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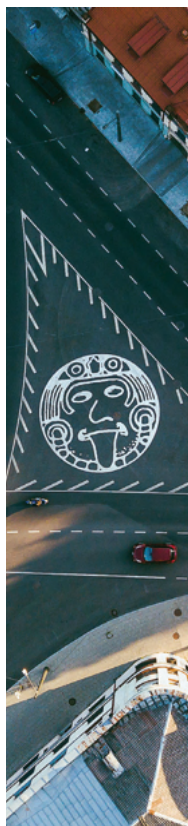


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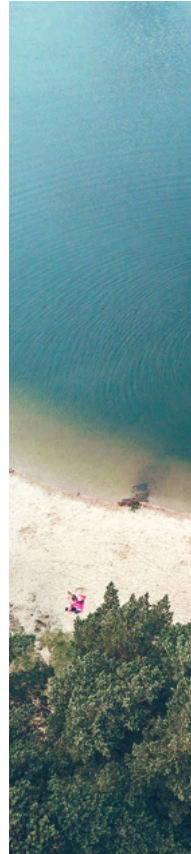
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Good to know!

## WELCOME TO KAUNAS –

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



Kaunas Old Town is the oldest part of the city covering 144 ha. Here you can easily find Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque style buildings.



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

## 1. KAUNAS CASTLE

(Pilies g. 17)

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

The castle at the confluence of the Nemunas and Neris rivers was built in the 14th century to defend against the onslaught of crusaders. This is not only one of the first stone castles in Lithuania, but also the only one that has two rows of defensive walls. A settlement that grew into the current city was created around the Gothic defences. Kaunas castle first mentioned in written sources in 1361. According to legend, Queen Bona Sforza's troops mysteriously disappeared in the tunnels underneath. Although it was restored multiple times, the castle lost its importance in 1408 when Kaunas was granted Magdeburg rights and the life of the whole city moved to the Market (Town Hall) Square. The castle was home to a prison in the 16th century and the souls of the prison's inmates have not found peace to this very day, haunting the castle still by night. At present, the castle houses the Museum of Kaunas and annual cultural events are held in and around it. Near the castle stands an almost 7-meter high bronze sculpture "Freedom Warrior".

## 2. ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR CHURCH AND BERNARDINE MONASTERY

(Papilio g. 7, 9)

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

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

## 3. SANTAKA PARK

(Santakos g.)

What we call the heart of Kaunas. Walking around it you can see how the Nemunas and the Neris rivers converge. Santaka Park has plenty of tourist attractions: the altar that was used to perform pagan rituals, Pope Hill, where Pope John Paul II visited and held holy mass in 1993 and Pope Francis in 2018, a statue of John Paul II, St. George's church and the Bernardine monastery ensemble, Kaunas Castle.

## 4. KAUNAS TOWN HALL AND SQUARE

(Rotušės a. 15)

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

The Town Hall is currently closed for renovation, please check the information on [kaunomuziejus.lt](http://kaunomuziejus.lt). Kaunas was granted the Magdeburg rights in 1408, which meant the city could have self-government and control of trade. The marketplace and elected government (magistrate) headquarters comprised the nucleus of the city. The main trade route went through the current Town Hall Square; there was a market, too. Merchants' families stayed around this square, building houses and setting up shop. When the city joined the Hanseatic League, the square became even more important because it operated as a commercial centre for the city and the surrounding area. The square is where trade took place, but also served as the venue for publication of magistrate rulings and the pillory to punish offenders. Artwork combining three stylistic periods – Gothic, Renaissance, Classicism – stands at 29 Town Hall Square. There have been various premises in the building: a pharmacy, post office, small workshop, shops, and



Vytautas the Great Bridge

residential houses. The most important building in the Town Hall Square is Town Hall. Construction began in 1542. The stately building is filled with a Gothic, Baroque, and early classicist spirit; at all, slender tower like a swan's neck sprouts in the sky the main facade. Town Hall is often referred to as the White Swan because of its shape and colour. Its 53-meter-high tower is the tallest in the Old Town. The current Town Hall is not the first in Kaunas. The preceding one was destroyed by fire and then rebuilt. Through various centuries, the purpose of the Town Hall changed: this is where the city's markets, fairs, and trials took place; 9 wax melting furnaces, a prison, and warehouses were operated under the Town Hall building cobblestones. Currently, the Town Hall holds ceremonies and official events. At the town hall entrance you can see a unique 15th century wax melting furnace. Kaunas City Museum is located in the Town Hall ([www.kaunomuziejus.lt](http://www.kaunomuziejus.lt)). Its departments accumulate works of city history, science and industry, culture

and the arts, and archaeology, as well as audiovisual materials. It is symbolic that the museum unveiled a commemorative plaque to Władysław Starewicz, a puppet animation pioneer, often called the European Walt Disney. Starewicz worked in the building for a while. A memorial plaque to him is held by insect sculptures depicting the director's three main cartoon characters: a stag-beetle, an ant, and a grasshopper.

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

(Rotušės a. 8)

The south side of Town Hall Square is dominated by a Baroque Jesuit church with a convent and school buildings on either side. Construction of this late Baroque style, rectangular, two-tower church began in 1666, but it was only consecrated in 1759. The Jesuit monastery terrace operates a viewing platform overlooking the Town Hall Square and the beauty of Old Town. Next to the school in the church





in 1819-1823, romantic poet Adomas Mickevičius taught and lived. This is confirmed by a memorial plaque on the school building. At present, the school is a Jesuit Gymnasium.

## 6. THE HOUSE OF PERKŪNAS

(Aleksoto g. 6)

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

It is considered to be the only trading post in Lithuania that belonged to the Hanseatic merchants. This is an old monument to original Gothic architecture, built in the second half of the 15th century. It is a stone building with an ornate pediment and a spacious basement. The main facade of the building is decorated with rectangular niches and a decorative solar symbol composed of glazed stones. The real purpose of the house is unknown. Legend has it that a sculpture of the god Perkūnas was discovered in one of the walls here and that priestesses kept an eternal flame lit here. However, researchers have collected a number of items from the house and de-

termined the bust to be purchased from Hanseatic merchants. Probably most homes were built for commercial affairs, and the name of the Perkūnas House was given to it later to point out Kaunas independence from foreign merchants and pay homage to ancient Lithuanian religious – pagan – traditions. The Adomas Mickevičius Museum is also located here; he was one of the most famous romantic poets who lived in Kaunas.

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

(Aleksoto g. 3)

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

## 8. VYTAUTAS THE GREAT BRIDGE

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

## 9. THE ALEKSOTAS FUNICULAR AND OBSERVATION DECK

(Amerikos Lietuvių g. 6)

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

## 10. BENEDICTINE MONASTERY AND ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

(Benediktinių g. 8)

The monastery complex is situated in the northern part of the Old Town in Kaunas, on the Antakalnis hillside. The building complex consists of the church, convent, and rectory. The Gothic church of St. Nicholas was built in the 15th century. In the beginning of the 17th century, nobleman Andriejus Skorulskis of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania appealed to King Zigmantas (Sigismund) III asking the church to donate to the yet-to-be Kulm Congregation Benedictine monastery. During the 18th century, the Holy Heart of Jesus Brotherhood was founded at the St. Nicholas Church and for some time the monastery operated a school for girls. Until the beginning of the 19th century the monastery was wooden; a stone monastery building was only built in the 19th century. There was a refectory on the first floor, as well as cells and various utility rooms; on the second floor there were more cells. After the closure of the monastery the church was used as a public library books repository in 1948-1990. In 1990 the church was repaired and returned to the faithful; the Congregation of Benedictine Sisters returned to the monastery. The altar of Saint Benedict and three 18th-19th century paintings have survived from the old church facilities.

