

# ERASMUS+ PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY, + ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

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# The authoritarian regime of 1926-1940

## What is authoritarianism?

Authoritarianism (or authoritarian rule) is a form of government characterized by strong central power and limited political freedoms.



## Main characteristics and qualities of authoritarianism (by Juan Linz):

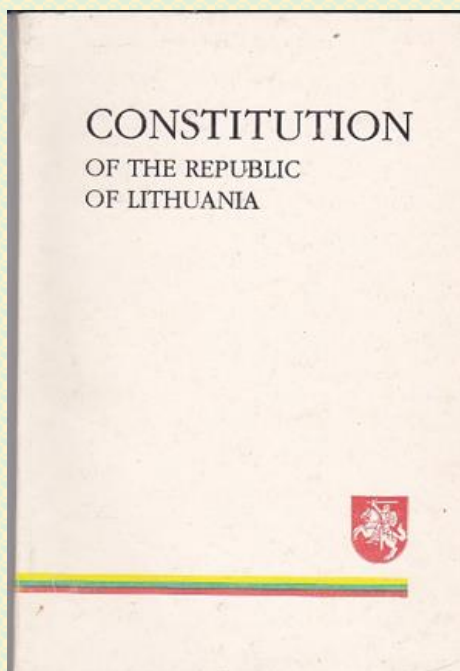
- Limited political pluralism (realized with constraints on the legislature, political parties, and interest groups).
- Political legitimacy based upon appeals to emotion, and identification of the regime as a necessary evil to combat "easily recognizable societal problems, such as underdevelopment, and insurgency,,"
- Minimal political mobilization and suppression of anti-regime activities.
- Ill-defined executive powers, often vague and shifting, which extends the power of the executive

## Circumstances and origins of the rise of the authoritarianism in Lithuania:

### CONSTITUTION AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT

- The 1918 Lithuanian Independence Act
- The 1922 Constitution
- The 1926 Lithuanian coup d'état (Lithuanian: 1926-ųjų perversmas)
- The 1928 Constitution

Antanas Smetona and his party were major beneficiaries of the coup



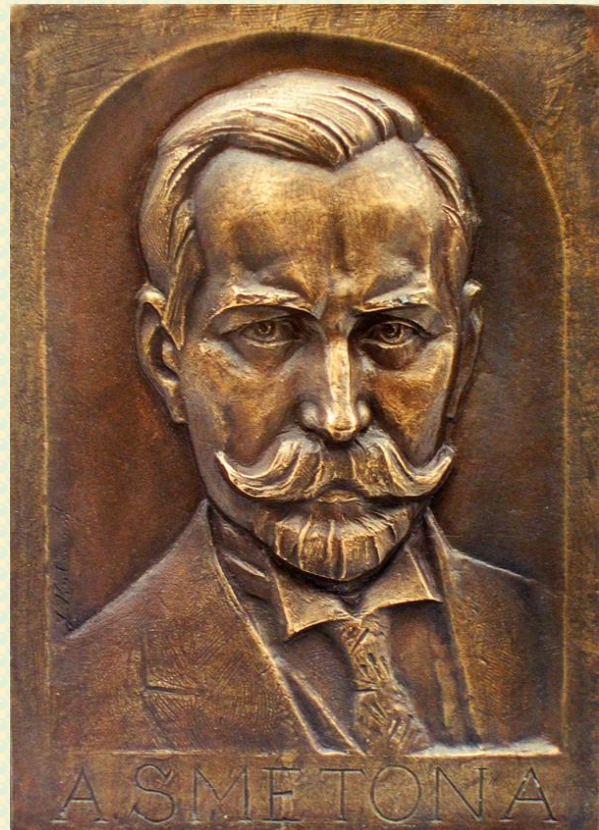
### **Antanas Smetona – authoritarian president in Lithuania**

- I. One of the most important Lithuanian political figures between World War I and World War II.
- II. Served as the first President of Lithuania from 1919 to 1920 and from 1926 to 1940.
- III. One of the most prominent ideologists of nationalism in Lithuania.



