



**Lithuanian State Tourism Department
under the Ministry of the Economy**
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LITHUANIA

a new and exciting experience

ACCOMMODATION

In recent years Lithuania has made a substantial progress in tourist service sector. Tourist infrastructure has been rapidly developing. Hotels and motels in Lithuania are classified according to the categories from 1 to 5 stars, while guest, recreation houses and holiday camps according to the categories from 1 to 4 stars.

Hotels, Motels: www.LithuanianTravel.com; www.visitlithuania.lt; www.travelbaltics.lt; www.vilniushotels.lt; www.inyourpocket.com.

Holiday Camps: www.strenko.lt/kempingas, www.viktorija.lt, www.kempingas.lt, www.camptrakai.lt, www.karkle.lt, www.ventaine.lt.

The most beautiful places of Lithuania, i.e. national and regional parks, attract tourists for their rural tourism farmsteads (www.countryside.lt), providing a unique opportunity to get a glimpse of Lithuanian traditions and customs, enjoy a number of attractions and try traditional food.

USEFUL LINKS

The Official Lithuanian Travel Guide: www.LithuanianTravel.com

Cultural heritage, events, city attractions

In Vilnius: www.vilnius.lt, Kaunas: www.kaunas.lt, Siauliai: www.siauliai.lt, Panevezys: www.panevezys.sav.lt/tur.html, Trakai: www.trakai.lt, Repertoires of Lithuanian Theatres: www.teatras.lt, Repertoire of Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre: www.opera.lt, Museums: www.muziejai.lt, Repertoires of classical music concerts: www.filharmonija.lt, Grutas Park: www.grutoparkas.lt, Europe's Park: www.europosparkas.lt, Amusements: www.online.lt/leisure.htm, www.lithuaniaguide.info.

Active Recreation

Various information: www.online.lt/travel.htm, Rural tourism: www.countryside.lt, In Ignalina region: www.ignalina.lt, Moletai region: www.moletai.lt, Cycling: www.dviratis.lt, Bird watching: www.birdlife.lt, The Dzūkija National Park: www.dzukijosparkas.lt, The Curonian Spit National Park: www.nerija.lt, The Zemaitija National Park: www.zamaitijosnp.lt, Hot Air Balloon flights: www.orobalionai.lt, Catalogue of Lithuanian Tourist Companies: www.viskasturizmui.lt.

Seashore, Resorts

Klaipeda: www.klaipeda.lt, Neringa: www.neringainfo.lt, Palanga: www.palangatic.lt, Klaipeda Sea Museum - Dolphinarium: www.juru.muziejus.lt, Palanga Amber Museum: www.pgm.lt, Birštonas: www.birstonas.lt, Druskininkai: www.druskonis.lt/info/.



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London W1U 6AU
Tel.: (44 20) 7486 64 01
Fax.: (44 20) 7486 64 03
amb.uk@urm.lt
<http://amb.urm.lt/jk/>

LITHUANIAN TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES ABROAD

Germany

The Tourist Information Centre of Baltic States
(Latvia - Lithuania -Estonia)
Katharinen Street 19
10711 Berlin
Tel. 030-89009091
Fax 030-89009092
info@gobaltic.de
www.baltikuminfo.de

Poland

Al.Ujazdowskie 51
00-536 Warsaw
Tel. 22 5847052
Fax 22 5847053
info@litwatravel.com
www.litwatravel.com

Russia

Borisoglebskij per.13 corpus 2
121069 Moscow
Tel./fax (7 095) 203 6790
litinfo@sovintel.ru
www.litinfo.ru

Finland

Kapteeninkatu 7
00140 Helsinki
Tel. (358 9) 622 777 17
Fax (358 9) 622 777 18
info@liettua.fi
www.liettua.fi



Geography

Lithuania is situated in the North-Eastern Europe on the Eastern coast of the Baltic Sea. It shares a common continental border with Belarus of 660 km, Latvia of 588 km, Poland of 103 km, and Russia (Kaliningrad Region) of 273 km. The coastline stretches for 90 km. The territory of the State is 65,300 sq. km. From the North to the South the territory of the State is 276 km; from the West to the East 373 km. A detailed map of Lithuania is available at www.maps.lt.

