Dviratininko gidas / Гид велосипедиста / Cycling guide



ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE NEMUNAS RIVER











Alytus Birštonas Гродна Ашмяны



Project No. LLB-2-210 "The development of bicycle tourism and informational system on Lithuania-Belarus border region".

Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus Cross-border Cooperation Programme within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.



PARTNERS:



Administration of Birštonas Municipality



Alytus tourism information centre



Grodno Regional Department of Social Organization "Republican Union of Tourism and Sport"



Oshmiany district executive committee



Grodno region executive committee sport and tourism

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Alytus Region – a nature's pearl in South Lithuania

Since old times Alytus Region was famous for sandy hills overgrown by pines, oaks swaying in the wind, lakes, the River Nemunas and rapid steams as well as refreshing springlets.

Alytus is the largest town in South Lithuania with a complex and interesting history. The town swimming in greenery of parks is proud of its traditions, culture, exceptionally beautiful nature and hospitable and warm people. Over 33 percent of the territory of Alytus is occupied by green areas – parks, squares, flowers, rest zones. Vidzgiris botanical reserve is located in the territory of the town.

The history of the settlements and villages of Alytus Region goes back for several centuries. Simnas, Daugai, Butrimonys and Punia were known to the courts of the great dukes of Lithuania and kings of Poland. Krokialaukis was famous for horses raised for rulers. Thousands of worshippers from Lithuania and foreign countries gather in Pivasiunai every year for Assumption mass to worship the sacred painting of Virgin Mary. There are several protected territories in Alytus Region: Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve, Dzukija National, Meteliai and Nemunas Loop Regional Park parts, Pivasiunai and Sudvajai Geomorphologic, Balkasodis Botanical, Sabaliskes and Varcia Pedology Reserves.

Thus the suggested bicycle routes run over the most beautiful natural territories, where one can visit cultural, architectural and archaeological monuments.

ALYTUS TOWN

First acquaintance

6,5 km

Health path – Margio str. – City Garden – Resort park – Little Dailide Lake – Health path – Bicycle rent point



The route is intended for those who want to see Alytus on a bicycle, but do not have one.

The Health path is located by the rent point (Naujoji str. 54, tel. +370 618 14 476), it is intended for cyclists and pedestrians. Follow it to A. Sakalausko str. 10, turn to Margio str. by the building and go straight to reach the City Garden and the Monument "Angel of Freedom". It is the most important monument in Alytus, a symbol of respect and remembrance to those who died for the independence of Lithuania, it was built in 1929 (author A. Aleksandravicius). It is said that the author talked a young gymnasium teacher into posing for the sculpture. The monument suffered several tests of nature and history: in 1934 the sculpture was hit by lightning (rebuilt in three years later), and in the 50s it was demolished for political reasons. Sculptor J. Meskelevicius restored the sculpture "Angel of Freedom" in 1991.

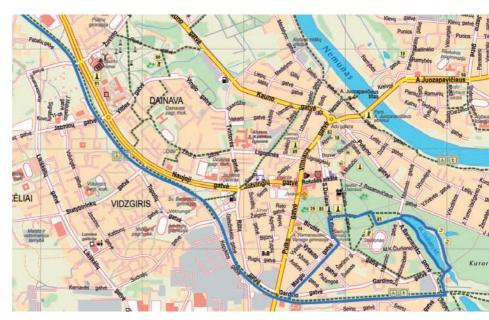
The City Garden famous for its rose gardens was completed in 1931. An interwar fountain with a pond where gold fish used to swim and water lilies bloomed still remains. When the fountain was designed to resemble the sun,

and all paths from it are like rays of the sun. 55 types of different trees and bushes grow in the park. Frolic of squirrels' makes people smile. A modern, spacious house named for the first officer to die in the fight for freedom A. Juozapavicius and called Kurhaus constructed in 1938 is located close to the park (S. Dariaus ir S. Gireno str. 10).

The Green Gymnasium (S. Dariaus ir S. Gireno str. 27) is in front of the City Garden. The first gymnasium was established in Alytus in 1919, but then it did not have a building. In 1925 the students opened the doors of this building (transformed from former czarist barracks). Today the building is the home for the crafts school, a shop for the works of students is also located there.

You will pass the Square of Angel of Freedom on the way to the Square of Resort Park. There you will find memorial "Ouiet Bell" (authors: sculptor S. Zirgulis and architect L. Adomkus) for political prisoners and the exiled, partisans of Dainava Region, to commemorate the rebels in the Lithuanian Army of 22–28 June 1941. A Revival oak planted in 1989 grows in the park, a cross for the victims of 13 January 1991 was built in front of it (author P. Pranskevicius).

From the square take the bicycle path towards the Little Dailide Lake (wash of the Nemunas) and go up on the 19th century dike, currently the Health Path, to the rent point. On the way you will see the remnants of the old railway station (1896), to which time was not kind.



2 route

ALYTUS TOWN

Spellbinding panorama of Alytus bank of the Nemunas

15 km

Jurgiskiu str. – Jazminu str. – Vilties str. – Youth Park – Parko str. – Kauno str. – Sanatorijos str. – Voveraiciu str. – Panemune bicycle path

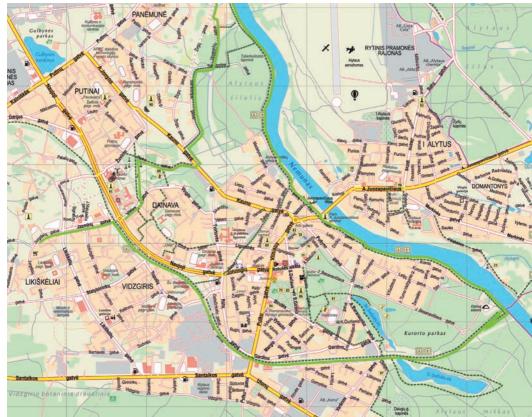


The route starts on Jurgiskiu str., from St. Mary's Christian's Aid Church (consecrated in 2001). From Likiskiai Park you can enjoy the panorama of Alytus located in the valley of the Nemunas, as you are on a highest hill in Alytus. The first monument in Lithuania to Lithuanians who died in the 1979–1989 Afghan war was built close to the park.

Take Jazminu str. and Vilties str. to the Youth Park, take the turn to the Park. The bicycle paths will allow you to enjoy flowerbeds and metal plastic sculptures in the park.

From Parko str. turn to Kauno str. and then to Sanatorijos str. where Voveraiciu str. will take you to the Lithuania's Millennium Bridge. It was opened for traffic on 28 October 2011. The length of the bridge is 257.80 m, height – 25 m. Do not go onto the bridge, follow the Panemune bicycle path back to the town. Driving through Alytus forest and admiring the pines

growing there, you cannot doubt the words of a famous artist M. Dobuzinskis about Alytus as always green town surrounded by the loops of the Nemunas. After passing the old cemetery of the sanatorium, you will soon see a stucco brick building of the beginning of the 20th century – it's a former Alytus butcher. Behind it you will find a wharf on the bank of the Nemunas. If you stop to rest here, you can enjoy the majesty and quiet of the river. A century ago a bridge where the first officer A. Juozapavicius died in 1919 during Independence fights was here. The current bridge named for him is located 50 m higher upstream. If you veer slightly off the route and go 350 m up from the wharf on Nemuno str., you will see Alytus synagogue from the beginning of the 20th century. Return to the bicycle path. Later you will see an old, fragmented by time red brick railway water system pump-house. Upon reaching the Valley of Songs (Dainu slenis) you will see the Alytus mound about which legends are told and at the foot of which the town was born on the other side of the Nemunas. Then go up onto the former railway dike of the 19th century where the bicycle and pedestrian path is located. You will return to the place where you started your trip. On the way you will see the wash of the Nemunas - the Little and Large Dailide Lakes, the remnants of the old railway station (1896).



ALYTUS TOWN

Experienced 20 km

Park of the town – Resort Park – Panemune bicycle path – Pliazo str. – A. Juozapaviciaus str. – Panemuninkeliu str. – Klevu str. – Uosiu str. – Lakunu str. – Medziotoju str. – A. Juozapaviciaus str. – Merkines str. – Piliakalnio str. – Muizelenai forest – Kaniukai Bridge – Ulonu str. – Daugu str. – Small Dailide Lake – Resort park – Park of the town



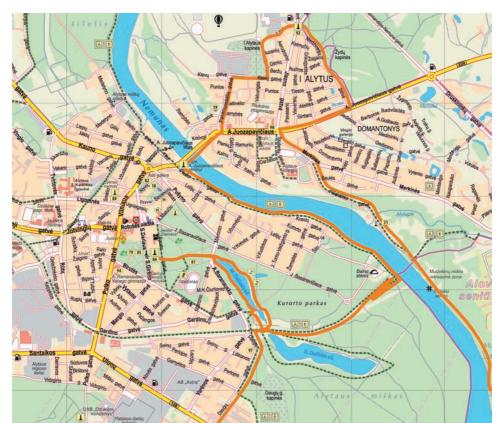
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Here you will also find the most important monument in Alytus "Angel of Freedom", a symbol of respect and remembrance to those who died for

the independence of Lithuania, it was built in 1929 (author A. Aleksandravicius). It is said that the author talked a young gymnasium teacher into posing for the sculpture. The monument suffered several tests of nature and history: in 1934 the sculpture was hit by lightning (rebuilt in three years later), and in the 50s it was demolished for political reasons. Sculptor J. Meskelevicius restored the sculpture "Angel of Freedom" in 1991.

You will pass the Square of the Freedom Angel on the way to the Square of Resort park. There you will find memorial "Quiet Bell" (authors: sculptor S. Zirgulis and architect L. Adomkus) for political prisoners and the exiled, partisans of Dainava Region, to commemorate the rebels in the Lithuanian Army of 22–28 June 1941. A Revival oak planted in 1989 grows in the park, a cross for the victims of 13 January 1991 was built in front of it (author P. Pranskevicius). From there, take the bicycle path towards Little Dailide Lake (wash of the Nemunas) and go onto the 19th century dike currently the bicycle and pedestrian path and go to the Valley of Songs. Here, the ride towards A. Juozapavicius bridge goes along Nightingale path that was a favourite path of the residents of the city over a hundred years ago. Later you will see an old, fragmented by time red brick railway water system pumphouse. Take Pliazo str. from the bicycle path towards A. Juozapaviciaus str.



and cross the bridge. A monument to commemorate the death of officer A. Juozapavicius is located at the bridge. Upon crossing the bridge turn onto Panemuninkeliu str., at the beginning of which you will find the oldest building of the town - Classicism style St. Ludvick's Church built in 1818. You can hear a bell crafted in 1669 by a famous bell master Jonas Delamarsas in the belfry. On Klevu str. turn onto Uosiu str., then take Lakunu str., where you will find monumental stone Normandia-Nemunas (built in 1981) to commemorate the pilots of squadron Normandia-Nemunas, who flew on military missions from the current sports airfield during the Second World War. In 2004 a large aviation festival to commemorate 60 years from the fights of squadron Normandia-Nemunas in Alytus. A stela to commemorate the event was unveiled by the administrative building during the event. Cross the road and continue along Medziotoju str., where an old Jewish cemetery is located in a pinewood. Here, the most prominent members of the Jewish community in Alytus were buried in the 20th century. Close by you will also find an Orthodox cemetery with a small chapel. Upon reaching A. Juozapaviciaus str. turn onto Merkines str., then Piliakalnio str. and visit a majestic ornament of Alytus – Alytus mound about which many legends are told and which is surrounded by Alytupis spring (it is believed that the town was named after this spring). A wooden castle stood on the mound once but it was burnt down by the Teutonic Order. Today, at the foot of the mound you will find a wooden sculpture park "Alytus Mound Ancestors". Continue your trip. Further you will find rest zones - arbours, places for campfires, playgrounds. In the Nemunas you will see Parson's Stone (Klebono akmuo). It is said that the stone appeared in the river a very long time ago after a plague, during famine. Unable to see his parishioners dying, a local parson collected money from the remaining living residents and took the Nemunas upstream to buy grain. On the return trip he was tempted by Satan not to go to Alytus, but to go to Kaunas where he would be able to sell the grain at a higher price and live without cares, and let the residents of Alytus to die of hunger. As soon as the parson gave in to temptation, a huge wind rose, the ship was struck by lightning and it turned to stone. Taking this path through nature you will reach Kaniukai bridge. The bulls on it are original (built in 1892). After crossing the bridge and safely crossing the road, take the bicycle and pedestrian path towards Ulonu street. Then take Daugu str. to reach Small Dailide Lake and return to the centre of town via Resort park.