Antanas Smetona – the first elected president of Lithuania in 1919-1920 and, later, the authoritarian president in 1926-1940

A Relief sculpture of A. Smetona by Lithuanian artist Juozas Kalinauskas



# The Soviet occupations of Lithuania, 1940-1941 and 1945-1990

## The First Soviet occupation of Lithuania (1940 – 1941)

On 23rd of August in 1939 Foreign Ministers Joachim von Ribbentrop and Vyacheslav Molotov signed a pact which was officially known as the Treaty of Non-Aggression between Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and today is better known as Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact. In addition to the publicly-announced stipulations of non-aggression, the treaty included a secret protocol, which defined the borders of Soviet and German spheres of influence across Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Finland. According to this pact, Lithuania belonged to Germany. However, the plan didn't follow protocol and on 28th of September Joachim von Ribbentrop and Vyacheslav Molotov met again and decided to rearrange previous settlement by giving Lithuania to Soviets.



The Russian army crossing the Lithuanian border

On 14th of June in 1940 Soviets accused Lithuania of:

- Kidnapping soldiers from the Red Army (Soviet military forces)
- Persecuting Lithuanians who worked for Soviet military forces
- Having a military based agreement with Estonia and Latvia against Soviets

Due to these reasons Soviets forced Lithuania to let the Red Army in the territory of the country and allow to set up military posts. Lithuania's government understood the danger of Soviets' intentions and chose not to fight against it.

On June 15, 1940 the Red Army of the Soviet Union invaded and occupied Lithuania. Even though, Soviets claimed that Lithuania would remain independent, they took over the government of Lithuania and reformed its laws. In June 1940 Soviets conducted the first large scale deportation of Lithuanians to Siberia, which included the most educated people of the country such as important politicians who could have fought for homeland's independence. About 18,000 of intelligent people were forced to adjust to harsh weather conditions and the lack of food in Siberia during the First Soviet occupation.

On 14th of July, 1940 Soviet convened elections to „People’s Parliament” in Lithuania. Only one political party was allowed to participate in elections (communists), the results of it were fabricated. „People’s Parliament” took freedom of word by controlling mass media and forbidding cultural, religious organizations. Lithuania was declared to be socialist state and was forced to become a part of Soviet Union. „People’s Parliament” also began a new reform which was called collectivization - the organization of all of a country's production and industry so that it is owned and managed by the government.

On 3rd of August, 1940 Lithuania becomes a part of Soviet Union which is now understood as the annexation (possession taken of a piece of land or a country, usually by force or without permission) of Lithuania. Political repressions of Soviets in Lithuania is called sovietization - the adoption of a political system based on the model of soviets (communism).

On 22nd of June, 1941 Germany attacked the Soviet Union and Lithuania was occupied by Nazis in only one week – it was the end of the first Soviet occupation of Lithuania.



Just as Lithuania, Latvia was also invaded by the Red army. This photo is from Riga, 1940

### **Second Soviet occupation of Lithuania (1944 – 1990)**

In 1940, when the Soviet Union occupied and annexed the state of Lithuania, enforcement of the communist worldview and ideology in society started. This process was terminated by the 1941–1944 Nazi occupation during WWII. But 1944, the Soviet re-occupation resumed and only ended in 1990, when Lithuania became an independent sovereign state.

One of the main pillars of the communist regime in Lithuania was the repressive soviet structures variably known as NKVD or KGB. Throughout the Soviet occupation, they carried out crimes against humanity and war crimes, persecuted Lithuanian citizens because of their worldview or resistance to occupation or because they belonged to ethnic, national, religious, social or political groups. As many as half a million Lithuanians were, either dying or losing health in the cold gulags of Siberia. Others were executed or died in prisons. All these persecutions triggered the longest major guerilla war in modern Europe. Under Stalin, Lithuania lost 32% of its pre-WWII population.

During the occupation every book, movie, play, museum and the education system had to be guided by the ideological context. All symbols of the former Republic of Lithuania were removed from public view, and the country had its history rewritten and its achievements belittled. The veneration of Stalin was spread and the role of Russia and the USSR in the history of Lithuania was highlighted. People were encouraged into atheism in an attempt to secularise Lithuania, with monasteries closed, religion classes prohibited and church-goers persecuted.

