



The most important building in the Town Hall Square is Town Hall. Construction began in 1542. The stately building is filled with a Gothic, Baroque, and early Classicist spirit; a tall, slender tower like a swan's neck sprouts in the sky the main facade. Town Hall is often referred to as the White Swan because of its shape and colour. Its 53 meter-high tower is the tallest in the Old Town. The current Town Hall is not the first in Kaunas. The preceding one was destroyed by fire and then rebuilt. Through various

## TOP

## KAUNAS TOWN HALL

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-  II-VI 10:00 - 18:00, VII 10:00 - 16:00



centuries, the purpose of the Town Hall changed: this is where the city markets, fairs, and trials took place; 9 wax melting furnaces, a prison, and warehouses were operated under the Town Hall building cobblestones. Currently, the Town Hall holds ceremonies and official events. At the town hall entrance you can see a unique 15th century wax melting furnace. **One of Kaunas City Museum department** is located in the Town Hall ([www.kaunomuziejus.lt](http://www.kaunomuziejus.lt)). Its departments accumulate works of city history, science and industry, culture and the arts, and archaeology, as well as audiovisual materials. It is symbolic that the museum unveiled a commemorative plaque to Władysław Starewicz, a puppet animation pioneer, often called the European Walt Disney. Starewicz worked in the building for a while. A memorial plaque to him is held by insect sculptures depicting the director and three main cartoon characters: a stag-beetle, an ant, and a grasshopper.

Photo: A.Aleksandravičius