BICYCLE RENTAL AND REPAIR

Shop Dviratis plius

Naujoji str. 54, Alytus Tel.: +370 315 36 923 +370 618 14 476

Business hours: I-V 9-18, VI 9-14

Bicycle repair

Sudvaju str. 37, Alytus Tel. +370 673 47 779

ACCOMMODATION

HOTELS

Dzūkija **

Pulko str. 14, Alytus Tel. +370 315 52 002 Fax +370 315 51 345 www.hoteldzukija.lt

Odė ***

Naujoji str. 8C, Alytus Tel. +370 315 32 929 Fax +370 315 20 871 www.ode.lt

GUESTHOUSES

Šolena

Rato str. 7A, Alytus Tel.: +370 682 49 202, +370 315 21 044 www.solena.lt

Vaidila ***

Rotušės sq. 12, Alytus Tel. +370 315 56 188 Fax +370 315 56 189 www.vaidila.lt

Senas namas ***

Užuolankos str. 24, Alytus Tel. +370 315 53 489 Fax +370 315 51 643 www.senasnamas.lt

Linas

Senoji str. 2, Alytus Tel. +370 682 65 950 www.motelislinas.lt



ALYTUS REGION

Visiting Simnas precinct

42 km

Alytus – Udrija – Krokialaukis – Aleknonys – Azuoliniai – Simnas – Mergalaukis





The route is intended for those who plan a trip to Alytus region as a section of a future route.

Take the Alytus Health path for pedestrians and cyclists to Udrijos str. and reach Udrija village. Here you will find the Church of the Heart of Jesus (built in 1924), and a monument depicting pieta For children of the homeland killed and taken away in 1945-1990. Further up the road you will find St. Transfiguration Church in Krokialaukis (built in 1872). Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve Directorate and visitors' centre are located in Aleknonys village. Here you will find a museum, a path for exploration of nature with an observation tower. The visitors' centre has a modern exhibition of the biodiversity of Zuvintas Lake and its surroundings as well as its management. Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve was established in 1937. Today it is home to rare and endangered plant and animal species. In 2011 Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve was included into World UNESCO program Man and Biosphere reserve network. It is the first and at the moment the only location in Lithuania included into the World UNESCO biosphere reserve network. On the way to Simnas, in Azuoliniai village you will find Bambininkai mound. The legend says that this mound was built by the French in 1812 using their hats.

ALYTUS REGION

The only windmill in Alytus Region is located in the village, but sadly it is being eroded by time.

Simnas is one of the oldest settlements in Alytus Region, mentioned in written sources in 1382. In later times the hunting home of the Great Duke of Lithuania was located there.

The legend says that once upon a time there lived two good giants Simas and Sinas. They got together and decided to build a very nice church for the town. However, looking around they did not see a suitable hill. Then one of them went to bring soil from the east and the other – from the west. They build a hill, and in the dips where the soil was taken are Simnas and Giluitis Lakes. After finishing work, they smoked tobacco, shook hands, dropped a handful of treasures into the lakes and separated: one went to hunt, while the other went to fish. To thank the giants, the residents compounded their names into one – Simnas. And they named the place where they had built the church after them. And the lakes with the treasures dropped by the giants attract residents and travellers to this day.



Simnas St. Mary's Accepting to the Heaven Church was built in 1520. It is the only Renaissance Basilica cross plan church in Lithuania and the oldest in Uznemune. The historical centre of the town is an urban monument.

A monument for the children of Simnas district scattered all over the world is in the re-

newed square. You will find a beach by Giluitis Lake.

Mergalaukis is several kilometres from Simnas. Here on one of the hills of the village, you will find the First World War's cemetery of German soldiers, and in its centre the tomb of Ernst Wurche. This soldier was a friend of a famous German writer and poet Walter Flex and became a prototype of the hero of his novel Traveller between two worlds (Der Wanderer zwischen beiden Welten). The action of the book takes place in Simnas and its surroundings. The book has been translated to the Latvian, Swedish, French and Italian languages.

ALYTUS REGION

Olity-Orany route section

40 km

Alytus – Poteronys – Bukauciskes – Rimenai – Daugai – Zvirgzdenai – Pivasiunai



The route runs along the 19th century former railway track from Alytus to Varena dike. The route can be covered in two days, spending the night in Daugai.

The trip starts from the former Alytus railway station (Gardino str. 14). Continue towards the Nemunas taking the bicycle and pedestrian path (former dike, the height of which amounts to over 20 m in some places). You will be able to enjoy the Little and Large Dailide Lakes - the wash of the Nemunas – on both sides of the dike. Then you will reach the Valley of Songs and the remnants of the former railway bridge. On the other bank of the Nemunas you will see the legendary Alytus mound, at the foot of which the town is situated. The trip towards A. Juozapavicius bridge continues for over a hundred meters along Nightingale path leading towards the Valley of Songs liked by the residents. Later you will see an old, fragmented by time red brick railway water system pump-house. Take Pliazo str. from the bicycle path towards A. Juozapaviciaus str. and cross the bridge. A monument to commemorate the death of officer A. Juozapavicius is located at the bridge. Ride to Merkines str., then to Nemunas summer home association, and then take Pylimo str. to the forest. If you listen carefully, you can hear Motertis spring. If you go down to it, you can see the 19th century railway tunnel-pass for the spring. Be careful, the slopes are very steep. Continue the trip without turning from the main path. When you reach Kaniukai village, then carefully



turn to Naujakuriu str., the former 19th century highway Alytus - Druskininkai. Pass the old bridge and you can carefully go down to explore it. Upon reaching road 129, cross it and you will arrive to Poteronys village, where the beautiful Poteronys mound is located. It is said that mound was haunted: a priestess wearing white used to appear on top of the mound at midnight. She used to stoke a fire, cry and moan until morning and then disappear. Continue the trip on the former mound, later visiting Alove and its wooden St. Trinity's Wooden Church built in 1802. If you decide not to visit Alove, continue

along the planned route to Bukauciskes village, where you will observe several remnants of a former railway bridge eroded by time and people. In Bukauciskes you will also find a 19th century red brick Romantic chapel with Neo Gothic elements on the estate of February 16th Act signatory priest, prime minister V. Mironas. If you believe in legends, old and very tall maples grew on the hill on the top of which the chapel was built. The maples held many stork nests. They protected mysterious stairs for the spirits of honest people to reach heaven. Noblemen were buried in the alcoves of the cellar of the chapel. However, they have been raided.

Then continue the trip to Varena District or go to Daugai surrounded by Didziulis Lake via Rimenai. Here you will see Stony Providential Church (1862), Sventapetris hill (former mound, now a wooden cross stands on it), ancient Jewish cemetery, tomb of Lithuanian partisans and a monument in Daugai town cemetery.

Pass Zvirgzdenai village, where a magnificent Zvirgzdenai pine (declared a natural monument in 1960) grows, and go to Pivasiunai village. Legends state that if you look carefully around it, you can find ancient coins. It is said that it was a favourite spot of beggars to ask pittance from travellers, and often the dropped coins just got lost in the dust of the road.

In written sources Pivasiunai is mentioned since the 17th century, though various signs (e.g. mounds close to Pivasiunai) show that people lived here

ALYTUS REGION

much earlier. Today Pivasiunai is known over Lithuania for Assumption feast and for the painting of Blessed Virgin Mary at the altar of St. Mary's Accepting to the Heaven Church. This painting is similar to Mother of Mercy at the Gates of Dawn (Ausros Vartu Madona) in age, painting and miraculous curative powers. Pivasiunai church was included into John Paul II pilgrimage route. There is a monument to February 16th act signatory priest Alfonsas Petrulis by the church. On the other side of the road there is an old cemetery, where houses are now standing, Odiniai (Odinciai) family chapel-mausoleum was built in the place of the church in the middle of the 19th century. Pivasiunai mound is located close to the village. It is said that in old times there was a temple on the mound.

Rest zone with a beach, observation court and sports field are found by Ilgis Lake.

ACCOMMODATION

Farmstead "Dvarcenai Manor"

Suvingio str. 5, Dvarcenai village, Daugai neighbourhood, Alytus District Tel. +370698 36 777 www.dvarcenudvaras.lt

Resort "Daugu sala"

Maironio str. 85, Sala village, Daugai neighbourhood, Alytus District Tel. +370 687 39 416

Farmstead "Pas gandrus"

Gandru str. 7, Sala village, Daugai neighbourhood, Alytus District Tel. +370 611 79 938 www.pasgandrus.lt

Daugai Technology and Business School's Dormitory (only for groups)

Jaunystes str. 2, Daugai, Alytus District Tel.: +370 315 72 790,

+370 655 14 523

Daugai Rowing Base

Kalvu str. 15, Sala village, Daugai neighbourhood, Alytus District Tel.: +370 315 69 395, +370 612 77 423

Daugai Vladas Mironas Gymnasium's Dormitory(only for groups)

Pergales str. 6, Daugai, Alytus District Tel.: +370 686 90 732, +370659 54 502

Rooms for rent "Vigiris"

Turgaus sq. 3, Daugai, Alytus District Tel. +370 650 54 210

Farmstead "Vigiris"

Dusmenu str. 9, Daugai village, Daugai neighbourhood, Alytus District Tel. +370 650 54 210

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ALYTUS REGION

The land of Duke Margiris

32 km

Punia - Butrimonys - Raiziai - Punia - Birstonas



The route is intended for those who like to take bicycles by car, explore and take them back home.

Start the trip in Punia, which was mentioned for the first time in written sources in 1382. Nemunas Loop Regional Park starts in Punia. Here one can visit regional studies ethnographical exhibition Punia through time (Kauno str. 3, Punia, Alytus District, tel.: +370 315 68 685, +370 611 45 791, arrange in advance). Punia mound is one of the largest and most beautiful mounds in Lithuania. It is said that castle of Duke Margiris called Pilenai stood on Punia mound. In 1336 the famous Pilenai battle took place here. The defenders and residents of the castle decided to choose death in flames rather than surrender to the Teutonic Order. At the foot of the mound Neciuika spring falls into Punele. The old Punia Jewish cemetery is located close to the mound. In the village you will also find Punia St. Apostle Jackob's Church (built in 1863). The first church in Punia was built in 1425. It is said that then the building of the church was ordered by Duke Vytautas the Great, therefore he is remembered to this day – the portrait of the Duke is placed next to the coat of arms of the town in the church. By the church, you will find a brick chapel in the form of St. George tower built to commemorate the participants of the 1831 revolt.

From Punia go to Butrimonys, the name of which comes from the plural of surname Butrimonis. The village of this name is found in historical sources of 1699, and soon it was called a town. Today Butrimonys is an



urban monument. It is situated at the crossroads of roads leading from Vilnius to Alytus and Punia. It formed a triangular square (the only of the kind in Lithuania) which later determined the layout of the whole town. Before reaching Butrimonys you will see an old Jewish cemetery. Upon entering the town you will see the Sacred Savour's Church built in 1926

Continue to Raiziai, which has been one of the main Tartar centers in Lithuania for a long time. It is said that land was given to them here by Duke Vytautas the Great. A wooden mosque built in 1889 is located in Raiziai and two sun dials were placed next to it in 2010. One of them shows local time



and the other shows the time of Zalgiris battle. These are the only sun dials of the kind in Lithuania. A monument to Vytautas the Great and the battle was unveiled on the hill for the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald. Return to Punia via Vaisodziai and Norgeliskes. Finish the trip here or go to Birstonas via Misiskes.

