

Lithuania

Presentation by Paul Pacter

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Republic of Lithuania
Lithuanian: Lietuvos Respublika

– Short Form: Lietuva

Was named Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic **while** occupied by the USSR 1940-41, 1944-1990.

– Soviet annexation of Lithuania not recognized internationally.

Lithuania In Europe



Located on the Baltic Sea.

Area: 25,212 sq mi (about size of West Virginia).

Border countries:

- Latvia 281 miles.
- Belarus 312 miles.
- Poland 57 miles.
- Russia 141 miles.

Baltic Coastline 67 miles.



Climate

Affected by Baltic Sea.

- Humid continental climate.
- Wet, moderate winters.

Average temperatures on the coast:

- 35°F in January.
- 64°F in July.



Elevation

No significant mountains.

- Highest point: 965 feet.
- Mean elevation: 361 feet.

Terrain

- Lowland.
- Small lakes.



Capital: Vilnius.

City Center is UNESCO World Heritage site.

Time: UTC+2
(Eastern Europe).

Flag: Adopted
April 25, 1918.

– Independence from Russia.



1,487
buildings
are in the
UNESCO
City Centre

Population (2026 est)

Lithuania 2,797,338

Largest Cities:

Vilnius 607,842 *Capital*

Kaunas 302,874

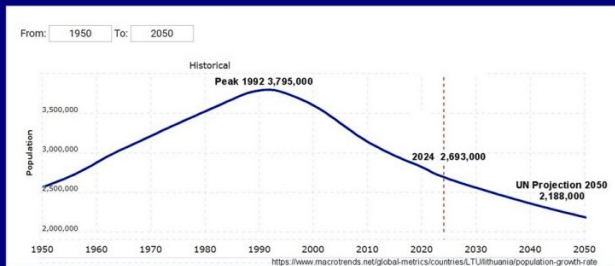
Klaipeda 160,082

Siauliai 111,018

Panevezys 84,392

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/cities/lithuania>

Lithuania's population has been declining steadily since 1992. Projected to continue.



News 2020.10.05 17:57

LRT FACTS. Is Lithuania the world's fastest-shrinking country? 71



Jurga Bakaitė, LRT.lt
2020.10.05 17:57

<https://www.lrt.lt/en/news-in-english/19/1246361/lrt-facts-is-lithuania-the-world-s-fastest-shrinking-country>

A few headlines
2020

Lithuania faces deepening demographic crisis as birthrate falls by third in decade

Slightly more than 30,000 children were born in Lithuania a decade ago, but almost 11,000 fewer births were recorded last year, according to reports

Necva Tostan Sevinc

19 November 2025 • Update: 19 November 2025

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/lithuania-faces-deepening-demographic-crisis-as-birthrate-falls-by-third-in-decade/3747829>

2025

Birth rate in Lithuania falls to 'all-time low'

The number of children born in Lithuania has reached an all-time low, media reports say.

<https://reporterworld.com/84610887/birth-rate-in-lithuania-falls-to-all-time-low>

2025

Ethnic Groups: (2024 est.)

- 83% Lithuanians.
- 6% Poles.
- 5% Russians.
- 2% Belarusians.
- 2% Ukrainians.
- 2% Others.

Plus
53,379
refugees
from
Ukraine
(March
2026)

Languages:

Official: Lithuanian.

Primary language at home:

- Lithuanian 86%.
- Polish 6%.
- Russian 8%.

Good morning
= Labas rytas

Roughly 80% of young people speak at least some English.

Median age (2024 est):

- Total: 45.1.
- Male: 40.9.
- Female: 49.2.

Median (total)
in 1990 was 25.1.

Median Age USA (2024):

- Total: 39.2 years.
- Male: 38.1.
- Female: 40.5.

Alcohol consumption per capita:

- Fourth Highest in the world!
- Latvia #2. Czech Rep #3.

Also high tobacco use:

- 32% of adults #20 (out of 164 countries) in the world.
- US 23%.

Miscellany:

Education Expenditures: 4% of GDP (USA 6.1%).

Literacy: 99.8% both men and women.

Internet Country Code: .lt

National Airline: None.

Government:

"Semi-presidential" republic:

President Gitanas Nausėda.

Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė.

Semi-presidential means both the President and the Prime Minister have certain executive powers and both report to the legislature.

Head of State: President.

- Directly elected by people.
- 5- year term.

