



# CULTURAL HUBS

These are the busiest spots in town that offer too much to be individually categorised.

- 1 KAUNAS ARTISTS' HOUSE**  
V. Putvinskio g. 56 / [www.kmn.lt](http://www.kmn.lt)

Designed by one of the most prolific interwar architects Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis, the villa was initially meant to be the home of the Vatican's papal ambassador, although it never was. Instead, the building was used as a kindergarten and a hospital and in 1971, it was given to the artists of Kaunas. Today, it's open for concerts, exhibitions, film screenings, discussions, workshops and many other cultural and creative initiatives, including the city's only contemporary art and theory bookshop and culture information centre.
- 2 KAUNAS CULTURAL CENTRE**  
Kęstučio g. 1 / [www.kaunokulturoscentras.lt](http://www.kaunokulturoscentras.lt)

This colossal building was built before WW2 to serve the cultural needs of citizens. After the reclamation of independence in 1990, such vast spaces were distributed among various professional and amateur collectives. Today, the cultural centre is a multifunctional venue frequented by film buffs, music lovers and those looking for a shot of eclectic cultural entertainment.
- 3 VILNIUS ACADEMY OF ARTS FACULTY OF KAUNAS**  
Muitinės g. 4 / [www.vda.lt](http://www.vda.lt)

One of the key venues in Kaunas for students studying architecture, painting, textile, ceramics and glass art, with student project reviews often open to the public.
- 4 VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF ARTS GALLERY 101**  
Muitinės g. 7 / [www.vdu.lt](http://www.vdu.lt)

The closest neighbours of the Academy of Arts are the artsy students of VMU. The faculty is home to a gallery with exhibitions that challenge the stereotypes about contemporary art.
- 5 KAUNAS CULTURAL CENTRE OF VARIOUS NATIONS**  
Šv. Gertrūdės g. 58

More than 90% of Kaunasiens identify themselves as Lithuanians, but that was not always the case. This centre provides the small number of ethnic minorities in Kaunas with a place to gather and share their traditions and culture. Don't be surprised if you come here and find yourself surrounded by Armenian, Russian, Belarusian, Georgian, Jewish, Roma, German and other communities.
- 6 SINAGOGA STUDIO**  
Vaišių g. 30

As the majority of the Jewish population in Kaunas was killed during the Holocaust, many of the synagogues were destroyed, reconstructed for other purposes or left to rot. This 19th-century building in Žaliakalnis is now an art studio that's more and more used as a concert venue. Who's for surf rock and klezmer?
- 7 KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES FACULTY OF ARTS**  
A. Mackevičiaus g. 27 / [www.kaunokolegija.lt](http://www.kaunokolegija.lt)

The Owls hill in Žaliakalnis got its name almost 100 years ago when Kaunas Art School student Vincas Grybas created the owl sculptures and placed them along the perimeter fence here. Although built as the temporary gallery for the works of M. K. Čiurlionis, it remains to this day an exhibition space for artists.
- 8 CIRKO SAPIENS**  
Veiverių g. 134

"Cirkuliacija" [Circulation] is a contemporary circus festival travelling around Kaunas; its team decided to give it a long shot and open up a temporary (pun intended) circus school in Aleksotas. Anything that floats your boat, brought by lecturers from Kaunas and abroad!
- 9 YARD GALLERY**  
E. Ožekienės g. 21A

Established by renowned local artist Vytenis Jakas, and always being added to and developed. Jakas moved into the courtyard more than a decade ago, and through a series of artistic projects, helped his neighbours reconnect with their shared local courtyard history. A key part of this reconnection was transferring photographs of the Jewish families - who had previously lived here - onto the courtyard walls. It's the only gallery open 24/7.
- 10 PARAKAS**  
Corner of L. Ivinskio g. and Drančiūnų g.

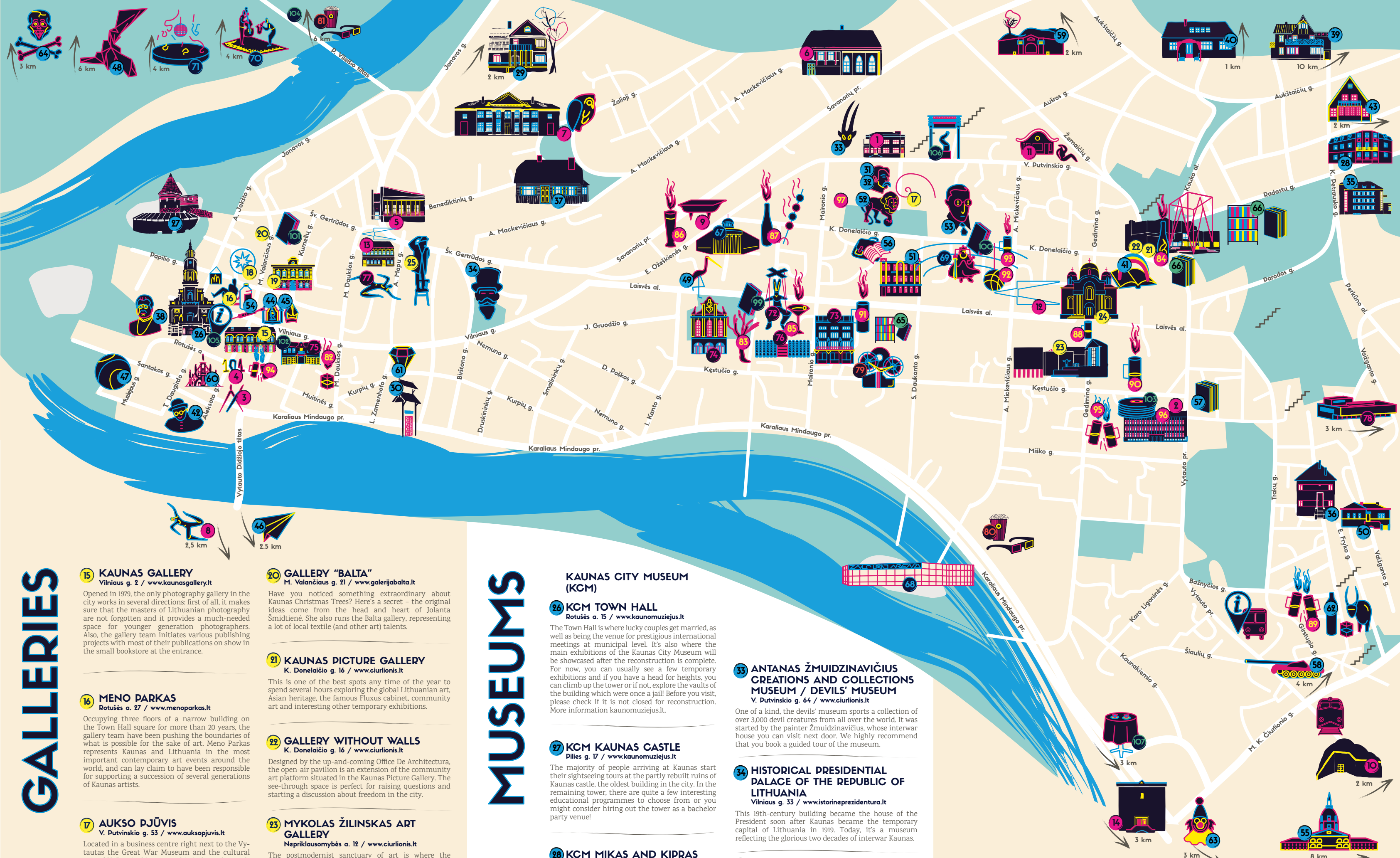
Kaunas was once a fortress city with remnants of its forts and related structures still scattered around the city and its suburbs. Parakas, a former gunpowder warehouse, is a perfect example of connecting brutal historical relics with an active community. The 19th-century soldiers couldn't imagine the warehouse would be used for exhibitions and electronic music performances!
- 11 LSMU PHILOSOPHY CENTRE (TO BE OPENED)**  
V. Putvinskio g. 14 / [www.lsmuni.lt](http://www.lsmuni.lt)