Nikita Khrushchev's destalinization (1953-1964) changed some policies but most things left unchanged. The agriculture remained collectivized, the property remained nationalized, the ownership of Lithuanian symbols and any criticism of communism or the Soviet occupation were still punished by long terms of imprisonment (in jails or insane asylums).



Nikita Khrushchev, first secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1953 to 1964 and as chairman of the Council of Ministers from 1958 to 1964



The Soviet economy was plagued by the popular belief that “Everything belongs to everybody, and therefore everything belongs to nobody”. People were widely stealing from their workplaces and this was regarded as a normal practice by the society, therefore condoned by the peers and even many CEOs. The economic hardships and constant resistance in the Soviet Union and elsewhere in the Eastern Europe, led to Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of Perestroika (1985), or the move towards capitalism and democracy. In Lithuania, this led to the establishment of Sąjūdis (The Movement) led by Vytautas Landsbergis. It took an increasingly pro-independence stance and its protests were attended by hundreds of thousands. Only by the year 1988, the majority of Lithuanians dared to tell their thoughts publically. On 11 March 1990 the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet declared Lithuania's independence.



Vytautas Landsbergis, the leader of the Lithuanian freedom movement “Sąjūdis”

Lithuanian politicians after declaring Lithuania's independence



# The Baltic Way



**The Baltic Way** (in Lithuanian – Baltijos Kelias) was a peaceful political demonstration which took place on 23 August 1989 when approximately two million people joined their hands forming a 600 km long human chain through the Baltic countries, thus demonstrating their unity in their efforts towards freedom.

## Why did Baltic way take place?

In 1940 the Baltic states were occupied by the Soviet Union which had previously agreed upon it with Nazi Germany. The agreement was entered into on 23 August 1939 in Moscow and was entirely secret. This document is called the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact .

At the end of the 1980s the occupation continued but the USSR denied the existence of the Pact and continuously asserted that the Baltic states had voluntarily joined the Soviet Union. On 23 August 1989, the 50th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, the inhabitants of the three Baltic states demanded public acknowledgement of the Pact's secret protocols and the renewal of the independence of the Baltic states.



## What were the consequences of the Baltic Way?

The biggest achievement of the protest campaign was getting the USSR to give in to the joint protest of the inhabitants of the Baltic states and admit to all the past crimes. The USSR acknowledged the existence of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact and declared it invalid. It was one of the most important steps towards the renewal of independence in the Baltics.

The Baltic Way attracted a lot of international publicity to the joint struggle of the three countries. It gave impetus to democratic movements elsewhere in the world, was a positive example to other countries striving to renew their independence and stimulated the German reunification process.

The Baltic Way proved that faith in democratic ideas unifies the inhabitants of the Baltic states. A sense of brotherhood, unity and a common goal strengthened by such a campaign became an important factor of political participation which led to the renewal of independence of the Baltic states.



# Modern democracy in the Republic of Lithuania

Manifestations of democracy in Lithuania are already found in the Lithuanian Statute. Some of them are related to the pre-state period, some, first of all, articles discussing the activities of the parliament, the rights of the nobility, and the so-called nobility democracy. The slogans of noble democracy were raised during the uprisings of 1794 and 1863.

Lithuania has come a long way before it finally became democratic

The Republic of Lithuania is a multi-party parliamentary republic with some features of semi-presidential rule. The first article of the Lithuanian Constitution states that Lithuania is an independent democratic republic. Legislative power belongs to the Seimas, executive power to the Government. Territorially, Lithuania is a centralized unitary state. Self-government is one-tier, at the lowest level.

The Economist Intelligence Unit rated Lithuania a "flawed democracy" in 2019.

Since Lithuania declared independence on eleven March 1990, it has kept robust democratic traditions.



A promotional poster. The text says "I voted"



The President of the Republic of Lithuania is elected by universal suffrage for a term of five years. Ordinary elections of the President of the Republic are held on the last Sunday two months before the end of the term of office of the President of the Republic. The president can be elected no more than 2 times in a row.

