

# VILNIUS

[ Unexpectedly amazing ]



Mini Guide





# WE VILNIANS ARE AN ACTIVE BUNCH.

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Vilnius can take you by surprise - many of the Lithuanian capital's most beautiful secrets are kept in plain sight for all to see, and somehow there's not too much talk about them. The UNESCO-listed medieval Old Town is home to many historical buildings and luscious parks, and the past is closely intertwined with the present. Modern street art installations, contemporary cuisine, and adventurous leisure activities are the perfect mix for a memorable getaway.

This guide gives you dozens of puzzle pieces to create your own picture of Vilnius as you see it. Welcome!



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# 10

## REASONS TO FALL IN LOVE WITH VILNIUS



1 .....

**You can fly like a bird,** or at least get a bird's-eye view of the Old Town from a hot-air balloon.



2 .....

**It's greener than a dollar.** Parks, squares, and nature reserves in the heart of the city make Vilnius one of the greenest capitals of Europe.

3 .....

**Your feet can take you to all the best places.** Vilnius is compact and walkable, making it easy for you to reach your daily 10,000-step count.

4 .....

**The city never sleeps.** Truly. Enter the Golden Triangle and you won't know if it's day or night.

5 .....



**It will turn you into an art connoisseur in a weekend.** The city is filled to the brim with contemporary art and museums.

6 .....

**You can have empty pockets,** but a heart full of experiences. Adventures, street art, and sightseeing can cost you nothing.

7 .....

**It's like living in Four Seasons -** Vilnius actually has four distinct seasons you can feel and explore.



8 .....

**You can feast like a king.** Vilnius has so much great food it might be difficult to try it all.

9 .....



**It's great for your beer belly.** Craft breweries and pub culture are alive and well, peaking around every corner.

10 .....

**It's an open house 24/7** welcoming everyone to the coolest architecture, wonders of nature, and amazing views.

# ABOUT VILNIUS

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Population:  
**569,700**

Currency:  
**Euro**

Size:  
**401 km<sup>2</sup>**

Membership:  
**EU, NATO**

Time:  
**GMT +2 hours**

Tourist Tax:  
**2 Euros per person  
per night**

Climate:  
**Marine /  
Continental**

Old Town:  
**Biggest in the Baltic  
states, UNESCO  
World Heritage Site**

Language:  
**Lithuanian**



# KEY DATES

● **1323**  
Grand Duke of Lithuania Gediminas relocates capital to Vilnius from Trakai.

● **1387**   
Grand Duchy of Lithuania accepts Christianity

● **1579**  
Vilnius University is founded

● **1812**   
Napoleon visits Vilnius

● **1795**  
Vilnius becomes part of the Russian Empire, and the capital of Vilna Governorate

● **1636**  
Kaziukas fair is founded

● **16.02.1918**  
Lithuania restores independence

● **1940**  
Vilnius occupied by the Soviet Union, later by Nazi Germany

● **1945**  
World War II ends and Lithuania remains in the Soviet Union

● **2009**  
Vilnius becomes the European Capital of Culture

● **2004**  
Lithuania joins the European Union and NATO

● **1990**   
Lithuania breaks from the Soviet Union and declares independence

● **2015**   
Lithuania joins the Euro Zone

● **2023**  
Vilnius celebrated 700th birthday

● **2024**   
100th Anniversary of the Lithuania Song Celebration

# VILNIUS PASS

SAVE up to  
**71 Eur**

Discover the best of Vilnius in 24, 48 or 72 hours! Have fun and save money in Vilnius Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Embark on an excursion on foot, by bus or even by boat. With Vilnius Pass you get free entry to museums, free travel on public transport, and special discounts from more than 60 partners.



**24-hour** Pass

**39 €**

**48-hour** Pass

**49 €**

**72-hour** Pass

**59 €**

**Vilnius Tourist Information Centres:**

Pilies g. 2 (Main Office), +370 5 262 9660, e-mail [tic@govilnius.lt](mailto:tic@govilnius.lt)  
Rodūnios kelias 2 (Vilnius International Airport, Arrival Hall A).

**Book online and save 2 or 3 euros on every card! [www.govilnius.lt](http://www.govilnius.lt)**



# TOP OFFERS



## Free Tours

Regular Vilnius city tour by bus  
Audio Guide Tour



## Free Museums

Lithuanian National Museum Expositions  
Lithuanian National Museums of Art  
Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights  
Church Heritage Museum  
Toy Museum  
Energy and Technology Museum  
Chocolate Sculptures Museum in Trakai



## Free Hot Beverage

Hot beverages await you at a few local restaurants. At some you have to order something, others offers free drinks no strings attached.

ERTLIO NAMAS  
...GREY  
KYBYNLAR

Find more offers at [www.govilnius.lt](http://www.govilnius.lt)



# MUST SEE

Your Vilnius  
bucket list





## VILNIUS CATHEDRAL BASILICA

The most important Catholic sanctuary in Lithuania, the Cathedral Basilica of St Stanislaus and St Ladislaus of Vilnius is more than six centuries old. Many religious, artistic, and historical valuables are stored in this shrine. Also, the Chapel of Saint Casimir is located in the cathedral, and is one of the city's most beautiful treasures of the early Baroque period.

📍 Gediminas Square 2, [www.katedra.lt](http://www.katedra.lt)

FREE



## PALACE OF THE GRAND DUKES OF LITHUANIA

The reconstructed Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania tells the history of Vilnius and houses the 15th-century ruins of the Lower Castle. Although the palace was demolished in the 19th century, half a million unique artefacts were found during archaeological excavations, which laid the foundation for the restoration of the palace. The Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania was restored in 2013, and was then opened to the public. Expositions present restored historical interiors and offer insight into the daily life of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania and other palace residents, as well as the weapons and music of that period.

📍 Cathedral Square 4, [www.valdovurumai.lt](http://www.valdovurumai.lt)

Discount with Vilnius Pass



## GEDIMINAS CASTLE

This is one of the most prominent symbols of Vilnius. The only remaining 14th-century tower of the Upper Castle harkens back to the time of Gediminas, the Grand Duke of Lithuania. The observation platforms of Gediminas Hill and Gediminas' Tower offer an impressive panorama of the Old Town, which is the most impressive as the sun is setting.

📍 Arsenalo g. 5, [www.lnm.lt](http://www.lnm.lt)

FREE with Vilnius Pass



## PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

Today, this classic 18th-century palace houses the office of the President of Lithuania. The presidential flag flies above the Vytautas decorated façade whenever the President is in the palace. Moreover, a solemn flag changing ceremony takes place every Sunday at 12:00 p.m. The palace has a state-of-the-art educational information centre that details how the Lithuanian state and its democracy function.

📍 S. Daukanto a. 3, [www.prezidentura.lt](http://www.prezidentura.lt)

FREE (registration needed)

## MUST SEE



### VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

Vilnius University was founded in 1579, but the construction of the university complex took place over several centuries. It includes buildings of Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, and Classicism architecture. The university conceals 12 inner courtyards and the library, which was founded in 1570, holds many rare manuscripts. When the weather is warm, you can enjoy a bird's-eye view of Vilnius from the belfry of the Church of St. Johns.

📍 Universiteto g. 3, [www.vu.lt](http://www.vu.lt)

€



### ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

St. Anne's Church at the Bernardine Monastery was built in the late 15th century, and is one of the most beautiful examples of late Gothic architecture in Vilnius. The legendary church fascinates visitors with its craftsmanship: as many as 33 different types of bricks were used for the original façade ornamentation. There are even two bricks with master marks built into one wall that have yet to be deciphered.

📍 Maironio g. 8

FREE



### UŽUPIS

Separated from Vilnius Old Town by Vilnelė River, Užupis is the smallest and perhaps most impressive district of Vilnius. The residents of Užupis collectively declared independence on 1 April 1997, and for more than two decades the independent Republic of Užupis has had its own president, currency, and anthem. The Constitution of the Republic of Užupis, which is translated into more than 25 languages, is posted on a wall in the neighbourhood. This district is rich with art, and has a unique bohemian atmosphere filled with creative spaces and eccentric characters.

📍 Užupio g. 2

FREE



### THE MUSEUM OF OCCUPATIONS AND FREEDOM FIGHTS

Situated in a former KGB building where the crimes of the Soviet regime were planned and executed for fifty years, this museum is not for the faint of heart. The former KGB prison has been left intact, so it's possible to step into the old cells and the premises where death sentences were carried out. The museum was among the many film location in and around Vilnius used in the shooting of HBO's Chernobyl miniseries.

📍 Aukų g. 2A, [www.genocid.lt](http://www.genocid.lt)

FREE with Vilnius Pass



## TOWN HALL

One of the three remaining historical city halls in Lithuania, this building was built in the 15th century, but was reconstructed by Laurynas Stuoka Gucevičius in the 18th century after being damaged by fires. Today, the City Hall of Vilnius serves as a representative building hosting exhibitions and galas. And just like ancient times, City Hall Square is used for city fairs.

📍 Didžioji g. 31, [www.vilniausrotuse.lt](http://www.vilniausrotuse.lt)

FREE



## GATES OF DAWN

The Gates of Dawn were first mentioned in 1514, and are one of the city's symbols. The Gates of Dawn were originally one of the defensive gates released to the Carmelites in the 16th century, and eventually became the Mother of God Chapel. A 17th-century painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary renowned for being miraculously found a spot in here, and hundreds of people still make their vows here. Today, it is one of the most important historical, cultural, and religious monuments in Vilnius.

