

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

S. Darius ir S. Girėno g. 1, LT-62137 Alytus
Phone: +370 315 52 010, +370 687 07703
E-mail: info@alytusinfo.lt
www.alytusinfo.lt

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)

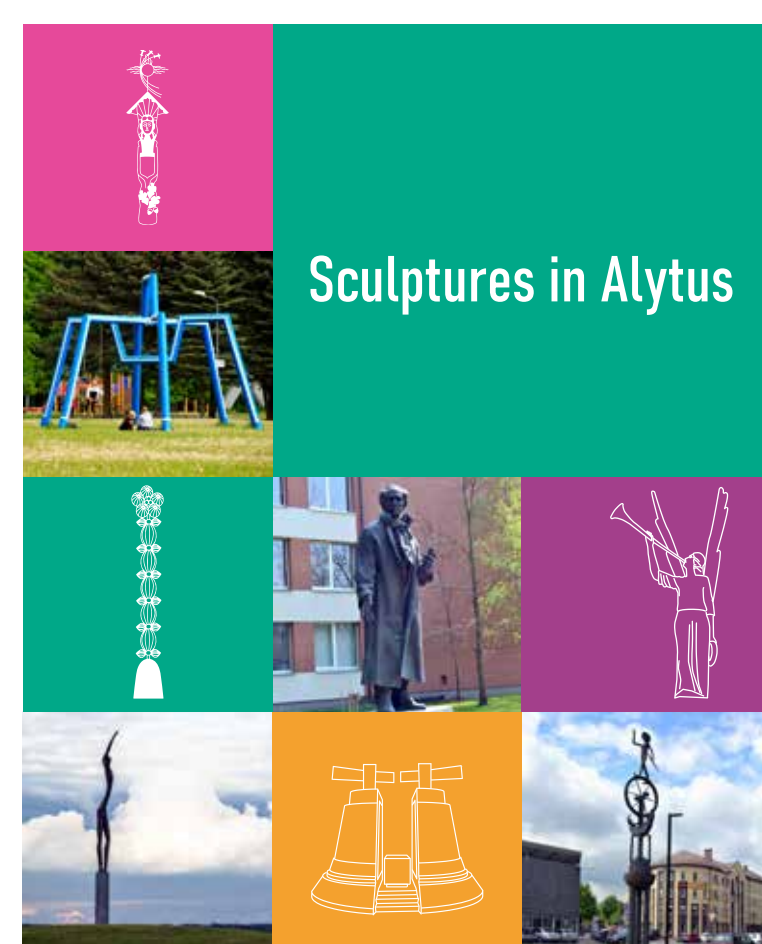


2. Monument to the partisans of the Dainava unit

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. Darius 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. Darius ir S. Girėno g., Alytus
GPS: 54.394028, 24.049393 (WGS)





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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)



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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)



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11. Sculpture "Patrimpas"
The sculpture depicting Patrimpas, a god of the Balts, was put up in 1994. Patrimpas, together with Patulas and Perkūnas, were depicted on the flag of Widewuto, a legendary king of the Old Prussians. Sculptor J. Meškelevičius. Vilniaus g., Alytus
GPS: 54.397897, 24.046244 (WGS)



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8. Squirrel Liusė (Lucy)
The sculpture is in memory of a squirrel named Lucy, who lived in the spruce grove in Jaunimo parkas (Youth Park). She would respond when called by name, was quite fearless, and readily took nuts from a person's outstretched hand. Sadly, Lucy passed away in the summer of 2020. Sculptor M. Zavadskis, the idea's initiators R. Vencienė and V. Vencius. Rotušės a. 15, Alytus
GPS: 54.395995, 24.048005 (WGS)



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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)



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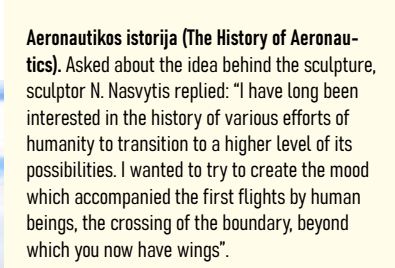
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13. Sakura Alley squirrel
The stainless steel squirrel took up residence at the Sakura Alley in autumn 2020. Squirrels like this, from 15 to 30 cm tall, can be found throughout the city (Youth Park, Jotvingių gatvė (street), Žalioji gatvė, "Sakalėlio" primary school, Dainų 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)



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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)