Responsibilities:

Foreign affairs, national security, military commander-in-chief. Appoints Prime Minister and Cabinet.



President Gitanas Nausėda. Since 2019.

Head of Government: Prime Minister.

- Appointed by President.
- Then approved by Parliament.

Responsibilities:

Chief executive officer of government.



Prime Minister Mindaugas Sinkevičius Since July 2026

Unicameral Parliament called Seimas

141 seats:

- 71 directly elected by constituencies.
- 70 directly elected in a single nationwide constituency.

4-year terms.



10 Parties

A Few Key International Memberships:

EU.
IMF.
NATO.
Schengen Convention.
Eurozone. €
UN.
WTO.



Gross Domestic Product Lithuania 2026 (est)

Nominal: \$106 billion. *USA: \$32 trillion*

PPP Adjusted: \$177 billion.

Per Capita:

Nominal: \$36,545. *USA: \$94,430.*

PPP Adjusted: \$61,052.

<https://www.worldometers.info/gdp/lithuania-gdp/>

Lithuania Gross Domestic Product



History - 1

1236: Lithuania united by King Mindaugas.

By the end of the 14th century: Lithuania was the largest state in Europe.

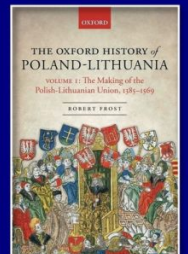
1569: Lithuania and Poland formally united into a single state, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

History – 2

1569-1795: Commonwealth of Poland and Lithuania.

By early 17th c: Commonwealth covered 400,000 square miles, population 12 million.

- Polish and Latin co-official languages.
- Catholicism state religion.



Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth - 1619



History - 3

1795: Conquered by Russian Empire, which then controlled Lithuania until WWII.

1918: Lithuania regained its independence after World War I.

1940: USSR annexed it – an action never recognized by the US and many other countries.

History - 4

1941-1944: Nazi control.

1944-1990: Soviet control again.

1990: Lithuania became the first of the Soviet republics to declare its independence.

2004: Joined NATO and EU.

2015: Joined Eurozone.

WWII – Ghetto and Holocaust

Before Holocaust: Between 210,000 and 250,000 Jews in Lithuania.

90% murdered by Nazis.

– **Mass executions June – December**

1941: Killed 80% of Jews.

– **Ghetto period 1942 – March 1943:**

43,000 Jews forced into ghettos.

– **Final liquidation April 1943 – July**

1944: Only a few thousand Jews were left to be liberated in the end.

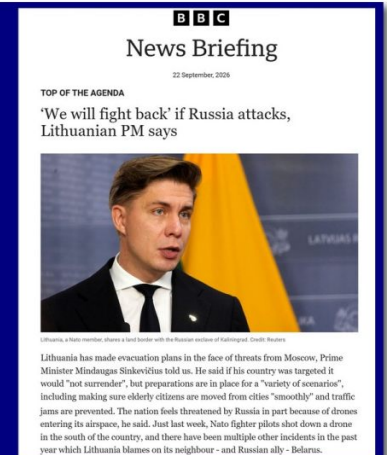
Lithuania's Last 100 Years – Postage Stamps



BBC Interview with Lithuanian PM -

Sept 22, 2026:

"We will fight back" if Russia attacks. We would "not surrender".

