

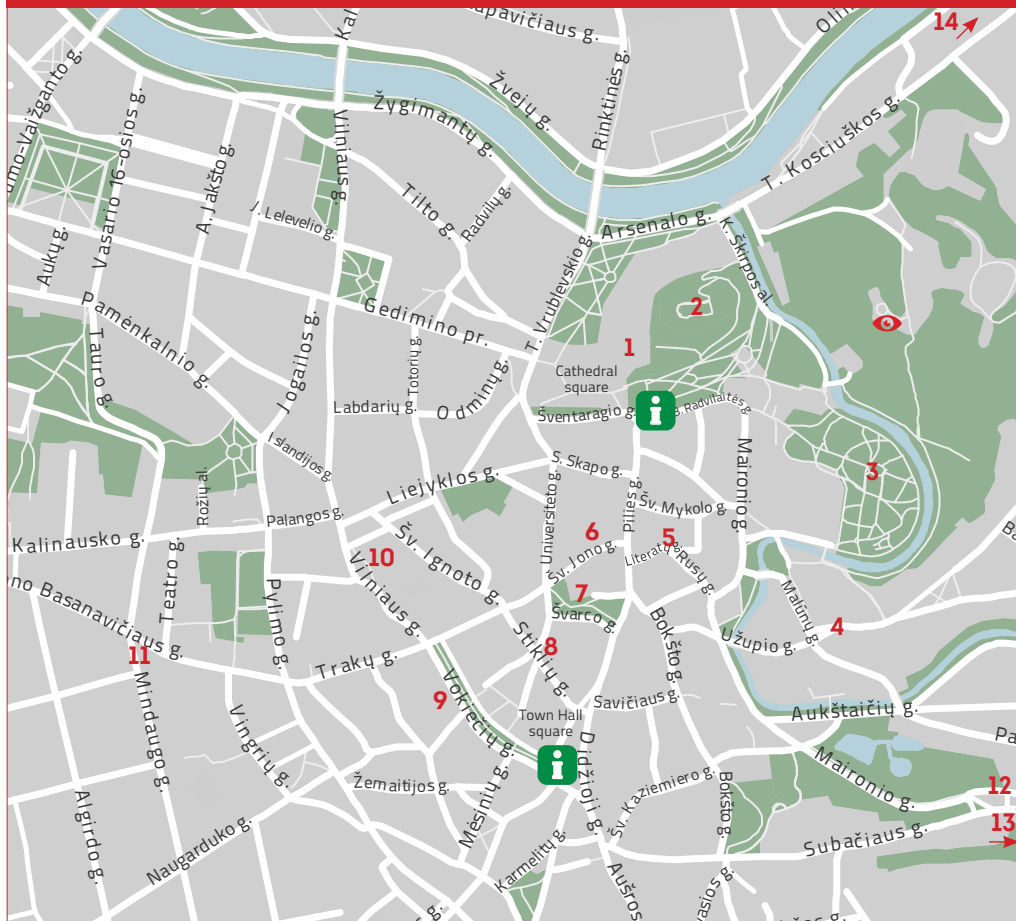
YOUR LOVE STORY IN VILNIUS



VILNIUS



MAP



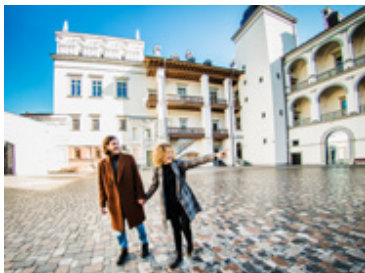
© Go Vilnius 2019

Photos - Monika Krilavičienė, Saulius Žiūra,
Audrius Dzimidavičius, Tomas Šimkus

WWW.VILNIUS-TOURISM.LT

Vilnius, Lithuania's capital and one of the UNESCO World Heritage Journeys' Romantic Europe destinations, is a city that inspires love. You don't have to search too hard to find it either; every corner has a romantic story to tell. Even a short getaway to Vilnius will make you fall in love with the city – the narrow streets of the Old Town, long walks in the luscious parks, the urban landscapes to behold from a hot-air balloon, or a romantic dinner for two are sure to hold a special place in your heart. Get to know Vilnius and let it be love at first sight.

