

KAUNAS

inyourpocket

May 2011 - April 2012

"In Your Pocket: A cheeky, well-written series of guidebooks."

The New York Times

Inside

A fully updated, impartial scrutiny of the best things Kaunas has to offer visitors for the next 12 months

Pažaislis

Kaunas' Baroque masterpiece just got even better with the addition of a new museum. Read all about it inside

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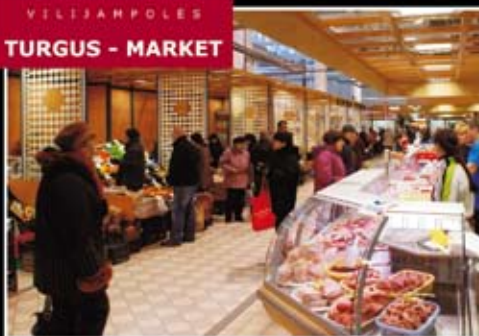
URMAS
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www.urmas.net

VILIJAMPOLIS
TURGUS - MARKET



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www.vilijampolesturgus.lt

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www.centrinisturgus.lt



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Car boot market - open once a month on the second Saturday from April to October, entertaining the whole family. Pramonės Ave. 16, Kaunas

www.bagaziniuturgus.lt

International

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Traditional international antiques and flea markets - 3 times per year: March 18-20, May 27-29, October 21-23. Pramonės Ave. 16, Kaunas

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KNYGU **TURGUS**



In the Book Market, one can find various publications: ranging from novels and poetry collections to technical literature and textbooks written in different languages. Pramonės Ave. 16, Kaunas

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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

Contents

Arriving in Kaunas	5
The easy way by bus, car, plane and train	
Basics	6
From alcohol to visas	
History	8
Complicated to say the least	
Culture & Events	9
Art, music, theatre, festivals etc.	
Pažaislis	11
Kaunas' very own Baroque bombshell	
Where to stay	12
A bed for all budgets	
Dining & Nightlife	18
Where to eat	18
Lithuanian, Egyptian, vegetarian. You name it	
Cafés	25
Where to get the best espresso	
Nightlife	26
Drinking, dancing and a little bit of nakedness	



Čiurlionis and his wife Sofija in Plunge, 1909.

Arguably Lithuania's greatest ever artist was a Polish-speaking man by the name of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis. Born 100km south of Kaunas in the village of Senoji Varėna on September 22, 1875, Čiurlionis spent his childhood in the spa town of Druskininkai before going on to study flute, piano and composition in Lithuania and the prestigious Warsaw Conservatory, from where he graduated in 1899. An immensely prolific artist,

Čiurlionis wrote extensively for the piano, composed string quartets, and also penned the country's first symphony, *Miške* (In The Forest, 1901). His musical style shifted between the pastoral and romantic to occasional dabblings in serialism. Also a fanatical painter, Čiurlionis was one of the primary organisers of the country's first exhibition of Lithuanian art in Vilnius in 1907. He served as a conductor, was deeply involved in the Lithuanian independence movement, married the writer Sofija Kymantaitė (1886-1958), dabbled in photography and even found time to design stained glass. Such a hectic life for a man renowned for his profound shyness and sensitivities was bound to take its toll. Repeated attacks of depression saw him finally retiring to a nursing home near Warsaw where he died of pneumonia at just 35 on April 10, 1911. Čiurlionis left one daughter, Danutė, whom although almost a year old when he died, he never met. Although 2011 is the centenary of Čiurlionis' death, commemorative and celebratory events in Kaunas, who's M. K. Čiurlionis State Art Museum (see p.35) holds the vast majority of his work, are few and far between.

Sightseeing

What to see	34
All the main sights and more	

Jewish Kaunas	42
An extraordinary heritage lost forever	

Getting around	43
When legs just aren't enough	

Mail & phones	46
Keeping in touch	

Directory	
Shopping	47
Markets, bargains, gifts and souvenirs	
Lifestyle	52
Pharmacies, banks and barbers	

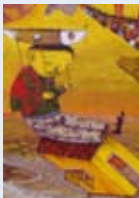
Maps	
Street index	54
City centre map	55
City map	56
Country map	59



Kaunas' fabulous Pažaislis Monastery Complex, which now has its own museum, provides a bucolic adventure in Baroque right on the edge of the city. Read all about it on p.11.

First documented in written records in 1361 by marauding Teutonic Knights who were to cause major headaches in the region for a further six decades, the year 2011 marks the 650th anniversary of the official founding of Lithuania's inimitable second city. Shaped by centuries of wars and occupations, Kaunas has experienced something of a cultural renaissance of late, ridding itself of its reputation as second fiddle to Vilnius and emerging as a serious player in its own right. Boasting arguably the country's best nightclub, some genuinely great bars and restaurants, affordable accommodation and an airport serving a multitude of European destinations, where once it was little more than a place to visit for its fine sightseeing it now offers a *smörgåsbord* of temptations it until recently could only dream of. *Kaunas In Your Pocket* has been reflecting these changes for almost two decades now and remains the only guide of choice in English, offering a complete picture of the city from where to find the best espressos to information on hairdressers who won't make you look like a reject from the 1980s or cut your ears off. All comments, suggestions, hugs and punches on the knee are welcome as usual. Send us an email at kaunas@inyourpocket.com or join the conversation online at kaunas.inyourpocket.com.

Cover story



Identical twins with Lithuanian roots, the Brazilian artists Otavio and Gustavo Pandolfo, aka Os Gemeos (The Twins) painted this extraordinary mural and several others on the side of the Kaunas Picture Gallery (see p.34) when they visited the city in 2007. For more about their splendid global colouring activities, have a look at their website at www.osgemeos.com.br.

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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

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Editor's note

The editorial content of In Your Pocket guides is independent from paid-for advertising. Sponsored listings are clearly marked as such. We welcome all readers' comments and suggestions. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of going to press and assume no responsibility for changes and errors.

Europe In Your Pocket



In Your Pocket has broken much new ground of late, publishing guides in the **Netherlands** (Den Bosch, Utrecht), **Austria** (Vienna), **Croatia** (Brač and Senj), **Slovenia** (Celje), **Serbia** (Niš) and **Switzerland** (Zurich). A new guide to the Belarusian capital of Minsk launches in the early summer of 2011. We've also begun rolling out iPhone apps to all our cities, and we'll be launching more throughout the year. To find out which cities we'll be covering, and to keep up to date with all In Your Pocket news and events, see *In Your Pocket* on **Facebook** at facebook.com/inyourpocket or follow us on **Twitter** at twitter.com/inyourpocket.

Whether you're flying, coming by bus or train or even driving to Kaunas yourself, arriving in the city has its good and bad points. Here's what you need to know.

By bus

Kaunas' reasonably central bus station (*autobusų stotis*), which handles all national and international journeys to and from the city, is a purely functional affair offering little in the way of modernity or comfort. If you've been stuck on a bus with a locked toilet for hours, well maintained facilities (open 05:45 - 21:30, 1Lt) can be found hiding behind the buildings in the southeast corner of the station. If you're only in town for the day, you can leave your luggage in the Siuntos Autobusais (2Lt) in the northwest corner of the station. Take note of the opening hours on the door if you're leaving town on a bus during the evening. If you need cash, an ATM is located on the main street just in front of the ticket office. Limited tourist information is available inside the main ticket hall.

Getting to town The bus station is a 15-minute walk to the city centre and something more like a 25-minute stroll away from Old Town. If you're laden with luggage you might prefer to take a taxi or public transport. To do the latter, exit the station onto the main street and jump on a trolleybus, of which all pass through the centre. Taxis can be found lurking all around the station. See Taxis for more information.

By car

At the crossroads of the A1 (E85) Vilnius-Klaipėda highway and the Via Baltica, Kaunas is an attractive if somewhat challenging place to visit by car. Its road network is a frightening squiggle of badly signposted asphalt full of holes and populated by a high percentage of drivers who give the impression they never took a driving test. The city centre features a rather complicated one-way system and parking meters that don't accept coins. If you still want to drive there, remember that car crime is a national pastime. Use guarded parking at all times and never leave valuables in your vehicle.

By plane

The small and modern airport at Karmėlava is about 12km north of Kaunas. Once the formalities are out the way, find several information kiosks, a café, an R Kiosk selling snacks and soft drinks, a bank, ATM, toilets and car rental outlets.

Getting to town Taxis can be found parked outside the arrivals hall. Try to negotiate a fare before setting off, and expect to pay around 30Lt for a trip to the city centre. Local minibus N°120 runs regularly to Old Town for a mere 2.50Lt. Pay the driver when you get in and let him know where you want to stop. You can also get city bus N°29 from the bus stop at the front of the airport, which passes through the centre as well as going to the bus and train stations. Buy a ticket from the driver for 2Lt. Express shuttle buses also provide a service to any given hotel in the city for 13Lt (see below). Another company operates good value, fast and comfortable minibus services to Vilnius, Klaipėda and Riga.

ShuttleBus LT Kaunas Tel. (+370) 37 20 92 20, www.goshuttlebus.lt. A genius idea wherein not only does this modern 20-seater shuttle bus synchronise with flights but it will go to or pick you up from any hotel of your choice as well as help you with your gift shopping before you leave. Marvellous. See their website for more information. ▶ Open 24hrs.

Street smarts

Below is a list of Lithuanian street and place names. We shorten some of these as is standard practice, using just the main name. For example, Laisvės Alėja is simply referred to as Laisvės.

Aikštė/Skveras	Square	Alėja	Alley
Gatvė	Street	Kelias	Road, way
Pientas	Highway	Propektas	Avenue
Tiltas	Bridge		

By train

Trains arrive in Kaunas from Kaliningrad, Minsk, Warsaw, Vilnius and a handful of other destinations. The imposing Socialist Realist building was completed in 1953 and is worth a quick look around. Of particular interest is the main hall, featuring some classic white sheaves of wheat in relief high up on the walls. Despite the switch to capitalism, facilities haven't improved much. Toilets (free) can be found downstairs. If you want to leave your bags, don't bring very large ones as the lockers (4Lt) next to the ticket office aren't very big. There's an ATM, an average café and a branch of the Regional Tourist Information Centre and not a lot else inside.

Getting to town If you don't want to walk the 20-minutes or so required to get to the centre, catch a trolleybus across the street, reached via the underpass at the front of the building. All trolleybuses go via the city centre. Taxis can usually be found waiting just to the right as you leave the station.

Shuttle BUS LT Kaunas
Comfortable & easy!

A special bus route, to and from Kaunas airport - to city hotels

Info Center:
+370 37 209 220, info@goshuttlebus.lt

Tickets online www.goshuttlebus.lt

Emergency numbers

Police Fire Ambulance Tel. 112

Alcohol

Almost without exception Lithuanian beer (*alus*) is light, crisp, cold, cheap and delicious. Among the more common varieties are the magnificent Švyturys from Klaipėda, Utenos from Utena and Kalnapilis from Panevėžys. Kaunas' very own Kauno beer is also worth looking out for, plus the city is currently in the grips of an obsession with live (*gyvas*) beer made in small microbreweries around the country (see p.32 for information on where to drink it when in town). In Old Town and the city centre expect to pay somewhere between 5Lt and 10Lt for half a litre. Lithuanian vodka (*degtinė*) is cheap, generally of good quality and is drunk with gusto at the mere rumour of the dropping of a hat. Among the more interesting spirits are *starka*, a 15th-century Polish-Lithuanian concoction of dark, syrupy rye vodka fortified with apple leaves and lime blossom, and *samagonas*, the local illicit firewater available through the right connections. Local alcohol is generally cheaper than the imported stuff. Local distillers Stumbro (see p.36) have a small museum and also offer guided tours. It's illegal to sell alcohol in shops between 22:00 and 08:00.

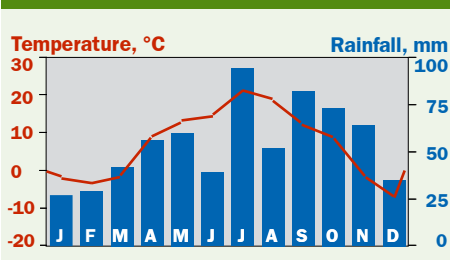
Borders

Lithuania is bordered by the Baltic Sea, Belarus, Latvia, Poland and the peculiar exclave born out of the ashes of WWII that's the Russian oblast of Kaliningrad. EU membership and Schengen agreements have removed all border formalities with Latvia and Poland whilst getting in an out of Belarus and Kaliningrad remains a slow and dreary process. Visas for both can be obtained from the Belarusian and Russian embassies in Vilnius (see *Vilnius In Your Pocket*), a few local travel agencies and if arriving by air. See www.pasienis.lt for more information.

Crime & Safety

Crime is rampant in Lithuania, most of it taking place in the clandestine world of business and politics. Crimes closer to home include such petty annoyances as having bits of your car stolen to the inevitable disappearing purses and mobile phones. Don't leave valuables in unattended pockets or lying around on tables. The chances of getting robbed in the street remain tiny. However, caution never did anybody any harm, and you're advised not to flaunt your wallet in stupid places or announce to the entire world your huge wealth by wearing loud jewellery in quiet back streets. Walk tall, look like you know what you're doing, and you won't be troubled.

Climate



National holidays

Lithuanians would celebrate the opening of an envelope. Any excuse for a bit less work and a bit more cake will be welcomed, including birthdays and Name Days. The following are the official public holidays.

January 1 New Year's Day & National Flag Day

February 16 Independence Day

March 11 Restoration of Independence

April 8 (2012) Easter Sunday (Catholic)

April 9 (2012) Easter Monday (Catholic)

May 1 A day off for the workers!

June 24 Joninės, or Midsummer

July 6 Crowning of King Mindaugas

August 15 Zolinė (Assumption)

November 1 All Saints' Day

December 25, 26 Christmas (Catholic)

Customs

Individuals arriving from other EU countries have no import restrictions placed upon them, although they'll need to make it known if they're arriving with more than €10,000 in cash. When arriving from non-EU countries you're entitled to bring in one litre of spirits or two litres of wine or beer plus 200 cigarettes, 100 cigarillos, 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco. You can bring 50g of perfume and 250ml of eau de toilette. You can't bring plants, meat, milk or dairy products from outside the EU except under certain circumstances. Dogs require vaccinations and passports (or other proof of vaccination). You can take home as much art as you wish tax free unless it's over 50 years old, in which case expect to pay 10-20 per cent duty. Many of the better antique shops in Kaunas can take care of all the paperwork for you. See www.cust.lt for more information.

Electricity

Lithuanian domestic electricity flows out the walls at 220V, AC 50Hz. Nearly all sockets are of the round two-pin European variety. Travellers from non-socket-friendly societies should bring an appropriate adaptor.

Floors

The Lithuanians consider the floor at street level to be the first floor, and so on.

Language

Lithuanian is a very odd language indeed. One of the oldest still spoken today albeit not standardised until just a century ago, the tongue that time forgot supposedly shares many of the same words with, of all things, Sanskrit. With seven noun cases, four declension patterns, absolutely no similarity to anything you've ever heard before and an obligation to pronounce the stress on every word in the right place to stand any chance whatsoever of being understood, getting to grips with the local lingo can take a while. Thankfully, most places where tourists congregate are now fairly English-friendly. Lithuania's rich cultural past has also left an accumulation of polyglots nationwide, with Russian spoken almost everywhere, Polish in and around the capital and German the closer you get to the coast.

Local time

Lithuania is in the Eastern European Time (EET) zone at GMT+2hrs. When it's 12:00 in Vilnius it's 05:00 in New York, 10:00 in London, 11:00 in Warsaw, 13:00 in Moscow and 19:00 in Tokyo. Eastern European Summer Time (EEST, GMT+3hrs) falls between the last Sundays of March and October respectively.

Money & Costs

The unit of currency in Lithuanian is the litas (Lt), which comes in denominations of 10Lt, 20Lt, 50Lt, 100Lt, 200Lt and 500Lt notes, 1Lt, 2Lt and 5Lt coins and a number of weightless, worthless and perfectly useless centai/centu coins. The litas is pegged to the euro at the rate of 3.45Lt to €1. Most hotels, restaurants and bars listed in this guide accept credit cards, and ATMs joyfully spew out money to any foreigner with money in their account. If you're planning a trip to the countryside however, make sure you take plenty of cash along as it can still be rather old fashioned to say the least. Kaunas is no longer the cheap city for foreigners it used to be, although it still offers value to most visitors from the West. A good night out for two in Old Town including a meal in a posh restaurant followed by drinks in a bar and a club to finish off won't leave you with much change, if any change at all, from €100.

Religion

Contemporary Lithuania is a predominantly Catholic country with almost 80 per cent of the population pledging allegiance to the Pope. Pagan Lithuanians avoided Christianity until relatively late in European history, finally converting for political reasons in 1387 in the eastern half of the country and in 1413 in the west. The country's pagan heritage can still be seen in many aspects of life including the days of the week (literally First Day, Second Day etc.), the continued naming of its female population after flowers and plants and the countless festivals throughout the year that remain very much as they were before the coming of Christianity. The area that makes up contemporary Lithuania has historically been the proud home of countless religions over the centuries, among them Russian Orthodox, Protestantism, Islam and of course Judaism, of which the former makes up the second largest population at just under five per cent. It's considered polite for men to remove their hats and women to cover their shoulders when visiting a Catholic church.

Service

Anyone who spends more than a couple of days immersed in Lithuanian life can't fail to notice just how extraordinarily indifferent if not just plain rude some public servants can be. From the middle-aged lady in the post office to the waitress in the expensive restaurant you're dining in, don't be surprised to get no eye contact, and if you do get eye contact don't be too surprised to watch those eyes roll with contempt. Even the ever-increasing examples of friendly service here often come with an ineptitude of mammoth proportions, so, if you're sensitive to these things be prepared to bite your lip and suffer. If there's a culprit at work then it's surely management, from the mandarins who oversee the large state organisations to the bar owners who can't be bothered to train their staff.

www.inyourpocket.com

Basic data

Population

Lithuania **3,225,694** Kaunas **336,817**

Ethnic composition (Lithuania)

Lithuanians **84%**

Poles **6.1%**

Russians **4.9%**

Belarusians **1.1%**

Ukrainians **0.6%**

Others **3.3%**

Territory

65,303km² Roughly twice the size of Belgium, and the largest of the three Baltic nations. Fertile lowland, peppered with many lakes. North to south, the greatest distance is **276km**, east to west is **373km**

Borders

Baltic Sea **99km** Belarus **502km** Latvia **453km**

Poland **91km** Russia (Kaliningrad) **227km**

Longest river

Nemunas **937km (475km in Lithuania)**

Largest lake

Drūkščiai **4479ha**

Highest point

Aukštasis **293.8m**

Smoking

Many popular international cigarette brands are readily available, and cigars, pipes, rolling tobacco and cigarette papers are also reasonably well represented. Local brand cigarettes are interesting, cheap and often un-smokeable. Compared to the UK, cigarettes in Lithuania are ridiculously cheap. Smoking is banned in all hotels, cafés, bars and restaurants with the possibility of a 1,000Lt fine for those who break the law. One or two venues around town provide a smoking room, although most people are forced out onto the street when they need a smoke.

Toilets

Just utter the two magic words *kur tualetas?* (where's the toilet?) and away you go. Bars and hotels happily let you use their facilities, although some have started to enforce a small charge for non-patrons. With the exception of a few non-tourist bars the vast majority of toilets are clean and are stocked with plenty of paper and soap. A ghastly relic from days gone by that refuses to go away even in many of the swankiest establishments is the provision of a filthy bucket, kept next to the toilet and used for the collection of used paper.

Visas

Lithuania is a member of the European Union and the Schengen area. Visitors from the EU as well as from 30 or so other countries including Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and the United States don't require a visa to stay for up to 90 days within a six-month period. A visa issued for any Schengen country is also valid in Lithuania. For more information, take a look at www.urm.lt.

Considered the most Lithuanian of the three major Lithuanian cities, Kaunas has always played a pivotal role in the country's history. The following is a succinct overview of the town's most noteworthy ups and downs.

5th century BC

Archaeological excavations suggest people were already living in, or at least passing through, the area now known as Kaunas.

12th century

In **1140** the Arabic cartographer Al Idrisi marks Kaunas on a map as Quaynu, Qany's or Kabnu. A small fort is built on the site of the present Kaunas Castle.

14th century

Kaunas is first mentioned in a **1361** Crusader chronicle, described as a famous fortress in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The year is considered to be the city's year of birth.

15th century

Kaunas acquires Magdeburg Rights in **1408**. In **1441** the Hanseatic League establishes a post in Kaunas. The post remains until **1532**.

16th century

With the **1569** Union of Lublin, Poland and Lithuania form a Commonwealth. Kaunas grows with the introduction of its first school and public hospital.

17th century

Continuous warfare with Russia and Sweden stifles economic development. Tsar Alexis' armies burn Kaunas to the ground in **1655**. A plague claims many of the city's inhabitants two years later.

18th century

Swedish troops seize the city in **1701**. Two large fires in **1731** and **1732** destroy many of the city's buildings. In 1795 Kaunas is absorbed into tsarist Russia.

Historical names

The national poem of Poland *Pan Tadeusz* (Lithuanian, *Ponas Tadas*) by the 19th-century Romantic poet Adam Mickiewicz (Lithuanian, *Adomas Mickevičius*) opens somewhat confusingly with the words 'Oh Lithuania, my fatherland! The fact that the Polish Mickiewicz referred to Lithuania as his fatherland serves as a good example as to just how linguistically bewildering things can get in this part of the world. It should therefore come as no great surprise to learn that the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was ruled by somebody known as both Vytautas (Lithuanian) and Witold (Polish) whose capital was known as both Trakai (Lithuanian) and Troki (Polish) and who spoke... Ruthenian. Vytautas/Witold probably ate kugel (Yiddish) and kugelis (Lithuanian) for lunch, and when he died was he buried in Vilnius (Lithuanian) and Wilno (Polish). A cause for much heated debate in Lithuania, not least among its more patriotic citizens, *Kaunas In Your Pocket* apologises for any bad feeling caused by what some may consider a misuse of some of the words used in this guide. There's not a lot we can do about it. Adam Mickiewicz incidentally was born in what's now Belarus.

650th anniversary stamps



If a Čiurlionis coin (see p.10) doesn't tickle your fancy, how about some stamps? To celebrate 650 years since the founding of the city, Kaunas has issued a sheet of three stamps featuring three buildings in the city representing a particular architectural style, namely the Old Town Hall (see p.36), Central Post Office (see p.46) and Perkūnas House (see p.40). The sheets are available for 9Lt from the aforementioned post office and are available in a run of just 20,000.

19th century

In **1812** Napoleon begins his fateful assault on the Russian Empire from a hill above Kaunas.

20th century

On **February 16, 1918** the *Taryba* (Lithuanian Council) proclaims independence. On **October 9, 1920** Poland breaks the controversial Suwalki Agreement and annexes the Vilnius region. As a result, Kaunas is unexpectedly promoted to the status of provisional Lithuanian capital and enters a short-lived Golden Age. The city becomes a vibrant centre for cabaret singers, writers and architects. Dozens of Functionalist-inspired buildings are erected, of which many remain to this day. Independence ends with the signing of the **1939** Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. Lithuania is subjected to Soviet and Nazi occupation in turn. The Holocaust in Lithuania begins in June **1941**, with the killing of Jews in Kaunas beginning a few days before the arrival of the invading Germans. The city's Jews are forced into the notorious Kaunas (Kovno) Ghetto and a massive forced labour and extermination campaign is begun. The city's Ninth Fort becomes a mass extermination camp, with over 30,000 Jews from Kaunas and places as far away as France executed at the site. Lithuania is reincorporated into the Soviet Union on **July 7, 1944**, and Kaunas becomes an important centre for technical education, medical research, transportation and manufacturing. For most of the Soviet period, Kaunas is a Closed City. Kaunas becomes a free city along with the rest of the country when Lithuania declares independence from the Soviet Union on **March 11, 1990**.

21st century

2011 Lithuania commemorates the centenary of the death of the painter and composer Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis (see p.3). The country hosts the EuroBasket 2011 competition in various Lithuanian cities between **August 31** and **September 18**.

Hanseatic Days / Kaunas City Days

May 19 - 22

Combining both celebrations in the same event, the 2011 festival should be better than ever. At the time of going to press there was no information available concerning what was happening. Previous years have involved everything from medieval-themed markets to rock concerts. See www.hanzakaunas.lt for more information.

Bike Show Millennium & Auto Show 2011

June 3 - 5

Fantastic if you like cars and motorbikes, a dirty, noisy and smelly intrusion if not, this weekend of fun and frolicking is now an established favourite in Kaunas. Events start on June 3 with a night rally, whilst June 4 sees all manner of things going on from cross-country racing to the shows of the title. The final day promises eight hours of concerts in the yard in front of the Kaunas State Musical Theatre (see p.10). Full events online at www.bikeshow.lt.

Pažaislis Music Festival

June 5 - August 28

A series of predominantly classical concerts in the fabulous setting of Pažaislis (see p.11), this is one of the highlights of Kaunas' cultural calendar. See www.pazaislis.lt for information on performances and tickets.