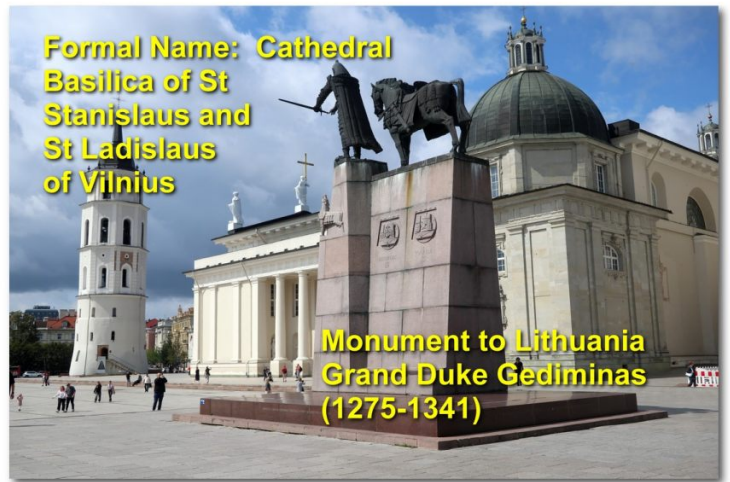


Exploring Vilnius, Lithuania



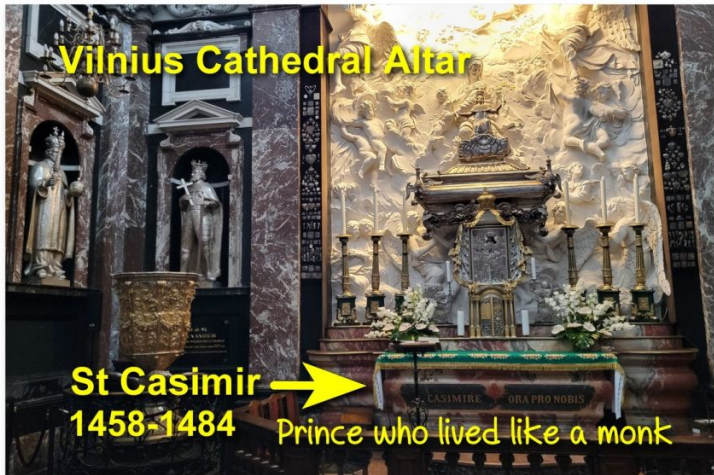


Vilnius Cathedral
1783
Lithuania's patron saint
St. Casimir rests in the
Cathedral Basilica.



**Formal Name: Cathedral
Basilica of St
Stanislaus and
St Ladislaus
of Vilnius**

**Monument to Lithuania
Grand Duke Gediminas
(1275-1341)**



Vilnius Cathedral Altar

St Casimir →
1458-1484 Prince who lived like a monk



Vilnius Cathedral

St Stanislaus

St Casimir



Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania

**Reconstruction of 15th-17th c Palace.
Destroyed by Russian invasion early 19th c.
Reconstructed 2013. Some original parts remain.**



**Palace of the Grand Dukes
Original 15th c Foundations**



**Palace of the Grand Dukes
Original 14th-15th c Pottery**



**Palace of the Grand Dukes
of Lithuania**

Reconstructed



Palace of the Grand Dukes



**Palace of the Grand Dukes
Throne Room**



**Palace of the Grand Dukes
of Lithuania**



**Casimir and
Elizabeth
1492**

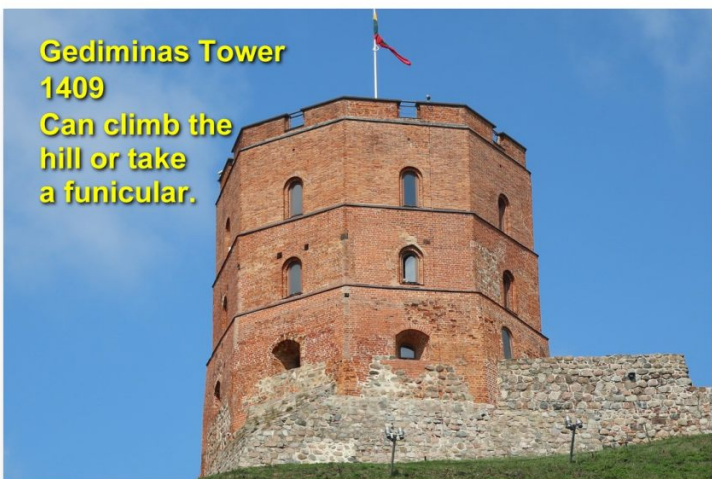
**He was Grand Duke of
Lithuania 1440-1492.
Saint Casimir was their son.**



**Palace of the Grand Dukes
of Lithuania**



**Gediminas Tower
Remaining part
brick castle
built 1409.**



**Gediminas Tower
1409
Can climb the
hill or take
a funicular.**



Gediminas Tower is a tourist pilgrimage site



Urgent repairs to Gediminas Hill due to July 2024 landslide.



