

Get jazzed in the **unique** old town of

KĖDAINIAI,

right in the heart **of Lithuania!**



www•
kedainiutvc
•lt





Kėdainiai is located in the centre of Lithuania, a few kilometres from the official geographic centre of Lithuania. The name of Kėdainiai was first mentioned in historical annals in 1372. In 1590, Kėdainiai was granted town rights. The town was in the ownership of the Dukes Radvila (Radziwiłł) for about 300 years, one of the most powerful and influential noble families of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

From the mid-16th century, Kėdainiai became one of the religious, cultural and educational centres of Protestantism in Lithuania. In the 17th century, Kėdainiai saw the opening of the Protestant Gymnasium with famous scientists as its lecturers. One of the largest publications in the Lithuanian language called *Knyga Nobažnystės Krikščioniškos* [Book of Christian Piety] was published in Kėdainiai in the 17th century. In the first half of the 17th century people of different nationalities and faiths lived in Kėdainiai: Scotsmen, Germans, Jews, and Eastern Orthodox Christians. This was the town of six nations and six denominations.

The architecture of the Old Town of Kėdainiai today reflects the traditions of the different cultures. The Old Town is an urban monument of national significance, one of seven old towns in Lithuania. It has retained its old street network, market square, and religious, residential and public buildings of the 16th–19th centuries. Today the Old Town has hotels, museums, souvenir and local produce shops, cafes, and restaurants, so there are many cosy places to eat, have coffee and cake, or purchase a souvenir or a piece of art.



J. Ozemblovskis lithography, 19th c.

SCOTSMEN IN KĖDAINIAI!

Do not be surprised if you spot a Scottish flag or its symbol – the thistle – in Kėdainiai. In the 16th–19th centuries, Kėdainiai had a large Scottish community. It is said that the Scotsmen were looking for the “promised land” – Antilla. They were among the first teachers in Kėdainiai Gymnasium and held high posts in the Judiciary, the Church, and the palace. Services in the Reformation Church were also held in the Scottish language. Scotsmen contributed greatly to the prosperity of the town in the mid-17th century and enriched the town with brick architecture. Scotsmen established the first company in Lithuania – Societatis Commerciorum back in 1731! In the 17th–18th centuries Kėdainiai could have been one of the leading towns in the entire Baltic Sea region by the number of Scottish residents. More than 120 Scottish names can be found in historical sources. *Scottish*: Arnett House, Café Bennet’s Inn, Gray’s House Hotel and Restaurant, and the house with the art installations.



From www.jmuseum.lt



JEWISH HERITAGE

In 1627, Kristupas Radvila (Krzysztof Radziwiłł) allowed “honest, well-behaved Jews of Europe” to settle in the Old Market Square in Kėdainiai. In 1727, Abraham Kacnel-enbogen invited the then seven-year-old Elijah ben Solomon Zalman, the future Vilna Gaon, to study the Talmud in Kėdainiai. His life in Kėdainiai is shrouded in mystery. Some sources say that he spent five years in Kėdainiai studying the Talmud, other sources say he spent three years and yet other sources say he spent half a year in Kėdainiai. He was betrothed to Channa from Kėdainiai. The remains of three former synagogue buildings still exist in Kėdainiai. There is an Art School in the 18th-century Great Summer Synagogue and a Multi-Cultural Centre with an exhibition dedicated to the history of the Jewish community and the Holocaust – in the Small Winter Synagogue of the 19th century.

VINCAS SVIRSKIS AND UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE IN KĖDAINIAI DISTRICT

In 2008, Lithuanian cross crafting and its symbolism were listed by UNESCO among the masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Vincas Svirskis (1835–1916) was one of the most famous Lithuanian folk cross craftsmen, whose crosses studded the district of Kėdainiai. His biography can only be traced on the basis of people's stories. He spent all his life travelling from village to village on foot marking his trail with crosses. He used to stop and make a cross where people wished to decorate their homesteads or to mark important events in their life. He produced crosses only from oak and also crafted saints and adornments from the same tree, saying jokingly that the saints would never fall from the crosses. Some of his masterpieces are displayed at Kėdainiai Regional Museum, in Paberžė Church, and in Surviliškis where he is buried.