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

FREE



## LUKIŠKĖS PRISON

For 115 years, Lukiškės Prison was guarded by high walls and barbed wire, but today the site is open to the public. From prison to artistic venue, a new version – Lukiškės Prison 2.0 – is home to 250 creators and artists, and a place where curious spirits can learn and explore. Sit down for a refreshing drink, attend a concert or take a tour to get a glimpse of life in the former prison.

📍 Lukiškių skg. 6, [www.lukiskiuakalejimas.lt/](http://www.lukiskiuakalejimas.lt/)

€



## MO MUSEUM

MO is a private modern museum in Vilnius that's home to a collection of 5,000 modern and contemporary pieces by notable Lithuanian artists from the 1960s to the present. Designed by renowned Polish-American architect Daniel Libeskind, the museum also holds concerts, film screenings, and events uniting the city's active community of art lovers.

📍 Pylimo g. 17, [www.mo.lt](http://www.mo.lt)

Discount with Vilnius Pass





# INTERESTING DISTRICTS

Sites for any taste outside  
the Old Town area



# UŽUPIS

Užupis is the smallest district in Vilnius, covering an area of 0.6 km<sup>2</sup> and separated from the Old Town by Vilnelė River.

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## BORDER CHECKPOINT

The main entrance to the Republic of Užupis is the Bridge of Užupis, which was built in 1901. Although there is no need to show one's passport when crossing the border, a visa can still be obtained at the nearby information centre of the Republic of Užupis, entitled **Magnets and Miracles**. The border is also guarded by the famous Užupis Mermaid, which is known for using songs to lure travellers into staying in Užupis.

📍 Maironio/Užupio g.

FREE

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## UŽUPIS ART INCUBATOR

In 1996, Vilnius Art Academy students established an art community in a house by Vilnelė River, which eventually grew into the first art incubator in the Baltic States. Today, unexpected and ever-changing sculptures and installations can be found on the river and along its shores. The nearby workshops allow you to watch the creative process in person and chat with local artists.

📍 Užupio g. 2a, [www.umi.lt](http://www.umi.lt)

FREE

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## THE CONSTITUTION OF UŽUPIS

A special constitution is in effect in the Republic of Užupis, which captivates the imagination of visitors with its unconventional and free spirit that is characteristic of the district itself. There's a wall on Paupio Street where the constitution and its 25+ translations hang. Anyone who visits Užupis can find something new in it. Residents of Užupis Romas Lileikis and Tomas Čepaitis drafted the constitution over a period of three hours.

📍 Paupio g.

FREE

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## THE ANGEL OF UŽUPIS

Užupis is protected by a guardian angel, a sculpture that immortalised the artist Zenonas Šteinys, who infused the angel with the spirit of the district. The Angel of Užupis hatched from an egg sculpture in 2002. Every year on 1 April, Užupis celebrates its Independence Day at the Angel Square.

📍 The intersection of Malūnų-Užupio-Paupio g.

FREE

## RAILWAY STATION DISTRICT



The revitalised Railway Station district is attracting and fascinating new visitors with its easy-going atmosphere and continuous experiments. Time flies when you're enjoying the century-old architecture and street art, diving into gastronomic adventures, and grooving at the city's best parties.

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### HALĖS MARKET

This ancient market built in 1906 not only offers you fresh food directly from local farmers, but also invites you to enjoy a variety of dishes from various world cuisines. It's impossible to leave the Halė Market hungry or empty-handed.

📍 Pylimo g. 58, [www.halesturgaviete.lt/en/](http://www.halesturgaviete.lt/en/)



### STREET ART

Make sure to be extra observant when exploring the Railway Station district: the building façades are decorated with unexpected works of street art. Sepe & Chazme, the street art duo from Warsaw, create carnival characters; renowned Italian artist Millo creates a fantastic city; and Os Gemeas, twins from Sao Paulo, commemorate their Lithuanian grandfather in the Giant's Palm.

📍 Pylimo g. 58





# ŽVĖRYNAS

This district has long been a favourite place among locals for walks, due to its atmosphere, which is similar to that of a quiet resort. The name Žvėrynas was bestowed on this neighbourhood in the 16th century, when the nobleman Radvilos used it for hunting. The exceptional architecture, atmosphere, and greenery in Žvėrynas seem to stop time.

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## WOODEN ARCHITECTURE

The 108 wooden villas of Žvėrynas create a resort atmosphere with their vivid colours. Swiss towers, Russian-style window frames, traditional Lithuanian hollow section ornaments, and stained glass windows in verandas are examples of architecture that cannot be found anywhere else in Vilnius.


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## TBILISI SQUARE

Located next to Georgian Embassy is Tbilisi Square, a symbol of the friendship

between the capitals located in Vilnius. In order to commemorate the 10th anniversary of this friendship, a renewed memorial stone was unveiled here with the inscription Sakartvelo, Georgia's native name.

 Kęstučio g. 11

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## THE HARMONY OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

At the beginning of the 20th century, prayer houses for different religions were built in Žvėrynas, including the Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the district's outskirts. Next to the Liubartas Bridge, a small, exclusive Kenesa (a Karaite house of prayer) was established. After the construction of the old Bridge of Žvėrynas, the impressive Our Lady of the Sign Church was built as a counterpart to Vilnius Cathedral.





# ACTIVE LEISURE

Epic adventures you  
need to go on





## BICYCLE PATHS

Although getting around Vilnius on foot is super convenient, cycling opens up new picturesque spaces and allows you to get acquainted with the city from another angle. Bicycle paths are an easy way to explore Vilnius and travel to its suburbs, as well as to enjoy its nature.

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### BIKE RENTAL

You don't have to own a bike to embark on a two-wheeled adventure around the city. Vilnius is a bike-friendly city and there are plenty of options to rent a comfortable bicycle. During the warm season the city offers a bicycle-sharing system called CycloCity, which is user-friendly and allows you to rent bicycles for a small fee. For longer trips or if you're planning on visiting the suburbs, you may want to contact one of several private bicycle rental companies. If you have a Vilnius Pass you'll also have a discount on bike rentals and can join a bike tour that will give you an exciting perspective of the city. You can also transport your bicycle by train to explore the towns around Vilnius without getting too tired.

"Cyclocity" [www.cyclocity.lt](http://www.cyclocity.lt)  
"Velotakas" [www.velotakas.lt](http://www.velotakas.lt)

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### ZIP AROUND ON A SCOOTER

Zooming around town on an electric scooter with the wind in your hair is just too much fun to pass up. Vilnius is known for being a walkable city, but a scooter can take you everywhere even faster. Sharing is caring, so look for the nearest scooter, download its app, and off you go exploring the Old Town. No hassle or planning in advance required. Park your scooter near bike racks or in designated scooter drop zones. If you're not into apps, rent a scooter in Vingis Park and take a ride in nature.



### EUROPE PARK ROUTE

Vilnius is one of the greenest European capitals, but if you really want to enjoy the silence and calm of nature, you can just hop on a bike and take the road out of town. Along the way it is worth stopping at Verkiai Palace to enjoy a panorama of the city from the top of the hill. Stop by the Green Lakes and check out the water's impressive colour. The efforts of your trip will be rewarded with a relaxing visit to the art installations of European Park.

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### OLD TOWN ROUTE

You can check out Vilnius' impressive architecture or simply reach your destination quickly and efficiently through the network of bicycle paths that extend across the Old Town area. The small circle (4.4km) and big circle (10km) let you see all the major tourist attractions without getting tired. Think about taking a leisurely ride along the Neris River to the district of Žvėrynas, which is filled with picturesque wooden architecture and the largest park in Vilnius. In just a couple of minutes and you'll be able to experience a completely different city. It's fun to know that you can always stop, admire the view, grab a bite, and then continue along to your next discovery. Of course, the most popular streets will have to be shared with pedestrians.

More routes at [www.govilnius.lt](http://www.govilnius.lt)

## WATER ROUTES

Neris and Vilnelė Rivers winding through Vilnius provide a great opportunity to have some fun in the water. The rivers are buzzing with life during the warm season. It doesn't matter if you are interested in active entertainment or just want to relax, the flows of the rivers mesmerise while providing a whole new perspective of the city.

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### NERIS RIVER

A calm but powerful river, Neris runs straight through the centre of Vilnius and is a great place for boat, gondola, or even Viking ship trips. A quiet voyage that lasts an hour will allow you to absorb the architecture of the Old Town and the nature along the banks of the river. For those who prefer more active entertainment, consider rising with the sun on a Stand Up Paddleboard and rowing into the awakening city. And for those who really want a unique experience, you can always try a night trip.

Find more information at [www.govilnius.lt](http://www.govilnius.lt)



### VILNELE RIVER

If the calm flow of Neris River is not enough of a challenge for you, Vilnelė River has a couple of surprises in store. A kayak trip is a great option for the adventurous. A twisting and turning streambed, trees, and shallow, rocky sections mean that you will have to paddle hard to avoid the obstacles. But don't be too nervous, even those with little experience can overcome this challenge.

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### BOAT RENTAL

Make the most of Neris River by taking a trip on a gondola or larger catamaran near King Mindaugas' Bridge. Don't forget to show your Vilnius Pass to get a discount on these types of boat tours. Kayak and Stand-Up Paddleboard rentals should be arranged in advance with private organisers who can also give you information about local water routes. Kayak and SUP routes start at different locations, but all of them must end at the White Bridge in the heart of the city.

