Knock knock, Lithuania

A country in Northern Europe

On the shores of the Baltic Sea

First settlements - 12,000 BCE

First known record in 1009

Internet access even in the deep woods

Some people still keep their doors unlocked

Last Pagan country in Europe

Territory from the Baltic to the Black Sea in the 15th century

Vilnius University, the oldest in Eastern Europe (1579)

Regained independence in 1990

Our language is one of the oldest in the world

Some people still keep their doors unlocked

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A country in Northern Europe

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Viktorija Stapone

L. Ciūnys, V. Zlotkus, M. Jovaiša
Knock knock, Lithuania

Knock knock, Lithuania. It’s always interesting to find a new door to knock on. Or an old, forgotten one, which brings back so many memories. You knock, and we swing the door open for you. We want to tell you about the people who used to live here. And those who still do. About their discoveries, their sense and taste of Lithuania. About their connection to the majestic Lithuanian history, to the magical thrill of Vilnius and its mysterious Baroque longing. About their hot nights in the Old Town’s courtyards and their long walks through the streets of Kaunas, the undertones of modern architecture they admire, the feelings they get in exuberant music festivals and galleries booming with creativity, their discoveries in small coffee shops and cosy restaurants. Nothing is half-hearted in Lithuania, so let’s travel to a country full of culture. Our true Lithuania. Back to our roots.
Vilnius, the Capital of Lithuania

Vilnius is full of stories. Just ask the passersby in the streets – they’ll tell you the legend of a howling iron wolf, an army sleeping inside Gediminas Hill, about the beautiful Barbora whom the Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland almost gave up his crown for, about the famous Napoléon Bonaparte who wanted to take a church home in the palm of his hand, about a black magic book chained in one of the chambers of a university and a magnificent architect who planted the seed of Baroque in this city. We’re open-minded, open-hearted and we love guests.

“Absolute baroque, perfect exotica, openness to the world and loyalty to the past – all these things constitute Vilnius, a jewel of the Baltic States.

Laurence, France
Five unexpected things you can do in Vilnius

1. Enjoy the sight of the red roofs of Vilnius from a hot air balloon – Vilnius is one of the few cities in the world where you can do that.

2. Go cycling through Vilnius Old Town – one of the biggest Baroque old towns in Europe.

3. Read the Constitution of the Free Folk of Užupis Republic in your own language.

4. Participate in the Street Music Day.

5. Grab a mid-city bite and a bit of fresh air.
We found a small piece of Italy. Sculptures inside Saints Peter and Paul’s Church will take your breath away!

Giacomo, Italy

Breathe in the Baroque
Vilnius University is one of the oldest in Europe. Existing so long it reflects every architectural era in Europe. It has 13 courtyards among the many faculties inside it. Incredibly impressive, really breathtaking.

Aharon, Israel

Count the courtyards of Vilnius University
The Mermaid of Užupis by R. Vilčiauskas
Užupis 2
Vilnius

If you make a wish on this spot, it is said that it will come true. So, why not give it a try?

Swen,
Sweden

Find the QR code on the bridge where the mermaid is and she will phone you back, telling her story in a sexy voice!

Anna,
Germany

You have to wish here

Hear sculptures speak

Miracle Tile by G. Umbrasas
Katedros 1
Vilnius

If you make a wish on this spot, it is said that it will come true. So, why not give it a try?

Swen,
Sweden
A former USSR radio factory turned art complex by day and a fantastic club and gig venue by night. The atmosphere there is great.

Jamie, UK
Escape into green serenity

Tranquillity, peace, relaxation. Do not run – but use your time! Let your soul rest.

Arne, Norway
Get to know the unseen side of the National Gallery of Art

Painted sensations
National Gallery of Art
Konstitucijos 22
Vilnius

A place where arts and nature meet

In Europos Parkas, a reality out of nature and art is created – the most important coexistence, the most important moment in the European reality.

Stephan, Belgium

It’s a blocky complex of striking modern architecture, filled with similarly up-to-the-minute works by Lithuanian artists.

A. Ufartas

The Telegraph

Double Negative Pyramid by S. LeWitt
Europos Parkas
Joniškės village
Vilnius District
Vilnius’ Old Town is special, because legends are told not only about its streets, buildings and dungeons but about its yards as well!

Ivona, Spain

Figure out the secrets of the Old Town yards

As the story goes, they have their own angel, constitution, president, ministers even, a currency on April 1, which is exchanged for beers!

Ugis, Latvia

Become a citizen of Užupis
Lose yourself in Culture Night

The city in the night becomes alive – there are places to go to, events to visit, people to meet.

Irina, Belarus
City graffiti are like tattoos on the city’s skin. Most of Vilnius’ graffiti are meaningful.

Carsten, Denmark

Train stations always make you want to do something new.