Kaunas In Art

June 10 - August 10

The 4th international contemporary art festival featuring works in all media including exhibitions, installations, video projections, performance etc. by artists from home and abroad. Events and shows take place all over the city and are organised by the excellent Meno Parkas gallery (see p.10). A full list of activities should be online before too long at www.menoparkas.lt.

LAB

Found inside the former Sanitas factory at (K-5) Vytauto 3 is LAB, a squatted space where people both live and organise events. Modelled on the now almost archaic DIY culture philosophy, those with an interest in this brilliant contribution to society should expect all the usual things such as vegan food, punk bands, dogs and taking responsibility for your own washing up. There's no working hours of course, no website and not much sign of an entrance. A fine anarchic addition to the life and times of Kaunas.



Kaunas Carillon Concerts



and Sunday at 16:00.

Kaunas' impressive, 35-bell carillon was made in a Belgian foundry in 1935. Located inside the tower of the Vytautas the Great Military Museum (see p.36), regular carillon concerts have been performed to an audience in the square below since 1956. Concerts currently take place every Saturday

Akacijų Alėja

July 9

The now well established outdoor festival of bards and folk music in a fabulous setting at Kulautuva some 15km west of the city, Akacijų Alėja offers a fun day out for all the family. And yes, you've guessed it, no list of performers was available at press time. Have a look at www.akacijualeja.lt nearer the time.

Kaunas Photo

August 23 - 26

Going from strength to strength, Lithuanian photographer Mindaugas Kavaliauskas' labour of love that's the now regular Kaunas Photo international photography festival opens its doors on August 23, with major events taking place over three days as well as many exhibitions going on for well over a month. Kavaliauskas puts on a good show with plenty of surprises. No surprise however is the current lack of information, which the monitoring of www.kaunasphoto.info should fix.

Eurobasket 2011

September 14 - 18

The event of the year if you're a local needs little in the way of introduction. Games take place in the city's brand new Žalgiris Arena (see p.10). A full list of matches and cities where they're being played is online at www.eurobasket2011.com.

AURA-21

September 22 - 25

The international contemporary dance festival AURA celebrates its 21st outing with a host of professional dance companies from around the world performing in conventional and not-so conventional spaces around the city. See www.dancefestival.lt for more.

Kaunas International Film Festival

September 27 - October 9

A fine international affair featuring films of all persuasions both made in Lithuania and further afield as well as discussions and other cinema-related activities. The website is at www.kinofestivalis.lt.

Kaunas Jazz

October 2011, May 2012

Arguably the best jazz festival in the country, the twice-annual Kaunas Jazz Festival takes place in venues around the city. Once again it's too early to know who's playing in either 2011 or 2012, but do expect quality performances in all genres featuring musicians from home and abroad. The spring festival is the bigger and better of the two annual events. See www.kaunasjazz.lt for more information.

Kaunas' accommodation market is slowly improving, with a few changes in the last 12 months, most notably the opening of two brand new and much needed hostels in the city centre. Whether you're staying in town on a handsome expense account or looking for somewhere cheap to lie down, the city does at least accommodate every taste and budget. Relatively affordable prices mean staying in the centre is always a good option, although be careful if you plan to stay during the summer or when there's a large festival taking place in town. Booking in advance during these times is always advisable. It should be pointed out that hotels don't update their websites as often as they change their bedclothes. Be careful when booking, as that swimming pool may no longer exist.

Symbol key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Casino	Conference facilities
Child-friendly	Facilities for the disabled
Fitness centre	Guarded parking
LAN connection	Pet-friendly
Restaurant	Central location
Sauna	Swimming pool
Fireplace	Wifi

Upmarket

Amberton Cozy A-3, V. Kuzmos 8, tel. (+370) 37 22 99 81, fax (+370) 37 22 03 55, kaunas@klaipedahotel.lt, www.ambertonhotels.com. Located in a large former residential house in a quiet Old Town back street, Amberton Cozy's swish, cream-coloured rooms come with everything you'd expect for a more than comfortable stay including cable television, minibars, free wireless internet and all the trappings associated with a four-star hotel. There's a nice restaurant famed for its open kitchen, and a plethora of add-ons from conference facilities to laundry services. The hotel is also very close to the best clutch of bars and restaurants in the city. ▶ 28 rooms (3 singles 172 - 250Lt, 17 doubles 189 - 280Lt, 2 triples 276 - 380Lt, 4 suites 224 - 330Lt, 2 apartments 310 - 400Lt). ★★★★★

Best Western Santaka C-3, J. Gruodžio 21, tel. (+370) 37 30 27 02/(+370) 30 27 01, fax (+370) 37 30 27 00, office@santakahotel.eu, www.santakahotel.eu. A fine Best Western hotel located in the heart of the city centre, find everything you need and more including superb-looking rooms kitted out with satellite television, wireless internet, minibars and luxuries like a Jacuzzi in the grander rooms. Service is spot on, and the list of extras reads like the closing credits of a Hollywood blockbuster. ▶ 92 rooms (11 singles €49 - 105, 73 doubles €60 - 140, 7 suites €75 - 85, 1 apartment €150 - 250). ★★★★★

EUROPA ROYALE HOTEL KAUNAS



*Standard and Business class rooms
for a comfortable stay...
Fully equipped Conference centre
for successful business...
Bar and Restaurant
for a lovely time...
Sauna and Jacuzzi
for inner harmony...*

*Spacious!
Stylish!
Trustworthy!*

Europa Royale Kaunas Hotel
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phone: +370 37 407500
e-mail: kaunas@europaroyale.com

EUROPA Group Hotels
www.groupeuropa.com

DANIELA

viešbutis - hotel

★★★★

MODERN HOTEL RIGHT IN THE HEART OF KAUNAS

A. Mickevičiaus st. 28, LT-44311 Kaunas, Lithuania
Ph. + 370 37 321505, fax. +370 37 321632
e-mail: reception@danielahotel.lt
www.danielahotel.lt

Daniela E-3, A. Mickevičiaus 28, tel. (+370) 37 32 15 05, fax (+370) 37 32 16 32, reception@danielahotel.lt, www.danielahotel.lt. Just around the corner from Laisvės in the heart of the city, Daniela represents the classic business class hotel complete with smiling and attentive receptionists and a well-equipped gym, pool and sauna. The rooms are plain without being dull, and feature satellite television, minibars and internet connections. Choices run the range from humble standards through to a whopping great VIP suite. ▶ 75 rooms (8 singles 260 - 490Lt, 27 doubles/32 twins 320 - 800Lt, 2 triples 420 - 530Lt, 2 suites 490 - 550Lt, 4 apartments 550 - 800Lt). ★★★★★

Daugirdas A-3, T. Daugirdo 4, tel. (+370) 37 30 15 61, fax (+370) 37 30 15 62, hotel@daugirdas.lt, www.daugirdas.lt. Located inside a beautifully restored, partially modernised building in the heart of Old Town, this glorious, atrium-style hotel offers a captivating mix of inter-war Kaunas atmosphere and state-of-the-art facilities. The rooms are all creams and browns and are packed with the essentials needed by the modern traveller. The 16th-century Gothic restaurant in the basement is a real treat to behold. ▶ 48 rooms (13 singles 260Lt, 24 doubles 260 - 320Lt, 10 suites 320 - 380Lt, 1 apartment 600Lt). ★★★★★

Europa Royale Kaunas E-3, Miško 11, tel. (+370) 37 40 75 00, fax (+370) 37 40 75 01, kaunas@europaroyale.com, www.groupeuropa.com. The pan-European Europa chain's Kaunas hotel is a vast enterprise located on a quiet street right in the centre of the city. Opened inside a large converted building in 2009, the rooms are spacious, bright and feature just about everything guests need with the sad exception of free wireless internet which is available in-room for 5Lt a day or free in the restaurant. Popular as a location for business seminars and the like, there are also a few nice touches such

as temporary exhibitions on the walls and a good spa centre ▶ 91 rooms (singles €49 - 56, doubles €56 - 65, apartments €75). ★★★★★

Hermis Savanorių 404, tel. (+370) 37 49 03 00, fax (+370) 37 49 03 01, info@hermishotel.lt, www.hermishotel.lt. A small and relatively exclusive hotel located close to where the main Vilnius-Klaipėda highway passes Kaunas, the rooms run the gamut from standard to suites and all come with everything needed for a pleasant stay. The price includes free access to their in-house wellness centre. ▶ 13 rooms (1 single 250Lt, 9 doubles 250 - 320Lt, 2 suites 290 - 390Lt, 1 apartment 360 - 490Lt). ★★★★★

Kaunas D-2, Laisvės 79, tel. (+370) 37 75 08 50, fax (+370) 37 75 08 51, info@kaunashotel.lt, www.kaunashotel.lt. An unbeatable location and by all accounts one of the classiest and most popular hotels in town with those who appreciate the finer things in life. Quality rooms await, from standards through to executive suites, all boasting satellite television, internet connections and everything you need to stay in touch. The ones with people-watching balconies are particularly fine. ▶ 85 rooms (7 singles €45 - 90, 71 doubles €55 - 101, 3 triples €90 - 113, 6 suites €101 - 142). ★★★★★

Star spangled banter

This guide uses the star system as defined by the Lithuanian Department of Tourism, in which stars are awarded for amenities offered, and don't necessarily reflect the quality of those amenities or the standard of service provided.

Sleep smart

I have a reservation *Aš esu užsisakęs kambarį*
More toilet paper please *Norėčiau dar tualetinio popieriaus*

Park Inn Kaunas E-2, K. Donelaičio 27, tel. (+370) 37 30 61 00, fax (+370) 37 30 62 00, info.kaunas@rezidor-parkinn.com, www.parkinn.com/hotel-kaunas. Providing excellent standards of service throughout as one would expect from a Park Inn hotel brand, this city centre-located offering is popular with business travellers and tourists alike. The rooms come as standards and business class with the addition of a mammoth suite on the top floor of the building. All have LCD flat screen televisions, minibars and free wireless internet, plus there's a good restaurant, bar, conference facilities, gym and sauna. The singles really are good value for their class. ▶ 206 rooms (35 singles €57, 151 doubles €63, 17 suites €83, 1 apartment €199, 2 Family rooms €63).  ★★★★★

Perkūno Namai K-4, Perkūno 61, tel. (+370) 37 32 02 30, fax (+370) 37 32 36 78, hotel@perkuno-namai.lt, www.perkuno-namai.lt. Named after the pagan Lithuanian god of thunder and located in a leafy spot on top of a hill, this family-run gem has been the favoured hotel of a range of guests for years. Additional to the superb, well equipped rooms, find a large, tranquil garden, much talked-about restaurant, conference facilities and the kind of personal care and attention from the staff that's often missing in hotels of this class in Lithuania. ▶ 29 rooms (11 singles 220Lt, 10 doubles 220 - 260Lt, 6 triples 280 - 340Lt, 2 suites 400 - 480Lt).  ★★★★★

Sfinksas K-3, Aukštaičių/V. Kudirkos 55/19a, tel. (+370) 37 30 19 82, fax (+370) 37 30 19 83, info@sfinksas.lt, www.sfinksas.lt. Tucked away on a quiet and leafy Žaliakalnis street not far from the city centre, Sfinksas provides a range of standard and de luxe rooms plus a rather fantastic apartment on two floors in a small yet comfortable setting. Facilities throughout include en suite bathrooms, satellite television, internet connections and access to the much talked-about in-house restaurant where breakfast is also served every morning. Also to be found on the premises are a small conference room for up to 70 people and a sauna. ▶ 12 rooms (2 singles 200 - 230Lt, 5 doubles 250 - 280Lt, 4 suites 290 - 320Lt, 1 apartment 420 - 500Lt).  ★★★★★

Mid-range

Alanta J-2, Alantos 33, tel. (+370) 37 73 11 42, fax (+370) 37 73 38 71, hotel@alanta.lt, www.alanta.lt. A small hotel that appears to have taken its inspiration from a 1970s British situation comedy, if you don't mind running the risk of getting electric shocks from the carpet and trundling a good couple of kilometres in and out of town this one's a very good bargain indeed. The rooms are hardly luxurious, but they're clean and the facilities are as good as you'll get in a hotel twice this price. Extras include friendly staff, guarded parking and a pool. ▶ 8 rooms (singles/doubles 130-200Lt).  ★★★★★

Centre Hotel Nuova E-1, Savanorių 66/31, tel. (+370) 37 24 40 07, fax (+370) 37 32 14 18, info@centrehotel.lt, www.centrehotel.lt. Occupying the difficult area between budget and luxury better than most in its class, find the Centre Hotel Nuova perched up on the hill close to the wonderful Christ's Resurrection Church and fairly close to the action in the middle of the city. Rooms come as Standard, Panoramic



Savanorių str. 66 / Zemaicių str. 31,
44175 Kaunas
Tel./Fax +370 37 32 14 18
Mob. +370 686 24 008
E-mail: info@centrehotel.lt
www.centrehotel.lt

CENTRE HOTEL is a new three-star hotel in the centre of Kaunas. The hotel is located in a quiet spot on the slopes of the Žaliakalnis area, just a few steps away from the main city artery, Savanorių Prospektas.

- 28 comfortably equipped rooms: twin, double, deluxe rooms and suites. All rooms and suites. All rooms boast a wonderful panorama;
- Two conference rooms;
- Mini-business centre at the Hotel reception where guests can enjoy Internet access, fax, printer, and read the latest press;
- Cosy cafe.



A small and cosy hotel
close to Kaunas Castle
and Town Hall

www.hotelmene.lt

Single and double rooms,
SAT-TV, telephone, minibar
Restaurant in a unique
16th century cellar



Hotel "Kunigaikščių menė"
M. Daukšos str. 28, Kaunas
Tel. +370 37 320800 Fax. +370 37 320872
E-mail: mene@takas.lt


and Apartments, all of them very good and the two apartments being extremely good considering the cost. Friendly staff are on hand to help with all manner of extras including a small business centre and a rooftop terrace with a marvellous panorama of the city spread out below. Unlike many hotels in its class you'll feed you when it pleases them, those with an early departure will be very happy to learn that the hotel offers a breakfast service that can be ordered starting from 05:00. ▶ 28 rooms (6 singles 120 - 140Lt, 22 doubles 160 - 220Lt, 5 triples 200 - 225Lt, 2 apartments 250 - 290Lt).  ★★★★★

Kunigaikščių Menė B-2, M. Daukšos 28, tel. (+370) 37 32 08 00, fax (+370) 37 32 08 72, info@hotelmene.lt, www.hotelmene.lt. An excellent location on a peaceful Old Town street close to many of the main sights as well as several good bars and restaurants, the smallish, good-looking guesthouse has got a really homelike feel to it. Each room comes with either hardwood or carpeted floors depending on one's taste, with en suite showers, cable television and free internet throughout. There's also a small restaurant if you're hungry, plus a pickup service from Kaunas airport for a reasonable price. ▶ 8 rooms (singles/doubles 120/150Lt).  ★★★★★

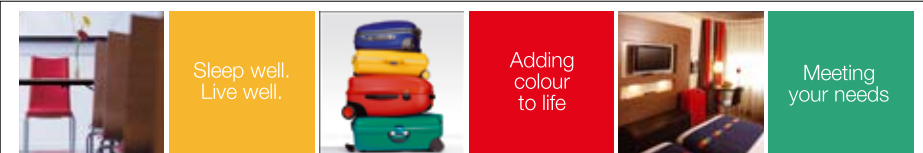
Magnus Hotel J-5, Vytauto 25, tel. (+370) 37 34 00 00, fax (+370) 37 24 08 04, info@magnushotel.lt, www.magnushotel.lt. A great little three-star hotel directly opposite the bus station, Magnus provides a choice of double and deluxe rooms, all featuring en suite bathrooms and satellite television with the added bonus of minibars in the deluxe. There's conference facilities, an adequate restaurant and a great little panoramic bar complete with outdoor summer terrace on the ninth floor. Not the cheapest hotel in its category, but pretty much unbeatable all the same. ▶ 82 rooms (82 singles 160 - 190Lt, 6 triples 245Lt, 7 suites 204Lt).  ★★★★★

Budget

Apple Economy Hotel A-2, M. Valančiaus 19, tel./fax (+370) 37 32 14 04, info@applehotel.lt, www.applehotel.lt. An excellent location just across the road from the Castle, choose from Standard or Buena Vista rooms (the latter facing the aforementioned fort) complete with a choice of shared and en suite bathroom facilities, communal internet access and even a museum showcasing the world of souvenirs in the form of bottles of Soviet-era perfume and the head of a crocodile. Bright and cheerful, it's a good choice if you plan on spending a lot of time out and about in the city and don't need too many luxuries. ▶ 14 rooms (120-180Lt).  ★★★★★

Metropolis D-2, S. Daukanto 21, tel. (+370) 37 20 59 92, fax (+370) 37 20 62 69, metropolis@metropolishotel.lt, www.metropolishotel.lt. Dating from 1899 and built by the Russian architect Nikolai Andrejev (1856-1911), the Metropolis has seen some extraordinary changes over the years but still manages to maintain much of its original charm. The reception area and staircase is worth a look at even if you're not staying here, and if you are then the rooms have, somewhat unfortunately, lost almost all of their grandeur. Free wireless internet is available throughout, plus there's cable television and en suite bathrooms. ▶ 74 rooms (10 singles 110Lt, 51 doubles 145Lt, 10 triples 195Lt, 4 quads 240Lt).  ★★★★★

Book your hotel online
www.inyourpocket.com



Park Inn by Radisson – new international hotel brand in Kaunas

- 1200 people in 8 multifunctional rooms
- 206 modern and functional guestrooms
- Restaurant Diverso with open kitchen
- Cozy lobby bar
- Fitness centre and sauna
- Spa centre
- Free outdoor parking
- Free WiFi

+370 37 306 100
www.parkinn.com/hotel-kaunas



Everything from exclusive white tablecloth dining to the classic Soviet-era *valgykla* awaits visitors to Lithuania's second city. With very few exceptions service is if not appalling then at least indifferent, so if you want to have a good time eating in the city your best option is to leave your Western expectations at home or take a few friends along to cushion the blow. What's the point in travelling somewhere different if everything's the same anyway? Tipping is only necessary in better restaurants and places where you feel it's deserved. The norm is around 10 per cent, or you can simply round up the bill.

Symbol key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Live music	Take away
Child friendly	Facilities for the disabled
Non-smoking	Wireless internet access
Smoking place	Outside seating
Fireplace	Old town location

Prices listed in the Restaurants section of this guide refer to the average cost of a main course for one, excluding drinks.

Lithuanian

There are essentially two types of Lithuanian restaurant in Lithuania. The first and most obvious variety features pigtailed waitresses in national dress serving plates of potatoes and beetroot soup in an atmosphere reminiscent of an old barn. The second is less easy to pin down, and is perhaps best described as a restaurant or café serving predominantly but not exclusively Lithuanian favourites in an atmosphere you won't find anywhere other than in Lithuania. Rather than insult the best intentions of the good restaurant owners of Kaunas and call the former of the two Folk restaurants, we choose to list both types of restaurant together.

Bajorkiemis Karčiupio, Kaišiadorys district, tel. (+370) 698 443 35, www.bajorkiemis.lt. An absolute must for families with a car, this gargantuan wooden complex is bigger than many Lithuanian villages. During the summer the place comes alive with plenty to do outside, and the vast restaurant, a sort of dream home for a local farmer who won the lottery, simply needs to be seen inside to be believed. As you'd expect, the menu creaks with hearty indigenous offerings of mammoth proportions, plus there's a gift shop to boot. Some 12km east of Kaunas on the main road to Vilnius on the right-hand side, the place is unmissable. Also at Islandijos 132 (Mega), Pramonės 6 (Banginis). ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 01:00. 16Lt.

Bernelių Užėiga A-2, M. Valančiaus 9, tel. (+370) 37 20 09 13, www.berneliuuzėiga.lt. Lithuanian white tablecloth dining featuring waiters dressed as rustic penguins and a menu of eye-catching fare. Arguably Kaunas' most famous if not beloved traditional restaurant, despite its undisputed pedigree the prices are still more than affordable. Plough through the menu at your peril and make sure you've got at least one spare hole in your belt before you start. Fine for any kind of event, from a solitary, pick-me-up potatofest over a good book to a romantic dinner for two to a fun night out with a group. Highly recommended dining for all. Also at K. Donelaičio 11, Baltų 81. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00, Thu 11:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 01:00. 10Lt.

Čili Kaimas E-4, Karaliaus Mindaugo 49 (Akropolis), tel. (+370) 37 20 97 99, www.cili.lt. The country's favourite folk restaurant chain complete with cheerful waitresses dressed as milk maids is too much for some, but if you don't mind a bit of Disney with your dinner there are few restaurants to beat them. The menu strays beyond antique food with steaks and great salads also on offer, although vegetarians might have some difficulty here. The shopping centre location is slightly naff, but take it from the experts, years of eating in these places has revealed them to be masters of consistency, a rare quality in Lithuania. Exceptionally good value too. Also at Islandijos 32 (Mega). ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 24:00. 17Lt.

Forto Dvaras M-4, K. Baršausko 66a (Molas), tel. (+370) 656 949 27, www.fortas.eu. Decent quality, unpretentious national food in moderate fairytale surroundings up on the hill way out of the city centre, the Forto Dvaras chain is hugely popular with the locals and for good reason. Although you may not be able to come up with a good excuse for fleeing to the suburbs for a bit of nosh, if you do find yourself in the vicinity it's worth popping in for a dose of calories. The menu runs the gamut of traditional Lithuanian food and is very good indeed if you happen to like that sort of thing. Also at Savanorių 346 (Savas). ▶ Open 10:00 - 21:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 22:00. 10Lt.

Keturi Metų Laikai E-2, A. Mickevičiaus 40b, tel. (+370) 37 22 32 53. Booth seating, loud music, an equally loud courtyard during the summer and a mixed crowd of hungry middle-aged folk and a younger set who appreciate the cheap beer. The food isn't going to win any awards in the near future, but it's good honest fare that usually comes in large portions and that costs peanuts considering the city centre location. Completely lacking in a folksy interpretation of traditional Lithuanian culture, this is a real taste of Lithuania indeed. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Fri 10:00 - 24:00, Sat 11:00 - 24:00. Closed Sun. 13Lt.

Leonijos B-3, Kurpių 11, tel. (+370) 37 20 38 75. Acordion music, plain wooden seating, a leisurely rustic feel and some of the cheapest and best Lithuanian food in town. Located down a flight of stairs opposite the Povilas Stulga Folk Music & Instruments Museum (see Sightseeing), avoid the lunchtime crowd if you're in a hurry and feast on gut-busting local delicacies. Interestingly they do a takeaway service here, although you have to bring your own container to put the food in. ▶ Open 11:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun. 8Lt.

Medžiotojų Užėiga A-3, Rotušės 10, tel. (+370) 37 32 09 56, www.medžiotojai.lt. A slightly stripped back menu from previous years greets diners inside what still remains a worthwhile restaurant worthy of eating in. Although their speciality dishes featuring meat not often seen on a menu has shrunk, there's still plenty to keep one intrigued. Decorated in the style of a medieval manor house, Medžiotojų Užėiga remains a favourite among locals and visitors alike. The onset of winter brings a roaring log fire into play, making this Town Hall Square-located gem of a restaurant a particularly excellent choice when the air temperature is especially punishing. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. 30Lt.

kaunas.inyourpocket.com

Bakeries

Motiejaus Kepyklė B-2, M. Valančiaus 10, tel. (+370) 616 155 99. A friendly bakery tucked away down an Old Town back street with a couple of tables and a place for children to play, this is the best place in Kaunas for fresh bread and Italian specialities. As lovely as it is, the last sampling found the bread lacking in authentic Italian flavour suggesting a misguided choice of flour. Not to say that the food isn't good, it's just not quite up to the real thing. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

Žalias Ratas E-2, Laisvės 36b, tel. (+370) 37 20 00 71, www.zaliasratas.lt. Well worth seeking out during the summer (it tends to go to sleep a bit in the winter), this exemplary folk-themed restaurant hidden away off the street of its address immediately behind the Park Inn hotel attracts a mixed crowd of locals and tourists not for its Disneyland credentials but because it's a genuinely fine place to visit. The décor is kitsch without going over the top, the waitresses scurrying about in folk costumes are friendly and the food is hearty, filling and good value for money. Surplus to the regular goings on are the occasional appearance of folk musicians on hand to serenade diners as they digest. ▶ Open 11:00 - 22:00. 17Lt.

Asian

Gan Bei City E-4, Karaliaus Mindaugo 49 (Akropolis), tel. (+370) 37 22 32 23, www.ganbeicity.lt. An interesting and by all accounts recommended menu of both Chinese and sushi dishes inside a good-looking shopping centre venue restaurant as indeed are all of their other restaurants, Gan Bei's impressive bill of fare contains over 200 items plus salads and a range of desserts. Background music comes courtesy of the kind of melodies usually heard in a wine bar and the bill at the end doesn't hurt a bit. Also at Islandijos 32 (Mega). ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 22:30. 20Lt.

