



## DOUBLE WEEKEND

HI,

WELCOME TO ELK! OFTEN NICKNAMED THE CAPITAL OF MASURIA SUBREGION, ELK IS A PICTURE-PERFECT CITY SURROUNDED WITH LUSH WOODS AND CARVED WITH LAKES, RIVERS AND STREAMS. THE NATURAL GEMS, AS WELL AS A THICK HISTORICAL LAYER, CONTEMPORARY URBAN LIFESTYLE AND PERFECT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, MAKE THE 60-THOUSAND-INHABITANT CITY AN IDEAL DESTINATION FOR A WEEKEND GETAWAY. WHAT ABOUT VISITING KAUNAS NEXT WEEKEND? YOU'LL DISCOVER PLENTY OF KAUNASTIC THINGS TO DO BY TURNING THE PAGE.

### TOURISM INFORMATION



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#ELK #ELKTUWRACAM #URZADMIASTAELEK #TURYSTYKAELK



## DISCOVER ELK

### 1 JOHN PAUL II SQUARE Jana Kilińskiego 2, 19-300 Elk

The most famous square in town was once called Sapper Square. Its current name is dedicated to the Polish-born Pope John Paul II's visit to Elk in June 1999. It was the biggest gathering in the city's history - about 300 thousand pilgrims participated in the holy mass held at the square. To commemorate this event, and to honour Pope John Paul II, a monument designed by Czesław Dźwigaj was erected here in 2000. The square is also home to a permanent historical photography exhibition, a concert stage and a fountain illuminated at night. The square is the starting point of the Elk - Wigry - Studzieniczna Papal trail. A bike path with cyclist rest stops also passes through the square.

### 2 ELK LAKE WITH A PROMENADE Aleja 1000-lecia, 19-300 Elk

While situated in the western part of the city, the twelfth biggest lake in Poland is the epicentre of contemporary Elk. Along with the many other surrounding lakes, it contributes to the breathtaking landscape of the Elk Lake District. The elegant promenade along the eastern shore is more than 6 km long and suits both bicyclists and pedestrians. There are multiple attractions for kids next to the boardwalk, along with three parks: ropes course, educational park, and recreational and sports park.

### 3 CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS ELK Armii Krajowej 2, 19-300 Elk

Located by the main municipal artery, this is one of the two most valuable sacral monuments in Elk. It was constructed in the years 1847-1850, although it obtained its current form only in the year 1925 when it was rebuilt after wartime destruction. Until 1945 this church was used by the Evangelical community. Every day at noon, Elk's anthem can be heard from the high tower of the church. You will most definitely spot its characteristic tower from many different areas of the city.

### 4 CASTLE BUILDINGS AND A HISTORIC BRIDGE Zamkowa 4, 19-300 Elk

In the Medieval times, this area was the location of the easternmost Teutonic fortification and a base for their expeditions to Lithuania. The castle was erected on an island on the Elk Lake between 1398 and 1406. Initially, the building was made of wood; however, after its destruction a few years following the Battle of Grunwald (1410), it was rebuilt in brick. In the 19th century, the island was connected with the mainland using a dyke and a bridge, and the castle was turned into a female prison. Since 1913, the road connecting the city and the ruins of the castle runs through a beautiful four-span reinforced concrete bridge with stylish lanterns. Currently, the object has a private owner and will reopen as a conference centre and a hotel.

### 5 NEW CITY BEACH Kolbego 13, 19-300 Elk

At least an hour at the beautiful urban beach is a must if you're visiting Elk in the summertime. You can easily reach the beach close to Jeziorna housing estate by walking along the promenade from Puńskiego street. This grassy and sandy beach is surrounded by extensive facilities including volleyball pitches, streetball pitches, outdoor showers, a bike path, a platform with an observation tower and walking trails, an observation terrace, a park gazebo, a launch ramp for boats and even fishing spots.

### 6 COPERNICUS PARK Wojska Polskiego, 19-300 Elk

The creators of the park believe you can teach the future generation the principles of astronomy and physics through games and enjoyment. The theme of the park is the planetary system and constellations. It's so much fun for kids to climb and move freely along the whole construction! While you wait, say hi to the park's name-giver Nicolaus Copernicus sitting on one of the benches!

### 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER Parkowa 12, 19-300 Elk

The centre's vast, beautifully arranged, garden is carved with paved alleys and hides many quiet spots. Inside the Museum of the Lake in the middle of the garden, you'll find aquariums with an overall capacity of 4 thousand litres of water. The natural environment of the Masurian lakes is recreated in these aquariums. Another example of the centuries-old relationship between the city and the lake is Miermaid's square at the intersection of Zamkowa and Wojska Polskiego streets. You got it right - inspired by local myths and legends, there's a 2-metre bronze statue of a water nymph.

