



# NEMUNAITIS

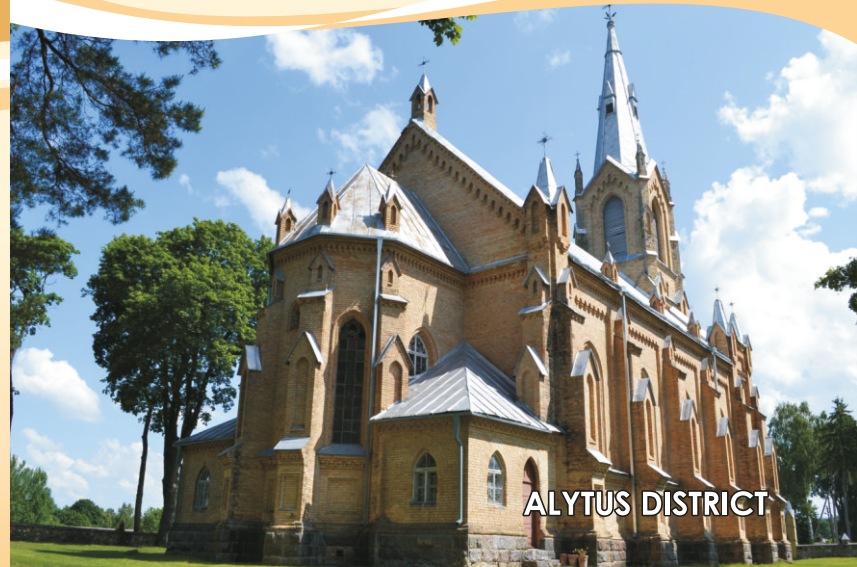
A TRUE DIAMOND IN THE MESMERISING  
PINWOOD FORESTS OF ALYTUS REGION

Photographs by: R.Avižienis, G. Bernatavičius,  
B. Malaškevičiūtė, photographs from the  
Alytus TIC archives.



## Alytus Tourism Information Centre

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**ALYTUS DISTRICT**



## NEMUNAITIS – Alytus District, Southern Lithuania

Nemunaitis was founded many centuries ago on the pine-forested banks of the Nemunas River. That the town is inseparable from the river is obvious, just by looking at its name: Nemunaitis is the local community's diminutive name for Nemunas. Legend has it that long centuries ago, a Viking chieftain named Nemonas sailed here from across the sea. He enjoyed the hospitality and care shown by the area's residents. As he departed, he presented valuable gifts to all. The grateful locals named the site Nemunaitis in honour of the chieftain. Today, we can enjoy the Nemunas, strolling through the recreation zone along the riverbank, with a scenic viewpoint, a fire pit, and a recreation area next to a bubbling spring. A stone-paved path leads visitors to Klebono akmuo (the Pastor's Boulder) in the Nemunas.

Nemunaitis Castle was mentioned in 1384 in chronicles of the Teutonic Order, as was the town of Nemunaitis, starting in 1387. The first residents settled in the area at least as early as the fourth century, according to archaeological finds.

With the disappearance of the enemy threat after the Battle of Žalgiris (Grunwald), the town became an important logging and trading centre. In 1792, Nemunaitis was granted Magdeburg rights and a coat-of-arms, featuring St Casimir. A tide of historical misfortunes swept away the area's self-rule and coat-of-arms a short time later. On 10 November 1999, the historical coat-of-arms of Nemunaitis was restored by decree of the President of the Republic of Lithuania.

In the 19th century, the Nemunaitis area came to be known for its mineral springs, but was not officially declared a resort.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Nemunaitis became known for its Lithuanian cultural societies, which put on various performances and gatherings, and maintained a small library of Lithuanian-language publications (recently decriminalised, at that time).