The famous philosopher Emmanuel Levinas was born in Kaunas. With this in mind, local philosopher Vytautas Bachmejevas pitched an idea a few years ago, for an Emmanuel Levinas square. The idea was supported and a small plot near the Žaliakalnis funicular became Emmanuel Levinas square, with a philosophy study centre to be opened next to it in a former French Embassy building.
- 12 KAUNAS 2022**  
Laisvės al. 36 / [www.kaunas2022.eu](http://www.kaunas2022.eu)

The ever-growing team of Kaunas 2022 are now located in a tastefully designed pink-blue office on the main pedestrian street - next to what used to be one of the busiest cinemas in the whole of Lithuania. You might need to prearrange a meeting with the team - as it's all hands on deck at the moment!
- 13 TEMPO SPACE**  
M. Daukšos g. 34 / [www.kaunas2022.eu](http://www.kaunas2022.eu)

"Tempo Academy" is one of the Kaunas 2022 programmes aimed at Kaunas's younger generation - especially those who will turn 22 in 2022. Attendees of the programme usually meet up in this former small theatre in the Old Town - check out their events calendar for open lectures and discussions on a mix of community art initiatives.
- 14 ŠANČIAI LIBRARY AND THE CONTEMPORARY ART AND SCIENCE CENTRE**  
Sandėlių g. 7

Although we have a separate section for Kaunas libraries, this particular place is worth a mention here as it also serves as a community hub and multifunctional art centre. Theatre, painting and sculpture classes attract locals, as well as it being the setting for local group discussions on a range of socially topical themes.



# GALLERIES

**15 KAUNAS GALLERY**  
Vilniaus g. 2 / [www.kaunasgallery.lt](http://www.kaunasgallery.lt)

Opened in 1979, the only photography gallery in the city works in several directions: first of all, it makes sure that the masters of Lithuanian photography are not forgotten and it provides a much-needed space for younger generation photographers. Also, the gallery team initiates various publishing projects with most of their publications on show in the small bookstore at the entrance.

**16 MENO PARKAS**  
Rotušės a. 27 / [www.menoparkas.lt](http://www.menoparkas.lt)

Occupying three floors of a narrow building on the Town Hall square for more than 20 years, the gallery team have been pushing the boundaries of what is possible for the sake of art. Meno Parkas represents Kaunas and Lithuania in the most important contemporary art events around the world, and can lay claim to have been responsible for supporting a succession of several generations of Kaunas artists.

**17 AUKSO PJŪVIS**  
V. Putvinskio g. 53 / [www.auksopjuvis.lt](http://www.auksopjuvis.lt)

Located in a business centre right next to the Vytautas the Great War Museum and the cultural axis of V. Putvinskio street, this independent gallery is responsible for livelying up the spaces of the building with art by Lithuanian and foreign artists.

**18 KAUNO LANGAS**  
M. Valančiaus g. 5 / [www.klangas.lt](http://www.klangas.lt)

The name of the gallery means the Window of Kaunas and just by gazing through its window you can see what the gallery is all about. Of course, you're invited to come inside and take a closer look at the selection of jewellery, watercolours, oil paintings and sculptures.

**19 PARKO GALLERY**  
M. Valančiaus g. 6 / [www.parkogalerija.lt](http://www.parkogalerija.lt)

The gallery is reminiscent of a nobleman's home, and its exhibitions represent a variety of different artists - all in keeping with the nostalgic kaunastic vibe.

**20 GALLERY "BALTA"**  
M. Valančiaus g. 21 / [www.galerijabalta.lt](http://www.galerijabalta.lt)

Have you noticed something extraordinary about Kaunas Christmas Trees? Here's a secret - the original ideas come from the head and heart of Jolanta Šmidtienė. She also runs the Balta gallery, representing a lot of local textile (and other art) talents.

**21 KAUNAS PICTURE GALLERY**  
K. Donelaičio g. 16 / [www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

This is one of the best spots any time of the year to spend several hours exploring the global Lithuanian art. Asian heritage, the famous Fluxus cabinet, community art and interesting other temporary exhibitions.