Chinese

Čanas E-4, Karaliaus Mindaugo 49 (Akropolis), tel. (+370) 37 33 53 33, www.canas.lt. The first Lithuanian Chinese restaurant to introduce takeaway menus is now a firmly established chain providing hearty fare in decent sized portions to eat in or devour at a location of your choosing. The Akropolis venue is the less rowdy of the two, although the city centre restaurant listed here wins hands down for atmosphere, despite the fact the sign over the door still advertises the curtain shop that once stood on this spot. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00. 15Lt.

Fu Long E-3, Gedimino 30, tel. (+370) 37 20 84 92, www.sicuan.lt. This quiet, unpretentious restaurant has a pretty standard albeit fairly extensive Chinese menu with an emphasis on chicken, beef and pork. The meals are generally large enough to share, the staff are positively bursting with grin and the dessert menu is decidedly lacklustre, saying as much about Chinese food as McDonald's does. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. 15Lt.

Ilgoji Upė B-3, Vilniaus 13a, tel. (+370) 37 22 60 71. Reminiscent of most restaurants in China, this dim and not particularly inspiring place is all about what goes on in the

kitchen. Churning out some of the best Chinese food in Lithuania from a large menu, portions are big and come highly recommended. ▶ Open 11:00 - 22:00. 21Lt.

Pekinas H-4, Vilniaus 8, tel. (+370) 37 20 36 38, www.restoranaspėkinas.lt. A fountain by the bar, a choice of odd-shaped rooms, friendly waitresses and better Chinese food than in many other restaurants in town. The menu contains a good range of dishes, which come in ample portions for a good price. Good location too. ▶ Open 10:30 - 21:30, Fri 10:30 - 22:30, Sat 12:00 - 22:30, Sun 12:00 - 21:00. 25Lt.

Wan Sui B-3, Vilniaus 13-20, tel. (+370) 37 20 92 24. Yet another new Chinese restaurant, this one small in size and at the time of visiting packed to bursting with hungry locals tucking into average Chinese food for affordable prices. The Lithuanian waitresses look sweet in their Chinese costumes, but tend to turn sour when under duress. The incessant Lithuanian pop music and *Scooby Doo* on the television didn't help much to creating the right kind of atmosphere either. Avoid when the office crowds are eating and it does get slightly better. ▶ Open 11:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 23:00. 16Lt.

Egyptian

Ramzis II B-2, M. Daukšos 29, tel. (+370) 37 32 43 01, www.ramzis.lt. Hidden away inside a small courtyard, this place is a real find. The Egyptian and Lebanese food is simply knockout and the décor is fun. The best option is to do it properly and order a table-load of small dishes. With excellent falafel and equally good hummus, the bread lets the side down slightly, but this definitely rates as one of the city's top places to eat. A small terrace opens during the warmer months, plus there's bubble pipes and the occasional belly dancing to add further flavour, although the latter usually requires an extra payment to attend. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Mon 15:00 - 22:00. 11Lt.


Fun

Asiluko Sapnas D-2, Laisvės 87a, tel. (+370) 684 033 39. The Little Donkey's Dream is a restaurant designed especially for children. Although the furniture is full size, everything else has the air of a classroom about it, with lots of bright colours, pictures on the walls and coin-operated machines in the corner delivering toys and sweets. Despite the infant theme, it's also popular with grown-ups. The menu, which features meals for people of all ages, is predominantly but not exclusively Lithuanian. A charming and amusing diversion indeed. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. 12Lt.

Burgers

Hesburger E-2, Laisvės 48, tel. (+370) 37 20 89 90. Finland's hamburger empire has reached the shores of Lithuania and by all accounts is proving to be, for reasons that escape us entirely, something of a success. Although perfectly edible, the meat-based burgers are, in a word, odd. Their veggie burgers on the other hand are simply ridiculous, bearing no resemblance whatsoever to the universally accepted idea of what a veggie burger is and tasting not unlike a mashed potato and cabbage sandwich. ▶ Open 09:00 - 22:00, Sat 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 12:00 - 20:00. 6Lt.




some exceedingly large windows. Combo also doubles as a live music and club venue from time to time. A taxi ride will set you back around 10Lt for a one-way trip from the centre. ▶ Open 11:00 - 18:00, Mon 11:00 - 15:00, Fri 11:00 - 03:00, Sat 18:00 - 03:00. 16Lt. 

Daniela E-3, A. Mickevičiaus 28, tel. (+370) 37 32 14 17, www.danielahotel.lt. Candlesticks and fancy chandeliers set the tone for this surprisingly good hotel restaurant. Concentrating on both taste and looks, the chef does a sterling job in the kitchen preparing a range of international dishes with an interesting twist. There's a fine wine list too, plus the added bonus of a good value working-week business lunch. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 08:00 - 23:00. 25Lt. 

Diverso E-2, K. Donelaičio 27 (Park Inn Kaunas), tel. (+370) 37 30 61 00, www.diverso.lt. A bright and modern hotel restaurant, with large windows, art on the walls, pleasant, bustling staff and a range of Mediterranean and other dishes available. For a hotel restaurant this one's not bad at all, although the prices are a little high as one would expect. Perfect for pushing the boat out a bit or if you're in town on an expense account. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. 30Lt. 

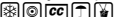
Grand Café E-2, K. Donelaičio 62, tel. (+370) 652 248 67. Inside the modern-looking business centre set back to the right of the Vytautas the Great Military Museum, Grand Café caters to a better class of diner with a wide choice of international treats including the popular roast pork with boletus mushrooms and, during the summer when the terrace opens, some splendid grilled meats cooked on the outdoor barbecue. The breakfast also comes recommended, plus there's concerts, sport on the television for big games, exhibitions and all manner of other social activities. Their small café in the Molas shopping centre also offers a weekly pub quiz. Also at K. Baršausko 66a (Molas). ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 08:00 - 17:00. 15Lt. 

In Tilsit J-5, Vytauto 32, tel. (+370) 37 21 04 05. Named after the former Prussian town now known as Sovetsk and part of Kaliningrad, In Tilsit features a beguiling menu of mostly edible dishes including Chinese food and pizza to name but a couple. A minimalist, brown-beige affair with old photographs on Tilsit on the walls, the location close to the bus station may not be the most exclusive address in town, but once you're inside you'll hardly notice. Other points of interest include live music and DJs some weekends (for which you need to pay for) and the possibility to organise children's birthday parties. If you like basketball they also screen the big games in here. ▶ Open 11:00 - 22:00, Fri 11:00 - 24:00, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. Closed Sun. 20Lt. 

Laisvė D-2, Laisvės 75, tel. (+370) 611 762 92, www.baraslaisve.lt. Yet another place to open in what appears to be a doomed building, we didn't eat here when we visited, not because we weren't hungry, we simply got bored of being stared at by the staff. Those brave enough to stick around should expect a mildly pretentious, white tablecloth affair for the serving of food by people who still think peas in mayonnaise is posh. Hopefully they'll sort themselves out as time progresses, although we have our doubts. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 23:00. 10Lt. 


lithuania.inyourpocket.com


International

Antis A-3, Rotušės 1, tel. (+370) 37 32 43 48. The translation will be lost on most, *antis* meaning duck in Lithuanian, something you need to do when descending the stairs to get inside this restaurant. A retro-chic ambience of a kind peculiar to Kaunas awaits, whilst the menu panders to an international palate without too many expectations. Notable features include an upright piano and a Rod Stewart CD. Top marks for a good value lunch and one of the best locations in the city. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. 17Lt. 

Bokštas C-3, Kęstučio 86/18, tel. (+370) 614 011 11, www.bokstas.com. Previous visits to this large and rather swanky international restaurant have found it sadly lacking in clientele, which is exactly what's needed to make a place like this really buzz. The food is pretty good, although the service could be better. If you want a quiet meal with an important client then it might be just what you're looking for. If you're after atmosphere on the other hand there are better places to drain your expense account. The good news is that during the summer they open a terrace complete with barbecue grill, which is both excellent and rather charming in the park setting. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 01:00. 24Lt. 


Combo G-3, Raudondvario 107, tel. (+370) 614 400 29, www.combo.lt. Located on the Nemunas slightly out of the centre in Viljampolė, the menu of excellent value and very good food features all your favourite dishes from grilled meat to fish to pizza. The main reason to make the trip however is for the location and the place itself. Set inside a sort of observation tower, the simple yet stylish-looking interior affords a magnificent view of the river and the city through

Miesto Sodas D-2, Laisvės 93, tel. (+370) 37 42 44 24, www.miestosodas.lt. An old Kaunas favourite, not least during the summer when they open a large terrace overlooking the park and Kaunas State Musical Theatre next door. The international menu of good value meals includes knockout steaks, fish, pasta and a few Lithuanian dishes. In keeping with the current craze sweeping the nation, Miesto Sodas organises a regular pub quiz every Wednesday at 19:00. The orange grand piano in the corner gets played from time to time by a serious-looking man with a penchant for 1970s kitsch. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 23:00. 15Lt. 

Migdolai J-3, Savanorių 170, tel. (+370) 618 888 89, www.migdolai.eu. Redolent of a bygone age, Migdolai specialises in expensive furniture, daffy waitresses and average international food that wouldn't look out of place in the Kremlin, circa 1976, all of it in a not too handy location. If you happen to be in the area and in need of sustenance, steer clear of the ostentatious-looking temptations and go for a salad with plenty of bread instead. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00. 13Lt. 

Papa Jazz K-3, Savanorių 178, tel. (+370) 672 600 20, www.papajazz.lt. For a city that can claim the best of the country's jazz festivals, a menu featuring 'crispy chicken cauliflower cream and three taste sauce' (the mind, and the stomach, boggles) and live events including Frank Sinatra tribute nights, Pappa Jazz's saccharine environment will be a sad disappointment for anyone wanting a real jazz club experience. Nil points. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00, Thu, Fri 11:00 - 24:00, Sat 12:00 - 01:00. Closed Sun. 12Lt. 

Pas Stanley B-3, Vilniaus 24, tel. (+370) 650 365 06. The owners of this intriguing, offbeat venue have obviously travelled in their time, bringing back with them a flair for doing something both different and welcome. The food is ambitious if nothing too special, but it's a great place to visit and use as either a café or somewhere to get something more substantial to eat all the same. One of the better ambiances in town, the addition of blankets on the chairs outside is a nice touch indeed. ▶ Open 09:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 04:00. 

Perkūno Namai K-4, Perkūno 61, tel. (+370) 37 32 02 30, www.perkuno-namai.lt. Finally ditching their kudos based on an award won in the distant past, this hotel restaurant slightly out of the centre has at long last caught up with the present. The menu of good international food with a few interesting twists changes twice a year, plus there's a regular weekly get-together for local foodies and wine-lovers on Friday evenings. Best of all perhaps is the garden setting. If you can drag yourself up the hill (when you're in the area to visit Sughara House for example) and the weather's fine, this really is worth checking out. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. 30Lt. 

Sadutė A-3, Rotušės 4, tel. (+370) 685 086 62, www.sadute.lt. Recommended white tablecloth dining with the added bonus of a wine expert involved in the decision-making process and located inside one of the oldest buildings in the city, this Gothic and Renaissance masterpiece with architectural elements dating back to the 16th century specialises in quality Lithuanian and international dishes using many ingredients sourced from local farmers. Dine in a choice of six themed rooms in a glorious Old Town setting including a fine little beer hall in the basement. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 02:00, Sun 11:00 - 22:00. 30Lt. 

Milk bars

Pieno Baras E-2, S. Daukanto 18, tel. (+370) 37 20 93 78. There once was a time when every town in Lithuania had a milk bar. Specialising in, you've guessed it, milk, these health-promoting places that don't sell alcohol but that do sell a range of rather bland fruit buns are all but extinct now. This place is relatively new, which comes as a bit of a surprise. Also on offer are tea, coffee, soft drinks and a few light snacks. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

Sushi

Dao-Sushi E-3, Gedimino 24, tel. (+370) 679 290 00, www.dao-sushi.lt. Yet another restaurant that's seen an opportunity and grabbed it without worrying too much about authenticity, these people churn out a colourful range of bland sushi plus Japanese soups and even rice pudding. Although cheap by Western standards, the prices here, especially when you think how much it costs to buy a sack of rice, are fairly outrageous. ▶ Open 11:00 - 22:00. 14Lt. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Sushi Express A-3, Rotušės 6/1, tel. (+370) 656 501 88, www.sushiepress.lt. Now with a new Old Town address, Kaunas' first and arguably best sushi outlet provides an excellent choice of sushi plus a vegetarian option, Japanese beer and what appears to be their own café, Café Express, next door. Whilst their original restaurant had the proportions of a small holiday caravan, in here you can sit down properly without poking your neighbour's eye out with a chopstick. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 24:00. 10Lt. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Sušų Manija I-4, Gruodžio 15, tel. (+370) 630 900 01, www.susiumanija.lt. A cavalcade of sushi options plus party sets, all inside a small restaurant next door to the Best Western Santaka. The sushi in question is of course average, and, because this is Lithuania, it's also a cocktail bar. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Fri 10:00 - 24:00, Sat 11:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. 9Lt. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Thai

Bell Pepper & Wok J-3, Savanorių 192, tel. (+370) 37 33 33 11. Oh dear. The owners probably had good intentions when they opened this strange little canteen-style restaurant serving a peculiar mix of Lithuanian and Thai food, but they certainly didn't do a lot of research when it came to preparing authentic versions of the latter cuisine. Not only is the limited Thai food on the menu barely edible, but the tables featured pickings from the last diners all over them when we visited, and the bathroom came with a total lack of soap and an overflowing bucket full of used toilet paper. A classic example of a good idea badly executed. You have been warned. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Sat, Sun. 12Lt. ☑

Valgyklas

Translating into English as dining room or canteen, the classic Lithuanian *valgykla* offers students and workers simple, hearty meals in unsophisticated surroundings at rock bottom prices. Open daily for a few short hours during the working week, the classic *valgykla* provides budget nosh and a step back in time for visitors who need to watch their pennies. Don't expect English menus or polyglots among the staff. A student in the queue should be able to help, or, if you have to, point at something somebody's already eating.

Valgykla E-3, Laisvės 23. A dying breed all over the country, this is one of the last of its kind in the centre of Kaunas, offering modern historians and budget travellers alike an experience like no other. This place, found at the top of the stairs at the back of the building, has not only dishes up classic no nonsense food for buttons but has also managed to retain much of its original décor. The lightshades on the ceiling alone are worth a visit. Magnificent. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun. 6Lt. ☎

Vegetarian

Radharanė E-2/3, Laisvės 40, tel. (+370) 37 36 29 41, www.radharane.lt. Whilst being utterly commendable for offering food from non-GM sources and attempting to provide something Lithuania badly needs, it does still require great skill and knowledge to turn ghee, spices and fresh vegetables into truly memorable food. For all of their niceties, bright orange décor and Oriental aspirations, the food here simply doesn't do the place justice. As for the pastry they use to make the samosas, they've simply got it wrong. ▶ Open 10:00 - 21:00. 10Lt. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Pizza

Čili Pica E-4, Karaliaus Mindaugo 49 (Akropolis), tel. (+370) 686 546 29, www.cili.lt. The company everybody loves to hate but who eats there anyway has been providing admirable pizzas by Eastern European standards for well over a decade. Kaunas' shopping centre-based venture overlooks the ice-skating rink, giving diners something to do whilst the waitress takes forever to serve them. The reasonably priced menu also features a handsome array of other dishes including respectable steaks and a battalion of pasta dishes. Also at K. Baršausko 66a, Islandijos 32, Savanorių 346, Pramonės 29. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00. 13Lt. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Mambo Pizza E-4, Karaliaus Mindaugo 49 (Akropolis), tel. (+370) 37 20 87 12, www.mambo.lt. Successful restaurant chains are often successful because they're very good, and Mambo Pizza is no exception. Their signature Italian dish comes with a galaxy of toppings, none of them particularly magnificent but all of them very good for a non-Italian pizza. The all-day breakfast of eggs, bacon, toast and salad is also a very nice touch, plus this particular restaurant amusingly makes a mockery of the stupid law on selling alcohol in shops after 22:00 by opening its own alcohol shop, which by being inside a restaurant isn't a shop at all. ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 24:00. 10Lt. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Pizza Jazz D-2, Laisvės 68, tel. (+370) 37 20 43 35, www.pj.lt. Started by a small group of like-minded local students back in the 1990s, Pizza Jazz now operates restaurants all over the country, none of them outstanding and a few of them probably best avoided. There are two alone on Laisvės, this one being large and loud and populated by under-25s who think pizza is the height of sophistication. It isn't of course, it's a peasant food. The other Laisvės address is by far the more civilised of the two, although neither of them make very good pizza. Also at Laisvės 106, Taikos 141, Gričiupio 9, Savanorių 349. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Sat 10:00 - 24:00, Sun 11:30 - 22:00. 20Lt. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Alėja D-2, Laisvės 72, tel. (+370) 685 416 15. Complete with a few colourful works of art on the walls, this place knows neither whether it's a café nor a restaurant. A less than gregarious welcome is likely, and the menu of mediocre Lithuanian dishes is, well, mediocre. The coffee's ok, but considering there are several better alternatives within a few metres of the front door, we're surprised they're still in business. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Arbatos Klubas B-3, Vilniaus 41, tel. (+370) 37 22 41 91. The idea of a place dedicated to tea aficionados is a good one. Unfortunately, this place doesn't quite cut the mustard, not least because despite the name it's not really a tea house. Trying to be upmarket with the aid of some ambitious flourishes of interior design, like so many Lithuanian cafés these days the owners are attempting to boost their profits by offering cheap weekday lunches, which is no doubt excellent news for budget-conscious locals but it does tend to dilute and basically spoil what could be a much better atmosphere. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00, Fri 08:00 - 22:00, Sat 10:00 - 22:00, Sun 10:00 - 21:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Caffè Mio E-3, Laisvės 31, tel. (+370) 640 442 97. A somewhat pretentious affair on two floors in the city centre, Caffè Mio is populated with the kinds of girls who hang furry Japanese kittens from their bags and men who still haven't quite got over the fact they can grow a beard. The coffee's good, the outside seating is limited and the location is perfect for watching the manifold characters of Kaunas go about their daily affairs. Also at Vilniaus 25. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sat 10:00 - 20:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Coffee Inn D-2, Laisvės 72, tel. (+370) 640 399 13. Currently the best café in Kaunas by a long shot, not only are the coffee, sandwiches and wraps sublime but there's also a pulse in here, something sadly lacking in so many Lithuanian cafés. Frequented by a predominantly arty, studenty crowd, the music's usually pretty good too. Plus there's sofas to lounge around on and even a few books to browse whilst you're enjoying yourself. Recommended. ▶ Open 07:00 - 22:00, Sat 10:00 - 22:00, Sun 10:00 - 21:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Flamenco Café & Vino D-2, Laisvės 74, tel. (+370) 620 832 77. Another welcome addition to a restaurant and nightlife scene that's changed beyond all recognition in the past couple of years in Kaunas, Flamenco Café & Vino is part café, part wine bar and part Spanish restaurant (or tapas bar to be more exact), popular with a young crowd as well as a few slightly older specimens. Specials are marked up on a blackboard, there's some great outdoor seating and there's even Spanish tiles on the floor. One to look out for in the future for sure. ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:00, Fri 09:00 - 02:00, Sat 10:00 - 02:00, Sun 10:00 - 22:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Jums D-2, Laisvės 61, tel. (+370) 37 20 37 05. Among one of the city's first proper cafés to break from the pack and offer something resembling modernity, Jums also doubles as a bar albeit one that closes depressingly early for any serious drinking. With artificial grass on the ceiling and some startling wickerwork furniture, the décor attracts a slightly upmarket crowd. The espressos are better than many and the choice of alcohol is worthy of further attention. They've also got a good reputation for their food, with the pancakes singled out for particular merit. The summer-time outside seating is ideal for amateur anthropologists of all persuasions. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 24:00, Sun 11:00 - 22:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Buffet express

If you've just read the entire restaurant chapter of this guidebook and you still haven't been served, stay calm, collect your belongings and pop into a place where the food is served piping hot and straight from metal containers.

Delano E-4, Karaliaus Mindaugo 49 (Akropolis), tel. (+370) 659 051 87. On the third floor of Akropolis and overlooking the ice rink, Delano's choice of ready-to-eat hot grilled meats, salads, desserts and traditional Lithuanian dishes is hardly an inspiration but for palatable food in a hurry it's pretty much unbeatable. There's a fairly good choice for vegetarians too, including some of the largest and cheapest potato pancakes (*bulviniai blynai*) in town. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00. 10Lt. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Lietuviški Patiekalai E-3, Laisvės 21/13, tel. (+370) 655 355 36, www.lietuviski-patiekalai.lt. Good value Lithuanian and Eastern European hot food plus a handful of strange salads ready to eat in pleasant surroundings right next to St. Michael the Archangel Church. The *cepelinai* are particularly noteworthy, plus there's also a menu of food that takes a considerable while longer to prepare. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 23:00, Sun 11:00 - 21:00. 10Lt. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Kavos Kerai C-3, Vilniaus 60, tel. (+370) 687 712 20. Fun orange furniture and dark brown fittings create a welcoming atmosphere, although the big attraction is the smell. The aroma of freshly ground coffee sneaks out the door as people come and go and almost physically hauls you inside. They also sell a good choice of excellent cakes to go with the beverages. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 18:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Kavos Klubas A-2, M. Valančiaus 19, tel. (+370) 37 22 96 69. On the same street as the City Museum and directly opposite the Japanese restaurant, Coffee Club attracts a mixed crowd of chattering ladies and a few arty types to add to the ambience. The food's ok for a quick, simple lunch and the coffee's got a kick lacking in many of the brews to be found around the city. The covered summer terrace is a superb place to unwind in quiet, uncomplicated surroundings. ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Presto D-2, Laisvės 90, tel. (+370) 37 22 10 87, www.presto.lt. An average café with average service in a location that makes up for its shortcomings. Oodles of tea and coffee are available plus a few simple snacks. The waitresses haven't yet worked out that *presto* means quick, but then why would they? ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 22:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

Vero Café D-2, Laisvės 75, tel. (+370) 618 554 02. One of a clutch of Vero Cafés found around the city, this Old Town branch is arguably the best of the bunch. A variation on the Starbucks theme and immensely popular with students, the espressos are exceptional, plus there's sandwiches, wraps, cakes and regular art shows on the walls. A few chairs and tables make an appearance on the street when it's warm. Also at Karaliaus Mindaugo 49 (Akropolis), Laisvės 45, Vilniaus 18. ▶ Open 07:30 - 21:00, Fri 07:30 - 22:00, Sat 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 10:00 - 21:00. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔



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Not surprisingly for a city with several large universities, Kaunas features a number of bars in which to sit on broken furniture and drink copious amounts of cheap beer amidst the next generation of top Lithuanian lawyers, doctors and other future professionals. Cocktail and wine bars are on the increase, although neither category reaches the dizzy heights of sophistication as witnessed in similar bars in the capital. Nightclubs remain in general either rather dull or reminiscent of a family wedding complete with paralytic teenagers and middle-aged ladies out for a good time. One or two exceptions exist, but in the main Kaunas is by no stretch of the imagination a centre of contemporary clubbing culture, although, this being Kaunas, the city does boast what many agree to be the best club in the country. Meanwhile, Blackberry-wielding businessmen with a taste for something saucy will be delighted to read that the city's womenfolk are veritable eye-candy, several of them employed in the timeless pursuit of removing their undergarments whilst spinning round a chrome-plated pole. In short, don't come to Kaunas exclusively for the nightlife, but do rest assured that you won't have to spend your evenings locked in your hotel room with only a minibar for company.


Bars


Antipop's Pub E-2, Laisvės 51a, tel. (+370) 679 148 76. Much better than it sounds, find two dark floors full of alternative-looking youngsters knocking back cheap beer and celebrating everything in music and art that's most definitely not mainstream. As well as live performances and the occasional experimental DJ, Antipop's Pub organises screenings of cult underground films, discusses literature and even puts on the occasional exhibition. Most welcome indeed. Find it through a courtyard at the back of the building. ▶ Open 18:00 - 04:00, Sun 17:00 - 24:00. Closed Mon. 

Baras 91 Islandijos 91, tel. (+370) 37 31 15 91. A truly community-spirited bar with an old-world interior, grinning locals, bags of sport of the television and an excellent choice of beers from Lithuania and abroad, there's nothing bad to say about this place really. If it did have a downfall then the downfall would be the location. It's an awfully long way out of the city centre of the main Vilnius - Klaipėda highway. Driving there is always an option, but then that means somebody can't drink. A taxi costs somewhere in the region of 15-20Lt in each direction. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00, Sun 17:00 - 24:00. 


Casinos

According to Lithuanian law, all visitors to casinos need to take an internationally recognised form of picture ID (preferably a passport) with them and register before being allowed inside.