BICYCLE RENTAL

Association Panemunės dzūkai

Kauno str. 3, Punia village, Alytus District Tel. +370 687 99 594

INFORMATION FOR TOURISTS

Alytus Tourism Information Centre

S. Dariaus ir S. Girėno str.. 1, LT-62137 Alytus Tel.: +370 315 52 010, +370 687 07 703 Fax +370 315 51 982 info@alytus-tourism.lt www.alytus-tourism.lt



BIRŠTONAS

Part of in Kaunas County, Birštonas is a resort town in the south of Lithuania; it is the centre of the Birštonas municipality and parish.

The resort is situated on the riverside of Nemunas – Lithuania's largest river – and is not far from the country's largest cities. There are around 90 kilometres of scenic roads that wind through hills and lakes between Birštonas and the capital city of Vilnius, while only around 40 kilometres separate Birštonas from Kaunas, the country's second largest city. Birštonas is a very old town. Its coat of arms depicts a fish with silver teeth and a silver spout of water coming from its back. It is like a whale holding Birštonas past and future firmly. This mythological fish is a stylised version of the whale sculpture which once marked the location of Vytautas Spring. The sculpture was drowned by the affluent of The Kaunas Reservoir, which was formed in 1959.

The resort's greatest asset is its mineral water, which began to be bottled far back in 1924 in Kaunas; in the 1960s, this activity was moved to a small factory in Birštonas. Mineral and table water is currently being bottled at the Birštono Mineraliniai Vandenys (BMV) bottling plant in various sizes; however, Vytautas Natural Mineral Water, which was named as Lithuania's Product of the Year in 2004, is still the main brand. The company's products received high evaluations from Lithuania's residents in the mineral water category in 2012 as well. Vytautas Natural Mineral Water was recognized as the most popular product for three years in a row. In addition to Vytautas, the mineral water Birutė and Akvilė are also in great demand, as is the popular BMV Table Water.







You can taste authentic, noncarbonated Vytautas mineral water in the pump-rooms at the Tulpė and Versmė sanatorium.

After studies were carried out of all of the mineral water sources in the Birštonas surroundings, it was established that they are the most abundant in all of Lithuania, and that Birštonas itself is located on a mineral water cupola. Fresh water has to be pumped from 7 km away.

Birštonas is known not only as a resort, but also as a cultural centre. The international jazz and organ music festivals, resort celebrations and hot air balloon fiestas have already become a tradition. Active life is also in full swing at the resort (athletics, rowing, powerlifting, tennis, etc.). While stri-ving to become a resort for active recreation, Birštonas also aims to maintain its long-standing traditions of medical treatment and remain one of the leading resorts for balneotherapy, mud and climate therapy and a calm rest.

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BIRŠTONAS

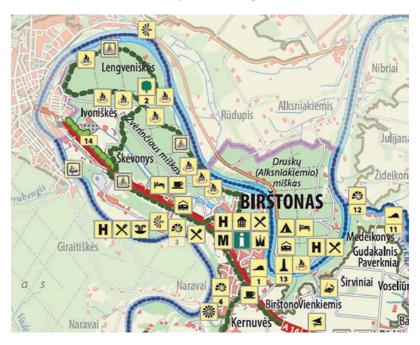
Birštonas – Žvėrinčius oak tree – Škėvonys rock exposure

15 km

Open year-round, Birštonas is a resort in the Nemunas Loops Regional Park specializing in mineral, mud and climate therapy. Visitors come not only for the hospitable hotels, restaurants, and modern health resorts famous for their long-standing traditions in medical treatments, but also for the town's cultural events and mineral water, which has earned worldwide recognition. Birštonas' Versmė is the first health resort in Lithuania to certify mineral water used for treatment.

We recommend you to reserve an entire day to get to know the town of Birštonas and explore the labyrinths of its forest paths.

Start your trip at the Birštonas Tourist Information Centre located at 4 B. Sruogos St. The staff will provide you with all the information needed to enjoy your time at this resort. When you leave the Tourist Information Centre, take a look around: the old part of town (Vytautas Park) is stretched out on the southern side. Once you enter the part, look around for the Yel-





low Pump-Room, which is part of the Tulpė sanatorium. You can stop by the pump-room to taste Vytautas mineral water, which gushes from a 125 metre-deep well. Nearby is the Birštonas Hill Fort; called Vytautas Hill, it overlooks the Nemunas loops.

Leave the park and head north along the Nemunas embankment towards the resort's central park. As you go, you will see the tower of the Church of Saint Anthony of Padua peeking out from above the treetops; this house of worship has been open since 1909. After 2 kilometres walk, you will reach the central park. The park features an educational trail that replicates the loops of the Nemunas.

After crossing through the park, you will find yourself on Jaunimo Street, on which if you take west it will lead you to the Birštonas ponds. After you pass the first pond, turn onto Karalienės Barboros Alley, which will take you to Kunigaikštienės Elenos Street. You can follow this street into Žvėrinčius Forest; stretched through the Nemunas Loops Regional Park, this forest goes back to the times of royal outings, when the hunting horn of Vytautas the Great would invite members of the European royal families of that time to partake in a relaxing hunt. The forest, which features an abundance of wooden sculptures, is equipped with a 15 kilometre-long bicycle/pedestrian path, rest areas and campfire grounds.

Pedal along the right side of the route, and around 3 kilometres later you will see a marker that shows the way to the Žvėrinčius Oak Tree. Visitors will now find this giant of the forest lying on the moss: in 2005, the 15 metre-tall tree with a girth of 1.8 metres was hit by a hurricane and fell down.

Go back to the Nemunas embankment and travel another 1.5 kilometres until you see four islands spread out in the river. This is where you can see migratory birds such as the Common Merganser, the Mallard, the Blackheaded Gull, the Common Tern and Little Tern, the Little Ringed Plover, the Common Redshank, and the Northern Lapwing. Sandpiper migration begins in the second half of the summer, and this is one of the few places where you can observe nearly all of the species of sandpipers that can be found in Lithuania. Take a break at the rest area on the bank of the Nemunas and then continue your trip. By pedalling along the Nemunas loop, you will reach the 300 metre-long Velniabliūdis Educational Trail and Velniabliūdis – the trail's most mysterious spot.

Going back along the same bike path, bear right for one kilometre until you hit the A16 highway. Take the highway for 1.7 kilometres until you see a "Place of interest" (策) road sign; turn onto the road on your right, which will take you to the 1.6 kilometre-long Škėvionys Educational Trail.

Take Prienų Street back to Birštonas. If you decide to spend a couple of days more at the resort, you will definitely not be bored – the town is full of activities for people who enjoy active recreation. Check out the Great Nemunas Loops from a hot air balloon or paraglider, take in the banks of the Nemunas from the deck of a pleasure boat, or tackle the rapids of the Verknė River in a canoe. If it's warm outside, try your hand at tennis, beach volleyball, basketball, mini golf, skateboarding, rollerblading or Pétanque. And if you come back in winter, strap on your skis and hit Sniego kalnas ("Snow Mountain").

If you enjoyed taking the bike paths, take on the 34-kilometre Siponys Forest and Nemajūnai route, where you will see the picturesque Nemunas valley, the homestead of an angel carver, the Siponys manor, and Nemajūnai Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul (the only original wooden neogothic building in Lithuania).



Birštonas Tourist Information Centre

The Birštonas Tourist Information Centre staff will provide you with all the information you will need about accommodations, food, places of interest, events, tours and tourist equipment rental. At the centre, you can book tours to see Birštonas and its surroundings.

You can test out the strength of the Nemunas' current in Viking boats. Get a team together and become acquainted with the loops of the Nemunas River!

With its rapid yet shallow waters, the winding Verknė River is perfect for family trips. Canoe routes that take 1-2 days to cover are a wonderful opportunity to have fun and see "Goats' Stove" – a crag located at the confluence of the Nemunas and the Verknė. The Audenis Hot Air Balloon Club will show you the most beautiful corners of the Nemunas Loops Regional Park so you can evaluate their beauty from up above.

The green Birštonas Kurhaus and Resort Board, which houses the Tourist Information Centre, are located on B. Sruogos Street. The Kurhaus is one of the few surviving buildings of its kind in Lithuania and is included on the cultural heritage list.



Vytautas Park

This is a landscape park founded in the mid-19th century as a resort park with mineral springs. It was Ignacijus Kvinta, a landowner from Jieznas, who began to create the park here in 1874. The alleys of trees were planted so that you could take them from one building to another. Each alley had a name: "Birutės" ("Birutė"), "Meilės" ("Love"), "Svajonių" ("Dreams"),

"Eglių" ("Spruce"), "Kaštonų" ("Chestnut"), etc. In the interwar period, the park was looked after by the Dotnuva gardeners. A fountain was installed in the park in 1926. Flowerbeds blossomed at the junctions of the alleys. The Vytautas Park flower gardens were looked after during the Soviet era as well. During that time, there was a unique flowerbed near the Yellow Pump-Room called "The Calendar". Each day, the colourful flowers were re-planted to form that day's date. In 1986 the park was declared a natural monument of local significance.



The Kurhaus

In 2013, the Birštonas Kurhaus was brought to life in historic Vytautas Park. The Kurhaus now has a 150-seat concert hall with a small stage that is an excellent place to hold conferences or seminars, it also has premises for exhibitions, creative activities and art workshops.

The Birštonas Kurhaus is one of the few extant buildings of its kind in Lithua-

nia. Also, it was included in the architectural heritage list in 2006. In 1885

there was a restaurant that was reconstructed in the interwar period: the interior was decorated with a panel by Kazys Šimonis, and an outdoor terrace was constructed for umbrella tables. This is where one of the first dietary dining establishments in Lithuania was opened.



Pump-Room

A pump-room is the equipment that is put on a mineral spring in order to extract the mineral water. Vytautas mineral water is used for drinking. To ones interest, the mineral spring that was discovered in Birštonas in 1879 was originally named "Viktorija", after the daughter of Ignacijus Kvinta, the owner of the resort. However, the writer Juozas Tumas-Vaižgantas later renamed the mineral spring "the salty tears of Vytautas Hill". While commemo-

rating the 500th anniversary of the death of Vytautas the Great, the spring was named "Vytautas". The source of the spring was marked by a sculpture in the shape of a whale whose mouth spouted mineral water. When the Kaunas Hydroelectric Power Plant was built, the Nemunas River was dammed and the sculpture, which had become the resort's symbol, was drowned.



Birštonas Hill Fort

Located right by the Nemunas, the Birštonas Hill Fort, which is over 40 metres high, is one of the most well-known and the highest hill forts in Lithuania. The strong, wooden Birštonas castle, which was the same age as the first Punia castle, was already

standing on the hill in the end of the 14th century. This hill fort is called Vytautas Hill because in 1401. Birštonas was mentioned as the estate of Grand Duke Vytautas, where he used to rest after hunting. During the times of Vytautas, Birštonas was a place of strategic significance. It is said that the wooden castle was attacked numerous times by the Crusaders, but it was never taken over by them. King Casimir IV Jagiellon lived at the Birštonas castle with his family in 1473 to distance themselves from the plague epidemic that was ravaging the country.



Nemunas Embankment

The Nemunas embankment area attracts tourists for its tranquillity, quaintness and beautiful nature. Many associate it with long romantic walks, bike rides, or the cliffs of the Nemunas loop that may be seen nearby. The 2 kilometre-long embankment, which is probably the most popular place for taking a stroll, was built right

after construction of the Kaunas Hydroelectric Power Plant in 1959 in order to protect Birštonas from flooding when the water level of the Nemunas rises.



