



# Lithuania

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## Best Places to Eat

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- ➔ Senoji Kibininė (p233)
- ➔ Lokys (p231)
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## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Bernardinu B&B (p229)
- ➔ Miško Namas (p237)
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- ➔ Domus Maria (p230)

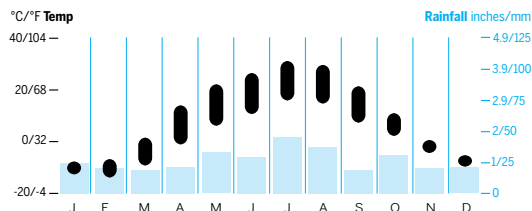
## Why Go?

Little Lithuania has so much to offer. Those with a passion for baroque architecture, ancient castles and archaeological treasures will find plenty in the capital and beyond. There are sculpture parks and interactive museums for the historically curious; modern art spaces for the more contemporary-minded; and all-night clubbing for those requiring something less cerebral.

Away from the cities, the pristine beaches and giant sand dunes on the west coast are a must-see. The Hill of Crosses is an unexpected delight. Elsewhere, the country's woods and lakes come alive in summer with cyclists, berry pickers and campers.

## When to Go

### Vilnius



**Apr** Some of the world's best jazz performers are at the Kaunas International Jazz Festival.

**Jun & Jul** The loveliest time to explore the forests and sand dunes of the Curonian Spit.

**Sep** Vilnius Capital Days, a celebration of the capital with street theatre, music and fashion.



## Lithuania Highlights

- 1 Vilnius** (p227) Exploring Lithuania's beautiful baroque capital with its cobbled streets, church spires, bars and bistros.
- 2 Curonian Spit** (p237) Breathing pure air amid fragrant pine forests and high sand dunes.
- 3 Hill of Crosses** (p235) Hearing the wind whistle between thousands of crosses at this eerie pilgrimage site, near Šiauliai.
- 4 Trakai** (p233) Wandering this historic city, home of the Karaite people and a stunning island castle.
- 5 Grūtas Park** (p233) Experiencing a taste of Lithuania's communist past.
- 6 Ninth Fort** (p234) Taking in the poignant WWII history of Kaunas' memorial.

## VILNIUS

25 / POP 546,700

Lithuania's capital, Vilnius, doesn't get the attention it deserves. The city's surprising Old Town is a dazzling assemblage of bright baroque houses, inviting alleyways and colourful churches built around quiet courtyards. But this is no museum piece. The city's cosmopolitan heritage, enriched by Polish, Jewish and Russian influences, lends

a sophisticated vibe, and thousands of students keep the energy level high.

### Sights

#### Cathedral Square & Gediminis Hill

Cathedral Square (Katedros aikštė), dominated by Vilnius Cathedral (p228) and its 57m-tall belfry, marks the centre of Vilnius