

BICYCLE ROUTES

Vilnius ■ Trakai ■ Kernavė



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Explore Historic Capitals of Lithuania

Welcome to the current Lithuanian capital city of Vilnius, the first Lithuanian capital city Kernavė, and one of the most important political centres of the Lithuanian Grand Duchy – Trakai. All of these cities are very important to the Lithuanian history and culture, they have plenty interesting objects, and all of them are situated in the beautiful natural surroundings. By the way, the Old Town and the Kernavė mound complex are included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Kernavė is an ancient settlement, and one of the first towns in Lithuania. Up to the year 1321 it was the residence of rulers, therefore it performed the role of the first capital of Lithuania. Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas moved the capital city from Kernavė to Old Trakai, and shortly thereafter to Vilnius. Old Trakai left a short, but meaningful imprint in the Lithuanian history. Quite soon, it was overshadowed by Trakai, favoured by the dynasty rulers, especially Vytautas the Great.

Vilnius was first mentioned in written sources as a capital of Lithuania in 1323. Since then, it is its most important political, cultural, and economic centre for almost 700 years.

All of these cities and their surroundings are excellent for cycling tourism. Vilnius has many bicycle trails, and there are many high not very busy roads around Trakai and Kernavė, convenient and relatively safe to drive while visiting the plenty of attractions or simply sightseeing.

For those who do not own a bike, it is best to travel around Vilnius using the Cyclocity system. In addition to this system, the city has a number of private bicycle rentals. It is best to reach the routes starting not in Vilnius, and bring bicycles by car. You can easily bring the bicycle by train to Trakai; bicycles are also accepted in some of the buses. Moreover, bicycles can be rented in Trakai and Kernavė.

This publication describes nine routes: three around the city of Vilnius, three around Trakai, two around Kernavė and one connecting these cities. They are of different length and complexity, but each is interesting in its own way. You have to be physically fit for some of these routes, while others are perfect even for novice cyclists, families with small children and seniors.

Most of these routes are not specifically marked, so this brochure will be handy for you not to get lost and have a good time visiting the most interesting places along the way.

We hope that this publication will inspire you to sit on the bike and enjoy the endless pleasure of a trek, movement and new excitement.

Pictograms



Bicycle route



Automobile road



Sidewalk



Forest trail



Bumpy road



Start and end of route



Dangerous crossroads



Uphill



Downhill



Place of interest



Tourist information centre



Cyclocity Vilnius bicycle rent terminal



Bicycle rent terminal



Shop



Cafe



WC



Month

BETWEEN

CULTURE AND NATURE

Bicycle route: Cathedral Square–Park of Europe–Cathedral Square

Route length: approx. 46 km

Route starting point: Cathedral Square

GPS 54.685911, 25.286885

Route end point: Cathedral Square

GPS 54.685911, 25.286885



Vilnius is a perfect city for cyclists. It takes merely a dozen of minutes from almost any part of the city to leave the urban bustle and escape into the retreat of nature – even from the very centre. You can bypass almost the entire city avoiding busy streets, riding along comfortable, greenery abounding traits. Especially it can be said about the route from the Cathedral Square to the Park of Europe.

Do not be discouraged if you do not have a bike. In Vilnius, it's easy to get it – there are a number of bike rental stations, and the city bike rental system operates during the warm time of the year.

The route can be divided into two parts: Cathedral Square – Trinapolis Church and Trinapolis Church – the Park of Europe. The first segment length is 7 km each way. Almost the entire route consists of bicycle trails, you have to cross the street only in a few places, so it will be a safe and easy ride even for small children and elderly people. The second part of it to the Park of Europe will require better physical fitness, as you have to pedal more than 20 km one-way, on diverse surfaces (gravel, stone-paved road), some rather steep hillsides, and part of the route will stretch on the car road.

So put your doubts aside and embark on a memorable journey, which will offer everything: interesting cultural heritage objects and natural eye catching images!



In the beginning of the route – the Cathedral Square – you will be greeted by the monument of the Vilnius founder, the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas (1275-1341) **1**, the most important Catholic shrine of Lithuania, St. Stanislaus and St. Vladislav Cathedral **2**, the recently restored residence of the rulers of Lithuania – the Royal Palace **3**, and the impressive hill with Gediminas Castle on top of it **4**.

In fact, you could spend half a day in the Cathedral Square alone – there are so many points of interest here. However, you are going to have an interesting and long journey, so waste no time and turn towards Mindaugas Bridge. First, you will have to cross the square, with the monument to the first and only Lithuanian King Mindaugas (1253-1263) **5**, which was built to commemorate the 750th anniversary of his coronation. Note the pedestal of the monument surrounding the Solar calendar, marking the most important pagan and Christian celebrations.

Behind the King Mindaugas monument there is a large light building – the New Arsenal, one of the oldest structures in the Vilnius Castle complex. Now, the New Arsenal **6** hosts the Lithuanian National Museum, with expositions of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Lithuanian peasant household, cross-making, and other displays.

Cross the River Neris by Mindaugas Bridge, at the end of which, on the left side, you will see a building with a sculpture of a woman holding a lantern in her hands. It's the Energy and Technology Museum **7**.

Behind the bridge, turn right and descend along a great bike path by the river. This marked bicycle path belongs to the European Eurovelo 11 track. It is equipped with resting areas and information



boards, and for quite a long stretch you will follow the River Neris on the right, so this section is highly enjoyable and fun.

After driving for a little more than a kilometre, stop for a while at Tuskulėnai Serenity Park **8**. It was created to honour the victims of the Soviet regime. In 1944-1947 resisters who fought against the Soviet government have been tortured, murdered and secretly buried there. It is difficult to imagine these tragic events while walking in the tranquil park, or looking at the elegant classicistic former Tuskulėnai mansion, equipped with the "Tuskulėnai Estate Secrets" exposition.

Move forward for another kilometre and you will see a small bay on the right, Žirmūnai winter harbour. In the 3rd decade of the last century it was excavated by an entrepreneur who planned to develop trade in the port. In a few hundred meters you will reach Žirmūnai beach **9**, so it is a great opportunity for refreshment on a hot day!

In 2.4 km, after passing under the Valakampiai Bridge, look out for the natural monument – Žirmūnai oak **10** of over 200 years old. Indeed it is difficult to miss it because it is about 35 meters in height!

Take a brief rest under the old oak and travel further – Trinapolis Church **11** is not far away. Here you will have to leave the seclude of nature for a while, and return to the city – to cross the busy Verkių street and then you will see the white towers of the Blessed Trinity, or otherwise the Trinapolis Church (18th century).

If you chose a shorter route, this is the end point of your trip. Meanwhile, if you are considering a longer hike, turn left near the Trinapolis Church and you will find yourself in the Calvary Cross Road track. About 1 km of this section the route will stretch along a forest trail, which is not in the best condition at some points. It's not a problem! While driving your bike, you can admire the beautiful nature and the Stations of the Cross Road. You will see them even without turning out from your trail. The Calvary Cross Road



was founded in this hilly terrain of extraordinary beauty in the seventeenth century as a sign of appreciation to the God for the victory against the Russian army. The place is visited not only by pilgrims. It's a favourite venue of urban resident walks, strolls and picnics. You will find it especially beautiful near the Cedronas (Baltupis) stream.

Turn left to the gravel road behind the 17th station of the Cross Road and reach a paved road. After a short drive of 200 m turn right. Pass the St. Discovery of the Cross Church **12**, usually called simply the Calvary Church (18th century), where the good quality, marked bicycle trail starts again. When travelling this path near Jeruzalės street you will see the Customs Museum **13** on the right side presenting the Lithuanian customs activities from the times of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

The route then continues along Jeruzalės and Žaliųjų Ežerų streets to Verkių manor **14**. This is truly a special place surrounded with many legends. It's main attraction is the palace of the 17th century famous of its luxury. Only the wings survived to our days. No less impressive are the surroundings of the manor: huge trees, shady park alleys, and the Neris River panorama of extraordinary beauty opening up from the panorama deck.

Although it is difficult to leave the wonderful Verkių palace, let's proceed to Balsys Lake. It is 7 km away. Go back to Žaliųjų Ežerų street, and cross it. The paved bicycle trail will start on the left side of the road. In 2 km it will end. Turn to the forest and take good quality forest trails. Along the way, you will likely notice a lone gravestone dedicated... to the human conscience **15**. It was built in 2002 after someone dumped a large load of concrete waste in this place.

Drive to Balsys lake, it is time to relax. You will find a recreation place on its southern bank. Here you can rent boats and water bicycles, and relax in a beach **16**. The eastern part has an observation deck. Swim, cool down, have a snack, be-





cause now you will go straight to the Park of Europe, 9 km are left to it. From this point to the Park of Europe **17** the major part of the route will pass along the roadway – Žaliųjų Ežerų and Europos Parko streets.

You can spend almost the entire day in the Park of Europe. It's 55 ha open air contemporary art museum with more than 100 works of art, with authors from 34 countries of the world. This is one of

the most impressive museums in the world under the open sky. It is even included in the top 50 of the most exciting artistic places in the world.

After seeing the Park of Europe, turn around and return back to the Vilnius city centre along the same way.



PLACES TO VISIT:

- 1 Monument to Grand Duke Gediminas**
GPS 54.685316, 25.288642
- 2 Vilnius Cathedral Basilica**
Katedros a. 2, Vilnius
GPS 54.685815; 25.287437
+370 5 261 1127
parapija@katedra.lt
www.katedra.lt
- 3 Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania**
Katedros a. 4, Vilnius
GPS 54.685877; 25.289068
+370 5 212 7476
info@valdovurumai.lt
www.valdovurumai.lt
- 4 Gediminas' Hill**
Arsenalų g. 5, Vilnius
GPS 54.686609; 25.290731
+370 5 261 7453
pilis@lnm.lt
www.lnm.lt
- 5 Monument to King Mindaugas**
GPS 54.687514, 25.288753
- 6 The New Arsenal**
Arsenalų g. 1, Vilnius
GPS 54.687291; 25.289197
+370 5 262 9426
informacija@lnm.lt
www.lnm.lt
- 7 Energy and Technology Museum**
Rinktinės g. 2, Vilnius
GPS 54.690021; 25.287796
+370 5 278 2085
info@emuziejus.lt
www.emuziejus.lt
- 8 The Memorial Complex of the Tuskulėnai Peace Park**
Žirmūnų g. 1F, Vilnius
GPS 54.698757; 25.303428
+370 5 275 0704
tuskulėnai@genocid.lt
www.tuskulenumemorialas.lt

- 9 Žirmūnai Beach**
GPS 54.723474, 25.311992
- 10 Žirmūnai Oak**
GPS 54.727596, 25.308293
- 11 Holy Trinity Church (Trinapolis Church)**
Verkių g. 70, Vilnius
GPS 54.731034; 25.291165
trinapolis@vilnensis.lt
- 12 St. Cross Discovery Church of Kalvarijos**
Kalvarijų g. 327, Vilnius
GPS 54.740406; 25.279868
+370 5 269 74 69
info@vilniauskalvarijos.lt
www.vilniauskalvarijos.lt
- 13 Customs Museum**
Jeruzalės g. 25, Vilnius
GPS 54.745009; 25.279079
+370 5 279 6346
arvydas.pranevicius@cust.lt
- 14 Verkiai Manor**
Žaliųjų Ežerų g. 49, Vilnius
GPS 54.748143; 25.292131
+370 5 271 1618
botanika@botanika.lt
- 15 Monument to Human Conscience**
GPS 54.776101, 25.320563
- 16 The Beach of the Lake Balsys**
GPS 54.785169, 25.334924
- 17 Park of Europe**
Joneikiškių k., Vilniaus r.
GPS 54.831012; 25.351461
+370 52 377 077
hq@europosparkas.lt
www.europosparkas.lt



SANTARIŠKĖS

0 400 m

VERKIAI

NERIS

TURNIŠKĖS

VALAKUPIAI

BALTUPIAI

VILNIUS

ŽIRMŪNAI

ŠNIPISKĖS

ANTAKALNIS

LYGLAUKIAI

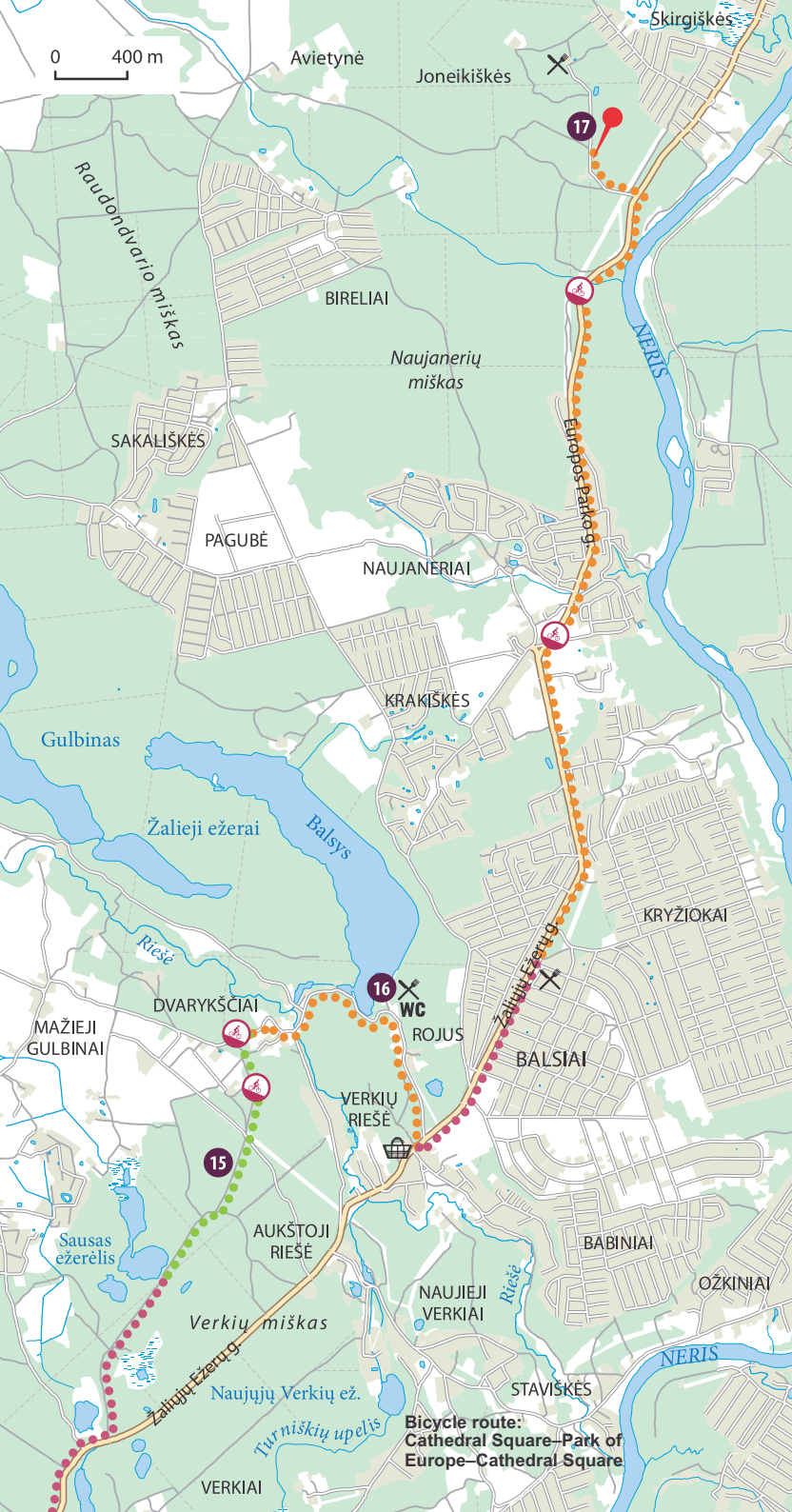
CENTRAS

UŽUPIS

Bicycle route:
Cathedral Square–Park of
Europe–Cathedral Square

NAUJAMIESTIS

SENAMIESTIS



BIKING

IN THE OLD TOWN

Bicycle route:

Cathedral Square – Vingis Park –
Cathedral Square

Route length: approx. 11 km

Route starting point: Cathedral Square

GPS 54.685911, 25.286885

Route end point: Cathedral Square

GPS 54.685911, 25.286885



Sightseeing of the Old Town by bike is easy and fun. You will see more than just walking on foot or travelling by car, while have some exercise, too!