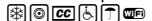
Meksika J-3, Savanorių 170, tel. (+370) 37 73 25 62, www.olympic-casino.com. If your idea of Heaven is pretty girls helping you loose all your money in pleasant surroundings, then get thee to the casino. No less than 30 slot machines and four gaming tables are to be found inside. ▶ Open 24hrs. 

Nautilus Casino E-1, Savanorių 124, tel. (+370) 37 33 82 28. Quality gambling inside Nautilus Casino means a wealth of choice including countless variations of poker, roulette, blackjack and plenty of slot machines. ▶ Open 24hrs. 

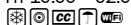
B.O. B-3, Multinės 9-1, tel. (+370) 37 20 65 42. Exactly the sort of place one imagines on every street corner in the brave new Eastern Europe, B.O. (Blue Orange) is actually a rare treat in Lithuania and a welcome find indeed. Scruffy, predominantly unpretentious and peopled by a collection of alternative 20-somethings who favour a more unprocessed kind of lifestyle over that enjoyed by the sickly-sweet MTV generation, this highly recommended bar, DJ hangout and occasional live music venue positively breathes fresh air into a rapidly improving Old Town. ▶ Open 09:30 - 02:00, Fri 09:30 - 03:00, Sat 15:00 - 03:00, Sun 15:00 - 02:00. 

Crazy House B-3, Vilniaus 16, tel. (+370) 37 22 11 82. About as crazy as a busload of Belgian pensioners, Crazy House panders to the idiot rather than the lunatic in us all. Popular with people who haven't got beyond toilet humour (as witnessed by the use of lavatories as seating), if you're a fan of whoopee cushions and Benny Hill you'll probably love this place. No doubt a hit with the stag groups, there is at least a terrace where you can drink a cold beer without the gimmicks on a good day. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. 

Ginger Bar E-2, K. Donelaičio 27 (Park Inn Kaunas), tel. (+370) 37 30 61 00, www.gingerbar.lt. Pure 21-century business-class drinking is to be had inside this swanky hotel bar just around the corner from the city's main pedestrian street. Good-looking furniture and good-looking staff set the tone for a place that due to its accommodation credentials can be either fairly lively with high flyers doing important deals whilst getting drunk or as dead as a doornail. An excellent location for a quiet drink with a fellow

suit but hit and miss for anything more substantial. If you do choose to wet your whistle here, recommended is the local Kauno, bottled light beer with a distinctively different flavour. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 24:00. 

Panoramic Bar J-5, Vytauto 25 (Magnus Hotel), tel. (+370) 37 34 00 00, www.magnushotel.lt. Let's face it, Kaunas' skyline is hardly comparable with the one in Dallas. After dark however, most cities look rather lovely when viewed from above, and Kaunas is no exception. The Magnus Hotel's in-house Panoramic Bar is also fairly unremarkable during the day, but put the two together at night, especially during the warmer part of the year when they open their outdoor terrace, and you get something worth writing about. We popped in on a Wednesday night, lured by live music, which turned out to be a man in a bad suit playing the saxophone even worse. ▶ Open 15:00 - 23:00, Fri 15:00 - 01:00, Sat 12:00 - 01:00, Sun 12:00 - 23:00. 

Skliautas A-3, Rotušės 26, tel. (+370) 37 20 68 43, www.skliautas.com. A wonderful setting in an Old Town courtyard, this is the place to come and recreate the past splendour of Kaunas' golden age during the 1920s and 1930s. Decorated in the classic inter-war Kaunas style, evenings here among some of the city's more arty types can be fun and have been known to feature everything from live (and lively) televised major sporting events to evenings of film appreciation. They also whip up a few handsome meals in the kitchen and act as a quiet and recommended café during the day. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri 10:00 - 02:00, Sat 11:00 - 02:00, Sun 11:00 - 24:00. 



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Republic E-2/3, Laisvės 57, tel. (+370) 614 434 44. Opened just after we were in town, word on the street is that this superbly located bar offers something along the lines of a British bar experience. Already popular with a mixed crowd of drinkers, among the fine choice of beers, wines and spirits on offer is Guinness Red, a strange little ale that some people simply can't get enough of. ▶ Open 23:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 23:00 - 05:00.

Cocktails

BarBar'a B-3, Vilniaus 56, tel. (+370) 612 225 22. This basement-located cocktail sensation is found packed most nights with good-looking things getting zonked on cocktails to the sounds of a range of quality DJs from home and abroad as well as the occasional live band. The cocktail list is impressive and won't break the bank. Find the entrance slightly hidden down a small flight of steps at the far end of the row of buildings next to the underpass. ▶ Open 22:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 22:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun. Entrance free - 20Lt.

Black Pearl Cocktail Bar E-1, Savanorių 124, tel. (+370) 685 091 92. Inside the Nautilus entertainment complex, Black Pearl currently opens two nights a week for the pleasure of the city's student-age and slightly older crowd. Inhabiting a place more or less between a cocktail bar and a full blown club, nights here tend to be themed, plus there's dancing to be had as well as the usual sitting around trying to look like you're in a magazine. A bit out the way, but perhaps worth dropping by for a look as part of a bigger night out. Don't turn up drunk though, as you won't get in. ▶ Open 22:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Sun.

Buzz Bar B-2, Jonavos 16, tel. (+370) 620 835 80. Jiggling barmen, mildly fashionable drinkers, D&B and other styles of electronic music played by a wide range of DJs and a pre-party atmosphere, meaning it's not really a party atmosphere here. The location on the edge of Old Town is definitely a winner, and if you're in town to admire the young ladies then you're in for a treat. Otherwise, we're not really sure what this is all about. Those who've drunk them say the cocktails are average. Thankfully there's beer on tap. ▶ Open 18:00 - 04:00, Sun 18:00 - 01:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed.

Mojo Lounge D-2, V. Putvinskio 50, tel. (+370) 699 115 00, www.mojolounge.lt. Still waiting to open as we went to press, Mojo Lounge promises a stylish lounge and cocktail bar with the addition of a terrace to watch the sunset from, and plenty of other enticements. Open three nights a week, DJs promise dance and house music, plus there's live entertainment and what the owners call Champagne Spraying. The promotional material makes it out to be more of a club than a cocktail bar, but whatever it is it looks like it's going to be riotous fun. ▶ Open 18:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Sun.

Clubs

Amerika Pirtyje F-3, Vytauto 71, tel. (+370) 655 445 50. Translating more or less as *America in the Bathhouse*, the name of a locally famous play performed in Palanga in 1899 during the years of the Russian bar on the Lithuanian language, this now legendary nightspot is all flashing lights, pounding pop music, semi-naked girls dancing round their handbags and boys worse for wear on lager and vodka. Occasionally playing host to a decent DJ or two and even staging some live music, this is Lithuanian hedonism at its most intense. ▶ Open 22:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Sun. Entrance free - 15Lt.

Ex-it D-2, Malronio 19, tel. (+370) 698 591 16. Ex-it's MySpace site counts among its friends John Digweed, which gives you a fairly instant idea of what to expect here. Vast, dazzling, painfully loud and overflowing with the type of piled-up rabble usually associated with the glory days of Ibiza, this place continues to be the place to be seen and definitely not heard in. Surplus to the aircraft hangar full of noise there's also a smaller room for hip-hop aficionados and all in all it's not really like Kaunas at all. A cracking night out and known by many, even by those who don't like it here, as the best club in the country. ▶ Open 22:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sun. Entrance 19-40Lt.

Live music

Džem'pub D-2, Laisvės 59, tel. (+370) 657 450 03, www.dzempub.lt. One of those places with a swanky lift entrance facilitating the possibility of accidentally ending up in a strip club or an empty office, if you push the right button you'll find Džem'pub. A surprisingly normal bar with a tastefully basic interior, live bands provide the evening entertainment via a decent sound system, but the killer feature is a full length window offering a panoramic view of the city. Worth a try unless you've got a problem with the colour orange. ▶ Open 16:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 16:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Sun. Entrance free-10Lt.





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
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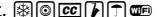
I-III - 10:00-00:00
 IV - 10:00-01:00
 V - 10:00-04:00 *from dusk*
 VI - 11:00-04:00 *fill dawn*
 VII - 11:00-22:00

Irish pub


DONELAIČIO 65, KAUNAS, TEL. +370 686 73407

Latino Baras B-3, Vilniaus 22, tel. (+370) 685 281 17, www.latinobaras.lt. Featuring Latin music that doesn't tax the brain and some of the best-looking people in central Lithuania, Latino Baras often fills to capacity with all manner of sexy wiggling beasts. The cocktails aren't the best in town, but if you're looking for atmosphere and maybe even a salsa lesson, this one remains hard to beat. Find the entrance just off the street through a glass door inside a little alcove. ▶ Open 21:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Sun. Entrance free or 10-20Lt. 

Pop Star Bar D-2, Vasario 16-osios 2, tel. (+370) 657 404 73, www.popstarbar.lt. A veritable cavalcade of DJs fill this fun-looking underground sensation with a mix of music from some of the best performers of their genres in the country. The décor is inspired by the Pop Art generation with a 21st-century twist, whilst the famed house cocktails go down a treat either in the heart of the action or in the slightly less frenzied bar area. A recommended addition to the city centre nightlife scene indeed, pedigree is ensured thanks to the place being owned by the well respected local DJ Lauris Lee. ▶ Open 22:00 - 04:00, Thu 22:00 - 03:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Sun. Entrance free-20Lt. 

Žemyn Upe B-2, M. Valančiaus 24, tel. (+370) 37 42 45 49. Dreadful location, slightly better club. Complete with a perilous wooden minstrels' gallery, small dance floor and stage, this is the kind of place where students from the countryside and their older cousins come to enjoy themselves. Although it can be fun, it's not really the kind of place worth visiting unless you've got a very good reason to do so. The attached restaurant of the same name is straight out of a 1970s Bulgarian situation comedy. ▶ Open 11:00 - 21:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 04:00. Entrance 5-15Lt. 

Wine

Piano Piano A-3, Rotušės 5, tel. (+370) 662 424 53. Cunningly hidden away underneath Sadutė and entered via the door to the right, this is one of Kaunas' more popular wine-drinking venues thanks at least in part to its super setting. Sophisticated without being too snobby, the emphasis is entirely Italian here, with all the wine coming from there as well as the menu, which is at least inspired by Italian dishes. In keeping with the current obsession with being like everybody else, DJs are known to help move things along. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. 

Senamiesčio Vyninė B-2/3, M. Daukšos 23, tel. (+370) 37 22 76 56. With the current trend among clueless and opportunistic Lithuanian bar owners to reclassify their businesses as wine bars, it's a comforting thought to learn that this place has been a wine bar for years. More than firmly established and consistently good, this welcoming establishment serves over 70 wines from around the world and also features a small menu of bar snacks and a few more ambitious dishes to help the plonk go down. There's live music on Friday evenings too. An excellent choice for a decent drink in an idiot-free environment. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 24:00. 

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Irish pubs

Irish Pub - Pikių Fortas E-2, K. Donelaičio 65, tel. (+370) 686 734 07. Open in one guise or another for a decade and a half, this massive bar on three floors was the first in town to serve Guinness and prides itself on its authentic Irish design. With a taste for the alternative, they regularly put on concerts and have been known to host the occasional tattoo festival. There's several types of beer to compliment the wines and spirits plus some very un-Irish food such as jalapeño rolls and pickled olives. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00, Thu 10:00 - 01:00, Fri 10:00 - 04:00, Sat 11:00 - 04:00, Sun 11:00 - 22:00. 

Shamrock B-3, Vilniaus 13, tel. (+370) 641 541 00. It only seems like yesterday that there wasn't an Irish pub in Kaunas. At the last count there were two. This Old Town-located one was the first to open and is a very good effort indeed. Naturally there's Guinness on hand, plus there's plenty of other tipples on which to sup and enjoy. A marvellous bar this, and the perfect option for any right-thinking, beer-drinking adventures when in town. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00. 

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Whiskey bars

Whisky Bar W 1640 B-3, Kurpių 29, tel. (+370) 623 910 15. In a slightly obscure location just on the edge of Old Town, this truly fantastic little bar betrays a gorgeous arched brick interior in which to delight in or simply get rat-arsed on a staggering 150 whiskeys and whisks from over 60 distilleries around the world. Among a list of mostly Scotch varieties are a few surprises including a much talked-about whiskey from Japan and even offerings from Wales and Sweden. The place gets its name from the year in which it was first mentioned in written sources, a historical fact that's honoured here by a number of tasting and historical events surrounding the drink. As well as the famous spirit there's also a small offering of wonderful, rare beers and ales as well as an equally small range of snacks. Recommended. ▶ Open Tue - Thu 17:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 17:00 - 05:00, Closed Sun, Mon. 

Microbreweries

For the record, our definition of a microbrewery includes bars selling beer from microbreweries scattered around the country. Enjoy.

Avilys B-3, Vilniaus 34, tel. (+370) 699 662 39, www.avilys.lt. Although many consider this recommended place to drink by beer is a restaurant, once again the meal we ate here was anything but great. Essentially a microbrewery on two floors of which the cellar is by far the better of the two spaces, Avilys makes two different beers, the light *Avilio* and the fabulous *Medaus* flavoured with honey, both of which are well worth sampling. Visitors who find themselves in need of food should steer well clear of anything ambitious-sounding on the menu and stick to the beer snacks. If they splashed out and got somebody who knew what they were doing working in the kitchen this place would be truly spectacular. As it is, it's little more than a bar with waiters. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. 

Gyvas A-3, Multinės 1/6a, tel. (+370) 684 430 99. A super little addition to Old Town and Kaunas in general, at the time of writing Gyvas offered 33 different unpasteurised Lithuanian beers from microbreweries around the country. Intimate and friendly, finding a seat can be difficult during the weekend, which can be a real problem if you're drinking some of the stronger beers on offer. As well as the opportunity to get smashed on original ale, there's also chess sets available for those who can handle their drink and sports on the television for those who can't. Find the entrance just around the corner from Rotušės. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Thu, Sun 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. 

Adult entertainment

Gentleman Strip Club B-3, M. Daukšos 14, tel. (+370) 620 519 81, www.gentleman.lt. With girls guaranteeing to make even the strongest of men's legs shake, this marvellous diversion for gentlemen who like a little slap and tickle when they relax is located inside a lovely Old Town cellar complete with hot tubs, metal poles and plenty of scantily clad babes. Among the impressive list of activities are massages, private dancing, the chance to hire the VIP room for the ultimate adventure and the chance to use a lady as a plate and eat anything you like from her body. ▶ Open 22:00 - 06:00. Entrance 80LT. 



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Apart from an ever-increasing number of business travellers and a few trifling males looking for brief moments of meaningless pleasure, most people come to Kaunas for its sightseeing, and quite rightly so. Although much of Old Town remains depressingly shabby, what renovated masterpieces there are to see are well worth the journey. Add to this medieval splendour a modicum of 20s and 30s Functional-ist architecture, some quite unique museums, a few galleries and other historical treats and you're probably going to have to book a hotel. Here's what you need to know.

Museums & Galleries

All in all there are some 40 or so museums in Kaunas celebrating everything from Lithuania's most beloved poets to the history of the country's police force, some of them located in little more than a cupboard complete with no information in English. The following represents only the tip of the iceberg.

Ceramics Museum (Keramikos Muziejus) A-3, Rotušės 15 (Old Town Hall), tel. (+370) 37 20 35 72.

The city's Ceramics Museum celebrates Kaunas' role as a provider of bricks and ceramic tiles over the centuries with the help of this small dark space inside the basement of the Old Town Hall. Having said that, most of the museum is given over to temporary exhibitions of contemporary ceramics both good and bad, whilst just two rooms concentrate on history. In the latter, which have a few helpful descriptions in English, are some fine examples of ornate bricks and tiles produced in the city over the last few centuries. Also on display is a weathervane that once adorned the roof of the building and dating from the 18th century. ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission 4/2Lt. ☒

Communications History Museum (Ryšių Istorijos Muziejus) A-3, Rotušės 19, tel. (+370) 37 42 49 20.

An interesting journey through the history of the country's communications industry, this intriguing museum starts with letters penned in Latin by Grand Duke Gediminas on the subject of the founding of Vilnius in the 14th century and goes on to highlight everything from uniforms worn by postmen in bygone days to a Soviet-era telephone exchange made in Latvia. The examples of old telephones are particularly worth a view, although a lack of English explanations runs the risk of making what could be a particularly good museum a slight disappointment to visitors who don't speak Lithuanian. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission 5/3Lt. ☒

Devil Museum (Vėlių Muziejus) D-2, Putvinskio 64, tel. (+370) 37 22 15 87.

This bizarre museum owes its existence to the eccentric Antanas Žmuidzinavičius (1876-1966) who collected over 2,000 depictions of devils from all over the world. There are wood carvings, soft toys and loads of references to the devilish influence of music and alcohol. Of particular interest are the Hitler and Stalin devils, doing the dance of death over a helpless Lithuania. Dating from Soviet times, Stalin wasn't in fact depicted as a devil, he just happens to look that way. ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission 6/3Lt. ☒

Exiles & Political Prisoners Exhibition (Tremties ir Rezistencijos Ekspozicija) F-3, Vytauto 46, tel. (+370) 37 32 31 79.

A small kiosk-looking building on the western edge of the city's former main cemetery, on the right as you enter are photographs and personal effects relating to the Forest Brothers (*Miško Broliai*), a band of men and women who fought a futile guerrilla war against the Soviet regime from 1944 to 1953 and beyond. On the left is a small display on the subject of the lives lived by Lithuanians

Essential Kaunas

If you haven't got a lot of time in Kaunas, we recommend you see at least **Christ's Resurrection Church** (see p.37), the **M. K. Čiurlionis State Art Museum** (see p.35), **Mykolas Žilinskas Art Museum** (see p.36) and the **Ninth Fort** (see pp.36 and 42). This list is of course highly subjective, and in no way reflects the expectations of every single visitor to the city. *Kaunas In Your Pocket* strives to bring you the widest range of historical and cultural sights and sensations, and is adding to the list all the time. If you think there's something missing, write to us at kaunas@inyourpocket.com and let us know.

in exile in Siberia including some more photographs and an original wooden bunk from one of the gulags. Everything is in Lithuanian only although the museum does have access to some information in English. The museum is staffed by a sweet old lady who was herself deported to Siberia with her family as a young girl. Unfortunately she doesn't speak any English. ▶ Open 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon, Sat, Sun. Admission 4/2Lt. ☒

Kaunas City Museum (Kauno Miesto Muziejus) A-2, M. Valančiaus 6, tel. (+370) 37 20 82 20.

What should be a fascinating collection of exhibits celebrating the rich cultural and ethnic history of the city from its founding up until 1940 is in reality just three small rooms, mostly labelled in Lithuanian only and that's more or less completely baffling to non-Lithuanians. What little the museum does choose to display, including some wonderful old photographs and a fine collection of items from the city's Golden Age between the wars, is enlightening, although it's what's missing that's more noticeable. Equally bewildering, upstairs is an exhibition dedicated to Vincentas Sladkevičius (1920-2000), Archbishop of Kaunas from 1989 until 1996 and a Cardinal from 1988, whose many personal possessions, furniture and other effects can be found in two small rooms. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon, Sun. Admission 4/2Lt. ☒

Kaunas County Pedagogical Museum (Kauno Apskritis Pedagoginis Muziejus) F-4/F-2, Vytauto 52, tel. (+370) 37 20 79 36.

One of the city's lesser known museums, this fascinating look into the world of Lithuanian education is divided into three main areas of schooling, namely the 19th century, between the wars and a combined exhibit looking at education under the Soviets and Lithuanian schools abroad during the same period. Truly revolutionary for a Lithuanian museum, as well as the usual collection of recreated classrooms, globes and pioneer uniforms are a series of drawers and cupboards designed to be opened by visitors and revealing all manner of surprises. Essentially designed for children, and not featuring much information in English, the museum is still worth a visit, although the help of a translator to get the full story is highly recommended. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00, Fri 08:00 - 15:45. Closed Sat, Sun. Admission 5/2Lt. ☒

Kaunas Picture Gallery (Kauno Paveikslų Galerija) F-2, K. Donelaičio 16, tel. (+370) 37 22 17 79.

Worth a look inside, the Kaunas Picture Gallery houses a permanent exhibition of 20th-century Lithuanian and Lithuanian émigré art, including a section dedicated to the Kaunas-born founder of the Fluxus movement George Maciunas (Lith. Jurgis Mačiūnas, 1931-1978). There are also temporary exhibitions, some of them excellent, and a wide range of art-related activities. ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission 4/2Lt. ☒

Lithuanian Aviation Museum (Lietuvos Aviacijos Muziejus) Vėlių 132, tel. (+370) 37 39 03 57, www.lam.lt.

A fairly substantial collection of memorabilia and some actual aircraft including a home-built helicopter, a Soviet-built flight simulator and the chance to pilot your own computerised plane. The emphasis here is on fun and education, although sadly most exhibits are in Lithuanian only. Outside, as well as a rather grotesque memorial to 21 Lithuanian aviators, find a collection of rusting jets and propeller-driven beasts including a rather super albeit rotting MIG21PF. Considering this airfield was where Darius and Girėnas were due to land after their ill-fated epic flight it's a real shame the remains of their plane are kept at the Vytautas the Great Military Museum in the city centre. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun. Admission 4/2Lt.

Lithuanian Sports Museum (Lietuvos Sporto Muziejus) A-3, Muziejus 7, tel. (+370) 37 22 06 91.

A small collection celebrating some of the country's greatest sporting achievements in a musty attic, including such rarities as Soviet table tennis balls to one of the torches used at the opening ceremony of the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Sun. Admission 2/1Lt. ☒

Maironis Museum (Maironio Muziejus) A-3, Rotušės 13, tel. (+370) 37 20 74 77.

Located in the house where Maironis (see Monuments) once lived, all this outstanding museum needs to be perfect is explanations in English. Don't let that stop you having a look around though, especially with the help of a translator. Spread out over several floors are a number of displays looking at the life of the great man himself and Lithuanian literature in general plus temporary exhibitions and a tour of a former prison that was once in the cellar. Of particular interest is a door that plays a mechanical tune when it opens and an eerie 3D picture of Christ over a bed. Also don't miss the display of Soviet- and gulag-related paraphernalia, which features some extraordinarily optimistic Soviet-era posters. Note that the wearing of a pair of daft plastic bags on your feet is compulsory here. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Sun. Admission 5/2Lt. ☒

Medicine & Pharmacy History Museum (Medicinos ir Farmacijos Istorijos Muziejus) A-3, Rotušės 28, tel. (+370) 37 20 15 69.

Enter through the ridiculously small door on the right marked *Kasa* and be prepared for a strange and sometimes sinister history lesson, albeit mostly in Lithuanian only. Set out on two floors, the museum traces the medical history of Lithuania with the help of miscellaneous books, skulls, dioramas, apothecary shops, barrels, a spooky cellar, some fabulous old machines and other detritus including some ancient packets of Aspirin. Major themes are explained in English on the walls, although detail is lacking. Despite this, a visit, which costs buttons, is worth the effort. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Sun. Admission 3/1.50Lt. ☒

Tourist Information

Kaunas Regional Tourist Information Centre

E-2, Laisvės 36, tel. (+370) 37 32 34 36, info@kaunastic.lt, www.kaunastic.lt. Information on things to see and do in the city and surrounding area as well as information and advice on places to stay. Also at Kaunas Airport, Vytauto 24, K. Donelaičio 27 (Park Inn Kaunas), M. K. Čiurlionio 16, Papiilio 17. ▶ Open (May and Sep) 09:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun. Open (Jun - Aug) 09:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 10:00 - 15:00. Lunch 13:00 - 14:00. Open (Oct - Apr) 09:00 - 18:00, Fri 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun. ☒

Mega Aquarium



At 10 metres in height, the extraordinary aquarium inside the city's Mega shopping centre is the tallest marine aquarium in the Baltic States, which when you also find out it's 11 metres in length and four metres wide really does make it a huge fish tank. Taking pride of place in the central part of the building the now infamous aquarium is worthy of a trip to the Mega on its own. Holding 170,000 litres of water and therefore necessitating massively thick, 30cm glass, the aquarium contains over 30 different kinds of fish from the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, the Red Sea, the Mediterranean and the Caribbean Sea, in total numbering some 800 tropical fish and six sharks. The coral comes from South Africa and the whole thing took three months to create with the help of specialists from around the world. Feeding time takes place daily at 10:00 and 17:00 with a further feeding on Saturdays at 13:00. There's also the opportunity if you're lucky to see divers swimming around inside from time to time. For information on how to get to Mega, see the listing on p.47.

M. K. Čiurlionis State Art Museum (M. K. Čiurlionio Valstybinis Dailės Muziejus) D-2, V. Putvinskio 55, tel. (+370) 37 22 94 75.

