play and soon after exchange it for a musical spectacle.

### 54 9½ OBUOLIO

Dainavos g. 9

Before, during and after a game - you will find Žalgiris fans here any time. As will you find football fans. It is the only bar in Lithuania that is dedicated to drinks made out of apples. Nothing but advantages!

# TAKE PART

## KAUNAS MARATHON

kaunasmarathon.lt

2019 saw the seventh iteration of the Kaunas marathon and it has been named amongst the most important European running events. The reasoning behind it is a small variation of height in the track, which makes it possible to break records. Runners are surrounded by picturesque sights of old and new parts of Kaunas and serene Lithuanian nature. No wonder more and more foreigners make way to the starting line each year.

## LIKE BIKE

likebike.kaunas.lt

Kaunas is looking to become the first city in the Baltic states to be completely fitted for biking. The revolution began in the city center and has seen bike paths make their way to other areas of the city. Let's ride together?