The Old Town of Vilnius is one of the largest and most beautiful old towns in the Central and Eastern Europe. It has a wealth of architectural and cultural monuments, museums and galleries. Therefore, you cannot travel around it quickly, because every several metres you will encounter an interesting object worth a closer look.

If you are going to not only ride but also visit museums, churches and other places of interest, or have a snack at a cafeteria, take care of the safety of your rented bicycle. It is especially convenient to travel along the Old Town of Vilnius using the Cyclocity bike rental system. You can pick up and leave the bike in more than twenty rental stations, so you will have no worries about safety.

In most of this part of the route you will be riding on the bike trails, but a few



kilometres will stretch along streets. If 10 km is too much for you, take a shorter version of this route – 3 km track in the very centre of the Old Town of Vilnius.

Start your trip in the Cathedral Square. But before mounting the bike, take the opportunity to check the points of interest in the Cathedral Square. Admire the impressive ensemble of St. Stanislaus and St. Vladislav Cathedral **1** and the bell tower. Explore the exhibits of the Rulers' Palace **2**.



From the Cathedral Square turn to Gediminas Avenue – the main street of the town. It's driveway has a separate cycle lane. After 300 meters on the right you will see a post office building, then look left. Across the street there is a modern and interesting Money Museum **3**. Here you will learn about the money history of the world and banking, Lithuanian money, and even can make yourself a souvenir plate. You can chain the bicycles at the bike racks on the other side of the street opposite the entrance to the post office.

A few hundred meters on the right you will see Vincas Kudirka Square, with a monument to the Lithuanian nation awakener, publicist, writer, author of the National anthem of the Republic of Lithuania Tautiška Giesmė V. Kudirka **4** (1858–1899) in the middle. Behind it is





the Lithuanian Republic Government House **5**. Here you must decide whether you are travelling 10 km or 3 km. If you opt for a shorter route, turn left, to Vilnius Street, to its end, where the bike trail starts again, and shake yourself on the ancient cobble pavement. After reaching the bike path, go to Moniuškos Square. From there, the long and the short routes overlap.

Meanwhile, if you are considering a longer route, pedal away along Gediminas Avenue. Soon, you will see a tiny square on the right, with a monument to writer and educator Julija Žymantienė-Žemaitė **6** (1845-1921). Another few hundred meters, and you are in Lukiškių Square **7** with unusual pink paths catch-



ing the eye. The Square appeared in the middle of the nineteenth century with the expansion of the city. There used to be a large marketplace then.

On the other side of Gediminas Avenue stands the Genocide Museum **8**. The building was built in 1899 as the city's courthouse. In 1944-1991 it hosted the Lithuanian unit of the State Commissariat for State Security (NKGB), and the prison. More than a thousand people, mostly Lithuanian freedom fighters, were killed there. The museum has exhibits re-



lated with Soviet crimes, an execution camera, a remand prison and jail cells. Bicycles can be locked to the fence near the museum entrance or left at the stands in Gediminas Avenue.

Continue your trip along Gediminas Avenue and on the right you will see a spectacular gray building. This is the National Mažvydas Library **9**, the most important Lithuanian library. Behind the library you will find the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania **10**.

Soon, you will approach the Neris River. Cross it along Žvėrynas bridge, and at the end you will be greeted by the domes of the beautiful Orthodox church of the Byzantine Lady Sign From Heaven **11** (1903). Here the bike trail ends, and you will have to ride for about a kilometre down the street together with the car traffic.

After driving along A. Mickevičiaus street for about a kilometre, turn right – to Birutės street. At the intersection with Treniotos street the biking trail starts again on the left. It will lead you to one of the largest parks in Vilnius – the Vingis Park. It is fun to fly on the paved park paths, but don't hurry too much because at any moment you risk running into a skater, a pedestrian or a small child. If you want a more extreme ride, turn into some secluded, natural surface trail.

Vingis Park has a cafe, a botanical garden, a bike and roller rental, an archery club, and various public workouts during the summer season: running, Northern walking, yoga etc.

At the intersection with a car roller keep left and you will reach the stage **12**. During the summer it hosts a number of events and performances of the world's famous artists. Bypass the stage, keep left and reach the park gate. Next to it you will see the German military cemetery **13** on the left. It is a burial ground for almost three thousand of German, Austrian, Hungarian and other soldiers killed

during the two world wars.

After leaving the park go along the antique pavement of M. K. Ciurlionio street. Ride for about a kilometre, and at V. Mykoliaičio-Putino street you will find the bike trail again. On the right you will pass one of the most beautiful Orthodox churches in Vilnius – St. Constantine and Michael **14** (1913).

Descend along K. Kalinausko street from the hill and cross Pylimo street, then exit through small Palangos street out to Vilniaus street. Take a turn to the right and soon you will find yourself at Moniusškos Square, with a monument to the famous Polish composer Stanislaw Moniuszko **15** (1819–1872) who lived in Vilnius for almost 20 years, and St. Catherine's Church **16** (18th century), currently used as a concert hall.

Drive the bicycle path on the left sidewalk. It will take you to Vokiečių street, which ends at the Vilnius Town Hall **17**. In this place, on the main square of the city, the first Town Hall was built in the fourteenth century, when Vilnius was granted the Magdeburg rights. The present building was rebuilt in the end of the eighteenth century according to the project of the most famous Lithuanian architect Laurynas Gucevičius.

Leave the Town Hall on the left, and the Contemporary Art Centre **18** in the right, and ride along the bike trail in Rūdninkų street. Turn left at the seventeenth century Baroque Church of All Saints **19** at Visų Šventųjų street. In a couple of hundred meters on the left you will see the park named after the writer Lazdynų Pelėda **20**, with her sculpture.

Visų Šventųjų street will lead you to Bazilijonų street. There, turn left and drive until you see the Gates of Dawn **21** on the left. This is the former defence city wall gates. It now has the chapel of the image of the Mother of Mercy, with the miraculous painting of the Holy Virgin Mary (about 1520 to 1530). Each year thousands of pilgrims from around the world come to see the painting and pray the Holy Mary for grace.

Pass the Gates of Dawn and travel a little bit on the cobblestone pavement. On the right you will see St. Theresa's Church **22** (1633–1650), famous for the most beautiful altar in Lithuania. It also is one of the early Baroque buildings in Lithuania. Next to it stands the Church of Holy Spirit **23** – the most important Lithuanian Orthodox church. It is especially known for the ornate iconostasis – a

partition separating the altar from the rest of the church. In a couple of hundred meters you pass another important shrine – the seventeenth century St. Casimir Church **24**. According to the legend, it took 700 men to bring its foundation stone which still can be seen in the wall, from Antakalnis district. Climb the towers of the church to hear the sounds of wind music. You can leave the bicycles at the stands on the other side of the street.

The bike trail starts again at the eighteenth century Gothic St. Nicholas Orthodox Church **25**. It is briefly interrupted near Vilnius Picture Gallery **26** situated in Chodkevičiai Palace, which you will see on the right, and re-appears behind St. Paraskeva's Church **27**. The legend tells that Tsar Peter I baptized the ancestor of the famous Russian poet Alexander Pushkin, Hannibal, of African origin.

The last section of this route is the bike path in Pilies street. There are almost no cars here, but a lot of pedestrians, so ride with caution. At the end of it you will see the decorated Cathedral Square again.



PLACES TO VISIT:



1 Vilnius Cathedral Basilica

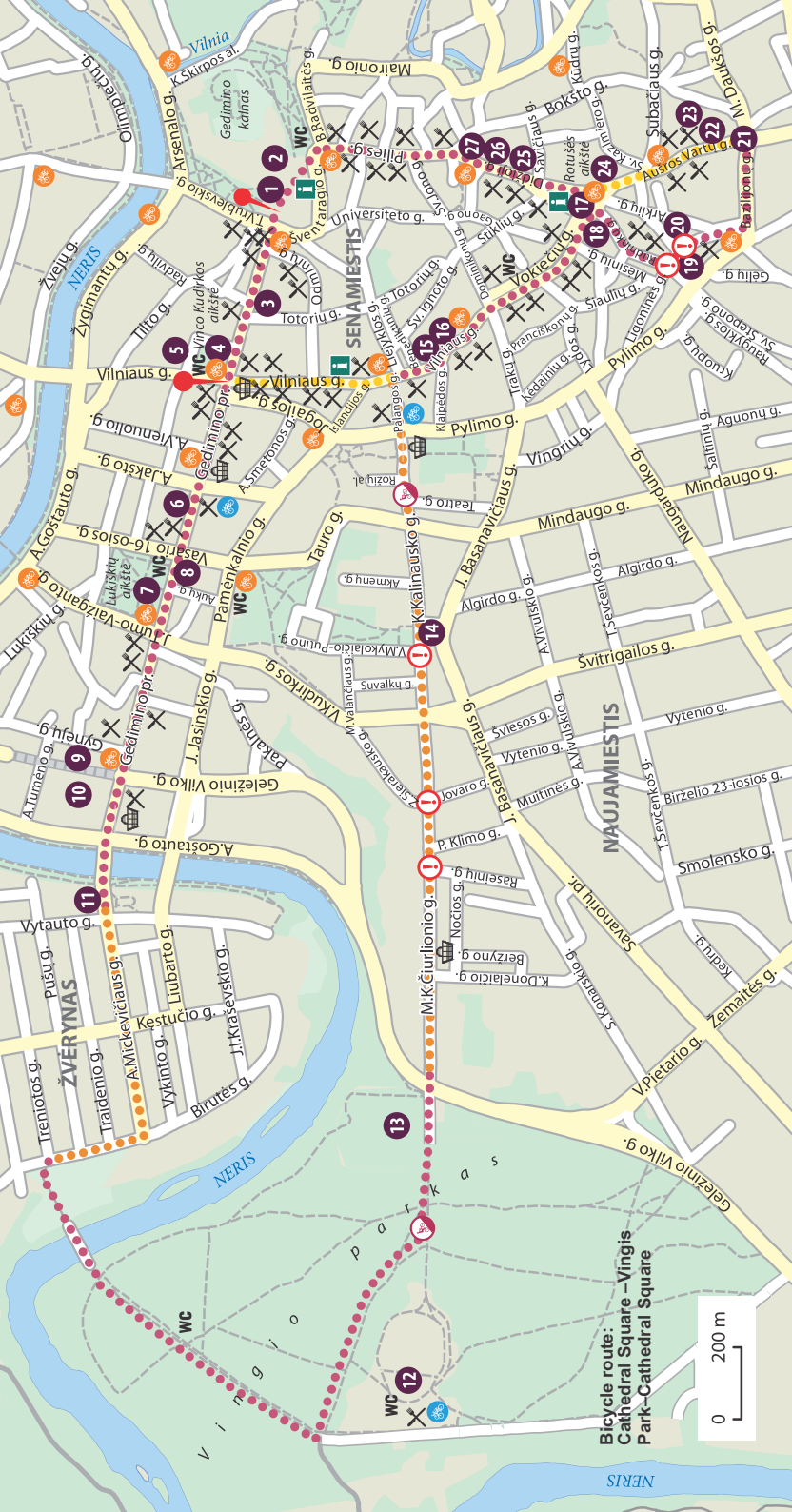
 Katedros a. 2, Vilnius
GPS 54.685815; 25.287437
 +370 5 261 1127
 parapija@katedra.lt
 www.katedra.lt

2 Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania

 Katedros a. 4, Vilnius
GPS 54.685877; 25.289068
 +370 5 212 7476
 info@valdovurumai.lt
 www.valdovurumai.lt

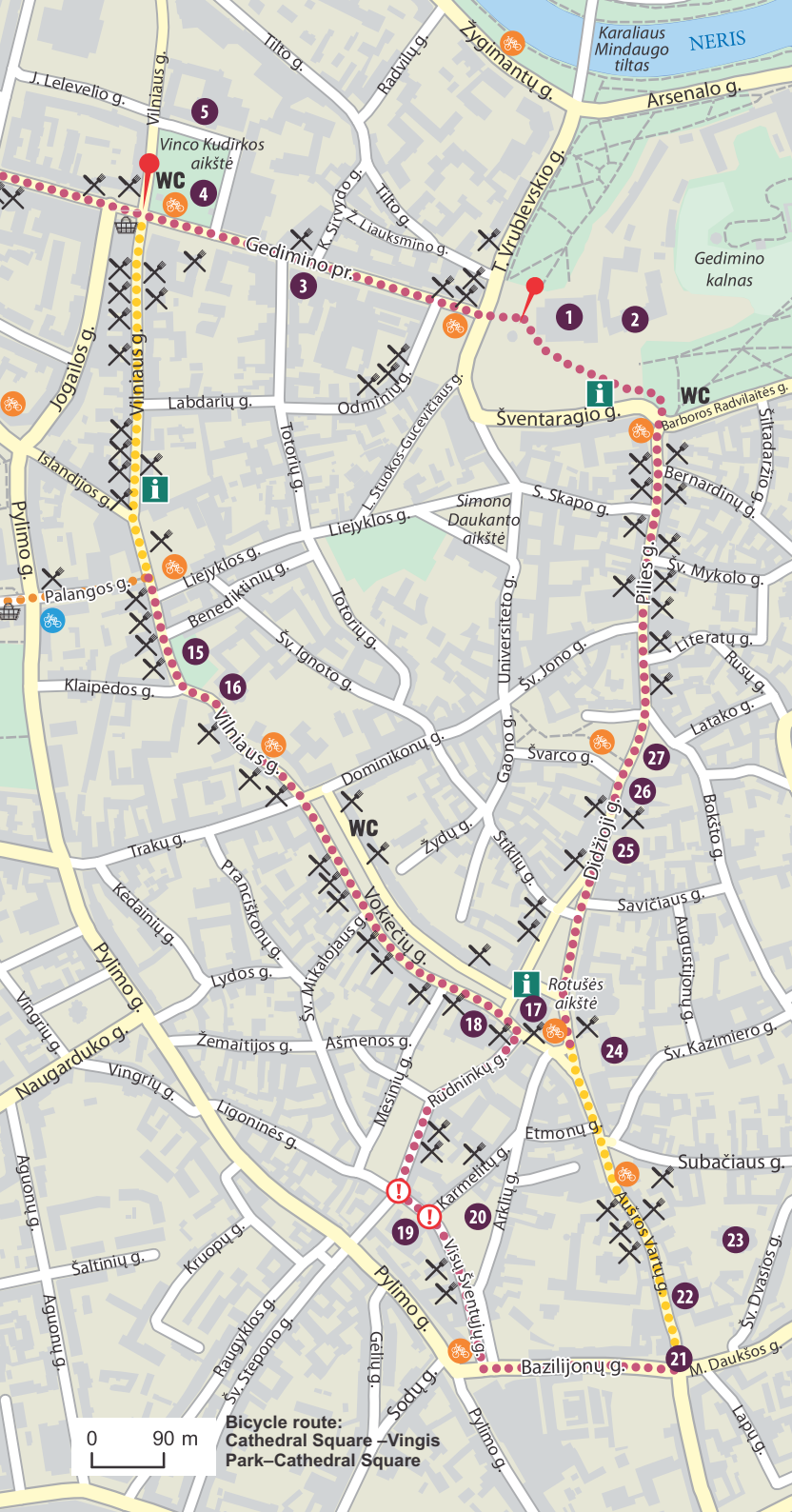
- 3 The Money Museum**
 Totorių g. 2/8, Vilnius
 GPS 54.686447; 25.282524
 +370 5 268 0334
 muziejus@lb.lt
 www.pinigumuziejus.lt
- 4 Monument to Vincas Kudirka**
 GPS 54.687494, 25.280578
- 5 Government of the Republic of Lithuania**
 GPS 54.688151, 25.280935
- 6 Monument to Žemaitė**
 GPS 54.688361, 25.274112
- 7 Lukiškės Square**
 GPS 54.689341, 25.270909
- 8 The Museum of Genocide Victims**
 Aukų g. 2A, Vilnius
 GPS 54.688139; 25.270727
 +370 5 249 8156
 muziejus@genocid.lt
 www.genocid.lt/muziejus
- 9 National Library of Martynas Mažvydas**
 GPS 54.690612, 25.263463
- 10 Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania**
 GPS 54.690636, 25.261568
- 11 Znamenskoye Orthodox Church**
 Vytauto g. 21, Vilnius
 GPS 54.690708; 25.257359
 +370 5 275 1375
- 12 Amphitheater of Vingis Park**
 GPS 54.683164, 25.235751
- 13 I World War German Soldiers Cemetery**
 GPS 54.684196, 25.248709
- 14 Orthodox Church of St. Michael and St. Constantine**
 J. Basanavičiaus g. 27, Vilnius
 GPS 54.682084; 25.268528
- 15 Monument to S. Moniuszko**
 GPS 54.681975, 25.280638
- 16 Church of St. Catherine**
 Vilniaus g. 30, Vilnius
 GPS 54.681808; 25.281016
 +370 5 212 2913
 kotrynosbaznycia@gmail.com
 www.kultura.lt
- 17 Vilnius City Hall**
 Didžioji g. 31, Vilnius
 GPS 54.678055; 25.286922
 +370 5 261 8007
 vrotuse@centras.lt
 www.vilniausrotuse.lt