A person may be elected President who:

- is a Lithuanian citizen by origin;
- has lived in Lithuania for at least the last 3 years;
- is at least 40 years old;
- meets all the requirements applicable to members of the Seimas.

The parliament of the Republic of Lithuania is elected by universal, equal suffrage and by secret ballot. A Lithuanian citizen of at least 25 years of age who has lived in Lithuania for the last three years may be elected a member of the Seimas.



# Covid-19 in Lithuania

COVID-19 statistics in Lithuania by 2020/05/30

Positive test cases approved - **1670**.

Deaths – **70**.

Recovered – **1229**.

This virus has contributed to all areas in business, education systems, governments work and etc. Citizens were forbidden to travel through borders of republic and event through cities in country during celebrations. All over the world the way to overcome the virus is solidarity and maintaining sensible. We hope to fight off COVID-19 as soon as possible.



## Our student's thoughts on the pandemic

This pandemic turned my world upside down. First of all, I couldn't meet my friends and go to school. In the beginning, it was good to relax and spend more time on my hobbies, but when the time went by, it got extremely hard to stay in one place. For me, learning at home is harder because I can't concentrate on school subjects properly and learn everything that I need to know. But the best part of all of this is that I get more sleep. When I wake up, I feel more energetic than usual. Also, I can plan my time and do everything at my own pace. So, this situation made my life and routine completely different and it has its own advantages and disadvantages - **Urtė Pauliukėnaitė**

The pandemic changed my plans dramatically. I had to travel to 3 different countries – Italy, Germany and Montenegro. I had to attend to the biggest rock concert in Lithuania. But all suddenly changed, it was so fast that I even didn't realize what was happening in the moment. Pandemic changed my personality too. I'm extrovert but all suddenly I can't speak with anyone in real life, that was a hit for me. So I had to somehow adapt. I tried video calls, but I didn't like because I can't feel people like in real life. So I had to wait, when government let us go outside and when it was allowed I felt free again, I could speak with almost all my friends. I was happy after a long time. In Lithuania we don't have strict quarantine so we can travel across country free. I hope pandemic soon will be over! - **Lukas Šimaitis**

This pandemic struck humanity quite unexpectedly, without any preparation. This unexpected deviation in life changed the economic state of countries, many people broke it not only physically but also affected the psychological state of the people. Our lives are constrained by various health care measures such as medical masks, gloves, disinfectants. Quarantine also forced us to keep our distance from people. Even now that quarantine conditions are increasingly being facilitated, this has changed social communication. At first, after the quarantine was announced, we, students, were happy because we wanted to rest for a while, but it took too long and continues to this day. Of course, we had more free time during the quarantine, so we could try new activities, but also remember activities that we had forgotten or it just didn't fascinate us. When the air has warmed up, people have spent more and more time in the fresh air, now we can be glad that being in the fresh air we can not wear protective masks. There are also a lot of outdoor activities, personally I spend a lot of time in the fresh air after lessons, I ride a bike, rollerblading, I walk a lot, I play badminton, I read books. I think this emotionally difficult stage has led many people to spend more and more time with family, discover new activities and just collaborate. On the other hand, it is unfortunate that many plans have collapsed, many people have had to postpone or cancel their trips, schools have had to learn to work remotely. I had to graduate from art school this year, but I had to work on my own, at home, without the help of a teacher, it was quite difficult, but in the end I succeeded, the review of the works would be different than always, but we would finish it anyway. So I share one of my works, I hope you like it. - **Radvilė Vaigauskaitė**