- **Stasio Slavinsko sodyba** (17 rooms, 100 seats)  
Piliakalnio g. 12, Piliakalnio k., Raitininkų sen., Alytaus r.,  
tel. +370 685 12 255



- **Viliaus Vaicekausko sodyba**  
(10 rooms, 36 seats)  
Gailinto g. 10, Galintėnų k.,  
Raitininkų sen., Alytaus r.,  
tel. +370 685 56 650



- **Alytus District Art and Sport School,  
Nemunaitis section**  
(10 rooms, 31 places)  
Vytauto g. 44, Nemunaitis,  
Alytaus r., tel. +370 315 69 633



## INTERNET SERVICE

**Alytus District Municipality Public Library Nemunaitis branch**  
Vytauto g. 44, Nemunaitis, Alytaus r., phone: +370 315 41 947  
Open: 9:30–18:00. Closed Mon, Sun.

**Alytus District Municipality Public Library Užupiai branch**  
Užupių g. 10-8, Užupių k., Nemunaičio sen., Alytaus r., phone:  
+370 315 59 118. Open: 11:00–17:30. Closed Mon, Sun.

## INFORMATION

**Nemunaitis eldership**  
Vytauto g. 44, Nemunaitis, Alytaus r., tel.: +370 315 41 971,  
+370 686 87 195

**Nemunaitis post office**  
Vytauto g. 44, Nemunaitis, Alytaus r., tel. +370 315 41 941

**Association "Nemunaičio bendruomenė"**  
Saulėtekio g. 9, Nemunaitis, Alytaus r., tel. +370 680 74 923

**Excursions around Nemunaitis and the vicinity**  
Rimantas Avižienis, tel. +370 686 87 195



- **Homestead "Genutės ranča"**

(15 rooms, 70 seats)  
Gardino g. 22, Meškasio k.,  
Raitininkų sen., Alytaus r.,  
tel. +370 686 87 259,  
www.genute.lt



- **Homestead "Pas Algirdą"**

(14 rooms, 84 seats)  
Piliakalnio g. 18, Piliakalnio k., Raitininkų sen., Alytaus r.,  
tel. +370 686 87 259, www.genute.lt



- **Homestead "Pas Robertą"**

(7 rooms, 60 seats)  
Piliakalnio g. 4,  
Piliakalnio k.,  
Raitininkų sen., Alytaus r.,  
tel. +370 614 28 857



- **Radzevičių sodyba**

(4 rooms, 11 seats)  
Ežerų g. 1, Galintėnų k.,  
Raitininkų sen., Alytaus r.,  
tel. +370 612 95 687



- **Remeikių sodyba**

(8 rooms, 30 seats)  
Gailento g. 6, Galintėnų k.,  
Raitininkų sen., Alytaus r.,  
tel. +370 650 26 788,  
www.dzukijosvingis.lt/lt/  
kaimo-turizmas



## NOTEWORTHY SITES

- In a field located in the village of Geisčiūnai (4 km from Nemunaitis, there is a road sign marking the vicinity) grows the oldest pear tree in Lithuania, the only pear tree in the country to be designated as a protected natural object. It is 6 metres tall and its girth is 3.8 metres, and it is nearly 200 years old. The tree was damaged by a windstorm in 2016. Before the Second World War, local youth held dance parties there. The pear was declared a protected natural object in 1960.

Geisčiūnų k., Nemunaičio sen.,  
Alytaus r.

GPS: 54.317338, 24.076940  
(WGS)



- Next to the old pear tree, there is also an old Scotch elm (*Ulmus glabra*) with a girth of 5.5 metres, a height of 24 metres, and an age of more than 250 years. That is certainly a record for our country, because elms generally live up to 300 years. This tree also suffered from the windstorm in 2016. Even today, legend has it that in the old days, after hunting trips in the surrounding forest, Lithuanian nobles feasted under the tree's branches. The elm was declared a protected natural object in 1960.

Geisčiūnų k., Nemunaičio sen., Alytaus r.  
GPS: 54.317515, 24.076915 (WGS)



- Between 1899 and 1904, at the initiative of the pastor, Father Feliksas Baltuška (later buried in the churchyard), the brick Church of the Nativity of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was built according to the design of engineer Vaclovas Michnevicius: neo-Gothic, with three naves, a tall steeple and side flèches (spirelets).

In 1930, the pastor, Father Adalbertas Vaitiekus Želnys, built in the churchyard one of the most beautiful Lourdes grottoes in Lithuania, with a sculpture of St Bernadette of Lourdes.