- 18 Contemporary Art Centre**
 Vokiečių g. 2, Vilnius
 GPS 54.677925; 25.286161
 +370 5 212 1945
 info@cac.lt
 www.cac.lt
- 19 Church of All Saints**
 Rūdninkų g. 20 /
 Visų Šventųjų g. 1, Vilnius
 GPS 54.675759; 25.284069
 +370 5 261 7434
- 20 Monument to Lazdynų Pelėda**
 GPS 54.675829, 25.285573
- 21 Gates of Dawn**
 Aušros Vartų g. 12, Vilnius
 GPS 54.674181; 25.289583
 +370 5 212 3513
 rastine@ausrosvartai.lt
 www.ausrosvartai.lt
- 22 Church of St. Theresa**
 Aušros Vartų g. 14, Vilnius
 GPS 54.675028; 25.289551
 +370 5 212 3513
 rastine@ausrosvartai.lt
 www.ausrosvartai.lt
- 23 Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit**
 Aušros Vartų g. 10, Vilnius
 GPS 54.675512; 25.290484
 www.kazimiero.lt
- 24 Church of St. Casimir**
 Didžioji g. 34, Vilnius
 GPS 54.677575; 25.288296
 +370 5 212 1715
 kazimierobaznycia@gmail.com
 www.ausrosvartai.lt
- 25 Russian Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas**
 Didžioji g. 12, Vilnius
 GPS 54.679872; 25.288559
 +370 5 261 8559
- 26 Vilnius Picture Gallery**
 Didžioji g. 4, Vilnius
 GPS 54.680534; 25.288838
 +370 5 212 4258
 galerija@ldm.lt
 www.ldm.lt
- 27 Church of St. Paraskeviya**
 Didžioji g. 2, Vilnius
 GPS 54.680867; 25.289251



Bicycle route:
Cathedral Square – Vingis
Park – Cathedral Square





0 90 m

Bicycle route:
Cathedral Square –Vingis
Park–Cathedral Square

FROM THE BUSTLE OF THE CAPITAL CITY

TO THE NATURE REFUGE

Bicycle route:

Cathedral Square – Antaviliai – Balžis Lake – Cathedral Square

Route length: approx. 35 km

Route starting point: Cathedral Square

GPS 54.685968, 25.287528

Route starting point: Cathedral Square

GPS 54.685968, 25.287528



Opting for this almost 35 km route, you will experience a lot of pleasant impressions: explore the many attractions in the capital city and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Vilnius nature. And if you are travelling during the warm season, you can include swimming in the lakes in your plans! Isn't it a perfect hike?

Most of the route you will be riding on the bike trails, and some streets, gravel and forest roads. A large part of the route is marked, and you should use a map in places with no marking.



Start your trek in the very heart of Vilnius – the Cathedral Square. Snowy walls of St. Stanislaus and St. Vladislav Cathedral **1** (18th century) are shining with serenity and solemnity – take a brief moment to admire the most important Lithuanian Catholic shrine. Near the Cathedral stands the belfry from the thirteenth century – a former defensive tower of the Lower Castle **2**. Not far from there, behind the Cathedral, is the Lower Castle, the so-called Royal Palace. True, this residence of the Lithuanian rulers from thirteenth century did not survive to our days. It was destroyed in the end of the eighteenth century, and recently rebuilt.

The real symbol of Vilnius – Gediminas Hill **3** with the defensive tower of the Upper Castle – stands behind the Royal Palace. It has the observation deck on top, offering an amazing panoramic view

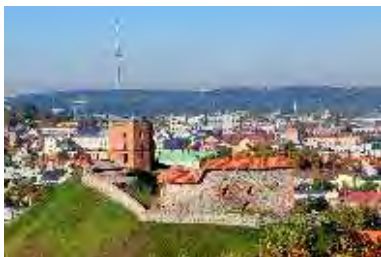


of the Old Town.

Between the entrance to the Cathedral and the bell tower you will find a paving tile with the inscription “Stebuklas” (“The Miracle”) **4**. Step on it, think of a wish, then turn around, and your wish will come true. Wish yourself a miraculous journey in Vilnius and its surroundings!

From the Cathedral Square, dive between the Royal Palace and the Gediminas Hill, and go for about 500 m through the park along the bike trail which will lead you to K. Škirpos street routed along the Vilnia River. Here, turn left. At the confluence of the Neris and Vilnia rivers you will see an impressive white building – the Old Arsenal of the Lower Castle (16th century) – the storage of weapons and ammunition. Now it hosts the Museum of Applied Arts **5**.

At the museum, cross the bridge over the Vilnia River and go to the other side of the street. While rolling on the bicycle





path along the River Neris, in 400 m you will see the Baroque palace of Sluškos **6** of the seventeenth century. It was built by Dominykas Sluška, the manager of Polotsk Province, after changing the bed of the river Neris, in 1694. From the palace you will have to use the driveway sometimes, so be careful.

Within a few hundred meters from Sluškos Palace, behind the Žirmūnai bridge, you can turn right to K. Būgos street and see the Neo-Baroque Vileišiai palace **7** of the beginning of the twentieth century, now a place for the Lithuanian students of Literature and Folklore,



and St. Peter and Paul Church **8** (17th century). It's the most famous Vilnius Baroque church that will fascinate with its luxurious interior: two thousands of statues, unique beauty of a ship-shaped chandelier, and valuable paintings. If you are going to visit the church, do not forget to take care of the bicycle safety.

After seeing the palace and the church, return to the bike trail and admire the Neris River while pedalling for a little more than 2 km before the trail will take

you to M. Daukšos school yard. Feel free to cross it, and soon you will find yourself in Antakalnio street. After leaving the school yard drive to the left for about 200 meters and cross the street. Continue on the bike path for a few hundred metres until it reaches the large roundabout. Keep right along the Nemenčinės road, for another few meters – and you will be cycling on the bicycle track for about 10 km.

Although this bike trail is not particularly new, this discomfort is compensated with magnificent Nemenčinė pine forest views. In summer, these forests are rich in berries and in autumn – in mushrooms, so you can gather yourself forest treasures right from the bicycle.

By the way, in this section the trail is not always marked, so occasionally take a look at the map, especially when leaving the asphalt bike path.

If you did not take drink or a meal with yourself, do not worry – just after leaving the city, find a restaurant, a couple of shops and a little further on, at the intersection with Balžio street, a rest area with a gazebo where you can relax and have your snack.

At around the 15th kilometre of the ride you will reach Antavilčiai settlement. Turn right onto Skarbelio street. Behind Antavilčiai cemetery the paved street will turn into a gravel road. Do not rush – soon on the right you will see a narrow forest road. Take it, and in a couple of minutes you will find yourself at the Antavilčiai Lake beach **9**. It is a real pleasure to dive into the cool waters of the lake after the heat of the ride, and admire the expressive pinewood coastline. If you want





privacy and quietness, go to the other side of the lake and find a secluded access to the water personally for you. Do not be surprised if you met some anglers – the lake is famous for its pike.

There is another small lake Skarbelis **10** not far from there. Go back through the forest to the junction with a gravel road and turn right. Although the path to the lake is furrowed with tree roots, it is worth riding one kilometre to enjoy the special green waters of Skarbelis. Here you can swim in a beach.



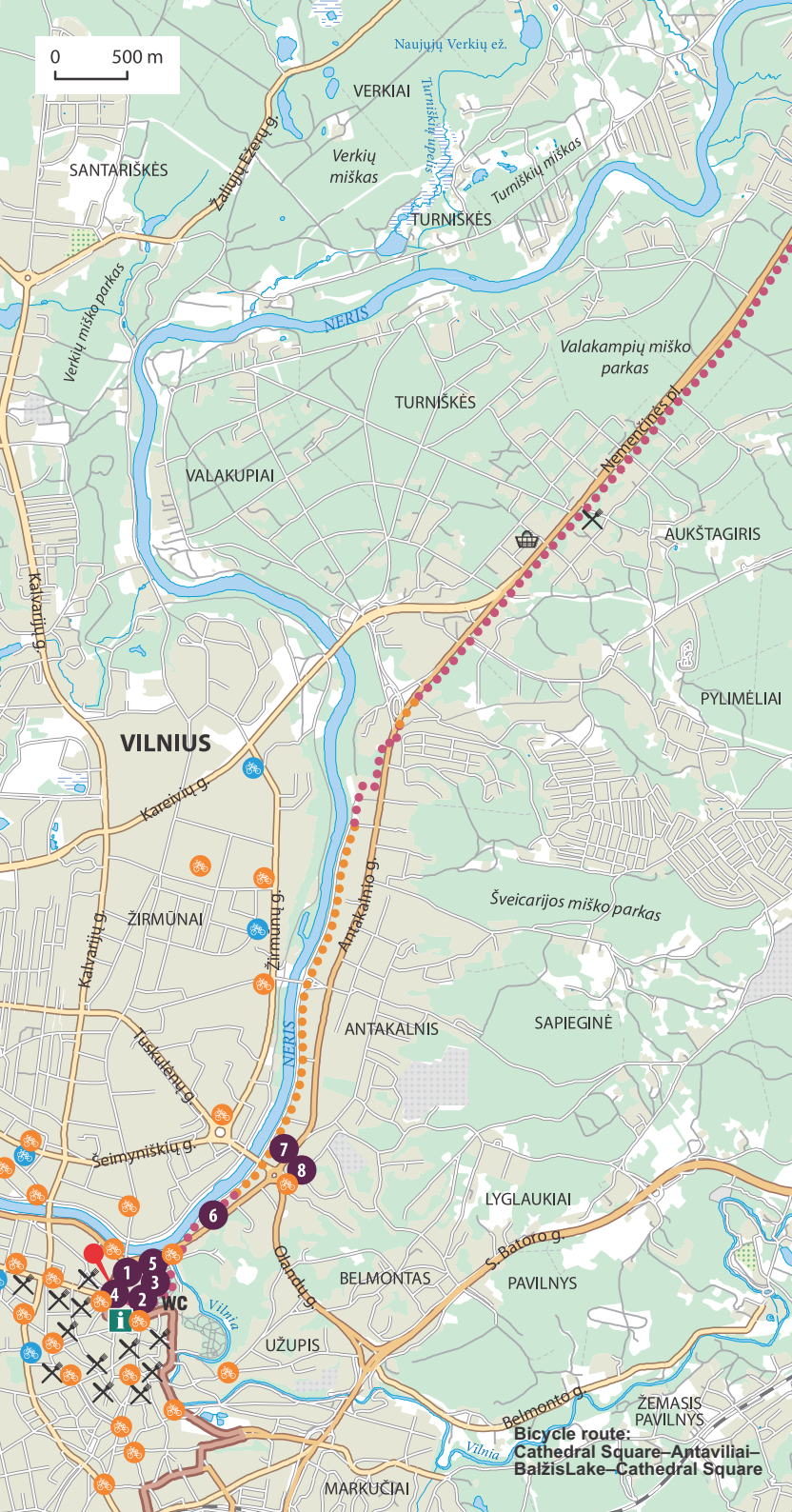
From the beach, head to the right, and after a dozen meters turn right again. On the main gravel road after a couple of kilometres you will exit to the paved Balžio street, so turn to the right once there. Traffic on the street Balžio is quite intense, especially in summer, so be careful. After a ride of 300 meters, you will see Balžis lake **11** on the left. Its shore is especially comfortable, sandy, there is a beach, attracting many vacationers on a warm summer day. In summer, the lake has an outdoor cafe, offering snacks before travelling back to Vilnius.

Take a rest, and go back to Balžio street, turn left and drive along the street for nearly 4 km to Nemenčinė highway. You will travel this stretch with a breeze because most of it will go downhill. Having reached Nemenčinė highway turn left and return to Vilnius along the same bike trail.

PLACES TO VISIT:

- 1 Vilnius Cathedral Basilica**
 Katedros a. 2, Vilnius
 GPS 54.685815; 25.287437
 ☎ +370 5 261 1127
 ✉ parapija@katedra.lt
 🌐 www.katedra.lt
- 2 Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania**
 Katedros a. 4, Vilnius
 GPS 54.685877; 25.289068
 ☎ +370 5 212 7476
 ✉ info@valdovurumai.lt
 🌐 www.valdovurumai.lt
- 3 Gediminas' Hill**
 Arsenalo g. 5, Vilnius
 GPS 54.686609; 25.290731
 ☎ +370 5 261 7453
 ✉ pilis@lnm.lt
 🌐 www.lnm.lt
- 4 "Miracle" Tile**
 GPS 54.685721, 25.28692
- 5 Museum of Applied Art**
 Arsenalo g. 3A, Vilnius
 GPS 54.688314; 25.292308
 ☎ +370 5 212 1813
 ✉ tdm@zebra.lt
 🌐 www.ldm.lt
- 6 Sluškos Palace**
 GPS 54.691149, 25.297331
- 7 Vileišis Palace**
 GPS 54.695129, 25.305323
- 8 Church of St. Apostles Peter and Paul**
 Antakalnio g. 1, Vilnius
 GPS 54.693970; 25.306052
 ☎ +370 5 234 0229
 ✉ ppbaznycia@gmail.com
- 9 The Beach of the Lake Antavilis**
 GPS 54.794377, 25.404112
- 10 Skarbelis Lake**
 GPS 54.795496, 25.4240421
- 11 The Beach of the Lake Balžis**
 GPS 54.792489, 25.432062

0 500 m



Bicycle route:
Cathedral Square–Antaviliai–
Balžis Lake–Cathedral Square



ALONG THE PATHS

OF DUKE VYTAUTAS

Bicycle route:

Trakai–Old Trakai–Trakai

Route length: approx. 14 km

Route starting point: Karaimų str.