**Narutis Hotel
On main walking street in Old Town.
Highly recommended.**



**Narutis Hotel
Breakfast Buffet
In 16th c Cave Basement**



**Narutis Hotel
Smoked Salmon and
Whitefish**



**Narutis Hotel
Cheese Blintzes**



**Narutis Hotel Breakfast
Herring**

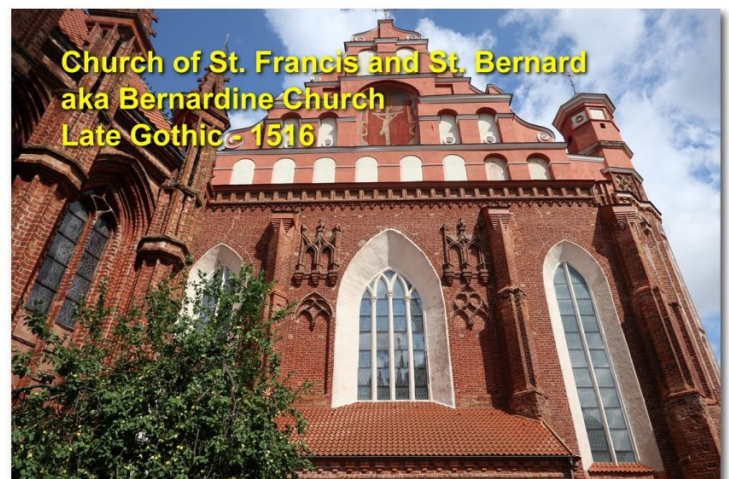
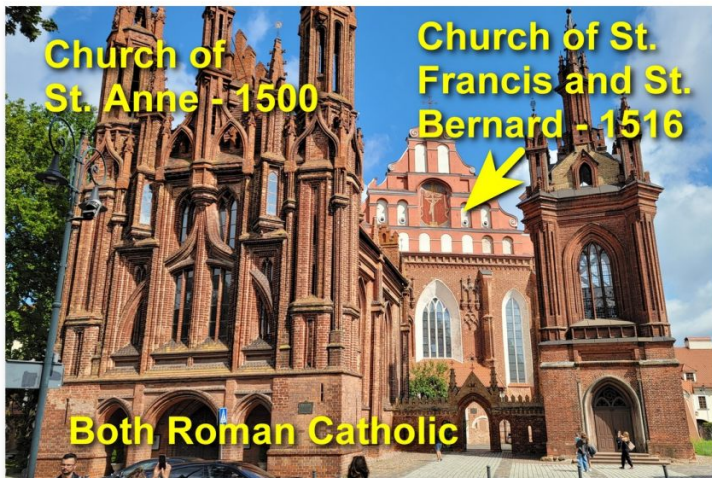


**Pilies Street
Main walking street in Old Town**



**Lithuanian Food on Pilies Street
Borscht, Stuffed Cabbages, Potato
Pancakes, Chicken Livers, Pork Shank**

**Shared starter, two main dishes,
two drinks - about US\$40 for two**







St Michael's Church - 1625
Now a Heritage Museum



St Michael's Church - 1625
Heritage Museum



St Michael's Church - 1625
Heritage Museum



The Gate of Dawn
City Gate - 1522
Major site of Catholic pilgrimage in Lithuania.



Gate of Dawn - 1522
Pilgrims



St. Teresa Basilica
Baroque
Roman Catholic
Built 1633-1654
View from
Gate of Dawn



St. Teresa Basilica
Baroque
Built 1633-1654



Old Town - Vilnius
Ukraine



**Lithuanian Academy of Sciences
Old Town**



Cafe - Old Town



**Hales Market
(Hall Market)
1906**



Hall Market - Vilnius

Prices are in Euros
Per Kilogram (2.2 pounds)