A plaque affixed to the steps leading to the church marks one of the gravimetric points located in the Republic of Lithuania. A gravimetric base is used when performing detailed gravitational field research and when measuring the change in the gravitational field over the passage of time. This is important when performing precise geodetic measurements and geophysical research.

Nemuno g. 25, Nemunaitis, Alytaus r.  
GPS: 54.302177, 24.019224 (WGS)



## RECREATION

### Hotel "House of Fear"

What secrets lurk behind the walls of this hotel? Surviving the horror. The hotel's inhabitants will give you especially sharp and sensational memories. As you walk around and try to find your way out of this house of horrors, you will encounter its tenants. Attention! Don't look them in the eye... Will you dare to look fear straight in the eye?

**Warning.** Not for those with weak nerves. Those under 16 years of age may participate only with parental permission or accompanied by an adult.

Vytauto g. 42, Nemunaitis, Alytaus r., tel. +37064012185,  
[www.facebook.com/BaimesNamai](http://www.facebook.com/BaimesNamai)



## ACCOMMODATIONS

### • Girinio sodyba (4 rooms, 21 seats)

Sudvajų g. 1, Sudvajų k., Nemunaičio sen., Alytaus r.,  
tel. +370 614 79 002, [www.facebook.com/Girinosodyba](http://www.facebook.com/Girinosodyba)



### • Homestead "Po uosiu"

(8 rooms, 30 seats)  
Kalnėnų g. 28, Kalnėnų k.,  
Nemunaičio sen., Alytaus r.,  
tel. +370 614 21 035,  
[www.facebook.com/sodyba.pouosiu](http://www.facebook.com/sodyba.pouosiu) +



### • „Ažuolas Resort“

(18 cottages)  
Ežerų g. 3, Galintėnų k.,  
Raitininkų sen., Alytaus r.,  
tel. +370 616 97 736,  
[www.azuolasresort.lt](http://www.azuolasresort.lt)



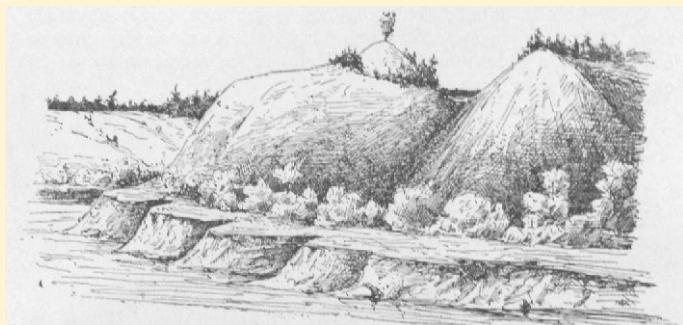


- Nemunaitis hill-fort with lower ward. The hill-fort is located on an elevated section of the right bank of the Nemunas. It has been almost entirely eroded by the Nemunas, with only the southeastern edge remaining. Its top is elongated. The slopes rising from the Nemunas are steep, in places up to 50 metres in height.

The lower ward is adjacent to the hill-fort. Its fortifications have been greatly eroded. The hill-fort and the lower ward are overgrown with pine trees and bushes.

The Nemunaitis castle stood on the hill-fort; it was mentioned in 1384 and 1387. The hill-fort has been dated to the 14th century. The hill-fort and lower ward are listed in the Register of Immovable Cultural Property.

Nemunaičio k., Nemunaičio sen., Alytaus r.  
GPS: 54.306877, 24.039701 (WGS)



Nemunaičio piliakalnis XIX a. pabaigoje. Piešinys iš *Wiśta*, 1889. T. 3.

- Part of the old Jewish cemetery in Nemunaitis. A stone slab stands in front of the entrance to the cemetery, and inscribed in the centre of the slab, on a black background, is the text: "Here rest the remains of the Jews of Nemunaitis. May they rest in peace". Before the Second World War, Jews comprised a significant portion of the town's residents. The cemetery is listed in the Register of Immovable Cultural Property.