"Vilnius gondola" [www.gondola.lt](http://www.gondola.lt)



## SIGHTSEEING ROUTES ON FOOT

Exploring Vilnius on foot lets you discover tourist attractions while delving into hidden, interesting corners of the city. Leisurely routes provide you with a breath of fresh air and the chance to explore nature, a unique glacial landscape, and the historic parks that surround the city.

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### THE WALKABLE VILNIUS

You can choose from 23+ routes following five different themes, with distances and even the number of steps marked for your information. This will allow you to choose which part of the city you want to explore. There are routes that last one hour and others that last the whole day. One of the shortest routes across the Old Town area consists of 1,969 steps. The project also outlines notable historical events that have taken place around the city so history buffs, nature lovers, and families can all discover Vilnius in the same manner.

Plan your walks in detail at  
[www.walkablevilnius.lt](http://www.walkablevilnius.lt)



### LEISURE TRAILS ON FOOT

Vilnius is a compact city offering plenty of nature. When walking in the city, visitors should consider choosing different routes each time. There are at least 24 leisure walking routes throughout the city that please with their picturesque views. The varied terrain is nice for those who want to see more than just the Old Town, and dedicated signage makes navigation simple. And those who enjoy running will surely appreciate the unique objects along the trails.

More information can be found at  
[www.vilniuskojoms.lt](http://www.vilniuskojoms.lt)

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### SIGHTSEEING TRAILS

Spectacular regional parks and diverse landscapes surround Vilnius. Forests give way to meadows, and plains to hills. The 10 sightseeing trails around Vilnius are not only a great opportunity to take a walk in nature; they also provide information about local history and attractions. Equipped with observation platforms, gazebos, and benches, these trails help you slow down and enjoy a walk at your own pace.



# WHERE AND WHAT TO EAT

A gourmet trail through the  
city's best-kept secrets





## 5 WAYS TO TASTE LITHUANIAN FOOD

Lithuanian cuisine has changed over the centuries, and now there's an array of simple and fancy dishes to try.

**1.** A great tasting experience starts with an authentic atmosphere. Sit in a little country cottage right in the heart of Vilnius Old Town and taste some traditional potato dishes at **Old Green House**, try traditional local dishes in a restored authentic mill house at **Belmontas**, and if you're hungry for a late night snack, head to **Amatininkai**, one of the oldest restaurants in Vilnius that recreates a countryside atmosphere and is home to a renowned pig's leg dish.

**2.** Traditional dishes also get a modern twist. Try the local stars - potato dumpling filled with meat or potato sausages - surrounded by a clean minimalistic interior at **Queensberry**. Pair the restaurant's traditional dishes with local wines; there are 50 unique varieties to choose from.

**3.** Noble culinary traditions are revived at **Ertlio Namas**, where guests can dine like nobility over authentic pigeon and game dishes. **Mykolo 4**, a restaurant known for its stuffed quail, lamb's leg, and mead invites guests to discover local culinary traditions that date back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



**4.** Getting the perfect plate of comfort food that's tastes like a local grandmother made it can warm anyone's soul. Visit **Bernelių užėiga** for food ranging from everyday fare to festive delicacies, including meat jelly or boiled scones.

**5.** Time doesn't stand still in Vilnius and new traditions are constantly being introduced. Locally farmed and foraged products get turned into new flavours in the hands of expert chefs. Visit Lithuania's best restaurant, **Džiaugsmas**, to discover what new Baltic cuisine is all about, try the tasting dinner at **Nineteen18**, or immerse yourself in a delightful food story at **Mykolo 4**.

## MUST TRY



Zeppelins



Cold Beetroot Soup



Beer



## PLACES FOR BRUNCH



There's no better time to feel and eat like a local than brunch, especially in Vilnius, where the foodie culture is booming. Celebrate the weekend at urban hotspots, fancy restaurants, or one of the many Instagram-worthy spots.

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Start your Sunday with oysters, an all-you-can-eat buffet and sparkling wine at **Dine** restaurant. For the ultimate brunch experience, visit **Halės Food Market** on Saturdays for oysters, bagels, Thai food, and sandwiches prepared from products straight from the market stalls. Feast like royalty on pancakes with caviar while bottles of bubbly are sabered open at the **Grand Hotel Kempinski Vilnius**. Feel like a star at a style magazine photo shoot while eating a Lithuanian take on eggs Benedict

with potato pudding, or try the wholesome porridge and impressive desserts at **Sugamour**. Get brunch at the same place you went to party last night - the legendary cafe at the **Kablys music club** is famous for the all-you-can-eat buffet accompanied by a DJ set. Food comas are guaranteed at **Bardakas'** brunch, which comes complete with Mimosas. Keep in mind that brunch is popular in Vilnius, so don't risk it and reserve a table in advance.

## PLACES FOR DINNER



### TASTING DINNERS

You can't go wrong with the tasting dinners at **Džiaugsmas**, Lithuania's top-ranked restaurant. A tasting dinner at **Amandus** will show you that food can be a theatrical performance. The food at **Nineteen18** is an improvisation on natural and historical themes.

Gerdvilas Žalys, is actively creating a new identity for Lithuanian cuisine - his goal is to keep developing traditions for future generations. Get the royal treatment at the **Imperial Restaurant** while dining on lobster, caviar, and game meat cooked to perfection.

### LONG-LASTING TRADITIONS

**Ertlio Namas** is a high-end restaurant that has been serving guests exciting flavours in a Provence setting for 13 years. The menu invites diners to travel back in time on a gastronomic journey to the tables of Lithuanian nobility from the 13th to 19th centuries.

### LIKE A ROYAL

A dinner at Vilnius' oldest private hotel, the **Relais & Chateaux Stikliai**, will make you feel like a royal, especially since many world leaders have stayed here on their visits to the city. The restaurant's chef,



# ATTENTION FOODIES! MUST-VISIT CULINARY EVENTS IN VILNIUS

Vilnius is the perfect foodie destination for top-notch culinary experiences that won't break the bank. Get ready to dig in some of Vilnius' most exciting food adventures.

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## OUTDOORS IN THE WARMER SEASON

In Vilnius, locals eat outside whenever the sun's out! Summer season opens up with the Pink Soup Fest, during which the whole city turns pink in celebration of the favorite local dish - pink beetroot soup. Also, make sure to pass by the open-air restaurants at Savičiaus Street to experience a variety of cuisines and refreshing cocktails.

## THE BEST VEGAN AND VEGETARIAN FOOD IN VILNIUS

### BREAKFAST

Healthy foodies will want everything on **The Urban Garden's** menu: toast, chia pudding, and smoothie bowls make the greatest breakfasts. **Daily Poison** will make for some of the best vegan Instagram breakfast photos. For a later breakfast, grab a sandwich at **Pilies kepyklėlė** or a weekend brunch at **Beigelistai**.

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### LUNCH

Vegan or raw, your lunch at **Holigans** will be delicious either way. Try the raw zucchini pasta, cashew cheese dips, soups, and risottos. Vegafe, a superb vegetarian restaurant that serves very tasty vegetarian food all day long, but for lunch you can get specials and lunch deals. Or get falafels and humus all day long at **Zataar Falafel & Humus**.

### SEPTEMBER

The Capital's **Days and Nations' Fair** lead the way with authentic dishes you can eat right on the street and traditional edible souvenirs you can bring back home with you.

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### CHRISTMAS SEASON

Taste some traditional Christmas dishes at the special Christmas markets: hot wine, gingerbread, waffles, and even baked ice-cream are worth trying. For street food visit Cathedral square Christmas Market and order in their train cars. **The Grand Hotel Kempinski Vilnius** and **Imperial Hotel** organise traditional 12-course Christmas Eve dinners.

### DINNER

Try **Casa La Familia** - a pizzeria with its own clay oven used to make some of city's best vegetarian and vegan pizzas. Even non-vegetarians appreciate these exceptionally delicious pizzas! For a fancy dinner and a picturesque view of the Cathedral, try **Sue's Indian Raja**. For something less formal, grab a vegan burger or some trendy Buddha Bowls at **Rosehip Vegan Bistro**.



# WHERE TO PARTY

A guide to memorable  
nightlife adventures



## WHERE TO PARTY



Vilnius never sleeps, so join the party. Once the sun sets, the stage for nightlife in Vilnius is set. Be it a pub-crawl, dancing until dawn, or just a perfect night out on the town, Vilnius is a city buzzing with people, chatter and fun.

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### DANCING LIKE CRAZY

Show us your best moves! The crowd is welcoming, the music is familiar, and the cocktails are on point at **Bardakas**, so party till dawn; an authentic urban party space where the rhythms of house and techno music will carry you away at **Opium Club**; and the modern club vibe at **Loftas club** is sure to keep you going all night.

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### BEER HEAVEN

Ready for a beer adventure? Vilnius is the perfect place. At **Beer Library** you might have trouble choosing from the hundreds of options; at **Peronas**, which is right next to the train station you can go trainspotting with a glass in hand; or you can go all out and take a beer tour and go pub-crawling.

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### DIZZYING COCKTAILS

Vilnius has all sorts of must-try cocktails at a variety of different spots. The mixologists at **Alchemikas** will delight you with their tasty flavour combinations; whiskey lovers will be in heaven at **King and Mouse** whiskey bar; and **Drops** is a shots bar that lures you into a night partying.