WHAT TO VISIT

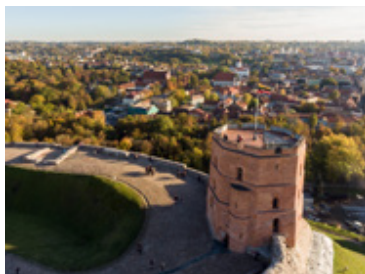


1. THE PALACE OF THE GRAND DUKES OF LITHUANIA

Katedros a. 4

A great reminder of Lithuania's ancient past, the palace tells the story of the country's growth and emergence. It offers a special treat for all romantics – a charming place for walks and relaxation in a restored Renaissance garden founded in the 16th century by Bona Sforca, the Queen of Poland and Grand Duchess of Lithuania. A few hundred years ago, the garden probably served as a backdrop to the Grand Duke of Lithuania Sigismund II Augustus confessions of love to his wife Barbara

Radziwiłł. Today, the garden still serves as a refuge for lovers in the heart of the city. Myrtles, oranges, and paradise apples bloom here, creating a Mediterranean atmosphere.



2. GEDIMINAS' TOWER

Arsenalų g. 5

One of the city's most recognisable symbols visible from afar serves as a reminder of the romantic legend of Vilnius. This was the hill where the Iron Wolf appeared to Gediminas, the first Grand Duke of Lithuania, in a dream. Thus began the story of Vilnius in the 14th century. Although only the remains of the Upper Castle still exist, the restored tower is an integral part of the city. Gediminas' Hill and Tower offer impressive panoramas of the Old Town – the red roofs of Vilnius, the church towers and the narrow streets look stunning.



3. BERNARDINE GARDEN

Maironio g.

Created in 1469, the garden is still open in the heart of the Old Town and remains a favourite place for a romantic stroll. The Vilnia River flowing by is soothing and it's lovely to simply sit down on a nearby bench and listen to it over a game of checkers. The musical fountain in the centre of the park spreads its songs throughout the green space. The Vilnia River Valley was once a sacred grove, and the Old Town's oldest oak tree is still growing in the park.



*Sigismund II Augustus and
Barbara Radziwiłł | 16th century*

The most famous Lithuanian love story might even surpass that of Romeo and Juliet. The legend of the undying love between Sigismund II Augustus, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, and his wife Barbara Radziwiłł, has been alive for 500 years. Sigismund II Augustus used to visit Barbara Radziwiłł via a secret tunnel before they were married. Sigismund II Augustus was ready to sacrifice the future of his kingdom to marry the woman whose beauty is still talked about today. Unfortunately, their marriage didn't last too long, but despite the early death of Barbara Radziwiłł, their love is still alive to this day.



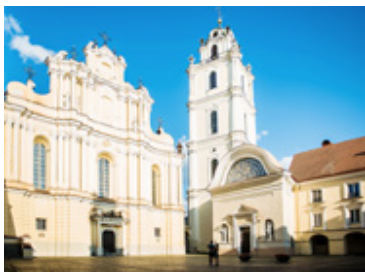
4. UŽUPIS

"Everyone has the right to love," reads the constitution of the self-proclaimed independent republic of Užupis, which is translated into more than 25 languages. Surprises await at every turn in this bohemian district: art installations, murals, and spectacular panoramic views of the Old Town. Lovers often leave a love lock on the Užupis Bridge, while the mermaid right by the bridge tempts all travellers to fall in love with the area and stay there forever.



5. LITERATŲ STREET

Adam Mickiewicz, the famous Lithuanian and Polish poet, lived on this street at the beginning of the 19th century, when it was populated with printing houses and bookstores. Today, the walls along the street are famous for over 200 pieces of art dedicated to Lithuanian and foreign authors. It's a truly unconventional open-air gallery where the love of literature is manifested in the form of creative tiles.



6. ST. JOHNS' CHURCH BELL TOWER

Šv. Jono g. 12

This church tower is one of the most beautiful places to get a bird's-eye view of the roofs of Vilnius Old Town. Built in the 17th century, the Bell Tower of St. Johns' Church has 193 authentic wooden steps (or a modern lift) that take you up to the 45-metre high observation platform. The tallest building in the Old Town offers spectacular views of the stunning St. Anne's Church, Gediminas' Tower, and the oldest street in the city – Pilies Street.