Radvilė Vaigauskaitė. „Fragments of time“ /  
„Laiko fragmentai“

About three months ago, Covid-19 has reached my country, Lithuania. It was very nerve-wracking, because at first everyone thought that this whole situation about Corona virus was just a big „blown bubble”. When the number of cases started to get bigger, all people understood that this is not a joke, and we have to keep ourselves safe. On March 16th my country officially announced the start of quarantine. That meant that we won't go to school or somewhere else for nobody knew how long. At first it was really weird, because we were used to go out with our friends, or just to do something fun outside. All the people meeting places like shopping centers or restaurants were closed. It was getting really boring, because everything we were able to do was just to go for a walk with family members, be in our garden if we have a private house, and study. Online studying for me is okay, but sometimes we have to do so much work, and we won't have that much time. Of course it is a new experience for all of us, but it was so sudden. Because it was really boring just to lay in bed on my free time, I started to cook really often. I never really enjoyed making food, but I guess quarantine changed me. I learned a lot of new recipes, and my mom was really happy because she did not have to spend almost half a day in the kitchen. I always liked to do hairstyles not just for myself, but also for my friends, or family. For me, it is the best way to calm my mind down and to relax, so right now I have more time to make some nice hairstyles. I also learned a bit of basic make-up skills, and I guess it is not bad. In the future, I won't need to go to the beauty salon to get ready for a birthday or some other important celebration, because I know how to curl or braid my hair, and also how to do a make-up. Not long time ago those quarantine conditions became milder. Public places started to open again, right now people can meet in a group of 5 people. I met my really close friends after long time, so I felt really happy because i missed them so much. I am a figure skater, so the news that ice rink in my city is open for those people who are training with coaches were the best part of the day. I am skating every day for 2 and a half hours and it feels really great to be back on the ice. Of course, the elements I were able to do very easily are now a bit harder, but I will work hard to learn new things. I hope that quarantine will end in the near future, because all people wants to go back to their own life routine, that they had when everything was normal and to live their life like they want without that much stress. - **Smiltė Gesaitytė**



The last day of school before “spring holiday” was excited and everyone was happy. Days went by and the situation in our country got worse. At first people didn't take it very seriously but we reached the line when the government had to close schools, restaurants, fun leisure activities, beauty salons to reduce covid-19 cases.

Global pandemic changed a lot of peoples' lives and daily routines so as mine. At first it didn't affect my daily routine much but when the school started everything got upside down. Lessons moved to online, so all of us had to learn how to work with new programs. It was very unusual way to learn but day by day it got more normal. Our teachers did and does a really good job and we are very impressed how fast older generations can learn to work with internet, new programs and get out of the comfort zone. Global pandemic led us to get in self-isolation, which helped to stay safe and reduce the infected people number. Also, I got time to improve my independence, because I had to do some schoolwork all by myself with books and internet. I spend a lot of time with my family, I cooked brownies and cakes, watched a lot of series and films, just to make my boring days more interesting. However, this period of life was kind a hard and difficult. I couldn't see my grandparents, friends and classmates. Everyone had to stay in their home and only go somewhere if it's necessary.

I think that all of us got a little bit lazier than usually. Everyone was getting stressed out, food stores were getting emptier and pharmacies were out of hand sanitizers and face masks. When the quarantine conditions were mitigated, we were able to go outside more freely and enjoy the nature.

This global pandemic taught us how to take care of ourselves and the others, made us appreciate people we call friends, time with them and now every meeting is really exciting and heart-warming. Time flew fast and I can't believe it's almost end of the school year, two more weeks and it's done. I am happy that everything is coming back to normal rhythm and I hope that soon everything will be as it was before. Don't forget to stay safe! - **Nerija Ričkutė**

I remember the last day at school, when everyone was guessing what was going to happen. Will the government decide to close schools or not. Finally the decision was made and we got 2 weeks of "spring holiday", as they said. Most of the kids were happy, so was I. But unfortunately no one thought about being isolated and separated from friends.

A few days of spring break passed by when they announced quarantine in the country. New covid-19 cases kept rising, more and more people started panicking, food stores were empty, pharmacies were out of masks and hand sanitizers.

My family was really prudent. We even started to make food course plans for 2 weeks ahead. I remember the first trip to the shop. I was really anxious and stressed out. My dad made the situation even worse. He was constantly shouting at me and wanted me to do things really fast. I was shaking and almost started crying. After all, it was my dad who made the experience worse than it was, because the situation in our country was not that bad.