### THE STREETS THAT NEVER SLEEP

Vilnius is compact enough to be an ideal choice for a night out. Savičiaus Street, which is filled with a liberal atmosphere and lively conversations, is a great place to meet locals; Islandijos and Vilniaus streets are perfect for dancing and cocktails; and the Bermuda Square is an ideal choice for sharing some late-night food and craft beer.





# WHERE TO SHOP

Shopping for everything authentic in Vilnius



## TRADITIONAL SOUVENIRS



**1** T-Shirt "I Only Date"



**2** The Unique Style of Vilnius



**3** The Scent of Lithuania

You can buy these items at the Vilnius Tourist Information Centres: Pilies g. 2





## LITHUANIAN DESIGN

Lithuania is known for minimalist designs, natural products, and creativity. There's so much to choose from. Linen, amber, wood, and glass are the main materials artisans use for their unique ideas, and talented young designers create fashionable clothing and original accessories.

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### TRAKŲ STREET

A small street filled with antique stores, vintage clothing, and unique jewellery. Bring back a silver bird created by local designer **Yurga**, or browse the local ceramics and candles from the small boutiques along the street.

### UŽUPIS

For bohemian and non-conventional souvenirs visit the independent republic of Užupis, which is filled with artistic creations and one-of-a-kind items. **Užupis Border Control** has unique artefacts and photos of the district, while established and up-and-coming designers have boutiques.

## SHOPPING MALLS

Vilnius is known for its historic Old Town filled with cosy cafes and luscious parks but it can also be a shopper's paradise. Fashion, local designers, restaurants, and even a skating rink will make for a shopping experience like no other.

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### G9

Right in the heart of the Old Town, the G9 shopping mall looks like a historic building from the outside. However, inside you'll find a large grocery store, a food hall packed with tasty options, and boutiques by local and international brands.

📍 Gedimino pr. 9, [www.go9.lt](http://www.go9.lt)

### PILIES STREET

You can find the most popular souvenirs at the Pilies Street Market. For Lithuanian designers look around at **Balta Balta**, and for original thrifted items, head to the **Šapokliak Salonas**.

### THE GLASS QUARTER

The Glass Quarter is one of the oldest trading and craft districts in Vilnius, so it's no wonder that it's still a perfect place to shop for local creations, unique crafts, and artisanal souvenirs. Jewellery made with stones collected from the Baltic Sea at **Terra Recognita**, handmade bowties at **Dom Bow Ties**, linen tablecloths at **Linen Tales**, the Glass Quarter is small but filled with all sorts of treasures. Check out the oldest vinyl store in the city or the authentic glass manufacturer and museum while you're there.

### EUROPA

This shopping mall focuses on upscale fashion. The latest collections from the top local and international fashion brands, chic restaurants, flowers, a large bookstore, and even a barber and a nail salon. What more could you possibly need?

📍 Konstitucijos pr. 7A, [www.pceuropa.lt](http://www.pceuropa.lt)

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### AKROPOLIS

One of the largest shopping mall in Vilnius where you can probably find anything you might need and more, like a skating rink and a movie theatre.

📍 Ozo g. 25, [www.akropolis.lt](http://www.akropolis.lt)

More information about shopping at [www.govilnius.lt](http://www.govilnius.lt)

# ART IN VILNIUS

An art capital is calling



## ART IN OPEN SPACES

Vilnius can be an open gallery 24/7. No fees, just the pure pleasure of discovering art. The city's walls are constantly changing with street art and unique installations by famous creators. Just take a look around.

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### UŽUPIS ART

Užupis is known for attracting artists and intellectuals - their dialogues serve as a perfect medium for creativity. That's why most of the artwork in the independent republic of Užupis doesn't stay there forever and is replaced with something new.

Sculptures, graffiti, installations, performances - art is around every corner, so stay curious and don't be afraid to poke your nose around into the quiet courtyards. You can also discover a piece of avantgarde art right in the heart of the district. The Draught Alley that conveniently connects the Vilnius Academy of Arts with Užupis Street. This narrow alley decorated by painters from all over the world is named after Jonas Mekas, a Lithuanian American filmmaker and the godfather of American avant-garde cinema.

But whenever you visit Užupis, you can be sure that the guardian angel will be standing there overlooking the district and keeping it safe. Urban legend has it that placing a sculpture of an angel here was a suggestion made by the Dalai Lama on one of his visits to the city, but in reality the sculpture is a memory to Zenonas Šteinys, an artist and active member of the local community.

📍 Užupio g.

FREE



### OPEN GALLERY

The unique open-air art gallery in an urban setting of former factories features new works added every year. Lithuanian and foreign street artists realise their visions on the walls, which reflect rebirth, transformation and freedom. The gallery is open 24/7 and is a special sight day or night.

📍 Vytenio g. 50  
[www.opengallery.lt](http://www.opengallery.lt)

FREE



### LITERATŲ G.

Poet Adam Mickiewicz used to live at the beginning of what is now Literatu Street. Today, some 200 works of Lithuanian and foreign artists adorn the walls and pay homage to various authors. Each effigy is a gift to a literary master, chosen by the artists themselves.

FREE

## MODERN ART IN VILNIUS

Discover more than the history of Vilnius. The city is also renowned for its modern architecture, contemporary cultural scene and world-class talents.

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### MO MUSEUM

The MO Museum has over 4,500 works by contemporary Lithuanian artists from 1960 to the present. A gift to the city from patrons of the arts Danguolė and Viktoras Butkus this museum offers a great opportunity to get to know Lithuanian art in a modern setting.

📍 Pylimo g. 17, [www.mo.lt](http://www.mo.lt)

Discount with Vilnius Pass

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### SAMUEL BAK MUSEUM

The in-depth exploration of Litvak heritage through the paintings of Samuel Bak, who lived in Lithuania in his earlier years. In more than 100 paintings you can see parts of Vilnius that were important to the artist, the Jewish community and everyday life in the ghetto.

📍 Naugarduko g. 10, [www.jmusem.lt](http://www.jmusem.lt)

€



### TARTLE

A guide will take you on a journey through one of the most significant private art collections in Lithuania and tell you more about the paintings of Vilnius, sculptures, and old maps of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Poland. You can also see one of the first books published in Lithuanian.

📍 Užupio g. 40, [www.tartle.lt](http://www.tartle.lt)

€ (registration needed)

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### NATIONAL ART GALLERY

The permanent exhibition presents contemporary Lithuanian art of the 20th and 21st centuries, including sculptures, drawings, photographs, objects, installations, and video art. The works reveal a link between cultural life in Lithuanian and other countries where inspiration comes from and how the imagination brings inspiration to life.

📍 Konstitucijos pr. 22, [www.ndg.lt](http://www.ndg.lt)

FREE with Vilnius Pass

Find more modern art galleries  
[www.govilnius.lt](http://www.govilnius.lt)

## STREET ART

Vilnius is filled with street art; all you have to do is wander around town and you're sure to run into spectacular images created by famous artists popping out of the walls.

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### OS GEMEOS MURAL

The mural by Brazilian street artists Os Gemeos pays respect to their grandfather who is of Lithuanian descent. You can see him sitting in the palm of a colourful giant. The work was created for the Vilnius Street Art festival and has become a significant sight in the lively train station district ever since.

📍 Pylimo g. 60

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### ERNEST ZACHAREVIC

In Greek mythology, the Titan Atlas had to hold the sky on his shoulders. In the work of famous Lithuanian street artist Ernest Zacharevic, two Atlases are holding up the western end of Liubarto Bridge. If you think your work is hard, come see them in action.

📍 Liubartas Bridge



### OPEN SPACE BY THE NERIS RIVER

Walk along the Neris River to the rowing centre next to Žirmūnai Bridge; it's where the street art magic happens. Both Lithuanian and foreign artists use the wall as their ever-changing canvas. You can never know what to expect, so be ready for surprises.

📍 Olimpiečių g.

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### MILLO

The Italian artist Millo is said to usually depict urban scenes; namely cities and the people within them. His work on the building opposite Halės Market is no exception. He has created his very first site-specific mural incorporating existing windows and other architectural details into the painting to bring it to life.

📍 Pylimo g. 56



# PARKS IN VILNIUS

Luscious nature in an  
urban setting



## PARKS IN VILNIUS

Vilnius is famous for being a green city filled with parks. There's always a spot to relax and feel like you're deep in a forest without setting foot outside the city centre.

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### KALNŲ PARK

Located in the centre of Vilnius, Kalnų Park is conveniently accessible. Climb the hill and you'll discover a wonderful panorama of the city. Various concerts and festivals are organised there in the summer, and it's a lovely place for a leisurely stroll or for some hiking, since Kalnų Park is surrounded by several hills.

The Hill of Three Crosses is the most prominent of all as it is visible from afar. It is believed that at some point in history seven Franciscan monks were tortured to death by pagans on that hill, pinned to crosses, and floated down the river.

Kalnų Park holds a lot of secrets, as it hasn't been well researched yet. It is known that a small settlement existed there in the 13th and 14th centuries. Keep an eye out for an ancient pagan altar; to this day those interested in paganism come to celebrate here.