**22 GALLERY WITHOUT WALLS**  
K. Donelaičio g. 16 / [www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

Designed by the up-and-coming Office De Architectura, the open-air pavilion is an extension of the community art platform situated in the Kaunas Picture Gallery. The see-through space is perfect for raising questions and starting a discussion about freedom in the city.

**23 MYKOLAS ŽILINSKAS ART GALLERY**  
Nepriklausomybės a. 12 / [www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

The postmodernist sanctuary of art is where the Mykolas Žilinskas collection found its permanent home, alongside permanent exhibitions of ancient art and paintings by the likes of Rubens. The spaces within the gallery are often used by contemporary art festivals; there's also a cinema hall, and, in the basement, an exposition for the blind. Before you visit, please check if it is not closed for reconstruction. More information ciurlionis.lt.

**24 ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH (SOBOR)**  
Nepriklausomybės a. 14

If you happen to stroll by Soboras during the day, knock on the door and ask to be taken to the catacombs. There's an installation that you'll be invited to explore in complete darkness. We wonder if the vaults connect to the basement of the Žilinskas gallery.?

**25 KAUNAS CENTER OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**  
A. Mapu g. 30

Some artists come here for residencies, some older established artists invite the younger generation into their studios, and some exhibit their art in the gallery space. A statue of Abraham Mapu, a Hebrew-language writer that lived in Kaunas in the 1800's, welcomes the visitors.

# MUSEUMS

**KAUNAS CITY MUSEUM (KCM)**

**26 KCM TOWN HALL**  
Rotušės a. 15 / [www.kaunomuziejus.lt](http://www.kaunomuziejus.lt)

The Town Hall is where lucky couples get married, as well as being the venue for prestigious international meetings at municipal level. It's also where the main exhibitions of the Kaunas City Museum will be showcased after the reconstruction is complete. For now, you can usually see a few temporary exhibitions and if you have a head for heights, you can climb up the tower or if not, explore the vaults of the building which were once a jail! Before you visit, please check if it is not closed for reconstruction. More information kaunomuziejus.lt.

**27 KCM KAUNAS CASTLE**  
Dilys g. 17 / [www.kaunomuziejus.lt](http://www.kaunomuziejus.lt)

The majority of people arriving at Kaunas start their sightseeing tours at the partly rebuilt ruins of Kaunas castle, the oldest building in the city. In the remaining tower, there are quite a few interesting educational programmes to choose from or you might consider hiring out the tower as a bachelor party venue!

**28 KCM MIKAS AND KIPRAS PETRAUSKAI HOUSE**  
K. Petrauskio g. 31 / [www.kaunomuziejus.lt](http://www.kaunomuziejus.lt)

Kipras Petrauskas was the superstar of interwar Kaunas; the tenor singer lived in a fancy house in the street now named after him. The house still exists today and inside you can find out about the fantastic and glamorous history of Lithuanian music and theatre.

**29 KCM JUOZAS GRUODIS HOUSE**  
Salako g. 18 / [www.kaunomuziejus.lt](http://www.kaunomuziejus.lt)

The wooden villa on the outskirts of Žaliakalnis was designed by the renowned interwar architect Feliksas Vizbaras (he did the Central Post Office, too, among other buildings). It's where composer Juozas Gruodis and his wife lived - the museum staff will tell you all about the exciting couple. There's an apple tree in the garden planted by the composer. Call before you travel there, as it's only open by appointment.

**30 KCM FOLK MUSIC BRANCH**  
L. Zamenhofa g. 12 / [www.kaunomuziejus.lt](http://www.kaunomuziejus.lt)

Do you know what a kanklės is? In this museum, you'll see numerous examples of this beautiful ancient Lithuanian instrument, and you can climb the musical stairs and discover the thriving contemporary post-folklore subculture. If you happen to be around the museum on the first Monday of the month, you're more than welcome to join the traditional dance class.

**31 NATIONAL M. K. ČIURLIONIS MUSEUM OF ART**

**32 M. K. ČIURLIONIS GALLERY**  
V. Putvinskio g. 55 / [www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

Crowning the extensive network of Kaunas modernism is this quite astonishingly beautiful professional sculpture in Lithuania built himself a home right next to the Kaunas Art School where he taught. This house on Žikaras street is today a cosy little museum inseparable from the kaunastic vibe of the Owls Hill.

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**33 ANTANAS ŽMUIDZINAVIČIUS CREATIONS AND COLLECTIONS MUSEUM / DEVILS' MUSEUM**  
V. Putvinskio g. 64 / [www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

One of a kind, the devils' museum sports a collection of over 3,000 devil creatures from all over the world. It was started by the painter žmuidzinavičius, whose interwar house you can visit next door. We highly recommend that you book a guided tour of the museum.

**34 HISTORICAL PRESIDENTIAL PALACE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**  
Vilniaus g. 33 / [www.istorineprezidentura.lt](http://www.istorineprezidentura.lt)

This 19th-century building became the house of the President soon after Kaunas became the temporary capital of Lithuania in 1919. Today, it's a museum reflecting the glorious two decades of interwar Kaunas.

**35 ADELĖ AND PAULIUS GALAUNĖS HOUSE**  
Vydydno g. 2 / [www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

The house of Galaunės - the head of the Čiurlionis museum and his first wife, a singer - was the place to be for the Kaunas elite back in the swinging interwar period. Today, it's a must-see for those into art deco.

**36 LIUDAS TRUKYS AND MARIJONA RAKAUSKAITĖ HOUSE-MUSEUM**  
E. Fryko g. 14 / [www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

The bohemian home of the scenographer and the soprano singer was once the hotspot of the Lithuanian art elite. The dedicated museum staff will tell you all about it and the fascinating interior of the apartment that remains pretty much as it was when this couple lived in it.

**37 JUOZAS ŽIKARAS HOUSE-MUSEUM**  
J. Žikaro g. 3 / [www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

The sculptor of the Freedom statue and a pioneer of professional sculpture in Lithuania built himself a home right next to the Kaunas Art School where he taught. This house on Žikaras street is today a cosy little museum inseparable from the kaunastic vibe of the Owls Hill.