“THE ALPS” OF KĖDAINIAI

Kėdainiai has some hills visible from the Via Baltica Motorway (European route E 67). “The Alps” are located on the site of the Lifosa Plant, and are mounds of gypsum, a waste material of the fertiliser production process.



THINGS TO SEE

1 Town Hall

Built in the mid-17th century to accommodate a prison, premises for the town's executioner, and an archive in the basement; measures and weights on the ground floor, and the Judiciary and a court room on the first floor. Currently it accommodates a civil registry office and a ceremonial hall decorated with the reproductions of Radvila paintings. The courtyard contains a 19th century sun dial in the rococo style and sculptures. Kėdainiai Town Hall is one of three remaining town halls in Lithuania.

Didžioji g. 1



2 Great Market Square and a monument to Radvila

Formed in the 16th century it was the main market square of Kėdainiai. It is framed by 17th century buildings: glassmakers' houses, the house of burgomaster George Anderson, the Town Hall, and the Evangelical Reformed Church. A monument to Radvila depicting a massive chest (sculptor Algirdas Bosas, 2006) is in the square. The chest symbolises the treasury of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania that Radvila (Janusz Radziwiłł), Grand Hetman of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, took care of. The bust of the hetman towers above the chest. Do not miss a visit to the art shop in the glassmaker's house and the textile shop (Town Hall Textiles)!





3 Saint George Church

According to the legend, a brick church was built by the crusaders on the site of a pagan temple by cutting down a large old forest. The gothic style St. George Church is the oldest building in Kėdainiai and was built in 1460. The Church has a few valuable pieces of art and late Baroque style altars. This is one of the oldest churches in Lithuania. Panoramic views opening from the hill on which the church stands, provide vistas of Kėdainiai Old Town.

Šėta g. 22

4 Evangelical Reformed Church and Mausoleum of Dukes Radvila

The Renaissance style Evangelical Reformed Church was built by the Dukes Radvila in the mid-17th century. Since then it has changed very little. An original oak pulpit in the mannerist style, oak panels and a chandelier have survived to this day. The Mausoleum of the Dukes Radvila in the crypt of the church is the only restored 17th century tomb of the nobleman of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in Lithuania. Highly decorative Renaissance and Baroque style sarcophagi are the resting place of Vilnius Voivode, Great Lithuanian Hetmans Kristupas Radvila Perkūnas and Jonušas Radvila and their family members. The church still functions and has a small community. It is also popular with tourists, and due to its great acoustic qualities is a venue for concerts and other events.

Senoji g. 1
www.kedainiumuziejus.lt



5 Arnett House, a Traditional Crafts Centre

An example of 17th century urban architecture. The owner of the house was Scottish merchant Arnett. Currently, the building houses a Traditional Craft Centre of Kėdainiai Regional Museum. Exhibitions and educational sessions for learning how to weave textiles, make wood carvings, weave baskets and other traditional folk art are held at Arnett House.

Radvilų g. 21
www.kedainiumuziejus.lt



6 Kėdainiai Regional Museum

Kėdainiai Regional Museum is one of the oldest museums in Lithuania founded in 1922. Since 2000, the museum has been based in the restored building of the former 18th century Carmelite Monastery. The most impressive exhibits of the museum are crosses made by the most famous Lithuanian cross craftsman, Vincas Svirskis, often referred to by art critics as the small masterpieces of Lithuanian folk art. The museum offers educational programmes and excursions; you can also have your photograph taken in clothes of the Radvila period!

Didžioji g. 19. www.kedainiumuziejus.lt





7 Saint Joseph Church

The church in the style of folk baroque was built by the Carmelite monks in 1766. In Soviet times, it was turned into a warehouse and after the restoration of independence was again returned to the Catholic Church. The church features 18th century altars, valuable paintings of St. Joseph and Mary with the Child decorated with metal inlays, and paintings made in the illusionistic manner.

Radvilos g. 10



8 Evangelical Lutheran Church

The church was built by the German Lutheran community, which settled in Kėdainiai in the 1st half of the 17th century. It is unique for its original 17th century frescoes. There is a surviving epitaph plaque of Adam Freitag (1608– 1650), a military engineer, specialist in fortifications, known in Europe for his book *Architectura militaris nova et aucta*.