Church of Saint Anthony of Padua

The Birštonas panorama is embellished by the neogothic Church of Saint Anthony of Padua. Various concerts and events for sacral occasions take place here each year. The church is not far from the Nemunas embankment. It is believed that the first church could

have been built in the 16th century, while another one was built in 1878 under the care and funding of Kazimierz Sapieha (Kazimieras Sapiega), the elder of Prienai. The new brick church was designed by the renowned architect Vaclovas Michnevičius in 1900–1909. The church is adorned with impressive stained-glass windows depicting King of the Grand Duchy of Lithuanian Mindaugas, Vytautas the Great, and bishops Motiejus Valančius and Walerian Protasewicz (Valerijonas Protasevičius). The churchyard features numerous column shripes.

On 26 December 2000, the first sacral museum in Lithuania was opened near the church. The museum now has information about Archbishop Teofilius Matulionis and exhibits the personal belongings of Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevičius as well as valuable pieces of religious art from the Church of Saint Anthony of Padua and other sanctuaries of the Kaišiadorys Diocese.



Central Park

The central park features a network of naturally formed paths and is established in the woods within the town. In order to to satisfy the needs of visitors, the park is equipped with sculptures as well as sports, bicycle and recreational trails. Its sports zones include basketball courts, playgrounds, a skate park, a

miniature golf course, and fitness equipment that one can use to strengthen nearly all of your muscle groups. For peace and relaxation seekers or who want to take a stroll or read a book out in a nature, the park has a sculpture trail that features works by notable artists. Also, there is an educational trail that replicates the loops of the Nemunas.



Žvėrinčius Forest Trail

The Žvėrinčius (or Žvėrynas – "Menagerie") Forest, whose name calls back the royal hunts of old, stretches through the Prienai Loop. Wild animals used to be herded from Trakai and Aukštadvaris into the forest girded by the Nemunas River. In 1999, the fitness

trail in the Žvėrinčius Forest was turned into a bicycle/pedestrian path teeming with recreational and sports grounds, wooden sculptures, and rest areas and campfire grounds for the convenience of travellers.



Žvėrinčius Oak Tree

Until just recently, the hundred-yearold Žvėrinčius Oak was one of the biggest tourist attractions in the area. Legend has it that Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas used to rest under its branches while out hunting. However, during Hurricane Erwin in 2005, the 15 metre-tall tree with

a girth of 1.8 metres laid down to rest on the forest moss and remains there to this day. Next to the Žvėrinčius Oak, travellers can see an unusual looking pine that is in the shape of a collar. Žvėrinčius Forest has a 15 kilometre-long paved bicycle path. While in the forest, you can also follow the swampy, winding forest trails to catch a glimpse of the wildlife kingdom, including the migratory birds on the islands of the Nemunas: the Common Tern and Little Tern, as well as ducks, gulls and sandpipers.



Škėvonys Educational Trail

Škėvonys Educational Trail (1,6 km) winds through the Škėvonys ridge and the Birštonas cirque that was formed by the Nemunas nearly 12 thousand years ago. An island on land, the unique Škėvonys ridge is around 3 kilometres long, and is home to numerous interesting plants, including some that are reg-

istered in Lithuania's Red Book of Endangered Species. Perhaps the most interesting part of the ridge is the rock exposure – 33 metres high and over 500 metres long, the exposure was formed by the waters of the Nemunas breaking down the slope of the ridge. There is an observation area fitted out on top of the exposure that provides a scenic view of the valley below.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Tulpė Health Resort

4A B. Sruogos St.,
Birštonas LT-59541
Tel. +370 319 65 525 (reception)
Tel./fax +370 319 65 520
E-mail: santulpe@mail.lt
www.tulpe.lt
GPS N 54° 36' 01"
E 24° 01' 53"

Versme Health Resort

Eglė Health Resort Birštonas

14 Algirdo St., Birštonas LT-59204 Reception: +370 313 60 220, +370 319 42 142 E-mail: birstonas@sanatorija.lt www.birstonas.sanatorija.lt GPS N 54° 36' 36"

F 24° 02' 02"

Royal Spa Residence Hotel and Restaurant

Sophia's Residence *** Hotel and Restaurant

6 Jaunimo St., Birštonas LT-59206 Tel. +370 319 45 200 Fax +370 319 45 201 E-mail: info@sofijosrezidencija.lt www.sofijosrezidencija.lt GPS N 54° 36' 24" E 24° 01' 36'

Sonata *** Hotel and Restaurant

34 Algirdo St., Birštonas LT-59204 Tel./Fax +370 319 65 825 Tel. +370 680 83 285 E-mail: seklytele@sonatahotel.lt www.sonata.lt GPS N 54° 36' 39" E 24° 01' 45"

Audenis **** Guest House and Cafe

3 Lelijų St., Birštonas LT-59207 Tel.: +370 319 61 300, +370 600 88 829 Fax +370 319 61 301 E-mail: info@audenis.lt www.audenis.lt GPS N 54° 36' 20" E 24° 01' 29"

Birštono Tulpė Guest House

Beržų Alėja Campsite

DINING

Cultural Centre Café

4 Jaunimo St., Birštonas LT-59206 Tel. +370 600 36 233 Fax +370 319 61 301 E-mail: info@audenis.lt www.audenis.lt GPS N 54° 36' 21" E 24° 01' 37"

Health Resort Café

Tulpė Health Resort 35 Birutės St., Birštonas LT-59217 Tel. +370 319 45 128 E-mail: Jokimas@gmail.com GPS N 54° 36' 02" E 24° 02' 08"

Safari Café

25 Prienų St., Birštonas LT-59202 Tel. +370 650 88 922 GPS N 54° 36' 40" E 24° 00' 07"

Pizza Fun Pizzeria

3 Birutės St., Birštonas LT-59217 Tel. +370 659 00 250 GPS N 54° 36' 11" E 24° 02' 02"

Mažoji Italija Gourmet Shop

2 Vaižganto St., Birštonas LT-59211 Tel. +370 614 99 135 GPS N 54° 36' 17" E 24° 01' 44"







BIRŠTONAS

Siponys Forest and Nemajūnai Road

34 km

Another bike route winds from Birštonas to Siponys Forest and the village of Nemajūnai. The total length of the route is 34 kilometres. The road takes you through the Naudžiūnai and Siponys forests, that are abundant with mushrooms and wild-berries. Also, they present picturesque landscapes of the Prienai Pinewood and the Nemunas River. Having almost reached Puzonys Village, travellers may stop by the homestead of folk artist and angel carver Rimantė Butkuvė. They can explore her yard and admire the carved angels that are preserved here, and perhaps even chat with their creator on earth. The nearby Matiešionys Village is known as the home of Professor Jonas Kazlauskas, the noted linguist. This homestead is decorated with wooden sculptures. At Nemajūnai Village, travellers can visit the wooden Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul - the only original wooden neogothic church in Lithuania. In the church there is a unique carpet made of bridal sashes that has magical powers: it is said that girls who have been near this carpet have an easier time finding a groom. The nearby cemetery is famous for its ancient Dzūkian crosses. The celebrated writer Stanislovas Moravskis is buried in the adjacent chapel. Professor Elijošius Nonevičius-Nonys - a pioneer of veterinary science in Lithuania - is also buried at the Nemajūnai cemetery.

Surface: asphalt, forest paths



ACCOMMODATIONS

Punios Aidas rural tourism homestead

Šaltinėnai Village, Birštonas Eldership Tel.: +370 319 69 026, +370 686 70 328 E-mail: puniosaidas@gmail.com www.puniosaidas.lt GPS N 54° 32' 07 E 24° 00' 03"

Vanagų Vienkiemis rural tourism homestead

Vanagai Village, Birštonas Eldership Tel.: +370 319 69 501, +370 698 22 409

E-mail: info@vanaguvienkiemis.lt www.vanaguvienkiemis.lt

DINING

Klėtis Inn

Jundeliškės Village, Birštonas Eldership Tel. +370 600 28 063 GPS N 54° 34' 39" E 24° 06' 32"

BICYCLE RENTALS

Dviračiai Birštone

Tel. +370 677 77 472
E-mail: dviraciai.birstone@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/dviraciaibirstone
Bicycle rental:
LTL 10 for the first hour, LTL 7 for the second hour,
LTL 5 for the third hour
Bicycle pick-up: LTL 1/km
Bicycle tours available.
Open: 9:00-22:00

75 Pušyno St., Birštonas LT-59203



Audenis **** Guest House

3 Lelijų St., Birštonas LT-59207 Tel.: +370 319 61 300/02, +370 600 88 829 Fax +370 319 61 301 E-mail: info@audenis.lt www.audenis.lt GPS N 54° 36' 20" E 24° 01' 29"

Royal Spa Residence Hotel ****

3 Pakalnės St., Birštonas LT-59206 Tel.: +370 319 62 030, +370 617 01 505 Fax +370 319 62 031 E-mail: info@royal-spa.lt www.royal-spa.lt GPS N 54° 36' 19" E 24° 59' 45"

Bar

2 Pavasario St., Birštonas Farm, Birštonas Eldership Tel. +370 319 45 202 GPS N 54° 35' 31" E 24° 01' 50"

J. Basanavičiaus Square

Bicycle rental: LTL 5/hour Velomobile rental: LTL 10/hour Tel. +370 685 79 499 Open: 11:00-21:00

Bicycle rental and repair

17 Birutès St., Birštonas (by the town embankment) Tel. +370 640 26 638 E-mail: cksenavicius@gmail.com www.facebook.com/ Dviraciu-NuomaBirstone Bicycle rental: LTL 5/hour or LTL 25/day

INFORMATIONS OF TOURIST

Birštonas Tourist Information Centre 4 B. Sruogos St., Birštonas LT-59209 GPS N 54° 36' 1"

E 24° 01' 57"

GUIDELINES TO CYCLISTS



KEY REOUIREMENTS FOR CYCLISTS

- 1. Persons over 14 years and in case of having passed a respective training course and having been issued a certificate by a training institution, persons over 12 are allowed to ride on roads. The age of cyclists in residential areas is not limited.
- 2. Cyclists are allowed to ride on roads only if the bicycle is equipped with a working brake and horn. The bicycle must be equipped with a red reflecting device at the rear, and orange reflecting devices or other wheelmounted reflectors attached on both sides. Cyclists driving on the roadway in the daytime should wear brightly colored vest with reflective elements or bicycle must have a white front light and a red back light or reflector. At night or in poor visibility conditions, a white light has to be mounted at the front and a red light at the rear. Cyclists must wear a reflective vest or reflectors on clothing in a place well-visible to other drivers. Cyclists (passengers) under 18 must wear a helmet while riding (being driven) on a road. Persons over 18 riding a bicycle on a road are recommended to wear a helmet.
- 3. If the traffic is heavy and a cyclist needs to turn left, turn around or cross the road, he must dismount walk the bicycle across the street, without obstructing other vehicles.
- 4. On a bicycle path cyclists must ride as close to the right side of the path (part of the path for cyclists) as possible. If a part of a bicycle and pedestrian path (sidewalk) is marked using carriageway marking lines (white bicycle symbol) as intended for bicycles, cyclists must ride only on that part and as close to the right side as possible. Cyclists may not endanger pedestrians.

CYCLISTS ARE NOT ALLOWED:

- 1. To ride on the carriageway, if bicycle paths are available
- 2. To ride on motorways and similar roads
- 3. To ride without holding the handlebars with at least one hand
- 4. To carry passengers, if special seats are not equipped
- 5. To carry, tow or push objects, which hamper their cycling or endanger other road users
 - 6. To be towed by other vehicles
 - 7. To ride holding on to other vehicles
 - 8. To tow other vehicles, except for special sidecars.



PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE PATH

Intended for pedestrians and bicycles. If the symbols for bicycles and pedestrians are not one under the other but side by side and separated by a vertical white line, path users must use the side of the path intended for them (as illustrated by the sign). When the path runs along the carriageway, pedestrians and cyclists must use only the path.