**38 MAIRONIS LITHUANIAN LITERATURE MUSEUM**  
Rotušės a. 15 / [www.maironiomuziejus.lt](http://www.maironiomuziejus.lt)

"All of my furniture, books, painting and everything else with at least some historical value should be moved to a museum bearing my name," requested Maironis, a priest and one of the best-known romantic Lithuanian poets. His palace on the Town Hall Square consequently became the museum he wanted as well as becoming the museum of Lithuanian literature. Inside here, the newly renovated flat of the poet is an interesting example of early 20th-century interior design. Visit the garden too, if the weather permits.



WELCOME TO KAUNAS, THE FUTURE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE, A PLACE FULL OF UNEXPECTED CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS. THIS KAUNASTIC ROUTE INVITES YOU TO VISIT THE NUMEROUS MUSEUMS, GALLERIES, CONCERT HALLS AND OTHER CULTURAL HUBS IN OUR CITY. "CULTURE SHOCK" IS PRECISELY WHAT INGA NAVICKAITĖ, THE ILLUSTRATOR OF THE MAP, SAID WHEN SHE SAW THE LIST OF OBJECTS TO DRAW. IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT A WEEKEND IN KAUNAS IS NOT ENOUGH TO VISIT ALL OF THE PLACES WE'VE INCLUDED. MOREOVER, THE PLACES KEEP CHANGING THEIR APPEARANCE, REPERTOIRE AND EXHIBITIONS, SO THE ROUTE IS ACTUALLY ENDLESS. MAKE SURE TO REVISIT US IN 2022 FOR THE ULTIMATE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE EXPERIENCE.



# MUSEUMS



## 39 S. NĖRIS AND B. BUČAS HOUSE-MUSEUM

S. Nėries g. 7 / [www.maironiomuziejus.lt](http://www.maironiomuziejus.lt)

The legacy of Salomėja Nėris is a much-discussed topic, as she was one of the leaders of the cultural elite that helped establish communism in Lithuania. Nevertheless, it's quite inspiring to visit the house of the poet, built by her husband, the sculptor Bernardas Bučas, on the outskirts of Kaunas. Take a notepad and a pen with you – divine inspiration may well strike!

## 40 JUOZAS GRUŠAS HOUSE-MUSEUM

Kalnietčių g. 93 / [www.maironiomuziejus.lt](http://www.maironiomuziejus.lt)

The name 'Grušas' is similar to the word 'pear' in Lithuanian, which is how the writer would sometimes sign his texts. The pioneer of Lithuanian tragedy and tragicomedy juggled many forms of literature and, in 1936, even designed himself this house.

## 41 CHILDREN LITERATURE MUSEUM

K. Donelaičio g. 13 / [www.maironiomuziejus.lt](http://www.maironiomuziejus.lt)

One way to understand the Lithuanian mentality and character is to find out what it inspires they heard and what characters they followed when they were little. This colourful museum is the best way to do that. You can even dress up and wear some costumes.

## 42 JUOZAS TUMAS-VAIŽGANTAS MEMORIAL FLAT-MUSEUM

Aleksoto g. 10 – 4 / [www.maironiomuziejus.lt](http://www.maironiomuziejus.lt)

The important observations of Lithuanian society written by the priest Vaižgantas, seem as fresh today as the day he wrote them. The yellow canaries kept by the museum staff are exactly the same type as those kept by the priest when he lived in the flat more than 90 years ago!

## 43 BALYS AND VANDA SRUOGOS HOUSE-MUSEUM

B. Sruogos g. 21 / [www.maironiomuziejus.lt](http://www.maironiomuziejus.lt)

The street where the author of "The Forest of the Gods" (a memoir of Stutthof concentration camp, available in English) used to live was named after him after the writer's death. His family house is now a museum.

## 44 MUSEUM OF THE KAUNAS ARCHDIOCESE

## 45 CARDINAL VICENTAS SLADKEVICIUS MEMORIAL FLAT

M. Valančiaus g. 6 / [www.kaunaorknyviskupija.lt/kam](http://www.kaunaorknyviskupija.lt/kam)

The former bishops' palace was, as the name suggests, the home of many bishops of Kaunas. The last one to reside here inside a modest flat full of paintings and books was Vincentas Sladkevičius who died in 2000. The palace hosts an exciting exhibition dedicated to "The Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania", which was the longest-running and best-known self-published periodical during the Soviet occupation.

## 46 LITHUANIAN AVIATION MUSEUM

Veiverių g. 132 / [www.lam.lt](http://www.lam.lt)

Located in the aerodrome of S. Darius and S. Girėnas (named after the pilots who flew across the Atlantic in 1931 but who tragically crashed short of their final destination), the museum offers an interesting mixed bag of exhibits that trace many aspects of Lithuanian aviation history, with some great historical aircraft relics exhibited outside. Before you visit, please check if it is not closed for reconstruction. More information lam.lt

## 47 LITHUANIAN SPORTS MUSEUM

Muziejus g. 7 / [www.lietuovsportomuziejus.lt](http://www.lietuovsportomuziejus.lt)

Shoes, bikes, balls, goblets, medals and thousands of other sports memorabilia are on display in the collection of this unique museum that, considering the rich history of sports in Kaunas, could not have been opened anywhere else. It even has separate sections for circus and boxing.

## 48 KAUNAS NINTH FORT MUSEUM

Žemaitių pl. 37 / [www.9fortomuziejus.lt](http://www.9fortomuziejus.lt)

The gigantic monument by Alfonsas Vincentas Ambrazūnas, Gediminas Baravykas and Vytautas Vielius, erected some 30 years ago, is one of the most awe-inspiring landmarks of Kaunas – and a reminder of all the blood that was spilt here. Before WW2, the Ninth Fort of the Kaunas Fortress was used as a jail. Later, thousands of Jews were killed here, coming from local vicinities and also transported in from other countries occupied by Nazi Germany. There is also a museum presenting the painful chapters of this period of history open here.