Vokiečių g. 7



9 Gymnasium Illustre

The history of the gymnasium dates back to 1625, when a Protestant primary school was established in Kėdainiai. It then grew to become a gymnasium, called Gymnasium Illustre, and moved to the decorative renaissance style building. In 1653, one of the first Reformist publications in the Lithuanian language *Knyga Nobažnystės Krikščioniškos* [Book of Christian Piety] was published at the gymnasium. The Radvilas sought to establish a higher Protestant school here. The renaissance style archways of the building resemble those of Vilnius University. In Soviet times, it was used as military barracks, currently it is the Gymnasium Illustre.

Didžioji g. 62



10 Holy Transfiguration Church

The first Eastern Orthodox church was built in Kėdainiai in the 17th century; the current church survived from the mid-19th century. The church features paintings from the early 20th century and a number of valuable icons. Next to the church there is a memorial plaque for Pyotr Stolypin, the most famous member of Kėdainiai Eastern Orthodox community.

Gedimino g. 2

11 Museum and Gallery of Janina Monkutė-Marks

The museum and gallery were founded by the textile artist Janina Monkutė-Marks. On average it hosts 7 exhibitions of famous Lithuanian and foreign artists every year. There is a permanent exhibition of the works by Janina Monkutė-Marks. Priority is given to exhibitions of textile art.

J. Basanavičius g. 45
www.kedainiumuziejus.lt



12 Minaret and City Park

The current City Park of Kėdainiai is the former site of Kėdainiai Manor. Back in the 19th century the Čapskiai built a palace and started a park here. Later the property passed to the Russian Army General Count Eduard Totleben. About 1880, he built an aivan, a mosque and a minaret (28 m). The minaret has survived to this day and towers above the trees. At the top of the minaret there is a crescent moon. One of the legends says that Totleben built it for his Muslim mistress, whom he brought from the wars with the Turks.

S. Dariaus ir S. Girėno g. 5



13 Mikalojus Daukša Oak

This is the oldest oak in Kėdainiai (circumference – 5.4 m, diameter – 1.70 m, height – 23 m). It is said that the oak was planted by Mikalojus Daukša, a pioneer of the Lithuanian written language, born in Babėnai near Kėdainiai.

Babėnai



14 Old Market Square and the synagogue complex

This is the oldest market square formed in the 15th century. It is thought that this was the site of the first town hall. The Jewish community settled in the vicinity of the square in the 1st half of the 17th century and the synagogue complex was built in the 17th century–1st half of the 19th century. The Great Summer Synagogue was built in the 18th century after the old synagogue which was standing here had burnt down. Today the building accommodates the Art School of the town. The Small Winter Synagogue was built in the 19th century. In 2002, a Multi-Cultural Centre with an exhibition dedicated to the history of the Jewish community and the Holocaust was opened in the building. The building serves as a venue for cultural events, educational sessions on Jewish history and culture.

Old Market Square



DISTRICT

Sacral historical complex in Paberžė

2018 is the Year of Father Stanislovas!

The village of Paberžė became famous because of Algirdas Mykolas Dobrovolskis (1918–2005) better known as Father Stanislovas, a Capuchin friar. People from all over Lithuania flocked to Paberžė to listen to his sermons and to talk with him about life. Today the Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the barn and rectory are packed with canonical and household items collected by Father Stanislovas. The church built by folk masters in 1787 contains a number of valuable paintings and also crosses crafted by Vincas Svirskis. The former manor of Baron Stanislovas Šilingas (18th c.) in Paberžė houses the only Museum of the 1863 Uprising in Lithuania.

Paberžė. www.kedainiumuziejus.lt





Skinderiškis Kęstutis Kaltenis Dendrological Park

The park stretches across 125 hectares and is divided according to geographical plant zones. It was called a dendrological park because of the variety of exotic trees, shrubs, and lianes brought here from different parts of the world and usually cultivated in botanical and dendrological parks. The park has 1,400 species, subspecies, varieties, forms and cultivars of trees, shrubs and lianes. There are observation towers, gazebos, benches, information signs for visitors and a playground for children. The bend in the River Šušvė offers scenic vistas. The founder of the park Kęstutis Kaltenis was awarded Valdas Adamkus prize in 1993. The park is particularly picturesque in the autumn, when about 60 species of maple trees change colours and in spring when the magnolias are in blossom.