Have you been to the most beautiful city of Belarus – Grodno? Do not worry. With this edition, which you hold in your hands, there is an opportunity to make up for lost. And after learning the history and legends of this city, you'll want to visit it. In the end, tourism should give positive impressions, and here you can get them in full. This city, of course, is with a lot of *faces*. Memorable, unique, the only, the royal, city of enamored, according to many travelers of the past and today's tourists' opinion. However, not only in Belarus. According to opinion of modern archaeologists, the city is more than 1000 years old. In 983 Prince of Kiev Vladimir (Red Sun) conquered



Baltic tribes of Yatvingians and established control over the Sudovia (the area between the rivers Neman and Narew), which opened the way to the Baltic Sea, on the amber route from the Varangians to the Greeks.

Likely, then there was laid the fortress Goroden on the right bank of the Neman River. Gorodens collected tribute from sailing merchant vessels using combat rook with two identical sharp noses. In the an-

nals the city Goroden was first mentioned in 1127 in connection with the participation of the local prince Vsevolodka in a big campaign of prince of Kiev Mstislav the Great against Polotsk princes. This date has caused controversy among historians and ethnographers. Grodno historian Orlovsky at a meeting of the Archaeological Congress in Vilna in 1893, was able to

convincingly prove his opponents that the ancient city, Garodnya – it is nothing but the city over the Niemen. What concerns Neman, Adam Mickiewicz called Neman home river, and geographer of ancient Greece Ptolemy *christened* the river Kronon, what means – the river of time.

Located on lands which Belarusian poet Yakub Kolas named lands where nations converged to solve disputes by force, Grodno endured so many wars, invasions, fires and other natural disasters that rarely fallen to the lot any other cities. Miraculously extant monuments of the past, perhaps, will not leave anyone indifferent. Walk along the streets of the old city, visit its historic center, and you will see the buildings that characterize many of the architectural styles of the past. They demonstrate a high intellectual level of the citizens living there, their exquisite taste and a solid material prosperity.

In the historical part of the city you can see what is commonly called a *genius of place*. If these numerous buildings could talk, they would tell us that in due time past them raced luxury nobles' coaches, surrounded by a large retinue walked Kyiv and Volyn Princes, Grand Dukes of Lithuania, kings and queens of the Commonwealth, the Russian emperors and monarchs of other countries, cardinals and bishops, writers and poets, artists and actors and many other celebrities.



About Grodno, as about no other city in Belarus, they say: *first, unique, one of the first*. We say, the first railway track on the territory of Belarus had been laid through this city. This was the famous St. Petersburg-Warsaw railroad. Here was built the first in Belarus railway bridge over the Neman by Russian engineer with Polish origin Kerbedz. One of the first movie theaters



in our country was built in Grodno too by Staff Captain Monastirsky. The largest and most representative church of the XVIII century in the whole Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was built by Jesuit fathers in the city over the Niemen. Today it is an active Cathedral Basilica of Saint Francis Xavier.

The only monument of its kind of Grodno Architectural School of the past XII century and today towering over the Neman. This Orthodox Church, named in honor of princes Boris and Gleb (Kalozha). It is considered that the church was built around 1180 by Grodno Prince Mstislay, and as the architect historians call Peter Milanega. In Kalozha, the only

temple of Belarus, on plinths there found a large number of runic signs. In fact, this church is an ancient book, which is not yet read. According to the legend, one of the most famous Grodno princes Davyd Gorodensky son



Prince Dovmont Pskov, the great-grandson of Alexander Nevsky, son of Gediminas is buried near Kalozha. Almost the only subject of all ancient

utensils. miraculously preserved in temple, the Aquarius Kalozha, which is stored in Grodno Museum of the His-Religion tory of today.

Can not forget the first botanical garden or medicinal garden, founded by



the French scientist Zhiliber. The first zoo on the territory of Belarus was founded in the interwar period by Professor of local Gymnasium named after Adam Mickiewicz – Jan Kokhanovsky also in Grodno. The first newspaper in the country was published in Grodno during the reign of King Stanislaw August Poniatowski.

Inhabitants of the city over the Niemen, especially young people and loving couples like to spend their free time near the walls of Grodno Castles. Tour guides tell the legend about the salvation of the Grand Duke of Lithuania Vytautas and his wife Anna during a fire in 1398. Just monkey woke up Prince's family late at night, and the Grand Duke brought his beloved from blazing castle on his hands. Recall that his wife in due time saved the life of her husband: she helped him to get out from the dungeon imprisonment in Krevo Castle, where he was locked up by king Jagiello. But King Stefan Batory didn't value his wife very much because left her, and preferred to live in Grodno, where he gave himself up his favorite pastime – hunting in the wilds located near and rich with game in Grodno and Bialowieza forests, as well as other reservations.



In front of the Old Castle the New Castle, built by the Polish King Augustus III, can't but attract the attention. From 1 January 1795 to 15 February 1797 there was the last King of the Commonwealth Stanislaw August Poniatowski as a prisoner, according to the commandment of the Russian Empress Catherine II. Here he abdicated. Within the walls of the New Castle in September 1794 was Tadeusz Kosciuszko, he took part in the meetings of the Grodno rebel ordinal Commission.

During the Napoleonic Wars in 1812 in a building that has survived to this day – the house of vice-governor Maksimovich, was the headquarters of Napoleon's brother, Jerome Bonaparte. According to legend, received a reprimand from Napoleon himself for inaction, in his defense, he was only able to say *Cherche La Femme* (look for a woman). And all because his brother Napoleon painfully loved local beauties, whom he met at balls and reception hosted in his honor. Somewhat later, in a letter to his brother Jerome admitted that *local girls do not look like Warsaw ones*. Indeed, local ladies were charming, cheerful, well-educated and mysterious. This four-day delay of the French general gave the ability to the famous Russian General Bagration to make a historic maneuver – to withdraw his army deep into Russia for a reunion with the other Russian army. On the ancient emblem of Grodno, presented by Queen Bona Sforza, we can see deer St. Hubert, jumping over the fence. A cross between his horns symbolize the Christian wisdom, spirituality, piety, love and joy of life, the desire to overcome obstacles. According to legend, a meeting of white deer with a gold cross in the horns and successful hunter Hubert turned the latter into a true Christian and a saint who is the saint patron of hunters and mathematicians.





Keep in mind that whichever side you may enter the city over the Niemen, make sure you find yourself at its center, now the Soviet square, however, in the past it was known as a Market square or Market. And this name was inherent

till the middle of the XIX century, until some Russian officials took it into their head to rename it to the Parade square. According to his concepts, the provincial capital, as Grodno was at the time, could not exist without its Parade square...

But in our city suddenly appeared new authorities, and the central area became known as the Cathedral, and then it was named in honor of King Stefan Batory. But God bless these names. It is interesting that the ancient architects and city planners, whose names and titles we, unfortunately, do not remember, had planned our city that all its streets started from the central square. Now they regularly serve pedestrians and vehicles, but has not called as before.

And then, long time ago, they were called – Vilenskaya (to Vilnius) Ozerskaya (in the direction of the village Ozery, and through it to Smolensk, Moscow). And, of course, today's Castle Street, Mostovaya.

By the way, the latter retained their names till this day, unlike other urban arteries, which changed its names several times, depending on the ruling authorities. But let's get back to the former Market Square and remember something. At first, of course, the year 1496, when after will of King Alexander Jagiellon our city got the full Magdeburg Law. This means - full self-government, flag, seal and the right to build, as it was said, the town hall with the clock. Unfortunately, the town hall in our town is already absent, but watches today, can you imagine, runs, measuring out the time. The fate of this timepiece giant sometimes was truly tragic. At the end of the XV century they regularly ticked at the City Hall, which, as you know, in the middle of the XVII century was destroyed by the archers of the Russian King Alexei Mikhailovich. But the watches, fortunately, survived. Grodno Jesuits set them on the tower of their collegium, and then in 1725 they found a place on the tower of the Cathedral, which towered over the Market Square. According to experts' opinion, these watches are one of the oldest European timepieces that properly run in this century.

A lot of work to restore the hours done the superintendent and engineer, the only one in Belarus in maintenance of the tower clock, Joseph Jaskiewicz and a group of restorers led by Alexander Nalivaiko.

The very Cathedral, cathedral basilica, consecrated in the name of St. Fran-

cis Xavier - the main dominant and true decoration of the central part of the city. But its parishioners still call it the Farny Cathedral. The first stone to its foundation was laid in 1678, the very first Mass took place 22 years later. Consecration, or solemn consecration of the church took place in 1705 with the participation of the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania Augustus II, and the Russian Emperor Peter I.

At that time it was the largest, most representative Cathedral throughout the Commonwealth. The interior of the temple can't but



admire even now. Its main wooden carved altar in height of 21 meters, the pulpit and many other things – are in fact the masterpieces of European scale. Prussian pastor V. Shlemyuller who visited Grodno in 1752, with admiration, recalled: Finally saw Grodno in all its glory. It is really lovely. With high churches, royal castle, and above all with two towers and domes on the church of the Jesuits, covered with tin and shiny tin.

Biography of every street of the ancient city – it's essentially an entire chapter of a huge book, which is being written to this day. We have no way to describe even briefly their history in this guide, come and see it yourself!



401

Avgustovskiy Sliakh

25 km

From international bike route R65 v. Rudavka (Poland) – the border crossing Rudavka Lesnaya – Kuzynets sluice – Volkushek sluice – v. Lesnaya – Dombrovka sluice – cross-over to the right bank of the channel – along the channel to the natural boundary Tsarevo – v. Sonichi – radial outgo to lake Zelionka – v. Nemnovo – Nemnovo sluice – resting place Nemnovo





Route name is not accident. Almost on its entire length it contacts with the Augustov channel. Route begins at the border gateway Kuzhinets. On the Polish side to the Kuzhinets leads an international bike route R65 (Finland – Greece) and cycling route to Augustov (Poland).

On the way is situated the most picturesque of the gateways – Dombrovka. Through its drawbridge we are moving to the right bank of the canal and head to the village NOVOSELKI. On both sides of the well groomed road the eye is pleased with pine forest, behind the back of which hide Dots of Grodno 68th fortified area (Molotov Line).

Bicycle route Augustovski Shliakh fits with bicycle route number 402 and pedestrian route number 404 near sluice Dombrovka.

402

Lisia Gora

72,7 km

Resting place Nemnovo - Nemnovo sluice – v. Zatishie – v. Golovenchicy – (obelisk at the frontier post name of Sivachev (1941) – Lisia Gora (grave of insurgents of 1863) – along left bank of river Chernaya Gancha – river Marykha – lake Savek – Kolety settlement – Kavenia lake – Endrenya lake – v. Lesnaya – Dombrovka sluice – steading Tartak – v. Noviki – township Sopotskin – v. Radzivilki (palace-park complex of Gurskiye) – v. Ostasha – resting place Nemnovo

(bike route, 72,7 km, marked, travel time – 10 hours)



This cycle route of approximately 73 km length promises a lot of interesting things on his way. Here, for example, is the biggest all over Avgustovsky channel sluice Nemnovo as well as a commemorative Lisia Gora with updated not so long ago the grave of rebels of 1863, scenic rivers Maryha and Chernaya Gancha, mysterious lakes Savek, Cavenia, Yandrenya, sluice Dombrovka, palace and park ensemble of Gursky and much, much more. In short, almost 10 hours of traveling give tourists the opportunity to see the most interesting region of the Belarusian Ponemanie.

