

Lithuania 2012

Nordic Baltic Gathering

13/06/2012-17/06/2012

Birstonas



Birstonas is centrally located by, and connected to, all major highways in Lithuania. It is no farther away than an hour and one-half drive from its capital, Vilnius and 45" from the second largest city, Kaunas. Two international airports serve the needs of the air traveler to Birstonas. Birstonas is on the routes of all bus lines to most cities throughout Lithuania. The international buses and trains to and from Germany, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, the Scandinavian countries, Belorussia, and Russia can be reached from several nearby cities.

Programme

13 June Wednesday - Committee meeting

14 June Thursday- Guest arrival. Accommodation in Royal Residence <http://www.karaliskojirezidencija.lt>

Welcome dinner and intercultural evening.

15 June Friday – Active scouting in Rumsiskes open-air museum.

16 June Saturday – Trips: Grutas park and Druskininkai, Kaunas, Vilnius and Trakai

17 June Sunday – Morning prayer, Farewell Lunch.

Gathering Cost: 220 euro

Grutas Park

☒ This is very interesting place which contains the memorial Soviet statues. All those statues were taken from the different places by cranes when Lithuanians got back their independence in 1989. At first nobody knew the fate of those statues, they were just left lying around secured yards all over the country. But one day Mr. Malinauskas won the rights to the statues and made the Grutas Sculpture Park.

Such a park is a unique phenomenon in the world. It is worth as a valuable historical lesson for future generations. There are the sculptures of Lenin, a rare Stalin, soldiers, writers, workers and other Soviet heroes. This is really an exotic place for tourists of non-Soviet countries. Ex-Soviet countries (including Lithuanians as well) come here to discover and learn. This park is considered to be the unique one for the quantity of the sculptures with an ideological content. Grutas Parkas is one of the most beautiful Lithuanian countryside, including the Dzūkija National Park. The sculptures are located in the shade of the pines and fir-trees.



Druskininkai

- ☒ The middle of the 19th – beginning of the 20th century is considered to be the period of the resort prosperity. Druskininkai has become both a place for treatment using the salt springs, mud, kumis, and recreation - concerts, shows, dances that are arranged here as well. In 1924-1931 the Sun, Air and Exercising Procedure treatment facility (park) of doctor E. Levicka was functioning in Druskininkai.
- ☒ Today's Druskininkai is a modern and distinctive international resort, providing high-quality wellness, recreation, and tourism services, famous for sound resort treatment traditions as well as rapidly developing tourism service infrastructure.



The open air museum Rumsiskes

☒ The Open Air Museum of Lithuania in Rumšiškės (Kaišiadorys District) is an exposition in the open air. The core exhibits of this museum include dwelling houses, farmstead buildings and folk art monuments transferred from all ethnographic regions of Lithuania, Aukštaitija, Žemaitija, Suvalkija and Dzūkija, and reassembled in a 175-ha area, in a beautiful location near the Kaunas Man-made Sea and Praviena rivulet. Some of the buildings were constructed 200 years ago and earlier. They acquaint visitors with the mode of life as well as housing construction and equipment techniques of people during various periods. 140 buildings are exposed as farmsteads and villages while town's buildings are grouped around a square. The farmsteads show fences, draw-wells, gardens or parterres. The majority of interior expositions display restored household articles and furniture, cloths, kitchen utensils and tools typical to one or other period. The museum also invites to active expositions where weavers, wood carvers, potters and other craftsmen work.



Trakai

- ☒ Trakai is a symbol of Lithuanian tourism like Venice in Italy, or St. Petersburg in Russia. Similarly Trakai was a former state of governor residence, the city have held many important cultural and historical events. And like Venice or St. Petersburg, Trakai is a city on the water. The only difference is that it is not near the sea but surrounded by lakes.
- ☒ Trakai city located approximately 28 kilometers from the Lithuanian capital Vilnius was first mentioned in year 1377 by Vigandas of Marburg in "Chronicle of New Prussia". If to believe the legend, Trakai appeared on women's whims. Kestutis' Duke of Trakai and Samogitia, wife Birute was unsatisfied that there is very little water in Old Trakai (about 3 km from Trakai) compared to her birthplace Palanga. As the result in the end of XIV century Kestutis begun to build new castle on the peninsula and about 1376 moved there. Later Duke Kestutis and his son Vytautas the Great built another castle in the largest Galves lake island.



Vilnius

- ☒ Vilnius is Lithuania's capital and also its most important city. It is the seat of Lithuania's major institutions: the Seimas (Parliament), the Presidency, the Government, the Bank of Lithuania, the Supreme Court, and the Constitutional Court. The population of Vilnius is just over half a million (554,000).
- ☒ Vilnius is currently one of the most visited cities in Eastern Europe. In 1994 the Old Town of Vilnius was included in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage List.



Kaunas

A sprawling metropolis with a population the size of Belize and boasting a history as colorful as a cupboard full of clown costumes, Lithuania's second city may not be to everyone's taste, but for those with a penchant for the peculiar there's nothing quite like it. Making its debut on a map in the 12th century, Lithuania's most famous Lithuanian conurbation acquired Magdeburg Rights three centuries later and has since gone on to achieve many great things, of which several are to be found lurking within the confines of these web pages. Bristling with buildings representing every architectural style from Gothic to Gorbachev and beyond, Kaunas is more than just the sum of its oft-lauded heyday as Lithuania's temporary capital between the wars, offering visitors everything from synagogues to sushi to book smugglers.