FREE



### BERNARDINE GARDEN

Established in 1469 by the Bernardine monks this garden is probably the oldest park and botanical garden in Vilnius. Conveniently located in the heart of the Old Town next to the main sightseeing objects - Gediminas Castle, the Cathedral, and the Bernardine Monastery - the park is full of entertainment and the wonders of nature. You're in for a game of chess, a botanical exposition, romantic cafes where you can get warm and cosy, and a musical fountain playing rhythms from popular classical and modern pieces to set the mood. The park has many corners, so you can sneak away and hide from the world.

Until the 14th century, what is now the Bernardine Garden used to be the site of a Lithuanian pagan saint oaks wood. Today, the garden is home to the oldest oak tree in Vilnius, at about 300 years. You can also explore the authentic reconstructed monastery garden exposition with medicinal herbs, potherbs, and edible plants.

The garden is a great spot to relax while it's in full bloom in the summer, but you can listen to the Vilnelė River flow and watch nature change all year round. You can also get a different perspective of the park from the top of the Hill of the Three Crosses or with a cup of coffee on the terrace of **Strange Love**.

FREE







## EUROPA PARK

Europa Park is a completely different space that demonstrates the power of one person. The idea to create Europa Park and give meaning to the geographical centre of Europe through art was born in 1991. What started with one sculpture by 19-year-old art student Gintaras Karosas has now grown to more than 130 works of art.

Today, the park is an impressive contemporary art museums where art and nature live in harmony. The area has forests, meadows, hills, and ponds making for an interesting walk in itself. But nature is complemented by art. The location of each work of art is chosen to create a harmony with the surrounding trees, flowers, and daily patterns of lights and shadows. The park hosts an annual International Sculpture Symposium and international artist-in-residence programmes twice a year, which means it grows in scale every year.

📍 Europos Parko g. 300, Joneikiškės,  
[www.europosparkas.lt](http://www.europosparkas.lt)

Discount with Vilnius Pass



## VILNIUS UNIVERSITY BOTANICAL GARDEN

A little further away from the city centre, Vilnius University Botanical Garden attracts visitors with its impressive blossoms. Vilnius University Botanical Garden is the largest garden in Lithuania with the richest collection of plants: there are as many as 4,600 different plant species and cultivars in the greenhouses and outdoors.

Rhododendrons, lilies, peonies, or roses – the aromas and colours are so dizzying you might need to sit on one of the 132 benches. It's an oasis of fresh air and tranquillity, a great place to escape the world and enjoy the ever-changing nature while walking the well-groomed garden paths or going to open-air concerts in the summer.

The Botanical Garden is also home to the first Green Home in Lithuania with plant walls and a rooftop garden. Green columns surround the entire building, with the southern wall featuring a transparent greenhouse. The crown of the building is the green rooftop observation deck, which offers breath-taking views of the growing labyrinth and the Botanical Garden.

📍 Kairėnų g. 43, [www.botanikos-sodas.vu.lt](http://www.botanikos-sodas.vu.lt)

FREE with Vilnius Pass





## VERKIAI REGIONAL PARK

Verkiai Regional Park is an extensive protected territory in Vilnius with the impressive 18th century Verkiai Palace complex as the main attraction. The palace park is a perfect way to enjoy a coffee with a panoramic view of Vilnius or learn more about Lithuanian history. Check out a panorama of the city from the top of the hill hike the Way of Cross, which is often visited by pilgrims, and do some bird watching - there are many rare birds in this park. Weekend walks or bicycle tours around the regional park and other environs of Vilnius begin from the palace in Verkiai.

[www.pavilniai-verkiai.lt](http://www.pavilniai-verkiai.lt)

FREE



## VINGIS PARK

Half the size of the Central Park in New York, Vingis Park is a favourite among locals. The 160-hectare park that runs along Neris River in the city centre is an oasis with numerous hiking trails. Rent a bike or an electric scooter and feel the wind in your hair, sit at an outdoor cafe and watch the joggers, join a game of frisbee or stumble upon a concert. There are convenient water stations and benches all over the park, as well as information boards and maps.

But on a regular day there are many quiet places to relax. The park is within walking distance from the Old Town, but it certainly seems like a different world.

If you go into a less busy area, you might even be lucky enough to see a deer.

FREE



## PAVILNIAI REGIONAL PARK

The core of Pavilniai Regional Park is the Vilnia River Valley. Visitors can follow the park's tourist route, which goes along Vilnelė River from Pūčkorių Dam. The most famous object is probably the Pūčkoriai Exposure, the highest geological formation of its kind in Lithuania.

Don't miss the chance to take a pleasant stroll through the spectacular footpath in the Regional Park of Pavilnys. Take the 6 km cognitive path to explore the region better and make sure to visit the nearby abandoned cannon factory, and the territory of the former water mill where Belmontas restaurant and entertainment centre are now situated. There are also Belmontas waterfalls and Belmontas Adventure Park for those looking to make the most of nature.

[www.pavilniai-verkiai.lt](http://www.pavilniai-verkiai.lt)

FREE





# DAY TRIPS

More fun, adventures,  
and unique sights



## DAY TRIPS

After getting to know Vilnius it's worth spending half a day exploring the neighbourhood towns and learning their stories and historical pasts.

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### TRAKAI

Take in the resort atmosphere of Trakai. The historic town has a fascinating lake with the Trakai Island Castle right in the middle of it. It looks like a fairy tale and reminds visitors of the days when the Grand Duke of Lithuania Vytautas spent his time here in the 15th century.

Local Karaims are the smallest ethnic group presently living in Lithuania with the largest community based in Trakai since the 14th century. Of Turkic decent, their national pastry kibiai which is stuffed with minced meat, mushrooms, or vegetables have become a staple delicacy of Trakai. Sit down on the lakeshore and taste this local delicacy with a view of the castle. Trakai is easy to reach by car or public transport, and you can also take a discounted tour with your Vilnius Pass.

[www.trakai-visit.lt](http://www.trakai-visit.lt)

Discount with Vilnius Pass

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### KERNAVĖ

A natural gem worth taking the time to discover can be found just 35 km northwest of Vilnius: the small town of

Kernavė, the first capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The Cultural Reserve of Kernavė is included on the UNESCO World Heritage list for its authentic beauty and the exceptional historic value, which dates back to the Palaeolithic era. The landscape formed by retreating glaciers is a wonderful sight of impressive hill forts, settlements, and burial sites. The five hills of Kernavė represent the country's largest outdoor archaeological expositions and you can climb stairs to the top of them.

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

FREE

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### EUROPE'S GEOGRAPHICAL CENTRE

Have you ever wondered where the geographical centre of Europe is? In 1989, the French National Geographic Institute determined that the geographical centre of Europe is right here in Lithuania, just 26 kilometres north of Vilnius. So what does the centre of Europe look like? It's quiet there: a 9-ton white granite column topped with a crown of stars marks the spot, which is surrounded by meadows and forests. Come and you'll be able to boast about your trip for a long time - it's a location well hidden from the touristy path. You can even get a special certificate saying that you've visited the geographical centre of Europe.

FREE

# JEWISH VILNIUS

Walking the routes of the  
Jerusalem of the North



## JEWISH VILNIUS

Vilnius was once called the Jerusalem of the North and was home to many famous Jewish scholars and rabbis who lived and worked to create a rich and diverse culture over the 700 years of their presence. 2020 is the year of the Vilna (Gaon Elijah ben Solomon Zalman) and the History of the Jews of Lithuania.

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### THE GLASS QUARTER

In a 1633 document, Ladislaus IV Vasa granted Jews the privilege of establishing their own quarter in Vilnius. The Glass Quarter was one of the most vibrant of the city's arteries with the Great Synagogue as its most important building. Today, the quarter retains the memory of its former Jewish heritage.

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### THE SMALL GHETTO

In the 17th century, the intersection of Stiklių, Gaono and Žydų Streets was filled with Jewish merchants. During the Nazi occupation of Lithuania, the Jewish Quarter was turned into the Small Ghetto with 11,000 Jews. The Small Ghetto was liquidated and the vast majority of its inhabitants were murdered on 21 October 1941.

## THE GREAT VILNIUS GHETTO

The ghetto existed from 6 September 1941 to 23 September 1943, within the boundaries of Lydos, Rūdninkų, Mėsinių, Ašmenos, Žemaitijos, Dysnos, Šiaulių and Ligoninės streets. There were about 29,000 Jews living in it; most of them were murdered in Paneriai. Today, 23 September is a day reserved for commemorating the Jewish Genocide in Lithuania.

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### WALLS THAT REMEMBER, THE GLASS QUARTER

The old inhabitants of the quarter are alive on the walls of the buildings. The people in Lina Šlipavičiūtė-Černiauskienė's project tell the story of the old Jewish quarter reconstructing the episodes of the past. This is an ongoing project, so keep an eye out for new works.

Find more street art routes at  
[www.govilnius.lt](http://www.govilnius.lt)



### THE VILNA GAON STATE JEWISH MUSEUM

The Holocaust Exhibition represents the life of Jews in Lithuania during the Holocaust of the Second World War: the ghetto creation and liquidation circumstances, the importance of armed and spiritual resistance in the ghetto, forced labour in concentration camps, saving Jews, and the destruction of cultural heritage in the USSR.

📍 Holocaust exhibition,  
Pamėnkalnio g. 12  
Samuel Bak Museum,  
Naugarduko g. 10/2  
Paneriai Memorial Museum,  
Agrastų g. 15

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





# PILGRIMAGE IN VILNIUS

A history of your own pilgrimage



## PILGRIMAGES IN VILNIUS

A lot of Lithuania's history can be told in its churches, so it's no surprise that the country has a deep tradition as a pilgrimage destination: thousands of pilgrims from all over the world visit Vilnius annually.