Pušyno g., Nemunaitis, Alytaus r.  
GPS: 54.297687, 24.024762 (WGS)



- The Franciscan summer house, known locally as the monastery, was built in 1931–1933 at the initiative of Father Baltuška as a short-term vacation home or sanatorium for Franciscan monks. On the first floor, there were several small rooms, a kitchen and a dining room, and on the second floor, there were several cells for the monks as well as a small chapel. Because the sanatorium was located quite far from the Franciscan centre in Kretinga, and travelling to the sanatorium for just a brief stay was not so simple, the Franciscans surrendered their right to the building in 1937 and transferred ownership to the Nemunaitis parish church for use by the retired parish priest. On 2 June 1945, about 120 Lithuanian partisan resistance fighters led by Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas swore allegiance in this building. At the beginning of the 1950s, the building was nationalised and entrusted to the Nemunaitis school. The chapel was demolished, the monks' cells were reconstructed, and the school's dormitory was established in the building. At present, the former summer house belongs to the Monastery of St Francis and St Bernardino in Vilnius. The Franciscan summer house is listed in the Register of Immovable Cultural Property.

Vytauto g. 48, Nemunaitis,  
Alytaus r.

GPS: 54.300315, 24.017067  
(WGS)







- The concrete cross standing near the church was erected in 1934. It was consecrated by Father A. V. Želnia. The cross was designed by and construction was supervised by brothers V. and J. Jarmala, with assistance from parishioners. During the Soviet occupation, the cross was not demolished, and the town's residents themselves maintained it. Because the cross was repainted more than once, the layers of paint and decoration were identified only after performing polychromatic analysis. The cross was restored in 2011. The cross is listed in the Register of Immovable Cultural Property.

Nemuno g., Nemunaitis, Alytaus r.  
GPS: 54.302357, 24.023338 (WGS)

- In 1939, at the initiative of a teacher, Antanas Saulevičius, the prominent sculptor Vincas Grybas was invited to Nemunaitis. It was planned to erect a monument the next year in memory of those who gave their lives for Lithuania's independence. But the changing political regime frustrated these plans. For long years, the sculpture found itself in various locations. At the initiative of the local community, it was re-cast in 1989 and unveiled on 16 February 1990.

The sculpture was restored by sculptor Jonas Naruševičius, and architect Irena Gudaitytė designed the pedestal. The Nemunaitis monument was the last work of Vincas Grybas. On 3 July 1941, the sculptor was executed by the German occupiers. The monument is listed in the Register of Immovable Cultural Property.



Vytauto g., Nemunaitis,  
Alytaus r.  
GPS: 54.301343, 24.019907 (WGS)

- The Pastor's Boulder lies in the Nemunas River in Nemunaitis; a trail leads to a scenic viewpoint looking out onto the boulder. Going down the Nemunas in 1872, the prominent Polish archaeologist, ethnographer and cultural historian Zygmunt Gloger wrote of the boulder: "At the town, an enormous boulder arises out of the Nemunas River's embrace. From a distance, it looked to me like a tower standing on the riverbank."

A hydrologic station was established at the site in 1877. The site was chosen precisely because of the enormous boulder lying in the river. Level areas were chopped into the boulder and water depth measurement rulers were hammered into it, and records were kept by the local pastors. The boulder sometimes slightly changed its position after the winter, because the spring floodwaters and floating chunks of ice pushed it.

Nemunaitis, Alytaus r.  
GPS: 54.304447, 24.019921 (WGS)



- The Nemunaitis mineral spring flows in the village of Lankos in Nemunaitis eldership, on the right bank of the Nemunas River. The water of the easily-found spring is slightly bluish, odourless and tasteless. It does not freeze even in winter, and is quite refreshing, with a salt concentration of 6 g/l, with sodium bicarbonate, calcium and chlorine, at an average temperature of +8 °C. In 1980, the spring was declared a hydrologic natural monument; it was described in the latter half of the 19th century by many explorers and travellers along the Nemunas. According to these accounts, a bathing area had been built nearby, with two wooden buildings: one was for arriving patients, the other was for procedures. There were six rooms, each with a bathtub. The water for treatment procedures was taken from the spring and warmed on a stove. However, when a resort began to form in Birštonas, the Nemunaitis bathing area was abandoned.

