

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE IN LITHUANIA



Vilniaus turizmo ir
prekybos verslo
mokykla



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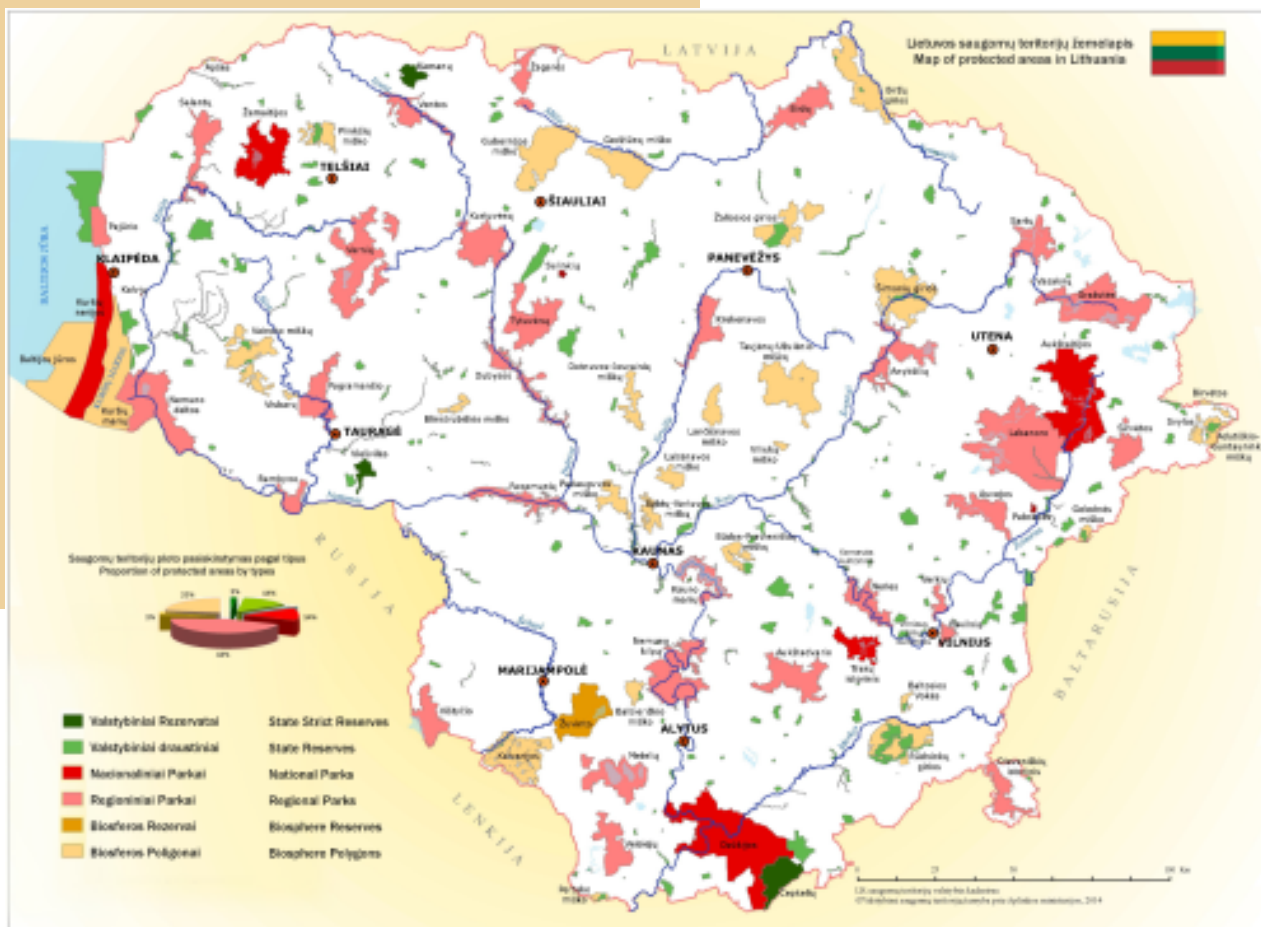
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"Traditions without frontiers- journey around
regional cultures"



Erasmus+

Protected areas contain 15,6 % of Lithuania's territory.



General system of protected areas is:

- Strict reserves
- Reserves
- National parks
- Regional Parks

THE PROTECTED AREAS IN LITHUANIA

STRICT RESERVES



- Strict reserves - all economic activity in strict reserves is forbidden. Within Lithuania, there are three state strict nature reserves (Čepkeliai, Kamanos and Viešvilė) and two state strict cultural reserves (Kernavė and Vilnius Castles), 36 nature and three cultural strict reserves within complex protected areas and one small strict reserve (Dubrava).

RESERVES



.. Reserves – established for the protection of wild birds, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna. In Lithuania there are 355 reserves.

NATIONAL PARKS



- National parks – are large-scale protected areas that have been established in areas that are from a natural, cultural and recreational aspect especially valuable. There are five national parks in Lithuania, one of which is historical. They are the Aukštaitija, Dzūkija, Curonian Spit, Trakai Historical and Žemaitija national parks.