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### THE SHRINE OF DIVINE MERCY

The painting of God's Mercy found a home in the whitewashed space of the Shrine of Divine Mercy. One of the most recognisable and respected paintings in the Catholic Church it's the work of Eugene Kazimirowski, who painted it in 1934 in Vilnius according to the visions of Saint Faustina.

📍 Dominikonų g. 12, [www.gailestingumas.lt](http://www.gailestingumas.lt)

FREE

### THE GATES OF DAWN

One of the most important historical and religious sites in Vilnius became famous in the 16th century when The Gates of Dawn were given to the Carmelites and turned into the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of Mercy, which is home to a famous painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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

FREE

For more information visit Pilgrim Center, Dominikonų g. 6, [www.cityofmercy.lt](http://www.cityofmercy.lt)

## THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF ST. STANISLAUS AND ST. LADISLAUS OF VILNIUS

Vilnius Cathedral is the most important Catholic building in Lithuania and the symbol of Lithuanian baptism dating back to the 13th century. It hides the 13th to 15th century cellars and a mural from the 14th century depicting the crucifixion of Christ. The Cathedral got its Classical appearance in 1801 during a reconstruction project.

📍 Cathedral Square 2, [www.katedra.lt](http://www.katedra.lt)

FREE

### THE HOUSE OF SAINT FAUSTINA

The Apostle of Divine Mercy, Faustina Kowalska, lived in the Convent of the Congregation of the Mother of Mercy in Vilnius from 1933 to 1936. It's where she experienced many revelations of Jesus through which she was asked to fulfil the message of God's Mercy to the world.

📍 V. Grybo g. 29

FREE

### PILGRIM ROUTE OF ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope John Paul II's visit to Lithuania in 1993 was a celebrated event that encouraged the adoption of the gospel as a gift of salvation. In memory of his visit a pilgrimage route was established to honour the sacred and treasured places from the 14th century in Lithuania.

### CALVARY WAY OF THE CROSS

The Way was built in the 17th century to thank God for the victory over the Cossack army. The Calvary of Vilnius reproduces the topography and orientation of Jerusalem so that worshippers who are unable to visit the Holy Land could repeat the last trip of Jesus.

📍 start at Pušyno g. 25

FREE

# VILNIUS WITH KIDS

A perfect family holiday  
destination



## VILNIUS WITH KIDS



Choosing a perfect family holiday destination and planning activities that are interesting for everyone takes some skill but Vilnius has so much to offer that everyone will be happy. Parks and playgrounds, kid-friendly museums and guided tours, and a slew of cafes and restaurants will make discovering the city together an absolute delight.

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### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Climb the trees at **Uno Parkas Adventure Park**, which features special tracks for children. You can also go kayaking on Neris River or rent bikes and take a ride through the green **Vingis Park**. Vilnius has a number of playgrounds in parks and squares, and **Liepkalnis** offers skiing in the winter and tobogganing in the summer.

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### INDOOR FUN

Regardless of the weather, you can jump like crazy at **Sky Park**, an indoor trampoline park. Even though Vilnius isn't by the sea, you can still take a leisurely swim at **Vichy Aquapark**. You can also hit the inflatable playground and get active at the Adventica family entertainment center, which has obstacle racing, slides, climbing walls and other amusements. Do you like animals? Welcome to the "Zoopark"! [www.zoopark.lt](http://www.zoopark.lt)

Discount with Vilnius Pass

### CINEMAS

Catching the latest release while travelling can be a fun experience. Vilnius has four cinemas, a few that are conveniently located in shopping malls, and **Pasaka**, which is located right in the Old Town. Most films are shown in the original language with subtitles, so you'll have no issues understanding them.

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### CAFES AND RESTAURANTS

A lot of cafes and restaurants are kid-friendly and have on-site playgrounds. Get fresh pastries and delicacies at **Pinavija**, eat pancakes in a fun and exciting environment at **Gusto Pancake House**, and kids rarely say no to pizza and pasta, so **Vapiano** is always a great choice for quality time with the family.

Visit an exclusive cafe **Nykštukas**.

Find more great places to visit with family at [www.govilnius.lt](http://www.govilnius.lt)



# BUDGET VILNIUS

Travelling without breaking  
the bank



## FREE VILNIUS

Even if your pockets are almost empty, there's still tons to do and see in Vilnius that won't cost a thing. The city is a real bargain, especially when you consider all the adventures and experiences you're in for during your stay.

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## FREE EVENTS

Vilnius has many open-air concerts, food markets, and film screenings in the city's squares and parks. The fairs and festive markets on the streets of the Old Town take place all year round. Street art is also free to admire around the city with Open Gallery free of charge and accessible 24/7.

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## VIEWPOINTS

Choose from among the many picturesque landscapes for a relaxing walk - **Verkiai Park** and **Belmontas** are among the most popular spots. Vilnius is surrounded by seven hills, so there's no shortage of panoramic views of the Old Town. Climb the **Hill of Three Crosses**, **Altana Hill**, or **Subačiaus viewpoint** for breathtaking sights.

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## STREET FOOD

Street food in Vilnius is booming, so budget-friendly food markets are a great place to experience the trend and taste so much food you'll definitely need a long walk later. **Halės Market** is amazing for Saturday brunches, **Downtown Food Hall** is open all day long, and **Špunka** is perfect for beers and munchies.

## FREE TOURS

Free walking tours are a great way to discover the city, especially when they're led by locals who are willing to show you around and give insider tips that'll have you feeling like a local in no time. If you like exploring solo, grab a map of themed routes at one of Vilnius Tourist Information Centres.

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## SAVING WITH THE VILNIUS PASS

Savvy travellers know all the best tricks, like taking advantage of a city discount card to make the most of your time and money. The Vilnius Pass has more than 60 offers: hop-on hop-off bus tours, guided walking tours, an audioguide, free admission to a wide selection of museums, and more.

Book online and save 2 EUR on every card!  
[www.govilnius.lt](http://www.govilnius.lt)



# TOURS IN VILNIUS

Discovering the city  
from different angles



## TOURS IN VILNIUS

There are many ways to explore Vilnius and make great discoveries. Alone or with friends, on foot or on a bike, roaming the streets and just looking around or listening to a guide; each of these options let you get acquainted with the city at your own pace.



### REGULAR WALKING TOURS

Use your Vilnius Pass to get a walking tour with a professional guide. You can also get an audio guide at the Tourist Information Centre to explore Vilnius on your own.

To feel like an insider, get in touch with locals willing to show you around at Vilnius with Locals.

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### THEMED TOURS

For something more extraordinary, book a themed tour that focuses on a specific aspect of Vilnius: romantic, scary, historic, family-friendly or even a beer tour. There are also fun tours that combine games

and orientation activities, so you can get in-depth while learning all about Vilnius.

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



### INDIVIDUAL EXPLORATIONS

Tourist Information Centre has prepared a number of themed routes with maps and stories of different landmarks, so just grab a booklet and start exploring. If you like to plan ahead, the Walkable Vilnius project has about 30 routes of different lengths and levels of difficulty.

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

FREE

## VILNIUS PASS

24-hour Pass	48-hour Pass	72-hour Pass
39 €	49 €	59 €

#### Vilnius Tourist Information Centres:

Pilies g. 2 (Main Office), +370 5 262 9660, e-mail [tic@govilnius.lt](mailto:tic@govilnius.lt)

Rodūnios kelias 2 (International Vilnius Airport, Hall A).

Book online and save 2 or 3 euros on every card! [www.govilnius.lt](http://www.govilnius.lt)



## REFRESHING, STRANGE, QUIRKY AND SURPRISING TOURS



### CHERNOBYL FILM LOCATION TOUR

Vilnius was the main filming location for HBO's hit mini-series Chernobyl, which recounted the 1986 nuclear disaster. Now you can immerse yourself into the show's world by visiting various filming locations. Marvel at the now infamous fictional Pripyat, listen to stories about actual life in the Soviet era and visit a KGB prison.

More information at [www.govilnius.lt](http://www.govilnius.lt)



### CATACOMBS OF VILNIUS

Get under the historic city and explore what lies beneath it together with a guide. In just a couple of hours you'll see the catacombs and the burial place of the Lithuanian Grand Dukes under the Cathedral, and visit the cellars and wine caves of the Old Town.

More information at [www.govilnius.lt](http://www.govilnius.lt)



### TAKE TO THE SKY

See the city from the tallest building in Lithuania – the 326.5-metre TV tower! But it's not just the city that you will see. Take a tour and discover the inside of the tower itself, like the rooms that no outsider was allowed to enter until just a few years ago. It's where the entire country got its TV signal back in the day! If you're not afraid of heights, you will be able to go on the open roof. But if the open roof is too much, you can always take a seat at the restaurant with a 360-degree view and sip on a coffee at 165 metres. There's also a park of historic antennas to explore, once you're back solid ground.

📍 Sausio 13-osios g. 10, [www.tvbokstas.lt](http://www.tvbokstas.lt)

Discount with Vilnius Pass



### HOT AIR BALLOONING

Take to the sky in a hot air balloon and get a bird's-eye view of Vilnius in absolute tranquillity. Did you know that Vilnius is the only European capital where you can have this experience? The city's landscapes from the red rooftops of the Old Town to the surrounding forests – look different depending on the time of year, but are always breathtaking.

