

poet's office and the trophies that this passionate fisherman and lover of nature collected. The pine forest nearby is playfully sprinkled with wooden sculptures. These were a present from the participants of the International Wood Carvers Symposium of 2012, 'Vaivorykštė ežerą semia' ('The Rainbow Draws a Lake'), commemorating the 90th birthday of Matutis.

14. Former synagogue and rabbi house (Kauno str. 9).

Non-functioning. It is believed that the original wooden synagogue was built here in 1856, subsequently being replaced by the current stone one at the end of the 19th century. In



1909 and 1911 Alytus was devastated by tremendous fires, however the synagogue survived and was rebuilt. Some believe that in 1911 the synagogue was newly built according to an earlier plan. In the same year the rabbi house was built next to it. The synagogue was made of yellowish and red bricks and was decorated with the main symbol of Judaism – a brickwork Star of David. During World War II, the synagogue was not bombarded and in the ensuing times of the Soviet regime the building was used as a warehouse.

15. The House with Lions (Vilniaus str. 27).

This residential house owes its name to figures of lions that adorn its steps. It was built in 1911 and belonged to lawyer Mendelis Bokšickis, a prominent public figure in interwar Alytus.



His son Saadia Bahat, a famous Israeli artist, was born in this house. When the Second World War broke out, Bokšickis and his family ended up in the Vilnius ghetto. It is not known what happened to him afterwards. His daughter Lilė was saved by Lithuanians and his son also managed to escape. In 1944-53, Lithuanian independence fighters were imprisoned and tortured in this house.

16. The former Kapitol Cinema (Vilniaus str. 13)

opened its doors in 1929. There was a residential area on the first floor and a cinema auditorium on the second. After the Second World War, the building was home to several organisations and a butcher's shop. In 1993-2003, it hosted an exhibition dedicated to pilots S. Darius and S. Girėnas.



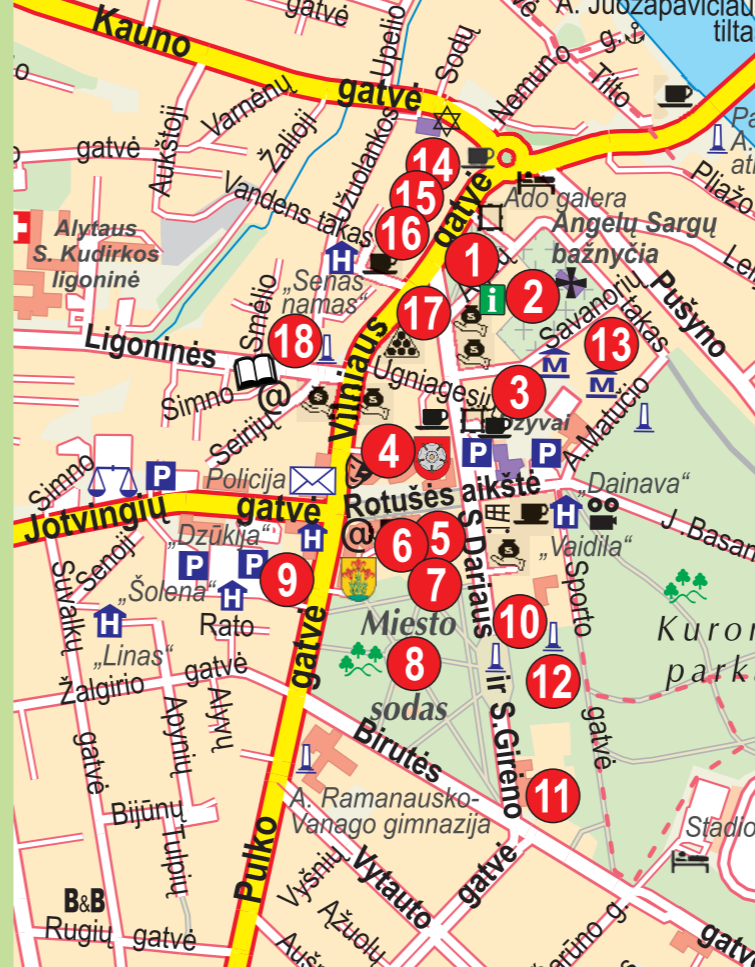
17. Zimavičienė masonry (Vilniaus str. 10).

One of the most famous interwar buildings of the city is Zimavičienė stonework. This was the first three-storey building (construction started in 1931) in interwar Alytus. Partway through the construction Kostas Zimavičius passed away and his wife Adelė Zimavičienė took over further construction affairs. When in 1932 the works were completed, the residents of Alytus named it Zimavičienė masonry. In a year's time, having fully equipped the house, the owner leased the rooms in the building to workshops and societies. The city authorities offered to set up a modern hotel on one of the floors, because it felt that Alytus was lacking in this area, however the owner rejected the offer. After the 22 June 1941 bomb attack of the eastern Germans, the building remarkably remained intact. The bomb that hit it broke through the roof, crushed the ceilings, but did not explode. After the war the building was restored and still remains until our days.



18. The sculpture of Patrimpas,

representing the ancient Baltic god of spring and fertility, was erected in 1994 in the centre of Alytus, at the crossing of Ligoninės and Vilniaus streets. Patrimpas, together with Patulas and Perkūnas, comprise the trinity depicted in the Prussian flag. Its creators are sculptor Jonas Meškelevičius and architect Algirdas Mainelis.