GPS 54.649536, 24.930907

Route end point: Karaimų str.

GPS 54.649536, 24.930907



We invite you to take a short (14 km) but interesting journey from Trakai to Old Trakai and back. Both of these places are particularly important for the Lithuanian history – they are related to one of the most prominent and influential personalities of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Vytautas the Great (ca. 1350–1430). Old Trakai is the former capital city of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the birthplace of Grand Duke Vytautas – it is believed that he was born here. Trakai is the main residence of this ruler where he used to spend a lot of time, from where he ruled the country, and where he died in 1430.

You will not only have a fun ride but also learn a lot about the history of our country, not to mention a plethora of lakes surrounding Trakai, the unique Old Town of Trakai, amazing culinary heritage and magnificent panoramas! Part of the route runs along the bike trail, and another part uses the paved streets. However, you should not be scared – traffic speed in the city is low and drivers are accustomed to tourists.



But first, get a good bicycle for yourself! You can bring it for this trip by car or by train. Also, some buses driving to Trakai can carry bicycles, but ask in the bus station first. You can also rent a bicycle in Trakai – there are several bicycle rentals.

It is most convenient to start this trip from the observation deck in front of the castle **1**, connecting Trakų and Karaimų



streets. Follow Karaimų street, but do not rush yet, because in 200 m you will find it worthwhile stopping and inspecting a truly unique object – kenesa **2**, a Karaite house of worship. It is one of the only three kenesas in the world today. About 400 Karaite families were brought from the Crimean to Lithuania by Vytautas the Great in the end of the fourteenth century. Most of them were settled in Trakai. Now it is home to about 60 of their offspring. The first kenesa was built in Trakai immediately after Karaites settled here. The current building survived till the nineteenth century.

Next to kenesa you will see S. Šapšalas Karaite National Museum **3**, telling a story of the Karaite culture, customs, and the madrasa – their school. A bit further – behind the lake – there is a small Karaite cemetery.

Continue down Karaimų street and in 200 meters you will approach a turn to the Trakai Peninsula Castle. The Castle located in the peninsula between Galvė and Bernardinai Lakes, also called the Great Castle, was built in the fourteenth century. Centuries ago, it has been a strong defensive fortress, which is witnessed by its 11 towers, of which 4 are restored. Climb on Aukų Hill, the shrine place of the former old religion, to admire the magnificent panorama of the area, with its greatest gem – the Castle Island, surrounded by the blue waters of Lake Galvė. Then, stop for a moment at a humble, ascetic chapel of the former Dominican monastery. It now hosts the sacral art exhibition **4**.

After visiting the Peninsula Castle, go back to Karaimų street. In a few hundred meters it will turn to Vytauto street. Ride a bit along it, and you will see the spectacular towers of Trakai Church of Virgin Mary Visitation **5**. For 600 years, it has never been closed or used for other pur-



poses. It is really fortunate compared to the majority of Lithuanian Catholic churches. This shrine keeps a number of various values, of which the most interesting is the miraculous painting of Our Lady of Trakai, crowned with a golden crown by Pope Clement XI in the eighteenth century.

Admire the church and continue to peddle along Vytauto street for about 1 km, then on the left you will see Trakai Orthodox Church of the Birth of Holy Mother of God **6** built in the nineteenth century. It commemorates the repression of the Lithuanian uprising against the Russian Empire government in 1863.

In 1 km you will reach the roundabout, then keep left. In another 400 metres you will find yourself on the intersection where you should turn left. After another kilometre turn right before the gas station, and keep right for 300 m on the roundabout. In another 200 meters you will approach the biking trail that will take you to Old Trakai.

This bike trail is also called the trail of Vytautas the Great. In 2000, commemorating the 570th anniversary of the death of this duke, nine wooden sculptures were built near the path to capture the most important life moments of Vytautas. The sculptures, harmoniously blending with the landscape, will accompany you for 2 km to the outskirts of Old Trakai.

Enter the Old Trakai architectural reserve, and in 400 m you will cross the railway, after which keep right in the roundabout. Then pedal for another 800 meters to reach Old Trakai church and a monastery, and the former castle site **7**. It is here that Trakai once was started **7**.

According to the legend, the Old Trakai was founded by the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas, Vytautas grandfather in 1316. He briefly moved the capital city of the Duchy here from Kernavė, but soon changed his plans and chose Vilnius as the capital city instead. In the castle, Birutė, wife of Gediminas' son Kęstutis, gave birth to the future Lithuanian ruler Vytautas.

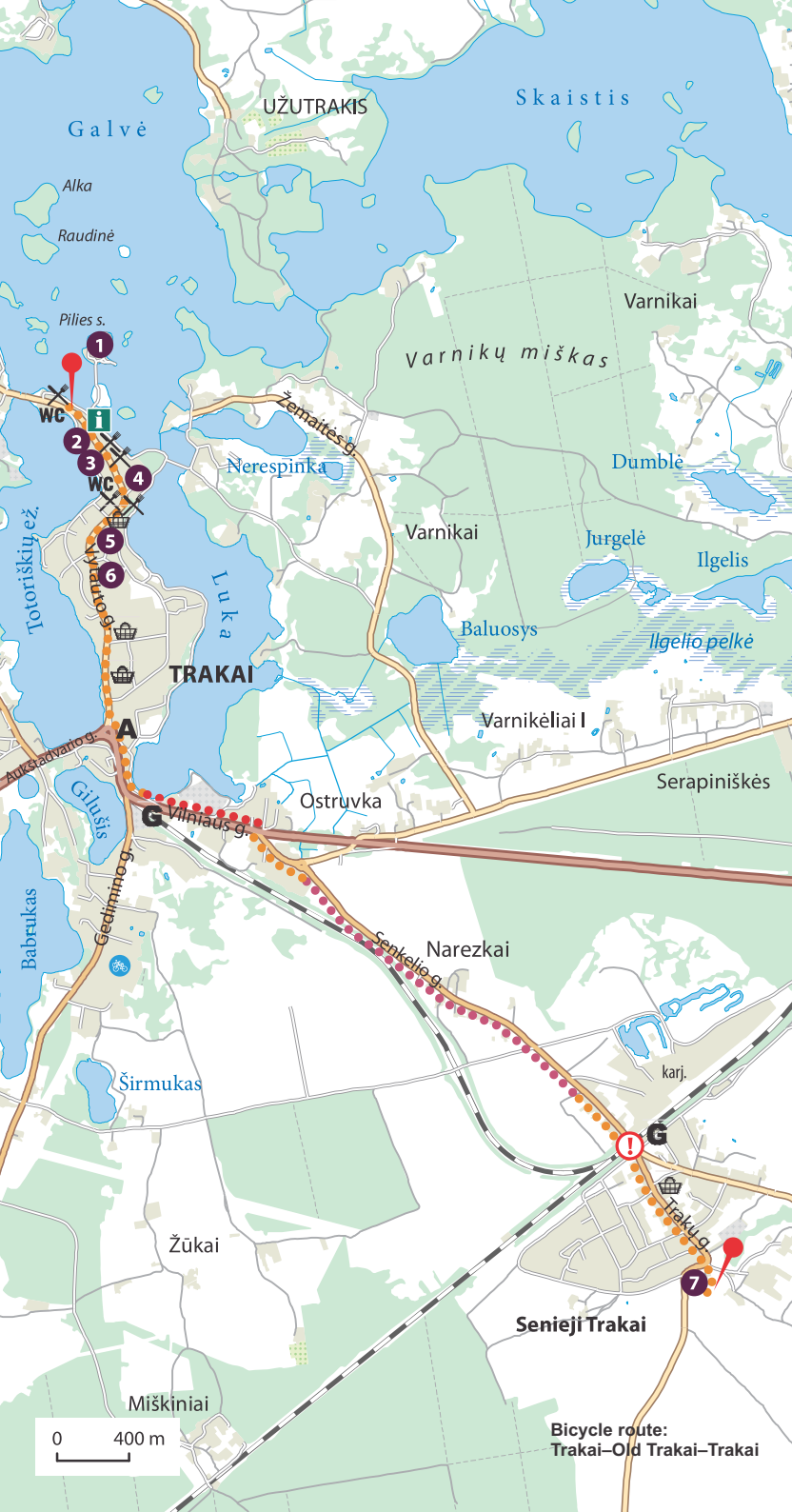
The castle has not survived to the present day. Now the former castle site has the Neo-Gothic church built in the nineteenth century, and the Annunciation Monastery – one of the oldest monasteries in Lithuania. In 1405 the Benedictine monks were accommodated by Vytautas the Great in his castle, and he built them a church nearby. The present monastery building was erected in the end of the eighteenth century. Today it is a convent

for St. John apostolic sisters.

While visiting Old Trakai, you will feel it's infinite majesty and serenity. Maybe it is emanated by a touch to the sources of the Lithuanian state put, and the lives of the great historical personalities? Maybe you still feel the spirit of the old Benedictine monks and the warmth of the hearts of the current sisters? Be that as it may, try to be inspired by it and it will accompany you on the way back to Trakai, perhaps more than for one day.

PLACES TO VISIT:

- 1 Trakai History Museum**
 Pilies sala, Trakai
GPS 54.652633; 24.933611
 +370 528 53 946
 info@trakaimuziejus.lt
 www.trakaimuziejus.lt
- 2 Kenesa**
GPS 54.647695, 24.932656
- 3 S. Šapšalas Karaite National Museum**
 Karaimų g. 22, Trakai
GPS 54.647196; 24.933048
 +370 528 55 286
 info@trakaimuziejus.lt
 www.trakaimuziejus.lt
- 4 Exposition of Sacral Art**
 Kęstučio g. 4, Trakai
GPS 54.645442; 24.936073
 +370 528 55 297
 info@trakaimuziejus.lt
 www.trakaimuziejus.lt
- 5 Trakai Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
 Birutės g. 5, Trakai
GPS 54.642881; 24.934491
 +370 528 55 907
 info@trakubaznycia.lt
 www.trakubaznycia.lt
- 6 Trakai Church of the Birth of the Holy Mother of God**
 Maironio g. 4, Trakai
GPS 54.640870; 24.933321
 +370 528 52 374
 aleksandrsmail@micro.lt
- 7 Complex of the Old Trakai Church, Monastery and Ancient Settlement**
 Senieji Trakai, Trakų rajonas
GPS 54.605421; 24.983747
 +370 528 36 327
 ap.s.vilnius@joanitai.org
 www.senujutrakuvienuolynas.org



UŽUTRAKIS

Skaistis

Galvė

Alka

Raudinė

Pilies s.

Varnikai

Varnikų miškas

Nerespinka

Dumblė

Varnikai

Jurgelė

Ilgelis

Luka

Baluosys

Ilgelio pelkė

TRAKAI

Varnikėliai I

Serapiniškės

Ostruvka

Vilniaus g.

Narezkai

Senkelio g.

Širmukas

Žūkai

Miškiniai

Senieji Trakai

Bicycle route:
Trakai–Old Trakai–Trakai

0 400 m

Bicycle route:

Trakai Peninsula Castle –

Trakai Castle – Užutrakis

Route length: approx. 18 km**Route starting point:** Kęstučio str.

GPS 54.645402, 24.936529

Route end point: Kęstučio str.

GPS 54.645402, 24.936529



Trakai is called the “land of lakes” for a reason. Trakai district has almost 200 lakes. Many of them surround the town of Trakai: Galvė, Luka (Bernardinai) Nerespinka, Totoriškiiai, Gilušis, Lovka, Babrukas, Skaistis, Akmena and other lakes, big and small. It seems that water reigns the country, and land humbly gives way to it. It's a great fun to travel around the places like this. Not only for a good swimming opportunity but also for the wonderful sceneries around the lakes.

All Trakai lakes are beautiful, but nothing compares to remarkable Galvė. It is one of the largest lakes in Trakai region and one of the deepest in Lithuania. It's banks are carved with many small bays, moreover, the lake is ornamented with 21 island – each with its own legend, and remarkable history. People tell many legends about the lake itself. It is said that the lake's name comes after the word “head”. Ostensibly, the lake used to take away at least one life – a “head” – every year.

The picturesque Galvė is a favourite among water tourists, divers, vacationers, it is used for rower training, competitions and regattas, so it is usually teeming with life every day.

You can look around Galvė not only by sailing a canoe, a boat, a yacht or a steamboat, but also riding a bicycle. We invite you to the 18 km trip along Galvė

from Trakai Peninsula Castle to Užutrakis Manor, and back.

The route starts in the peninsula surrounded by the waters of Luka (Bernardinai), near the Trakai Peninsula Castle. Although this Lithuanian fortress, one of the most powerful in the fourteenth century, did not survive to our days, the remaining towers, the defensive wall and the ancient sanctuary site Aukų Hill makes a long lasting impression. While visiting the castle site, take a look to the former Dominican convent chapel which now hosts the sacral art exhibition ¹.

From the castle descend to Luka (Bernardinai) Lake, where the bike trail begins. It is believed that the name Luka comes from the word meaning an arch. A monastery in which Duke Vytautas the Great was christened stood near the lake in the fourteenth century. On this occasion, the Duke donated a stretch of the lake – an arch. The lake is also called Bernardinai after the Bernardine Monastery that stood on its shore in the sixteenth – nineteenth century. The monastery owned the lake.

Go along the bike trail, turn left and pedal along Luka (Bernardinai) lake, which in 300 m will merge with lake Galvė. Soon you will reach the Old Town of Trakai, and on the right you will see the magnificent Trakai Island Castle ² – the only island castle in the Eastern Europe. The island is called the Castle Island. It is the largest island of Lake Galvė, occupying 2 ha. The legend tells about mysterious vaults under the island, where the last chief warlock of the old Lithuanian religion Kriviu Krivaitis still resides.

You will reach the castle by the bridge, with a lot of pedestrians, so be careful. Drop by and look around the castle and the History Museum. It will be interesting to see how the inhabitants used to live in the castle a few hundred years ago, to inspect the coin treasure room, and the exhibitions of archaeology, applied art, history, Karaim and Tatar cultures and history.

From the castle island go back to the bicycle trail and travel for another few hundred meters until you reach the observation deck, with a magnificent panorama of Galvė and the Castle Island.







In around 100 m the bicycle trail will end. In that spot, turn left and you will reach Karaimų street. Turn right and drive along the roadway. Here are many cafes on both sides of the street, where you can savour traditional Lithuanian and Karaim meals.

In about a kilometre you will reach the roundabout, then keep right. Immediately after the roundabout you will see the Rowing Museum ③, exhibiting many rowing-related attractions from around the world.