## 49 KAUNAS TADAS IVANAUSKAS ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Laisvės al. 106 / [www.zoomuziejus.lt](http://www.zoomuziejus.lt)

Tadas Ivanauskas – a zoologist, botanist and one of the biggest nature enthusiasts in Lithuanian history – was the Indiana Jones of his time and liked to bring exotic exhibits to Lithuania. Opened in 1919, this museum celebrates its centenary in 2019. Until the soviet invasion in 1940, the current building of the museum was once the HQ of the Jewish National Bank, with some parts of this art deco building still visible on the third floor of the museum.

## 50 SUGIHARA HOUSE

Vaizganto g. 30 / [www.sugiharahouse.com](http://www.sugiharahouse.com)

The modernist villa in Žalikaiškis attracts thousands of Japanese and Israeli visitors every year. This is where the Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara resided and issued life visas for war refugees, and together with Dutch diplomat Jan Zwartendijk, he saved thousands of lives. Today, the house is a small museum that tells the story of Sugihara.

## 51 PRESIDENT VALDAS ADAMKUS LIBRARY

S. Daukanto g. 25 / [www.adamkuslibrary.lt](http://www.adamkuslibrary.lt)

The first in Lithuania and one of only a few in Europe, this presidential library is located in a former Ministry of Foreign affairs building. This is a great place to get to know more about Valdas Adamkus, the Kaunas-born American Lithuanian and ex-President (1998-2003, 2004-2009), who's still considered one of the great moral leaders of the country. Discussions, book presentations and exhibition openings often take place here.

## 52 VYTAUTAS THE GREAT WAR MUSEUM

K. Donelaičio g. 64 / [www.vdkaromuziejus.lt](http://www.vdkaromuziejus.lt)

Soon after Lithuania declared its independence in 1918, talks began about a museum that would represent the history of our country. This building (with half of it being the National M. K. Čiurlionis Museum of Art) was financed by many patriotic citizens and the foundation was built on soil brought from war fields. The huge size of the museum is a monument to Vytautas the Great, one of the most important early historical leaders of the nation. Outside, there is a carillon tower accompanying the main building, as well as an open-air sculpture garden.

## 53 MUSEUM OF S. AND S. LOZORAICAIAI VMU HISTORY HALL

K. Donelaičio g. 58 / [www.vdu.lt](http://www.vdu.lt)

The VMU rectorate building once hosted the Lithuanian Cabinet of the Ministers. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stasys Lozoraitis, lived here with his family in 1935-1939. A permanent exhibition reflecting the history of Lithuanian diplomacy was recently opened in its historic halls.

## 54 MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF LITHUANIAN MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

Dotušių a. 28 / [www.lsmuni.lt](http://www.lsmuni.lt)

A delightful little museum tells all about the history of healing. From shamanic rituals to a picturesque vintage pharmacy – there's a lot to see and explore. There's also a special exhibition focusing on the history of medical education in Kaunas.

## 55 SACRAL HERITAGE MUSEUM OF THE PAŽAISLIS MONASTERY

T. Masiulio g. 31 / [www.pazaislis.org](http://www.pazaislis.org)

This baroque ensemble is worth a day trip, and you're welcome to stay in a hospitality complex located right here in the monastery if a day isn't enough. Don't forget to visit the museum library in the southern annex built in the early 18th century.

## 56 KTU MUSEUM

K. Donelaičio g. 73 / [www.ktu.lt](http://www.ktu.lt)

A museum only for the die-hard who are interested in academic historical artefacts. Here you will find an interesting mix of objects such as archived exhibits from 1930 onwards: collections of devices from laboratories; teaching tools from the inter-war period; and various documents and personal items from university groups and teaching staff over the years.

## 57 LITHUANIAN EDUCATION HISTORY MUSEUM

Vytauto pr. 52 / [www.lsim.lt](http://www.lsim.lt)

One of the oldest – yet very modern – museums in Lithuania covers both the misty epoch of dark classrooms and secret homeschooling and the education of young Lithuanians in exile.

## 58 SIXTH FORT

K. Bariauskio g. / [www.atfort.kaunas.lt](http://www.atfort.kaunas.lt)

Before WW2, this fortress was used as a prison and then during WW2 there were approximately 35,000 POWs were killed here. Later, a hill of crosses was created to commemorate the thousands of victims. By the end of 2019, a substantial military history exhibition will be installed here.

## 59 SEVENTH FORT

Archyvo g. 61 / [www.septintasfortas.lt](http://www.septintasfortas.lt)

This fort is the only one within the network of Kaunas fortresses that never witnessed any military action. During the Nazi occupation, it was the first concentration camp on Lithuanian soil. More than 5,000 Jews were killed here. Today, the fort is home to a nongovernmental education institution, hosting events for visitors throughout the year.

## 60 PERKŪNAS (THUNDER) HOUSE

Aleksoto g. 6 / [www.perkunonamas.lt](http://www.perkunonamas.lt)

This is one of the oldest buildings in Kaunas and is a splendid example of gothic architecture. Don't just visit the house – take part in a medieval dance class, eat a merchant's dinner or learn how to sew a hood.

## 61 GEMOLOGY MUSEUM

Kurpių g. 13 / [dusafrai.weebly.com](http://dusafrai.weebly.com)

One of the very few privately owned museums in Kaunas is in fact very popular due to the nature of its exhibits! There's also a shop inside for those who can afford diamonds, and if you can't afford a diamond for your beloved, you can always show it to him or her!

## 62 STUMBRAS MUSEUM

K. Būgos g. 7 / [www.stumbras.lt](http://www.stumbras.lt)

Cancel your afternoon plans, call your friends and take them to the alchemistic museum of spirits and liqueurs that's only open for scheduled visits. Yes, a tasting is included in every excursion.