Painter, composer, mystic and depressive are some of the words that have been used to describe the nation's favourite painter and composer. During his short lifetime, the Polish-speaking Čiurlionis (1875-1911) penned the first Lithuanian symphony, *Miške* (In The Forest, 1901), painted prolifically, dabbled in photography and even found time to get married, have a daughter and learn Lithuanian. The museum features many of his original paintings and offers the chance to sit in a small lecture theatre and listen to his music. Various posters, postcards and CDs of his work are on sale here for reasonable prices. The museum also houses a small exhibition of work by some of his contemporaries, including a series of bizarre sculptures made from tree bark and sewn together by Elžbieta Daugvilienė (1886-1959). ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission 6/3Lt. ☒

Mykolas Žilinskas Art Museum (Mykolo Žilinsko Dailės Muziejus) E-3, Nepriklausomybės 12, tel. (+370) 37 22 28 53. The former private collection of the Lithuanian art collector Mykolas Žilinskas (1904-1992) is now in the hands of the M. K. Čiurlionis State Art Museum, who exhibit it and other works inside this unlikely-looking building. On three floors, the museum features both applied and pure art from Europe and Asia from the 17th to the 20th century including some fine Flemish tapestries, Japanese porcelain and a Rubens that might not be a Rubens. Among the many splendid works of note are a knockout decorative plate from 1926, *Baltars* (The Wedding) by the Latvian artist Romans Suta (1896-1944) and Leonardo Coccorante's (1680-1750) moody painting *On the Coast of the Stormy Sea*. ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission 6/3Lt. [G]

Ninth Fort Museum (Devintojo Forto Muziejus) Žemaičių Plentas 73, tel. (+370) 37 37 77 50. The last of the defensive forts built in and around Kaunas to protect the westernmost point of the Russian Empire, work began on the Ninth Fort in 1902 and was completed on the eve of WWI. In 1924 it was turned into a prison, serving this purpose under the Lithuanians, Soviets, Nazis (who along with their willing Lithuanian cronies used it as an extermination camp, see Jewish Kaunas for more) and then the Soviets again for a few years after WWII. The museum was established in 1958, and has grown over the years to include exhibitions on all aspects of the building's gruesome history. Even a short tour takes over an hour, but the effort involved in getting here and spending time taking everything in is more than worth the effort. Most things are labelled in English and guided tours can also be booked in English. Compelling and highly recommended. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Tue. Admission 5/3Lt.

Old Town Hall



Old Town Hall & Town Hall Square (Miesto Rotušė ir Aikštė) A-3.

Begun in 1542 and predominantly late-Baroque in style with elements of early Classicism and Gothic architecture, the swan-like Old (as in former) Town Hall has been used as an ammunition dump, a prison, a palace, a Russian theatre, a church and a club of ill repute over the centuries and is today used as a wedding palace as well as a place to host formal occasions and as the home of the city's Ceramics Museum. The telescopic-looking tower is 53 metres high, thrusting above the marvellous open square in which it takes pride of place. Originally it housed a few shops on the ground floor, while municipal functions took place on the floor above and prisoners were locked up in the basement. The place was given a makeover in 1780 under the direction of the architect Jan Mattekier. Among other things, statues of Lithuania's Grand Dukes were added but they vanished before the place was turned into a church in 1824. In 1837 the Russians decided to change the building into a road house for the tsar, then from 1869 until WWII it was again used as municipal offices. In 1969 the building got another facelift courtesy of the architect Zibartas Simanavičius, and in 1973 it was returned to the municipality. Now its main function is as a wedding hall. Showing up on a Saturday to see the parade of brides, balloons and fancy cars is well worth the trip. The square in which it's located was originally the centre of economic life in the city. The foundation stone was laid on July 28, 1542, and the square now serves as a popular meeting and greeting place during the hot summer months. [G]

Povilas Stulga Folk Music & Instruments Museum (Povilo Stulgos Lietuvių Tautinės Muzikos Instrumentų Muziejus) B-3, L. Zamenhofo 12, tel. (+370) 37 20 68 20. A positively charming museum made even more appealing by the smiling and helpful ladies who look after it, spread out over two separate buildings is a humble but fascinating collection of aerophones, idiophones, membranophones, chordophones and electronophones used extensively although not exclusively in Lithuanian folk music. Among the countless fine examples of horns wrapped in bark, flutes fashioned from birds' feathers, accordions, *kanklės* and harmoniums are some real gems, perhaps most notably a *stalo boselis* dating from 1963, a bizarre, three-stringed bass instrument made from a table and a pig's bladder. As you enter each room a recording of the instruments on display is played to add to the effect, plus there's a limited but helpful amount of information in English. Named after the Lithuanian musician and ethnomusicologist Povilas Stulga, the museum may not be to everyone's taste but for anyone with an interest in music and folk culture the place really is recommended. ▶ Open Tue-Sat 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun, Mon (Oct-Mar). Open Tue-Sat 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun, Mon (April-Sept). Admission 4/2Lt. [G]

Stumbras Museum (Stumbro Muziejus) K. Būgos 7, tel. (+370) 686 943 88, www.stumbras.lt. Lithuania's largest producer of alcoholic spirits started making vodka in 1906 in a factory built in Kaunas at the personal decree of Nicholas II, and has been manufacturing it and other spirits almost without a break to this day. Located just behind the bus station, the factory features a small museum that makes up part of a bigger tour of the factory that shows how their products are made. Like all good alcohol-production tours, the excursion ends with a tasting session. The museum also has a small shop where products made in the factory can be bought. All visits must be booked in advance. ▶ Open by appointment only. Admission/tours 18-60Lt.

Tadas Ivanauskas Zoological Museum (Tado Ivanausko Zoologijos Muziejus) C-2, Laisvės 106, tel. (+370) 37 20 02 92, www.zoomezujus.lt. Named after the famed zoologist and biologist Tadas Ivanauskas (1882-1971), find three magnificent if slightly old-fashioned floors containing no less than 172,696 former living things at the last count, among them display cases full of beautiful butterflies, large, frightening snakes plus some rather vacant-looking stuffed monkeys and penguins. Like many of its contemporaries, the museum continues to ignore the fact that there are plenty of visitors to Kaunas who don't speak Lithuanian or Russian, although if you're looking for something to keep children amused for a while this won't really matter. ▶ Open 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Admission 5/3Lt. [G]

Vytautas the Great Military Museum (Vytauto Didžiojo Karo Muziejus) D-2, K. Donelaičio 64, tel. (+370) 37 32 09 39. A maze-like confusion of musty rooms on two floors, crammed with exhibits aimed at enlightening visitors on the subject of Lithuania's military history over the past several centuries. It almost goes without saying that no help has been given to non-Lithuanian speakers, meaning once again that yet another potentially interesting museum is more or less off limits to those who don't speak the local lingo. Among the confusion on the top floor is one exhibit worth the entrance fee, namely the wreck of the local aviation heroes Darius and Girėnas' doomed little orange aeroplane *Lituania* and the horrific, sewn-back-together suits that the two pilots were wearing when the aircraft they were piloting crashed under mysterious circumstances in 1933 whilst attempting to fly non-stop to Kaunas from the United States. The area around

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the building features numerous monuments relating to the museum and other Lithuanian events and is worth exploring. The year 2011 sees the 90th anniversary of the museum, an event celebrated with the opening of two new exhibits. Warfare in Pre-Historic Times contains a display of artefacts such as hatchets and arrowheads found in the area dating back to the 13th century, whilst the History of Warfare of the Lithuanian Grand Duchy of the 13th-17th centuries includes maps of the country during these times and famous battle scenes depicted in oils among much else. ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission 4/2Lt. [G]

Churches

Body of Christ Church (Dievo Kūno Bažnyčia) B-3, Vilniaus 31/1. Completed in 1690 and consecrated 10 years later, this often overlooked Baroque church next to the underpass connecting Old Town with the newer part of the city provides an interesting insight into the mindset of the occupying Soviets. Yet to be restored to its former glory, enter through the small door in the courtyard and have a look around. Used as a cinema among other things during the darkest days of atheism, much of the remaining Soviet-era glass and metalwork remains inside. The crumbling external features reveal a few tell-tale signs of the city's past, including the just visible *Garnisonkirche* sign on the south-facing wall implying that the building was once used as the official house of worship for the German army probably during WWI. ▶ [G]

Carmelite Church of the Holy Cross (Kauno Šv. Kryžiaus Karmelitų Bažnyčia) E-4, Gedimino 1, tel. (+370) 37 20 13 40, www.karmelituparapija.lt. Built on the site of an older church dating from the start of the 16th century, local historians are of the general opinion that this

often overlooked masterpiece once stood in a place called Kaunakiemis, now long since incorporated into the city's boundaries. Building work on the current structure began on July 23, 1685 under the auspices of Kazimieras Žodkevičius, supposedly to a design by one of the architects who worked on the Pažaislis complex, and was completed 15 years later. Featuring two distinctive towers that weren't completed until the end of the 19th century, the cross-shaped Late Baroque church hides a wealth of chapels, frescoes and other works of art inside added over the centuries. ▶ Mass 08:00, 18:00, Sat 10:00, 18:00, Sun 08:30 (Polish), 09:40, 10:00, 11:30, 18:00. [G]

Christ's Resurrection Church (Kristaus Prisikėlimo Bažnyčia) E-1, Žemaičių 31b, tel. (+370) 37 22 92 22, www.prisikelimas.lt. This extraordinary white church towering over the city came about through an idea for a house of worship in praise of Lithuanian independence in 1922. Work began over a decade later to a design by the Latvian architect Kārlis Reisons (1894-1981) who also designed the city's Vytautas the Great Military Museum among other notable Kaunas buildings, although it wasn't finished and consecrated until 2004. The main tower reaches 70m into the heavens and the plain albeit strangely moving interior has enough room for 3,000 worshippers. Used as a warehouse by the Nazis and a radio factory by the Soviets, the building was eventually handed back to the Catholic Church around the time of the country's second independence in 1990 when work once again started on its completion. Outside and to the left are six graves, of which four are, somewhat bizarrely, empty. The other two hold the remains of Vytautas Kazlauskas (1919-2008), a Lithuanian priest who spent years working in the Vatican and Mykolas Krupavičius (1885-1970), another local gentleman of the cloth notable for his nationalist tendencies. ▶ Mass 18:00, Sun 09:30, 11:00, 12:30, 18:00. [G]

Kaunas Tourist Card

City cards are a bit of a lottery and we haven't had any feedback about the recently introduced Kaunas Tourist Card, so here's a short and entirely objective overview based on the promotional material. Valid for seven days, the Kaunas Tourist Card costs 68.99Lt and includes an e-ticket for public transport (which appears to be valid for just three days for some reason), an e-wallet to the value of 30Lt for museums, and a third part entitling card holders to discounts in a number of bars and restaurants around the city. Kaunas Tourist Cards can be purchased from the Kaunas Regional Tourist Information Centre (see p.35) or from many hotels and museums. From the look of it, if used wisely it does appear to offer good value for money.



Vytautas the Great Church of the Accession of The Holy Virgin Mary

Holy Revelation Church (Šv. Apsireiškimo Bažnyčia) F-3, Vytauto 38, tel. (+370) 37 20 95 63.

The city's Russian Orthodox Cathedral, functioning as the country's primary house of worship for the faith between the wars, stands next to its predecessor in the park immediately northwest of the bus station. Built between 1932 and 1935, the petite structure contains the usual array of golden icons plus a glorious painting of the Madonna from the Orthodox monastery in Sudervė near Vilnius and dating from about 1530. Its next door neighbour dates from 1850 and was built by unknown architects from St. Petersburg. A monument from 1923 stands outside, commemorating local Russian soldiers who died during WWI. ▶ Mass Wed - Sun 09:00, Sat 16:00. ☒

St. Francis Xavier Church & Jesuit Monastery (Šv. Pranciškaus Ksavero Bažnyčia ir Jėzuitų Vieniūlynas) A-3, Rotušės 7, tel. (+370) 37 30 29 98/423 098.

Completed in 1666, up in flames in 1732 and finally consecrated in 1759. A monastery and college were built a decade later, just five years before the Pope decided to abolish Jesuit Order altogether. The resident monks hung around for a while longer before the ensemble was handed over to the Franciscans. In 1843, the church changed hands again, this time becoming the property of the Russian Orthodox Church, when it became the city's Alexander Nevski Cathedral. After WWI the Jesuits returned to Lithuania from Germany and reclaimed the church, and the monastery became a high school. During the Soviet occupation, the monastery buildings were used as a technical college, the interior of the church as a sports hall, the crypts as a sauna and the church attic housed a shooting gallery no less. The church was returned to the Jesuits in 1990, and was consecrated once again in 1992. ▶ Mass 17:00, Sun 10:00, 12:00, 17:00. ☒

St. George's Church & Bernardine Monastery (Šv. Jurgio Kankinio Bažnyčia ir Bernardinų Vieniūlynas) A-2, Papilio 9, tel. (+370) 37 22 46 59.

You can't really appreciate this forlorn-looking Gothic building without taking into account its history. It's had a rough ride since its beginnings in 1487. It's been ruined by fire three times, suffered the wrath of the Moscow army during the war of 1656-1659 and then had a bit of a rest during the 18th century before Napoleon turned it into a warehouse. During Soviet times, the church was used to store medicine. It was returned to the Friars in 1993 in a pretty shabby condition, and restoration of its outstanding if run-down Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque interior has been slow to say the least. Ongoing restoration work has seen the addition of a new roof although the church itself remains locked for the foreseeable future. ▶ Mass Sun 10:30. ☒

St. Gertrude's Church (Šv. Gertrūdos Bažnyčia) C-2/3, Laisvės 101a, tel. (+370) 37 22 99 65.

One of the oldest surviving Gothic buildings in the country, this compact beauty hidden away through a small gateway on the southern side of the western end of Laisvės was probably built during the second half of the 15th century with the belltower added some time later. Damaged several times throughout its history including during the 17th-century Russo-Polish War (1654-1667) and again during the fire of 1812, the church is perhaps best known today as the site of a shrine, two separate rooms at the back of the building filled with candles that burn around the clock. ▶ Mass Mon, Tue, Fri 18:00, Wed, Thu 17:00, 18:00, Sat 10:00, Sun 09:00, 11:00. ☒

St. Michael the Archangel (Šv. Archangel Mykolo Rektoratas) F-2/3, Nepriklausomybės 14, tel. (+370) 37 22 66 76.

Sat splendidly at the far eastern end of Laisvės, the imposing St. Michael the Archangel, known in the local vernacular as *Soboras* (the Lithuanianised rendition of the Russian word for cathedral, *sobor*), started life in 1893 as a Russian Orthodox Cathedral, which explains its classic neo-Byzantine design, albeit with the unusual inclusion of Corinthian columns. Originally built for the Russian soldiers based in the city, the church was handed over to the (Catholic) Lithuanian army at the end of WWI and with the exception of an incarnation as an art gallery during the Soviet occupation has been a military church all its life. The church's catacombs have been turned into a Blind Museum and can be found just to the right of the main entrance. At the time of writing the exterior is in bad need of a fresh coat of paint. ▶ Services 12:00, Sat 10:00, Sun 10:00, 12:00. ☒

Sightseeing tours

Mūsų Odisėja A-2, M. Valančiaus 19, tel. (+370) 37 40 84 10, info@turinfo.lt, www.musoidiseja.lt. Sightseeing tours in Lithuanian, English, German, Japanese, French and Russian. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00.

Saitas E-2, K. Donelaičio 26-1, tel. (+370) 37 32 31 51, www.saitas.lt. English- and German-language walking and bus tours of the best sights in Kaunas. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun. ☒

Sts. Peter & Paul's Cathedral-Basilica (Šventų Apaštalų Petro ir Povilo Arkikatedra Bazilika) A-3, Vilniaus 1, tel. (+370) 37 32 40 93. Dating back as far as 1408 and receiving basilica status in 1921, Sts. Peter & Paul's is the largest Gothic structure in Lithuania as well as the country's only Gothic church with a basilica floor-plan as opposed to the usual cross-shaped design. The breathtaking interior, which stands among one of the most beautiful of its kind in the country, boasts nine separate altars with the high-Baroque main altar being the central focus. The Cathedral is also the final resting place of two politically active, religious writers. Along the south wall find the tomb of Maironis (1862-1932), a priest and poet who some consider one of the founding fathers of modern Lithuanian poetry. Also within the crypt are the remains of Bishop Motiejus Valančius (1801-1875), best known for his contributions to the then illegal printing and distribution of books in Lithuanian. The light Renaissance and Baroque touches are the result of renovations from the middle of the 17th century. Entrance is, somewhat strangely, through sliding glass doors on the Vilniaus side of the building. ▶ Mass 07:00, 08:00, 09:00, 18:00, Sun 08:00, 09:00, 10:30, 12:00, 13:30, 18:00. ☒

Vytautas the Great Church of the Accession of The Holy Virgin Mary (Švč. Mergelės Marijos Ėmimo į Danguį (Vytauto Didžiojo) Bažnyčia) H-5, Aleksoto 3, tel. (+370) 37 20 38 54.

Like most churches in the country, this house of worship is a condensed history lesson. The Gothic structure was built by Franciscan monks at the beginning of the 15th century with the tower added a little later. Invaders took advantage of its central location, first by the Napoleonic army who stored ammunition in it before setting fire to it during their frantic flee during the winter of 1812, and then by the Russians who used it as an Orthodox church between 1845 and 1853. The church, whose interior features a beguiling mix of Gothic arches and even an electronic organ, was returned to the Catholic Church in 1990. The famous Lithuanian political activist and writer Juozas Tumas-Vaižgantas (1869-1933) is buried here. Note the water level gauge by the side entrance, which records a Nemunas water level of 2.9m on March 24, 1946. ▶ Mass Tue - Fri 18:00, Sat, 10:00, 18:00, Sun 10:00, 12:00, 18:00 (18:00 except July, Aug).

Places of interest

Historical Presidential Palace (Istorinė Lietuvos Respublikos Prezidentūra Kaune) C-2, Vilniaus 33, tel. (+370) 37 32 05 89, www.istorineprezidentura.lt.

This 1826 Neo-Baroque building that served as Lithuania's Presidential Palace between the wars features a permanent exhibition of miscellaneous president-related things including documents, coins, stamps, and personal effects of the three officially recognised Lithuanian presidents to serve during the inter-war period. The Palace also puts on some interesting temporary shows that are worth checking out and the inside of the building is worth a peep inside in itself. In the garden is a display of large black and white photographs plus three statues of presidents Aleksandras Stulginskis (1920-1926) Kazys Grinius (1926), and Antanas Smetona (1920, 1926-1940), who took absolute control of the country for a second time after the coup d'état of December 1926 and whose personal umbrella can be found among the exhibits inside. ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission 4/2Lt. ☒

Kaunas Castle (Kauno Pilis) A-2, Papilio. The city's 13th century Castle, probably built by Kęstutis to defend the road to Trakai, was the country's first defensive bastion and the only double-walled castle in Lithuania. The surrounding walls were initially over two metres wide and 13m high. Unlike most other castles of the time this one was made of stone,

not wood. However, in 1362, after a siege, the Teutonic Knights managed to destroy it, although local legend has it that the Castle was not destroyed and that 36 survivors remained. These survivors along with the Knights are allegedly still burning in an eternal fire which can only be extinguished by an innocent person entering the Castle via a secret cave. However, history books dictate that it was destroyed and its replacement, some of which can be viewed at the site today, was built by 1368. The Castle has been modernised with sleek glass windows enclosing the top, and is sometimes home to art exhibitions. The building recently received a 1.16Lt million facelift, which included the restoration of several architectural elements as well as the construction of a traditional wooden bridge over the former moat. ☒

Napoleon's Hill (Napoleono Kalnas) Piliakalnio. From this tiny little hill in Panemunė Napoleon allegedly watched his massive Grande Armée of 690,000 troops cross the Nemunas into Russia at the start of his ill-fated attack on the Russian Empire in 1812. There's little, if nothing at all to see or do here, although for fans of great military campaigns of history it certainly has some value. To get there, take bus N°25 from Kaunas Castle and get off at the Geležinkelio Pervaža stop (at the bottom of the hill).

Old Town (Senamiestis) Covering a total of 106 hectares, and dominated by a majestic, often crumbling mix of Gothic and Renaissance-styles with a cluster of 16th-century merchant houses around the Town Hall, Old Town is not to be missed. The main street, Vilniaus, was in its day back in the 13th century a highway linking the city with Vilnius. ☒

The world's longest bridge

Vytautas the Great Bridge (Vytauto Didžiojo Tiltas) A-3.

An important crossing point over the Nemunas for centuries, miscellaneous contraptions have existed where the current Vytautas the Great Bridge, known locally as the Aleksotas Bridge (Aleksoto Tiltas) stands, although it wasn't until 1914 that a permanent structure was finally put in place. The current bridge dates from 1948, as can be witnessed by the rare examples of hammers and sickles placed on it (pictured), although much of its Soviet charm was removed after a 2005 reconstruction. The 256m-long, 16m-wide beauty was at one time known among local wags as the longest bridge in the world thanks to the observation of different calendars by the different empires living at either end of it. Between the Third Partition of 1795 and the region's absolute incorporation into the Russian Empire in 1815, when the southern side of the river was part of Prussia (1795-1807) and the short-lived Duchy of Warsaw (1807-1815), the river marked the boundary between the Julian and Gregorian calendars, in effect making the short trip across it take 12 days.



Scot

Perkūnas House (Perkūno Namai) A-3, Aleksoto 6, tel. (+370) 37 30 2994. One of the most original examples of late Gothic secular architecture in Lithuania, Perkūno Namai was built by Hanseatic merchants at the end of the 15th century. During its time it's served as a Jesuit chapel, a warehouse, a school, a repository for Soviet knickknacks and is now back in the hands of the Jesuits who use it for school art classes. It was also famously visited by the Romantic poet Adam Mickiewicz (Lith. Adomas Mickevičius, 1798-1855). The building is named after the Lithuanian pagan God of Thunder, Perkūnas, after a statue of the deity was allegedly found hidden in the walls of the building during its reconstruction in the 19th century. ▶ By appointment only. [G]

Vytautas the Great Mosque (Vytauto Didžiojo Mečetė) F-3, Totorių 3. The Grand Duchy of Lithuania's wars with the Golden Horde along the Black Sea coast led to Vytautas the Great's resettlement of various Tatars in Lithuania from the end of the 14th century onwards. The Islamic Tatars, or Lipka Tatars as the Tatars from Lithuania and Poland are known, have been living in the region ever since, although their contemporary population is worryingly small as the younger members of the community rapidly assimilate into mainstream Lithuanian society. Kaunas' Lipka Tatar community built this fine-looking mosque in 1930 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Vytautas' death to a design by Vaclavas Michnevičius (Polish, Wacław Michniewicz) and Adolfas Netyksas. As befell the fate of most religious buildings during the Soviet occupation of Lithuania, the mosque was converted to other uses (in this case as a circus and then a storage library) before being restored to its original use. Stepping inside is something of a shock for those who've been visiting churches all day, reminding one more of Kabul than Kaunas. Interestingly, new life is being breathed into the mosque thanks to a new wave of Muslim immigrants to the city. [G]

Out of town



Open Air Museum of Lithuania (Lietuvos Liaudies Buities Muziejus) J. Aiščio 2, Rumšiškes, tel. (+370) 346 473 92, www.llbm.lt. Covering a total of 176 hectares, find a collection of old houses, farms, schools, pubs and mills representing the major regions of the country from the 19th and 20th centuries, all brought from around the country and reassembled into this extraordinary little theme park. Complete with the flora specific to these regions, as well as the architectural splendour of the place this is also a living museum, often featuring men and women in traditional costume, baking bread and making pots in the traditional manner. There's even a complete village in there somewhere. Buses leave from the bus station, some going straight to the museum. Alternatively take any Vilnius-bound bus, get off at the Rumšiškes stop, and walk the final 2km. To get there by car, simply point your machine towards Vilnius and keep driving until you see the signs for the museum. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Tue (May 1 - Sept 30). Admission 10/5Lt.