Ride 200 m behind the museum where the bicycle trail starts again. Pedal for about a kilometre to see the arrow to the Akmena Lake beach ④ – a great place to take a swim. Yet for half a kilometre, at the intersection, turn right and drive 1.6 km along Galvė, until you see the turn to Užutrakis Manor. If you are not in a hurry, skip Užutrakis for a while, and drive for 300 meters to the observation deck ⑤. It will offer you the breathtaking panorama of Galvė Lake and Trakai Island Castle.

Another interesting site – the Angelų Hill ⑥ – is very close from the observation deck, in 400 m. During the celebration of the millennium of Lithuania, and to commemorate the 600th anniversary of Trakai Blessed Virgin Mary Church, they built nearly three dozen 5 m long oak angel sculptures here, symbolising the fundamental Christian values: Love, Hope, Faith, Life, Spirit Strength, Spirit Peace, Peace, Compassion, Sacrifice, Camaraderie, Union, etc. Believe me, the view is spectacular!

From the Angelų Hill go back to the turn to Užutrakis Manor ⑦ and pedal to the manor 2 km along not a busy road near the lake. At any time of the year Užutrakis will greet you with its festive glamour. The newly renovated manor house shines with whiteness and elegance. It

was built in the 19th century by Count Juozapas Tiškevičius, who was cherishing and decorating this place nearly all his life. The count was not only proud about the luxury palace, but also the wonderful park, embellished with ponds, miniature bridges, sculptures, and carved with mysterious paths. It was designed by the landscape architecture celebrity of the time, Édouard François André.

When you enter the palace grounds, leave your bike and take a stroll in the park, quietly reminding of elaborate count Tiškevičiai dinner parties, music and poetry evenings; take a rest on the terrace from which the entire Galvė will be in your palm. In summer, the terrace is turned into a stage for concerts – just imagine the impression Galvė gives, embellished by the combination of music, the fascinating palace and the setting sun!

After admiring the romantic Užutrakis, slowly, accompanied by Galvė waters, go back the same road to Trakai.

PLACES TO VISIT:

① Exposition of Sacral Art

☞ Kęstučio g. 4, Trakai
GPS 54.662654, 24.909995
📞 +370 528 55 297
✉ info@trakaimuziejus.lt
📱 www.trakaimuziejus.lt

② Trakai History Museum

☞ Pilies sala, Trakai
GPS 54.652633; 24.933611
📞 +370 528 53 946
✉ info@trakaimuziejus.lt
📱 www.trakaimuziejus.lt

③ Rowing Museum

☞ Karaimų g. 93A, Trakai
GPS 54.653906; 24.918044
📞 +370 698 13 777
✉ info@academia.lt
📱 www.academia.lt

④ Akmena Lake Beach

GPS 54.662654, 24.909995

⑤ Observation Platform

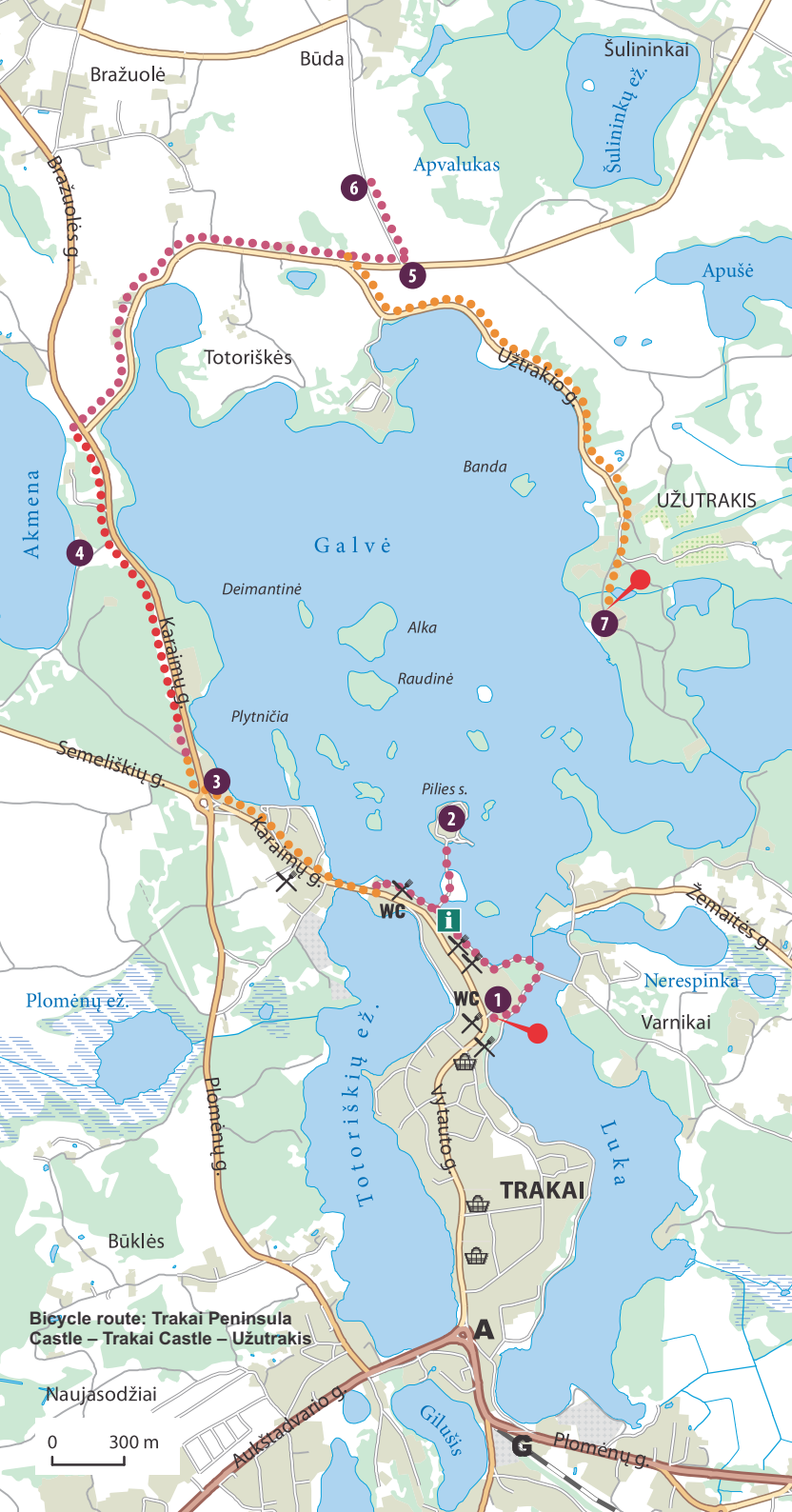
GPS 54.672879, 24.931658

⑥ The Hill of Angels

GPS 54.676518, 24.928315

⑦ Užutrakis Manor Estate

☞ Užutrakio g. 17, Trakai
GPS 54.659721; 24.943707
📞 +370 528 55 006
✉ tinp@seniejitrakai.lt
📱 www.seniejitrakai.lt



Bicycle route: Trakai Peninsula
Castle – Trakai Castle – Užutakis

0 300 m

ALONG THE LAKESIDES

AND WETLANDS

Bicycle route:

Trakai–Varnikai trail–Trakai

Route length: approx. 10 km

Route starting point: Karaimų str.

GPS 54.649536, 24.930907

Route end point: Karaimų str.

GPS 54.649536, 24.930907



Trakai is a wonderful area of lakes enticing tourists with scenic landscapes and abundance of historical heritage. If you brought your bike to Trakai, it was really a good idea. It's a great place for active recreation. It is most exciting to exercise a little, while admiring the beautiful scenery, and to discover new and interesting things about the history of Trakai, it's people and nature.

You are welcome to the 10 km trip to Trakai, particularly enjoyed by nature lovers, since its ultimate point is Varnikai trail revealing the mysteries of nature. This route stretches along bicycle paths and comfortable routes, so the journey will be safe and happy.

If you cannot bring the bicycle to Trakai by car, no problem. It can be brought by train, and some buses departing to Trakai. But if you visit Trakai and suddenly decide to have a bike ride, it is also not a problem – the town has several bicycle rentals, and you will most likely find a suitable two-wheeled vehicle.

The route starts in the sightseeing area, in the intersection of Trakų and Karaimų streets. Here you will find a bicycle and pedestrian path routed along the shore of Galvė lake. Turn there.

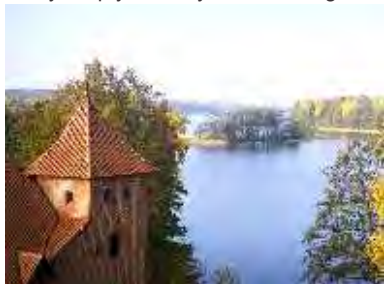
While riding along the bicycle path, it is difficult to take eyes off Lake Galvė. It is rarely empty: usually it is teaming with

yachts, windsurfers, kayaks and boats. Galvė is often chosen as a venue for rowing competitions and regattas. The lake is adorned with as many as 21 island, almost every of them with its unique legend. They say that the largest island in Lake Galvė, called Valka, was a place where those condemned to die were kept in ancient times. Relatives were allowed to say goodbye to the condemned from the nearby island of Raudų („lamentations”), so the name is discernible. Small Pirtsalė island derives its name of the habit of Duke Vytautas the Great to punish the guilty nobles in it – dragging them under the coals. The lake also has its own legend. According to it, the lake's name comes after the word “head” (Lith. “galva”). Ostensibly, it used to take away at least one life – a “head” every year.



After driving along the cycling trail for 100 m you will see the bridge to the Castle Island **1**. Follow it and visit the Trakai Island Castle and Historical Museum. There is no designated bicycle parking near the castle, so you cannot leave your bicycle unless you can lock it to a tree.

The Trakai Island Castle was built in the fourteenth century and is currently visited by about 350 thousand people every year. The visitors are fascinated by the spectacular Gothic castle fondled by the lake waves, the only island castle in Eastern Europe. The Golden Age of this castle was the period of rule of Duke Vytautas the Great (second half of the fourteenth century – first half of the fifteenth century). It was Trakai Castle that this ruler chose as his principal residence. Now, the castle has a history museum with collections of numismatics, archaeology, applied arts, Karaites and Tatars



culture and history. The castle hosts various events, classical music concerts, and the old craft days in summer.

Look around the Island Castle and go back along the bridge to the shore, then turn left. In 300 m you will reach the Trakai Peninsula Castle. This castle was built in a similar time as the Island Castle, but much less of it has survived. Now you can see 11 of its towers. In one of them, the fifteenth century conspirators killed the Lithuanian Grand Duke Žygimantas Kęstutaitis, the lender's brother of Vytautas the Great, who briefly ruled Lithuania after the death of Vytautas the Great. The Peninsula Castle regains its initial grandeur in June, during the bustling medieval festival that brings together dozens of artisans, musicians, knights demonstrating their combat skills, courage and chivalry, and of course, many spectators. The Dominican chapel has survived in the castle area and now hosts the sacral art exhibition **2**. Climb up the Aukų Hill, once a place for the rites of the old religion.

200 meters from the castle you will see the pontoon bridge separating Galvė and Luka (Bernardine) lakes. Smarter ones will easily drive over it by bicycle, and those who do not really trust their driving skills, better walk by foot. Pull over on the bridge to admire the picturesque carved shores of the lakes on both sides. Turn left behind the bridge, and pedal along Lake Galvė until you reach another small bridge in 200 meters. Cross it, and turn right.

In half a kilometre will find Varnikai mound **3**. If you have a thermos of tea and a snack, you will hardly find a more beautiful place full a short picnic. Look around, and cycle again, until in 600 m you will see the arrow to Varnikai cognitive trail. The trail is a little less than a kilo-

metre away from here. Along the way you will pass the graves of victims of the Holocaust **4** on the left. Here, 1446 Jews who lived in the surrounding towns and villages were killed and buried in 1941: 366 men, 483 women and 597 children.

The length of Varnikai cognitive trail is 3.5 km. It winds along the swamp of Ilgelis, through the places one never sees often since they are too difficult to get close. The trail is equipped with information stations, describing the nature of the area, the local landscape features, and associated human activities. When travelling along the trail, you see how the tall forest turns into a marsh right in front of your eyes: so wild, mysterious and radiating its unique charm. Pause in a few rest areas, listen and watch the life bustling around. By the way, during the warm time of the year you will be escorted by the thick buzzing thirsty crowd, so mosquito protection will be most useful.

When you finish the exploration of the swamp of Ilgelis, turn your bike and take the same trail back to Trakai.



PLACES TO VISIT:

1 Trakai History Museum

 Pilies sala, Trakai
GPS 54.652633; 24.933611
 +370 528 53 946
 info@trakaimuziejus.lt
 www.trakaimuziejus.lt

2 Exposition of Sacral Art

 Kęstučio g. 4, Trakai
GPS 54.645442; 24.936073
 +370 528 55 297
 info@trakaimuziejus.lt
 www.trakaimuziejus.lt

3 Varnikai Mound

GPS 54.649874, 24.947297

4 Holocaust Place and the Monument

GPS 54.650023, 24.961835

ACCOMPANIED BY THE NAUGHTY MUSÉ

AND THE MAGNIFICENT NERIS RIVERS

Bicycle route:

Kernavė–Musninkai–Čiobiškis–Kernavė

Route length: approx. 44 km

Route starting point: Kerniaus str.

GPS 54.887148, 24.853655

Route end point: Kerniaus str.

GPS 54.887148, 24.853655



This route will offer you plenty of imagery of extraordinary beauty, so grab your camera with you! All the way, you will be faithfully accompanied by the Musė Rivulet and the second longest Lithuanian river Neris – you will see them repeatedly during this journey. They will delight not only with the spectacular meanders and coastal views, but also the



freshness of the water. So this is a great choice for a hot summer day!

The route is quite long, almost 44 km, moreover, it extends on car roads, so it is recommended for experienced cyclists who know how to stay safely on the road. If you do not own a bicycle, you can rent it in any nearest city: Vilnius, Kaunas, and in Kernavė farmstead village named Kernavės Bajorynė.



Welcome to Kernavė – the first capital city of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania! It is convenient to come here and bring in bikes by car, which can then be parked in the parking lot. It is easy to find. Keep looking for a redbrick Kernavė Neo-Gothic Virgin Mary Church **1** – the parking is in the beginning of the pedestrian alley leading to the church. If you will pause to visit the church, note the two chapels near it: a brick chapel from the middle of the nineteenth century, and a wooden chapel of the mid-eighteenth century.



But before you start the trek, explore Kernavė first. The main tourist attraction here is the largest defensive complex of mounds **2** in Lithuania. This is one of the nicest places in Lithuania. Majestic mounds, Neris meanders and valleys, which are particularly fascinating at Kernavė, the spirit of history in the air will enchant you. Walk on foot in the mound area – bikes are not allowed here.

It is worth visiting Kernavė archaeological museum **3** before or after the trip. The museum tells you the vivid and interesting history of Kernavė and Lithuania of as many as 11 millennia.

Another interesting point of the town is Šulinys Studio Gallery of Henrikas Orakauskas **4** offering interesting exhibits and the artistically decorated farmstead.

So if you are ready, it's time to move!



Upon leaving Kernavė, follow Musninkai direction. Although the road is very comfortable, it is also busy. Be careful! It stretches along the fields, crossing a few villages, a corner of the Kernavė forest, a few small groves, and the charming Lie-lupė River – a tributary of the Neris River. The landscape is constantly changing, so a trip to Musninkai will not seem long.

After driving 3.3 km, on the left you will see a road sign to Mirnabalis farm/gallery **5**. Visit it, to admire the original art, and maybe buy presents and gifts.