Alytus Tourism Information Centre

S. Dariaus ir S. Girėno str. 1, 62137 Alytus
 Phone: +370 315 52 010, +370 687 07 703
 info@alytus-tourism.lt
 www.alytus-tourism.lt



Draftswoman Birutė Malaškevičiūtė, 2017

Photos: G. Bernatavičius, E. Dovydenas, M. Gudzinevičius, B. Malaškevičiūtė, G. Tamošiūnienė, L. Valentaitė

Alytus on Foot



1. The Old Town Square lies between Bažnyčios and Alyvų Takas streets. Before the Second World War, residential and commercial buildings and houses of craftsmen stood here.

They were bombed by German fleets during the war. The houses were not rebuilt and the square was constructed instead. In 1956, it was given the name of 'May 1st'. In 1977, the square was tidied up, a fountain constructed and a statue built for Juozas Vitas, a Soviet activist. The statue was

dismantled in 1990. The square was reconstructed in 2012. The newly-installed colourful fountain was adorned with the verses of poet Jurgis Kunčinas.

2. St. Guardian Angels' Church (Savanorių str. 14) was built in 1830, replacing St. Anne's Chapel that dates back to the 17th century. Its present Neo-Baroque interior is colourful and rich and contains sacred artefacts with artistic value. A total of 114 volunteers who gave their lives fighting for the independence of Lithuania are buried in the cemetery nearby. Among them is Antanas Juozapavičius (1894-1919), the first military officer to die in these struggles.

3. Alytus Museum of Ethnography (Savanorių str. 6) was founded in 1928 under the initiative of the local intelligentsia. Today it holds more than 65,000 exhibits, comprising historical, ethnographic and archaeological artefacts from all regions of Southern Lithuania. In Alytus Museum of Ethnography you can not only see the various exhibitions, but also order educational activities.

4. Town Hall Square. Before Town Hall Square came into existence in 1990, the central part of Alytus town comprised of the triangular Komsomol Square (from 1954) and the Market Square in front of it, which used to host regular markets. They were surrounded by early 20th-century commercial and residential houses, most of which were demolished in 1987 when construction of the present Town Hall began (finished in 1989).

5. The former New York Hotel (Rotušės sq. 14). This was built in 1933 and was the most modern hotel in Alytus at the time: the first floor had a canteen and the second had excellent rooms and a bath.

6. The former 'Higiena' Bakery (Rotušės sq. 15). Built in 1930, this was the best bakery in town. The second floor was used for residential rooms.

7. Riflemen's House (S. Dariaus ir S. Girėno str. 10). Construction of the modern, spacious Riflemen's House was completed in 1938. It was named after Antanas Juozapavičius, the first military officer to be killed in the Wars of Independence, and was popularly

called Kurhaus. The first floor had a large hall with a stage, a lobby with a canteen and a porch with a restaurant. Jazz was played there in the evenings. The second floor was occupied by the riflemen's club and a museum dedicated to Juozapavičius. The basement had an exercise area. During the Soviet period, the building was used as a cultural centre. It was given back to Alytus Riflemen's Union after the Restoration of Independence.

8. City Garden. This is located in the heart of Alytus and is famous for its rose gardens. It was completed in 1931. The interwar fountain, with a small pool in which lilies blossomed and goldfish leapt, remains to this day. The fountain was constructed in the centre of the park to represent the sun, whose rays reached its every corner in the form of paths. In the garden you can find a European yew tree, a species which is rare in Lithuania. A white Japanese magnolia near the fountain bursts into bloom every spring and is a joy to everyone's eyes. Squirrels frolicking about are almost certain to put a smile on many faces. The City Garden has almost 50 types of trees and bushes. There are three oaks that are dedicated to people: the oak planted in 1930 by President Antanas Smetona; one planted in 1933 by young foresters to celebrate the unity of the Baltic countries; and one (in 1939) to honour singer Kipras Petrauskas.

9. The red brick buildings on Pulko str. 26, 28 are typical interwar residential houses of Alytus. In 1932, before World War II had overtaken Alytus, the town was proclaimed as a resort and most of the houses looked just like these. Today the town no longer has many houses of this kind.

10. The Angel of Freedom statue. This was erected in 1929. The creator of the impressive 13-metre-high sculpture (a 9-metre pedestal with a 4-metre-tall angel on top blowing a trumpet) was sculptor Antanas Aleksandravičius. The Angel of Freedom statue is dedicated to those who gave their lives for the independence of Lithuania. The monument endured several challenges involving both nature and history: in 1934 it was struck

by lightning and fell to pieces (to be rebuilt after three years) and in the seventies it was demolished for political reasons. In 1991, sculptor Jonas Meškelevičius rebuilt the sculpture again. It is said that Aleksandravičius persuaded a young frail female teacher to be a model for his angel sculpture.

11. The Green Gymnasium (S. Dariaus ir S. Girėno str. 27). The first gymnasium in Alytus was established in 1919 without its own building. In 1925, a new building was completed and opened its doors – contractors from Kaunas won an open competition and erected it using materials from the former military barracks that once belonged to the Tsar. Today it is home to the School of Fine Crafts. The school carries out educational activities and also has a shop of students' works.

12. The 'Dead Bell' Memorial is located in Kurortas Park square. It unites all the memorial symbols of resistance fights scattered throughout the city. The memorial is dedicated to political prisoners and deportees, partisans of Dainava military district and the Lithuanian Army rebels of 22-28 June 1941. It was created by sculptor Stasys Žirgulis and architect Leonas Adomkus. The square contains an oak tree dedicated to the National Awakening Movement and a cross directly in front of it that commemorates the casualties of January 13, 1991 (its creator is Petras Pranskevičius).

13. Anzelmas Matutis Memorial Museum (A. Matučio str. 8). This museum of one of the most famous children's poets holds more than 5,000 exhibits from the life and work of Anzelmas Matutis. Inside you can take a look at the