Lankų k., Nemunaičio sen., Alytaus r.  
GPS: 54.285666, 23.997194 (WGS)



- The Great Dzūkija Boulder lies in a young pine forest in the village of Vangelonys in Nemunaitis eldership. It is the largest boulder in Dzūkija and the ninth-largest in Lithuania. The boulder is irregular in shape, eroded in places, cracked, because, according to local residents, lightning has struck it on more than one occasion. The Great Dzūkija Boulder measures  $7.1 \times 4.58 \times 3.8$  metres, with a volume of  $65.04 \text{ m}^3$  and a weight of 176 tons. The boulder is composed of biotite garnet-bearing paragneiss, brownish- and blackish-grey, especially fine-grained, of massive texture. In 1964, the boulder was declared a natural monument.

Such large boulders are usually shrouded in legend, and this one is no exception. It is said that the devil was constantly irritated by the ringing of the bells of the Nemunaitis church, which kept him from sleeping soundly in the bog in the mornings or cleaning his teeth after a hearty meal. One night, he grabbed the boulder and headed toward the church, to demolish it. But he overestimated his strength and the early-morning cock-crow caught him still on the way, in Vangelonys. He threw down the boulder and ran as fast as his legs could carry him to hide in the bog, seething with rage. He waited for nightfall and then left to find a more distant bog, where he wouldn't hear the ringing of the church bells, and the beautiful boulder stayed behind in the village of Vangelonys.

But scientists rarely take legends at face value, and say that this large beauty is a chunk of rock pushed to our area from Sweden, Finland or the bottom of the Baltic Sea by glaciers.

Vangelonių k., Nemunaičio sen., Alytaus r.

GPS: 54.272427, 24.020280 (WGS)