*Užvarčių Village
Kėdainiai District*



The Geographical Centre of Lithuania

In 1995, the location of the geographical centre of Lithuania was officially established in Ruoščių Village of Kėdainiai District and marked with a large stone (55°19' N and 23°54' E). Another two stones were delivered to the site according to the project of architect Vytautas Kundrotas to symbolise Samogitia and Aukštaitija, two ethnographic areas of Lithuania. In 2009, a new sign was erected here – a granite plaque mounted on stones with the coordinates of the geographical centre.

*Ruoščių Village
Kėdainiai District*



Land of Česlovas Milošas. Šeteniai – birthplace of Česlovas Milošas

Šeteniai Manor located about 13 km from Kėdainiai, is the birthplace of the poet, writer, literature historian, translator and Nobel Prize winner Česlovas Milošas (Czesław Miłosz) (1911–2004) who also spent his childhood here. Šeteniai is 'the beginning of his beginnings,' his source of inspiration. Motifs related with the valley of the River Nevėžis abound in Milošas' creative work. In his novel *The Issa Valley*, Šeteniai Manor becomes alive together with its people, stories, legends and myths. The restored barn of the estate accommodates a residence and conference centre with an exhibition dedicated to Milošas. Pay a visit to Šventybrastis Village, Milošas was baptized in the Church of Christ Transfiguration.



LOCAL SPECIALTIES

Kėdainiai is known not only for its cosy, authentic Old Town, but also as a strong industrial town, one of the leaders in Lithuania by foreign investment. A lot of large industries of famous food brands are operating here. Their products can be found in all the largest shopping centres of Lithuania. The region of Kėdainiai boasts fertile soil and developed agriculture. You will see many stands with own produce of fruit, vegetables and honey on the roadsides in summer and autumn. Due to impressive quantities and quality of cucumbers grown here, Kėdainiai has long deservedly boasted the name of Lithuania's cucumber capital. Therefore, it is a must to try cucumber ice-cream at the restaurant Gray's House and buy cucumber jam at a deli shop Gurkė.

Ragauk

– a food store for healthy living! The shop sells organic products, products of small producers of Kėdainiai region, and small family farm-grown vegetables. You can also buy a traditional tree cake, canned meat or catfish (natural, with sun-dried tomatoes, apricots and smoked paprika) here.

Didžioji g. 56



Deli Store Gurkė

Located near one of the oldest operating markets in Europe (from 1643), the store is dedicated to the local quality produce and gastronomic heritage of Kėdainiai District. It offers treats and delicacies produced by local small manufacturers and cucumber delights: cucumber caramels, cucumber mead, freeze dried cucumbers in chocolate in different flavours. An innovative gift and a must-have product from Kėdainiai is CUCUMBER JAM!

Dvaro g. 2, www.gurke.lt



Raganė

– a café and shop offers frozen dumplings with a variety of stuffing (you can order to eat in the café), various traditional products by craftsmen, mead of Kėdainiai region (Šušvė) which bears the National Heritage label, etc.

Sodų 3A, Sirutiškis (1.5 km from Kėdainiai)



SOUVENIRS

Glassmakers' House

has a unique façade and offers art works ranging from lovely knick-knacks to works by Lithuanian artists: jewellery, accessories, clothes, and home décor items.

Didžioji g. 6



Town Hall Textiles

offers handbags, products made of natural linen, cotton and wool, jewellery, handmade soaps and essential oils.

Didžiosios Rinkos a. 6-2



WHERE TO EAT

Gray's House Restaurant

The restaurant is located in the building which was owned by Scotsman Jacob Gray in the 18th century. You will see the Scottish flag and a thistle above the entrance and Scottish ornaments by a professional painter inside the restaurant. The specialties of the menu are the Scottish haggis and the Radvila stew. Live jazz music is often performed in the restaurant. There is an outdoor courtyard with seating in the summer.