## 11. THE KAUNAS ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL

(Vilniaus g. 1)

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

This was established by Duke Vytautas the Great in about 1413. In 1430 Vytautas granted funding to the church,

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

## 12. VILNIAUS GATVĖ (VILNIUS STREET)

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

## 13. HISTORICAL PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

(Vilniaus g. 33)

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

Construction of the Presidential building began in 1846. When Kaunas became the provisional capital (1919-1939), all the political, economic, and cultural life moved here. All three of the then-presidents of the Republic of Lithuania worked and lived in the Presidential Palace: Antanas Smetona, Aleksandras Stulginskis, and Kazys Grinius. In 1923-1924, during Aleksandras Stulginskis' presidency, the building was renovated. The first floor was turned into a resi-





The Kaunas St. Peter and St. Paul Cathedral

dence for the President's family, central heating was put in, and the second floor gallery was encased in glass. During the presidency of Antanas Smetona, the territory of the Presidential Palace was enclosed with a new fence, which remains to this day. The first floor premises at the Presidential Palace had been designated for work, and the second floor had two drawing rooms for official receptions. Official government delegation receptions took place in the larger one, such as foreign diplomats presenting letters of credence to the President. Nowadays the Museum of the Historical Presidential Palace in Kaunas is located in this building. Sculptures of the Presidents of the Republic of Lithuania who there worked can be seen in the courtyard.

#### **14. LAISVĖS ALĖJA (FREEDOM AVENUE)**

When you visit Kaunas, you must walk down this important street in Naujamiestis (New Town), Kaunas, which is one of the longest pedestrian streets in Europe. The street is nearly 1.7 kilometers long and points exactly east and west. Walking down Laisvės Alėja you will have the unique opportunity to

learn about the unique and plentiful Kaunas interwar modernist architectural heritage, which is a reflection of the intelligentsia, industry, government, and diplomatic institutions that once moved here. To this day, Kaunas remains probably the only city in the world where so many modernist, German Bauhaus style buildings were built and still stand: the former Lithuanian Post, Kaunas State Musical Theatre, Bank of Lithuania, and many others. Also on Laisvės Alėja you will see the monument of Vytautas the Great, as well as a sculpture standing near the fountain of Danielius Dolskis, pop song pioneer of the Lithuanian interwar period. The avenue is full of restaurants, cafés, and cosy shops.

#### **15. ST. GERTRUDE CHURCH** (Laisvės al. 101A)

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

Built in the second half of the 15th century. This is one of the most exclusive Lithuanian Gothic monuments. The crucifix sculpture, which has long been famous for its graces, is the most valuable sacred thing at the Church of St. Gertrude. Next to the church in the can-



Kaunas State Philharmonic





dle shrine donors can light candles that burn for 7 days, during which people pray for each other. It teaches compassion even to complete strangers.

## 16. KAUNAS STATE PHILHARMONIC

(L. Sapiegos g. 5)

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

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

## 17. CHORAL OHEL YAAKOV SYNAGOGUE IN KAUNAS

(E. Ožėškienės g. 13)

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

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

## 18. COURTYARD GALLERY

(E. Ožėškienės g. 21A)

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

HERE NEIGHBOURS LIVE, WHO HAVE





AVE THE RIGHT TO PEACE.



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

## 19. MONUMENT TO VYTAUTAS THE GREAT

(Laisvės al.)

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

## 20. KAUNAS STATE MUSICAL THEATRE AND THE CITY GARDEN

(Laisvės al. 91)

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

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

## 21. KAUNAS STATE DRAMA THEATRE

(Laisvės al. 71)

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

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

## 22. CHAMBERS OF THE BANK OF LITHUANIA

(Maironio g. 25)

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

## 23. DEVILS' MUSEUM

(V. Putvinskio g. 64)

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

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

## 24. M. K. ČIURLIONIS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART

(V. Putvinskio g. 55)

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

M. K. Čiurlionis was a globally recognized Lithuanian painter and composer. His creative period lasted only a little more than a decade, but during this time he managed to create more than 400 works of music and painted more than 300





Kaunas State Musical Theatre

pictures. The artistic ideas of romanticism, symbolism, and Art Nouveau are interlaced in the works of M. K. Čiurlionis. The museum contains the creative legacy of the most famous Lithuanian composer and painter, M. K. Čiurlionis, Lithuanian folk art and artistic life in Lithuania archives, 15th-20th century Lithuanian fine and applied art, foreign fine and applied art, arts of the ancient world, as well as numismatics. Today, together with M. K. Čiurlionis museum, the Military Museum is located in the same building, only on the opposite side.

## 25. VYTAUTAS THE GREAT WAR MUSEUM

(K. Donelaičio g. 64)

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

The Military Museum collection consists of archaeological finds, weapons and firearms, ammunition sets, a collection of foreign army uniforms, as well as belongings and documents from the Lituanica flight across the Atlantic. The continuously updated expositions and exhibitions will enable you to get acquainted with Lithuanian and global

warfare from ancient times by noting the most important events in history. Construction of the museum began in 1919. At the same time the small garden was planted honouring those who died for Lithuanian independence. You will find a fieldstone monument to those who died for the freedom of Lithuania in this garden. Here stands the altar holding lit the eternal flame, the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, as well as the famous Bernardas Bučas "Sėjikas" ("Seeder") sculpture, which seeds the night sky with stars. The "Laisvės" ("Freedom") monument is the focal point of the garden and a symbol of the city. In the garden of the museum you can hear belfry carillon bells playing thirty-five different concerts and admire the wooden crosses memorializing those who died for the independence of Lithuania (Lithuanian cross crafting is a traditional Lithuanian branch of folk art entered into the UNESCO Humanity's Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage List in 2001). It features a small book smugglers' garden, the "Knygnešys" ("Book Smuggler")



monument and wall in honour of the famous book smugglers.

## 26. ŽALIAKALNIS FUNICULAR

(Aušros g. 6)

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

The funicular is a unique vehicle still used today with working traction, authentic pre-war wagons, wooden benches, and station houses. Even today chairlift funicular raises people up onto the mountain to see best views of the city skyline. You can reach the monumental Resurrection Church from the city centre by taking the Žaliakalnis funicular. This is a sort of short railway with cables equipped on the steep hillside of Žaliakalnis. The funicular railway has been running since 1931, accommodates 25 passengers, and moves 1,4 m/s. The trip takes 1 minute 40 seconds.

## 27. MONUMENTAL CHRIST'S RESURRECTION BASILICA

(Žemaičių g. 31B)

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

When Lithuania regained its independence in 1922, the people of the temporary capital decided to build a church as a symbol of giving thanks to God for the regained freedom. The architect Karolis Reisonas designed the church, and construction began in 1932 funded by donations; but in 1940 the church building was seized. Work was already coming to an end when Lithuania lost its independence, only the interior was yet to be installed and the outside was not plastered. A radio factory mechanical workshop was installed there in 1952. The building was returned to the religious community in 1989. The church was consecrated just in 2004, 70 years after the beginning of construction.

## 28. MEMORIAL TO JAN ZWARTENDIJK

(In front of Laisvės al. 29)

In June 2018 on the Freedom Avenue in Kaunas Willem Alexander of the Netherlands, Zwartendijk's children, Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė and a hundred locals and visitors revealed

a memorial by Dutch artist Giny Vos. This light installation is a subtle, hanging above the head construction that symbolises hope and lives saved from the holocaust.

## 29. KAUNAS PICTURE GALLERY

(K. Donelaičio g. 16)

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

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

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

(Nepriklausomybės a. 14)

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



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



### 31. MYKOLAS ŽILINSKAS ART GALLERY (under reconstruction)

(Nepriklausomybės a. 12)  
[www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

The gallery was built in 1989. The gallery was named after Mykolas Žilinskas, honoring the significant art collector who enriched many Lithuanian art collections. The gallery houses the donated collection of Mykolas Žilinskas, the art he gifted to Kaunas. Petras Mazūras' famous sculpture, Man, depicting a naked man stands in the gallery courtyard. Man is clothed during playful promotions and in particular to keep from freezing in winter. operating again, and once again the once removed crosses are raised high. Church music concerts and performances by actors are often held, and exhibitions are continually on display.

### 32. GEORGE MAČIŪNAS SQUARE

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

It's the first square in the world where pedestrians can't get to and that isn't

even visible to them. This idea was proposed and executed by painter Naglis Rytis Baltušnikas in July 2017. The square is painted in white paint at the foot of Parodos hill where Parodos street, K. Donelaitis street and Vytautas avenue meet. On the road surface a Fluxus Aztec is drawn showing his tongue. This particular place was chosen because Jurgis Mačiūnas lived in the house number 1 on Parodos street when he was a child. He is one of the founders of Fluxus movement so the inaccessible square was named after him. Once a year, however, the square is accessible. In September, it becomes the starting point of the Fluxus Festival, which annually takes over the Parodos Hill from the rushing cars and gives it over to cheerful cross-dressers, who climb it up wearing the most bizarre costumes.