## 63 CLOWN MUSEUM

Drobų g. 31 / [www.pirkas.lt](http://www.pirkas.lt)

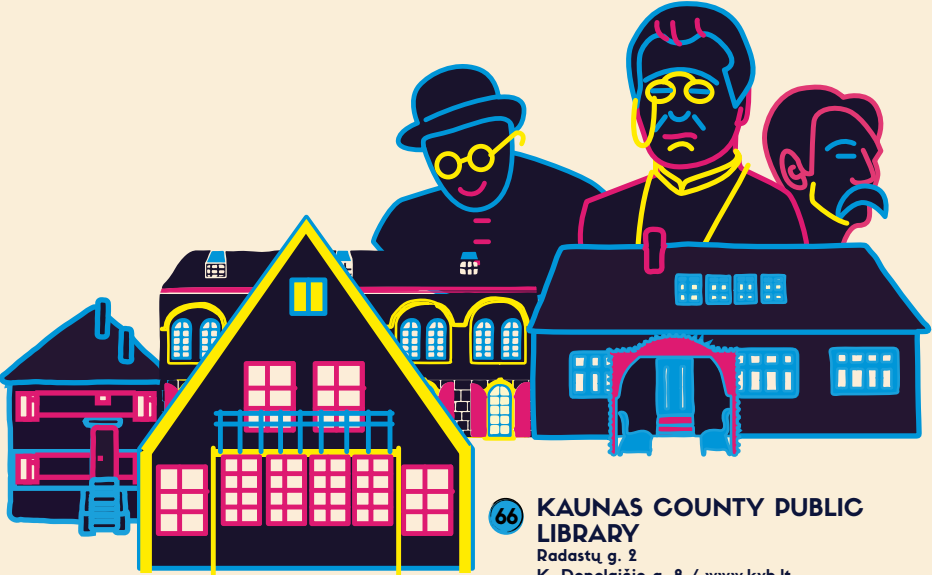
This colourful wooden house ensemble in the Šančiai neighbourhood is where a local circus hibernates during the cold months, and where the artists have a collection of more than 3000 clowns!

## 64 ATOMIC BUNKER

Raudondvario pl. 164A / [www.atominisbunkeris.lt](http://www.atominisbunkeris.lt)

A private museum founded in a bunker some six metres under ground. The museum houses a wonderfully bizarre collection of over 1,200 unusual functioning exhibits. Included in the bunker is a KGB spy museum where you can discover and handle secret surveillance equipment and devices, apparently used by the KGB and special militia divisions.

# LIBRARIES



## 66 KAUNAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dodastų g. 2 K. Donelaičio g. 8 / [www.kvb.lt](http://www.kvb.lt)

This postmodernist castle of books in a park area at the top of Parodos Hill is home to the only kaunastic department in the world. That is, if you read Lithuanian and need to dig up something about Kaunas, this would be an excellent place to start. The public library often hosts exhibitions, discussions, film screenings and other cultural events, mostly in Lithuanian. The library on K. Donelaičio Street also has a department of rare publications.

## 65 KAUNAS VINCAS KUDIRKA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Laisvės al. 57 / [kaunas.mvb.lt](http://kaunas.mvb.lt)

The extensive network of library departments covers much of Kaunas. Each branch has its own distinctive face. This central library in Laisvės alėja is a meeting spot for local intellectuals, the Kuzmickis branch in Žalikaiškis has a toy and game section, and the Old Town branch has a vinyl record collection.

## 67 KAUNAS STATE PHILHARMONIC

L. Sapiegos g. 5 / [www.kaunofilharmonija.lt](http://www.kaunofilharmonija.lt)

Designed by another prolific city architect of the 1920s and 30s, Edmundas Frykas. Originally the Ministry of Justice Palace. It became a music hall after Lithuania was occupied by the Soviets. It's now the home of Kaunas City Symphonic Orchestra and Kaunas City Choir. Concerts are held there almost every day, and there are usually tickets available on the door.

## 68 ŽALGIRIO ARENA

Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50 / [www.zalgiriaarena.lt](http://www.zalgiriaarena.lt)

The place to watch live basketball and concerts on every level from small local acts to platinum discs and award winning international bands, singers and performers. The arena is the biggest and the best in the Baltics!

## 69 VMU MAIN HALL

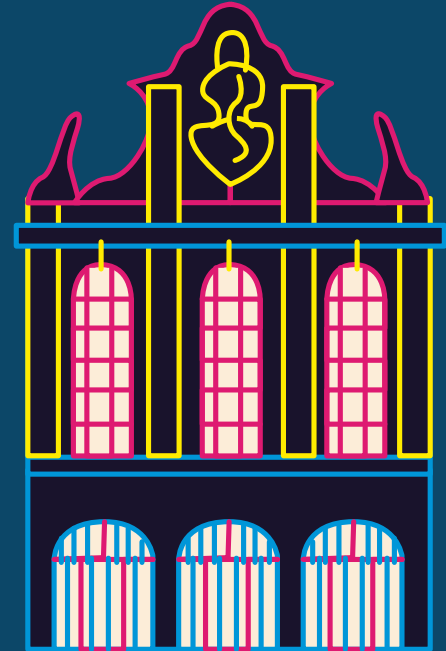
S. Daukanto g. 28 / [www.vdu.lt](http://www.vdu.lt)

From Kaunas Jazz to Brechtian Punk Cabaret, African folk music to contemporary dance theatre: the hall means much more to the city than your average university hall, and it's usually busy all year round.

## 70 JAZZ ACADEMY

Baltų pr. 34 / [www.jazz-academy.org](http://www.jazz-academy.org)

Located in the Šilainiai neighbourhood, this is one of the smallest concert halls in Kaunas with only 49 seats, and most of the time these are taken by the future stars of Lithuanian jazz who participate in master-classes organised by the academy. International guests are frequent attendees and participants at this peculiar institution.



## 71 RENGINIŲ OAZĖ

Baltų pr. 16

The venue is indeed an oasis for events in the Šilainiai neighbourhood, and hosts everything from talk shows and poetry readings to Lithuanian pop and rock acts.