The Geographical Centre of Europe

According to the estimates of the National Institute of Geography in France (in 1989) the real geographical centre of Europe is in Lithuania, further North (26 km) from the City of Vilnius, in Girijos village (tel.: +370 601 97198, e-mail: egc@vilnius.aps.lt). The fact is registered in the Guinness Book of World Records.

www.LithuanianTravel.com



Population

Total population is 3,462,553 (2003). Ethnic groups: Lithuanians 83.5%, Russians 6.3 %, Polish 6.3 %, Belarusian 1.2%, and other 3.2 %. Religion: the majority of residents of Lithuania are Roman Catholics; however there are a number of people professing Russian Orthodox, Evangelical Lutheran, Baptist and other religions.

Cities

The capital is the City of Vilnius (population of 533,038); other major cities include Kaunas (368,917), Klaipeda (190,098), Siauliai (131,184), Panevezys (117,606), Alytus (70,774), Marijampole (70,304).

Regions

Lithuania is divided into 4 cultural-historical regions: Aukstaitija (Central and North-Eastern Lithuania), Dzūkija (South-Eastern Lithuania), Suvalkija (South-Western Lithuania), Zemaitija (North-Western Lithuania). The administrative-territorial division of the State: 10 counties, 60 urban and regional municipalities.

Language

The state language is Lithuanian, which belongs to the Indo-European language group and is one of the oldest languages in the world. In major cities Russian, Polish, English and German are widely spoken.

State Order

The State of Lithuania is an independent democratic republic. The main institution of the legislative branch is the Parliament (*the Seimas*) of 141 seats. Members of the Seimas are elected for 4-year term. The Head of the State is the President directly elected by the citizens of the State for 5-year term. The President appoints the Head of the Government, i.e. the Prime Minister, who is in turn approved by the Seimas. The Government consists of 13 Ministers. The President's Office: www.president.lt; the Seimas: www.lrs.lt; the Government: www.lrv.lt.

Symbols of the State

Flag: three horizontal bands of yellow, green, and red. The State emblem: the White Knight in red field.

Climate

The climate of Lithuania is maritime-continental; the average temperature in winter is 4.9°C, in summer + 17°C, although in summer can rise above + 30°C, and in winter fall to - 30°C.

Time

GMT + 2 hours

Currency

The national currency is the Litas (Lt); 1 Lt = 100 cents. The exchange rate of the Litas is pegged to the exchange rate of the Euro by 3,4528 Lt = 1 €. Currency exchange rates are available at: www.lb.lt.

Credit cards

All convertible currencies can be exchanged at banks and currency exchange offices. Most shops, hotels, restaurants accept the most popular credit cards including Globus, Euro Card, MasterCard, Visa and Visa Electron, and American Express. ATMs are common in all major cities.

Electrical appliances

The electricity supply is 220 V, A.C. 50 Hz; European 2-pin plugs are used.

Emergency telephones

Fire station: 01, police: 02, ambulance: 03

Health Insurance

When visiting Lithuania, it is advised to have travel health insurance. Institutions of health care and pharmacies are widely common in all cities and towns of Lithuania.

Info telephones

118 or 1588. From mobile phones call 125 or 124.

Phoning

The code of Lithuania is +370, followed by the code of town or region and finally the telephone number. Codes of regions and towns are available at www.telecom.lt

ARRIVAL:

Visas

The list of countries, citizens of which do not need to be in possession of visas, when entering Lithuania: Ireland, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bruno Darussalam, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Chile, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Spain, Italy, Israel, Japan, USA, Great Britain, Canada, China, Cyprus, Costa Rika, Croatia, Latvia, Poland, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, South Korea, Portugal, France, Rumania, Salvador, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Singapore, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey**, Ukraine *, Uruguay, Vatican, Venezuela, Hungary, Germany. (*Only the owners of diplomatic and service passports. **Only the owners of diplomatic, service and special passports).

Citizens of other countries, who need to be possession of visas to enter Lithuania, can contact the nearest diplomatic mission of Lithuania. A single entry visa costs around 20-25 USD. Visas are not issued at the border.

For more information: Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs tel. +370 5 236 24 00, urm@urm.lt, www.urm.lt.

Customs information: www.cust.lt/en/

By Plane

There are 3 international airports in Lithuania, i.e. in Vilnius, Kaunas and Palanga, offering direct flights to/from Vilnius and Amsterdam, Berlin, Dublin, Köln, Copenhagen, Frankfurt am Main, Hamburg, Helsinki, Kiev, London, Moscow, Munich, Paris, Prague, Riga, Stockholm, Tallinn, Vienna, Warsaw.