Marco, Italy

Vilnius hides a lot of graffiti. Find the most interesting ones.
Kaunas, a City of Culture and Youth

The interim capital which guarded the identity of Lithuania like a precious jewel during some dark times. Today Kaunas is a modern and youthful city. It paints, dances, plays basketball and doesn’t sleep because of all that jazz at night. It’s a city full of culture, the European Capital of Culture 2022, open to everybody who believes that art will save the world.
Five unexpected things you can do in Kaunas

1. Visit "Kiemo galerija" where artists live.
2. Enjoy jazz at the Kaunas Jazz Festival.
3. Stop at the one and only Devils’ Museum.
4. Play some midnight street ball. Kaunas is the capital of basketball.
5. Have a doughnut in Laisvės Alėja, enjoy the moment frozen in time.
A pink elephant lives in Kaunas

Pink Elephant
by V. Jukas
Ozeškienas 13
Kaunas
Kaunas Artists’ House is a space in Kaunas, the rebirth of which has been undeniable.

Viktorija, Lithuania

I’ve recognized the global Art Deco trends in Kaunas. The ornate lights outside the Bank of Lithuania building reminded me of similar ones in Seattle.

Joseph, USA

Leave some space for creativity
This is the most magnificent example of Italian Baroque architecture, with an exclusive architectural solution used for the first time in Europe.
His color palette is that of twilight and he paints the physical and spiritual twilight moments between the worlds.

M. K. Čiurlionis
National Museum of Art
Putvinskio 55
Kaunas

When sculptures come to life

The Star Sower monument in Kaunas. In the daytime, this monument doesn't make any sense, but when night comes down to the city...

Alex, Israel

M. K. Čiurlionis
National Museum of Art
Putvinskio 55
Kaunas

E. Virketis

Magdalena, Poland
Get warm in a funicular

You are treated to a ride on a 1920s funicular carriage. Recently restored, the carriages still have the smell of new timber.

Liao, China

Kaunas is full of surprises and contemporary street art. You must wander the streets of Kaunas aimlessly at least once.

Yvonne, Germany

Allow yourself to be surprised

R. Talutis
A. Aleksandravičius
There and Back Again: Lithuania

We often call Lithuania a land of wonders. Our history is wondrous, our nature is magical and so are our good-natured people. Those who live far away from the capital look up at the skies more often, they cherish our culture and our historical heritage. Their stories and discoveries are filled with joy, and their everyday moments are gifts to the people around them wanting to travel together. Come with us, let’s visit them.

Here you can even live out your Game of Thrones fantasies and visit a medieval castle on an island in the middle of a lake, which looks as if it’s just been taken from the pages about Westeros.

Jessica,
UK
Five unexpected things you can do in Lithuania

1. Watch the sunset on one of 850 mounds and learn their legends.

2. Go cycling along the Nemunas River and count the splendid signposts of history – castles, manors and mounds.

3. Enjoy gastronomic experiences in the manors – taste the gifts of nature.

4. Solve the mystery of amber at the seaside – touch the millennia and hear them speak.

5. Climb the highest church tower.
Look up at the stars

Looks like a UFO, and has a 3 ton telescope. At night, they illuminate the tower in different colours. When the elevator doors opened at ground level, I was sure Vader would emerge.

Evelin, Estonia
Feel the medieval spirit

“Days of Live Archaeology in Kernavė Širvintos District

Beautiful landscape, mounds... Peace and quiet! There is a small historical wooden village rebuilt! You can find the real soul of the Middle Ages here. Awesome!

Martin, UK
Near Trakai, there is a palace, a beautiful white palace on the shore of the lake. It’s a romantic place to watch sunsets and listen to live music.

Sophie, France
Hill of Crosses
Jurgaičiai
Šiauliai District
Anthon,
Finland
This unique place gives you some really strange feelings. You even try to breathe silently to not disturb anyone. It’s sacred in its own way but you don’t have to be religious to feel that.

A. Aleksandravičius
Start believing in miracles on the Hill of Crosses
Festival of Kites
Zapyškis
Kaunas District

Let your kite fly in the Festival of Kites

“A valley near the Nemunas with a petite Gothic church, music and numerous kites flying in the sky. Mine was also wandering among them.”

Anna, Ukraine
Play some blues in Varniai

This festival is reflecting everything, what I like to enjoy: good location to chill, nice lake, cozy camping, not many teenagers, different generations. Such a great mix of peace, inside quietness and wild madness.

Dirk, Germany

Festival “Bliuzo naktys”
J. Jablonskio 3A
Varniai

Street art by R. Bartkus
Marijampolė

Leonard Cohen’s waiting for a bus to Vilkaviškis. As it happens, the ancestors of this American artist, musician, singer and writer come from Lithuania, Sudovia.

Ray Bartkus, USA

Meet your personal hero in Marijampolė
The resort has its own history which has been hidden in a fantastic wooden house. It’s as if we’re back to the times of men and women wearing striped bathing suits to the beach.