**Kohlrabi
"Turnip Cabbage"**



**Hall Market - Vilnius
Pickled Veggies**



Sesame Halvah (sweet) with Almonds



Hall Market



**Hall Market
Sausages, Bacon**



**Hall Market
Pig Trotters**



**Lithuanian National Museum of Art
Lithuanian Paintings, Drawings,
Sculptures from the 14th century
onward.**



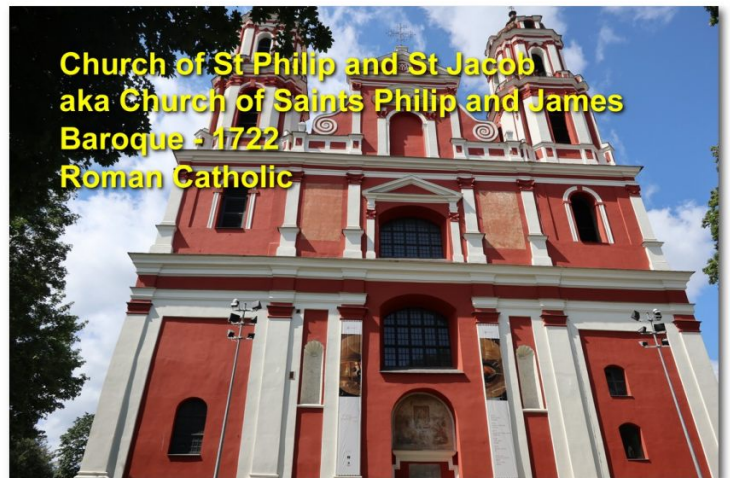
**Lithuanian National
Museum of Art**



Lithuanian National Museum of Art



**Lithuanian National Museum
of Art**



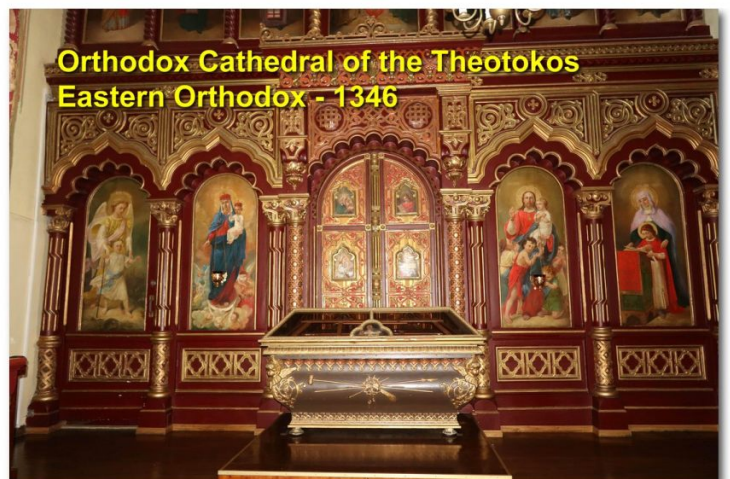
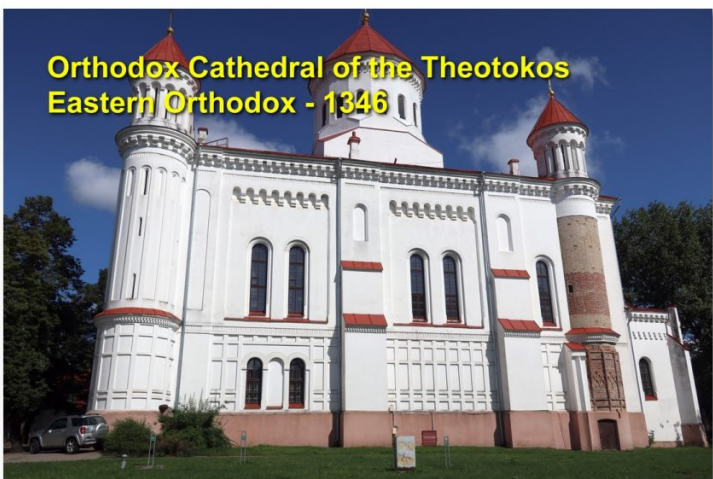
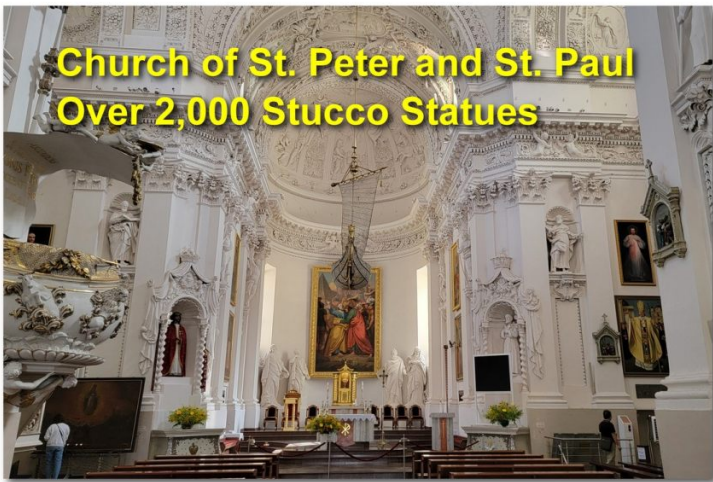
**Church of St Philip and St Jacob
aka Church of Saints Philip and James
Baroque - 1722
Roman Catholic**

