


Kėdainiai Old Town on foot

Length of the
route: 2,5 km

 Pedestrian tour

 Pedestrian path

**JANUŠAVA MARKET
SQUARE**
Operating since 1643
#RandVil 7am-1am



◆ Kėdainiai Old Town

Kėdainiai was first mentioned in the written sources in 1372. It was ruled by the Radvila dukes for 290 years. There have survived 29 historical streets, 4 market squares and buildings possessing features of Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Classical style. Along with Lithuanians, there used to live Scots, Jews, Germans, Poles and Russians, leaving their footprints in the town architecture. The old town of Kėdainiai is an urban monument of national importance, comprising the area of 90,7 ha.



1 Great Market and monument to the Radvilas

It was planned in the late 16th century. The monument erected in 2006 (A. Bosas).



2 Town Hall, Didžiosios Rinkos a. 6

Constructed in the Renaissance style in the middle of the 17th century, the former seat of the Magistrate. In the basement, there was a prison and a room for a town executioner. Currently it houses the Office of Civil Registry. Check the sundial in the courtyard!



3 Glaziers Houses, Didžioji g. 4, 6

Dutch-type buildings of the 17th century, one of them now houses a shop-gallery of art items. Buy some great souvenirs there!



4 Jazz Street

Jazz Street (Džiazų g.) was inaugurated on the International UNESCO Jazz Day, April 30th, 2016.



5 Synagogue complex,

Senosios Rinkos a. 12

The Jewish community settled in Kėdainiai around the Old Market (Senosios Rinkos) Square in the 17th century. From 1727, the future Vilna Gaon studied there for some time. The great synagogue was built in the 18th century and the small synagogue nearby was built in the 19th century. The interior layout of the great synagogue was altered while adapting it for the needs of the Art School, while original layout of the small synagogue has remained. Currently it houses the Multicultural Centre and holds a display on the Jewish history.



6 Jewish House with a structure for celebrating Sukot, Žydų g. 1.

A Jewish homestead dating to the 17th century with a Sukkah (a small hut with an opening in the roof) for use during the week-long Jewish festival of Sukkot.



7 Synagogue, Smilgos g. 13

The former great Kloiz – one of the two synagogues in the style of Classicism in Lithuania. Built in the 19th century by the tailor Ilja Vilneris.



8 Evangelical Reformed Church and Mausoleum of Dukes Radvilas,

Senoji g. 1

The church was built in the Renaissance style in 1652, the mecenates were dukes Radvilas. Although it was transformed into stables by the Napoleon army and basketball hall during the Soviet period, it has survived almost unchanged. The spacious interior is devoid of decoration except for some gorgeous wood carvings in the Dutch Mannerism style and an impressive chandelier. There is the family crypt of dukes Radvilas, who are buried there in elaborate Renaissance and Baroque sarcophagi (the oldest known in Lithuania so far).



9 The Arnets House, Radvilų g. 21

Over six national communities resided in Kėdainiai, with Scots being one of the most numerous, influential and prosperous. The surviving grand Scottish merchant buildings, exceeding ordinary needs of merchants, testify to the fact. This house was constructed by Scots brothers Arnets. Now you can examine the original 17th century interior layout and the reconstructed interior of the original shop. It houses the Centre of Traditional Crafts.



10 St Joseph's Church, Radvilų g. 10

The Carmelites settled in Kėdainiai in 1703 and built a monastery and a wooden church of folk Baroque style with a belfry. For over sixty years local Protestants opposed the presence of the Carmelites, thus it was only in 1766 that the construction of the church was completed. In Soviet times St Joseph's Church was closed and became a warehouse; in 1991, it was sanctified and returned to the congregation.



11 Museum of Kėdainiai Region,

Didžioji g. 19

The museum is located in the former Carmelite Monastery. The pride of the museum is crosses of unique style by the most famous and talented cross-crafter Vincas Svirkis. New innovative, interactive display enhances visitor experience while travelling in time.



12 Šviesioji Gymnasium,

Didžioji g. 62

The Gymnasium developed from a school founded in Kėdainiai in 1625 by Kristupas Radvila, the town owner. After closing the Protestant Gymnasium in Vilnius in 1640, the school in Kėdainiai became the main Protestant school in Lithuania; since 1647 it was called the Gymnasium Illustre ("Light Gymnasium"). It is the oldest school building in Lithuania, with an impressive Renaissance courtyard.



13 Christ Conversion Orthodox Church, Gedimino g. 2

In 1652, at the will of Jonušas Radvila, an Orthodox church was built near the Knypava Market. It was a gift from the duke to his Orthodox wife, the Duchess of Moldavia Maria Lupu. During the Soviet times, it was dismantled and transferred to the Lithuanian Folk Museum in Rumšiškės. The present Orthodox church was built in the 19th century. It is abundantly decorated with paintings. Memorial plaques for Pyotr Stolypin were set up there as well.



14 The Museum of Wooden Sculptures by Vytautas Ulevičius, J. Basanavičiaus g. 36

Oak sculptures are being exhibited there. One of the most impressive ones is a gigantic chessboard designed to commemorate the Battle of Grunwald.



15 Evangelical Lutheran Church, Vokiečių g. 7

From the mid-16th century, Kėdainiai became one of the earliest centres of spreading of Reformation in Lithuania. There were prayer homes of the Reformed and Lutheran communities. The Lutheran Church was built in 1679. The King of Sweden Charles XII participated in mass here on 15 December 1701. During the Soviet period, it served as a warehouse and exhibition hall. The highlight is the 17th century mural paintings.



16 Knypava Market

It was planned in the 17th century. It probably began with the arrival of German merchants who had arrived in Kėdainiai from the part of Königsberg city which they called Kneiphof. The German merchants most likely bought Lithuanian horses here that were highly valued in Prussia.



17 Museum-Gallery of Janina Monkutė-Marks,

J. Basanavičiaus g. 45

In 2001, the Museum-Gallery of Lithuanian emigrant artist Janina Monkutė-Marks was opened in Kėdainiai. Janina Monkutė-Marks donated her art collection of paintings, tapestries and graphics to Kėdainiai. Modern art exhibitions are organized on regular basis.



18 St George's Church, Šėtos g. 10

It is the oldest brick building in Kėdainiai, built in the Gothic style in the middle of the 15th century. A legend says it was built by the crusaders on the place of a pagan shrine, after clearing the pagan forest. During 1549–1627 it was occupied by Protestants.

WORTH VISITING:



A Minaret,
city park



B City park,
J. Basanavičiaus g. 2



C Ancient port place



D Recreation area

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