Schedules of flights from Vilnius are available from www.vilnius-airport.lt, tel. +370 5 230 66 66; flights from Kaunas: www.kaunasair.lt; flights from Palanga www.palanga-airport.lt.

Lithuanian Airlines (LAL) www.lal.lt, info@lal.lt

By Ship

Klaipeda Seaport is the most northerly ice-free port on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea. There are 4 regular passenger and cargo ferry lines: Klaipeda – Kiel (Germany), Klaipeda – Karlshamn (Sweden), Klaipeda – Sassnitz (Germany), Klaipeda – Aabenraa (Denmark, cargo ferry). Information on ferry lines and ticket reservation available at Krantas Travel: www.krantas.lt.

By Car

Lithuania could be entered through the following border posts: from Poland through Lazdijai and Kalvarija. From Belarus through Lavoriskes, Medininkai, Raigardas and Salcininkai. From Latvia through Butinge, Kalviai, Salociai, Obeliai and Smelyne. From Russia (Kaliningrad region) through Nida, Panemune and Kybartai.

Insurance: “Green Card” is valid in the territory of Lithuania, and could be purchased at the border.

Speed limitations: cities, towns and residential areas: 50 km/h; roads: 90 km/h; highways: 130 km/h (110 km/h from 1 November until 1 May).

Safety Belts: a driver and passengers all must have their safety belts fastened. Children under 12 years of age are not allowed to sit in the front seat of a car.

Lights: low-beam headlights are to be turned on from 1 September until 1 April. The use of mobile phone when driving is forbidden. Allowed quantity of alcohol in blood is 0.4 per mil.

Car Rent: www.avis.lt, www.budget.lt, www.eurocar.lt, www.hertz.lt.

Technical Road Assistance: (8-800) 1 1414, 8-800 0 00 00 (24 hours a day), from mobile phones call 188.

By Bus

Lithuanian roads are considered to be the best in the Baltic States. A network of local and international roads is highly developed. There are direct international bus routes to the main cities of Ireland, Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, Denmark, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Spain, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Norway, and other countries.

For more information call 1661 in Vilnius, from mobile phone or other towns call 8-900-01661.

Eurolines Baltic International: www.eurolines.lt, TOKS: www.toks.lt, Ecolines: www.ecolines.lt.

By Train

It is possible to come to Lithuania by train from Gomel (Belarus), Kaliningrad (Russia), Charkov (Ukraine), Lvov (Ukraine), Minsk (Belarus), Moscow (Russia), Riga (Latvia), St Petersburg (Russia) and Warsaw (Poland). From Western Europe it is possible to reach Lithuania through Warsaw. For more information see www.litrail.lt



THE MAIN HISTORICAL FACTS

1009	Lithuania first mentioned in the Kvedlinburgh Chronicle. In 2009 Lithuanian will celebrate a millennium of the first record of its name in historical sources.
3rd century	Foundation of the State of Lithuania. The Grand Duchy of Lithuania was established by Mindaugas, the first King of Lithuania (crowned in 1253).
1323	The City of Vilnius founded by Grand Duke Gediminas.
1385	The Kreva Treaty signed between Lithuania and Poland, which resulted in Lithuania's conversion to Christianity.
1392-1430	During the rule of Grand Duke Vytautas, Lithuania became one of the largest States in Europe. Its territory extended from the Baltic to the Black Sea.
1569	Under the Lublin Union, Lithuania and Poland merged into a Commonwealth (<i>Rzeczpospolita</i>), which remained in existence until 1795.
1795-1915	The major part of Lithuania's territory was annexed by Russia.
16 February 1918	The Council of Lithuania declared the restoration of an independent Republic of Lithuania.
1921	Lithuania joined the League of Nations.
1940-1990	Lithuania was occupied by the Soviet Union.
11 March 1990	Lithuania declared the restoration of its independence.
September 1992	Lithuania became a member of the United Nations.
May 1993	Lithuania joined the Council of Europe.
1 April 2004	Lithuania became a member of NATO.
1 May 2004	Lithuania became a member of the EU.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

1 January	New Year
16 February	Day of Restoration of Statehood of Lithuania
11 March	Day of Restoration of Independence of Lithuania
27-28 March in 2005	Easter
1 May	International Labour Day
24 June	Feast of St. John
6 July	Day of Statehood (crowning of Lithuanian King Mindaugas)
15 August	Day of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin
1 November	All Saints' Day
25-26 December	Christmas