REGIONAL PARKS



- Regional Parks - there are 30 regional parks in Lithuania. Lithuania's regional parks can be grouped into the following categories according to their general landscape type:
 - o Coastal and lagoon regional parks: coastal cliff (Pajūris), lagoon valley (Kaunas Lagoon);
 - o River valley regional parks: deep valley (Dubysa, Krekenava, Pagramantis, Panemuniai, Salantai), shallow valley (Venta, Dieveniškiai historical), delta valley (Nemunas Delta), great loops (Nemunas Loops, Neris), riverside (Rambynas),
 - o sub-valley gullies (Pavilniai); Forested lake regions and hilly regional parks: valley lake regions (Labanoras), valley lake hills (Anykščiai, Gražutė, Kurtuvėnai, Sirvėta, Verkiai), lake hills (Aukštadvaris, Varniai), lakeshore hills (Vištytis), lakes (Asveja, Meteliai, Sartai, Veisiejai);
 - o Plateau and plain regional parks: karst plain (Biržai), lake plateaus (Tytuvėnai), river plains (Žagarė)

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE IN LITHUANIA

Lithuania has 4 UNESCO heritage sites, 3 inscriptions of its art and traditions in UNESCO immaterial world heritage, 1 site on the UNESCO tentative list, 1 suggested UNESCO site and 1 inscription in UNESCO Memory of the World.

In 1994 the Vilnius historic centre was inscribed on the UNESCO World heritage list as having outstanding universal value (under ii and iv criteria of selection). The historic part of the city was formed in the 14-18th centuries and covered the area of 359.5 ha. In its prospering times Vilnius made a great influence on cultural and architectural development of the whole region of Central and Eastern Europe.



The authentic buildings that served for defensive, residential, representative and spiritual purposes have been preserved in the Vilnius Old Town. Here you can find the features of Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and, Classical architectural styles. The architecture of the city is unique, because all the styles merge into one harmonious aesthetical unit.

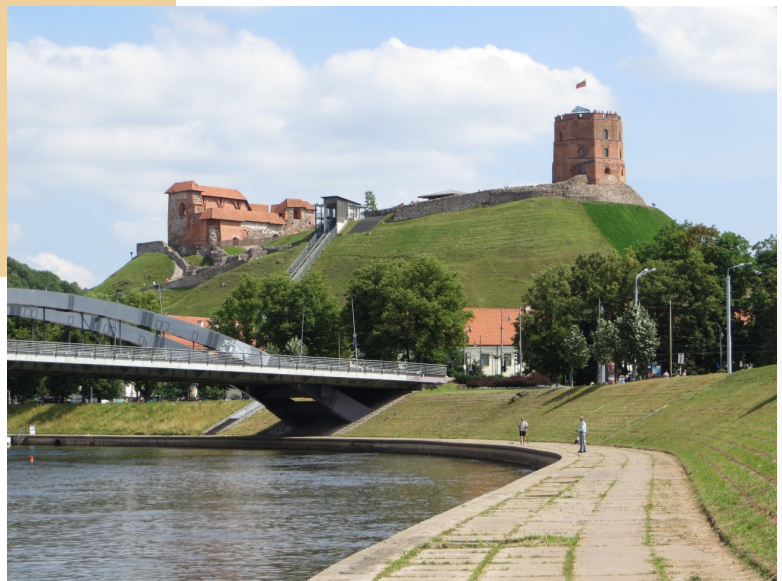


VILNIUS HISTORIC CENTRE

In today's international cultural context the Vilnius historic centre bears witness not only to the heritage of a particular civilization but also to an exceptional cultural lifestyle.

Perhaps the most impressive building is the Vilnius Cathedral and its Tower of classicism style located in Vilnius Old Town, in Cathedral Square. In addition, many other estates worth visiting are located around it. The recently rebuilt Royal Palace of Lithuania welcomes visitors to admire the authentic outside and interior.

Gediminas castle erected on the Castle (Pilies, lit.) hill, an outstanding monument for the Grand Duke of Lithuania Gediminas in the Cathedral square also attracts visitors. Visitors exploring Vilnius Old Town must path the famous Pilies (Castle)Street full of cosy restaurants and shops. The Pilies street leads straight to Town Hall Square where various events are usually held. Over there the famous Vokiečių (German) street is located.



VILNIUS HISTORIC CENTRE

THE CURONIAN SPIT



The Curonian Spit was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000. This cultural landscape, created by human hands in more than 200 years, under selection criterion, was recognised as an exceptional example of traditional settlement or use of land or sea in a certain area. The cultural landscape of unique beauty of the Curonian Spit is a result of continuous encounter of natural factors and the human effort.

Back in the 14th century, people started changing the relief of the Curonian Spit, which had been formed by nature out of surplus sand 5,000 years ago. In the 14th century, the Curonian Spit saw the emergence of a network of sedentary settlements and more intense economic activities. In the 14-18th centuries, the narrow strip of land between the Curonian Lagoon and the Baltic Sea, due to constant felling of trees, witnessed degradation of the natural balance, which resulted in the formation of moving sand dunes.

