

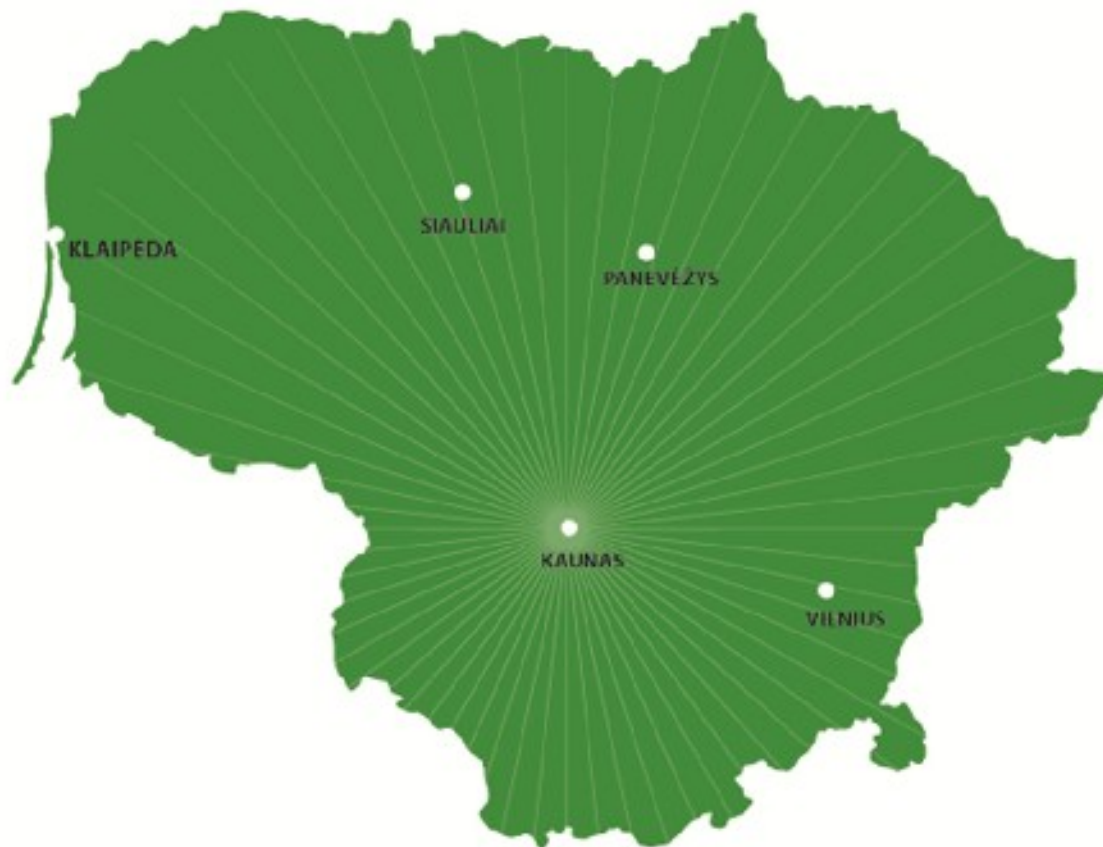
**NEW HANZA UNION:
OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
REFLECT THE MEDIEVAL CULTURE IN
SOCIETY**

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WELCOME TO LITHUANIA AND KAUNAS



LITHUANIA: main facts and figures



Location – Eastern Europe. Situated along the south-eastern shore of the Baltic Sea.

Climate – average summer temperature +17 - +20 °C
average winter temperature -5 °C.

Population - 3.3662 million

Language - Lithuanian.



90 proc. Lithuanians speak at least one foreign language mostly: Russian, English, Polish.

Government – Parliamentary democracy

with one legislative body the Seimas.

Largest cities – Vilnius (capital), Kaunas, Klaipėda

In 2009:

Vinius - the European Capital of Culture.

Lithuania celebrates the millennium of its name.



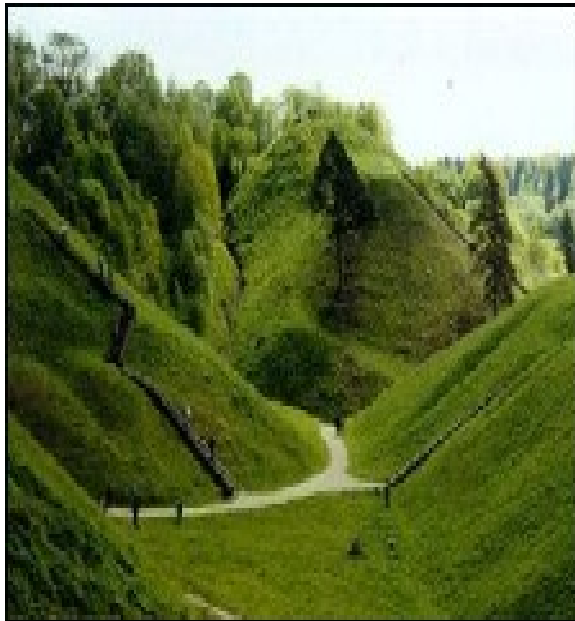
LITHUANIA: places of interest (1)



Vilnius historic centre



Field of Crosses in Siauliai



Kernave



Palanga



Trakai

LITHUANIA: places of interest (2)



Park of Gruto



Druskininkai on Nemunas river




Kaunas Pazaislis Monastery

Kaunas Old Town

Open-Air Folk Life Museum





« KAUNAS –
INSPIRING
MODERN
CITY OF
600 YEARS
OF HISTORY

- » 400 thousand inhabitants
- » Situated in the centre of Lithuania, at the confluence of the rivers the Neris and the Nemunas, 100 km far from the capital Vilnius
- » Attractive centre of business and industry as well as science, studies and culture
- » Famous for its history, cosy parks, remarkable and wonderful Old Town, active, young and ambitious people
- » During the early 20th century, Kaunas was the home of the Lithuanian Government and the capital of the country

» For more information:
www.StudyKaunas.eu
<http://visit.kaunas.lt>

www.inyourpocket.com/city/kaunas
www.kaunas.lt

HANZA HISTORY AND NOWADAYS

HANZA LEAGUE

- The historic Hanza League was a trading town initiated by North-German merchants.
- It united about 200 European cities and existed from the 13th till the 16th century.
- This was not only a trade organization. Hansa league emphasized the importance of the self-governance of the cities, humanism, sociality and mutual assistance.