Monuments

Book Smuggler (Knygnešys) D-2, Vieniybės Aikštė. Unveiled in 1928 to commemorate the *knygnešiai* (book smugglers) who risked their freedom and sometimes even their lives illegally importing books in the Lithuanian language into the country from East Prussia during the Russian print ban between 1864 and 1904, this lovely little brass monument is the work of the Lithuanian sculptor Juozas Zikaras (1881-1944). [G]

Freedom Monument (Laisvės Statula) D-2, Vieniybės Aikštė. The recognised symbol of Lithuanian statehood first appeared in 1928 but was destroyed by the Soviets. Rebuilt in 1989 it stands among a collection of statues leading to one of the few remaining eternal flames in the region. [G]

Maironis A-3, Rotušės Aikštė. Born Jonas Mačiulis in Šiluva about 100km northwest of Kaunas, Lithuania's most famous poet, Maironis (1862-1932) was also a priest and active member of the Lithuanian National Revival movement whose nationalist sentiments made him not too popular with the Soviets who had to be hoodwinked into allowing this monument to go up at all. Unveiled in 1977 and the work of the sculptor Gediminas Jokūbonis (1927-2006), the granite statue of Maironis in religious garb was made from photographs of the man and is interesting in that it features no cross and that the poet's arm is positioned so as to cover his dog collar. [G]

Man (Žmogus) E-3, Nepriklausomybės Aikštė. Unveiled in 1991 and the work of the Lithuanian sculptor Petras Mazūras (b. 1949), this peculiar-looking naked fellow is supposed to symbolise the beauty of man's soul and body as well as to welcome all with open arms to the museum he guards. During its, ahem, erection, the sculpture allegedly outraged the crane driver helping put him in place to such an extent that he walked off the job. [G]

Ninth Fort Monument (Devintojo Forto Statula) Žemaičių Plentas 73. In a word, astonishing, this extraordinary and gargantuan Soviet-era reinforced concrete memorial to the 30,000 Jews and others from Lithuania and abroad who were brutally murdered here during the Holocaust stands 32m high and at least three times as wide. The work of the sculptor A. Ambraziūnas, the monument was unveiled in 1984 on the site of the mass grave where the victims of the Nazis and their Lithuanian henchmen met their tragic fates.

Sacrifice Field (Aukos Laukas) D-3, Miesto Sodas. The memorial to the 19-year-old student Romas Kalanta who, on May 14, 1972, set himself on fire on this spot to protest against the Soviet system. Called *Sacrifice Field*, it was officially unveiled 30 years to the day after the event and is made up of cast iron sheets representing the burnt pages of history and 19 stones symbolising the years of Kalantas' brief life. May 14 is now the National Day of Civil Resistance. [G]

Vytautas the Great (Vytautas Didysis) D-2, Laisvės and Vasario 16-osios. Vytautas the Great (Polish, Witold Kiejstutowicz, 1350-1430) was among other things the Grand Duke of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the soldier at the vanguard of the 1410 Battle of Grunwald (Lithuanian, Žalgiris. German, Tannenberg), one of the greatest battles in medieval Europe. This copy of an original was unveiled on August 23, 1990, interestingly the anniversary of the secret signing of the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, and has Vytautas standing triumphant if not somewhat bizarrely over a defeated German, Pole, Russian and Tartar. The original monument was

designed by the Lithuanian sculptor and political activist Vincas Grybas (1890-1941), a fervent communist who was one of the main instigators in overseeing the incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union in 1940 before losing his life at the hands of the invading Germans the following year. On July 10, 2010, the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald, a small capsule of soil from the battlefield was buried next to the monument. The spot is marked with a plaque marked with the words *600 Metų Žalgirio Mūšiai 1410-2010*.

Parks & Gardens

Ažuolynas K/L-4. Named after the tall oak trees for which it's famous and translating as something like Oak Grove, the trees, considered sacred to the ancient Lithuanian pagans and some of them over 300 years old, make this fine 63-hectare park a lovely spot in which to stroll. One of the most popular parks in the city, the southeastern corner was a favourite place of the Polish-Lithuanian Romantic poet Adam Mickiewicz (Lithuanian, Adomas Mickevičius) who worked as a teacher in the city for a short while. There's a rock there that, legend has it, was carved by the writer himself. It shows hands holding a quill and his initials. The park is also home to the city's Lithuanian Zoological Garden as well as a popular place for summer concerts.

Botanical Garden (Botanikos Sodas) Žilberio 6, tel. (+370) 37 29 53 00. Founded in 1923, the Vytautas Magnus University Botanical Gardens to give it its full name covers an area of 62.5 hectares of former estate land and is divided into five sections, namely medicinal plants, plant pathology, dendrology, pomology and floriculture. Featuring around 7,000 separate species, the gardens are about 1km south of the Lithuanian Aviation Museum. To get there take bus N°7 or 12 from Kaunas Castle, or minibus N°49 from Birštono. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00, Sat, Sun 08:00 - 19:00. Admission 7/4Lt.

Lithuanian Zoological Gardens (Lietuvos Zoologijos Sodas) L-3, Radvilėnų 21, tel. (+370) 37 33 25 40, www.zoosodas.lt. Featuring over 270 species that call this place home, the Lithuanian Zoological Gardens (the only zoo in the country) was founded by Tadas Ivanauskas (see Museums) in 1935, opening some four years later. Set in 16 hectares of woodland next to the Girstupis river at the far eastern end of Ažuolynas, the zoo has been courting controversy for a number of years due to effect of a lack of funds on the quality of life of its inhabitants. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00. Box office open 09:00 - 18:00. Admission 12/10Lt.

Cemeteries

Aukštieji Šančiai Military Cemetery (Aukštųjų Šančių Karių Kapinės) Ašmenos 1. Among the more customary rows of fallen troops including Lithuanians, Russians and Germans are a handful of monuments commemorating some truly outstanding characters including pilots Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas, the Lithuanian fighter pilot and cosmonaut Rimantas Stankevičius (b.1944) who test flew the OK-GLI as part of the Soviet Union's ill-fated Space Shuttle *Buran* project and who died giving a display at an air show in Italy in 1990, and, last but not least, Karolis Požėla (b.1896), Juozas Greifenbergeris (b.1898), Kazys Gedrys (b.1890) and Rapolas Čarnas (b.1900), better known as the *Keturį Komunarai* (Four Communards), a quartet of communists murdered during the 1926 military coup d'état that brought an end to Lithuania's fledgling democracy, plunging the country into a dictatorship that lasted until the Soviet invasion of 1940. To get there, take bus N°12 or 15 to the Karių Kapinės stop.

Darius & Girėnas



No two names go together in Lithuania as easily as those of Darius and Girėnas. Swashbuckling plot-heroes of the nation, their story is an amazing one set in a time of aviation superstars. Steponas Darius (b. 1896) and Stasys Girėnas (b.1893) had remarkably similar histories, having both been born in Lithuania

and emigrating at early ages with their families to the United States. Taking to aviation at different times, the two met in the 1920s, by which time Girėnas was already dreaming of a transatlantic flight. They bought a second-hand Bellanca CH-300 Pacemaker for US\$3,200, named it *Lituanica*, and started raising money for a flight from New York to Kaunas. They took off on the morning of July 15, 1933 in their heavily modified, bright orange plane. Their limited budget didn't allow them to buy a radio, and they really were very much alone. After dropping a message for the media over Newfoundland they headed out over the Atlantic which they crossed without incident. They were later reported flying over numerous sites in Europe, the last sighting being over a concentration camp in Germany. The following morning a group of old ladies out picking mushrooms in a field near Soldin in eastern Germany (now Myślibórz in western Poland) discovered the wreck of their plane in a field. The two pilots were dead, and despite having successfully crossed the Atlantic, their dreams of a record distance flight were never realised. Flying a total distance of 6,411km, the heroes did at least go down in history as being the first official carriers of airmail across the Atlantic as the letters they were carrying were retrieved from the wreckage and delivered to their destination addresses. Much speculation exists as to the real fate of the two, who by all accounts were extremely competent pilots, including the possibility that they were shot down whilst flying over the concentration camp, although no evidence exists to support this. Find their faces on the front of any 10Lt banknote, and their names immortalised as street names throughout the country. The wreck of their plane and the clothes they were wearing when it crashed can be found inside the Vytautas the Great Military Museum (see Museums), and their grave in the city's Aukštieji Šančiai Cemetery (see Cemeteries). The airport in Kaunas, also named in their honour and where an estimated 25,000 people waited for the duo's triumphant arrival now houses the recommended Lithuanian Aviation Museum (see Museums). Of the two pilots, Darius was the more active of the two, and is believed by some to have introduced basketball to the nation as well as to have been one of the main organisers of the 1923 Klaipėda Revolt that saw the city incorporated into Lithuania the same year.

Darius & Girėnas Monument K-4, Sporto and Perkūno. Bumbling barnstormers or ace aviators? The case remains open. What is clear is that the two pilots remain two of Lithuania's best-loved heroes. The 25m, three-tonne bronze structure, finally built 60 years after their deaths according to the original (shelved) 1937 plans, is magnificent in its simplicity.



Jews are first known to have arrived in Kaunas in 1410, settling as was decreed by law in the Slobodka (now Vilijampolė) district of the town. In 1858 living restrictions were lifted and many resettled in Old Town. By the time of the German invasion of 1941 just 6,000 of Kaunas' 30,000 Jews still lived in Slobodka.

That summer the Nazis ordered all Jews back to the area, turning it into the notorious Kovno Ghetto, which housed around 40,000 Jews of whom almost all perished in the camps at Auschwitz, Dachau and Stutthof, or at the nearby killing fields of the Ninth Fort. The systematic murder of the Kaunas Jews began somewhat disturbingly a few days before the German invasion, the most infamous event happening several days later with the torture and murder of 68 Jewish men, women and children by willing Lithuanians at the city's Lietūkis bus station on June 27, 1941. Several of the perpetrators are now considered national heroes for their fight against the Soviets, a controversial fact that continues to cause much heated debate. Today, a tiny population of around 1,000 Kaunas Jews still lives in the city.

Jewish Cemeteries (Žydu Kapinės) A total of three Jewish cemeteries can be visited in and around the city centre, although sadly information about them remains as patchy as the vandalised cemeteries themselves. The Old Jewish Cemetery to the north of Ažuolynas, now a popular place for local drunk youths, comes complete with swastikas painted on the walls and a forlorn selection of broken gravestones. The Old Jewish Cemetery in Vilijampolė was raped of most of its gravestones some time after WWII but if you walk to the far northern end of the field you'll find many old gravestones, some hundreds of years old, on the hill surrounded by a wood. Kaunas' only remaining active Jewish Cemetery in Aleksotas can be accessed through a gate at the back of the Naleksta factory on H. ir O. Minkovskių.

Jewish Community Centre (Žydu Bendruomenės Centras) F-3, Vytauto 50 (entrance from the courtyard), tel. (+370) 37 20 37 17. The focal point of the remaining members of the city's once large and diverse Jewish community. ▶ Open 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Sat, Sun. ☒

Memorial to the Memory of the Ghetto Victims (Memorialinė Lenta Gėto Aukoms Atminti) H-3, Vilijampolė. A plain granite memorial stands at the corner of Ariogalos and Linkuvos commemorating the thousands of Jewish men, women and children who lived, suffered and perished under the Nazis and their willing Lithuanian helpers. Not all doom and gloom, the Ghetto had many moments of joy as well as resistance. The Latvian-born Jewish artist Esther Lurie (1913-1998), the so-called Artist of the Kovno Ghetto who was visiting Kaunas at the time of the German invasion, survived the Ghetto. Her many wonderful drawings of daily scenes there are well worth further investigation.

Kaunas Choral Synagogue (Kauno Choralinė Sinagoga) C-2, E. Ožėskienės 13, tel. (+370) 37 20 68 80. Dating from 1871, this radically designed synagogue (above), once one of over 35 synagogues and Jewish prayer houses in the city, claims to have one of the most beautiful altars in the Jewish world. A memorial to the estimated 50,000 Lithuanian

Jewish children killed during the Holocaust can be found at the rear of the building, complete with 37 stone tablets showing in which towns and cities they lost their lives and just how many of them died in each one. The crumbling remains of two other surviving synagogues can be seen in Old Town at Zamenhofo 7 and 9. ▶ Services Sat 10:00. Other services erratic. Call in advance for information (+370 614 031 00). ☒

Ninth Fort (Devintas Fortas) Žemaičių Pientas 73, tel. (+370) 37 37 77 50. This early 20th-century fort was the last in a series constructed by the Russians to defend the western border of their empire. Under Nazi occupation Jews were imprisoned here before execution in the killing fields behind. It wasn't just Lithuanian Jews who perished here. 'We are 500 Frenchmen', Abraham Wechsler of Limoges carved into the wall before his death. The fort is now the site of one of the country's better museums focusing on the extermination of Jews, as well as the deportations of Lithuanians by the Soviets and the other uses of the building in its 100-year history. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Tue. Admission 5/3Lt.

Sugihara House (Sugiharos Namas) K-4, Vaižganto 30, tel. (+370) 37 33 28 81, www.sugiharahouse.lt. Chiune Sugihara (1900-1986) was the Japanese Vice Consul to Lithuania in Kaunas for a brief period between 1939 and 1940. Together with the acting Dutch Consul Jan Zwartendijk he saved thousands of Jews over a short three-week period in 1940 by issuing visas against orders to get them out of what was at the time Soviet-occupied Lithuania and away to safety and a new life. Many of the saved Jews later settled in Israel and the United States and have since championed both his and the Dutchman's cause. This small museum in the house where the Japanese consulate was located is where Sugihara, who along with Zwartendijk is now honoured as a Righteous Among the Nations, lived with his family. Inside are a recreation of Sugihara's office and several displays relating to the extraordinary events that took place. Highly recommended. ▶ Open 11:00 - 15:00. Sat, Sun by appointment only (Nov - Apr). Open 10:00 - 17:00. Sat, Sun 11:00 - 16:00 (May - Oct). Admission 10/5Lt.

Emma Goldman

Among the many notable and not-so notable Jews who started life in Kaunas, including the great grandfather of the man behind Ali G and Borat, Sasha Baron Cohen, perhaps the most notorious individual to be born in the city was Emma Goldman. Born on June 27, 1869, the world's most famous anarchist and the first female political prisoner in the United States came from a well-to-do Yiddish-speaking family and was embracing feminism, free love and human rights in general at an early age. Emigrating to the United States in her teens where she joined the Russian proletariat, Goldman earned a living as a seamstress whilst developing a career as a hardened political agitator. As well as serving a 12-month sentence for inciting a riot, she was also implicated in the assassination of President William McKinley, although nothing was ever proved. Branded America's Most Hated Woman, Goldman was deported to the Soviet Union in 1919, where she rapidly grew disillusioned with Lenin's regime and was soon back in the West, writing books, stirring up trouble and fighting for causes around the world. After suffering two strokes, Emma Goldman died in Toronto on May 14, 1940. Her books, wildly zealous and years ahead of their time, are well worth checking out.

Public transport

Buses & Trolleybuses A substantial network of city-owned buses and trolleybuses criss-crosses the city seven days a week from around 05:00 until about 23:00. Tickets, which are valid for one single journey of any length and on either form of transport, cost 1.80Lt and can be bought from any Kauno Spauda kiosk or R Kiosk shop in the city. Alternatively, for an extra 0.20Lt buy one directly from the driver. Tickets need to be validated in the appropriate electronic machine when boarding the vehicle. A small fleet of public transport runs an even smaller schedule of journeys through the night in Kaunas, albeit only on Friday and Saturday nights. Trolleybuses N°14N and N°15N plough routes between the very end of Savenorių and the train station. Bus N°37N runs at ninety degrees to this route between Vilijampolė and Žaliakainis. Route maps and schedules are posted at all stops, making getting around the city a fairly simple task. For more information, see the excellent website at www.kvt.lt.

Minibuses The private minibus (*maršrutinis taksi*) is one of the greatest social inventions of all time. In Kaunas they often sport the same numbers and plough the same routes as the above-mentioned machines, but have the advantages of not having to stop everywhere and being able to weave in and out of traffic. Slightly more expensive to travel on at 2.50Lt for a journey of any length, stick your arm out anywhere in the street, pay the driver (or pass the money down the minibus if it's busy) and shout when you want to stop.

Long-distance buses

Bus Station F-4, Vytauto 24, tel. (+370) 37 40 90 60.

▶ Ticket office open 05:45 - 20:30. ☒

Kautra F-4, Vytauto 24, tel. (+370) 37 40 90 70, www.autobusbilietai.lt. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun. ☒

Lux Express B-6, Sodų 20b-1, Vilnius, tel. (+370) 5 233 66 66, www.luxexpress.lt. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 19:00. ☒☒

Simple Express Saltoniškių 9 (Panorama), Vilnius, tel. (+370) 5 233 66 66, www.simpleexpress.eu.

The first budget long-distance bus operator in the Baltics operates several routes between a number of destinations including Kaunas, Vilnius, Riga, Tallinn, Warsaw and St. Petersburg. Also at Sodų 20b-1, Vilnius. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00. ☒



Trains

Train Station K-5, M. K. Čiurlionio 16, tel. (+370) 37 27 89 81, www.litrail.lt. ▶ Ticket office open 24hrs with breaks 02:40 - 03:40, 06:30 - 07:00, 11:00 - 11:30, 13:40 - 14:10, 18:20 - 18:30, 21:20 - 22:00.

Airport

Kaunas Airport (Kauno Oro Uostas) Karmėlava, tel. (+370) 37 39 93 07, www.kaunas-airport.lt. The modern terminal at Kaunas Airport handles a growing number of flights to and from destinations within Europe, all of them operated by Ryanair. For information on getting there and what to expect there, have a look at Arriving by plane on p.5. ▶ Information 07:00 - 24:00.

Airlines

Ryanair Karmėlava (Kaunas Airport), tel. (+370) 37 75 01 95, www.ryanair.com. ▶ Open 06:00 - 19:00, Sat, Sun 06:00 - 16:00.

Car rental



Avis Karmėlava (Kaunas Airport), tel. (+370) 37 45 44 44 (24hrs)/(+370) 698 448 31 (hotline 24hrs), avis@avis.lt, www.avis.lt. Mostly cars under six months old, available with or without a driver.

Budget Karmėlava (Kaunas Airport), tel. (+370) 5 230 67 08, www.budget.lt. ▶ 24hrs. ☒

Hertz Karmėlava (Kaunas Airport), tel. (+370) 37 39 91 56 (24hrs), www.hertz.lt.



Ramučiai, tel. (+370) 611 399 13 (24hrs), (+370) 603 312 11 (24 hrs), info@rentacar24.lt www.rentacar24.lt. An impressive range of cars running on both petrol and diesel, from the modern curves of a Lexus to the classic looks of a Mercedes. Full details of each vehicle online in English.

International bus schedule

From Kaunas	City	To Kaunas
Dep. Arr.		Dep. Arr.
16:15 07:00	^{1,4,6} BERLIN ^{1,4,6}	20:30 13:05(+1)
16:15 17:30(+1)	^{1,4,6} COLOGNE ^{1,4,6}	10:00 13:05(+1)
16:15 06:30(+2)	^{1,4,6} LONDON ^{3,5,7}	20:30 13:05(+2)
06:50 12:30	MINSK	16:00 21:50
04:50 09:20	RIGA (Simple Express)	19:00 23:30
07:30 12:00	RIGA (Kautra)	14:20 19:30
19:00 07:20(+1)	⁶ ROME ¹	19:00 07:45
16:00 20:00(+1)	^{1,4,6} STUTTGART ^{1,4,6}	08:00 13:05(+1)
23:45 07:00(+1)	WARSAW	19:30 04:45(+1)

(+1)(+2) – Next day. Next day plus one. More information at www.eurolines.lt. Days of the week (*=Monday).

Cycling

An ideal location for cyclists, Lithuania is as flat as a pancake, has relatively little traffic, a bracing coastline and lots of interesting sights scattered around. Although more hilly than the average Lithuanian city, cycling around the Kaunas is an option worth considering, especially as many of the sights are spread far and wide.

Local bus schedule

Alytus
06:10, 07:00, 07:30, 08:55, 09:55, 10:30, 10:50, 11:30, 12:50, 13:10, 14:05, 15:10, 16:10, 17:00, 18:10, 18:55, 20:20.

Birštonas
07:55, 10:30, 12:15, 13:50, 18:30.

Kėdainiai
05:20¹⁻⁶, 07:15, 08:00, 10:00, 11:40, 12:40, 13:50, 14:50, 16:00, 17:00, 18:10, 19:10, 20:00.

Klaipėda
06:25, 09:35, 11:30, 12:30, 13:55, 14:40, 16:10, 17:30, 18:00, 20:00.

Palanga
06:25, 09:35, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 13:55, 14:50, 18:30^{5,7}.

Šiauliai
05:25¹⁻⁶, 06:00¹⁻⁶, 06:15, 06:40, 07:30, 08:40, 09:10, 10:00, 11:40, 13:40, 14:50, 16:00, 17:50, 18:40, 20:05.

Vilnius
05:30, 05:55, 06:30, 08:30, 09:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:45, 13:30, 15:40, 16:10, 16:30, 17:00, 17:20, 17:50, 18:30, 19:00, 19:45, 20:05, 20:40, 21:30.

Days of the week (1 = Monday). Not all services listed. Correct at the time of going to press and subject to change during the lifetime of this guide. The website at www.lintel.lt is the best resource for up-to-date, accurate information about travelling by bus in Lithuania.

Train schedule

From Kaunas		To Kaunas	
Dep.	Arr.	City	Dep. Arr.
02:35	08:33*	KALININGRAD	14:01* 18:14
18:16	00:33*	MINSK	19:47* 02:33
04:53 ¹	06:29	VILNIUS	05:05 ² 06:05
05:39	07:24	VILNIUS	05:30 07:09
06:25 ²	07:37	VILNIUS	06:20 07:27
07:30	09:15	VILNIUS	07:20 08:37
09:11	10:40	VILNIUS	08:35 10:15
11:00	12:45	VILNIUS	10:20 11:28
13:40	15:14	VILNIUS	11:15 12:28
15:30	16:42	VILNIUS	11:50 13:05
16:38	17:53	VILNIUS	13:50 14:59
16:45	18:30	VILNIUS	14:35 16:15
17:50	19:02	VILNIUS	16:30 17:30
18:16	19:40	VILNIUS	16:35 18:14
18:50	20:35	VILNIUS	17:25 18:28
19:40	20:52	VILNIUS	17:40 19:03
20:15	21:41	VILNIUS	18:30 20:10
21:15	22:30	VILNIUS	19:30 20:40
		VILNIUS	20:40 ³ 22:07
13:07	20:10	WARSAW	07:35 16:36

* Even days, ¹-Mon-Sat, ²-Mon-Fri, ³-Mon-Fri, Sun Correct at the time of going to press and subject to change during the lifetime of this guide.

2RIDE E-3, Laisvės 36, tel. (+370) 676 393 33, www.2ride.lt. A good selection of bicycles for all ages and abilities is available, plus safety gear, maps and advice on where to go. To rent a bike you need to register using some form of picture ID, preferably a passport. The price is affordable, and bicycles can be rented by the hour, day and beyond, although not sadly on a Sunday at the time of going to press. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 21:00. ☎

Funiculars



Zaliakalnis Funicular

The combination of its unusually steep hills and the ambitious growth of the city between the wars has provided Kaunas with two separate funicular railways. Built as both public transport for the locals as well as a curious temptation for tourists, a ride on them is highly recommended for the experience as well as the views of the city from the top.

Aleksotas Funicular A-4, Amerikos Lietuvių 6. The Aleksotas Funicular at the southern end of the Vytautas the Great Bridge boasts a fine view of the city. Opened on December 6, 1935, the original fare was a mere 0.10Lt for adults and the price remains a bargain to this day at just 0.50Lt for the 142-metre ride to the top. Slightly out of the way, a visit could be made as part of a bigger itinerary over the river to visit the Botanical Garden and Lithuanian Aviation Museum. Tickets are usually purchased from the lady who rides in the vehicle with you, although note that at the time of going to press the funicular was closed for repairs until September 2011.

Zaliakalnis Funicular E-2, Aušros 6, tel. (+370) 37 42 58 82. The 140m Zaliakalnis Funicular is the nearest of the two funiculars to the city centre and is a fun ride in itself as well as a quick way of getting from the city centre to the area around Savanorių at the top of the hill. The ride costs just 0.50Lt, with tickets sold at the bottom station only. If you're travelling with children beware of the doors, which open and close automatically. Sometimes they don't close properly and can be left wide open during the journey. Find the bottom station just two minutes from the centre between Putvinškio and Aušros, and the top station, which also doubles as a photographic gallery, immediately south of the Christ's Resurrection Church. ▶ Open 07:00 - 19:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 19:00. Tickets 0.50Lt.

Taxis

The rule in Lithuania is to always call for one in advance if you want to pay a sensible rate. If you do take one in the street, make sure the meter is running before you depart, and if you're taking one long distance, negotiate a fare, or you may end up in all sorts of trouble.