### 33. KAUNAS MOSQUE

(Totorių g. 6)

It is the only stone mosque in Lithuania. Historicist forms and oriental motifs highlighting the structure's purpose



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

### 34. SUGIHARA HOUSE

(Vaižganto g. 30, 3,2 km from the city centre)

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

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

### 35. OAK GROVE

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

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

### 36. STUMBRAS MUSEUM

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

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

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

### 37. BOTANICAL GARDEN OF VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY

(Ž. E. Žiliberio g. 6.5 km from the city centre)

[www.botanika.vdu.lt](http://www.botanika.vdu.lt)

The botanical garden, founded in 1923, invites you to a magical introduction to the stunning world of plants. The biggest rosarium in Lithuania, the orangery that dates back to the interwar period, a mature park of unique beauty with romantic bridges, the historical surrounding of Aukštoji Freda Manor – all this comprises a perfect space for relaxation and worthwhile activities.

### 38. KAUNAS FORTS

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

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

(VI fort: K. Baršausko g., 7 km from the city centre) [www.vdkaromuziejus.lt](http://www.vdkaromuziejus.lt)

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

### 39. ŽALGIRIO ARENA

(Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50)

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

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







Nothing is likely to evoke more excitement and a burst of emotions than a visit to a Euroleague basketball game in Zalgiris Arena. It is an absolute must, when visiting Kaunas! And if your first visit is to a home game of Zalgiris – you are likely to remember it for the rest of your life. Enhance your impression with the package #ZALGIRISVIRGIN. The game schedule and tickets are available at: [www.zalgiris.lt](http://www.zalgiris.lt)



#### 40. PAŽAISLIS (ST. VIRGIN MARY'S VISIT TO ELIZABETH CHURCH AND CAMALDOLESE ABBEY BUILDINGS) ENSEMBLE

(T. Masiulio g. 31, 11 km from the city centre)

[www.pazaislis.org](http://www.pazaislis.org)

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

#### 41. ART DECO MUSEUM

(Gedimino g. 48)

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

The house of doctor Pranas Gudavičius is best known today for the Art Deco Museum housed in one of the apartments and serves as a living testament to Kaunas's golden era, narrated in Art Deco and Nouveau dialects.

As early as 1929, the building was already distinguished by the expressive architectural language created by Edmundas Frykas.

#### 42. AMSTERDAM SCHOOL MUSEUM

(Vytauto pr. 58)

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

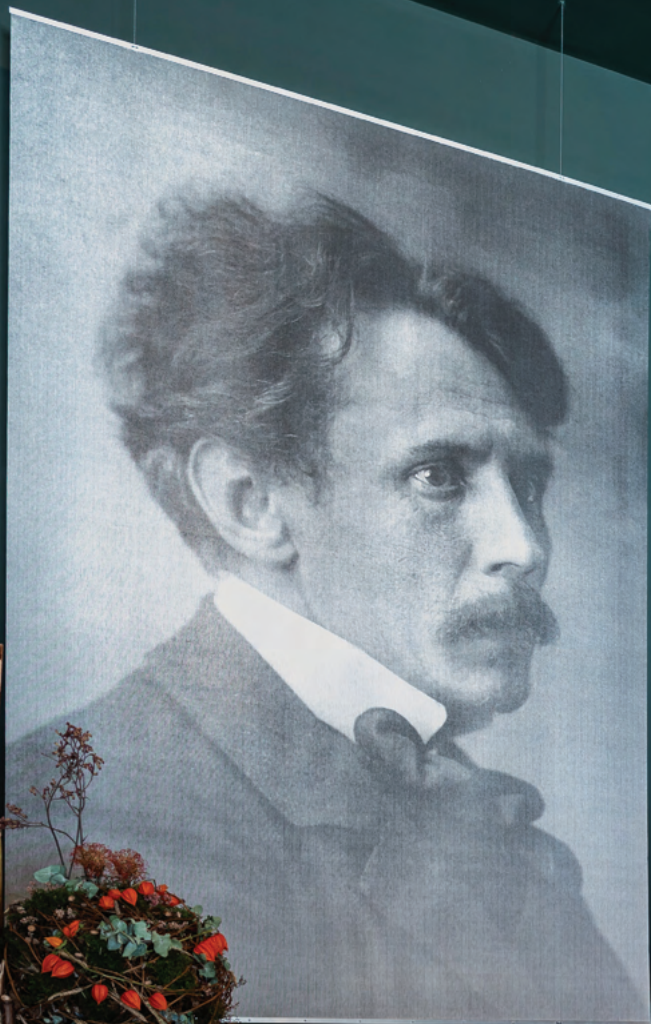
This is the only building in Lithuania representing the Amsterdam School architectural style, which borrows Art Deco and Art Nouveau elements. The new museum is in apartment No. 6. The Jewish culture of Kaunas, interrupted by the Holocaust, is an integral part of the story. It is also worth mentioning that before the reconstruction, this apartment served as a filming location for HBO series Chernobyl.





Pažaislis ensemble






Pasaulį vaiz

At Kurlin





A photograph of a gallery space. A dark green wall is the background. A wooden bench is in the foreground. A spotlight is on the ceiling. Text is on the wall and bottom right.

vaizduojuos kaip didelę simfoniją...

liūn

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



Kaunas City Museum, Folk Music branch

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

### **MUSEUMS IN KAUNAS:**

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

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

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

**4. A. Žmuidzinavičius Creation and Collections Museum/Devils Exposition**  
(V. Putvinskio g. 64)

**5. Historical Presidential Palace**  
(Vilniaus g. 33)

**6. A. and P. Galaunė House-Museum** (Vydūno al. 2)

**7. L. Truikys and M. Rakauskaitė House-Museum (reconstruction)**  
(E. Fryko g. 14)

**8. J. Zikaras House-Museum**  
(J. Zikaro g. 3)  
[www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

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

**10. Kaunas Castle**  
(Pilies g. 17)

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

**12. Juozas Gruodis House**  
(Salako g. 18)

**13. Folk Music branch**  
(L. Zamenhofo g. 12)  
[www.kaunomuziejus.lt](http://www.kaunomuziejus.lt)

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

**15. House-Museum of B. and V. Sruogos** (B. Sruogos g. 21)

**16. J. Grušas House-Museum**  
(Kalniečių g. 93)

**17. J. Tumas-Vaižgantas Apartment-Museum**  
(Aleksoto g. 10-4)

**18. House-Museum of S. Nėris and B. Bučas** (S. Nėries g. 7)

**19. Museum of Children's Literature**  
(K. Donelaičio g. 13)  
[www.mairioniomuziejus.lt](http://www.mairioniomuziejus.lt)

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

**21. Underground "AB" Printing House**  
(Salių k., Domeikavos sen., Kauno r.)  
[www.vdkaromuziejus.lt](http://www.vdkaromuziejus.lt)

**22. Seventh Fort of the Kaunas Fortress** (Archyvo g. 61)  
[www.septintasfortas.lt](http://www.septintasfortas.lt)

**23. Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum**  
(Žemaičių pl. 73) [www.9fortomuziejus.lt](http://www.9fortomuziejus.lt)

**24. Kaunas Tadas Ivanauskas Museum of Zoology**  
(Laisvės al. 106) [www.zoomuziejus.lt](http://www.zoomuziejus.lt)

**25. Lithuanian Aviation Museum**  
(Veiverių g. 132) [www.lam.lt](http://www.lam.lt)

**26. Museum of the History of Lithuanian Education**  
(Vytauto pr. 52) [www.lsim.lt](http://www.lsim.lt)

**27. The House of Perkūnas**  
(Aleksoto g. 6) [www.perkunonamas.lt](http://www.perkunonamas.lt)

**28. Pažaislis Monastery Museum Exposition**  
(T. Masiulio g. 31) [www.pazaislis.org](http://www.pazaislis.org)

**29. Sugihara House**  
(Vaižganto g. 30)  
[www.sugiharahouse.com](http://www.sugiharahouse.com)

**30. Stumbras Museum**  
(K. Būgos g. 7)  
[www.stumbras.lt](http://www.stumbras.lt)

**31. Atomic Bunker**  
(Raudondvario pl. 164A)  
[www.atominisbunkeris.lt](http://www.atominisbunkeris.lt)

**32. Lithuanian House of Basketball**  
(Santakos g. 11) [ltu.basketball](http://ltu.basketball)

**33. Museum of the History of Lithuanian Medicine and Pharmacy**  
(Rotušės a. 28) [www.lsmuni.lt](http://www.lsmuni.lt)