*Sophie de Choiseul-Gouffier
and Alexander I | 19th century*

It is believed that the first Lithuanian novelist, Sophie de Choiseul-Gouffier, a member of the Lithuanian nobility from the Tyzenhaus family, had given her heart to Russian Emperor Alexander I. The emperor was so fascinated by the woman that their special friendship lasted for as long as 13 years, until the death of the Tsar. They met at a party at the Radvila residence, which now houses Hotel PACAI. This love story is described in Tolstoy's novel War and Peace.



7. MUSICAL OGINSKI BENCH

K. Sirvydas Square

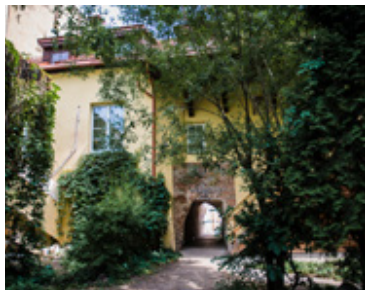
Watching the fountains at K. Sirvydas Square while sitting on a special bench and listening to the polonaises of composer Michal Kleofas Oginski's make for a very special atmosphere. Just one press of a button and romantic music flows out of the bench. The multimedia sculpture-bench, created in honour of the 250th anniversary of Oginski's birth, allows passersby to admire the composer's work and learn more about the life of this dynamic personality.



8. GLASS QUARTER

Stiklių g. / M. Antokolskio g. / Žydų g. / Gaono g.

The cosy little Old Town street is the city's oldest shopping area and home to unique boutiques selling Lithuanian designs, crafts galleries and the renowned Stikliai Hotel. Cafe Augustas and Barbora is a special place to get some coffee while remembering the famous love story between the Grand Duke of Lithuania Sigismund II Augustus and Barbara Radziwiłł.



9. THE LOVE ARCH

Vokiečių g. 22

When walking along Vokiečių Street, turn into the small alley next to Restaurant La Provence and you'll soon find yourself in a small courtyard that leads to an arched tunnel between two buildings known as the Love Arch. Take the person you love by the hand and walk together. The arch is really small, so you might need to bend over a bit to avoid hitting your head. Look for approval from the little wooden angel hidden in a niche in the wall. That's it - the love spell has been cast.



10. APPLE TILE

Vilniaus g. 30

This is the ideal place to meet for a date. Gitenis Umbrasas, the sculptor behind the Apple Tile placed in S. Moniuška Square, depicted the apple and the heart – symbols that recount the biblical story of Adam and Eve. The tile serves as an invitation to remember love and take note of the little wonders in everyday life.



11. A BOY WITH A SHOE STATUE

J. Basanavičiaus g. / Mindaugo g.

What deeds are done for love? Perhaps eating a shoe as Romain Gary, the famous author of the autobiographical novel *Promise at Dawn*, suggests. The writer was born in Vilnius and spent his childhood here, but this statue is more than just a memory of the writer. It tells the story of a pure feeling – first love – and all the impossible things that it makes possible.



*Joseph Frank and Kristina
Gerhardi Frank | 18th century*

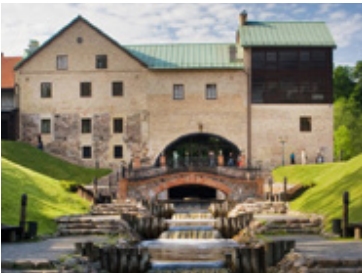
The love between singer Kristina Gerhardi Frank and Vilnius University professor Joseph Frank began in Vienna, but blossomed in Vilnius. Together with his wife, a good friend of Beethoven and Joseph Haydn, Frank organised cultural events to raise money for the poor. Frank started an initiative to establish a theatre in Vilnius while his wife became an entrepreneur. Portraits of the couple can be seen at the Vilnius Picture Gallery.



12. SUBAČIAUS VIEWPOINT

Subačiaus g.

This is definitely one of the most romantic and cinematographic places in Vilnius, with a marvellous panoramic view of the Old Town. Church towers, red roofs, Gediminas' Tower, the flowing Vilnelė River – it's a perfect place to sit on a bench with a cup of coffee and admire a different view of the city. Walking trails and streets lead to Užupis, the Old Town and the Vilnius Defensive Wall.



