

Alytus is the largest city in southern Lithuania, tracing its history back to the 14th century. Four bridges take visitors to it, among them the tallest pedestrian and cyclist bridge in Lithuania (at a height of 38.1 m). The city boasts four parks and the Vidziris botanical reserve, through which an excellent nature trail twists and turns. Four hill-forts stand in Alytus. A multitude of various sculptures are scattered across the entire city. Some mark events important to the city and the country, others are signs of respect and commemoration, while still others amaze the viewer with their delicate gracefulness. Come take a look!



Alytus Tourism Information Centre

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VISIT ALYTUS



Photographs by: J. Baranowski, G. Bernatavičius, M. Gudžinevičius, M. Kelminskaitė, V. Kuchalskis, A. Lavrėnovas, T. Parcej, M. Šematulskis, R. Valiukevičiūtė, G. Žvirblis, photographs from the Alytus TIC archives.

1. Squirrel in Senamiesčio skveras (Old Town Square)

A bronze squirrel is proudly perched on a bench next to the book-sharing box in Old Town Square, holding a book on which is inscribed "A book is a good way to surpass your former self". Petting this cute little creature, you may suddenly experience an irresistible urge to read a book.
Sculptor M. Zavadskis.
Alyvų takas, Alytus
GPS: 54.399152, 24.048538 (WGS)

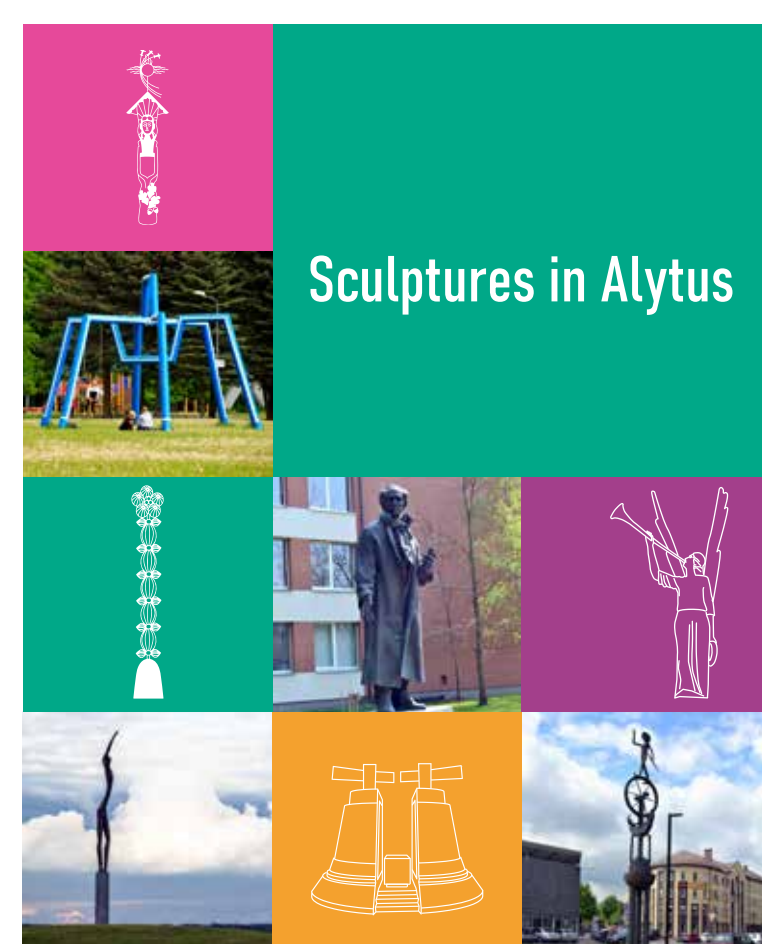


2. Monument to the partisans of the Dainava unit

In 2020, a monument to the partisans of the Dainava unit was unveiled in Old Town Square. The monument is 4.5 m high, adorned with the Vytis, the coat of arms of Lithuania. On one side of the pedestal is inscribed "To the partisans of the Dainava unit, 1944–1953", and on another side, "Faith, Liberty, Independence, Harmony".
Sculptor G. Jonkus.
Alyvų takas, Alytus
GPS: 54.399271, 24.049264 (WGS)

3. Poet Anzelmas Matutis wooden sculpture park

Wooden sculptures are scattered around the pine grove adjacent to the museum commemorating the children's poet Anzelmas Matutis. The sculptures have been donated by the participants in an international wood-carving symposium that has taken place here every second year since 2012. Each symposium is thematically based on a different collection of the poet's work.
A. Matučio g. 8, Alytus
GPS: 54.397406, 24.052161 (WGS)