**34. Exhibition "Vivat Universitas Vytauti Magni"**  
(K. Donelaičio g. 58)

**35. Valdas Adamkus Presidential Library-Museum**  
(S. Daukanto g. 25)  
[www.adamkuslibrary.lt](http://www.adamkuslibrary.lt)

**36. The Kaunas Archdiocese Museum** (M. Valančiaus g. 6)  
[www.kaunoarkivyskupija.lt/kam](http://www.kaunoarkivyskupija.lt/kam)

**37. The Kaunas Puppet Theatre Museum** (Laisvės al. 87A)  
[www.kaunoleles.lt](http://www.kaunoleles.lt)

**38. Lithuanian Sports Museum**  
(Muziejaus g. 7, 9)  
[www.lietuvosportomuziejus.lt](http://www.lietuvosportomuziejus.lt)

**39. Art Deco Museum**  
(Gedimino g. 48-5)  
[www.artdecomuziejus.lt](http://www.artdecomuziejus.lt)

**39. Amsterdam School Museum**  
(Gedimino g. 48-5)  
[www.artdecomuziejus.lt](http://www.artdecomuziejus.lt)





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

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

### **A flourishing town**

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

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

### **Unrest continues**

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

### **Towards a modern city**

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



## **Kaunas – the temporary capital of Lithuania**

During the First World War, Kaunas was occupied by Germans in 1915-1918. After the First World War, Lithuania began to build the Republic and because Vilnius was occupied by the Russians (1919), the State Council and the Cabinet of Ministers were established in Kaunas. When Vilnius was occupied by Poland, Kaunas became the temporary capital and most important city of Lithuania in 1920. The same year came the Constituent Assembly met and laid the legal foundations for restored state. Kaunas remained the temporary capital until 1939. Having become the political, cultural, and economic centre of the country, Kaunas came to life a little, taking on modernity and Europeanism in the interwar period. The city was decorated by new buildings (Kaunas interwar architecture), the old ones were renovated, and bridges were built. Buses started running in 1929. The city began to operate the Žaliakalnis and Aleksotas funiculars improving transportation connections in 1931 and 1935. The opera theatre opened in 1920. Two years later the national theatre opened. Also in 1922 the University of Lithuania was estab-

lished, which was renamed Vytautas Magnus University in 1930. The first national Olympiad took place in Kaunas in 1938, and the European basketball championship was organized in 1939, for which a sports hall accommodating five thousand people was built. The Russian army occupied Lithuania in June 1940. During the Second World War, the Soviet army occupied Kaunas in 1944. The second Soviet occupation began. After the restoration of Lithuania's independence in 1990, Kaunas opened up for development and cooperation opportunities with foreign cities.

## **THE HISTORY OF KAUNAS FORTRESS**

Two of the largest Lithuanian rivers are situated in Kaunas; they have long played an important role in defence. The exceptional strategic position of this place was appreciated by Russians taking over Lithuanian lands as far back as 1795. Ever deteriorating relations with neighbours forced us to consider strengthening our western border. Czar Alexander II signed a decree on the construction of the Kaunas fortress





**There is a three part sculpture rose in front of the IX Fort – it is a monument to Nazi victims.**

in 1879, and by February 1880 long-term fortification plans were drawn up. The city was surrounded by 7 forts and a stationery ring of 12 batteries. Two years later, 24 April 1882, Kaunas fortress construction officially began. The forts were built in several stages: first a road was laid to the fortification the location where the work was to be carried out, including building barracks, gunpowder warehouses, and other facilities. Construction of one fort took about 3-5 years. In addition to the forts and batteries, construction of central fortifications and the central warehouses on both banks of the Nemunas began in 1885. Outside the ring of forts, the fortress infrastructure was built: commandant headquarters, intendant office, main headquarters, board of engineers and engineering headquarters, residential houses of officials and construction workers, telephone-telegraph, electricity, water supply stations, military, railway stations, elevators, mill, grain storage, war pigeons station, fire station, and harbours. Military towns grew in Žemiejų Šančiai and Aukštoji Panemunė. Soldiers' spiritual affairs were not forgotten: the Saints Peter and Paul

Sobor was built in 1891-1895. Construction of the eighth fort began the right bank of the Neris River in 1889. The newest and most modern ninth fort arose in the highlands northwest of Kaunas in 1903-1913. This is the first and only surviving fort of the Kaunas Fortress; they used masonry concrete for its construction. The plan to reinforce the fortress was approved 23 April 1913. It provides for the construction of an additional 12 forts and 12 base stations forming a second, larger, 47.17 km long fortification ring around the city. All work stopped on 28 July 1914, with the beginning of the First World War. Before the war, there was enough time to fully complete the construction of nine forts and ten batteries. The Russian Empire's 1st class terrestrial Kaunas Fortress was occupied by Germany on 18 August 1915.

### **Forts today**

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

### **Sixth Fort Museum**

K. Baršausko g. 101, Kaunas

[www.vdkaromuziejus.lt/karo-technikos-skyrius](http://www.vdkaromuziejus.lt/karo-technikos-skyrius)

### **Seventh Fort Museum**

Archyvo g. 61

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

### **Ninth Fort Museum**

Žemaičių pl. 73

[www.9fortomuziejus.lt](http://www.9fortomuziejus.lt)

### **Kaunas Fortress Park**

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



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

The turret of Kaunas Cinema Centre Romuva, which perfectly encapsulate the Art Deco style, is reminiscent of the golden age of cinema in Laisvės Avenue, when it was possible to visit as many as 12 cinemas at once.



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

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

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

## INTERWAR BUILDINGS:

### 1. The Central Building of former Lithuanian Post Office

(Laisvės al. 102)

### 2. Kaunas State Musical Theatre

(Laisvės al. 91)

### 3. Kaunas City Municipal Building (the former Savings Bank)

(Laisvės al. 96)

### 4. Kaunas State Philharmonic (formerly the Ministry of Justice and Seimas (Parliament) Building)

(L. Sapiegos g. 5)

### 5. Chambers of the Bank of Lithuania

(Maironio g. 25)

### 6. The complex of buildings on V. Putvinskio street

(V. Putvinskio g. 52, 54, 56, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72)

### 7. M. K. Čiurlionis National Art Museum and The Vytautas the Great War Museum

(V. Putvinskio g. 55)

### 8. Žaliakalnis Funicular

(Aušros g. 6)

### 9. Jesus Christ's Resurrection Basilica in Kaunas

(Žemaičių g. 31)

### 10. Jonas Jablonskis High School (formerly an elementary school)

(Aušros g. 3)

**11. The Former Headquarters of the Dienocentras Company**

(Laisvės al. 55/S. Daukanto g. 18)

**12. The Former Office of Dažanga AB** (Laisvės al. 53)

**13. Romuva Movie Theatre**

(Laisvės al. 54)

**14. Officers club**

(A. Mickevičiaus g. 19)

**15. The Jonas and Gediminas Lapėnas Apartment Building**

(Kęstučio g. 38)

**16. Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Medical Academy**

(A. Mickevičiaus g. 9)

**17. Jonas Basanavičius, MD, Military Medical Service**

(Vytauto pr. 49)

**18. The Kaunas Children's Recreation Centre (formerly the Neo-Lithuania Centre)**

(Parodos g. 26)

**19. Lithuanian Academy of Physical Education**

(Sporto g. 6)

**20. Sports Hall**

(Perkūno al. 5)

**21. Kaunas City Museum, Mikas and Kipras Petrauskas House**

(K. Petrausko g. 31)







## WOODEN ARCHITECTURE IN KAUNAS

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

## OBJECTS:

- 22. Architect Antanas Jokimas Villa** (Minties Rato g. 2)
- 23. Soldier Antanas Gedmantas House** (Žemuogių g. 2)
- 24. Composer Juozas Gruodis Villa** (Salako g. 18)
- 25. Entrepreneur Pranas Urbonas Villa** (Žemaičių g. 20)
- 26. Construction technician Jonas Varneckis Villa** (Sietyno g. 17)
- 27. Juozas and Stasė Geniušas Villa** (Tulpių g. 21)
- 28. Barbora and Kazys Zukauskas Villa** (A. Smetonos al. 81)
- 29. Educator Jonas Dereškevičius House** (Minties Rato g. 24)
- 30. J. Zikaras house-museum** (J. Zikaro g. 3)
- 31. J. Grušas house-museum** (Kalniečių g. 93)
- 32. Villa Grabytė** (Gailutės g. 19)



Lithuania Presidential Palace

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

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

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

**1. Lithuania Presidential Palace**  
(Vilniaus g. 33)

**2. Lithuanian Seimas Chambers**  
(Gimnazijos g. 3)



### 3. Former Ministers Cabinet of the Lithuanian Republic

(K. Donelaičio g. 58)

### 4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1919-1922)

(Maironio g. 27)

### 5. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1922-1935)

(S. Daukanto g. 25)

### 6. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1935-1940)

(Corner of K. Donelaičio g./ Vieniybės a.)