Discount with Vilnius Pass

For more ideas visit [www.govilnius.lt](http://www.govilnius.lt)

## BUS TOURS



### BUS TOURS AROUND VILNIUS

Even though Vilnius is a compact and walkable city, it's fun to have some rest and explore the city at the same time. Vilnius city tours are great for a leisurely sightseeing experience. The tours usually start at Cathedral Square and the routes take you to all the top landmarks. With Vilnius Pass you can take the bus tours for free.

Vilnius city tour [www.vilniuscitytour.com](http://www.vilniuscitytour.com)

FREE with Vilnius Pass



### BUS TOURS TO NATIONAL PARKS AND HERITAGE LOCATIONS

Explore the areas surrounding Vilnius on bus tours to the State Cultural Reserve of Kernavė, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2004. The hill forts of Kernavė are unique in the entire Baltic Sea Region, since there are five at just one location. For a full day trip visit Aukštaitijos National Park - 70% of its territory is covered in pine trees and ancient woods, and scattered among the woods and hills are some 100 smaller and larger lakes to explore.



### BUS TOURS TO TRAKAI

The old town of Trakai which is extremely popular among residents of Lithuania and foreigners alike, is situated just west of Vilnius among hills, forests and lakes. Hop on a tour bus and experience a resort atmosphere with a wonderful view of the Trakai Island Castle, try authentic Karaite pastries.

Vilnius city tour [www.vilniuscitytour.com](http://www.vilniuscitytour.com)

Discount with Vilnius Pass

### A CAR WHEN YOU NEED IT

If you love travelling independently, a car can be the right choice. Tailor your visit to fit your travel style. Of course, there are several car rental agencies, but car sharing might be an easier option, especially if you're up for something spontaneous. It works regardless if you need a car for half an hour or for a trip around Lithuania. Take it, drive it, leave it - it's as simple as that with the **CityBee**, **Bolt** or **Spark** car sharing systems. Choose by size, preferred model or transmission.

# VILNIUS PASS

Free museums, city tours. Discounts for entertainment.

24h.  
39.00 €

48h.  
49.00 €

72h.  
59.00 €



Google Play



App Store



VILNIUS

# TIPS

## GETTING AROUND

### TRAINS



Lithuanian State railways offers an intercity train service. Trains are comfortable, and some have coffee machines, Wi-Fi, and convenient electric outlets. Tickets and schedules are available at the train station or at:

[WWW.LTGLINK.LT](http://WWW.LTGLINK.LT)

### PLANES



Vilnius International Airport is about a 10-minute drive south of the city centre. You can also get there by train from the Central Railway Station or by bus (see the map below). Vilnius International Airport is a gateway to more than 50 destinations.

[WWW.VNO.LT](http://WWW.VNO.LT)

### BUSES



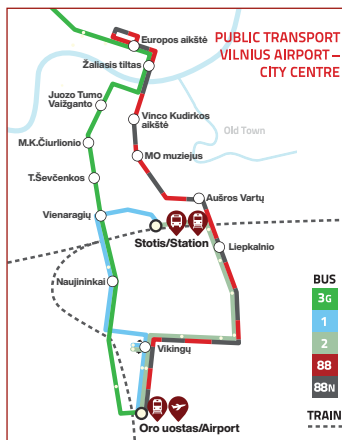
Vilnius Central Bus Station offers trips to other towns and cities in Lithuania, plus other destinations in Europe. Buses are comfortable, and those used for long-distance and trips abroad are fitted with bathrooms and refreshment facilities. Tickets and schedules are available at the station or at:

[WWW.AUTOBUSUBILIETAI.LT](http://WWW.AUTOBUSUBILIETAI.LT)





### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Buses and **CycloCity** bikes are the most common forms of public transport in Vilnius.

For more convenient access to public transport, consider the Vilnius Pass or you can purchase the Vilnian Card "Vilniečio kortelė" – a prepaid travel card that can be used on all public transport (the price is 1,5 Eur). The cards can be bought at some supermarkets and newsstands.



Day ticket types:

-  1 day – €5
-  3 days – €8
-  5 days – €12
-  10 days – €15

You can also use **Trafi** – a public transport ticket on your smartphone.

The **Trafi** app helps to plan your trip by public transport in Vilnius, choose the fastest and most convenient route, search for timetables and quickly buy, collect and use tickets on your phone.

Download and install the Trafi app on Android and iOS.

**CycloCity** Vilnius account can be added to your Vilnian Card, allowing you to use bikes all over the city for €2,90 (3 days), €3,90 (one month) or €19,90 (season pass).

This can be done online at:



[WWW.CYCLOCITY.LT/EN](http://WWW.CYCLOCITY.LT/EN)

You can check bus schedules at:



[WWW.JUDU.LT](http://WWW.JUDU.LT)  
[WWW.TRAFI.LT](http://WWW.TRAFI.LT)

or by downloading the Trafi app (made in Vilnius!).





## Join the Vilnius city tour


### TOURS RUN DAILY ALL YEAR ROUND.



Hop on the red Vilnius Tour Bus and it will take you to top city's attractions. The open-top bus ride offers numerous panoramic views of the city.

Want to hear some of the stories behind the attractions you'll encounter? Grab an audio guide; they're available in 11 languages.



**MEETING POINT:** Odminių square at Cathedral Square (in the front of Bell tower). 

**TICKET:** €15 (Free with Vilnius Pass!)

Tickets can be purchased at [www.vilniuscitytour.com](http://www.vilniuscitytour.com).

## Currency Exchange

Lithuania's currency is the Euro. Foreign currencies can be easily exchanged in offices. A currency exchange office is located near the Vilnius railway and bus stations.

Sodų g. 22 (Bus Station)  
Open 8.00-20.00

Geležinkelio g. 6  
Open 24/7

Gedimino pr. 9  
Open 10.00-20.00

## Emergency Services

The telephone number for emergency services (police/fire department/ambulance) is

# 112

[WWW.EPOLICIJA.LT](http://WWW.EPOLICIJA.LT)



## VILNIUS TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

Pilies g. 2 (Restaurant Grey)  
Open: I-VII 9:00-18:00

+370 5 262 9660  
[tic@govilnius.lt](mailto:tic@govilnius.lt)  
[www.govilnius.lt](http://www.govilnius.lt)

Rodūnios kelias 2-1  
(Vilnius International Airport)  
Open I-VII 10:00 - 19:00

**FOLLOW** GO Vilnius on  
social media



## Visual Arts Credits:

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Page 32 - Samuel Bak  
Page 33 - OS GEMEOS, Millo, Ernest Zacharevic  
Page 41 - Walls that remember  
Page 47 - Eglė Žvirblytė

# LET'S SPEAK LIETUVIŠKAI

Hello - *Labas*

Good morning - *Labas rytas*

Good afternoon - *Laba diena*

Good evening - *Labas vakaras*

Goodbye - *Viso gero*

Bye! - *Iki!*

Thank you - *Ačiū*

Excuse me - *Atsiprašau*

Please - *Prašau*

Yes - *Taip*

No - *Ne*

Congrats - *Sueikinu*

Lets have a beer - *Eime alaus!*

Cheers - *Į sveikatą!*

Bon appetit - *Skanaus*

I will eat cold beatroot soup  
and zeppelins - *Valgysiu  
šaltibarščius ir cepelinus*

How are you? - *Kaip sekasi?*

I like Vilnius - *Man patinka  
Vilnius*

I love you - *Aš myliu tave*

I am in Vilnius - the G-spot of  
Europe - *Esu Vilniuje, Europos  
G taške*



# PLAN AHEAD: 10 most interesting events in Vilnius

## JANUARY

### Vilnius Light Festival

Go out into the city and see it illuminated in new colours after dark. Artists from all over the world create a completely different city view with light installations, beautifully incorporating them into the unique architecture of Vilnius and its public spaces.

## MARCH

### St. Casimir's Fair (Kaziuko Mugė)

Celebrate spring! This 400-year-old tradition promises to wake the city up after the sleepy winter.

## MAY

### Street Music Day

Save the date! Music will flow through the streets of Vilnius Old Town on the third Saturday of May. Check out the talents of professional musicians, amateurs and those dreaming of the big stage.

## JUNE

### Vilnius PINK SOUP Festival

The most beautiful love story in the world? No, we're not talking about Romeo and Juliet. We're talking about Lithuanians' love of cold beetroot soup. Pink, fresh, creamy... It's not just soup – it's a way of life. On 10 June, come ring in the summer season at the Vilnius Pink Soup Fest – the first šaltibarščiai festival ever. The Lithuanian capital of Vilnius will be painted pink! theatre, cinema, photography, modern installations, and many other projects all in one night?

### Culture Night

Art will invade the streets, galleries and even some unexpected spaces in Vilnius once the sun sets. Will you be able to see more than 150 music, dance, theatre, cinema, photography, modern installations, and many other projects all in one night?

## JULY

### As Young as Vilnius

Vilnius celebrates its 700th anniversary all year round, not only in winter but also in summer. On 25 July, when Vilnius celebrates the feast of its patron St. Christopher, a spectacular party in Vingis Park – the free music festival As Young As Vilnius.