12. Sculpture "Pavasaris" (Spring)
Stretching toward the sky, the sculpture "Pavasaris" was created in 1986. The work symbolises growth and movement, and demonstrates the sculptor's light touch and mature thinking. The sculpture decorated the city's Sakura Alley in 2019. Sculptor V. Jarutis. Žalioji g., Alytus
GPS: 54.397894, 24.041691 (WGS)



14. Sculpture "Vandenų žvėris su liūto kojomis"
The sculpture-fountain "Water-Beast with a Lion's Legs" was installed next to the "Žuvintas" shop in 1981. Sculptor L. Virbickas. Naujoji g. 8, Alytus
GPS: 54.39702, 24.031321 (WGS)

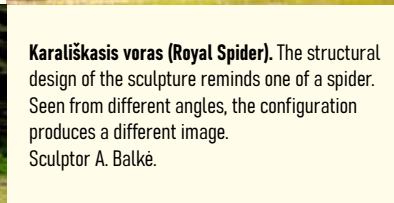


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15. Sculpture "Žiedas" (Blossom)
This is a "musical" sculpture: the sculptor used kinetic elements, hanging planes, and when a strong wind blows, the sound resembles the chiming of a bell. The sculpture was put up in 1982. "Žiedas" (also sometimes 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)



Karališkasis 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.



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 gegutei (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".



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



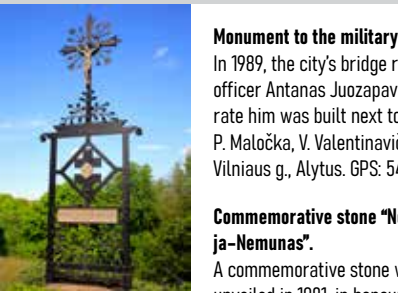
17. Sculpture "Jaunystė" (Youth)
The sculpture "Jaunystė" has been proudly looking out on the city from a hill in Kauno gatvė (street) since 1992. Sculptor Š. Šimulynas. Kauno g., Alytus
GPS: 54.409407, 24.028692 (WGS)

And you can see these sculptures and monuments, too:

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. Dainų slėnis (White Rose Bridge), Alytus
GPS: 54.392541, 24.079724 (WGS)



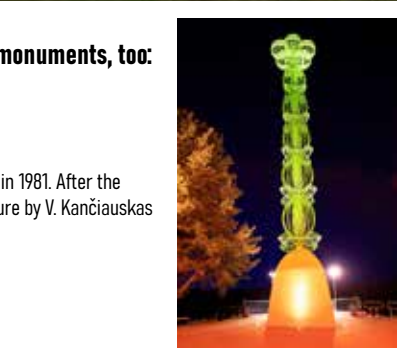
Sculpture "Vėtrungė" (Weather Vane).
This 16-metre-tall sculpture was installed in 1985. Sculptor V. Jarutis. Topolių g., Alytus
GPS: 54.394087, 24.029852 (WGS)



Monument to the military officer Antanas Juozapavičius.
In 1989, the city's bridge regained its original name, in honour of the military officer Antanas Juozapavičius. That same year, a monument to commemorate him was built next to the bridge (authors: V. Jarutis, K. Babravičius, P. Maločka, V. Valentiniavičius). Vilniaus g., Alytus. GPS: 54.400755, 24.053695 (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)

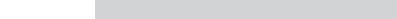


Exhibition of wooden sculptures, "Alytaus piliakalnio protėviai" (Ancestors of Alytus Hill-fort).
The exhibition consists of works created at the hill-fort in 2002 and 2006 during symposia of wood-carvers and blacksmiths. Piliakalnio g., Alytus
GPS: 54.396826, 24.077278 (WGS)



Jewish memorial in Alytus.
During the Second World War, Jews were shot and buried in mass graves in the Vidzgiris forest. The memorial ensemble is composed of a cracked Star of David, 9 pyramids marking mass graves and an obelisk (built in 1959). The author of the project: architect R. Vasiliauskienė; the author of the cracked Star of David: sculptor A. Smilingis. Pulko g., Alytus
GPS: 54.377705, 24.040220 (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)



Obelisk in the cemetery for POWs and civilian victims of the Second World War.
This site is a mass grave for prisoners of war and civilians killed in 1941-1944 by the Nazi occupation forces. An obelisk was built here in 1959. Ulonų g., Alytus
GPS: 54.380318, 24.066425 (WGS)