### 7. United States Consulate and Embassy

(V. Putvinskio g. 68)

### 8. Czechoslovak Embassy and the Argentine Consulate

(V. Putvinskio g. 60)

### 9. Swedish Consul General

(V. Putvinskio g. 60)

### 10. Papal Nunciature Building

(V. Putvinskio g. 56)

### 11. Honorary Consulate of Hungary

(V. Putvinskio g. 54)

### 16. Polish Embassy

(Kęstučio g. 38)

### 17. British Embassy and Consulate

(Kęstučio g. 29)

### 18. Finnish Consulate

(Kęstučio g. 8)

### 19. German Embassy

(Gedimino g. 19)

### 20. Danish Embassy

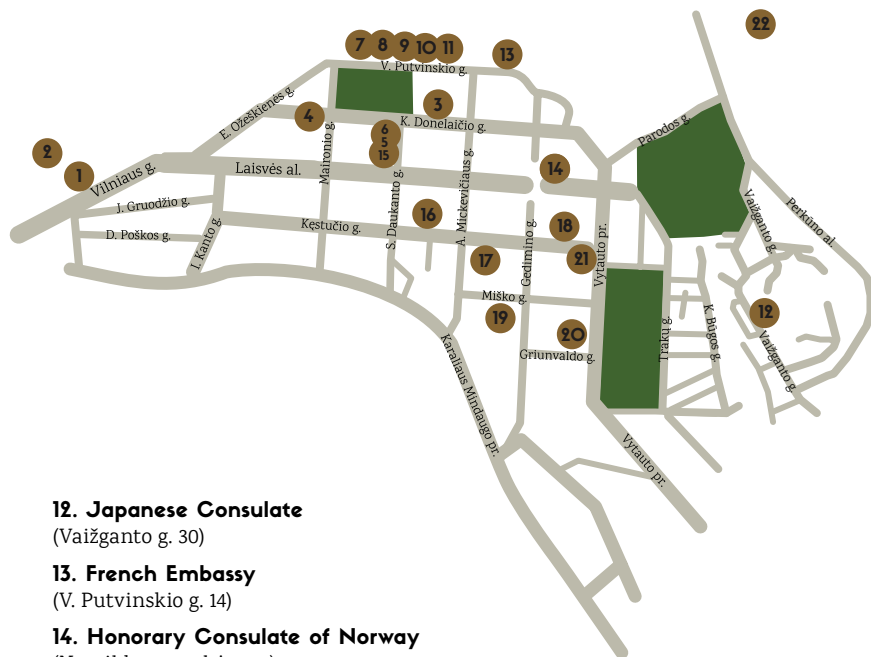
(Vytauto pr. 55/Griunvaldo g. 2)

### 21. Latvian Embassy

(Vytauto pr./Kęstučio g.)

### 22. Italian Embassy

(Vydūno al. 13)



### 12. Japanese Consulate

(Vaižganto g. 30)

### 13. French Embassy


(V. Putvinskio g. 14)

### 14. Honorary Consulate of Norway

(Nepriklausomybės a. 7)

### 15. Metropolis Hotel

(S. Daukanto g. 21)

A high-angle, top-down photograph of a stone staircase. The central landing is paved with a grid of black and gold-colored square tiles. A black metal railing with a circular handgrip is visible on the left side of the landing. The surrounding stone steps and walls are made of rough-hewn, greyish-brown blocks. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights.

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



## KAUNAS – UNESCO DESIGN CITY

Launched in 2004, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) aims to strengthen cooperation with and among cities that have recognized creativity as a strategic factor of sustainable development as regards economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects. By joining the Network, cities acknowledge their commitment to sharing best practices, developing partnerships that promote creativity and the cultural industries, strengthening participation in cultural life and integrating culture in urban development plans.



The UNESCO Creative Cities Network covers seven Creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Design, Film, astronomy, Literature, Media Arts and Music. In December, 2015 Kaunas has joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and became the first city in Eastern and Western European countries that received the Design City Status. 2017 Kaunas modernism

architecture application "Kaunas 1919-1939: The Capital Inspired by the Modern Movement" was put on the Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

### Cities of Design Network

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



### The European Heritage Label in Kaunas

In 2015 Kaunas was awarded the European Heritage Label which acknowledged the phenomenon of Kaunas becoming a temporary capital in the period of 1919-1940 as relevant to the whole Europe. The European Heritage Label was placed on 44 buildings of modernist architecture of this period in the city.





**Darius and Girėnas stadium.**  
Kaunas is proud to have a  
freshly reconstructed stadium  
of the highest UEFA category  
4 and a major attraction for  
the city.

## **KAUNAS, THE TITLE OF THE CAPITAL OF SPORTS**

In addition to the various titles of Kaunas, the title of the capital of sports is also worth remembering. With its bicycle paths, pedestrian-, bicycle- and even unicycle-friendly infrastructure, Kaunas has a lot to offer to both an active athlete and an passionate fan. The last few years have been golden for the sports representatives of Kaunas, while new or reconstructed facilities have been opening up as well.

### **Darius and Girėnas Stadium by the Oak Grove**

Kaunas is proud to have a freshly reconstructed stadium of the highest UEFA category 4 and a major attraction for the city. At least 15 events are expected to occur here every year, and at least 10 will be on the calendar of sports federations.

And now for some history. The stadium was first opened on the marshy site of the Oak Grove (Ažuolynas) in 1925. Soon after, it was reconstructed, and in 1936, the first

football match between Lithuania and Estonia was played here, with Lithuania winning 2-0. In 1938, the first National Olympics were held here as well. It has hosted the Lithuanian World Games, the Lithuanian World Song and Dance Festival, the Baltic Sea Sports Games, the European Athletics Championships, the welcoming ceremony of Pope John Paul II, the European U-19 Football Championship, the French and Spanish national teams, and the match between FBK Kaunas and Glasgow Rangers.

### **Žalgiris Arena**

The architect of the arena, which opened on Nemunas Island in 2011, is Eugenijus Mičiūnas. It is still the most modern and the largest multifunctional arena in the Baltic States, the home of Žalgiris basketball team and a sea of thousands of fans. It is the place where attendance records are broken, where the most important victories are won, and where the support from the stands is maximised. The arena also hosts regular concerts by Lithuanian and foreign artists, and many other events of all sizes.



### House of Basketball

Basketball fans will be attracted by the display of trophies and the famous Lithuanian Fans' Flag, flown in many of the world's most famous arenas. Keep your eyes open – the most significant Lithuanian achievements, fan paraphernalia, and a collection of actual balls are here for your enjoyment. The exhibition programme includes a film from the TV3 documentary series "House of Basketball", a unique 20-minute journey through the most important and exciting basketball events.

### Sports Hall

This historically important building for Kaunas and Lithuania has recently been reborn after three years of reconstruction. The sports hall, which is known as the mecca of basketball, was built in 1938 in less than half a year and has become the only building in Europe to be used exclusively for basketball. Considered ultra-modern at the time, the hall had impressive technical features – four riveted steel arches, reinforced concrete foundations, wooden bleachers (later replaced by reinforced concrete ones), and a capacity of 11,000 spectators (3,500 seats).

It was in this arena, which was built in the record six months and opened on the occasion of the 1939 European Basketball Championship (designed by the engineer Anatoly Rozenblium after many famous architects had given up due to time constraints), that the most important basketball victories of the years of the First Republic and the years of Soviet occupation were achieved. The legend of Žalgiris was born here.