### Midsummer Vilnius Festival

Put your finger on the pulse of Vilnius in the summer with live music, theatrical performances, and an entire programme of cultural events.

## SEPTEMBER

### Vilnius City Fiesta

Greet the autumn season with live concerts, exceptional shows, and a fair in the heart of the city on Gediminas Avenue. Get ready for some action, adventures, and creative ideas.

### Loftas Fest Music and Arts Festival

Take part in the only urban music and arts festival in the Baltics. High-quality concerts, art performances, night-time movies, and open-air exhibitions put you at the centre of an art adventure that takes place in repurposed factories.

## DECEMBER – JANUARY

### Christmas in VILNIUS

What can be more beautiful than a Christmas fairy tale along the narrow streets of Vilnius Old Town? Enjoy the festive atmosphere and magical mood all month long. See one of the most impressive Christmas trees in Europe, get your gingerbread at a Christmas fair, enjoy the festive concerts, or ride everyone's favourite Christmas train.

Find more events at [www.govilnius.lt](http://www.govilnius.lt)



## Information for Tourists



### MUSEUMS

1. **Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania**, Katedros a. 4 (B3)
2. **Gediminas Tower**, Arsenalo 5 (A3,B3)
3. **National Museum of Lithuania (The New and Old Arsenals)**, Arsenalo 1, 3 (A3)
4. **Vilnius Cathedral Bell Tower**, Katedros a. 1 (B3)
5. **Vilnius University**, Universiteto 3, Bell Tower, Šv. Jono 12 (B3)
6. **The Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights (KGB Museum)**, Aukų 2A (A1)
7. **Vilnius Picture Gallery**, Didžioji 4 (C3)
8. **Museum of Applied Arts and Design**, Arsenalo 3A (A4)
9. **Church Heritage Museum**, Šv. Mykolo 9 (B4)
10. **Amber Museum-Gallery**, Šv. Mykolo 8 (B3), Centre of Baltic Amber, Šv. Mykolo 12 (B3)
11. **Vilnius Museum of Illusions**, Vokiečių 8 (C3)
12. **Vilnius museum**, Vokiečių g. 6
13. **Culinary Heritage Museum of Lithuania**, Bokšto 9 (C3)
14. **Money Museum**, Totorių 2/8 (B2)
15. **Toys' Museum**, Šiltadaržio 2/7 (B4)
16. **Lithuanian Theatre, Music and Cinema Museum**, Vilniaus 41 (C2)
17. **Museum of Radvilas Palace**, Vilniaus 24 (B2)
18. **Bastion of the Defensive Wall**, Bokšto 20/18 (C4)
19. **House of Signatories**, Pilies 26 (B3)
20. **Centre for Civil Education**, Totorių 28 (B3)
21. **Samuel Bak Museum (Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum)**, Naugarduko 10/2 (C2/D2)
22. **Holocaust Exposition (Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum)**, Pamėnkalnio 12 (B1)
23. **Kazys Varnelis House-Museum**, Didžioji 26 (C3)
24. **Marija and Jurgis Šlapeliai House-Museum**, Pilies 40 (C3)
25. **A. Mickiewicz Museum**, Bernardinų 11 (B4)



### ART CENTRES

1. **MO Museum**, Pylimo 17 (C2)
2. **Contemporary Art Centre**, Vokiečių 2 (C3)
3. **Design Innovations Centre**, Maironio 3 (B4)
4. **Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center**, Malūnų g. 8 (C4)



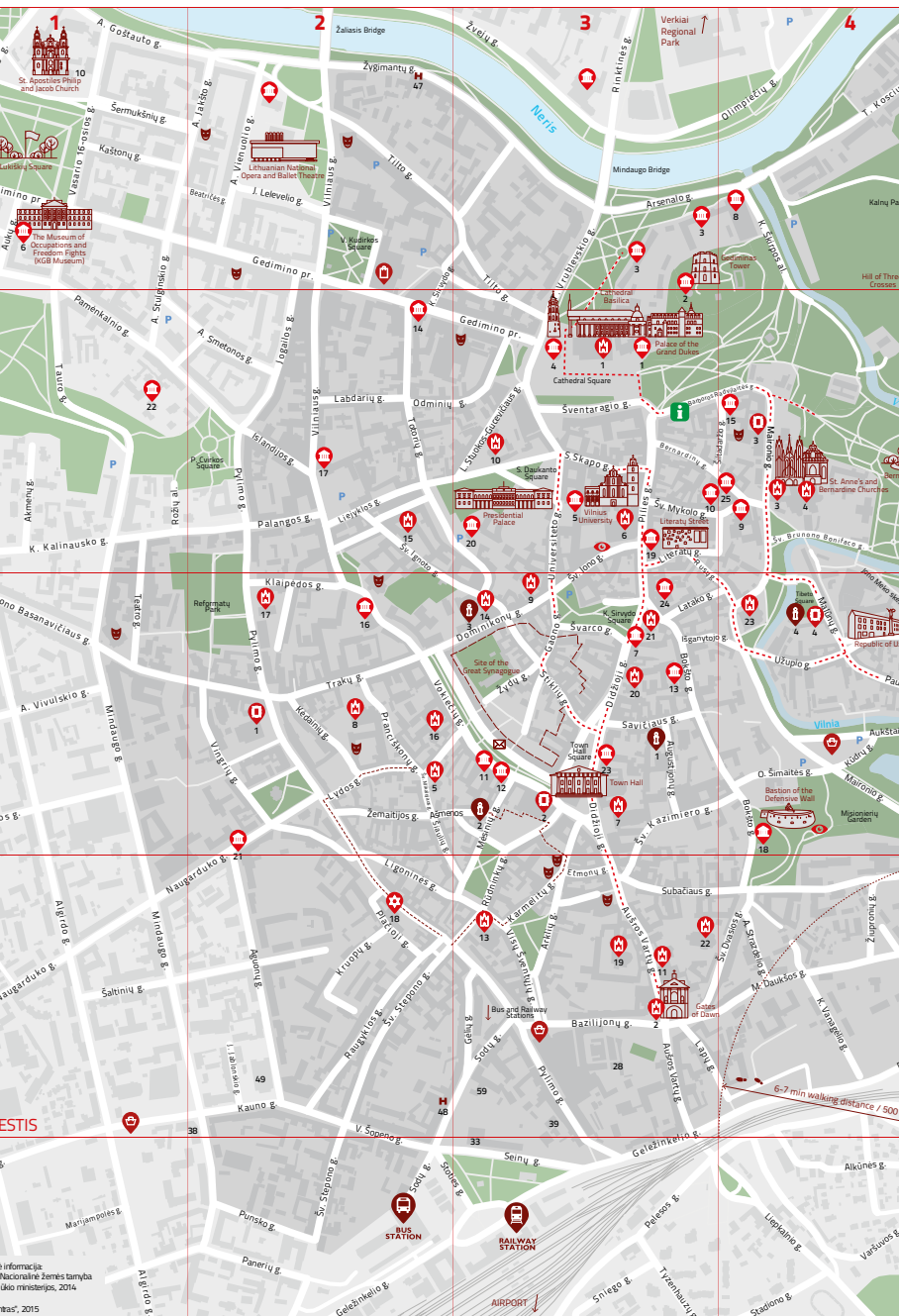
### HOUSES OF WORSHIP

1. **Cathedral Basilica**, Katedros a. 1 (B3)
2. **Gates of Dawn**, Aušros Vartų 12 (D3)
3. **St. Anne's Church**, Maironio 8 (B4)
4. **Bernardine Church**, Maironio 10 (B4)
5. **St. Nicolas' Church**, Šv. Mikalojaus 4 (C2)
6. **Church of St. John**, Šv. Jono 12 (B3)
7. **St. Casimir's Church**, Didžioji 34 (C3)
8. **Franciscan's Church**, Trakų 9/1 (C2)
9. **Shrine of Divine Mercy**, Dominikonų 12 (C3)
10. **Holy Cross (Bonifrates) Church**, S. Daukanto a. 1 (B3)
11. **St. Theresa's Church**, Aušros Vartų 14 (D3)
12. **St. Bartholomew's Church**, Užupio 17A (C4)
13. **All Saints Church**, Rūdninkų 20/1 (D3)
14. **Holy Spirit's Church**, Dominikonų 8 (C3)
15. **St. Ignatius' Church**, Šv. Ignoto 4 (B2)
16. **Evangelical Lutheran Church**, Vokiečių 20 (C2)
17. **Evangelical Reformers' Church**, Pylimo 18 (C2)
18.  **Vilnius Choral Synagogue**, Pylimo 39 (D2)
19. **Holy Trinity Church and the Basilian Gates**, Aušros Vartų 7B (D3)
20. **Orthodox Church of St. Nicolas**, Didžioji 12 (C3)
21. **Orthodox Church of St. Paraskeve**, Didžioji 2 (C3)
22. **Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit**, Aušros Vartų 10 (D3)
23. **Orthodox Church of the Holy Mother of God**, Maironio 12 (C4)
24. **Orthodox Church of St. Michael and St. Constantine**, Jono Basanavičiaus 27 (B1,C1)



### VISITOR CENTRES

1. **M. K. Čiurlionis House**, Savičiaus 11 (C3)
2. **Jewish Culture and Information Centre**, Mėšinių 3A/5 (C3)
3. **Pilgrim's Center**, Dominikonų 6 (C3)
4. **Užupis Art Information Centre**, Užupio 2A (C4)



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