### 8 ELK NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY Wąski Tor 1, 19-300 Elk

Merely a dozen Polish cities can be proud to have this unique means of transportation. The 48-km-long, 75-cm-wide single-track line connects Elk and Turów. It was constructed in 1911-1918, and in 1992 it was declared a technical monument. It didn't take long to start its first tourist season, and the decision immediately paid off. The small carriages pulled by a beautiful steam locomotive take you on a trip through the most picturesque places in the Elk area. The historic railway depot is also worth your attention, as well as the Railway Explorers Park.

### 9 SOLIDARITY PARK Park Solidarności, Jana i Hieronima Małeckich, 19-300 Elk

Called the Queen Louise Park before Elk was returned to Poland, the historical landscape park is full of various tree species, as well as ornamental bushes and flowers. Oaks were planted here to honour the emperors Frederic III and William I. There are two monuments placed at the opposite ends of the park: a statue of a Masurian folk poet Michał Kajka and a memorial for those who died for a free and independent Poland.

### 10 CATHEDRAL OF ST. WOJCIECH Tadeusza Kościuszki 16, 19-300 Elk

Adalbert of Prague (c. 956 - 23 April 997) was a Bohemian missionary and Christian saint who was martyred in his efforts to convert the Baltic Prussians to Christianity. There's a legend that Saint Adalbert was the author of Bogurodzica, the oldest known Polish hymn, but it has not been confirmed. The church at Kościuszki street, second of the two most valuable sacral objects in Elk, was built in 1895-1895. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Elk was initiated in 1992; thus, the neo-Gothic sanctuary was raised to the rank of cathedral. On June 8, 1999, Pope John Paul II visited the cathedral.

### 11 WATER TOWER 11 Listopada, 19-300 Elk

Fun fact - one of the highest structures in Elk was erected back in 1895. For years the water tower was the key element of the municipal water supply system. Currently, the water tower holds a private Water Drop Museum. Kids - their parents, too - enjoy old pumping machines and other water-related devices, fire station pumps, bottles, carboys etc. History buffs will appreciate a vintage photography exhibition of Elk at the beginning of the 20th century. Between June and August, the museum is open between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. Out of season, it is open between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm.

### 12 VIEWING TOWER ON PIĘKNA AVENUE Piękna, 19-300 Elk

Conveniently reached by the city's promenade, the 18.5 meter circular shape steel tower is designed to offer three viewing platforms (+5m, +10m, +15m). The new tourist attraction providing panoramic views to picturesque surroundings is set to be finished in 2020.



## DOUBLE WEEKEND

FREE TIME IN ELK

Plenty of attractions await by the Elk lake. At the promenade, there are several rental spots for water equipment and bikes. There are many cafes, pubs, and restaurants in the vicinity in case you feel hungry, thirsty or ready to chill. We recommend trying Polish cuisine and regional specialities there, including but not limited to cabbage with caraway, dzyndzałek (small dumplings) and plinće z pomoćką (potato patties with stuffing). A waterpark, many tennis courts, horse riding centres and a climbing wall will be waiting for you after your powers are restored and you are ready for more Elk.

# HI,

WELCOME TO KAUNAS – A CONTEMPORARY CULTURE HOTSPOT SURROUNDED BY CENTURIES-OLD FORESTS AND LAYERED WITH TRACES OF HISTORY. IF YOU ONLY HAVE ONE WEEKEND IN OUR CITY, WE HOPE THIS GUIDE WILL SUIT YOU WELL. IN THIS ROUTE, WE'VE PUT TOGETHER SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT NATURE AND HISTORY OBJECTS AND HAVE SPICED THINGS UP A LITTLE BIT WITH A FEW BEST-KEPT SECRETS OF KAUNAS. AFTER YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH THE LITHUANIAN CITY, WE SUGGEST YOU SPEND THE NEXT WEEKEND IN ELK, A CITY IN THE MASURIAN REGION IN POLAND. KAUNAS AND ELK ARE ONLY 184 KM APART – THAT'S LESS THAN FOUR HOURS BY CAR!

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HAVE A BITE OF KAUNAS

Kaunas is known for its nature, history and culture – gastronomic discoveries, too. Discovering historical recipes is as much fun for our chefs as creating contemporary miracles. From traditional Lithuanian to Baltic fusion, as well as Mexican, Japanese or Indian – there's no chance you'll end up hungry after a big day of exploring Kaunas. For a quick recharge, we suggest you take a seat in one of the dozens of cosy cafes scattered around town. A piece of dessert with your hot drink is an essential kaunastic tradition. Cafes, pubs and restaurants we recommend are listed in the Kaunas Gastro Guide of the "It's Kaunastic" map series.