### Two Ice Arenas in Town

The historic ice arena on Aušros street in Žaliakalnis was the starting point for the careers of many ice dancers and ice hockey players who later became famous. Now, dozens of children who want to become stars train here. Curling is also played.

Next to the Girstutis pool, the new Kaunas Ice Palace was also opened in 2022. But as times have improved, now the two rinks are for mass skating, and both men's and women's hockey teams train here, as well as figure skaters. If you get cold, you can even play badminton here!


### Pools of Žalgirio arena and Girstutis

The hottest (or rather, pleasantly cooling) news is the Olympic-size swimming pool with a spa area and a space for a sports club, which was built on the island of Nemunas in less than two years. The multi-functional aquatics centre, managed by the Žalgirio Arena team, has opened in September 2022.

Of course, swimmers in Kaunas had not been suffering drought before the new pool was built. The legendary yet modern Girstutis pool is designed not only for professional, but also for amateur sports and leisure activities. The services are tailored to everyone's needs and age, with classes and exercises in the water and in the gym.

### Žalgirio arena and the swimming pool



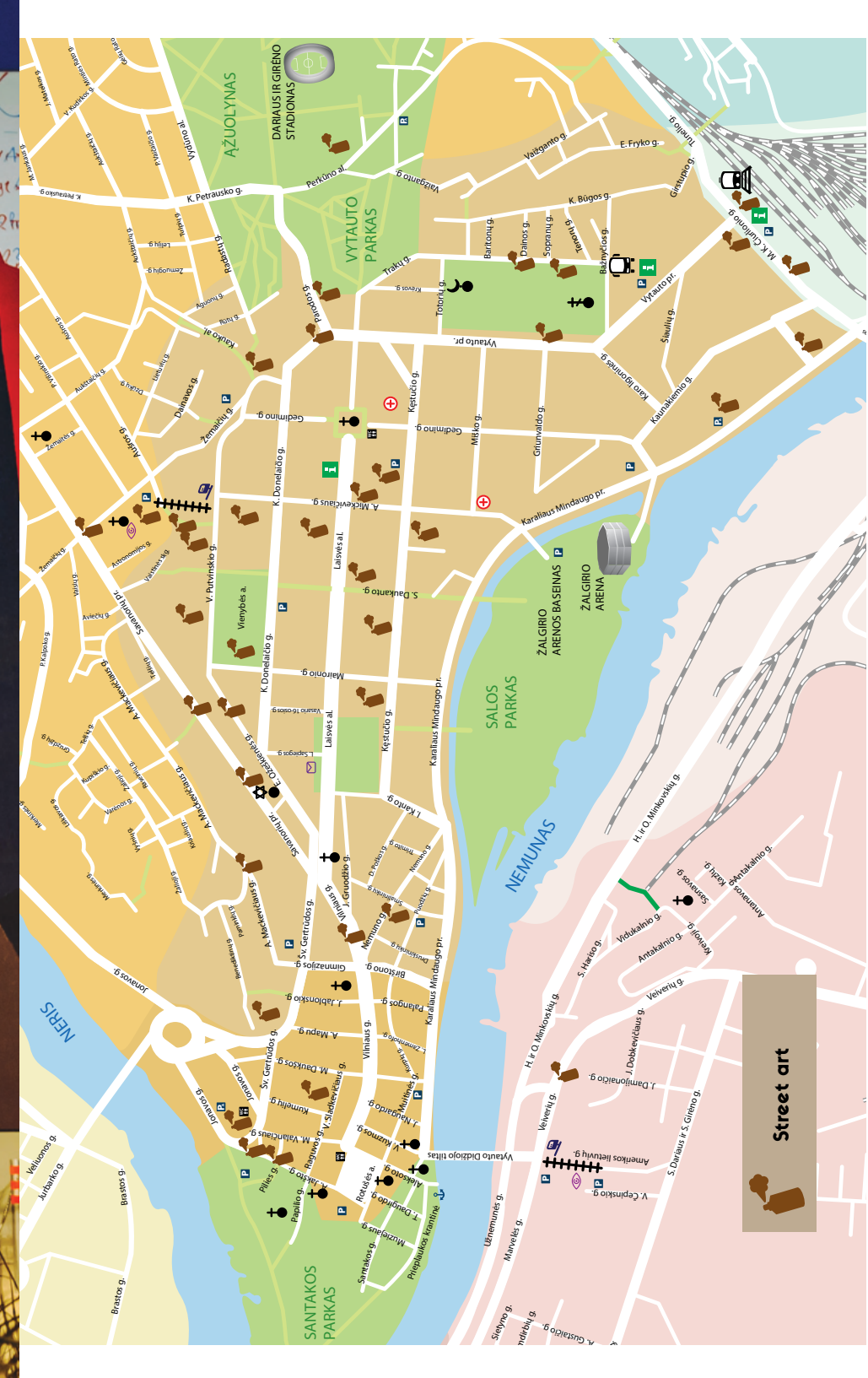


Professional artists do murals on the walls of Kaunas buildings in order to colour the city and make the public spaces more lively. The ideas for drawings come while thinking about the location, the life of the community and the current affairs. These creations are new attractions in Kaunas and live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

VIVA  
color

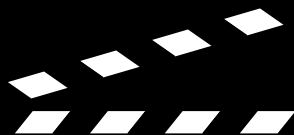
elmo  
LIGHT





Street art



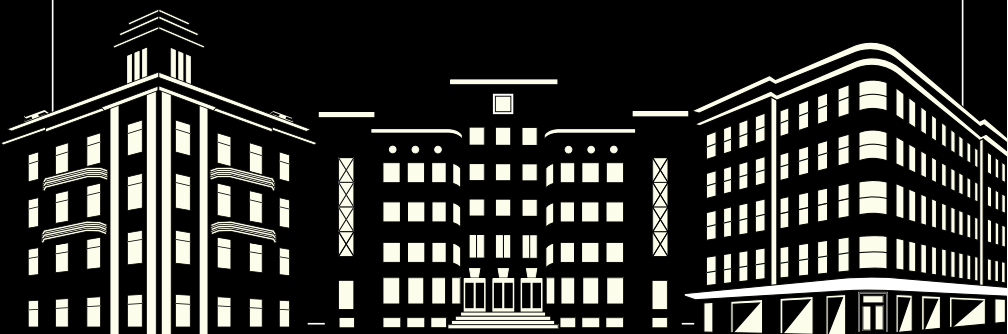


[kaunasfilmoffice.com](http://kaunasfilmoffice.com)

# SHOOTING IN KAUNAS

Fill it up with your imagination.

"In Kaunas, it's like in the movies" - was once the slogan of Kaunas International Film Festival. The slogan soon became a catchphrase used to describe the cinematic, historical and at the same time contemporary aura of the city. Thanks to its numerous perspectives and dense architectural layers, Kaunas can play Tokyo, Moscow, Vienna, Germany, Italy... and itself, too!



**Kaunas is a city with a unique aura. After the titular year of the European Capital of Culture in 2022, art and creativity continue to be present in almost every part of Kaunas. From its beloved and cherished courtyards, to the most spectacular events of music, theatre, design, dance and everything in between.**

The city has continuously encouraged creativity in both public and private spaces. Take a look around the city's diverse cultural sites and projects: buildings turned into works of art, galleries, design salons, bohemian cafés and the most unexpected spaces. The variety of events will also surprise you. If you decide to visit, you will have a great time!

Full of new sensations and discoveries, Kaunas' cultural life is a hotbed of modern and youthful culture, so everyone who loves art will find their own corner in Kaunas. Every year, Kaunas draws you into an immense space of events. We look forward to welcoming you to festivals with long traditions or festivals that are just being discovered.