403

route

Dorogoj magnata Volovicha

(Following the path of Magnate Volovich) 40 km

Township Sopotskin – v. Noviki – lake Dargunskoe – memorial of the frontier post name of Kirichenko (1941) – v. Dorogun – v. Markovtsy – v. Golynka – v. Boyary – v. Perstun – palace-park complex Svyatsk of magnate Volovich – v. Vasilevichi – township Sopotskin

(bike route, 40 km, marked, travel time – 3 hours)

ACCOMODATIONS

The house of the superintendent, sluice Dombrovka

Grodno district, Grodno region, Belarus Tel. +375 152 74-38-02, 6 places

Hostel Augustov Channel

v. Sonichi, Grodno district, Grodno region, Belarus Tel. +375 152 74-38-02, 16 seats

Agriturismo Sonichi

v. Sonichi, 6a, Grodno district, Grodno region, Belarus Tel. +375 29 884-48-87, 10 places

Tourist shelter Nemnovo

v. Nemnovo, Grodno district, Grodno region, Belarus. Tel. +375 29 780-13-04, 20 places

DINING

Agriturismo Sonichi

v. Sonichi, 6a, Grodno district, Grodno region, Belarus Tel. +375 29 884-48-87 (on request)

Stalls,

sluice Dombrovka

Grodno district, Grodno region, Belarus Tel. +375 152 74-38-02

Agriturismo Annette

v. Yatvez, Grodno district, Grodno region, Belarus Tel. +375 29 786-41-49, 16 places

Agriturismo

Over the August Channel

v. Nemnovo, 5, Grodno district, Grodno region, Belarus Tel. +375 25 740-62-27, 10 places

Hostel Caritas

township Sopotskin, Teolinskaya str. 39, Grodno district, Grodno region, Belarus Tel. +375 152 75-34-12

Agriturismo La Svyatska

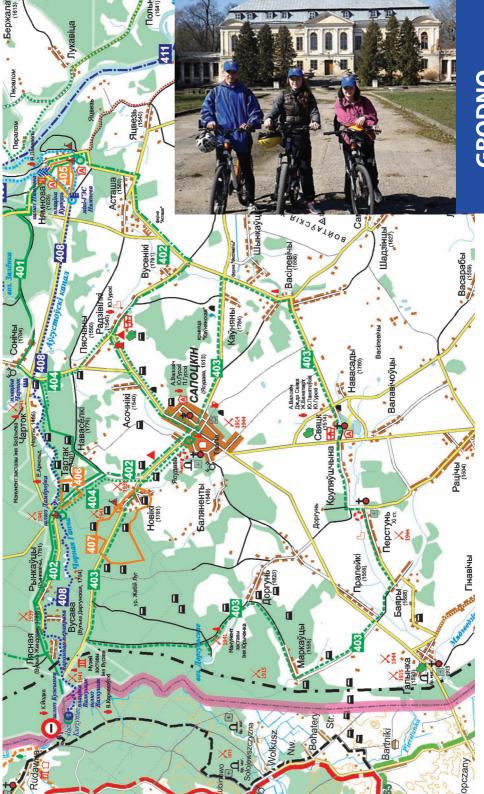
v. Krulevschina, 7, Grodno district, Grodno region, Belarus Tel. +375 44 772-15-83, +375 29 886-67-57, 10 places

Hostel Caritas

township Sopotskin, Teolinskaya str., 39, Grodno district, Grodno region, Belarus Tel. +375 152 75-34-12 (on request)

Agriturismo La Svyatska

v. Krulevschina, 7, Grodno district, Grodno region, Belarus Tel. +375 44 772-15-83, +375 29 886-67-57



Liniya Molotova

12 km

Dombrovka sluice – natural boundary Tsarevo – v. Sonichi – v. Pestchany – v. Radzivilki – (palace-park complex of Gurskiye) – township Sopotskin – v. Noviki – Dombrovka sluice

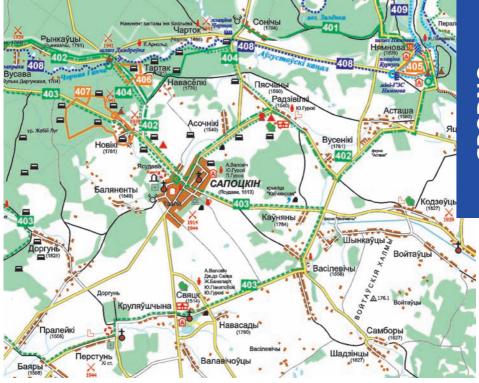
(bike route, 12 km, marked, travel time – 3 hours)



This cycle route received its name from the name of fortifications of Grodno 68th fortified area. It spread at a distance of 80 kilometers from the village up to now Polish village Goniadz. Since 1939 on these areas in accordance with the Molotov – Ribbentrop pact there stretched the bound between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union.

But when a storm was in the air, by the orders of the Soviet leadership on the western border they hastily began to build powerful fortified areas. One of them was just 68 Grodno. But it is the case of bygone days. A day today – this is our route, which connects the present century and a past century.

We start near the sluice Dombrovka. Forest road leads along the canal, along its right bank. And within 300 meters of our path is blocked by a trickle. But it is easy to be overcome through the wooden bridge. After that we follow the foot of a gently sloping hill, on the slope of which are laid wooden steps. They lead up to one of the warring pillboxes (*CAUTION! Dot*



is destroyed inside). After examining it in detail, from all sides, we go down to his second reinforced concrete "brother."

Inspected strengthening stay at the bottom, and we follow to the junction of forest roads. Our route prescribes to follow left via unmade forest trail and again along the right bank of Augustov Channel. Covered with moss, trees and sparse grass former so-called field fortifications, or, more simply, the trenches easily overcome due through light wooden bridges. Next picture is essentially unchanged for almost three kilometers down to the paved road from Sopotskin to the village Sonichi.

On the highway, turn right and after 300 meters the road equipped with a parking area is clearly visible. And near it, a little higher on the hill can be seen another ruined Dot of Major Yakovlev.

After seeing this dot, we're going back to the same paved road and follow in the direction of the village Peschany. Passing its arranged in one row authentic farmsteads, we leave on an open area. It gives you the opportunity to see and admire the blue ribbon of near flowing August Channel.

Then we encountered a village Radzivilki (palace and park ensemble of Gursky), where at the T-junction turn right and continue the route according to the marking. In Sopotskin moving toward v. Nowiki, turn right in front of her to the sluice Dombrovka.

4.12 Melovye Gory

Festivalnaya street (The Path of Health) – Neman River banks – sanatorium Zhemchuzhina – the fortifications the 1st World War Fort number 13 Grodno Fortress – Lake Sinka – Lake Zelenka – Chalk Mountain – Festivalnaya street

(bike route, 31 km, marked, travel time – 6 hours)



Chalk mountains - a unique place for relaxation, entertainment, competitions and festivals, created by nature itself. Central place here are the ravines near Lake Sinka and Zelenka with depth up to 30 m.

The route starts from the information booth at the Path of Health. First, go through it, after a half of a kilometer the road turns to the left, where after a while you can see the Ground fort. Fort was built in 1887 and belonged to the system of Grodno fortified position (1887-1890), intended for the defense of the bridges on the river Neman. Foreperson - military engineers Colonel I. Kaygorodov, Captain F.R. Tigerstet. During the construction of the fortress of Grodno (1912–1914) in earthen fort №1 allegedly was placed the central fortress telephone station (here served V. Zworykin, the inventor of television).

Fort was included in the list of historical and cultural heritage of the Republic of Belarus.



After that, driving down the paved path, we appear at the radial access to the monument to the cadets, border guards, who kept the defense on the bank of the Neman, in June 1941 (the summer of 1941 in the stow Pyshki there was a summer camp of Brest district school of junior officers of the NKVD border troops (Belarusian border area). Chief of the school – Major B.S. Zinoviev.

On 22-23 June, 1941 cadets fought against the Nazi invaders near Neman and v. Grandichi). Visiting the monument, we're moving forward along the path, we find ourselves in a place of rest Teremok, which offers a beautiful view of the river Neman and its beaches, we have an opportunity to admire that for a long time.

Then, moving along the path, we get to a place of rest Usiki, for which it is goes up to the water intake. Breaking it through the dam, we cross the ravine and move along the path to the place of rest Football Field. Next the path takes us to the gravel road to the resort White Stones.

Gravel road heading us left to the path and after a few meters cross the glade Sportivnaya and then find ourselves in a place of rest Glade of bards. Then, moving along a low bank of the Neman, we cross the stream, pass a clearing under the power line.

Then the trail goes uphill. We are moving along a high bank of the river Neman to destinations Zhemchuzhina (on the right there is a sanatorium Zhemchuzhina). After some time, the path leads us to a place of rest Kupalinka. The route goes from the river bank to the pine forest. Here it is necessary to take precautions because you have to cross the road with asphalt coating. Once again it is the forest path, following which we're going out near radial access to the fortifications the 1st World War Fort number 13. In August 1912, Emperor Nicholas II adopted the decree on the construction of a new fortress in the city of Grodno. According to the plans there was supposed to build 13 forts.

Thus, Grodno fortress was to represent a very modern at the time fortification in Russia. The commandant of the fortress was appointed lieutenant-general M. Kaygorodov – the younger brother of the first builder of forts.

In 1915, here were heavy fightings. Fort was defended by two regiments of the 57th Infantry Division of Osovetskaya corps of guards and militia. Blown up by retreating Russian army by military engineer captain P.V. Batushkin, which he also built. In 1920, during the Polish-Soviet war, the fort was stormed by Cavalry Division under the command of G. Gai.

Visitied the fort we move along the path according to the marking. On this site you must also observe extra precautions. Then through the radial outlet we get to fortifications of 1st World War Dot. After seeing the Dot we're moving along the forest path, and then along the pavement to the children's sanatorium Neman-72.

In front of he fence of the sanatorium, the route turns to the left, just after the turn is necessary to overcome the steep climb up to 20 m and move along the forest path to the resort by the lake Sinka. Going forward, in a half a kilometer, via the bridge we overcome the creek and find ourselves at Lake Zelenka. Next, you need to go along the shore of Lake Zelenka.



Then the route goes along a forest path through a beautiful mixed forest, along the deep, wooded ravines. Having gone a bit, we find ourselves in the place of rest Chalk Mountain, which offers a scenic view of the wooded quarries.

Next, we're moving along the path running along the edge of the forest. After a couple of meters is necessary to turn into the forest, and, some time later, we find ourselves on the road that leads to the starting point of the route to Festivalnaya street.

Festivalnaya street – Ground fort – Kronon Park Hotel – The Path of Health – Neman River banks – The Path of Health – Festivalnaya street

(bike route, 6,15 km, marked, travel time – 1,5 hours)



This route begins on the Festivalnaya street at the entrance to the boundary Pyshki. First, move along the asphalt, which represents a zone of cycle traffic. After 200 meters turn left and after a short time, get on the earthen fort. It is, in fact, the remains of earthworks, including that fortifications, which were built in the second half of the XIX century. After seeing the fort inside, turn on the asfalt to the right and after 200 meters drive up to a place from which begins a radial section of the route. Its length is about a half of a kilometer. It is necessary to get to the observation deck and enjoy the magnificent views of the city and the river Niemen. There is also a stele built in honor of soldiers-guards who died in 1941.

Returning to the Path of Health we reach Kronon Park Hotel and turn right, after 100 meters on the left is located rope park. Moving along asphalt and again turn right on the track, going through the beautiful, admiring with its beauty pine forest. Then, the path turns right again and again go out on the asphalt of The Path of Health and after a few meters it will lead us to the end point of the route on the Festivalnaya street.