Sculptures in Alytus

Alytus

4. Memorial "Nurimęs varpas" (Silent Bell)

The memorial Silent Bell stands in Kurorto parkas (Resort Park). Reminding visitors of the people's suffering, the memorial is dedicated to political prisoners and exiles, the partisans of the Dainava unit, and the participants in the uprising of 22–28 June 1941.
Sculptor S. Žirgulis.
S. Dariaus ir S. Girėno g., Alytus
GPS: 54.394115, 24.050380 (WGS)



5. Monument "Laisvės angelas" (Angel of Freedom)

The monument was built in 1929. Antanas Aleksandravičius was the sculptor who created the impressive 13-metre-tall monument, consisting of a 9-metre pedestal and 4-metre trumpeting angel. It is said that the sculptor persuaded a young gymnasium teacher to pose for the sculpture. The Angel of Freedom commemorates those who died for Lithuania's independence. The monument has withstood tests both natural and manmade: in 1934, the sculpture shattered into pieces after a lightning strike (and it was rebuilt three years later), and in the early 1950s it was demolished as a political gesture. In 1991, the sculptor Jonas Meškelevičius restored the sculpture of the Angel of Freedom, and the sculptor Jonas Blažaitis restored the pedestal's four bas-relief plaques: the main dedication, "Kova" (Struggle), "Mirtis" (Death) and "Kapai" (Graves).
S. Dariaus ir S. Girėno g., Alytus
GPS: 54.394028, 24.049393 (WGS)





6

7. Sculpture "Versmė" (Spring)
This sculpture was first shown in 2005 in a temporary exhibition in Rotušės aikštė (Town Hall Square), together with other works by the sculptor L. Virbickas. Later, G. Jegelevičius purchased the sculpture and donated it to the city. Rotušės a., Alytus
GPS: 54.39576, 24.046248 (WGS)



8

9. Squirrels Alsodra and Sodriukas
"We create our own happiness". So says the sculpture depicting the mother squirrel Alsodra and the baby squirrel Sodriukas. After petting the sculpture, the squirrels' wish, "Big things start from little things!", begins to come true. The sculpture was donated to the city by the staff of the Alytus office of the State Social Insurance Fund, Sodra. Authors: artist I. Židonytė, sculptors A. Janušauskas and J. Abdulskytė. Jotvingių g., Alytus
GPS: 54.396008, 24.042393 (WGS)



9

10. Sculpture of Hodja Nasreddin
This sculpture of Hodja Nasreddin, a well-known satirist in the Islamic areas stretching from the Balkans to Central Asia, was made around 1970 and was brought from Jordan to Alytus in 2019. According to legend, when Hodja Nasreddin was asked why he was riding the donkey facing backwards, he answered: "It's not me sitting backwards on the donkey, it's the donkey looking in the wrong direction". A stainless steel squirrel has found a comfortable place next to him. Jotvingių g. 10, Alytus
GPS: 54.396401, 24.043132 (WGS)



11



12

13

13. Sakura Alley squirrel
The stainless steel squirrel took up residence at the Sakura Alley in autumn 2020. Squirrels like this, from 15 to 30 cm tall, can be found throughout the city (Youth Park, Jotvingių gatvė (street), Žalioji gatvė, "Sakalėlio" primary school, Dainių slėnyje (Valley of Songs)). There will be more in the future. The sculptures are made by AB "Astra LT", and on each is the laser-engraved symbol "Alytus-Myliu" (I Love Alytus), the year of production and a QR code linking to a Facebook description of how the squirrel statues came to be. Žalioji g., Alytus
GPS: 54.39615, 24.039196 (WGS)



15

16. Youth Park sculptures
In 1984, a group of sculptors led by N. Nasvytis and Alytus city artist A. Stankevičius created a composition of metal sculptures, the first such ensemble in Lithuania, which with their vivid colours gave Youth Park its own distinctive appearance. A decade later, the ensemble of sculptures was joined by two sculptures donated by foreign sculptors. Vilties g., Alytus
GPS: 54.403366, 24.031151 (WGS)

Aeronautikos istorija (The History of Aeronautics). Asked about the idea behind the sculpture, sculptor N. Nasvytis replied: "I have long been interested in the history of various efforts of humanity to transition to a higher level of its possibilities. I wanted to try to create the mood which accompanied the first flights by human beings, the crossing of the boundary, beyond which you now have wings".



Karatīškasis voras (Royal Spider). The structural design of the sculpture reminds one of a spider. Seen from different angles, the configuration produces a different image. Sculptor A. Balke.