13. PUČKORIAI EXPOSURE AND BELMONTAS

Pavilniai Regional Park and Belmonto g. 17

The highest and most impressive exposure in Lithuania offers unforgettable views of Pavilniai Regional Park. Protected as a natural monument, the exposure can be a great start to a hike along the cognitive trail with the sundial, the ruins of a cannon foundry and Belmontas Park along the way. For a 19th century romantic atmosphere, walking down to the Belmontas Waterfalls, old mill building and ponds are a must.



14. BOTANICAL GARDEN IN KAIRĖNAI

Kairėnų g. 43

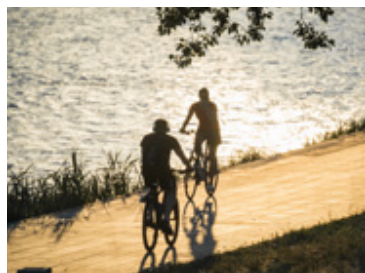
Located a little further away from the city centre, the Vilnius University Botanical Garden attracts visitors with impressive blossoms. Rhododendrons, lilies, peonies, and roses – the aromas and colours are so dizzying you might need to sit on one of the 132 benches. It's an oasis of fresh air and tranquillity, and a great place to escape the world and enjoy the ever-changing natural surrounding while walking the well-groomed garden paths or listening to open-air concerts in the summer.

WHAT TO DO



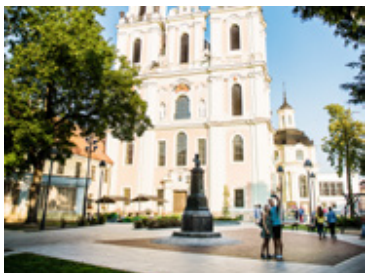
HOT AIR BALLOON RIDE

Vilnius provides its guests with an exclusive opportunity to enjoy spectacular views of the city from a hot air balloon. A romantic ride offers new perspectives of the city, including the splendid Old Town and a lot of nature that changes with every season. Time tends to stand still during the ride, making room for unforgettable impressions of Vilnius. Expect a special flight ceremony and a glass of sparkling wine once you land.



BICYCLES ON THE BANKS OF THE NERIS RIVER

The riverside and its picturesque path are great for exploring the city on a bike. An open-air gallery by renowned street artists is a perfect starting point for the journey, with the towers of Vilnius and the Old Town on the left. The path leads to Vingis Park (M. K. Čiurlionio g. 100), where nature and fresh forest air make for an ideal spot to stop and relax with a coffee in hand.



ELEGANT MUSIC AND CONTEMPORARY ART

The high arches of the Church of St. Catherine (Vilnius g. 30) are very fitting for both contemporary music and traditional classical performances. Concerts fill the air with unique sounds and a special mood. Meanwhile, the modern art exhibitions and abundance of events await at the MO Museum (Pylimo g. 17), where a private collection of over 4,000 works is stored.



Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis and Sofija Čiurlionienė - Kymantaitė | 20th century

Lithuania's most famous composer Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis and Sofija Čiurlionienė - Kymantaitė met at an event in Vilnius and immediately realised that they would be together forever. The couple's life was intense: lessons, walks before dawn, exhibitions and writing an opera that was never completed. Their common approach to creativity is what made their love so special. While away from each other, they spent a lot of time writing letters, but only M. K. Čiurlionis' letters have survived – Sofija burned hers.



MODERN MUSIC AND FILM EVENING

Walking in the urban landscape of abandoned factories and exploring street art at the Open Gallery (Švitrigailos g. 29) can be the start of a romantic date. Electronic or contemporary music in the nearby Loftas art factory serve as an excellent backdrop. At the end of the evening, it's worth sharing food and conversations with friends at Downtown Food Hall (A. Smetonos g. 5) and maybe catching a movie at the friendly Kino Deli.



AMBER MASSAGE

Amber, the Baltic gold and solid drops of solar heat, relaxes and soothes the body. The Nidos Kopos (Odminių g. 8) massage parlour fills the body up with the thousands of years of stored energy and lets it heat up from the inside. It's easy to feel the Baltic spirit while sipping on amber tea and smelling the sweet aroma of pine.