Turn back on the main road and pedal for 4 km to the bridge over the meandering Musė river. This is one of the most extreme tourist water routes. In spring the Musė river rises and turns into a frantic mountain river. Its banks are extremely beautiful and full of wildlife.

The cosy and calm Musninkai town begins behind the Musė. It has been known in history since the fifteenth century. Probably the first church was built here in similar time. The current Neo-Gothic church of Holy Trinity **6** was built in 1855-1861. The church has valuable works of art. The signatory of the Lithuanian Act of Independence priest Alfonsas Petrusis (1873–1928) was buried in the churchyard in 1928.

Musninkai often was in the whirlpool of important and dramatic historical events. During the uprising of 1830-1831 it was a centre of rebels. In 1920, it was a battle ground of the Lithuanian Army against the Polish Army, led by Lucjan Żeligowski. After the Second World War the resistance movement was actively going on around Musninkai, led by Jonas Mišius (1911–1947), under the alias of Green Devil.

In Musninkai, behind the church, go away from the main road towards Čiobiškis and you will quickly see a modest chapel **7** named under Barbora Radvilaitė. According to the legend, the wooden chapel instead of the current church was built in the eighteenth century by the Queen of Lithuania and Poland Barbora Radvilaitė (1520–1551). Allegedly, while visiting her relatives in Musninkai Barbora Radvilaitė heard that her brother was seriously ill, and she decided to visit him in Dubingiai. To reach Dubingiai, she had to cross the flooding Musė, and nearly drowned. Thanking for the salvation to her patron, St. Barbara, the Queen ordered to build this chapel. By the way, you will immediately notice that the chapel is tilted. As measured, the degree of tilt exceeds even the famous Tower of Pisa!

Drive further for a few minutes and you will reach the abandoned fragments of Musninkai manor, where Barbora Radvilaitė used to stay; however, they are not from the sixteenth century but from the second half of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. The surviving buildings include two barns, a granary, a manor house basement, and parts of the water mill.



In the manor, the road will again cross the Musė, and will continue along the curvy and wooded, picturesque places. There are a few cars here, so you can relax and enjoy the sights.

Pedal for the next nine kilometres until you see the shining waters of the Neris River on the left. Go a little left, and look at one of the few car ferries in Lithuania and the only ferry across the Neris River. It is a rope ferry, it has no motor nor oars. It is believed that the ferry been operating at this point, at the confluence of the Neris



and Musė from the late nineteenth century.

Another few hundred meters and you will find yourself in Čiobiškis town, situated in the bend of the Neris River. Once upon a time it was an important trading centre, and already had the Magdeburg rights in the sixteenth century, but then lost grounds to the bigger towns of Širvintos and Jonava.

In Čiobiškis you will cross the Musė once again, this time along the interesting interwar paved arched bridge of Darius and Girėnas **8**. Next to the bridge stands a wooden watermill **9** made of hewn logs in 1900 and reconstructed in the first half of the twentieth century. Although the mill is abandoned, it still has genuine technological installations.

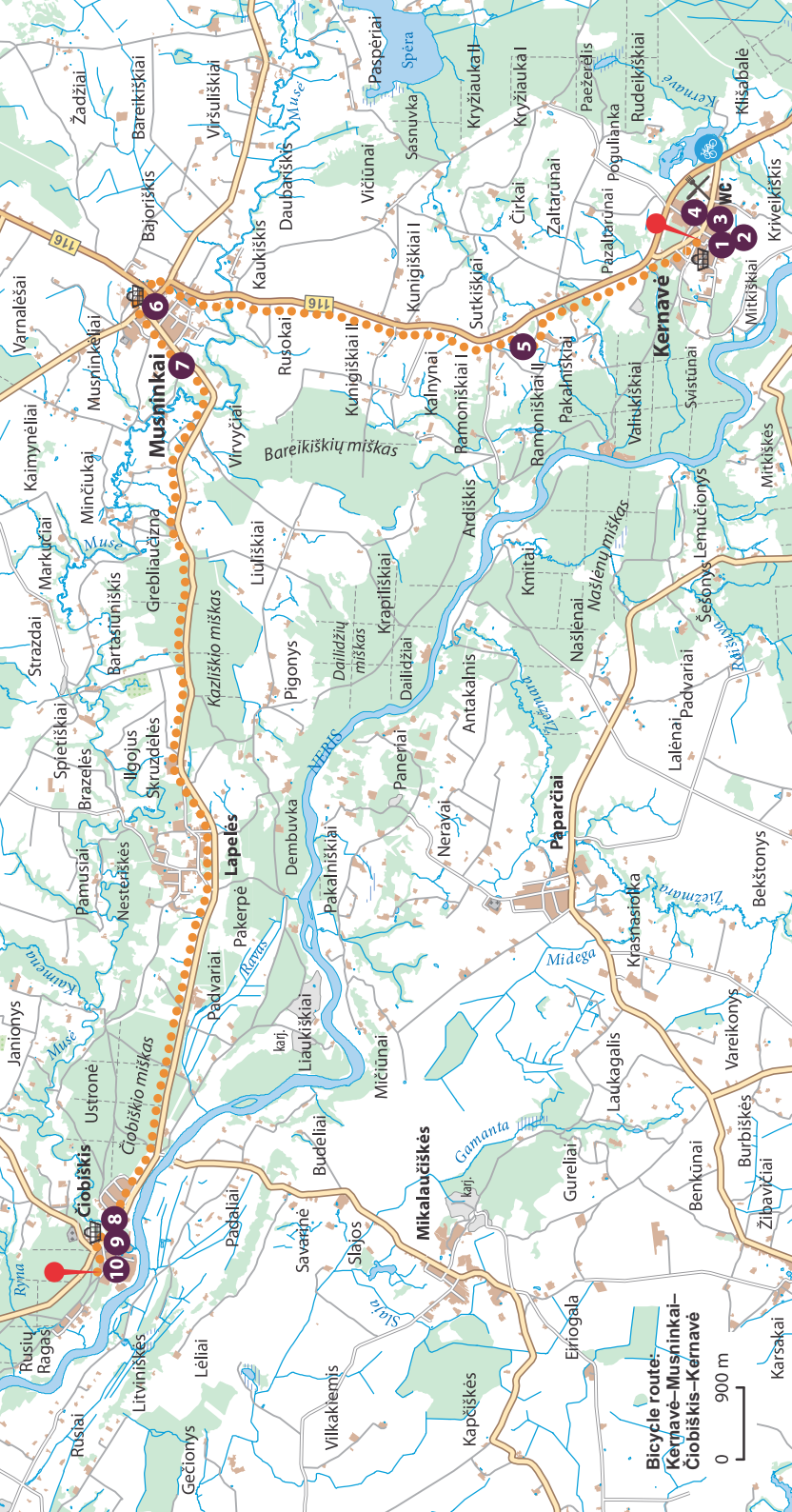
When driving across the town, on the left you will see the walls of St. John the Baptist Church **10**. The current church was built in 1810-1816. It is believed that it was designed by the most famous Lithuanian architect Laurynas Gucevičius (1753–1798).

Now, it is time to turn around and go back the same way to Kernavė.



PLACES TO VISIT:

- 1 Kernavė Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Scapular**
 Kerniaus g. 6, Kernavė, Širvintų r.
 GPS 54.884835; 24.852024
 ☎ +370 382 47 347
 ✉ irena.valaityte@gmail.com
- 2 The Kernavė Mounds**
 Kernavė, Širvintų r.
 GPS 54.883002; 24.852463
 ☎ +370 382 47 371
 ✉ direkcija@kernave.org
 🌐 www.kernave.org
- 3 The Kernavė Archaeological Site Museum**
 Kerniaus g. 4A, Kernavė
 GPS 54.885780; 24.853864
 ☎ +370 382 47 385
 ✉ ekskursijos@kernave.org
 muziejus@kernave.org
 🌐 www.kernave.org
- 4 The Sculpture Studio and Gallery Šulinys**
 Vilniaus g. 8, Kernavė, Širvintų r.
 GPS 54.886663; 24.856889
 ☎ +370 616 36 291
 ✉ orakauskas@gmail.com
- 5 The Farmstead and Gallery Mirnabalis**
 Mirnabalio g. 1, Pakalniškės k., Širvintų r.
 GPS 54.907114; 24.833205
 ☎ +370 687 26 000
 ✉ mirnabalis@gmail.com
- 6 Musninkai Holy Trinity Church**
 Vilniaus g. 3, Musninkai
 GPS 54.949196, 24.841191
 ☎ +370 382 45 173
- 7 The Chapel of the Queen Barbora Radvilaitė**
 GPS 54.945282, 24.830293
- 8 The Darius and Girėnas Bridge in Čiobiškis**
 GPS 54.954322, 24.660082
- 9 The mill of Čiobiškis**
 GPS 54.954497, 24.659382
- 10 Čiobiškis St. John the Baptist Church**
 GPS 54.954877, 24.653415
 ☎ +370 382 45 456



Bicycle route:
Kernavė–Muspinkai–
Čiobiškis–Kernavė

0 900 m

FOLLOWING THE TRACES OF

ANCIENT WORSHIPPERS OF LITHUANIA

Bicycle route:

Kernavė – Neris Regional Park trail – Kernavė

Route length: approx. 55 km

Route starting point: Kerniaus str.

GPS 54.887148, 24.853655

Route end point: Kerniaus str.

GPS 54.887148, 24.853655



Kernavė surroundings are breathtaking. Not only because of the mature pine forests, centuries-old oak groves, and high cliffs of the Neris River. You will notice that the atmosphere saturated with ancient shrines here is unique – you will feel it best while leisurely pedalling nearby.

In ancient Lithuania, life around Kernavė was extremely busy – to this day, the place is dotted with mounds, barrow complexes, mythological stones, and archaeologists have discovered many ancient settlements. So take your time when travelling by bike. Stop and quietly walk around these places, listening to whispers of trees. Maybe you'll hear a secret from the past?

The proposed route length is 55 km. However, the time will run quickly here: there are places to visit, and there are feasts for one's eyes. Meanwhile, the road is interesting – from smooth asphalt to forest tracks.

It is best to bring bicycles to Kernavė by car. It then can be parked in the centre of the town, near the pedestrian walkway leading towards the church **1**.

You can easily spend a full day in Kernavė: it has the UNESCO protected complex of mounds **2**, the modern archaeological museum **3**, the Šuliny's sculpture studio **4**, and Kerniaus bar

situated in the old mill. However, if you want to finish the route by the end of the day, you should hurry up and continue the journey.

Leaving Kernavė, follow Vilnius direction and in about a kilometre you will exit to the wider, but a more busy road. Although traffic is quite intense, the roadside is wide and well maintained. To be vi-



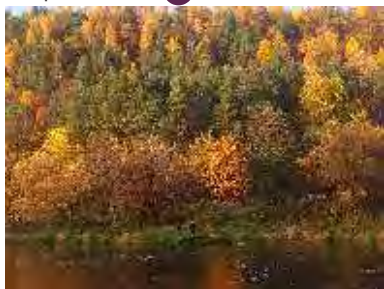
sible from a distance, take care to wear high visibility clothes, and even better – a reflective vest.

On this road you can pass several villages following one after the other. The first is Klišabalė, then Miežionys in two kilometres and nearby – Aliejūnai, with a quirky Vingrė stream, and a lake in the vicinity.

Just in a kilometres from Aliejūnai you will reach Geišiškės, with a miniature stone church **5** built in 1865. Its construction was incredibly rapid for those times, taking only five months, meanwhile a plot of land and a few thousand bricks were donated by Duke Cezaris Giedraitis. By the way, Geišiškės village has a place included in the catalogue of sacred sites of the old Lithuania. In this place they used to have a stone with an imprint of a foot, called Jesus Christ's foot.

Driving further, you will pass the twin villages: Airėnai I and Airėnai II. The first was built in the nineteenth century. Along with the small estate, it belonged to Dukes Giedraičiai. Airėnai II appeared in the beginning of the twentieth century upon settling its residents from Grodno province.

Soon after Airėnai, in about 8 km from the starting point of the route, turn right towards Vievis. However, if you want to visit Dūkštos Oak grove **6** or Bradeliškės **7** or Buivydai **8** mounds near it, just





across the road, go straight for about 1 km. Then, go back to the route and follow the same road.

Cycling towards Vievis, on the left you will see the arrow pointing towards a 4 km long cognitive trail, presenting natural and cultural values, and leading to Karmazinai Mound **9**. Originally, this small mound used to be a hideout, and later probably became a place of worship – a saint grove. An ancient settlement was discovered not far from it, near the confluence of the Neris and Dūkšta turning into a mountain river. There was an altar on top of the mound – a legacy of the last century. It was equipped by the Romuva members of Vilnius University, ethnographers celebrating All Souls' Day (All Saints Day) in 1969.

We leave the mound and travel farther. There is a café on the left. Velnia-kampis forests open from the observation deck equipped on a 150 m high cliff of the Neris. Pine forests, pine forests everywhere, as far as the eye can see, meanwhile the torrential Neris carries its waters underneath...

However, there are still quite a few kilometres left, and we should keep going. The road joyfully descends into the valley of the Neris so you can stop pedalling and whizz down with a breeze. Approximately in 3 km on the right you will see Molynė village gravel quarry, and still a kilometre away – a bridge over the River Neris. Cross it, drive for 400 m, and turn left towards the town of Paneriai.

This former manor site is the point where the 23 km bicycle tourist trail of the Neris Regional Park starts, running from the largest Neris meander called Velnia-kampis. This is a circular route.

From Paneriai Manor **10** the trail runs along a wide gravel road for 2 km. The remaining route stretches along tightly compacted forest roads, although there are a few sandy sections.

The route terrain is diverse: there are steep rises and fun landings. From Paneriai to Peklynė Hill the trail winds along the Neris riverside, and then ascends, overlooking the surroundings of the River Neris in Ausiutiškiai observation deck **11**. Later, the road goes slightly downhill again.

Along the way, you will find numerous camping, natural and cultural sites: the cursed wedding stones in the Neris, a mysterious conglomerate rock, the "witch broom" pine and others. You have to walk by foot a few hundred metres to some

sites, and in the village of Karageliškės open a metal gate protecting crops from wild boars.

After riding around round the whole circle, descend down the hill to Paneriai forest observation deck. From there, you only have to turn right and will find yourself on the same asphalt road where you came from Kernavė. Again drive across the bridge over the River Neris, Karmazinai Mound, turn left and cycle for about 8 km to reach Kernavė.