The map is financed through the INTERREG V-A Lithuania – Poland Programme. The project is partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

#Interreg #lietuvapolska



"Kaunastic" is a word people use to describe the unique feeling that strikes one when discovering Kaunas. It's also the name of an illustrated map series. Choose your route from 20+ options including street art, modernist architecture, sports, Jewish heritage, culture and even kid-sized Kaunas. The maps are available free of charge in the Kaunas IN Tourism Information Centre, places marked with Tourism Information Friendly stickers and online at [visit.kaunas.lt](http://visit.kaunas.lt)

## TOURISM INFORMATION



"Kaunas IN"

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#KAUNASTIC #VISITKAUNAS #KAUNAS2022



## DISCOVER KAUNAS

### 1 KAUNAS TOWN HALL Rotušės a.

Nicknamed 'The White Swan', the Town Hall is where lucky couples get married, as well as being the venue for prestigious international meetings. It's also where the main exhibitions of the Kaunas City Museum will be showcased after the reconstruction is complete. For now, you can usually see a few temporary exhibitions, and if you have a head for heights, you can climb up the tower or if not, explore the vaults of the building which were once a jail! The KAUNAS IN tourism information centre is on the ground floor.

The Town Hall is surrounded by a dense perimeter of historic buildings facing the main square of Kaunas old town, including Saint Francis Xavier Church and monastery (on its facade, you'll find a plaque revealing the Kaunas part in the biography of Adam Mickiewicz), Museum of the History of Lithuanian Medicine and Pharmacy, various cafes and restaurants. In winter, the Town Hall Square becomes the Christmas Market.

### 2 FUNICULARS Amerikos Lietuvių g. 6, V. Dutvinskio g. 22

It's a miracle that two funiculars – the symbols of the increasingly modern city in the interwar period – not only remained intact but are still used to this day. The picture-perfect Kaunas panorama from Aleksotas hill looks even more beautiful if you get up there with the recently refurbished yet authentic vehicle. The elder brother of Aleksotas funicular gets you up to Žaliakalnis – right in front of the monumental Christ's Resurrection Basilica – in 1 minute and 38 seconds. You can take your bike with you for free!

### 3 SANTAKA PARK Rotušės a.

The territory of the park is often considered the mythical birthplace of our city – after all, it's the place of the confluence, or marriage, of Lithuania's largest rivers, Nemunas and Neris. The vast fields carved with paths and tracks are very popular with the residents who choose this park to walk around, meet friends, have a date, watch kids play etc. This is the park where both Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis held Holy Mass for tens of thousands of pilgrims during their visits to Lithuania. The visit of John Paul II was commemorated with a monument.

### 4 KAUNAS CASTLE Dilies g. 17

The majority of people arriving at Kaunas start their sightseeing tours at the partially rebuilt ruins of Kaunas Castle, the oldest building in the city and witness of the Medieval times. In the remaining tower, there's a permanent history exhibition hosted by Kaunas City Museum. Its staff offers quite a few exciting educational programmes to choose from. The valley surrounding the castle was used for defence purposes back in the day, but in contemporary Kaunas it's a popular open-air event space. Check out the calendar – maybe there's a concert scheduled during your trip to Kaunas?

### 5 THE KAUNAS ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL BASILICA Vilniaus g. 1

Located at the beginning of the vibrant axis of the Old Town, this is the largest Gothic church in Kaunas and Lithuania. It was first mentioned in 1413, but the construction works were only finished a couple of hundred years later. The present shape of the basilica, however, dates back to 1880 – like many other churches in the country, this one was destroyed quite a few times. Today, it's one of the most important Catholic churches in Kaunas.

### 6 HISTORICAL PRESIDENTIAL PALACE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA IN KAUNAS Vilniaus g. 33

This 19th-century building became the house of the President soon after Kaunas was nominated the temporary capital of Lithuania in 1919. This is where the Presidents of the First Republic worked and lived. Today, it's a museum reflecting the glorious two decades of interwar Kaunas.

### 7 LAISVĖS AVENUE Laisvės al.

The avenue might have lost the title of the longest pedestrian boulevard in Europe, but it'll always be one of the oldest. Stretching between the St. Michael the Archangel's Byzantine-style church often called Soboras, through numerous shops, cafes, restaurants, museums, galleries, public institutions to the Old Town of Kaunas, the street dates back to the 19th century. It was called many different names and received the principal name – "Freedom Avenue" – in 1919 and became completely car-less in the 1980s.

### 8 YARD GALLERY E. Ožėskienės g. 21

It's a gallery open 24/7 – and always under construction! Vytenis Jakas, an artist who moved into a house in this courtyard more than a decade ago, noticed that neighbours were alienated – they had forgotten the collective past of the yard. Jakas received great support when he started transferring photographs of the Jewish families – who had previously lived here – on the walls. One after another, new objects continue to appear in the yard. New artists leave their traces here, neighbours' festivities take place in the yard, which is also habitually visited by tourists. Just don't forget that people live there, and they have their right to peace and quiet.