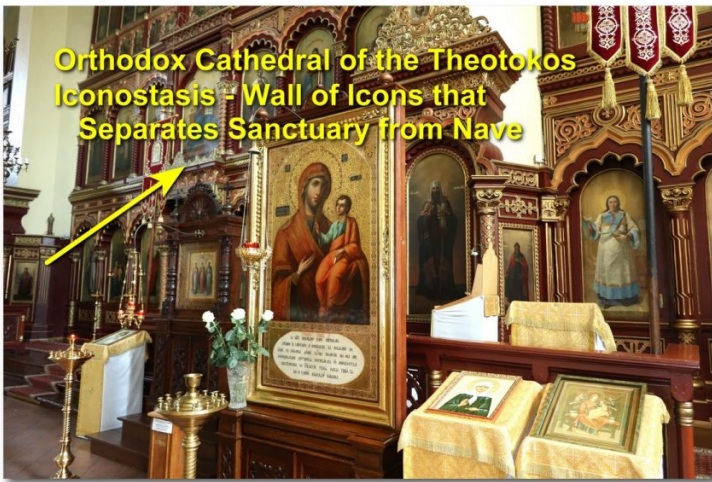


**Church of St Philip and St Jacob
Baroque - 1722**

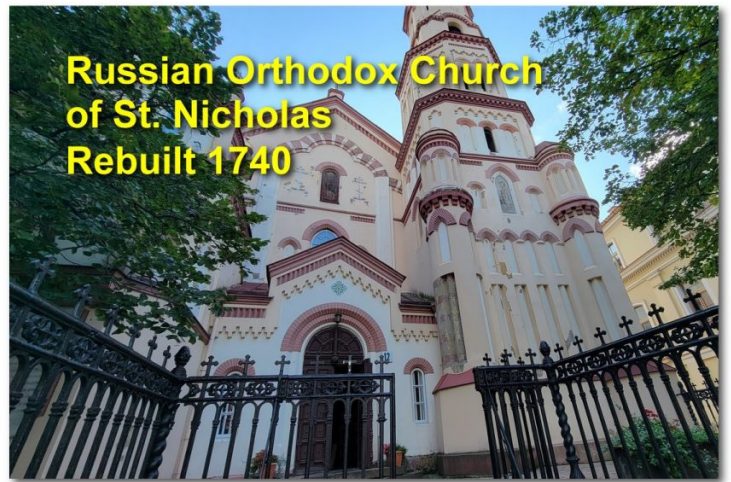


**Church of St. Peter and St. Paul
Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth Baroque
Roman Catholic - 1701**





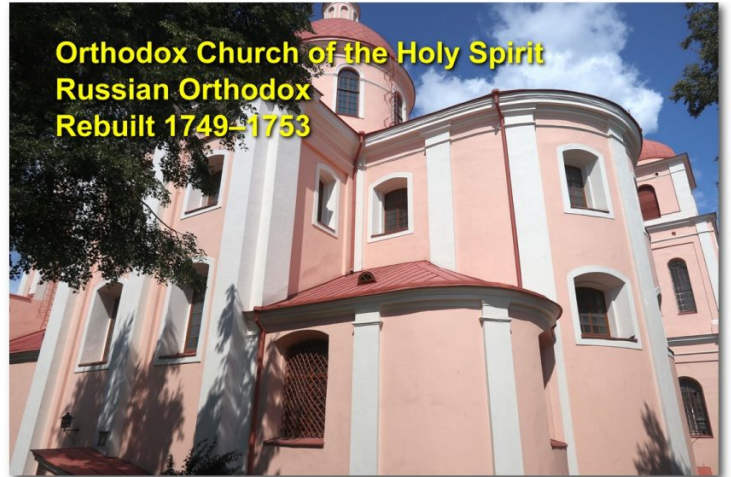
Orthodox Cathedral of the Theotokos
Iconostasis - Wall of Icons that
Separates Sanctuary from Nave



**Russian Orthodox Church
of St. Nicholas**
Rebuilt 1740



**Russian Orthodox Church
of St. Nicholas**
Iconostasis



Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit
Russian Orthodox
Rebuilt 1749-1753