Elnesa Tel. (+370) 37 33 15 33 (1.99Lt*)
Kauno Taksi Tel. (+370) 37 23 44 44 (2.80Lt*)
Žaliūškis Tel. (+370) 37 33 31 11 (2.20Lt*)
* Price per kilometer. Prices listed are for standard daytime/evening journeys within the city limits



On your bike (left)

Travel agencies

Baltic Clipper D-2, Laisvės 61-1, tel. (+370) 37 32 03 00, info@bc.lt, www.bc.lt. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun. ☎ ☎
Delta D-2, Laisvės 89, tel. (+370) 37 42 42 11, info@delta-interservis.lt, www.delta-interservis.lt. Also at Karaliaus Mindaugo 49 (Akropolis). ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎ ☎
Mūsų Odisėja A-2, M. Valančiaus 19, tel. (+370) 37 40 84 10, info@turinfo.lt, www.musuodiseja.lt. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00. ☎ ☎

Saitas E-2, K. Donelaičio 26-1, tel. (+370) 37 32 31 51, travel@saitas.lt, www.saitas.lt. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun. ☎ ☎
Zigzag.lt D-2, E. Ožėškienės 27-10, tel. (+370) 37 40 71 40, kaunas@zigzag.lt, www.zigzag.lt. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun. ☎ ☎
Zip Travel D-3, Kęstučio 57-1, tel. (+370) 700 555 25, info@ziptravel.lt, www.ziptravel.lt. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎ ☎

Flight schedule

From Kaunas			To Kaunas		
Days	Dep.	Arr.	Days	Dep.	Arr.
1---5--	12:15	15:25	1---5--	06:40	11:50
--3---7	12:40	13:35	--3---7	07:30	12:15
1---5--	22:20	23:10	1---5--	17:05	21:55
-2-4---	11:30	12:55	-2-4---	13:20	16:35
-----6-	18:50	20:15	-----6-	20:40	23:55
1-3-5-7	06:15	07:15	1-3-5-7	07:40	12:40
-----7	17:45	18:35	-----7	19:00	23:45
-4-4---	06:55	07:45	-4-4---	08:10	12:55
-2-4---	17:25	18:45	-2-4---	19:10	22:15
-----6-	12:50	14:10	-----6-	09:20	12:25
-3-5-7	06:40	07:25	-3-5-7	07:50	10:35
1-----	07:45	11:05	1-----	11:30	14:50
-----6-	07:15	10:35	-----6-	11:00	14:20
--3---7	12:05	13:00	--3---7	07:00	11:40
-----7	11:10	11:55	-----7	12:20	16:55
--3-4-5--	13:40	14:25	--3-4-5--	14:50	19:25
1-----	14:00	14:45	1-----	15:10	19:45
-----6-	15:25	16:10	-----6-	16:35	21:15
-2-----	16:55	17:40	-2-----	18:05	22:45
-----4---	23:10	23:55	-----4---	18:05	22:45
1-2-3-4-5-6-7	12:00	12:40	1-2-3-4-5-6-7	07:00	11:35
-----5-7	22:10	22:50	-----5-7	17:10	21:45
--3-5--	11:00	11:55	--3-5--	12:20	15:15
-----7	13:40	14:35	-----7	15:00	17:55
--3----	16:05	17:50	--3----	18:15	21:55
1-----5--	17:25	19:10	1-----5--	19:35	23:15
-2-----6-	07:00	10:30	-2-----6-	10:55	14:25
-2-3-4-6-7	08:20	09:10	-2-3-4-6-7	20:20	21:10
1-----5--	08:20	09:10	1-----5--	23:55	00:45
-----6-	15:10	15:35	-----6-	16:00	18:25
-2-4---	07:50	08:15	-2-4---	08:40	11:05
--3----	19:50	21:25	--3----	21:50	23:35
-----5--	20:00	21:35	-----5--	22:00	23:45
-----7	18:20	19:55	-----7	20:20	22:05

Airline codes: BT - Air Baltic, FR - Ryanair. Valid until Oct 30, 2011, unless indicated.

Whether you're in Kaunas for business or on holiday, you're almost certainly going to need to keep in touch from time to time. Whatever service your hotel can't deal with is probably listed here.

Post

Central Post Office C-2, Laisvės 102, tel. (+370) 37 40 13 70, www.post.lt. A large hall selling all the usual things one would expect, plus prepaid top-up cards for mobile phones. ▶ Open 07:00 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. ☎

Laptop login

Wireless ☎ A good number of cafés, restaurants, hotels and public spaces in Kaunas are part of a national network of paid wireless internet hotspots. To use them, turn your wireless on and choose the Zebra network. When you open your web browser you'll see a page with instructions and prices. You can pay via SMS if you've got a local SIM card. The service has improved considerably since it was first unrolled and is now fast and fairly cheap. A day's access currently costs 5Lt. It's still always worth checking for a free connection. Several cafés and hotel lobbies around town provide it. Free wireless access is also available along the entire length of Laisvės as well as many places inside Akropolis (see Shopping).

3G Local mobile operators Bitė (www.bite.lt) and Omnitel (www.omnitel.lt) both offer nationwide 3G services for laptop connection to the internet via either a dongle or 3G-enabled mobile phone. What you actually get is far from perfect, but if you're prepared for slightly slower speeds than broadband, your connection dropping out a few times a day and incompatible software that could conflict with your operating system then one of these services might be just for you. Available as both a prepaid and contract service, they also come with the added convenience of GPRS backup for obscure locations.

Dialup Assuming you've got an RJ-11 plug on the end of your cable (visitors from the UK please note that you probably don't), a nifty, hassle-free dialup option is available for those who can't find any other connection. Simply dial tel. 890 15 55 55 from anywhere in the country using your dial-up software of choice leaving the username and password blank and away you go. Calls are charged at a standard 0.12Lt/min at all times from a private line (this figure may well be a lot higher in a hotel), and everything is charged directly to whoever's telephone account you're using.

Prepaid SIM cards

Card	Price (Lt)	Local (Lt/min)	London (Lt/min)	Top-up (Lt)	SMS (Lt)	Voicemail (Lt/call)	Coverage
Bitė (Labas)	6	0.49	1.99	5/10/20/40/99	0.11	0.10	100%
Omnitel (Ežys)	5	0.46	1.63	From 5	0.10	Free	100%
TELE2 (Pildyk)	4.50	0.48	1.85	5/7/10/15/20/35/50	0.10	0.15	100%

Note All prices quoted are for peak-time calls, and are subject to change during the lifespan of this guide.

Emergency numbers

Police Fire Ambulance Tel. 112

Postal rates

	Lithuania	EU	Outside EU
Letter (44g)	1.65Lt	2.95Lt	3.35Lt
Postcard (20g)	1.55Lt	2.45Lt	2.90Lt
CD (130g)	2.50Lt	5.90Lt	11.75Lt

Express mail rates

Comparative rates for sending a package weighing a maximum of 500g.

	London	Paris	New York
DHL	170Lt	170Lt	240Lt
EMS	215Lt	213Lt	210Lt
TNT	208Lt	230Lt	190Lt
UPS	218Lt	218Lt	259Lt

Express mail

DHL Žemgulis 8, tel. (+370) 37 39 94 65, www.dhl.lt. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

EMS C-2, Laisvės 102, tel. (+370) 37 40 13 78, www.post.lt. ▶ Open 07:00 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. ☎

TNT Pievų 1, Karmėlava, tel. (+370) 800 252 22, www.tnt.lt. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

UPS Chemijos 5a, tel. (+370) 37 35 05 05, www.ups.com. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Internet cafés

Baitukas E-2, K. Donelaičio 26, tel. (+370) 37 32 30 86, www.baitukas.lt. Also at Pramonės 29 (Maxima), Islandijos 32 (Mega). ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun. ☎

Copy 1 D/E-3, Kestučio 54/7, tel. (+370) 37 20 79 25. A combined copy shop and internet café, find a handful of reliable if slightly old machines in the room to the far right as you enter. ▶ Open 07:45 - 19:00, Sat 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

Just about everything you'll need to buy can be found on the one central strip neatly dividing the old and new parts of the city between Laisvės and Vilniaus. Find souvenir shops and stalls full of amber and linen scattered along Vilniaus, and during the summer a large collection of outdoor traders on Laisvės selling everything from sun-glasses to second-hand books. Kaunas quickly followed Vilnius with the construction of several large indoor shopping centres, which whether you like the politics that goes with them or not are if nothing else a welcome addition during the freezing winter months. Be warned that Western goods, especially clothes, are criminally expensive.

Shopping centres

Akropolis E-4, Karaliaus Mindaugo 49, tel. 1588, www.akropolis.lt. Positively enormous, this three-floor celebration of capitalism at its most cynical has a large Maxima supermarket, an awful lot of clothes and shoe shops, a decent electrical and electronics outlet, bookshop and, on the top floor, restaurants, ice rink and cinema. ▶ Open 10:00 - 21:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Mega Islandijos 32, tel. (+370) 37 23 90 00, www.mega.lt. Some 72,000 square metres of retail and leisure space with parking for up to 2,500 vehicles, Mega is crammed full of shops selling everything from designer clothing to microwave ovens to building materials. There's a decent Rimi supermarket, restaurants, bowling and a five-screen cinema. Also unmissable is their extraordinary and very big aquarium full of fish from all over the world. Out on the Vilnius-Klaipėda highway, look out for minibuses with large Mega signs or take a taxi for around 10-15Lt. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎



Photo Mega

www.inyourpocket.com

Molas M-4, Baršausko 66a, tel. (+370) 37 45 14 41, www.pcmolas.lt. Shops, a couple of restaurants and a bowling alley. Big enough to ensure you can get what you want, probably, but small enough to ensure you don't get lost while getting it. ▶ Open 10:00 - 21:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Books etc.

Baitos Lankos E-4, Karaliaus Mindaugo 49 (Akropolis), tel. (+370) 37 21 44 16, www.blk.lt. Two floors of books inside an old brick house inside a massive shopping centre. Lots of guidebooks and maps downstairs and a good selection of art and photography books plus paperbacks in English upstairs. ▶ Open 10:00 - 21:00. ☎ ☎

Centrinis Knygynas D-2, Laisvės 81, tel. (+370) 37 22 95 72. Reminiscent of a bygone age, Kaunas' evergreen Central Bookshop stocks a good range of guidebooks and maps at the far right of the shop plus a handful of novels in English at the far left. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun. ☎ ☎

Pegasas E-3, Laisvės 29, tel. (+370) 37 22 70 37, www.pegasas.eu. Close to St. Michael the Archangel, this academic-looking bookshop stocks plenty of books on Lithuanian and international art. A small selection of paperbacks in English can be found at the top of the spiral staircase. Also at K. Baršausko 66a (Molas), Laisvės 75. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. ☎ ☎

Tūkstantis ir Viena Knygų B-3, Vilniaus 11, tel. (+370) 37 20 95 81, www.humanitas.lt. A small but well-stocked bookshop with a good selection of books on the arts in English. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. ☎ ☎

Computers

For all PC requirements, the large Elektromarkt shop in Akropolis (see Shopping centres) can sell you a machine or advise you on where to get repairs and services in the city.

iDEAL E-4, Karaliaus Mindaugo 49 (Akropolis), tel. (+370) 37 21 44 15, www.ideal.lt. The best place in town for Apple products, from laptops to iPods. ▶ Open 10:00 - 21:00. ☎

Food & Drink

Buon Giorno D-1, V. Putvinskio 72, tel. (+370) 616 590 05. A small deli near the Devil Museum specialising in fancy foods from Italy. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00. ☎

Geri Gėrimai D-2, Laisvės 80, tel. (+370) 37 40 71 87, www.fillpopolis.lt. More alcohol than you can shake a stick at. A good place to pick up local spirits for taking home at prices much lower than Duty Free. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00, Mon, Tue 08:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:30 - 22:00, Sun 10:00 - 19:00. ☎ ☎

IKI B-2, Jonavos 3, tel. (+370) 37 20 03 78, www.iki.lt. Lithuania's first Western-style supermarket sells a good range of local and imported groceries, plus washing powder, toothpaste, socks etc. Their smaller Ikiukas shops are currently springing up all over the city centre. Also at Veiverių 150, Žemaičių 23, Didžioji 98, Laisvės 90 (Ikiukas), Vilniaus 56 (Ikiukas). ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00. ☎ ☎

Riešutas B-3, Vilniaus 3, tel. (+370) 37 42 26 86. A cross between a small grocery shop and a Lithuanian-style deli, middle-aged ladies in aprons are on hand to serve customers with a range of edible treats including Lithuanian sausages, cakes and locally-produced spirit alcohol. ▶ Open 07:30 - 20:30, Sat 09:00 - 19:30, Sun 09:00 - 18:00. ☎ ☎

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Rimi M-1, Krėvės 43a, tel. (+370) 37 40 97 60, www.rimi.lt. A fine selection of groceries and exotic foods plus a small selection of clothing, electrical goods and household necessities. Also at Savanorių 346, Islandijos 32, Prancūzų 81. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00. [i] [cc]

Rūta D-2, Laisvės 88, tel. (+370) 618 270 60, www.ruta.lt. Šiauliai's Rūta confectionary factory was founded in 1913 and still makes some of the best sweets and chocolates in Eastern Europe. Stuff yourself stupid whilst walking around the city or buy some as a unique gift or souvenir. Also at K. Baršausko 66a (Molas), M. Daukšos 20. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun. [i] [cc]

Silas B-2, M. Daukšos 45/37, tel. (+370) 37 42 39 82. The perfect corner shop for the Old Town-bound self-catering community. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. [i] [cc]

www.inyourpocket.com

Gifts & Souvenirs

Gintarinis Suvėniras B-3, Vilniaus 32, tel. (+370) 37 22 51 26. Amber, linen, wooden and other local souvenirs.

▶ Open 10:00 - 18:30, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 17:00. [i] [cc]
Grantus B-3, Vilniaus 22, tel. (+370) 37 71 12 86, www.grantus.lt. Also at Savanorių 263a. ▶ Open 11:00 - 21:00. [i] [cc]

Markets

Book Market (Knygų Turgus) Pramonės 16 (Urmės), tel. (+370) 37 35 06 62, www.urmas.net. Shelves and shelves of second-hand books on every subject imaginable in a number of languages. In a city where the choice of books in English is limited, this could be precisely what you're looking for. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00, Sat 09:00 - 17:00, Sun 09:00 - 15:00.

Car Boot Market (Bagaziinių Turgus) Pramonės 16 (Urmės), tel. (+370) 37 35 06 62, www.bagaziniuturgus.lt. Lithuania's first attempt and a classic car boot fair is a welcome addition to the cultural fabric of the nation. Find scores of local hopefuls lining up once a month and selling junk of all descriptions. Marvellous. ▶ Open the second Saturday of each month 08:00 - 15:00 (April - October).

Flea Market (Senamiesčio Balaganas) A-3, Rotušės 19 (Communications History Museum's Yard), tel. (+370) 686 824 00. A bustling affair featuring everything from a classic flea market to live music takes place until the winter chill sets in. ▶ Open 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat. [i] [cc]

Girstupis Market (Girstupio Turgus) H-2, Kovo 11-osios 22, tel. (+370) 687 897 53. A bit of a slog to the east of the centre, find this classic market selling local produce including honey, berries and mushrooms in the basement of the same building as the Embassy nightclub. ▶ Open 07:00 - 19:00, Sat 07:00 - 17:00, Sun 07:00 - 15:00.

Station Market (Stoties Turgus) K-5, M. K. Čiurlionio 25, tel. (+370) 37 22 05 26. The quintessential Lithuanian outdoor market complete with dubious Chinese clothing, local food products including some excellent honey and the prerequisite collection of Roma women selling cheap cigarettes on the sly. ▶ Open 07:00 - 21:00 (until Oct). Open 07:00 - 19:00 (Nov - April).

Urmės Pramonės 16, tel. (+370) 37 35 06 62, www.urmas.net. This staggering 15 hectare site contains no less than 1,500 different retail outlets inside six huge buildings. Items for sale include everything from saucepans to wedding dresses to fresh meat, plus there's often a very good flea market. Other features include restaurants and a regular schedule of shows and events. The easiest way to get there is to hop on a N°99 minibus heading east along Donelaičio and get out at the last stop. Alternatively, take minibus N°30 and keep an eye out. You can't really miss it. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00, Sat 09:00 - 17:00, Sun 09:00 - 15:00. [i] [cc]

Vilijampolė Market (Vilijampolės Turgus) Varnių 48b, tel. (+370) 37 36 20 70. An impressive 6,300 square meters of market space, selling primarily meat, fish and dairy products but also a few clothes and household goods. There's also places to eat and drink plus a regular Sunday flea market. ▶ Open 07:30 - 18:00, Mon 09:00 - 15:00, Sat, Sun 07:30 - 16:00.

Jaukūs Namai P. Juozapavičiaus 21, tel. (+370) 37 74 06 34, www.kimono.lt. Exclusive hand-crafted linen products from curtains to tablecloths to slippers. Find it southeast of the centre close to the Aukštieji Sančiai Cemetery. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun. [i] [cc]

Kauno Langas B-3, M. Valančiaus 5, tel. (+370) 687 802 73, www.klangas.lt. Gifts and souvenirs galore, including art and ceramics. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. [i] [cc]

Linas-Medis, Suvėnirai B-3, Vilniaus 32, tel. (+370) 37 20 38 05, www.amberhouse.lt. A great little shop in Old Town hidden away among several more selling cheap tat. This place specialises in quality local linen and also stocks a huge range of traditional wooden toys for kids. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00, Sun 10:00 - 18:00. [i] [cc]

Saulutės Galerija E-3, S. Daukanto 15, tel. (+370) 37 22 80 37, www.lietuvostautodaile.lt. An excellent shop just off the main pedestrian street selling original folk art, paintings, folk costumes, wood carvings and much more. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun. [i] [cc]

Slenkstis D-2, Laisvės 57, tel. (+370) 37 20 17 83. An interesting collection of locally produced art and souvenirs. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. [i] [cc]

Health & Beauty

The Body Shop E-4, Karaliaus Mindaugo 49 (Akropolis), tel. (+370) 37 20 34 49, www.thebodyshop.com. The UK's favourite alternative shop of its kind has a small outlet inside this large shopping centre. ▶ Open 10:00 - 21:00. [i] [cc]

Household goods

Senukai Draugystės 8c, tel. (+370) 37 30 49 94, www.senukai.lt. A vast DIY store selling not only paint, tools, wallpaper and bathrooms etc. but also a good range of household items including lighting, kitchen tools and other bits and pieces. Also at: Jonavos 62, Islandijos 32 (Mega). ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sat 08:00 - 20:00, Sun 09:00 - 18:00. [i] [cc]

Tomasella Jonavos 262, tel. (+370) 37 33 27 36, www.tomasella.lt. The best way to spruce up your newly purchased apartment or rental property. Get everything you need from the kitchen to the bedroom. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Musical instruments

Midiaudio E-4, Gedimino 33, tel. (+370) 37 22 32 88, www.midiaudio.com. Musical instruments old and new, plus a small stock of spares from guitar strings to clarinet pads. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. [i] [cc]

Muzikos Prekės D-3, Kestučio 60, tel. (+370) 37 20 39 19. A great little shop crammed full of mostly second-hand equipment including accordions and the occasional 80s synthesiser made in the USSR. Also some spares and effects boxes. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. [i] [cc]

Photography

Foto Hobis C-2, I. Kanto 24, tel. (+370) 37 32 11 25, www.fotohobis.lt. A small shop selling a good range of semi-professional and professional cameras and equipment.

Flowers & Plants

If you're thinking of giving flowers to somebody in Lithuania, remember that superstition remains rife here and it's easy to make a mistake. There are certain rules that should be adhered to if you plan to keep on the right side of your sweetheart and/or future parents-in-law. Firstly, unless somebody just died, make sure you only give an odd number of flowers or stems. One will do, but isn't particularly welcomed unless it's a single red rose for the one you love. If giving flowers to members of the older generations, avoid yellow ones. Yellow is the colour of jealousy, and can be traced back to the Middle Ages when yellow was the traditional colour of the dresses worn by ladies of a questionable profession. Lilies and chrysanthemums are also potent symbols of death and should be left well alone unless heading to the cemetery. Carnations, especially red ones, are symbols of the Communists. Again, avoid.

Fitodizaino Studija C-2, A. Mickevičiaus 31, tel. (+370) 37 42 36 73, www.fitodizainas.lt. Flowers and plants of every description for the home and all manner of events. Also at Karmėlava (Kaunas Airport). ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun. [i] [cc]



Arguably the best shop in the city for serious photographers. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. [i] [cc]

Recorded music

Muzikos Bomba D-2, L. Sapiegos 3, tel. (+370) 37 32 14 47. Recorded music including a decent selection of Lithuanian music you won't find outside the country. If they don't have it in stock they'll happily order it for you. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun. [i] [cc]

Speciality shops

Muzikos Foto Prekės E-3, Laisvės 25, tel. (+370) 37 22 98 64. Ignore the frumpy ladies trying on dated hats in the front half of the shop and head to the back where you'll find a fabulous array of second-hand musical instruments and photographic equipment including some real Soviet-era collectors' pieces. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. [i] [cc]



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Accountants

Scandinavian Accounting & Consulting K-3, Radvilėnų 56, tel. (+370) 37 32 08 06, www.sac.lt. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00, Fri 08:00 - 16:30. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎

Banks

DNB Nord E-4, Karaliaus Mindaugo 49 (Akropolis), tel. 1608, www.dnbNord.lt. Also at Jonavos 3, Rotušės 27, Laisvės 86. ▶ Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00 - 20:00, Sun 10:00 - 19:00. ☎

SEB Bankas D-2, Laisvės 82/17, tel. 1528, www.seb.lt. Also at Savanorių 192, Veiverių 150. ▶ Open 08:30 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎

Barbers & Beauty

Primadona D-3, S. Daukanto 17, tel. (+370) 37 22 61 62, www.primadona.lt. Beauty salon, hairdressers, cosmetics and massage. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun. ☎

Stiliaus Studija B-2, Mapu 8, tel. (+370) 656 647 89. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun. ☎

Business connections

Kaunas Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Crafts (Kauno Prekybos, Pramonės ir Amatų Rūmai) F-2, K. Donelaičio 8, tel. (+370) 37 22 92 12, www.chamber.lt. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00, Fri 08:00 - 15:45. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎

Consumer rights

European Consumer Centre (Europos Vartotojų Centras) Odminių 12, Vilnius, tel. (+370) 5 265 03 68, www.ecc.lt. A free service, the European Consumer Centre's staff in Lithuania are on hand to deal with any consumer issues EU passport holders have when in Lithuania. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00, Fri 08:00 - 15:45. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎

Dry cleaners

Centro Jėgos C-3, I. Kanto 24, tel. (+370) 37 20 91 69. Also at P. Lukšio 70. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎

Health

Gintarinė Vaistinė (Pharmacy) B-2, Jonavos 3, tel. (+370) 37 20 11 44. Also at Vytauto 43, Vytauto 9, Žemaičių 23, Veiverių 150. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 08:00 - 20:00. ☎

Kaunas University of Medicine Hospital J-2, Eivenių 2, tel. (+370) 37 32 63 75. ▶ Open 24 hrs.

Kauno Raudonojo Kryžiaus Klinikinė Ligoninė F-3, Laisvės 17, tel. (+370) 37 42 59 19. ▶ Open 24 hrs.

Kauno Silainių Poliklinika Baltų 7, tel. (+370) 697 088 88, www.silainiupoliklinika.lt. Emergency medical services plus a range of primary and secondary care services, this fully equipped, modern clinic also handles blood tests and can check for all manner of complaints and diseases. Spinal and joint analysis also available. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎

Vis Vitalis (Dentists) C-2/F-4, Savanorių 241-56, tel. (+370) 37 79 88 88, www.visvitalis.lt. All your dental needs and more, including a one-year warranty on all work undertaken. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎

Interpreters

balTIC Language Services F-3, Gedimino 28-7, tel. (+370) 37 20 99 97, www.baltick.lt. Interpreters and translators. Reliable, quick service. Legal documents, notarisation upon request. ▶ Open 08:30 - 17:30, Fri 08:30 - 16:30. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎

Key cut

Raktų Gamyba F-4, Vytauto 23a, tel. (+370) 37 20 90 66. Also at Karaliaus Mindaugo 49 (Akropolis), Savanorių 255 (Hyper Maxima). ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎

Lawyers

Advokatų Kontora Pūkas ir Partneriai D-2, K. Donelaičio 71-2, tel. (+370) 37 20 56 66. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎

Kauno Advokatų Kontora C-3, Gruodžio 16, tel. (+370) 37 22 57 97. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00, Fri 08:00 - 15:45. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎

Officials

Kaunas Municipality (Kauno Savivaldybė) D-2, Laisvės 96, tel. (+370) 800 200 00, www.kaunas.lt. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎

Photographic services

Fotocentras D-2, Laisvės 51, tel. (+370) 37 22 45 95, www.fotocentras.lt. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun. ☎

Shoe repair

Avalnės Taisykla B-3, Vilniaus 17, tel. (+370) 37 22 03 25. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:30. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎



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www.motosafaris.lt

Amazon Gym D-2, Laisvės 51a, tel. (+370) 37 32 35 87, www.amazongym.lt. A very centrally-located place, where the seriously health-conscious can design their own personal fitness plans if they wish, and even get some nutritional advice along the way. Numerous membership plans open to suit all types. ▶ Open 09:30 - 20:30, Fri 09:30 - 19:30, Sat 10:30 - 14:30. Closed Sun. ☎

Ažuolynas K-4, Sporto 3, tel. (+370) 37 30 10 10, www.assc.lt. A modern building containing gym, aerobics, outdoor tennis courts, sauna, jacuzzi and facilities for children. There's also a small café on the second floor to help replace all those recently lost calories. ▶ Open 06:45 - 22:00, Fri 06:45 - 21:00, Sat 08:00 - 18:00, Sun 09:00 - 18:00. ☎

Elnias Golf Club Didžiosios Lapės, tel. (+370) 37 47 02 37. Lithuania's first golf course opened some 12km northeast of Kaunas in the direction of Jonava in 1996. The only golf course in the region, Elnias is a nine-hole affair, and those who've played a round on it say that it's quite a challenge. A 19th hole (or in this case a 10th hole) can also be found here. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00.