WHERE TO STAY

Unconventional Places

DOWNTOWN FOREST HOSTEL

Paupio g. 31A

Located in the artistic district of Užupis, Downtown Forest Hostel is the perfect choice for nature-lovers who want to watch the starry sky, grill some food and make new friends. There is a piano in the common room everyone can play. Pitching a tent outdoors is the best choice for a rustic romantic stay.

HOSTEL JAMAİKA

Visų Šventųjų g. 9

It's a perfect location near the city's most important attractions, the Hale Market, and bars. The cosy courtyard is home to some of the most exciting events in the city. Each morning, people from around the world meet at a long breakfast table to share a meal and make new friends.

Historical places

HOTEL PACAI

Didžioji g. 7

This impressive Baroque palace and former residence of the Lithuanian Pacai noble family has been restored and transformed into 5-star hotel. It's a place that meticulously creates a harmony between the quick pace of modern life and classic history.

SHAKESPEARE BOUTIQUE HOTEL

Bernardinų g. 8

Set in an old 18th-century building, this traditional English-type hotel brings the stories of famous writers back to life. It's easy to feel the romantic past in the library, the elegant classic interior, and the overall oasis of tranquillity created in the very heart of the Old Town. The hotel's restaurant has a long brunch on weekends and offers poetic English cuisine.

Artistic Places with Soul

ARTAGONIST ART HOTEL

Pilies g. 34

Located on the city's oldest street, this hotel in an elegant building promises an unconventional experience – a night in an art gallery. It's an exceptional opportunity to enjoy original works by Lithuanian artists, with each one telling a different story. It's a delight to wake up with a Chemex coffee in the morning and enjoy the innovative tasting dinner at the hotel's restaurant Amandus, run by renowned Lithuanian chef Deivydas Praspaliauskas.

COMFORT HOTEL LT

Kauno g. 14

This rock'n'roll themed hotel has an energetic vibe and rooms created in honour of legendary musicians. It's like having your own personal soundtrack in Vilnius. The liberal atmosphere lets travellers relax and feel free throughout their journey through Vilnius. Visiting the on-site Time restaurant on Sundays is a must; it offers the best buffet-style brunch in town.

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK

Love Mood

STRANGE LOVE

Barboros Radvilaitės g. 6B

Love is everywhere. The minimalist interior, great food, and fragrant coffee create a fitting backdrop for love. Views of the Bernardine Garden from the terrace are delightful, both at brunch and at sunset.

LOVE BAR

Pylimo g. 59

It isn't easy to find this bar, which is marked by a small neon sign hiding a fun secret. The name definitely gives a hint, though – the place is filled with a love for cocktails and music. It's an ideal hideaway for the evening.

Exotic atmosphere

PANAMA FOOD GARDEN

Vykinto g. 17A

A garden, a wooden house, and a greenhouse seem to be just like any other house in this curious neighbourhood at first glance, but surprises and extraordinary flavours await visitors there. The most desirable tables are in the greenhouse, which offers romantic views of the garden at any time of the year. It's easy to feel the vacation spirit while sitting in such an unusual space, making it perfect for a short getaway from life.

PACHAMAMA

Gedimino pr. 9

The playful biophilic interior encourages guests to relax and enjoy their meal without hurrying. Traditional Peruvian food culture kept alive in the restaurant's kitchen promises an exotic dinner. The atmosphere is also perfect for some of the best parties in town.

Impressive Sights

SKYBAR

Konstitucijos pr. 20

The 22nd-floor bar offers unparalleled views of the Old Town. There is no shortage of entertainment – the dance floor is open late into the night. This is also the best spot to watch the sunset or to look at the city lights. It's easy to forget about time here.

SALIONAS

K. Sirvydo g. 6

This bar, located in one of the most beautiful 19th-century buildings in Vilnius, has an exceptional aura. Salionas is like a home for everyone, with hosts preparing some of the best cocktails in town. Visit the place where Catherine the Great walked not so long ago – the building often becomes a movie set for famous screen pieces, including the latest BBC series starring Helen Mirren.