Piotr, Russia

Learn the resort’s history in Palanga
Take a walk along the wharf of the Danė River.

Klaipėda is full of sea. You feel like a captain even if the ship isn't going anywhere.

Shayne, USA

One more travelling lesson learnt: weather vanes are ancient road signs that used to help fishermen get back home.

Learn the things weather vanes show.

Nida, Curonian Spit

Juli, Norway
An African desert with a sight of the seaside, something simply impossible to explain in words. You have to come and see it with your own eyes!

David, Italy
You Can Meet Them Around the Corner

The fact that we’re less than three million doesn’t matter – we’re big and numerous in the arts. Artists who receive standing ovations around the world walk the streets of our cities. A light but – at the same time – such a strong conductor’s baton, an expressive nod from one of our directors, and a stern silence from another. A wonderful voice echoing in the most famous of concert halls and slow Lithuanian cinematography at the Cannes Film Festival. An artist who counted John Lennon and Yoko Ono among his friends and contemporary Lithuanian art flowing in the halls of MoMA. We have things to show, surprise and be proud of. Just open the door to the world of our art.

What is often available in size 8, is rarely found in sizes above 14. These fashion rules don’t make sense to Lithuanian fashion designer Julia Janus who fights fashion stereotypes by breaking them.
His innovative interpretation of classical plays, from Shakespeare to Chekhov, and of literary works has earned him unfading admiration from the local public and innumerable prizes abroad.

The prodigy of the Lithuanian theatre. He’s a creator of exceptional talent, one of the most subtle theatre directors in Europe. He uses inventive, simple and playful performances to challenge the audience’s feeling of happiness.
Amazing. Fantastic. Wow! Very talented. It’s an honour for me to be here and see this fabulous performance!

Monica Bellucci
Italy

“Wonderful, wonderful! I love it. Thank you, bright light stars. It’s so inspiring! I’m lost for words.”

Wolf-Eckart, Germany

Contemporary Dance Theatre Aura

Theatre director
Anželika Cholina
As a critic at The Voice and a founder of Film Culture, Jonas went a long way toward redefining cinema. And as the founder of Anthology Film Archives, he created a haven, a refuge for filmmakers and their films, a place for cinema.

Martin Scorsese, USA

What blows people over is the huge rhythmic energy and imaginative insight she brings to everything she touches.

Conductor Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla

The Telegraph
She is a commanding and magnetic singer, dominating the stage whenever she appeared. Her musicality, textual awareness and compelling acting really were exceptional.

Boston Classical Review

This Lithuanian artist is able to obtain a maximum effect with minimal effort. It gives his creations a resonating capacity and – because of this special simplicity – conveys a poetical relation with the surroundings.

The New York Times
From Lithuania with Love

The most precious thing we own is our memories. It doesn’t matter where they’re hidden – in a white sheet of paper with an usent letter, a bouquet ribbon, a handcrafted bag, a pebble found on the beach or an amber necklace made by an artist. Memories have their own smell, they’re decorated with colours of the countries they came from, embroidered with feelings and glances. Our biggest wish is for you to bring home genuine feelings from Lithuania. And the loveliest gifts created by our people and our nature.

Linen dresses, a little bit crumpled tablecloths and ceramic crockery which, as it seems, has kept the naturalness, beauty and warmth of previous times. You’ll recognize handmade things anywhere!

Ueda, Japan
Keep your feet warm!

These handmade shoes feel so good on my feet that I don’t want to take them off my feet ever.

Gilli, Germany

You can call yourself a lucky man if you get to the sea when it is windy. The wind will give an excellent opportunity for you to collect a few bits of natural amber.

Liu, China

Raise the curtain of millennia
Taste of Lithuania

In spring, when the lands beyond our cities smell like fresh soil and the birds are passing by, we go to the fields to pick nettles. The same nettles that our princess used to knit shirts for her twelve brothers. We, however, bake pies with them. We also like picking wild strawberries, raspberries and blueberries in our forests, and making wonderfully fragrant jams out of them. We know our mushrooms, our baskets are full of apples, we still use our grandparents’ recipes, we like cooking and we love eating. But our most beloved activity is meeting our friends in places that cherish the wisdom of our grandparents yet have a modern take on food.
Try things that have been grown here

Let your taste buds run riot. It’s an experience, not a restaurant. It’s Užupis, so it adds to the wonder. The food was fresh, seasonal, high quality and respectful of the tradition, but at the same time it was very innovative.

Takuma, Japan

Give in to improvisation in the kitchen

You can’t get the flavours created out of your head for a few days. It’s truly a miracle.

Xabi, Spain
This place in Kaunas is already playing in big boys league! When you are not expecting to be blown away and then boom! More than food, more than art. Wow!

Sergej, Belarus

"Experiment with your taste"

This one was a truly Lithuanian experience with current authentic ingredients. And it was joy for all the senses.

Dana, Germany

"Feel the joy on your plate"