Impuls Baltų 16, tel. (+370) 37 75 50 13, www.impuls.lt. Weights, aerobics, fitness, Jacuzzi, Turkish and Finnish saunas, aromatherapy, ice cabin, pool with cascades, massages, solarium, martial arts room, VIP sauna. See the website for a complete list of facilities and information on prices. ▶ Open 07:00 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 20:00. ☎

Kaunas Acrobatic Flying Club (Kauno Aeroklubas) Veiverių 132, tel. (+370) 687 451 32, www.aerokaunas.lt. Located in the small S. Darius ir S. Girėnas Airport in Aleksotas, learn to fly a glider or light aircraft. Pleasure trips are also available. This is also the place to come to parachute. By appointment only.

Kauno Zirgai Marvelės 199, tel. (+370) 686 790 85, www.kaunuzirgai.lt. Miscellaneous recommended

horse-riding adventures in the great outdoors. ▶ By appointment only.

Ledo Arena (Ice Arena) F-1, Aušros 42c, tel. (+370) 37 33 51 81, www.ledoarena.lt. Ice skating a bit out of the centre and nothing fancy, but good fun all the same. ▶ Open 14:30 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri. ☎

Linija Sports Club Talkos 44a, tel. (+370) 37 38 03 19, www.linijasportas.lt. Gym, pool, wellness and much more besides. Available on a single ticket basis or through membership. ▶ Open 07:00 - 21:30, Fri 07:00 - 20:30, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 20:00. ☎

Lokės Pėda Lokėnėliai (Jonava district), tel. (+370) 699 211 44, www.lokespeda.lt. An adventure park set in the rolling hills of central Lithuania about 40km northeast of Kaunas featuring a series of courses high above the ground of varying levels of complexity to suit all levels of capability. Also quad bike adventures and other outdoor pursuits. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00. Closed Mon (April 1 - Oct 31). ☎

Table Tennis Centre Varnių 48b, tel. (+370) 684 261 79, www.stalotenisaskaune.lt. This fine centre offers table tennis opportunities for everyone from beginners to professionals, children to pensioners. Secure lockers and shower facilities are also provided. ▶ Open 15:30 - 21:30, Sat, Sun 11:30 - 14:30.

Tandem Paragliding Tel. (+370) 671 010 50. Tandem paragliding for anyone regardless of age or experience, flights last up to 30 minutes and are excellent value for money. ▶ By appointment only.

Undinė B-1, Jonavos 40, tel. (+370) 686 223 37. Just north of Old town close to the Petras Vileišis Bridge (Petro Vileišio Tiltas) this fine sporting venue features quality bowling plus the addition of 15 tables for pool, two for Russian billiards and a full size one for snooker. There's also table tennis plus a small bar and a café selling average pizza. ▶ Open 11:00 - 01:00, Mon 12:00 - 01:00, Sun 11:00 - 24:00. ☎

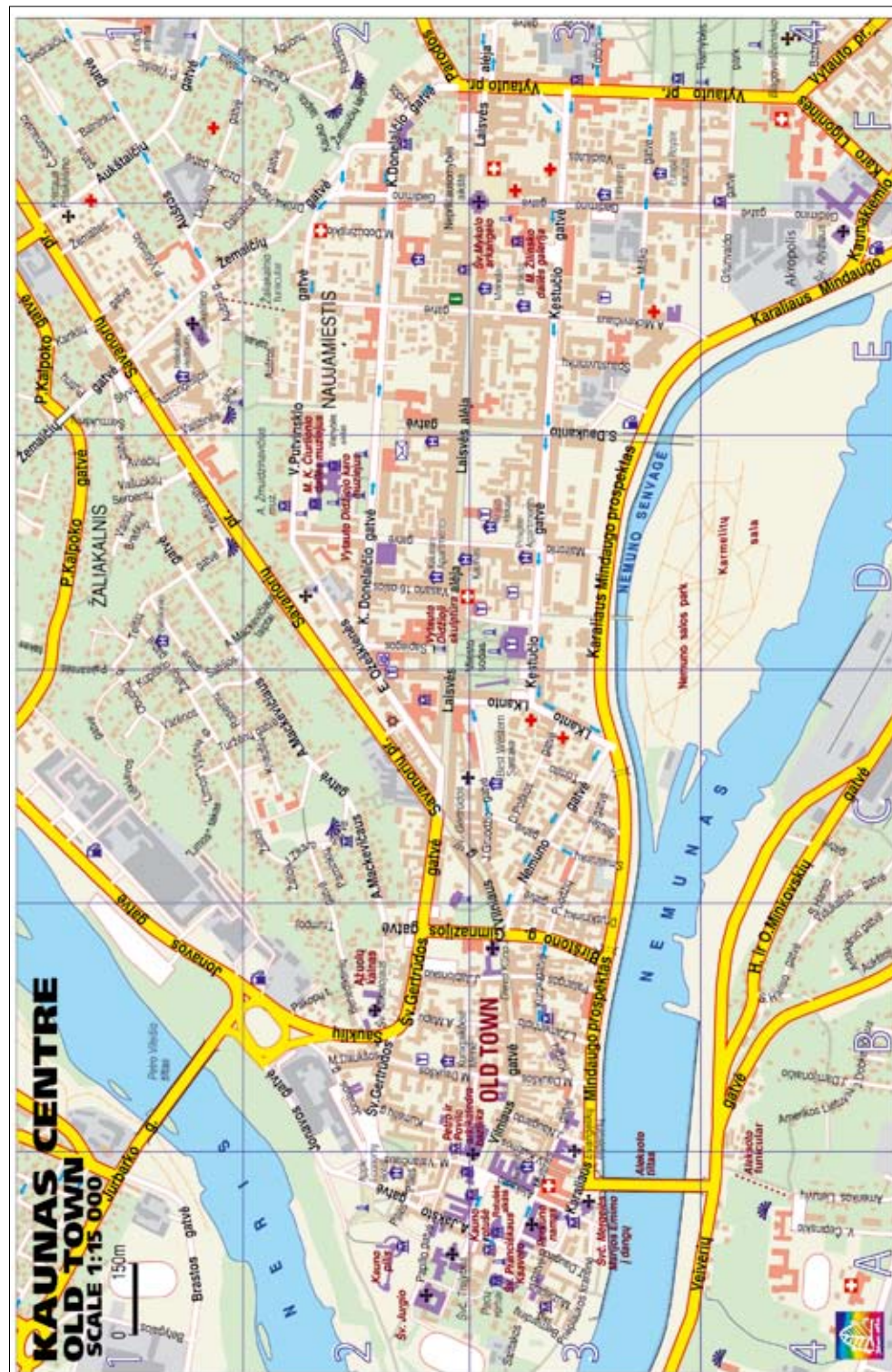
A. Jakšto	A-3/2	Giedraičių	F-1	Liškiavos	C-1	Serbentų	D-1
A. Mackevičiaus laiptai	D-1/2	Gimnazijos	B-3/2	Lydos	F-2	Slyvų	E-1
A. Mackevičiaus	B-2/D-1	Griunvaldo	E/F-4	M. Daukšos	B-3/2	Smalininkų	C-3
A. Mickevičiaus	E-4/2	I. Kanto	C-3/2	M. Dobožinskio	E-2	Spaustuvininkų	E-3
Aguonų	F-2	J. Damijonaičio	B-4	M. Valančiaus	A-2	Šatrijos	C/D-1
Aleksoto	A-3	J. Dobkevičiaus	B-4	Maironio	D-3/2	Šauklių	B-2
Amerikos Lietuvių	A/B-4	J. Gruodžio	C-3	Mapu	B-2	Šermukšnių	E-1
Antakalnio	B-4	J. Jablonskio	B-3/2	Minkovskių	B/C-4	Šilutės	C-3
Astronomijos	E-1	J. Naugardo	B-3	Miško	E/F-3	Šv. Gertrūdės	B/C-2
Aukštaičių	E/F-1	J. Zikaro	C-2	Muitinės	A/B-3	Telšių	D-1
Aukštoji	B-4	Jonavos	A-2/C-1	Muziejaus	A-3	Totorių	F-3
Aušros takas	E-2/1	Jurbarko	A/B-1	Nemuno	B/C-3	Trimito	C-3
Aušros	E/F-1	K. Donelaičio	D/F-2	Obuolių	C/D-1	Trumpoji	B-2
Aviečių	D-1	Kanklių	E-1	P. Kalpoko	C/E-1	Turžėnų	C-1/2
Balninkų	F-1	Karaliaus Mindaugo	A-3/E-4	P. Vileišio	F-1	U. Čepinskio	A-4
Bažnyčios	F-4	Karo Ligoninės	F-4	P. Višinskio	E/F-1	V. Kuzmos	A/B-3
Benediktinių	B/C-2	Kauko alėja	F-2/1	Pakopų t.	B-2	V. Putvinskio	D/F-2
Bernardinų skg.	A-3	Kauko laiptai	F-2	Palangos	B-3	Vaidilutės	F-3
Betygalos	A-1	Kaunakiemio	E/F-4	Paminklų	C-2	Vaisių	D/E-1
Birštono	B-3	Kęstučio	C/F-3	Papilio	A-2	Vaistinės skg.	E-1
Brastos	A-1	Krėvos	F-3	Parodos	F-2	Varenos	C-1
Braškių	D-1	Kriaušių	C-2	Pilies	A-2	Vasario 16-osios	D-2
Č. Sasnausko	F-1	Kumelių	B-2	Prieplaukos krantinė	A-3	Vaškučių	D-1
D. Poškos	C-3	Kupiškio	C/D-1	Puodžių	B/C-3	Veiverių	A-3/B-4
Dainavos	E-1/F-2	Kurpių	B-3	Putnių	E-1	Vidukalnio	B/C-4
Daugirdo	A-3	L. Sapiegos	D-2	Radastų	F-2	Vilniaus	A-4/C-2
Drukininkų	B/C-3	L. Zamenhofo	B-3	Raseinių	C/D-1	Vytauto pr.	F-4/F-2
Dzūkų laiptai	E/F-2	Laisvės alėja	C-2/F-3	S. Daukanto	D/E-3/E-2	Žalioji	C-2/D-1
Dzūkų	F-1	Lietuvių	E-1/F-2	S. Hariso	B/C-4	Žemaičių laiptai	F-2
E. Ožeškienės	C/D-2	"Limos" vyšnių	C-1	Santakos	A-3	Žemaičių	D-1/F-2
Gedimino	E-4/F-2	"Limos" takas	C-1	Savanorių pr.	C-2/F-4	Žemaitės	E-1

Gourmet Treats from Lithuania

1. Šakotis (shaKOTis). A unique traditional Lithuanian cake dating from the 18th century.
2. Duona (DWOAna). Rye bread. An integral part of Lithuania's culinary heritage and pride.
3. Skilandukas (skilandOOkas). A traditional Lithuanian smoked meat delicacy.
4. Gira (giRAH). A fermented drink made from bread with a sweet, light taste not dissimilar to beer.
5. Varskės sūris (VahrshKEHS SŌOris). Curd cheese seasoned with caraway seeds, traditionally served with honey.
6. Kietasis sūris (kiYEtasis SŌOris). Hard cheese matured according to old traditions.
7. IKI (iki). You'll find it all here.

Supermarket in Old Town
iki Jonavos str. 3

Convenience store in Old Town
ikiukas Vilniaus str. 56



KAUNAS CITY

SCALE 1:25 000

0 250m

MILIKONIAI



SMELIAI

2

3

4

5

OLD TOWN

LINKSMADVARIS

PANERYS

ZALIAKALNIS

NAUJA MIESTIS

AUKŠTIEJI ŠANČIAI

EIGULIAI

KALNIEČIAI

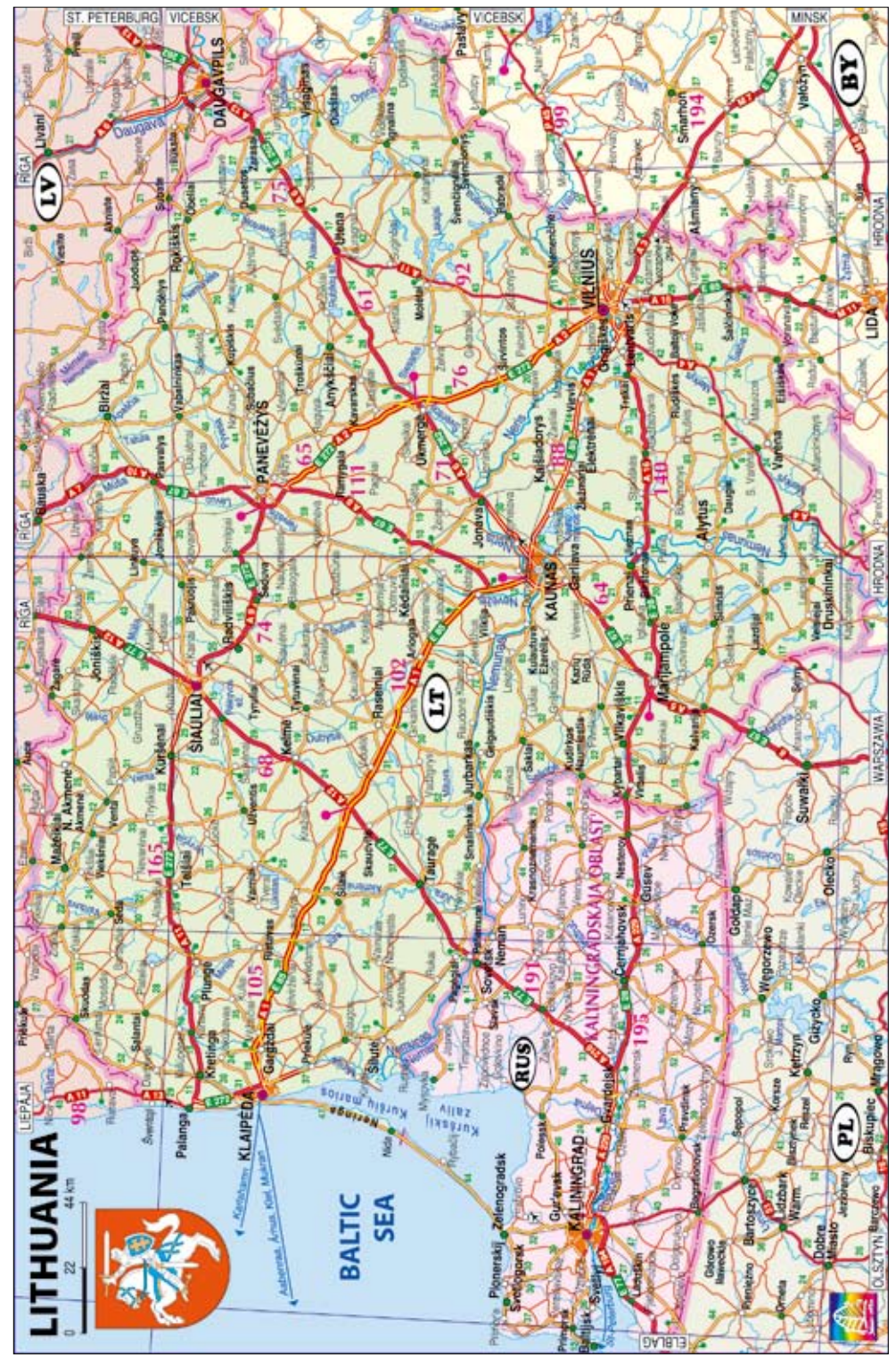
DAINAVA

GRIČIUPIS

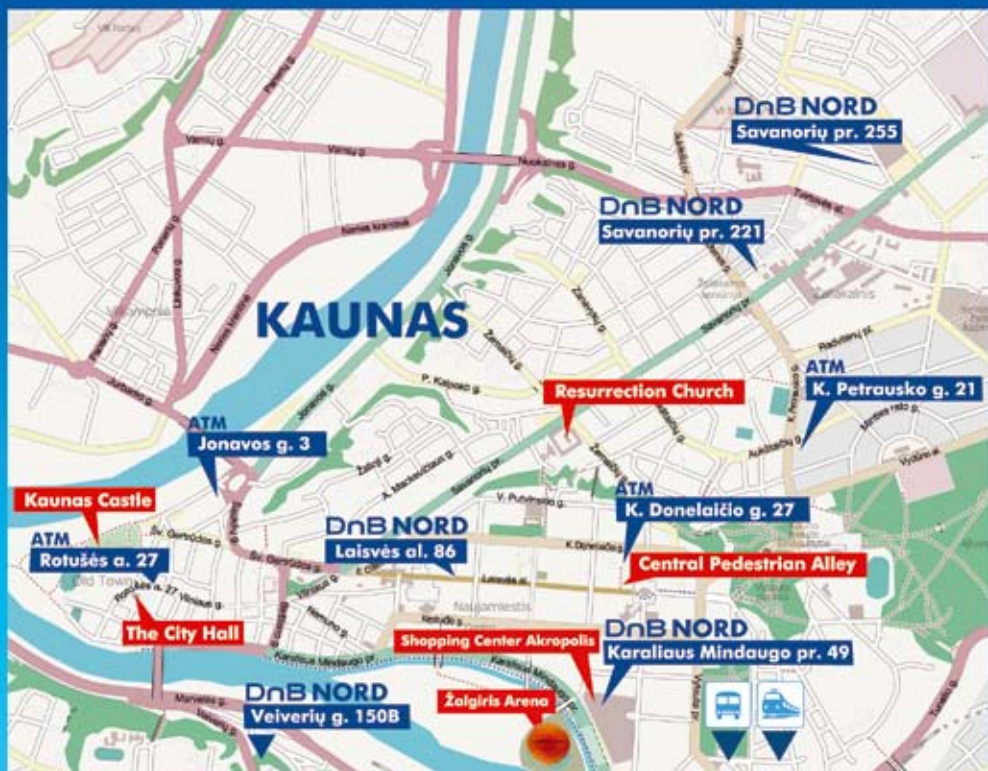
PANEMUNĖS



Abato Menė	23	Elnias Golf Club	53	Kauno Žirgai	53	Raktų Gamyba	52
Abstrakčios Tapybos Studija	10	EMS	46	Kavos Kerai	25	Ramzis II	19
Alanta	14	Europa Royale Kaunas	13	Kavos Klubas	25	RentaCar24	43
Aleksotas Funicular	44	European Consumer Centre	52	Keturi Metų Laikai	18	Republic	28
Amberton Cozy	12	Exiles & Political Prisoners		Kunigaikščių Menė	15	Romuva	10
Amerika Partyje	28	Exhibition	34	Latino Baras	30	Ryanair	43
Antipop's Pub	26	Ex-it	28	Ledo Arena	53	Sacrifice Field	40
Antis	20	F Galerija	10	Leonjos	18	Sadutė	21
Apple Economy Hotel	15	Flamenco Café & Vino	25	Lietuviški Patiekalai	25	Saitas	38, 45
Arbatos Klubas	25	Flea Market	50	Linija Sports Club	53	Sandija	17
Asiliuko Sapnas	19	Forto Dvaras	18	Lithuanian Aviation Museum	35	Scandinavian Accounting & Consulting	52
Aukštieji Šančiai Military Cemetery	41	Fortuna	43	Lithuanian Sports Museum	35	SEB Bankas	52
Autojuta	43	Forum Cinemas Kaunas	10	Lithuanian Zoological Gardens	41	Senamiesčio Sriubinė	23
Avalyinės Taisykla	52	Fotocentras	52	Litinterp	16	Senamiesčio Vyninė	30
Avilys	32	Freedom Monument	40	Lokės Pėda	53	Senieji Rūsiai	22
Avis	43	Fu Long	19	Lux Express	43	Sfinksas	14
Ažuolynas	41, 53	Gan Bei City	19	Magnus Hotel	15	Shamrock Pub	32
Baitukas	46	Gentleman Strip Club	32	Maironis	40	Simple Express	43
Bajorkiemis	18	Ginger Bar	27	Maironis Museum	35	Solo B&B	16
Baltic Clipper	45	Girstupis Market	50	Mambo Pizza	24	Sriubos Diena	23
baTIC Language Services	52	Grand Café	20	Man	40	Station Market	50
Baltosios Burės	17	Grantus	50	Master Grill	23	St. Francis Xavier Church & Jesuit Monastery	38
Baras 91	26	Gyvas	32	Medicine & Pharmacy History Museum	35	St. George's Church & Bernardine Monastery	38
BarBar'a	28	Hermis	13	Medžiotojų Užeiga	18	St. Gertrude's Church	38
Bel Pepper & Wok	24	Hertz	43	Meksika	26	Stiliaus Studija	52
Bernelių Užeiga	18	Hesburger	19	Memorial to the Memory of the Ghetto Victims	42	St. Michael the Archangel	38
Best Western Santaka	12	Historical Presidential Palace	39	Meno Parkas	10	Sts. Peter & Paul's Cathedral-Basilica	39
Black Pearl Cocktail Bar	28	Holy Revelation Church	38	Metropolis	15	Stumbras Museum	36
B.O.	27	Hostel 10	16	Miesto Sodas	21	Sughara House	42
Body of Christ Church	37	Ilgoji Upė	19	Migdolas	21	Sushi Express	24
Bokštas	20	Impuls	53	M. K. Ciurlionis State Art Museum	35	Sušii Manija	24
Book Market	50	In Tilsit	20	Mojo Lounge	28	Svarstyklės	22
Book Smuggler	40	Irish Pub - Piku Fortas	32	Motiejiaus Kepykėlė	19	Table Tennis Centre	53
Botanical Garden	41	Jewish Community Centre	42	Mūsų Odiseja	38, 45	Tadas Ivanauskas Zoological Museum	36
Bravaria	22	Jums	25	Mykolas Žilinskas Art Museum	36	Tandem Paragliding	53
Budget	43	Kaunas	13	Namų Viešbutis	16	Tetulės Sriubinė	23
Buon Giorno	22	Kaunas Acrobatic Flying Club	53	Napoleon's Hill	39	The Monk's Bunk Kaunas	16
Buzz Bar	28	Kaunas Airport	43	Nautilus Casino	26	TNT	46
Caffè Mio	25	Kaunas Apartments	17	Nemunas Tour	16	Undinė	53
Canas	19	Kaunas Artists House	10	Ninth Fort	42	UPS	46
Car Boot Market	50	Kaunas Camping	17	Ninth Fort Monument	40	Urmas	50
Carmelite Church of the Holy Cross	37	Kaunas Castle	39	Ninth Fort Museum	36	Valgykla	24
Central Post Office	46	Kaunas Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Crafts	52	Old Town	39	VDU Galerija 101	10
Centre Hotel Nuova	14	Kaunas County Pedagogical Museum	34	Old Town Hall & Town Hall Square	36	VDU Grand Hall	10
Centro Jėgos	52	Kaunas Cultural Centre Tautos Namai	10	Open Air Museum of Lithuania	40	Vero Café	25
Ceramics Museum	34	Kaunas Little Theatre	10	Panoramic Bar	27	Viljampolė Market	50
Christ's Resurrection Church	37	Kaunas Municipality	52	Papa Jazz	21	Vis Vitalis	52
Čili Kaimas	18	Kaunas National Cultural Centre	10	Pas Paolo	22	Vytautas the Great	40
City Museum	34	Kaunas Picture Gallery	34	Pas Stanley	21	Vytautas the Great Bridge	39
Coffee Inn	25	Kaunas Photography Gallery	10	Pekinas	19	Vytautas the Great Church of the Virgin Mary	38, 39
Combo	20	Kaunas State Drama Theatre	10	Perkūnas House	40	Vytautas the Great Military Museum	36
Communications History Museum	34	Theatre	10	Perkūno Namai	14, 21	Wan Sui	19
Copy 1	46	Kaunas State Musical Theatre	10	Piano Piano	30	Whisky Bar W 1640	32
Crazy House	27	Kauno Advokatų Kontora	52	Pieno Baras	24	Yakata	22
Daniela	13, 20	Kauno Arkivyskupijos Svečių Namai	16	Pizza Jazz	24	Žalgirio Arena	10
Dao-Sushi	24	Kauno Langas	10	Pompėja	22	Žaliakalnis Funicular	44
Darius & Girėnas Monument	41	Kauno Raudonojo Kryžiaus Klinikinė Ligoninė	52	Pop Star Bar	30	Žalias Ratas	19
Daugirdas	13	Kauno Silainių Poliklinika	52	Povilas Stulga Folk Music & Instruments Museum	36	Žaliukė	23
Delano	25	Kauno Šokio Teatras Aura	10	Presto	25	Žemyn Upė	30
Delta	45			Primadona	52	Zigzag.it	45
Devil Museum	34			Radharanė	24	Zip Travel	45



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