THE NEW HANZA UNION

- The above principles were supported by a New Hanza Union established in 1980.
- This organization, comprising 176 cities of the Baltic region, attempts to adapt the values and experience of the old Hanza League in developing economic and cultural unity of Europe.
- The International Hansa days are organized every year in one of the New Hansa cities. The event attracts thousands of guests from various countries of Europe: Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Poland, United Kingdom, France, Island, Latvia, Estonia, Russia.
- The program of the festival consists of cultural events, crafts fairs, presentations of cities, forums, seminars.



HANZA DAYS IN KAUNAS



**The Patron of the Festival is the
President of the Republic of Lithuania
Dalia Grybauskaite.**



- Since 1991, Kaunas is the sole Lithuanian town that belongs to the international town's union „The New Hanza”.
- On the 19-22 May 2011 Kaunas has organized the town's anniversary and the international Hanza festival simultaneously.
- Approximately 7 thousand spectators and participators of more than 100 events have gathered together for a week.
- Crowds of people from the entire Lithuania and abroad admired the unique Kaunas Old Town and lost themselves in the Middle Ages, i.e. played medieval games, tasted the old European dishes, watched the Grand Tournament of European Knights, which has been organized for the first time in Lithuania, took part in the Medieval Carnival, An International Plener of Artists and enjoyed Fire Performance above two rivers and listened one of the world famous Medieval music groups „Corvus Corax“ (Germany).

PHOTOS OF HANZA DAYS



YOUTH HANZA 2011(1)

- No less significant than those described above are events of the Youth Hansa Kaunas – an active group created by the youth.
- Youth Hansa Kaunas – one of the several organizations functioning at Vilnius University Kaunas Faculty of Humanities.
- The aim of Youth Hansa is to introduce people with medieval culture, let them loose themselves in tasting traditions of the period, extend the scope of cooperation in the fields of culture, education, youth tourism and entrepreneurship.



- Members of the Youth Hansa Kaunas represent the city in the international New Hansa Union's youth conferences and have future ambitions to organize international culture and history popularization exchange programs for youths.



YOUTH HANZA 2011(2)



- ***The brotherhood “Medieval Emissaries”*** is an organization aiming to recreate the Lithuanian and Western European warfare, crafts and daily life of the late Middle ages.

The main purpose of the organization is accurate reconstruction of 14 - 15 century armor, weapons and clothing, as well as recreation of crafts, dances and warfare.

- The brotherhood actively collaborates with authoritative historians and archaeologists and analyzes medieval chronicles, annals and other historical resources in order to accurately recreate the cultural context of the 14 15 century Lithuania and Western Europe.



YOUTH HANZA 2011(3)



**Knights - demonstrative fights,
knights's tournaments:**

- „Medieval emissaries” are reconstructing medieval warfare and martial arts by recreating armor and weapons after authentic archeological findings and organizing knights’ tournaments.
- The organization is constantly co-operating with other similar organizations from England, Germany, Sweden, Italy, USA, Poland, Finland, Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. It also participates in medieval festivals, tournaments, and seminars arranged by these organizations.



YOUTH HANZA 2011(4)

Dancers – medieval dancers
and costumes:

- Dance studio of „Medieval emissaries” intrigues not only by colourful, authentically reconstructed clothes from 14-15 centuries and cheerful dances, but also by created characters who unfold the life, joys and hardships of medieval men for the modern spectator.
- The audience is not only the passive spectator during the show – there is always a possibility to learn several dances and to dance among the performers which leaves unforgettable memories...



YOUTH HANZA 2011(5)



Fakirs – fire shows:

- The ensemble of fakirs of “Medieval emissaries” is probably the oldest in Lithuania. It presents three stunning fire show programs inspired by beauty of fire and emotions evoked by it.



VIDURAMŽIAI.LY

VIDURAMŽIAI.LY

YOUTH HANZA 2011(6)



Archers – shooting entertainment:

- The archers of “Medieval emissaries” recreate and popularize shooting using old type bows, organize contests, and recreates traditions of making bows and arrows.
- The organization is constantly in touch with similar parties from England, Germany, Sweden, Italy, USA, Poland, Finland, Ukraine, Russia and Belarus, and participates in their medieval festivals, contests and seminars.



YOUTH HANZA 2011(7)

The brotherhood “Medieval emissaries” organizes various festivals and events with medieval spirit:

- **Seminars on medieval subjects and public projects on development of historical reconstruction, education and public information.**



- **Medieval feast.**



- **Medieval wedding**



- **Medieval festivals**



INSTEAD OF CONCLUSIONS

- New Hanza Union offers young people opportunities for mobility and active participation in the construction of the „Europe of culture and knowledge” in the third millennium.
- It aims to create an European arena for cooperation and a better understanding of the diversity of our common European culture and shared heritage as well as of our common basic values.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR
YOUR ATTENTION 😊