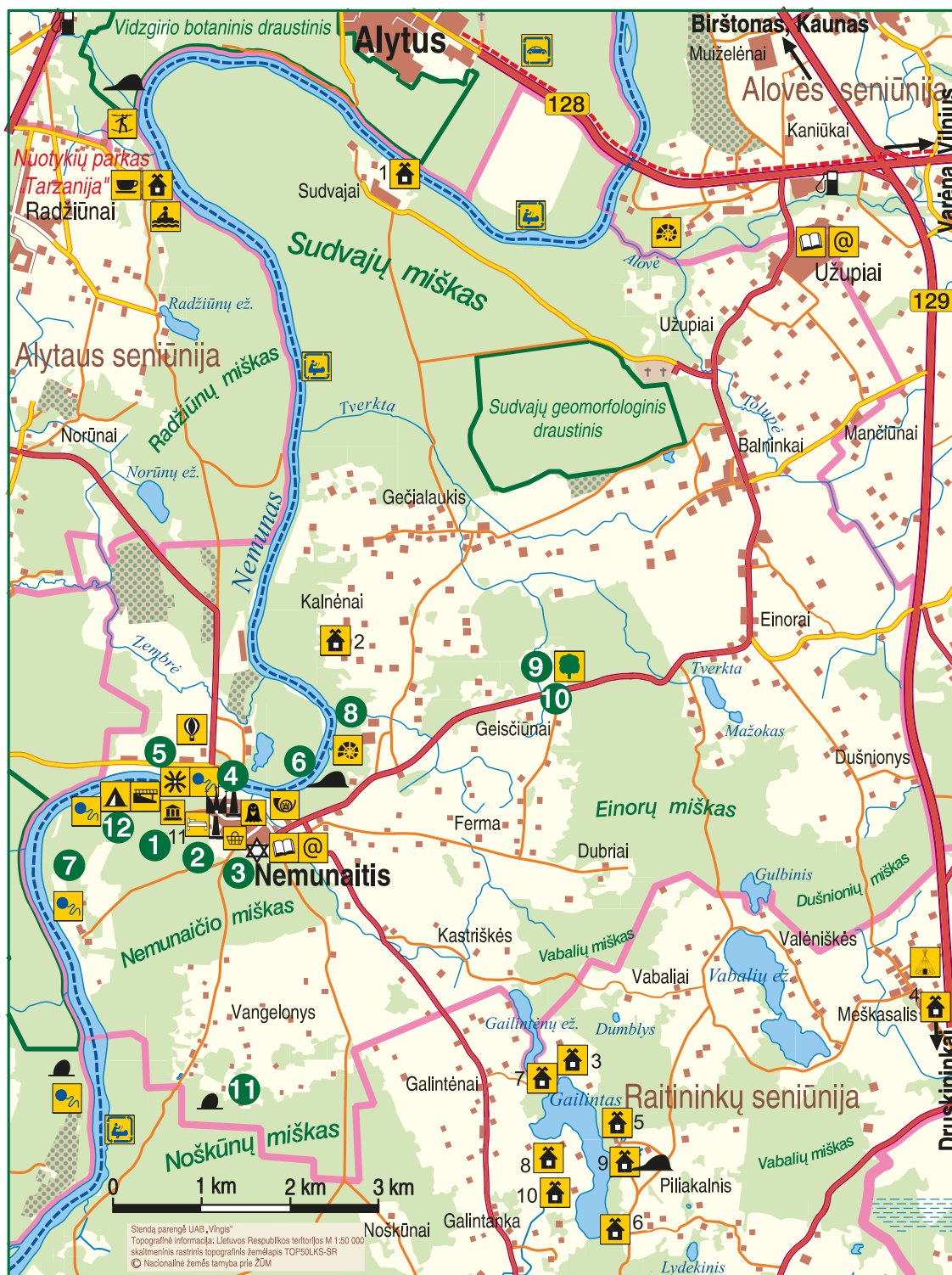
- There is a tufa outcrop in the village of Nemunaitis in Nemunaitis eldership, located in the Sudvajai forest on the right bank of the Nemunas River. The total length of the outcrop is 900 metres, it is 20–30 metres in width and 1.2–10 metres in height. Broken layers of whitish, grey and brown tufa are visible in the outcrop. The outcrop was first described in 1909. Professor Pranas Juodelė wrote: "The high bank of the Nemunas at Nemunaitis (12–13 metres above the water level), where now there are beds of calcareous tufa, was once, apparently, a lake. Shelled organisms lived there (their remains are visible in the tufa) and water rich in lime flowed from the springs. The shells of organisms and the lime of spring water (and iron oxide) made thick beds of tufa. At that time, the Nemunas did not yet exist. When the Nemunas carved its way through that location and deepened its channel, most of the springs found other, lower places for themselves, the lake water flowed into the Nemunas, the site dried up, and was covered over with only a thin layer of peat; still later, forest grew up there." In 1987, the outcrop was declared a natural monument.

Nemunaičio k., Nemunaičio sen., Alytaus r.

GPS: 54.307587, 24.039855 (WGS)







## Places to visit

- 1 Church of the Nativity of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary
- 2 Monument in memory of those who gave their lives for Lithuania's independence
- 3 Old Jewish cemetery in Nemunaitis
- 4 Cross in Nemunaitis
- 5 Pastor's Boulder
- 6 Nemunaitis Hill-fort
- 7 Nemunaitis mineral spring
- 8 Nemunaitis tufa outcrop
- 9 Old Pear-tree
- 10 Old Elm
- 11 Great Džukija Boulder
- 12 Nemunaitis recreational zone

## Signs

	Municipality boundary		Architectural cultural heritage object
	Regionai park, reservation boundary		Hotel "House of Fear"
	Railway, station		Mineral spring
	Hard surface road, motorway number		Mythological object
	Gravel road		Café
	Country, forest road		Library, internet
	Forest		Countryside tourism
	Gardens		Rooms for rent
	Lake		Post office
	Swamp		Shop
	River, stream, ditch		Recreational rafting
	Settlement		Children's camp
	Catholic church		Nemunaitis Baloon Club
	Cemetery		Autotourism route
	Jewish cemetery		Sightseeing square
	Hill-fort		Native American and Winged Hussars educational programme
	Stone		
	Monument		