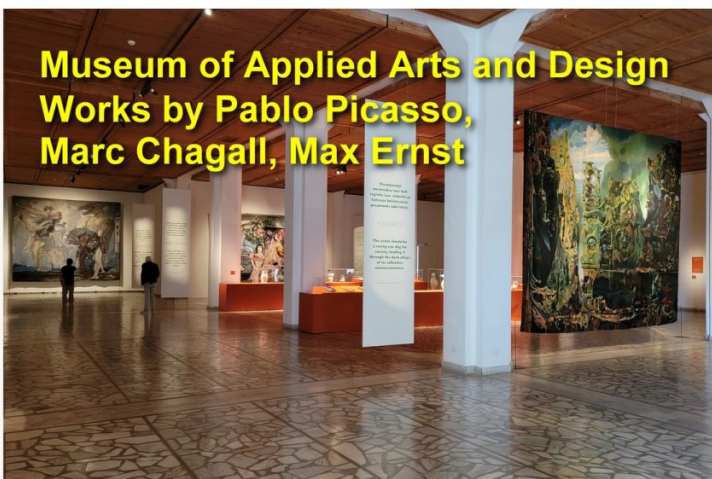


**Orthodox Church of the
Holy Spirit**
Iconostasis

Crypt has remains of Saints
Anthony, John, and Eustathios



Museum of Applied Arts and Design
In 16th c Old Arsenal



Museum of Applied Arts and Design
Works by Pablo Picasso,
Marc Chagall, Max Ernst



**Museum of Applied Arts
and Design**
Pablo Picasso



Museum of Applied Arts and Design
Marc Chagall



Museum of Applied Arts and Design
Lithuanian Folk Arts



Museum of Applied Arts and Design
Lithuanian Folk Arts



Museum of Applied Arts and Design
Lithuanian Folk Art



Money Museum of the Bank of Lithuania
History of Lithuanian and World Money



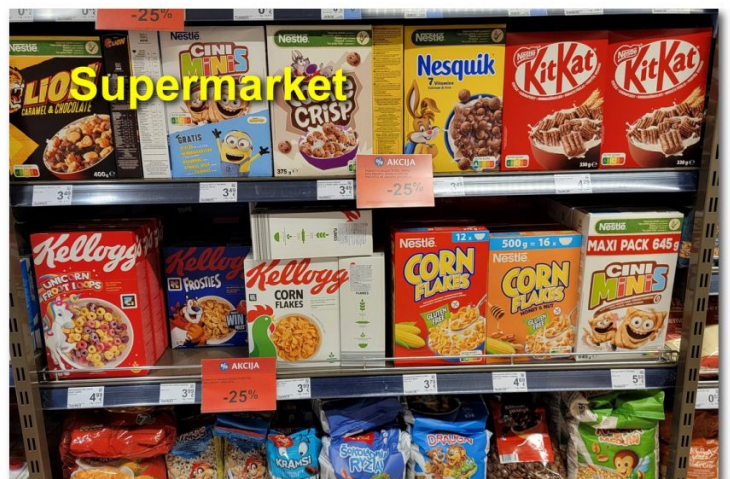
Money Museum of the Bank of Lithuania
Over 55,000 Items on Exhibit



Money Museum
Pre-Euro Lithuanian Currency



National Museum of Lithuania
Archaeology Exposition
In 16th Century Arsenal
Collection includes
600,000 archaeological finds.
11th c BC to 19th c AD.





Public Transport in Lithuania

To/From Airport: Take taxi. About €21.

Within Vilnius: No Uber. Local equivalent is Bolt. Download App. Add US Credit Card. Most rides in city center €4-6.

Vilnius has Bus, Trolley Bus. Tickets:

- 30 minutes €0.65 (€1 from driver).
- 60 minutes €0.90.
- 1 day (24 hrs) €5.
- 3 day (72 hrs) €8.








Day Trips From Vilnius

Day Trips from Vilnius
We did not do any.

Most interesting ➔ **seems to be Trakai Castle:**

- UNESCO site and National Park.
- 14th c Gothic castle on island.
- 20 miles west of Vilnius.
- Pedestrian bridge to island.



Hill of Crosses Pilgrimage site in northern Lithuania.



Easier to go by
day trip from Riga, Latvia.

– **Can do other stops besides Hill.**

Yes, there are organized day trips
from Vilnius. 2 hour drive each way.

Bus Ride Vilnius to Riga Four Hours - Nonstop



Buy bus ticket, choose seats,
online. Bus has free wifi, outlet,
coffee (instant), toilet, videos.

Countryside on Bus Trip Vilnius to Riga



Countryside on Bus Trip Vilnius to Riga



The End = Pabaiga of Our Visit to Vilnius, Lithuania

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