When "spring break" was over we started taking lessons through zoom. At first it was hard to puzzle out how everything works but with time it got easier. I learnt how to schedule my time, emerged initiative to learn something from additional information that I found myself. Because I had more time for myself I started cooking more often. I really liked cooking before, but now I was able to try out new recipes and improve my cooking skills. I also decided to try to learn Spanish, because I feel that this language is quite similar to Lithuanian and I found it really beautiful and harmonious. While doing things I like and having zoom classes I didn't even notice how fast time flew by. Days got sunnier and warmer so it was a perfect timing to take my bicycle and begin riding it almost every day. Because quarantine conditions were mitigated people started going out more, we were able to meet friends in small groups, go to outdoor restaurants. So I finally got to meet my friends and go to the central park with them. It was a really pleasing moment that I really enjoyed. We are planning our further meetings as school year is about to end.

Now people are getting back to their normal rhythm but still making safety their number one priority. I hope that this virus will stop spreading and soon our lives will fully get back to normal. - **Aida Ridikaitė**

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# **“Pokalbių žodynėlis” / ”Dictionary for chatting” – basic dialogue in Lithuanian**

English

Congratulations!

What's your name?

It's nice to meet you

What time is it?

Do you have any brothers or  
sisters?

Is this your first time here?

Here's my number

Have you got any plans for  
this evening?

I'm looking forward to it

I really like dancing

Do you play any  
instruments?

You've got a great smile

Thanks for the compliment!

What a beautiful day!

Lithuanian

Sveikiniai

Koks jūsų vardas?

Malonu susipažinti

Kiek dabar valandų?

Ar turi brolių, seserų?

Ar tu čia pirmą kartą?

Štai mano numeris

Ar turi planų šiam vakarui?

Labai laukiu to

Man labai patinka šokti

Ar groji koku nors muzikos  
instrumentu?

Tu turi nuostabią šypsena

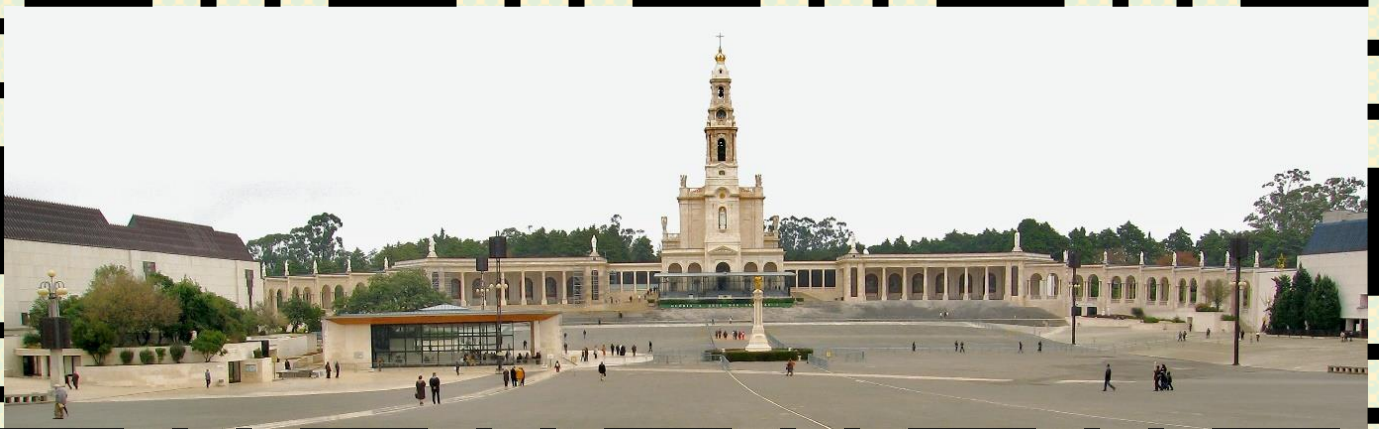
Ačiū už komplimentą!

Kokia nuostabi diena!

# Interesting places in Europe – Catholic landmarks

The Catholic faith is the unifying force of Europe and the world. There are important Catholic centers in Portugal, Spain and Lithuania. Let's get to know them.

## Fatima, Portugal



Being one of the 3 Portugal characterising F's (Fado, Football & Fatima), Fatima is a must for culturally aware travellers.