## 72 KAUNAS STATE PUPPET THEATRE

Laisvės al. 87A / [www.kaunales.lt](http://www.kaunales.lt)

Thousands of Kaunas residents grew up watching puppet shows here in this former cinema, and now take their children to watch many of the same shows. There's also a small museum full of puppets from plays that are no longer shown.

## 73 NATIONAL KAUNAS DRAMA THEATRE

Laisvės al. 71 / [www.dramateatras.lt](http://www.dramateatras.lt)

Wafting clouds of perfume in and around the entrance to this imposing building on any given evening usually means a performance in the drama theatre has just started. Extremely popular and highly valued by the best directors and actors in the country, tickets for shows here are usually sold out well in advance. Some of the performances are shown with English subtitles.

## 74 KAUNAS STATE MUSICAL THEATRE

Laisvės al. 91 / [www.muzikinisteatras.lt](http://www.muzikinisteatras.lt)

Built as the Kaunas city theatre at the end of the 19th century, it was the epicentre of many important events of Lithuanian history. Today, the Kaunas State Musical Theatre is the best place in the region to see classical operas and operettas, as well as brave new interpretations of established musical drama performances.

## 75 THEATRE CLUB

Vilniaus g. 22 / [www.teatroklubas.lt](http://www.teatroklubas.lt)

Above Galeria Urbana, the venue is an excellent place to watch a play or to listen to great and sometimes even legendary jazz acts and other musicians.

## 76 KAUNAS CITY CHAMBER THEATRE

Kęstučio g. 74A / [www.kamerinisteatras.lt](http://www.kamerinisteatras.lt)

A smaller creative space for younger, less established artists, dancers and performers of every persuasion.

## 77 KAUNAS DANCE THEATRE AURA

M. Daukšos g. 30A / [www.aura.lt](http://www.aura.lt)

Aura – the international dance troupe led by Birutė Letukaitė – have their base here, but their spectacular performances are watched by fans in surprising locations, streets, and spaces in and around the city.

## 78 GIRSTUTIS

Kovo 11-osios g. 26 / [www.girstutis.lt](http://www.girstutis.lt)

Far from the bustling centre of the city in an outlying neighbourhood, is this Soviet-built cultural centre that provides a much-needed space for performances by theatres from outside Kaunas, including some of the major players from Vilnius.

# CINEMAS

Kaunas has a close affinity to cinema partly due to having had dozens of cinemas in the city during the interwar period. Sadly there are not as many functioning ones today although many of the former cinema buildings do remain! Nevertheless, Kaunas is improving its reputation in the international sphere of film and cinema and regularly attracting world-class directors and actors. This is all thanks to the Kaunas Film Office. Find out more: [www.kaunasfilmooffice.com](http://www.kaunasfilmooffice.com).

## 79 KAUNAS CINEMA CENTRE ROMUVA

Laisvės al. 54 / [www.kcoromuva.lt](http://www.kcoromuva.lt)

The modernist cinema built just before WW2 (the oldest in the country!) is home to the most important festivals of the genre, as well as Lithuanian movie premieres and various other initiatives created by the imaginative team. After the renovation, the building is a multifunctional centre and serves to all kinds of arts.

## 80 GALERIA URBANA

Vilniaus g. 22

After visiting the objects of interest in the Old Town, sitting down in this urban taverna is a kaunastic thing to do. Its menu is subtly architectural, and the toilets have a unique mini photo gallery of Soviet apartment buildings.

## 83 GODO

Laisvės al. 89

Inspired by Beckett's Waiting for Godot, the hip (hipster, too) café is situated at the crossroads between four principal theatres in Kaunas. It's an inviting and cosy spot to take time out to relax and perhaps read a book. Evenings are mostly reserved for DJs, but an occasional nude drawing class is what makes the bar truly kaunastic.

## 84 KULTŪRA

K. Donelaičio g. 16

This time capsule café bar located in the Kaunas Picture Gallery is not only surrounded by art but is itself characterised by its artistic interior. Posters from historical exhibitions and unexpected interior details will nourish your brain and provide you with the appetite to order from a much applauded kitchen – it's a must visit in Kaunas!

## 85 KAMERINIS

Kęstučio g. 74A

Kamerinis, the youngest member of the Kultūra family, is a spot that filled the void at the Kaunas City Chamber Theatre and comes complete with a self built greenhouse in the courtyard.

## 86 SCIENCE CAFE

E. Ožėskienės g. 7 / [www.mokslokavine.lt](http://www.mokslokavine.lt)

Ideal for those looking for something contemporarily healthy and tasty, its also a space for workshops, pop-up flea markets and other mindful activities. Here you can choose from a selection of everything that is healthy and delicious. The staff are also open to suggestions on ideas for workshops or other cultural activities.

## 87 HOME OF GEORGIAN ART AND TASTE

K. Donelaičio g. 91 / [www.gruzijospasaulis.lt](http://www.gruzijospasaulis.lt)

Try the training course on Georgian cooking or take part in the events where food is accompanied by exhibitions or presentations by contemporary Georgian artists. Pre-booking is necessary.

## 88 LIZDAS

Nepricklausomybės a. 12

You might get several recommendations about nightlife in Kaunas, but Lizdas is a 100% guarantee if you're into contemporary electronic dance music. Some of the most exciting international artists trust this venue, so why shouldn't we? Secretly located in the basement of the M. Žilinskas Art Gallery.

## 89 LEMMY

Girstutis g. 1

Rumour has it that the direct flight from Turku, Finland to Kaunas was heavily influenced by the existence of this live music club. The truth is that no other club in the region is capable of inviting that many quality bands representing the heavier and darker metal musical genres: it's called Lemmy for a good reason!

Books, music, paintings, clothes, design objects and historical artefacts, all made, invented, or inspired in Kaunas, all make great kaunastic souvenirs. These are the spots we usually recommend for our foreign guests looking for gifts. In fact, most museums and galleries have their own gift shops that usually stock items (books and albums, that is) that are often sold out elsewhere.