PLACES TO VISIT:

- 1 Kernavė Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Scapular**
Kerniaus g.6, Kernavė, Širvintų r.
GPS 54.884835; 24.852024
☎ +370 382 47 347
✉ irena.valaityte@gmail.com
- 2 The Kernavė Mounds**
Kernavė, Širvintų r.
GPS 54.883002; 24.852463
☎ +370 382 47 371
✉ direkcija@kernave.org
www.kernave.org
- 3 The Kernavė Archaeological Site Museum**
Kerniaus g. 4A, Kernavė
GPS 54.885780; 24.853864
☎ +370 382 47 385
✉ ekskursijos@kernave.org
muziejus@kernave.org
www.kernave.org
- 4 The Sculpture Studio and Gallery Suliny's**
Vilniaus g. 8, Kernavė, Širvintų r.
GPS 54.886663; 24.856889
☎ +370 616 36 291
✉ orakauskas@gmail.com
- 5 Geisiškės St. John the Martyr orthodox Church**
GPS 54.867865, 24.923844
- 6 Dūkštos Oak Wood**
GPS 54.833163, 24.951164
- 7 Bradeliškės Mound**
GPS 54.825334, 24.943346
- 8 Buivydai Mound**
GPS 54.822217, 24.940564
- 9 Karmazinai Mound**
GPS 54.817962, 24.929407
- 10 Paneriai manor**
GPS 54.785614, 24.909809
- 11 Ausiutiškiai Viewpoint**
GPS 54.779443, 24.938482



Kernavė

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 WC

Bicycle route: Kernavė–Neris Regional Park trail–Kernavė

ALONG THE BENDS

OF ROADS AND HISTORY

Bicycle route:

Vilnius–Trakai–Kernavė–Vilnius

Route length: approx. 108 km

Route starting point: Cathedral Square

GPS 54.685911, 25.286885

Route end point: Cathedral Square

GPS 54.685911, 25.286885



We invite you to a unique journey of more than 100 kilometres stretching along three cities particularly important for the Lithuanian statehood – the current capital city of Vilnius, the first capital city Kernavė and one of the most important political centres of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania – Trakai. This is a great opportunity to see some of the most interesting and certainly the most beautiful places of the country in one trip.

You will need 2-3 days for the route depending on the fitness of cyclists and the time you can dedicate for the places of interest, or simply for recreation in nature and hiking. Most of the route will go along paved roads, so you must travel responsibly and carefully. Since the trail is not marked, be sure to take a map.

Choice of accommodation on this route is big. In Trakai, you can stay in hotels, tourism homesteads or in a camping site. There are also several rural tourism homesteads in Kernavė, near Sudervė.

Think about the many impressions are waiting for you, and go! The trip will start in Vilnius, which is the capital city of Lithuania since the fourteenth century. By the way, the Old Town of Vilnius is a cultural heritage value protected by UNESCO. The route begins in the Cathedral Square, Šventaragis valley that had

the great historical significance since ancient times. You will see the Cathedral **1** like a picture in the greeting card, with a bell tower, and the tower of the Upper Castle on Gediminas Hill **2**. In reality, it is no less impressive!

Leaving the Cathedral square behind your back, turn to Gediminas Avenue – its driveway has a bicycle lane. In 1.8 km you will reach the Lithuanian Seimas Palace **3** (on your right). Pay close attention to the glass structure near it covering the fragment of barricades, and a crucifix. It is a memorial for the January 13th, 1991, paying tribute to those who died for Lithuanian freedom in this place.



Soon after the Parliament House Gediminas Avenue reaches the Neris River. Cross it by the old Žvėrynas Bridge, built in 1906. At the end of the bridge you will see an impressive church of the Icon of the Mother of God "Omen From Heaven" **4** (1903).

Drive along A. Mickevičiaus street for about 800 metres and turn right, to Birutės street. At the intersection with Treniotos street turn left, cross the River Neris again, and the bridge takes you to the Vingis Park. Here an excellent bike trail begins. Ride it and you will find yourself driving straight to the open air stage of the park **5** – a huge venue for summer events. On the right you will pass a small Vingis Park Zoo. On the left you will see the Amusement Park. Follow the main road, which will lead you from the park to Gerosios Vilties street. The bike trail ends here.

Now your goal is to reach the Gerosios Vilties street half a kilometre away. As traffic here is very intense, the safest way is to dismount the bicycle and take the pedestrian underpass to Savanorių





prospect. The prospectus is also very busy, so it is advisable to use a rather wide sidewalk instead of the street. Be aware as in some places you will have to dismount the bike and cross several minor intersections.

3 km after passing the railway bridge suspended over the street, at the traffic lights, select the right branch of the road. Be careful here because if you miss the right turn, it will take you to Vilnius – Kaunas highway. If this happens, go back.

In a few hundred meters you will see a small path on the left – go there. This 1.5 km long cobble paved path is the branch of the old Vilnius – Kaunas road built in the eighteenth century. It is quite steep and quite difficult for many cyclists. And not just for cyclists – in winter 1812, the army of Napoleon retreating from Russia was unable to pull up their artillery carts and therefore suffered huge losses.

Soon, you will be approaching the highway once again. Turn right at the petrol station and drive up onto the bridge, then cross the highway over the top. Beyond the bridge, at the first intersection turn right and you will find yourself on the Old Trakai road. Be careful while driving the roadside as the traffic is very busy.

In 4 km you will reach the borough of Vilnius city called Mūrinė Vokė. Here you will find the pulp and cardboard factory, and the ruins of the dam ⁶. The settlement is located near the Vokė River, which is dammed up in this place. You will cross the pond by the bridge.

Continue along the same road that leads through small villages and fields, until you reach Lentvaris in 4.5 km. This small town has the largest railway junction in Lithuania. Among its destinations, there is a Neo-Romantic Annunciation Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary ⁷ (1906), Lentvaris Manor ⁸ Park from the sixteenth century near Lentvaris Lake, and the manor house, once owned by the

wealthy and influential counts Tiškevičiai. To visit these sites, you should leave the route and make a detour of about 2-3 km.

Keep left in Lentvaris, at the first bigger intersection, and cross the railway. Behind it turn to the right. After a couple of kilometres you will see another crossing and in another 1.5 km you will exit the town and find an excellent bike path. Have fun for 6 km and reach Trakai.

We offer not to rush to Trakai and on the way to stop by Varnikai and Serapieniškės rural architecture reserves to admire the old architecture, characteristic for this region.

As you approach the road sign to Varnikai mound ⁹, feel free to turn in this direction. Thus you will not only avoid the busy main entrance to Trakai, but also can walk the interesting Varnikai trail and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Varnikai mound.

Go further, and within a few minutes you reach the car park. If you are attentive, on the right you will notice the Soviet yacht club building. Turn to the left and pass a small bridge, then pedal the path at the shore of the lake to Trakai pontoon bridge, leading to Trakai surrounded by the many lakes. Behind the bridge you will see the remains of the defensive towers and walls of one of the largest Lithuanian defensive castles, the Peninsula Castle. Here you will also find the Sacral Heritage Museum ¹⁰.

Be sure to walk around the unique Old Town of Trakai, the famous urban monument. Go to the fifteenth century Trakai Virgin Mary Visitation Church ¹¹, Trakai Orthodox Church ¹² built in 1863, and Karaite synagogue called Kenesa ¹³. Visit S. Šapšalas Karaite National Museum ¹⁴ and learn about with the history of the Lithuanian Karaite minority.

Of course, the remarkable Trakai Island Castle ¹⁵ is a must. It is one of the most frequented tourist attractions in Lithuania. This Castle was built in the beginning of the fifteenth century as a residence of one of the most prominent ru-





lers of Lithuania – Vytautas the Great (1350-1430), where the ruler lived and died. At the time, Trakai was one of the most important political centres of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.



From the castle, pedal along Karaimų street and in 1.5 km you will see the old inn called Kibininė, where you can taste not only the traditional Karaite, but also Lithuanian dishes widely recognised as cultural heritage. Then, return to Karaite street, turn right 500 meters to the roundabout and drive on the right side of the road. Then travel along the scenic road between Galvė and Akmena lakes. Along the way you'll see the Akmena Lake beach, and after a few hundred meters – a road sign to Užutrakis manor **16** park. It is worthwhile to drive the 4 km to it and explore the wonderful palace and the beautiful park. After this tour, return to the route. Continue for 12 km on a relatively quiet road – cars will not interfere with your sightseeing. On the right you will pass Bražuolė village, mentioned in the historical sources from the fourteenth century, and later on the left – Šiemetis Lake.

After turning to Kernavė, traffic will get more intense. You will pass under the highway bridge Vilnius – Kaunas, then the crossing. Afterwards, continue on the main road and in 1 km you will see Paneriai village on the right. This is the middle point of the route.

In Paneriai, you can visit the eighteenth century manor **17**. By the way, the village boasts an excellent hike and bike trail (23 km) of the Neris Regional Park, with abundant tourist attractions, camping places, and, of course, the amazing scenery of the Neris River. It is most convenient to start the trek on this route in Bražuolė campsite, located near Lazdėnai village or right here, in Paneriai.

After Paneriai soon you have to cross the Neris River by the bridge, and then in

3 km you will see Pušynėlis restaurant. It offers a particularly impressive panorama of the Neris loops. After a couple of hundred meters you will see a turn to the mound of Karmazinai **18**, and a trail. They are close – just a kilometre away. You can lock the bicycles in the car park and climb the mound, which will reward you with amazing scenery. According to the legend, a temple has sunk inside the hill. When the nearby Dūkštos church bells sound on Sundays, the bell from the depths of the mound, supposedly, reiterates.

If you have time, you should take a walk along the trail and learn about abundant vegetation of these areas, natural and cultural values, and ancient Lithuanian customs of burial, and log driving. The trip along the trail takes about 3 hours.

Turn back to the main road and pedal for 2.5 km before guiding to Kernavė. Soon, on the right, you will see a turn to Geišiškės village, where you can stop and check the pretty Russian Orthodox church **19** built in 1865.



Admire the surroundings, and you will not notice another 5.5 km to fly by, when you have to turn left toward Kernavė. Within a few hundred meters you will see Kernius bar–restaurant. It is situated in the inter-war era mill and attracts visitors not only with good food but also beautiful surroundings: a mini wetland, several ponds, and a beautiful small forest.

After another few minutes towards Kernavė you will pass Šuliny's Sculpture Studio–Gallery **20**. Here, artist Henrikas Orakauskas exhibits his wood, marble, metal sculptures, paintings and other works.

Finally, from the gallery you will reach Kernavė – the first capital city of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. In Kernavė, it



is best to lock your bicycles and check the places of interest on foot.

Of course, the biggest celebrity in Kernavė is the five mounds complex **21**, included in the UNESCO heritage list. Mounds are not only an important archaeological, historical monument, but also the place of extraordinary beauty enchanting with impressing loops of the Neris River.

Everyone interested in history should use the opportunity to visit the ultra modern Kernavė archaeological museum **22**. Anyway, it is fun to stroll around the cosy small Kernavė town, meanwhile admiring its charming church **23**.

After a stop in Kernavė turn the same road you came from, and go for 9.5 km to the junction where the roads leading to Maišiagala and Sudervė intersect. Go straight in this intersection to Sudervė.

After a kilometre you will reach Dūkštos oak forest **24** trail, and will see how the ancient Lithuanian forests once looked like. There are more than 38 sculptures along the trail depicting characters from the Lithuanian legends and mythology. The trail length is 2.3 km, it will take about 1.5 hours.

Continue, and very soon you will be in Dūkštos town with a church of St. Ann **25** shining from afar. Behind it, in the junction go straight to Sudervė for 9 km. The road is so scenic here that you will not notice how quickly you arrive. Sudervė centerpiece is Trinity Church **26** built according to the project of architect Laurynas Gucevičius in 1822. It has a unique round shape. There are no more such churches in Lithuania. In particular, it looks impressive at night when the

lights are turned on.

From Sudervė drive towards Vilnius. When passing Čekoniškės village, visit a home for the verbos **27** (unique Lithuanian decoration) and the farmstead. This village has a very strong tradition of verbos weaving, and even the verbos weaver ensemble. Admire the colourful, varicoloured artworks unique for Vilnius region called verbos, made by hard-working and creative rural women exclusively from dried plants, crisp flowers, coloured strands and other natural materials.

From Čekoniškės go 9 km to the mark signifying the outskirts of the city of Vilnius. You will enter the Pilaitės neighbourhood. Drive straight on the main road. Sometimes, it would be the bike trail next to it. In five kilometres on the left you will see the Press House building. In the junction nearby go straight downhill and soon the cycling trail will begin. Ride 2 km on the bicycle trail, then turn left, to Saltoniškių street, and after a couple of hundred meters left to Sėlių street. There is also a bicycle trail.

While driving down Sėlių street, reach the Neris River. Turn left and drive along the river. You will pass the Baltasis and the Žaliasis bridges, but do not cross the river yet. It is most convenient to do so on Mindaugas bridge. Behind it, only a few hundred meters are left to the Cathedral Square, where the tour began and where it ends.



PLACES TO VISIT:

