

## Cultural Heritage in Lithuania



**The Curonian Spit** is a peninsula with sand dunes separating the Curonian Lagoon from the Baltic Sea. At the year 2000 the Curonian Spit was included to the World Heritage Site.



The Curonian Spit

The northern side of the spit belongs to Lithuania. The other part belongs to the Kaliningrad region. Smiltynė-Nida is the only peninsula road along the Nerija.

The Curonian Spit is a protected area with the Curonian Spit National Park in the Lithuanian part and the Curonian Spit National Park in the Kaliningrad Region. Nerijos area - 180 km², length - about 98 km beach width - about 10-50 meters. Forests cover 6852 ha. The highest point of the peninsula is the 67.2 m high Vecekrug dune, the second highest dune in Europe! The vegetation of the Curonian Spit National Park is rich in various species, 31 of which are included in the Lithuanian Red Book. 46 species of mammals are found here. In total there has been located 262 bird species. According to the legend, the spit was flooded by a girl Neringa, who was trying to protect people from the waves caused by the angry creature Bangputys.

Vilnius Old Town - is the oldest part of Vilnius and is the largest Baroque Old Town in Eastern and Central Europe.

It is one of the largest urban complexes in Eastern Europe, which began to take shape in the Middle Ages. The city includes 74 blocks with 70 streets and alleys, 1487 buildings. The Old Town has been formed for several hundred years, and the history and major cultural influences of the city are immortalized here. The buildings and their elements belong to different architectural styles (Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque,



Classicism, a bit modern). The dominant style in the Old Town is Baroque. The most famous baroque buildings in Vilnius: The St. Casimir's Church, 18th c. in the second quarter a st. St. John's Church with a bell tower and some buildings of the architectural ensemble of Vilnius University. In the Old Town is Castle



Hill. at the top of which stands the Gediminas Tower and the remains of the fortifications of the Upper Castle.

1994 The Old Town of Vilnius is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List as one of the most beautiful cities on the Old Continent, with the largest Baroque Old

Town in all of Central and Eastern Europe.

Kernavė Archaeological and Historical Museum-Reserve - It was established in 1989. To preserve the archaeological, historical and natural monuments. The territory of the reserve - 194.4 ha The entire Pajauta Valley with its five mounds and a part of the upper terrace of the Neris, where the present-day Kernavė town is located. The mounds are the most expressive highlight of the reserve. There are up to a thousand of them in Lithuania, but nowhere else can we find five in one place. In the territory of the



Cultural Reserve the whole complex of cultural heritage objects is preserved, where 18 archaeological, historical and cultural values are currently known and legalized.

Trakai Island Castle - is a Gothic castle in Trakai, on Galvė Lake Castle Island. Built on the initiative of dukes Kestutis and Vytautas in the 14th century. Now the castle is restored and is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Lithuania; Various festivals, archeological and historical expositions, and hunting museum are held in the castle. There is a park near the castle on the island. An important fact in the history of Trakai castle is that in 1430 October 27 The Grand Duke of Lithuania Vytautas died in this castle. The castle was later used as a prison. During the Moscow war the castle was destroyed. 1962 The Trakai History Museum was established in the restored castle palace in the 18th century.



Trakai Island Castle