14

15. Sculpture "Žiedas" (Blossom)
This is a "musical" sculpture: the sculptor used kinetic elements, hanging planes, and when a strong wind blows, the sound resembles the chiming of a bell. The sculpture was put up in 1982. "Žiedas" (also sometimes called "Kosmosas") was the first such sculpture to be placed in Youth Park, thus beginning the sculptural ensemble there. Sculptor T. K. Valaitis. Naujoji g., Alytus
GPS: 54.403384, 24.022185 (WGS)

Vandens malūnas (Watermill). "The first time I visited Alytus to see the park in which the sculptures were to be placed, I was enchanted by the natural beauty surrounding the city. It moved me to create a sculpture free of obvious external silhouettes. I chose the motif of a watermill as one of the romantic accents most characteristic of human activity in the Lithuanian landscape. There are no specific accents of a watermill in my work; the image is abstract and decorative", sculptor B. Narbutas said in presenting his sculpture.



Povas (Peacock). "The theme was dictated by the surrounding area, in which people relax and it's always full of children", said sculptor V. Gylėlis. The artist worked to make the sculpture's form open, unburdened and not merely a copy of nature.



Ožys (Billy Goat). "A work inviting associations with Lithuanian folk nostalgia", sculptor K. Stepanovas described his sculpture.



Vaivorykštė (Rainbow). The sculpture consists of two figures, seemingly holding a fibre composed of light. Three colours predominate: blue, red and yellow. Sculptor V. Babušytė-Venckūnienė said that they are children's favourite colours. She chose a relatively small scale for the sculpture so that children could fit through this "rainbow".



Narvelis gegutėi (Cuckoo Cage). Presenting his sculpture, K. Musteikis said, "The cuckoo is the favourite bird in Lithuanian folklore. Its song has become a symbol of the life of time".

Vartai (Gate). Using untraditional materials, sculptor V. Narutis has interpreted in a contemporary way the ancient Lithuanian custom of decorating rooftops with stylised horse-heads.



Žingsnis (Step). German sculptor M. Odenwaeller donated this metal sculpture to Alytus in 1998.

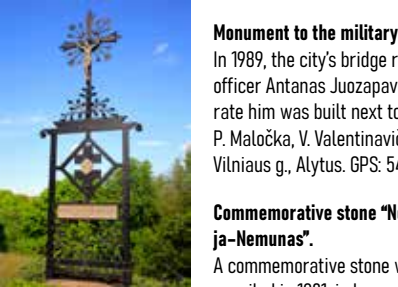


17. Sculpture "Jaunystė" (Youth)
The sculpture "Jaunystė" has been proudly looking out on the city from a hill in Kauno gatvė (street) since 1992. Sculptor Š. Šimulynas. Kauno g., Alytus
GPS: 54.409407, 24.028692 (WGS)

Sculpture "Obels žiedas" (Apple Blossom).
The first sculpture in this location was placed here in 1981. After the bridge across the Nemunas was built, a new sculpture by V. Kančiauskas was put up in place of the old sculpture in 2015. Dainių slėnis (White Rose Bridge), Alytus
GPS: 54.392541, 24.079724 (WGS)



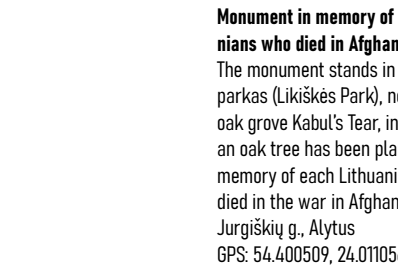
Sculpture "Vėtrungė" (Weather Vane).
This 16-metre-tall sculpture was installed in 1985. Sculptor V. Jarutis. Topolių g., Alytus
GPS: 54.394087, 24.029852 (WGS)



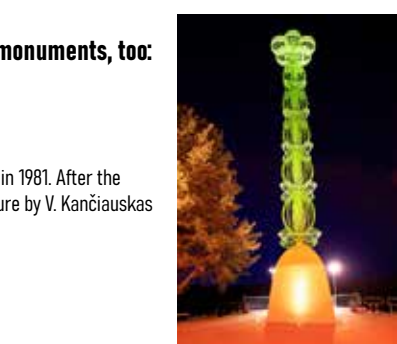
Commemorative stone "Normandija-Nemunas".
A commemorative stone was unveiled in 1981, in honour of the legendary "Normandy-Nemunas" squadron of fighter pilots, who had been based at the aerodrome in Alytus. In 2004, a wooden stela was unveiled near the stone to honour the regiment. Lakūnų g., Alytus
GPS: 54.410873, 24.068000 (WGS)



Monument in memory of Lithuanians who died in Afghanistan.
The monument stands in Likiškių parkas (Likiškės Park), near the oak grove Kabul's Tear, in which an oak tree has been planted in memory of each Lithuanian who died in the war in Afghanistan. Jurgiškų g., Alytus
GPS: 54.400509, 24.011056 (WGS)



17



Exhibition of wooden sculptures, "Alytaus piliakalnio protėviai" (Ancestors of Alytus Hill-fort).
The exhibition consists of works created at the hill-fort in 2002 and 2006 during symposia of wood-carvers and blacksmiths. Piliakalnio g., Alytus
GPS: 54.396826, 24.077278 (WGS)