ACCOMMODATIONS

Kronon Park Hotel

Pyshki forest-park, Grodno Tel. +375 152 73-98-00, 30 places www.kronon.by

DINING

Kronon Park Hotel

Pyshki forest-park, Grodno Tel. +375 152 73-98-00, 30 places www.kronon.by

Cafe Arena

Kommunalnaya St., 3, Grodno Tel. +375 152 77 32 65 www.cskneman.by/cafe

Hotel Sport

Kommunalnaya St., 3, Grodno Tel. +375 152 72 38 49, 41 places www.cskneman.by/hotel/

Restaurant Zolotoy telenok

Leninsky komsomol boul., 29a, Grodno Tel. +375 152 45-00-36

Cafe Alibi

Leninsky komsomol boul., 50, Grodno Tel. +375 152 43-64-41

419

Rajgorod

67 km

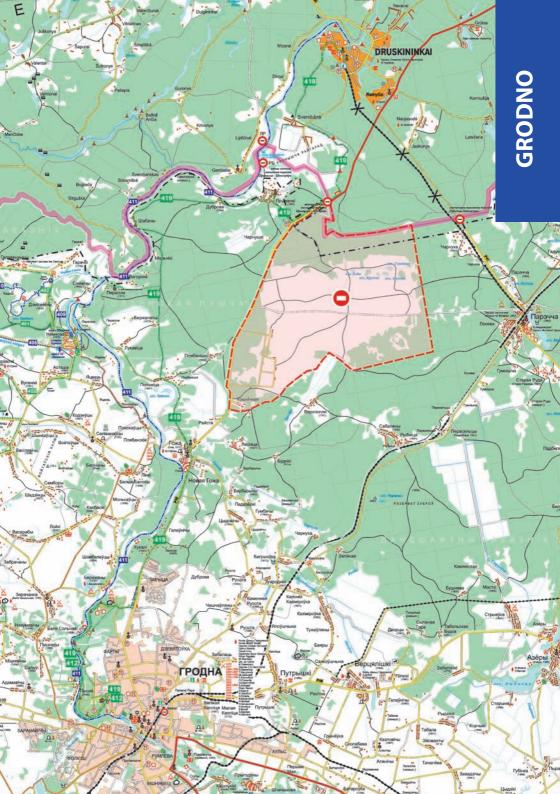
Festivalnaya street (The Path of Health) – Neman River banks – Melovye Gory tourbase – sanatorium Zhemchuzhina – the fortifications the 1st World War Fort number 13 Grodno Fortress – Grandichskaya street – v. Gozha – v. Polnitsa – v. Shabany – v. Dubrova – v. Privalki – border crossing Privalki – Rajgorod

(bike route, 67 km, marked, travel time – 12 hours)



The route begins from Festivalnaya street and follows the route 412 MELOVYE GORY to the fort №13 of Grodno Fortress, further along Grandichskaya street along the highway P42 to village Gozha. In Gozha there is the turn to left in front of the of St. Petr and Pavel Cathedral (1865). Further the way leads through the villages Palnitsa and Perelom (wooden Cathedral and the house of monk-hermit) to the Gozha Biological Reserve. *ATTENTION! Border zone.*

Our way to the village Privalki leads through the settlements Zagorniki, Melniki and Dubrova. In Privalki (Magdeburg Law since 1792) past the St. Fadey Cathedral follow up to the border crossing Privalki – Rajgorod. After the border crossing along the highway A4 in 500 m turn left to the village Shvendubre (through the natural boundary Rajgorod) and further to Druskininkai (Lithyania).





OSHMYANY

The name of the city, according to historians, reflects the character of its location and connected to the echo of the Ice Age. Some linguists believe that the name of the city comes from the Lithuanian word *ashmenas* – the tip and *akmenas* – stone.

First Oshmjany are mentioned in *the Chronicle of the Lithuanian and Zhamoytiya in 1341*. They appeared as the prince's castle. At the beginning of the XVI century, the city was divided by Oshmyanka river into two parts: New and Old Oshmjany.

City received the Magdeburg Law in the XVI century and became the center of a Vilno region. Since 1569 Oshmjany are within the Commonwealth and are still the center of the district. In 1792, the first coat of arms of the city approved, in 1845 – the second coat. In 2006, the official heraldic symbols (emblem and flag) of Oshmjany city approved.

Over the centuries, the territory of Oshmyany exposed to invasions by foreign troops. In 1812, Napoleon's army at the beginning and during the retreat back caused serious damage of the city and the district. In the First World War the area was occupied by German troops, in 1919-1920 – the Polish and the Red Army. In 1922–1939 it was in the Vilna province in Poland. Currently, in the city are more than fourteen thousand people, or a half of the population of the district.

OSHMYANY

426

Shlyahetskiy

32 km

v. Boruny – v. Biyutishki – v. Geystuny – v. Benyuny – v. Rodevichi



The route lies in the south-eastern part of Oshmiany of Grodno region. It introduces the beautiful landscapes of Oshmiany hill, which is characterized by slightly hilly topography, land of pine and mixed forests, quiet, calm rivers, small lakes.

Baruny

Baruny – one of the most interesting villages of our region in historical terms. Here is preserved an interesting complex of late Baroque – Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul and the Basilian monastery (1747). Composition of this complex is peculiar: there is no symmetry typical to most religious buildings.

To the right of the church and monastery of Basilian is a memorial to pilots crew of Ilya Muromets, which died in 1916 in a dogfight over Boruny. On a huge granite boulder are bases of pilots of the airship Ilya Muromets number 16.

Lieutenant Dmitry Maksheyev, Mytrofan Rahmin, Farooq-Aga Mamed Gaibov, Cadet Oleg Karpov were killed in an air battle, fighting off the attack of four German fighters, three of which were shot down.

Returning to the church, tourist follow the signs heading towards Krevo. There on the left is a cemetery of soldiers of the First World War. After visiting the cemetery tourist returns to the church, and follow his way to Golshany, in two kilometers turn left and soon appears in Biyutishki.

Biyutishki

It is a quiet place have the liking of fans of the rural way of life. Enjoy the beauty of the local nature, get pleasure from fishing, is possible while meeting local farmer Ivan Kunyutoy who rents several lakes.

Then traveller follows the road without coverage, and in one and a half of a kilometer – along field and forest road moving towards Geystuny.

Geystuny

It is the birthplace of the Polish poet, publisher A.E. Odynets (1804–1885). The main attraction of the village is a former manor house of Odynets.

From Geystuny we're heading to east, in three kilometers turn right and, leaving aside Petrovichi, Zastenie, head to Benyuny that are on the left side of the road.

Benyuny

On the outskirts of the village is located the manor of Karchevskii, existed from the beginning of the XVI century. Then it was a Tatar family ownership of Furs. For centuries manor often changed its owners. In 1809, a house with land holdings in the area of 316 tithes bought Jozef Karchevskii from the coat of arms Samson. During the Napoleonic Wars manor was burned down, in the postwar years on its place there was rebuilt new one. Here was placed the high school, and at the end of the 1990s until May 2007, the mansion was abandoned. After her owner was a tourist company Gistoryya Tour, there were cleared the neighborhood territory and the first floor of the building, where it was decorated three rooms with exposition: Hall of Korchevskiy (XIX – early XX century), Hall of Jagiello – Vytautas (XV century) and hall of Hetmans (XV–XIX century). Behind the manor there remained pillboxes of First World War.

After visiting this object, we're moving towards Golshany. After about four miles, turn left to the village Rodevichi, where the route ends.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Agriturismo Sadok v. Bivutishki

Tel. (+375 29) 691-03-37, (+375 1593) 3-35-83





Nevestin kamen (The Bride's stone)

35 km

v. Golshany – settlement – Tupishki – v. Boruny – v. Novoselki – Nevestin kamen



Golshany

Golshany welcome guests with unique streets – shopping arcade, apartment buildings of late XIX – early XX century. In the center of the agro-town is the church of St. John the Baptist Church, the Franciscan Monastery, which is located in front of a memorial – boulder, established in 2006 in honor of Sophia Golshanskaya, who played an important role in the history not only of the native town, but also Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, it will be told best in the national historical museum named after E.S. Korzun in Golshany high school. The building of the Council of Agriculture there opened a virtual museum of Struve Arc meridian.

From the center of Golshany we go to the Castle street, where you can see the church of St. George, moving down the street to the Castle, a tourist gets into Golshany Castle shrouded in legends and hailed by a classic of Belarusian literature Vladimir Karatkevich.

Every year, in front of these ancient walls there is held the traditional festival Golshany Castle. Jousting battles, medieval music, dances and characters of past years, no doubt, will immerse you in the historical era of the princes of the Sapieha genus.

Gorodische

In one and a half kilometers from Golshany there is the settlement, where during excavations was found pottery of the early Iron Age and period of Kievan Rus. Settlement dates back to XII–XIV centuries and belongs to the early Middle Ages. From the height of the settlement on the south and west the area is clearly visible. Further our path leads to the village Tupishki.

Tupishki

Tupishki – one of 265 geodetic stations of Struve Arc, located on the territory of ten countries. Coordinates of the point – 54°17'29 " n.l. 26°02'43" s.l. Memorial sign of Struve Arc – Tupishki point (the highest point of Oshmyany District – 311 meters above the level of the Baltic Sea) was opened in 2007. In 2005, Struve Geodetic Arc was included in a UNESCO List of World Historical and Cultural Heritage.

Baruny (see the Description page 59)

Visiting the cemetery of the First World War, the tourist goes to the center of the village, where, following the signs, makes his way towards Oshmyany through Novoselki.

Novoselki

Agro-town Novoselki is known for ancient manor of the XVI century once placed nearby. Originally it belonged to the Golshansky princes. In the XIX century the estate Novoselki was the possession of Czapski. To restore the look of the palace of that times helps the engraving of Napoleon Orda. Now, from its former greatness of Czapski Palace in Novoselki there stayed barely visible ruins.



The Bride stone

Not far from Ogorodniki is another miracle of Oshmyany – the Bride's Stone. This is a huge, more than 2 meters high, boulder, one side of which has a flat surface. Such a stone is created by nature. Local residents had a sign: if the young before the wedding did not go to the stone, family life won't be lucky, or the couple will not have children.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Agriturismo Sadok

v. Biyutishki Tel. (+375 29) 691-03-37, (+375 1593) 3-35-83

DINING

Cafe Castle a/g Golshany Tel. (+375 1593) 3-93-01 **Cafe Heritage** a/g Golshany Tel. (+375 1593) 3-71-31 Cafe Meeting a/g Golshany Tel. (+375 1593) 3-94-69

OSHMYANY

428

Gippika

25 km

t. Oshmyany – v. Grintsy – v. Polyany – v. Lyugovschina – v. Berventsy – v. Krakovka – v. Zhuprany



Oshmyany

This is one of the oldest cities in Belarus. Interest among tourists is caused by the temple of the Resurrection of Christ and the church of St. Michael the Archangel, which are in the heart of the city, in the September 17 square. You can learn more about these and other sights of the city, having visited the museum named after F. Bogushevich located on Sovetskaya Street, next to the September 17 square. Synagogue of the XIX century, which is located behind the museum is also often visited by tourists.

Grintsy

There is an equestrian center Gippika that attracts to itself with the possibility of not only to have a break after the city noise and dust, but also enjoy either an incomparable communication with intelligent and headstrong, clever and kind, silent and loyal... horses.

Here, in the cafe Straunya u Daragastayskaga you can stop and have lunch. What is to taste here? Amateurs of the Belarusian national cuisine just swallowed their tongue: bulion pa-vyaskovamu, vyachera ad zhonki Daragastayskaga, gurki marynavanyya, ryba pa-shlyahetsku... Yes, it turns out, that all right is also with delights,: salad Tsezar, steik sa svininy, julienne...

Palyany

The village Polyany – the birthplace of Czeslaw Jankowski, a prominent historian and ethnographer, the author of the famous work Ašmiany powiat.



In the village, on the left of the road there buried mother and daughter of Czeslaw Jankowski. Here is a wooden chapel built in 1810. In rural library the memorial area is dedicated to him.

Zhuprany

The main attraction of Zhuprany – The Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, whose construction was begun in 1854 and completed in 1890.