THE CURONIAN SPIT



The moving sand turned one settlement into a desert. In order to stop the erosion, the end of the 18th century marked the start of major works, which have determined global exclusivity of the Curonian Spit. In order to stop the moving sand dunes and not to allow changes of their surface, the dunes were reinforced, artificial relief barriers were built and vegetation was planted. In this way people stopped the erosion and sand storms, reinforced the Grand Dunes and formed, along the entire Spit, a protective ridge of the Baltic coast. Currently, this is the only territory in the world of such dimensions (98 kilometres long and 0.4–4 kilometres wide), where more than half of the vegetation was planted by people. Due to special natural conditions, the works of relief reinforcement and vegetation planting on the Curonian Spit are still important.

Windblown, moving dunes have remained and are preserved in Nagliai and Grobštas nature reserves as well as in the Parnidis landscape reserve. Apart from cultural landscape, objects of archaeological, historical, urban, architectural heritage, disclosing the people's lifestyle which evolved under exceptional conditions, are preserved on the Curonian Spit.

KERNAVĖ ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE



The uniqueness of the Kernavė Archaeological Site, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2004 under selection criteria and has also been determined by human activities. This territory is a site witnessing a cultural tradition of civilisation and an exceptional example of buildings, the architectural ensemble and landscape of a certain period in the history of the humanity.

The complex of archaeological and historical properties located in Kernavė reflects the stages of evolution of a settlement on the valley of the River Neris from the Stone Age until the 13-14th century. Kernavė was first mentioned in written documents in 1279. At that time, it was a pagan medieval city on the Pajauta valley, with the residence of the Duke on the central mound. This political and economic centre with flourishing trade and the development of crafts by professional masters was destroyed in 1390 during an attack of Teutonic knights. A subsequent settlement emerged on the upper terrace, on the site of the current town of Kernavė. The site of the old medieval city still contains untouched cultural layers from the end of the 14th century, which made it possible to reconstruct the urban framework of the city and restore the fragments of everyday life of the inhabitants.

KERNAVĖ ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE



Currently, the territory of the State Cultural Reserve of Kernavė covers 194.4 hectares, where 18 objects of archaeological, historical and architectural heritage are preserved. The Kernavė Archaeological Site with the remaining artefacts reflecting the lifestyle of a medieval city of the last pagan state in Europe is also unique because its burial sites and other archaeological finds confirm the junction and coexistence of the pagan and Christian cultures.

CROSS-CRAFTING AND ITS SYMBOLISM

Cross-crafting and its symbolism in Lithuania, a unique cultural tradition having no analogues in the world, in 2001 was listed by UNESCO among the masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

A very specific tradition of cross-crafting and its symbolism started to develop in the 15th century, when Lithuania, the last pagan country in Europe, officially and entirely became a catholic country. For a long time new ideas of Christianity and antique local pagan traditions were very closely related in the local mentality. This dualism obviously was reflected in the cross-crafting tradition, where symbols of both religions could be found. Later, with incorporation of Lithuania into the orthodox Russian Empire in the 19th century or under the Soviet regime in the 20th century, typical wooden Lithuanian crosses became a symbol of national and religious identity.



The Lithuanian traditional crosses, pillar-type crosses and shrines could be found not only in cemeteries and churchyards, but on the premises of almost every farmstead, along the roadsides, in fields and villages, and even in forests. Cross-crafting, as a branch of traditional folk art, entails not only the making of the monument itself, but also the customs and rituals related to a particular monument.

The current panorama of cross-crafting in Lithuania is diverse, dynamic and subject to constant change, as new crosses continue to be built.



One of the most significant monuments - now the world famous Hill of Crosses near Šiauliai - is featuring thousands of crosses and has become a kind of symbol of Lithuanian cross-crafting.



CROSS-CRAFTING AND ITS SYMBOLISM

In 2003, the Baltic Song and Dance Celebrations – a common heritage of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia – were listed by UNESCO among the masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.



The Song and Dance Celebrations are held every four years in Lithuania. The traditional festivals run on for several days and gather as many as 40,000 singers, musicians and dancers from Baltic and other countries. Most of the participants of the festivals belong to amateur choirs and dance groups. Their repertoires reflect a wide range of musical traditions in the Baltic States, from the most ancient folk songs to contemporary compositions. Directed by professional choir conductors, bandleaders and dance instructors, many singers and dancers practise throughout the year in community centres and local cultural institutions.



THE BALTIC SONG AND DANCE

LITHUANIAN SUTARTINĖS / MULTIPART SONGS



On 16 November 2010, during the 5th session of the Inter-governmental Committee on Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Nairobi (Kenya), Lithuanian polyphonic songs (Sutartinės, multipart songs) were inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Lithuanian multipart songs (Sutartinės - their Lithuanian name derives from the verb "sutarti", which means "to accord", "to be in harmony") is a unique phenomenon of Lithuanian traditional music, a particularly old form of polyphony. They are mostly sung by women, while instrumental music is played by men with panpipes, aerophones, chordophones and other instruments. A characteristic feature of Lithuanian multipart songs is simultaneous sound of different melodies and different texts (notional and onomatopoeic).