## 99 KAUNAS CENTRAL BOOKSTORE

Laisvės al. 81 / [www.pegasas.lt](http://www.pegasas.lt)

## 100 BOOKSTORE KALBU CENTRAS

K. Donelaičio g. 61 / [www.humanitas.lt](http://www.humanitas.lt)

## 101 SECOND-HAND BOOKSTORE ŽMONIŲ KNYGOS

M. Valančiaus g. 16 / [www.zmoniu knygos.lt](http://www.zmoniu knygos.lt)

## 102 KURO NEKO

Vilniaus g. 14 / [www.kuroneko.lt](http://www.kuroneko.lt)

## 103 VINYL SHOP PLOKŠTELIU PARDUOTUVĖ

Kęstučio g. 7 / [www.ploksteliuparduotuve.lt](http://www.ploksteliuparduotuve.lt)

## 80 FORUM CINEMAS

Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 49 / [www.forumcinemas.lt](http://www.forumcinemas.lt)

Located in the Akropolis shopping mall, Kaunas Forum Cinemas is the first multiplex cinema in Lithuania to have the SCAPE auditorium, making it the best place to indulge yourself in the latest blockbusters.

## 81 CINAMON KAUNAS

Islandijos pl. 32 / [www.cinamonkino.com/mega](http://www.cinamonkino.com/mega)

This is another modern multiplex cinema on the outskirts of the city but a perfect spot for a relaxing movie after a shopping spree in the MEGA mall. Its conveniently located on the main highway between Vilnius and Klaipėda.

## 90 PUNTOJAZZ

Kęstučio g. 6

Not only jazz, this cosy attic is a great spot to listen to what's happening in the Lithuanian indie and alternative music circles.

## 91 DŽEM'PUB

Laisvės al. 59

You haven't studied in Kaunas unless you've failed at least one exam after a night in Džem'pub. The pub also provides calmer events such as pub quizzes, stand-up comedy nights and political debates, as well as live indie gigs, and has a fantastic view of Laisvės Al. from its fifth floor balcony. Rocktheques usually follow all of the above.

## 92 SOCIAL CENTRE EMMA

A. Mickėvičiaus g. 35

Emma Goldman was called the most dangerous woman in America by the FBI, but did you know she was born in Kaunas? We don't know much about the anarchist's childhood, but there's a lively community centre named after her. Inside, you'll find a small library of mainly reference books, a space for discussions and a schedule of events that regularly includes debates, film screenings and live music gigs.

## 93 VINGIU DUBINGIU

A. Mickėvičiaus g. 35 / [www.vingiu dubingiu.com](http://www.vingiu dubingiu.com)

Ah yes, a real bar with a huge selection of bottled beers and a regular mix of tap beers. There's no better place to discuss a new book on semiotics, especially in the cold months, when the vast windows of the pub are covered in mist. The vibe, the selection of beers and the backyard are what make the place genuinely kaunastic – we can't remember how we lived before it opened a few years ago.

## 94 BO

Muitinės g. 9

## 95 B2O

Gedimino g. 30

Well into its third decade, B2O still keeps its recipe for eternal youth. One of the long-haired men dressed in black leather, now it's beloved by foreigners studying in Kaunas. If these walls could talk, they would never stop. The second bar by the same owners is dedicated to generations that matured in the first one – it also fits in a piano and occasional jam sessions.

## 96 VYTAUTAS/KĘSTUTIS

Vytauto pr. 79

Vytauto and Kęstučio are the names of the streets surrounding the building. These are also Lithuanian ducks' names, inspiring historical figures – finally, they meet in this stylish café in downtown Kaunas! Its interior resembles Kaunas Cultural Centre's modernist architecture and reminds us of the golden interwar era in Kaunas.

## 97 DONELAIČIO

K. Donelaičio g. 66

The latest trend of naming restaurants and bars in Kaunas is looking at the street signs next to them. This colourful spot full of interesting interior details and artworks follows the tradition. The building itself brings nostalgic feelings to many kaunastians!

## 98 O KODĖ NE?

Perkūno al. 1

The name of the place is asking you "Why not?". Why not climb up Parodos Hill and find this white wooden house hidden behind an ancient Soviet amusement park? Why not spend a night here, enjoying leftfield electronic music and meeting strangers? Why not, really?

# #KAUNASFULLOFCULTURE

## Kaunas Full of Culture

Kaunas Full of Culture is a monthly magazine (Lithuanian only) distributed free of charge in bars, shops, cafés, and places of interest all around Kaunas and Vilnius. With its colorful covers, the mag is all about inspirational personalities and little stories about Kaunas, often mixed with snippets of history, fun, advice, and futuristic predictions. The English version can be found online.

Follow the magazine on instagram: @kaunaspilnaskulturos

## KAH Culture Information Centre

The staff at the Kaunas Artists' House are all in the loop of the cultural shenanigans in Kaunas, and they're eager to tell you all about it: which exhibitions are necessary to visit, which concerts are not to be missed and which museum is most relevant at the moment. Events, routes and reliable recommendations in one place: both live, at V. Putvinskio St. 56, either virtually - in the online calendar of Kaunas cultural events [www.kultura.kaunas.lt](http://www.kultura.kaunas.lt). They've got kaunastic maps, too!

## MORE KAUNASTIC ROUTES

Wondering what to do next? Great news – we've been publishing illustrated maps since 2015. Here are some of the themed routes available in English:

Welcome to Kaunas  
Modernist's Guide  
Wallographer's Notes  
The Litvak Landscape  
The Litvaks of Slobodka  
The Sugihara Route  
Gastro Guide  
The Ethnic Trail  
Kid-Sized Kaunas

The City of Champions  
Culture Shock  
Double Weekend  
A Hanseatic Merchant's story  
Kaunas in Film  
100 Years of Theatre  
Kaunas Fortress  
Around Kaunas with a Diplomat

More of the "Culture Shock" and other kaunastic routes you can find in the digital version on [www.kaunastika.lt](http://www.kaunastika.lt).

## USEFUL HASHTAGS

#kaunastic #visitkaunas #kaunaspilnas

## TOURISM INFORMATION



"KAUNAS IN"

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info@kaunasin.lt | visit.kaunas.lt

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# LET'S MEET

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS

FLACON