Place Zhuprany closely connected with the life of the Belarusian poet Frantisek Bogushevich. In Zhuprany, at the place where, as legend tells, in 1863 the poet appeared before the locals, at the entrance to the village, rises the monument in bronze to that man who wanted a better life for our people. From the Cathedral a tourist goes to the local cemetery, where the graves of the poet and his family members are situated. It's easy to find a grave of Bogushevich - it is on the edge of the cemetery. In March 1970, to the 130th anniversary of the birth of F.Bogushevich there opened a literary museum at school.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Equestrian Centre

Gippika v. Grintsy Tel. (+375 1593) 4-53-53, (+375 29) 610-74-23 www.hippika.by

DINING

Restaurant Empire

Oshmyany, Sovetskaya str., 66 Tel. (+375 1593) 4-00-46, 4-46-91

Cafe Caprice

Oshmyany, Soviet str., 2 Tel. (+375 1593) 04-05-29

Cafe Galaxy

Oshmyany, pl. September 17, Tel. (+375 1593) 4-42-71

Hotel

Oshmyany, Sovetskaya str., 66 Tel. (+375 1593) 04-06-21

Cafe Stary Mlyn

Oshmyany, Borunskaya str., 11 Tel. (+375 1593) 4-51-51

Cafe Paradise City

Oshmyany, Sovetskaya str., 15

Restaurant U Dorogostaiskogo

v. Grintsy Tel. (+375 1593) 4-53-53, 04-04-12

OSHMYANY

429

Magnatskiy

37 km

T. Oshmyany – v. Kolchuny – v. Gorodniki – v. Boltup – v. Berniki – v. Budenovka – v. Murovanaya Oshmyanka

Oshmyany

(see the Description page 58, 64)

Kolchuny

Within the walls of Kolchuny high school there is a museum of Endzhey Snyadetski – famous Polish chemist, physician, philosopher and educator.

Gorodniki

At the local cemetery near the chapel there is buried Jendzej Snyadetsky. He made



an enormous contribution to the development of medicine and chemistry, created the first textbook and developed chemical terminology in Polish.

Budenovka

On the October 8 street there is a unique museum, established by local resident Valentina Tishchenko, where is represented a rich collection of materials about the history of the village, in the past carrying the name of the Holy Spirit.

Murovanaya Oshmyanka

The authors of the book Ancient Poland M. Balinskii and T. Litinskii wrote in 1886: Murovana Oshmyanka – Kostyolnaya village called township, located on the treeless, rich plains. The long-standing ownership of noble, but extinct names Monvid Dorogostaisky. Near the village there remained a big yard and a brick building, where in the sixteenth century was located Calvinist gathering, and where in the eighteenth century Marshal of Grand Duchy of Lithuania Kristof Dorogostaisky founded a printing house.

The attraction of Murovana Oshmyanka is the wooden church of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, built at the turn of XVIII–XIX centuries.



ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel

Oshmyany, Sovetskaya str., 66 Tel. (+375 1593) 04-06-21

Agriturismo Lily

v. Berniki Tel. (+375 29) 336-66-19

Agriturismo U Yaniny

a/g Kolchuny Tel. (+375 29) 585-43-53, (+375 1593) 35-2-64

DINING

Restaurant Empire

Oshmyany, Sovetskaya str., 66 Tel. (+375 1593) 4-00-46, 4-46-91

Cafe Caprice

Oshmyany, Soviet str., 2 Tel. (+375 1593) 4-05-29

Cafe Paradise City

Oshmyany, Sovetskaya str., 15

Cafe Galaxy

Oshmyany, September 17 sq., Tel. (+375 1593) 4-42-71

Cafe Stary Mlyn

Oshmyany, str. Borunskaya 11 Tel. (+375 1593) 4-51-51

Cafe Kolosok

v. Murovanaya Oshmyanka

SPARE PARTS FOR BICYCLES STORES

Shop Sport plus

Oshmyany, Sovetskaya str., 28

Shop Supermarket

Oshmyany, Soviet str., 100



Member of traffic moving on the bike must know and observe the rules of the road traffic, as well as guide by signals of traffic controller, signals of traffic lights, traffic signs and road markings, shall not constitute an obstacle and danger to road users.

Movement on the bike should be on a bike path, and in its absence – by the roadside, sidewalk or walkway, without impending the safe movement of pedestrians. (But in the rules of the road of 1897 in paragraph 9 is the completely different information: Do not ride your bike on the sidewalks and squares, and the movement is only allowed on the roadway). In the absence of these elements of the road or the impossibility of motion on them cyclists allowed to move on a roadway in a row no further than 1 meter from its right edge.

Thus:

- Leaving more 1 meter away from the right edge of the roadway shall be permitted only for the bypass obstacles and permitted cases to turn left or turn. It is noteworthy that the requirement of this subparagraph applies only to a movement along the roads, which have no more than one lane for traffic in this area and who do not have the path of the tram in the middle of the road;
- Columns of cyclists while driving on a roadway should be divided into groups of not more than 10 cyclists. The distance between the two groups should be at least 100 meters;
- In the presence of the carriageway road marking lines 1.2, indicating the edge, this line should be placed on the left of the cyclist.

Bicycle path – it highlighted constructively or using horizontal line marking element of the road, designed to go biking, road sign cycle track. Bike path can be performed both within the carriageway, and apart from it. The width of the cycle path may be from 1.75 meters at the cramped conditions under 3 free.

When driving on the road in the dark and (or) with its lack of visibility on the bike should be switched on: front – light (lamp) that emits white light, rear – lamp that emits a red light. In the case of its absence or malfunction a cyclist, in conditions where visibility of the road in the direction of movement is less than 300 meters or with the onset of darkness, should get off the bike and carry it around with you.

Outside the intersections on the unregulated intersection cycle track to the road cyclist is obliged to give way to vehicles traveling on that road. In this case, the intersection with the road bike route is not a crossroads. When crossing a roadway at a pedestrian crossing the cyclist has to drive a bike next to him and follow the requirements set forth in these regulations for pedestrian traffic. This requirement is dictated by the need to ensure the safety of cyclists, because greater speed of cyclists compared to pedestrians allows him to appear on a pedestrian crossing in a very short period of time. The requirement to carry bike next to him allows the driver of the vehicle to be regarded as pedestrian and cyclist have plenty of time to assess the prevailing traffic situation.

For violation of traffic rules by cyclists on the territory of the Republic of Belarus there is the administrative responsibility.

SIGNS



1.22. Intersection with the bike path



3.9. Movement of bicycles is prohibited



4.5.1. Cycle track



4.5.2. End of cycle track







USEFUL INFORMATION

CHECKPOINTS LITHUANIA – BELARUS

Privalka – Raigardas (Grodno region, Grodno district)

Kotlovka – Lavorishkes (Grodno region, Ostrovetskiy dist.)

Benyakoni – Šalčininkai (Grodno region, Voronovskiy dist.)

Kamennyi Log – Medininkai (Grodno region, Oshmiany dist.)

BIKE SHOPS

Velomag

IP Krivets Sergey Vikentievich Grodno, str. Antonova, 13a Hours: Tue-Sun 09.00–15.00, Sat – closed Tel. +375 29 919-42-31 (velcom), Tel. +375 29 786-12-02 (MTS) www.velomag.by

Bicycles

Grodno, Indurskoe Highway, 30 (the market Yuzhnui, place 53C) Tel. +375 29 780-14-51 (MTS)

Chain of stores Your bike

Hours: Mon-Fri 10.00–19.00 Sat-Sun 10.00–17.00 Tel. +375 29 780-31-31 (MTS), Tel. +375 44 780-31-31 (velcom) www.tvojvelik.by

Shops:

- Kabyaka str. 10b,
 Shopping center Serpentine
- Fomicheva st.4a
- Limoges st., 32b
- Flamingo, Folyush Grodno, Zakharova str., 26 Hours: Mon-Fri 10.00–21.30 Sat-Sun 09.00–21.30 Tel. +375 29 888-80-66 (MTS) www.sportlandia.ru

Grodno, Prospect of Cosmonauts, 2 Hours: Mon-Fri 09.00–17.00 Sat 09.00–16.00 Sun – closed Tel. +375 152 75-74-58 Tel. +375 33 693-55-88 (MTS) Tel. +375 25 989-24-85 (Life)

Grodno, Ozheshko str.,42 Hours: Mon-Fri 09.00–20.00 Sat 09.00–18.00, Sun 10.00–18.00 Tel. +375 152 72-22-86

INFORMATIONS FOR TOURIST

Tourist information center of Grodno

Ozheshko St., 38, Grodno Tel. +375 152 77 36 03, +375 152 77 35 46 E-mail grodnortss@gmail.com www.tourgrodno.by







BICYCLE REPAIR WORKSHOP

Grodno, Lenin str., 18 Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed 15.00–19.00 Tue, Thu 10.00–14.00 Sat, Sun – closed

Grodno, Soviet Border guards str., 51/1 Hours: Mon-Fri 17.00–20.00 Sat, Sun – closed Tel. +375 29 785-43-26 (MTS)

Garages in Ponemun

Block 2 Garage 14.
Entrance between
Block 2 and Block 3
Hours:
Mon-Sat 09.00–19.00
Sun – closed
Tel. +375 29 582-09-16 (MTS)
Tel. +375 29 946-21-87 (velcom)

Bike shop on Dzerzhinsky

Dzerzhinsky lane, 8a (Taxi pool) Hours: Mon-Fri 11.00–18.00 Sat 11.00-16.00 Sun – closed Tel. +375 33 313-68-67 (MTS), Tel. +375 25 689-78-75 (Life)

BICYCLE RENTAL

Pyshki

(during warmer months) Grodno, boundary Pyshki start of Path of Health Hours: every day, 11.00–21.00 from 01.04 to 30.11 Tel. +375.29.783-56-34

Velotochka

At the Augustov channel (sluice Dombrovka) Hours: Mon-Fri – closed Sat-Sun 13.00–19.00

In Grodno

(delivery around the city) Hours: Mon-Sun 9.00–21.00 Tel +375 (33) 308-00-20 (MTS) www.velakropka.by

Catalunya

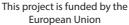
Vishnevetskaya Str., 12 Hours: Mon-Sun 10.00–21.00 Tel. +375 29 577-65-44 (MTS), Tel. +375 44 544-95-44 (velcom) www.catalunya.by

INFORMATIONS FOR TOURIST

Tourist information center of Sopotskin

Grodnenskaya St., 6, Sopotskin, Grodno area Tel. +375 152 99 22 80 tic.sopockin@tourgrodno.by







Project No. LLB-2-210 "The development of bicycle tourism and informational system on Lithuania-Belarus border region", Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus Cross-border Cooperation Programme within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.

The Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus Cross-border Cooperation Programme within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument succeeds the Baltic Sea Region INTERREG IIIB Neighbourhood Programme Priority South IIIA Programme for the period of 2007-2013. The overall strategic goal of the programme is to enhance the cohesion of the Latvian, Lithuanian and Belarusian border region, to secure a high level of environmental protection and to provide for economic and social welfare as well as to promote intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity. Latgale region in Latvia, Panevėžys, Utena, Vilnius, Alytus and Kaunas counties in Lithuania, as well as Vitebsk, Mogilev, Minsk and Grodno oblasts take part in the Programme. The Joint Managing Authority of the programme is the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania.

The web site of the programme is www.enpi-cbc.eu.

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

Total project budget – 705 397 EUR, European Union contribution is 90% – 634 857 EUR.

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Alytus Tourism Information Centre and Grodno Regional Department of Social Organization "Republican Union of Tourism and Sport" and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

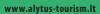
Authors of photographs: V. Valužis, D. Adamonytė, G. Česonis, E. Jaškūnienė, Nemuno kilpų regioninio parko direkcija (Directorate of Nemuno kilpos Regional Park), E. Dargis, G. Bernatavičius, J. Ignatonis, A. Pranaitis, Ž. Sinkevičius, Z. Stankevičienė, L. Valentaitė-Gudzinevičienė, S. Kaliada, S. Plytkevich, V. Sayapin, L. Shchahlou

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www.visitbirstonas.lt



www.tourgrodno.by



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