### 9 M. K. ČIURLIONIS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART V. Dutvinskio g. 55

Crowning the extensive network of Kaunas modernism is this quite astonishingly beautiful building. An essential spot for those who have limited time in Kaunas and can only visit a small number of places. The annex section covers the complex personality of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, the best known Lithuanian artists the main building section is dedicated to a collection defining the beauty and elegance of Lithuanian art. The museum has a vast network of departments, mostly memorial houses and flats of notable Lithuanian artists, scattered all over downtown Kaunas and Žaliakalnis neighbourhood.

### 10 ŽALGIRIO ARENA Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50

Since 2011, this is the essential place to watch the most-awarded European basketball teams in action. It's an absolute must to see BC Žalgiris Kaunas play! You're also welcome to attend concerts of best local acts and platinum discs and award-winning international bands, singers and performers. Located on an island, the arena is the biggest and the best in the Baltics! It's also a popular venue for fairs and exhibitions of all sorts, including food, fashion and career opportunities. The arena's restaurant Sala offers business lunch with a spectacular river view.

### 11 THE RAILWAY STATION M. K. Čiurlionio g. 16

Kaunas and Poland are connected with a Rail Baltica line, with regular passenger trains running to Białystok since June 2016. The Kaunas railway station is more than just the starting point of your visit to Kaunas, even though its current building replaced the old station demolished during WW2.

Back in 1862, a Japanese mission to Europe reported in his diary that the Japanese passengers on the train were much impressed by then entirely new railway bridge over the Nemunas river! In 1864, when the Russian Tsar forbade the printing of anything in the Lithuanian alphabet, contrabands of the Lithuanian print were transported on this railway. In 1940, the Japanese diplomat, Chiune Sugihara, left the railway station heading to Berlin and he handed out the last visas giving life to Jews through the window of his compartment.

### 12 FORMER CONSULATE OF JAPAN, SUGIHARA HOUSE Vaižganto g. 30

The modernist villa in Žaliakalnis attracts thousands of Japanese and Israeli visitors every year. This is where the Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara resided and issued life visas for war refugees, and together with Dutch diplomat Jan Zwartendijk, he saved thousands of lives. Today, the house is a small museum that tells the story of Sugihara.

### 13 AŽUOLYNAS PARK Radvilėnų pl. 15A

Welcome to the largest oak grove in urban territory throughout Europe (about 770 oak trees)! Oak trees have been growing here for centuries and were more severely touched by human hands only in the interwar period. At that time, Kaunas was the temporary capital of Lithuania and was swiftly modernised. Agricultural exhibitions, blocks of residential houses, a radio station, a basketball hall and a stadium surrounded the oak grove. But when you enter deeper into the "forest in the city", there is a feeling that all those ages did not go anywhere. The atmosphere remains until you notice the Kaunas University of Technology (KTU) campus buildings in the distance – and the oldest zoo in Lithuania on your way to the campus.



### 14 PAŽAISLIS MONASTERY T. Masiulio g. 31

The Pažaislis monastery is one of the most mesmerising examples of late baroque in North-Eastern Europe, contributing to the history of Kaunas for over 350 years. People have been praying here for peace and the prosperity of Lithuania since 1664 when the chancellor of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania – Kristupas Žygimantas Pacas – gave the Pažaislis manor to the Camaldolese monks.

Now the location is among the most popular destinations of cultural tourism in Kaunas: pilgrims, artists and other visitors are welcome here, festivals take place in summer along with religious celebrations. The monastery is worth a day trip, and you're welcome to stay in a hospitality complex located right here in the monastery if a day isn't enough. Don't forget to visit the museum located in the southern annex built in the early 18th century.

### 15 JUNIPER VALLEY Arlavikiškiai educational trail, Kauno r.

The Kaunas reservoir is the biggest artificial lake in Lithuania. Its shores are a tremendous natural route full of picturesque places of interest. One of the most unique is the Juniper Valley, full of century-old trees. The botanical reserve on a steep slope of Nemunas river offers breathtaking panoramic views. It's a great place to survive the Summer heat, as well as to contemplate on a white Winter day.

### 16 LAMPĖDIS LAKE AND ITS ACTIVITIES Raudondvario pl.

Lampėdis lake is a popular swimming and sunbathing spot; this is why the adventure park never lacks customers. It's fit for both young climbers and their guardians. More than 1.5 km of adventure trails in total! The wake park at Lampėdis lake has one of the longest tracks in Europe – that's 287 metres – and a few fine obstacles. Paddleboards are available, as well as water trampolines. In the summertime, even the public library opens a small branch at the beach. Did we mention a sauna and modern camping?!