1 **Vilnius Cathedral Basilica of St. Stanislaus and St. Vladislaus**






















Katedros a. 2, Vilnius

GPS 54.685815; 25.287437

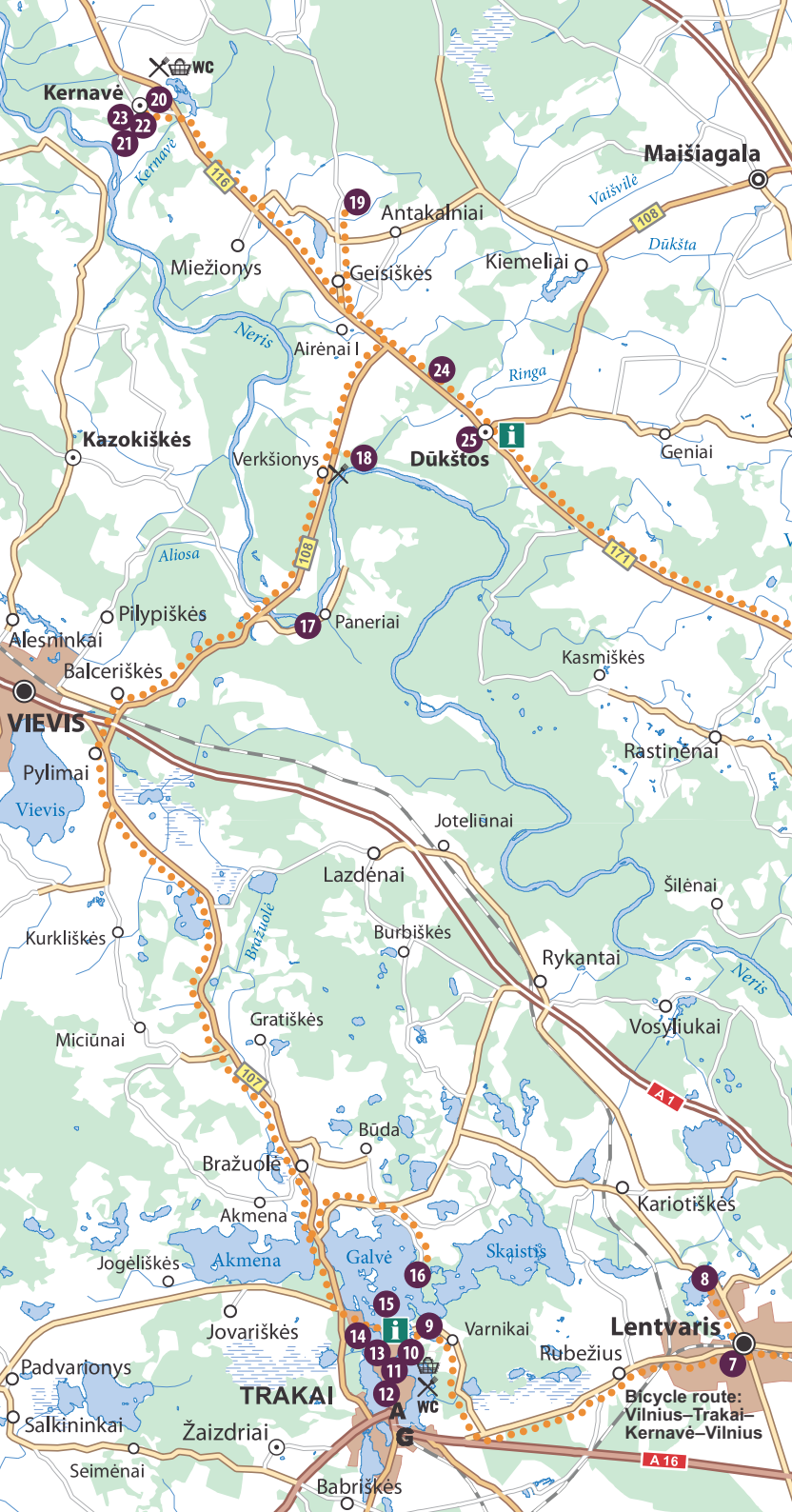
+370 5 261 1127

parapija@katedra.lt

www.katedra.lt

- 2 Upper Castle (Gediminas' Hill)**
 Arsenalo g. 5, Vilnius
 GPS 54.686609; 25.290731
 +3705 261 7453
 pilis@lnm.lt
 www.lnm.lt
- 3 Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania**
 GPS 54.690636, 25.261568
- 4 Znamenskoye Orthodox Church**
 Vytauto g. 21, Vilnius
 GPS 54.690708; 25.257359
 +370 5 275 1375
- 5 Amphitheater of Vingis Park**
 GPS 54.683164, 25.235751
- 6 Mūrinė Vokė Manufactory Complex**
 GPS 54.648026, 25.119361
- 7 Annunciation Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lentvaris**
 GPS 54.641656, 25.048411
- 8 Lentvaris Manor**
 GPS 54.658256, 25.039489
- 9 Varnikai Mound**
 GPS 54.649874, 24.947297
- 10 Exposition of Sacral Art**
 Kęstučio g. 4, Trakai
 GPS 54.645442; 24.936073
 +370 528 55 297
 info@trakaimuziejus.lt
 www.trakaimuziejus.lt
- 11 Trakai Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
 Birutės g. 5, Trakai
 GPS 54.642881; 24.934491
 +370 528 55 907
 info@trakubaznycia.lt
 www.trakubaznycia.lt
- 12 Trakai Church of the Birth of the Holy Mother of God**
 Maironio g. 4, Trakai
 GPS 54.640870; 24.933321
 +370 528 52 374
 aleksandrsmail@micro.lt
- 13 Kenesa**
 GPS 54.647695, 24.932656
- 14 S. Šapšalas Karaite National Museum**
 Karaimų g. 22, Trakai
 GPS 54.647196; 24.933048
 +370 528 55 286
 info@trakaimuziejus.lt
 www.trakaimuziejus.lt

- 15 Trakai History Museum**
 Pilies sala, Trakai
 GPS 54.652633; 24.933611
 +370 528 53 946
 info@trakaimuziejus.lt
 www.trakaimuziejus.lt
- 16 Užutrakis Manor Estate**
 Užtrakio g. 17, Trakai
 GPS 54.659721; 24.943707
 +370 528 55 006
 tinp@seniejitrakai.lt
 www.seniejitrakai.lt
- 17 Paneriai Manor**
 GPS 54.785614, 24.909809
- 18 Karmazinai Mound**
 GPS 54.817962, 24.929407
- 19 Geišiškės St. John the Martyr orthodox Church**
 GPS 54.867865, 24.923844
- 20 The Sculpture Studio and Gallery Suliny's**
 Vilniaus g. 8, Kernavė, Širvintų r.
 GPS 54.886663; 24.856889
 +370 616 36 291
 orakauskas@gmail.com
- 21 The Kernavė Mounds**
 Kernavė, Širvintų r.
 GPS 54.883002; 24.852463
 +370 382 47 371
 direkcija@kernave.org
 www.kernave.org
- 22 The Kernavė Archaeological Site Museum**
 Kerniaus g. 4A, Kernavė
 GPS 54.885780; 24.853864
 +370 382 47 385
 ekskursijos@kernave.org
 muziejus@kernave.org
 www.kernave.org
- 23 Kernavė Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Scapular**
 Kerniaus g. 6, Kernavė, Širvintų r.
 GPS 54.884835; 24.852024
 +370 382 47 347
 irena.valaityte@gmail.com
- 24 Dūkštos Oak Wood**
 GPS 54.833163, 24.951164
- 25 Dūkštos Church of St. Ann**
 GPS 54.822052; 24.968635
- 26 Sudervė Trinity Church**
 GPS 54.780169; 25.084732
- 27 Granary-Museum of Rural Life and Lithuanian Palms of Čekoniškės**
 GPS 54.737453, 25.081259



Kernavė

Maišiagala

Antakalniai

Miežionys

Geišiškės

Kiemeliai

Airėnai I

Kazokiškės

Verkiškės

Dūkštos

Geniai

Paneriai

Pilypiškės

Kasmishkės

Rastinėnai

VIEVIS

Pylimai

Balceriškės

Kurkliškės

Miciūnai

Lazdėnai

Burbiškės

Rykantai

Šilėnai

Vosyliukai

Gratiškės

Bražuolė

Akmėna

Jogėliškės

Jovariškės

Padvarionys

Salkininkai

Seimėnai

Žaidriai

Babriškės

TRAKAI

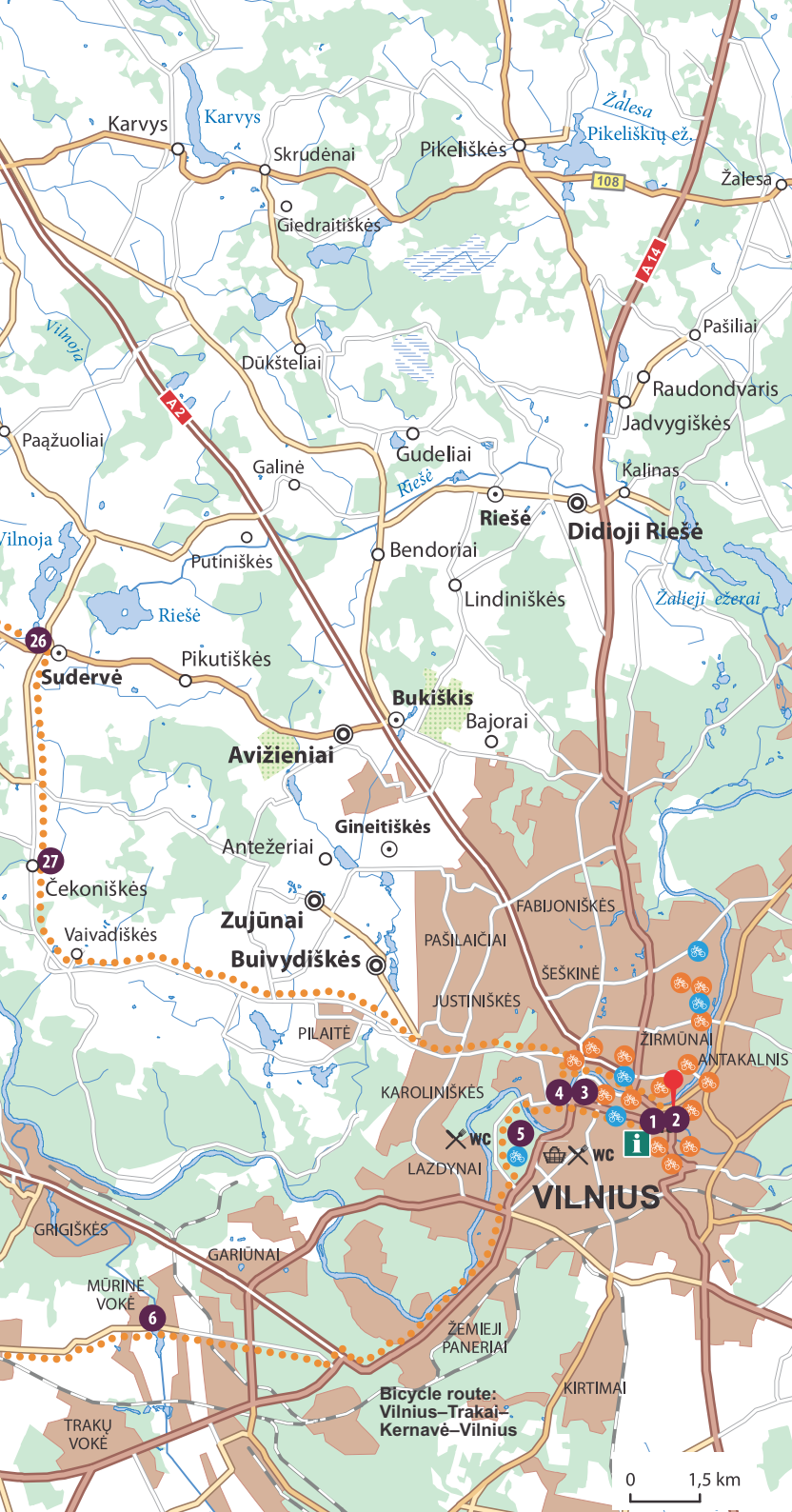
Varnikai

Rubežius

Lentvaris

Bicycle route:
Vilnius-Trakai-
Kernavė-Vilnius

A 16



Bicycle Rental

VILNIUS

VeloVilnius

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✉ info@velovilnius.lt
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Baltic cycle

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📱 www.balticcycle.eu

Dviratis Plius

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📱 www.dviratisplus.lt

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Veloklinika

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Cyclocity Vilnius

☎ +370 800 22 008
✉ info@cyclocity.lt
📱 www.cyclocity.lt

Cyclocity Vilnius, the self-service bicycle rent in the city of Vilnius, is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Cyclocity Vilnius bicycle rental terminals are situated close to each other and have at least 9 stands each, therefore using this self-service bicycle rent is easy and convenient.

TRAKAI

Trasalis – Trakai Resort & SPA

✉ Gedimino g. 26, Trakai
☎ +370 528 59 112
✉ info@trasalis.lt
📱 www.trasalis.lt

Trakų autobusų stotis

✉ Vytauto g. 90, Trakai
☎ +370 687 55 257
✉ traku.autobusai@is.lt

B&B „Ežerkiemis“

✉ Vytauto g. 95, Trakai
☎ +370 686 91 726
✉ arterez@yahoo.com
📱 www.ezerkiemis.lt

KERNAVĖ

Kernavės bajorynė

GPS 54.886457; 24.869147
☎ +370 656 59 199
✉ adm@kernavesbajoryne.lt
📱 www.kernavesbajoryne.lt







VILNIUS TOURIST

INFORMATION CENTRE


Headquarters

 Vilniaus g. 22, Vilnius
 +370 5 262 9660
 tic@vilnius.lt
 www.vilnius-tourism.lt
 I–VII 9:00–18:00



Town Hall

 Didžioji g. 31, Vilnius
 +370 5 262 6470

Cathedral Square

 Šventaragio g. 2, Vilnius

Vilnius Airport

 Rodūnios kelias 2, Vilnius
 I–VII 9:00–21:00

VISITOR CENTRES

OF

REGIONAL PARKS

Neris Regional Park

 Vilniaus g. 3, Dūkštos,
Vilniaus r. sav.
GPS  54.820952; 24.97435
 +370 5 259 9234
 info@neriesparkas.lt
 www.neriesparkas.lt

Aukštadvaris Regional Park

 Dariaus ir Girėno g. 2,
Aukštadvaris, Trakų r.
GPS  54.578814; 24.523743
 +370 528 65 363
 aukstadvaris@arp.lt
 www.arp.lt

TRAKAI TOURIST




INFORMATION CENTRE

 Karaimų g. 41, Trakai
 +370 5 285 1934
 trakaiTIC@is.lt
 www.trakai-visit.lt
 **10 - 4** I–IV 8:00–17:00
V 8:00–15:45
5 - 8 I 9:00–17:00
II–V 9:00–18:00
VI–VII 9:00–15:00
9 I–IV 8:00–17:00
V 8:00–15:45
VI–VII 9:00–15:00

LITHUANIAN

CYCLIST

SOCIETY

 +370 687 30747
 LDB@dviratis.lt
 www.bicycle.lt

Transport



The Old Town of Vilnius is easily and conveniently accessible from Vilnius International Airport, the railway and bus stations as well as from the main roads. The distance from the airport to the centre of the city is approx 5 km. The Old Town of Vilnius can be reached from the airport by paid public buses (3G, 1, 2 and 88) or taxis. Taking a train is also convenient because the bus station of Vilnius is close to the railway station which is approx. 1 km away from the center of the city. The hotels, catering companies and sights of interest located in the centre of the city can be reached from the railway station by buses (1G, 3G, 53), whereas we suggest riding trolleybuses (1, 2, 7, 20) which have become a rarity in the European cities for those in search of exotic experience.

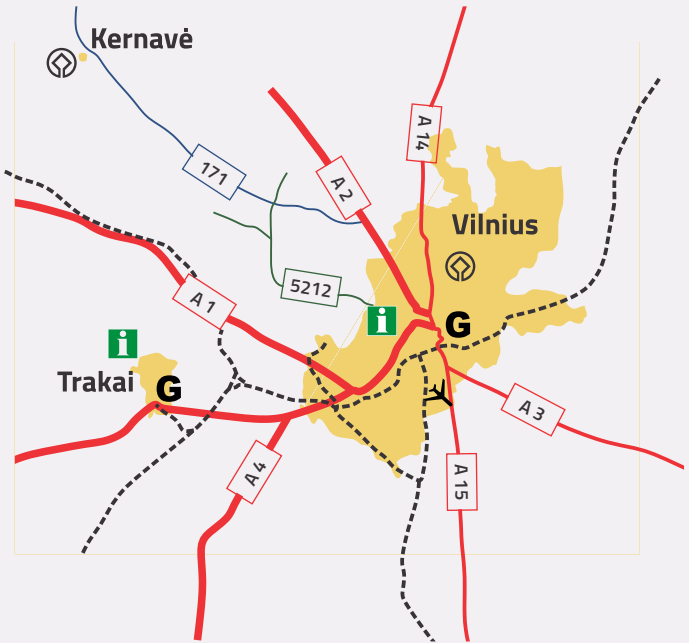
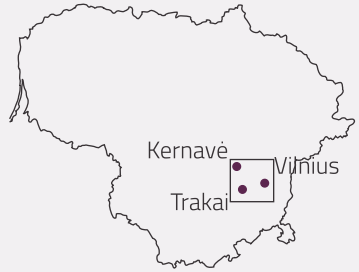


The distance from the Old Town of Vilnius to Trakai amounts to 28 km. If you are driving a car from Vilnius to Trakai, the most convenient way is to take the main road A4. You can also reach Trakai from Vilnius by a train or intercity buses. The distance from the railway and bus stations of Trakai to the Trakai Island Castle is approx. 3 km.



The distance from the Old Town of Vilnius to Kernavė is approx. 40 km. You can drive a car from Vilnius to Kernavė by the main road A2 or the road 5212. Kernavė can be reached from Vilnius by intercity buses (122 and 127); duration of the trip – approx. 1 hour. However, buses ride quite rarely; therefore, plan your travel time precisely.

- Highways
- Land roads
- Regional asphalt roads
- Railway





VILNIUS



TRAKAI



KERNAVĖ

Explore Historic Capitals of Lithuania



**VILNIUS
LITHUANIA**

THE PROJECT WAS IMPLEMENTED BY:

**Vilnius City Municipal Government
Administration Tourism Division**

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✉ timis@vilnius.lt

🌐 www.vilnius.lt

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Tourism Routes App
Vilnius-Trakai-Kernavė



Apps Store



Google Play