Didžioji g. 36



Smilga Restaurant

The restaurant offers traditional Lithuanian and European cuisine, groups can order a tasting of Jewish cuisine (must be ordered in advance).

Senoji g. 16

Novus Rex Restaurant

A restaurant located in the heart of the Old Town of Kėdainiai, which offers European cuisine. You can also have catfish (must be ordered in advance).

Didžioji g. 52





Beneto Karčema (Bennet's Inn)

is another building related to the former Scottish community of the town, owned in the 17th century by George Bennet, the owner of Kėdainiai customs and the king's secretary. You can order humongous zeppelins (Lithuanian dish of stuffed potato dumplings) here.

Senoji g. 7



Uršulė Restaurant

The menu is predominantly pancakes, but gnocchi and schnitzel are also available. Make sure you taste Kėdainiai potato pancakes which are on the menu under the name 'Kėdainiai resident's dream.'

Didžioji g. 22



Raganė Café

The café's specialty is dumplings and you can get 17 different varieties of it here – with pork, beef, chicken, duck liver, catfish, mushrooms, cottage cheese, spinach, three cheese and an olive, and dumplings for dessert. Dumplings, especially stuffed with cottage cheese and tarragon, has been a long-time speciality of the central region of Lithuania.

*Sodų 3A, Sirutiškis
(1.5 km from Kėdainiai)*



EVENTS

Broma Jazz Festival

Broma Jazz Festival takes place in August bringing fans of jazz music and culture to the Old Town of Kėdainiai. The festival is exceptional due to its diversity of jazz styles in the programme, jazz fusion with other music styles and arts, and many other cultural events. Jazz spills out into the streets and courtyards and one of the streets in the Old Town is called Jazz – the first and only such street in Lithuania!





Cucumber Festival

Kėdainiai has gained the title of the Lithuanian capital of cucumbers. In the 19th century, vegetable farming, especially cultivation of cucumbers became very popular. The vast majority of growers were Jews. Cucumber plantings on the banks of the River Nevėžis were also numerous in the interwar period. Although the cucumber business suffered during the war and in the years following the war, the tradition of cultivating cucumbers in Kėdainiai region has survived. The cucumber has become an inseparable symbol of the town. The Cucumber Festival takes place in July when many different cucumber dishes are available for tasting.



Town Festival

At the beginning of September Kėdainiai celebrates its birthday when the name of Kėdainiai was first mentioned in written sources in 1372. The town celebrates its birthday for four days! The festival features craftsmen fairs, sports competitions, exhibition of military equipment, concerts and numerous events for children. The highlight of the festival is an all-star concert and fireworks.



Information about events in Kėdainiai www.kedainiutvic.lt

ACCOMMODATION

Gray's House Hotel

Didžioji g. 36. www.grejausnamas.lt

Smilga Hotel

Senoji g. 16. www.hotelsmilga.lt

Novus Rex Guest House

Didžioji g. 52. www.novusrex.lt

Raganė Hotel

Sodų 3A, Sirutiškis. www.ragane.lt

Josva House

Ariogalos g. 4, Josvainiai



MUSEUMS

Multi-Cultural Centre

Senosios Rinkos a. 12A. www.kedainiumuziejus.lt

Museum and Gallery of Janina Monkutė-Marks

J. Basanavičiaus g. 45. www.kedainiumuziejus.lt

Kėdainiai Regional Museum

Didžioji g. 19. www.kedainiumuziejus.lt

Mausoleum of Dukes Radvila

Senoji g. 1. www.kedainiumuziejus.lt

Arnett House, a Traditional Crafts Centre

Radvilų g. 21. www.kedainiumuziejus.lt

Vytautas Ulevičius Wood Sculpture Museum

J. Basanavičiaus g. 36. www.kedainiumuziejus.lt

Museum of the 1863 Uprising in Lithuania (Paberžė)

Paberžė. www.kedainiumuziejus.lt

Mikalojus Katkus Memorial Museum

Tel. +370 257 42853, Ažytėnai, Kėdainiai District





Public Institution Kėdainiai Tourism and Business Information Centre

Tourist information, publications, excursions

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