



Vilnius

Vilnius is the capital of Republic of Lithuania. It's the cultural, political, administrative and business centre of the country. Approximately one seventh of Lithuania's population live here.

Current area of Vilnius is 392 square kilometres. Buildings cover 20.2% of the city and the remaining area is prevailed with the greenery (43.9%) and waters (2.1%). Vilnius is one of the oldest cities in the Baltic states. The city features a magnificent combination of past and present of Lithuanian history. Almost every tour cannot miss this beautiful city. The tour takes to the charming Old Town district with its numerous churches, narrow houses, and winding streets. We are proud that the Old Town of Vilnius, called the architectural pearl of Eastern Europe, is on the List of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. The most valuable historic and cultural heritage is concentrated here. The buildings in the old town - there are about 1.5 thousand of them - were built in a number of different centuries, therefore, it is a mixture of all European architectural styles. Although Vilnius is often called a baroque city, here you will find some buildings of Gothic, Renaissance and other styles. The main sights of the city are Gediminas Castle and the Cathedral Square, the symbols of the capital. Their combination is also a gateway to the historic centre of the capital.

The **Cathedral Square** is the main square of the city's downtown, right in front of the neo-classical Vilnius Cathedral. It is a key location in city's public life, situated as it is at the crossing of the city's main streets and reflecting the city's diversity. Regularly held at this site are fairs and gatherings of townspeople, military parades, religious and official public events, attractions and large concerts, new Year's salutes and exhibitions. It is not merely the most lively and important location in the city, but is also one of the most significant and widely known symbols of Lithuania.

Gediminas' Tower is the only remaining part of the Upper Castle in Vilnius. The first fortifications were built of wood by Duke of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Gediminas. Later the first brick castle was completed in 1409 by Grand Duke Vytautas. Some remains of the old castle have been restored, guided by archeological research. The tower houses an exposition of archeologic findings from the hill and the surrounding areas. It is also an excellent vantage point, from where the panorama of Vilnius' Old Town can be admired. Gediminas' Tower is an important state and historic symbol of the city of Vilnius and Lithuania itself. It is depicted on the national currency, the litas, and is mentioned in numerous Lithuanian patriotic poems and folk songs.

St. Anne's Church is a Roman Catholic church in Vilnius Old Town, on the right bank of the Vilnia River. It is a prominent example of both Flamboyant Gothic and Brick Gothic styles. The first church at this site, constructed of wood, was built for Anna, Grand Duchess of Lithuania, the first wife of Vytautas the Great. According to a well-known legend, Emperor Napoleon, after seeing the church during the Franco-Russian War in 1812, expressed a wish to carry the church home with him to Paris 'in the palm of his hand'.

Užupis is a neighborhood in Vilnius, largely located in Vilnius' Old Town. Užupis means "on the other side of the river". The district has been popular with artists for some time, and has been compared to Montmartre in Paris due to its bohemian atmosphere. The district houses art galleries, artists' workshops, and popular cafés.