## ART GALLERIES

### Meno Parkas Gallery

(Rotušės a. 27) [www.menoparkas.lt](http://www.menoparkas.lt)

### Kaunas Photo Gallery

(Rotušės a. 1 / Vilniaus g. 2)  
[www.kaunasgallery.lt](http://www.kaunasgallery.lt)

### VDU 101 Gallery

(Muitinės g. 7) [www.galerija101.lt](http://www.galerija101.lt)

### Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery (reconstruction)

(Nepriklausomybės a. 12)  
[www.ciurlionis.lt/zilinsko](http://www.ciurlionis.lt/zilinsko)

### Kaunas Picture Gallery

(K. Donelaičio g. 16) [www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

### Art Form

(Savanorių pr. 166) [www.menoforma.lt](http://www.menoforma.lt)

### Drobė Gallery

(Drobės g. 62, Kaunas) [www.ldsajunga.lt/](http://www.ldsajunga.lt/)  
[Kauno\\_skyrius](mailto:Kauno_skyrius)

## PLACES OF EVENTS

### Kaunas State Philharmonic

(L. Sapiegos g. 5)  
[www.kaunofilharmonija.lt](http://www.kaunofilharmonija.lt)

### Kaunas State Musical Theatre

(Laisvės al. 91) [www.muzikinisteatras.lt](http://www.muzikinisteatras.lt)

### Kaunas State Drama Theatre

(Laisvės al. 71) [www.dramosteatras.lt](http://www.dramosteatras.lt)

### “Žalgiris” Arena

(Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50)  
[www.zalgirioarena.lt](http://www.zalgirioarena.lt)





## March

### DAY OF HAPPINESS

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

Many of the festivals and events initiated by Kaunas 2022 have become an integral part of the city and the district. On the 20th of March, the city will once again celebrate the International Day of Happiness and fill the city with beautiful and uplifting initiatives in the most unexpected places.



## April

### „KAUNAS JAZZ“

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

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

### KAUNAS MARATHON

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

On 23 April, Kaunas will stop the traffic and hand out a record number of medals during the 11th Kaunas Marathon! The international running event in Kaunas, which attracts thousands of participants, is open to everyone, regardless of age, profession, beliefs or physical fitness. The aim of this sports festival is to unite citizens and sports enthusiasts, to promote social and physical activity, and to shape the traditions of healthy lifestyle in Lithuania.

## May

### KAUNAS LITERATURE WEEK

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

The festival, which will take place on 10-14 of May, introduces the contemporary Lithuanian and world literature, presents the most interesting Lithuanian and foreign writers, and pays a lot of attention to the works based in Kaunas and Kaunas-based authors, as well as the work of young writers.

### “DESIGN WEEK”

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

Traditionally, on the first week of May five Lithuanian cities Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai and Telšiai, plunge into a design fiesta, during which guests

are invited to take part in workshops, visit exhibitions, draw on expertise and share at international conferences; meanwhile developers present their latest work.

### **KITE FESTIVAL “KITES FOR EARTH AND SKY”**

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

### **FESTIVAL-COMPETITION CYCLE “KAUNAS CANTAT”**

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

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

### **NEIGHBORHOOD FEAST**

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

Imagine bringing your dinner table to the longest pedestrian street in the region and sitting down for a pleasant evening with neighbours and friends you've just met. That's possible every May in Laisvės Alėja, thanks to the artist Vytenis Jakas whose projects aim for a happier community.



### **KAUNAS BIRTHDAY**

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

The biggest city festival, which is celebrated loudly and to the fullest every May. The medieval traditions and respect for own environment as well as heritage are in harmonious alignment with the 21st century values and innovations. The amphitheatre of Kaunas Castle will turn into the epicentre of the birthday festival and its events will spread in the whole old town.

## **May–July**

### **“PAŽAISLIS MUSIC FESTIVAL”**

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

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





## June

### CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS FESTIVAL "CIRKULIACIJA"

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

This festival presents the youngest kind of performing arts, which combines performing, dancing, physical theatre and circus.

## July

### BARD FESTIVAL "ACACIA ALLEY"

This Singing poetry festival brings together the most famous and talented bards of the country ranging from winners of youth contests to scene masters, guests from foreign countries and notorious 'aliens' from the rock, blue, country, pop and national music worlds.

### CONTEMPORARY CITY FESTIVAL "AUDRA"

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

Last summer, this event has left an indelible impression on electronic music fans all over Europe. This year, it returns with a vision to populate the city with a crowd of music-loving people and explore yet other untapped corners of Kaunas.

### JULY THE 6TH STATE DAY'S CELEBRATION AT THE RAUDONDVARIS MANOR

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

The Statehood Festival organised in the Manor Park delights with concerts and entertainment for entire families.



## August

### INTERNATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL "CONTEMPO"

[www.kaunas2022.eu](http://www.kaunas2022.eu)

The festival program includes carefully selected projects and artists of contemporary stage art from Lithuania and international stages.

## September

### "KAUNAS PHOTO"

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

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

### "FLUXUS" FESTIVAL AND CLIMBING THE PARODOS HILL

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

One of the most anticipated events of the year, Fluxus Festival invites not only to watch performances inspired by the Fluxus movement, but also to take part in a programme of cultural events and climb the Parodos Hill in the most outrageously inventive costumes you could think of.





## October

### INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY DANCE FESTIVAL "AURA"

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

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

### CITYTELLING FESTIVAL

[www.istorijufestivalis.eu](http://www.istorijufestivalis.eu)

The festival, which continues the wholesome activities of Kaunas 2022 programme Memory Office, invites to tell the city and one's artistic and personal stories. Sad, joyful, important for the history of Kaunas or unknown to anyone. The stories will be told with sound, lights, images, words.



### YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL "IŠEITIS TAŠKAS"

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

Held every year, the festival allows addressing selected topical social issues or social problems on the stage of a theatre.

## August–October

### KAUNAS BIENNIAL

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

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



## December

### CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND A CHRISTMAS MARKET

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

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

### Activities in the nature

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

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



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

### Challenge accepted!

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

and solve problems in order to escape a locked room.

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



### A day not to forget for the little ones

Lithuanian Zoological Gardens in Kaunas invites you to see more than 2000 animals. There are over 250 species in this collection many of which are in the Lithuanian and the international The Red List of Threatened Species. Many educational events are organised in the zoo among which are the night at the zoo and others. **The Zoo is temporarily closed for renovation until 2023, please follow the information here [www.zoosodas.lt](http://www.zoosodas.lt)**

Another site to visit is Tadas Ivanauskas Zoology Museum in Kaunas that has already been running for 100 years. You can find 17 000 items in 2500 square metres! You simply must find the time to explore them all. When one wants to play, experience, learn and feel at the same time, one must go to the CurioCity – the largest educational entertainment centre for children in the Baltic states. Here you launch into the sky in a spaceship, slide on a rainbow, solve detective mysteries and accept other challenges. In the warm seasons our city is full of soap bubbles; you just need to go to the agreed location and enjoy the dance of colourful bubbles! Don't forget to check the programmes of different city theatres – there's plenty of performances for children.





An aerial photograph of a serene beach scene. The left side of the image is dominated by the calm, turquoise waters of Lampėdžiai Lake, with gentle ripples on the surface. A few people are swimming in the water. The right side shows a wide, sandy beach that curves along the shoreline. The beach is dotted with small groups of people, some sitting on towels or blankets. A dense forest of tall, dark green trees borders the right side of the beach, providing shade. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and inviting.

Lampėdžiai Lake  
Beach





Don't miss the opportunity to go for a boat trip or take a water bee peddle boat for a spin in Kaunas Reservoir. Visit the "Love bay" and you might see a great blue heron!

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

[www.nemunoturas.lt](http://www.nemunoturas.lt)  
[www.nemunastravel.lt](http://www.nemunastravel.lt)

## **KAUNAS LAGOON 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> BEACHES**

(T. Masiulio g.)

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

## LAMPĖDŽIAI LAKE BEACH

(Raudondvario pl. 161A)

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

You can also spend your time at Lampėdžiai playing basketball, beach volleyball, mini golf, or tennis. There is also an adventure park here. Everyone will find various water attractions and other active leisure opportunities here!

## PANEMUNĖ BEACH

(A. Smetonos al. 4)

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



**Radisson**  
KAUNAS


**RADISSON HOTEL KAUNAS**  
K. Džonelaicio g. 27 Kaunas  
[radissonhotels.com/radisson](http://radissonhotels.com/radisson)





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





Regional Park was established to preserve the unique Kaunas Lagoon dam landscape complex, large outcrops, flooded Nemunas tributary estuaries, the unique architectural complex of the Pažaislis monastery, and other natural and cultural heritage. The park includes part of the city of Kaunas, as well as the district areas of Kaunas and Kaišiadorys. The Kaunas Lagoon Regional Park area is 9,869 ha.





Arlaviškiai Educational Trail

## **1. THE INTERNAL EXPOSITION OF KAUNAS LAGOON REGIONAL PARK**

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

## **2. FIFTH FORT OF THE KAUNAS FORTRESS**

Alongside Kaunas Lagoon there are two unique pieces of Eastern European fortification architecture and military history within the monumental Kaunas fortress ring: the Fifth Fort, reminiscent of Imperial Russia, the two Vaišvydava bunkers, and the remains of the First World War Railway (Palemonas) fort bunkers circuit. The Fifth Fort was built in 1889 and is distinguished by its layout: pentagonal-shaped, asymmetrical, and adapted to the environment. Fort territory plantations and anti-aircraft missile base buildings constructed during the Sovi-

et period shape the territory landscape. The fort successfully promotes a paintball club at present.

## **3. ŽIEGŽDRIAI GEOLOGICAL TRAIL**

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

## **4. PAKALNIŠKIAI EDUCATIONAL TRAIL**

We suggest this trail for those interested in flora, birds and forest fauna. Journey time is about 2 hours, distance is 3 km. The route begins on Piliuonos Gatvė, the spot is marked on an information booth.

## **5. ARLAVIŠKIAI EDUCATIONAL TRAIL**

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

## 6. DUBRAVA MINOR RESERVE EDUCATIONAL TRAIL

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

## 7. MERGAKALNIS OBSERVATION DECK

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

## 8. EXPOSURE OF CONGLOMERATES IN LAŠINIAI

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

## 9. DUBRAVA ARBORETUM

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

### Direction of Kaunas Lagoon Regional Park / Visitors Centre

Miškininkų g. 2, Vaišvydava, Kauno r.  
Tel. +370 37 383071  
info@kaunomarios.lt  
www.kaunomarios.lt



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www.curiositycity.lt





### 3 Žiegzdriai Geological Trail



### 4 Pakalniškių Educational Trail







Premium Mediterranean  
culture in Kaunas old town.

Vilniaus g. 10 LT-44280 Kaunas  
+370 620 30205 / [juodadruska@gmail.com](mailto:juodadruska@gmail.com)  
IG / FB – [@juodadruska](https://www.instagram.com/juodadruska)







Street art painting "The Wise Old Man"

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

- Kaunas is where you will find the Vytautas the Great Bridge, aka the longest bridge in the world. In order to bridge the transition from one bank of the Nemunas to the other took 13 days, because Kaunas belonged to the Russian Empire and Aleksotas to the Prussian kingdom up to 1807. The different sides of the river had different calendars, which included a 13-day difference.
- It would probably be difficult to find out when a Lithuanian drank the first mug of beer but breweries were known in Lithuania from the oldest times. The beginning of brewage in Kaunas was the steam beer and malt factory built by the merchant I. B. Volfas in 1853 where "Volfas beer" was brewed for the first time.
- In 1910 the first puppet cartoon in the world "Fight of Stag Beetles" was created in Kaunas. The author of the cartoon is Vladislovas Starevičius. The main characters of the cartoon were huge insects stag beetles. Starevičius dried them, attached mechanical legs and joints and moved them in front of the camera.
- There was a horse-drawn tram in Laisvės avenue until 1929 which was called this way because a tram on a railing (Lith. konke) was drawn by horses.
- S. Darius and S. Girėnas Airport, which still operates until the present day which was established in honour of pilots Stasys Darius and Steponas Girėnas, famous all over the world for their successful flight across the Atlantic in 1933 and plane crash under vague circumstances when less than a tenth of their trip was left.
- The story goes that if one makes a wish in lovers favourite Santaka park where the bends of two rivers, the river Nemunas (in other words, man) and the river Neris (in other words, woman), join it will come true. The confluence of two rivers is like the sacrament of marriage when two rivers join and never separate.

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

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

• The most beautiful Christmas trees are in Kaunas. According to the people of Lithuania. Four years in a row the most originally decorated Christmas trees are the decoration of the Kaunas Old Town. In 2012 an emerald 16 metre high Christmas tree was acknowledged as the highest sculpture made of plastic bottles in the world and was included in the Guinness World Records.

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

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



**Hotel Best Western Santaka**

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Monumental Christ's Resurrection Church

## LITHUANIA

Capital: Vilnius

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Time Zone: UTC +2/Summertime UTC +3

Climate: average annual temperature +7.2° C, July +18.4° C.

Religion: Roman Catholic

Internet top-level domain extension: .lt

Telephone code: +370

## KAUNAS

The city's foundation date: 1361 (mentioned in written sources for the first time)

City area: 158 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 288363

Ethnicity: 93% Lithuanian,

4% Russian, 3% other.

Official city website: [www.kaunas.lt](http://www.kaunas.lt)

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (NON-WORKING DAYS)

January 1 - New Year, Lithuanian Flag Day

February 16 - Lithuanian Independence Day

March 11 - Lithuanian Independence Restoration Day

May 1 - International Labour Day

June 24 - Rasos (Dew Day - pagan version of St. John's Day)

July 6 - State Day (Coronation of King Mindaugas of Lithuania)

August 15 - Žolinės (Grass Day - pagan version of Assumption of Mary)

November 1-2 All Saints Day, Day of the Dead

December 24 - Christmas Eve

December 25-26 - Christmas

## UNDERSTAND LITHUANIAN

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

## POLITE EXPRESSIONS

Hello - labas (informally)

Hello - laba diena (formally)

Goodbye - iki (informally)

Goodbye - viso gero (formally)

Please - prašau

Thank you - ačiū

Yes - taip

No - ne

Sorry - atsiprašau

Cheers - į sveikatą

Nice to meet you - malonu susipažinti

## USEFUL PHRASES

The Old Town - senamiestis

Do you speak English? - Ar kalbate angliskai?

I don't understand - nesuprantu

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

What's your name? - Koks tavo vardas?

Where is...? - Kur yra...?

Could you help me? - Ar galėtumėte man padėti?

Tea - arbata

Coffee - kava

Beer - alus

Shop - parduotuvė

## ADVICE

### EMERGENCY NUMBER

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

### GROUND FLOOR

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

### SMOKING IN PUBLIC

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

## TIPS

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

### DRINKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

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

# Bolt

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Cold beetroot soup "Šaltibarščiai"

## **TASTE IT!**

### **BLACK BREAD**

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

### **COLD BEETROOT SOUP "ŠALTIBARŠČIAI"**

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

### **POTATO DUMPLINGS "CEPELINAI"**

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

### **BAROQUE TREE CAKE "ŠAKOTIS"**

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



## TAKE IT HOME

### RYE BREAD

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

### AMBER

It is called "Lithuanian gold". Amber is used to create unique jewellery and unusual art works; it is distinguished for its stimulating and strengthening properties. Therefore, from old times it has been used not only for decoration but also for treatment. Lithuanians' ancestors protected themselves from the dark powers

by wearing amber amulets. Amber therapy is becoming more and more popular: amber spirits and preparations with amber acid, oil or powder are made, healing and strengthening amber tea is drunk.

### FLAX

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

### WOOD

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

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HUGO

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MANGO



## ARRIVAL

### KAUNAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Oro uosto g. 4, Karmėlava, Kauno r.  
[www.kaunas-airport.lt](http://www.kaunas-airport.lt)

### KAUNAS BUS STATION

Vytauto pr. 24, Kaunas  
[www.autobusbilietai.lt](http://www.autobusbilietai.lt)

### KAUNAS TRAIN STATION

M. K. Čiurlionio g. 16, Kaunas  
[www.traukiniobilietas.lt](http://www.traukiniobilietas.lt)

## IN THE CITY

### CITY BEE

Cars and bikes sharing service on your phone!

### BOLT

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

### TRAFI

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

### ŽIOGAS

A smart ticketing app that allows you  
to conveniently pay for your city trips.

## LUGGAGE STORAGE

### AT THE TRAIN STATION

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

### AT KAUNAS BUS STATION

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

### AT KAUNAS AIRPORT

[www.kaunas-airport.lt](http://www.kaunas-airport.lt)

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Explore Kaunas on [WWW.KAUNASTIKA.LT](http://WWW.KAUNASTIKA.LT),  
a website with all our kaunastic maps digitised  
and optimised for your laptop, tablet or mobile phone!