Fátima is a city in the municipality of Ourém, Beira Litoral Province, in the Central Region and Médio Tejo intermunicipal community of Portugal. The civil parish has been permanently associated with the Marian apparitions that were purportedly witnessed by three local shepherd children at the Cova da Iria in 1917. The Catholic Church later recognized these events as "worthy of belief". A small chapel was built at the site of the apparition, now known as Our Lady of Fátima, beginning in 1918, and a statue of her installed. The chapel and statue have since been enclosed within the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima, a shrine complex containing two minor basilicas. Associated facilities for pilgrims, including a hotel and medical centre, have also been built over the decades within and around the Sanctuary. The city has become an important international destination for religious tourists, receiving between 6 and 8 million pilgrims yearly.

Let's explore the best things to see/do in Fátima:

1. Sanctuary of Fátima
2. Basílica de Nossa Senhora do Rosário
3. Capela das Aparições
4. Basilica of the Holy Trinity
5. Grutas da Moeda
6. Casa, Jacinta e Francisco Marto
7. Valinhos Sanctuary
8. Museu de Cera



## Santiago de Compostela, Spain



Santiago de Compostela (or Saint James of Compostella in English) is the capital of the autonomous community of Galicia, in northwestern Spain. The city has its origin in the shrine of Saint James the Great, now the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, as the destination of the Way of St. James, a leading Catholic pilgrimage route since the 9th century. In 1985, the city's Old Town was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### 10 THINGS TO SEE/DO IN SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

1. Cathedral
2. The old town
3. Alameda park
4. Wine trail
5. Museo das peregrinacions
6. San Domingos de Bonaval park
7. Mercado de abastos
8. Culture
9. Festas
10. Try octopus

# Hill of Crosses, Lithuania



The Hill of Crosses, where people not only from Lithuania have put crosses for a couple of centuries, witnesses faithfulness and trust of a Christian community to Christ and his Cross. This is an expression of a spontaneous religiousness of the people, and is a symbol not of grief and death but of Faith, Love and Sacrifice. From here the Pope blessed all people of Lithuania and all of Christian Europe.

The Hill of Crosses is situated in the middle of an arable land, sixteen kilometers from Šiauliai. It is seen from Šiauliai – Ryga highway. The hill is 60 meters long and 40-50 meters wide.



It is hard to imagine so many crosses in one place. But all these crosses tell us about personal and public misfortunes and catastrophes. For example one cross was put after the wreck of the ferry “Estonia”. The crosses were first counted by Ksywicki in 1900. In historical chronicles he wrote that there were 130 crosses on the hill. Two years later there were already 155 crosses. After the World War I, in 1922 there were 50 crosses but in 1938 – already over 400. In 1961 the Soviet government demolished over 5000 crosses, by 1975 – 1200 crosses more. After the political change the crosses were counted by enthusiasts from Šiauliai. They found 14 387 big crosses (1 112 from them were 3-4 meters high, 130 even higher) and about 41 000 small crosses (smaller than 0.5 meters). Each visitor tries to leave a cross or a rosary. If he has not brought any, he makes one right on the hill, from pebbles, little branches or grass.

In 1994 during his visit to a Franciscan monastery of the mount of Verna (Italy), the Pope John Paul II encouraged the brothers to build a monastery by the Hill of Crosses. A hermit of the Franciscan Brothers was consecrated on July 7, 2000. It is built 300 meters away from the Hill and has sixteen cells. It serves as a novitiate of the Lithuanian Franciscan province of St. Casimir, but the monastery is also open to the pilgrims who look for silence and peace.

The Hill of Crosses is a sacred place in the Šiauliai region with especially vast spaces for meditations of faith and manifestations of one's love to God. It is here that Lithuania has passed through Golgotha, its people have experienced so much pain and misfortunes. Namely here revives the sincerest belief in our Saviour's sacrifice, love finds response in one's heart, hopes become stronger. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life” (Jn 3, 16). Cross is a symbol of such Love.

# Interesting places in Europe – Strasbourg

## What is Strasbourg most famous for?

The capital of the Alsace region has one of Europe's largest medieval quarters. In Grand Île and Petite France cobbled streets weave between creaking timber-framed houses that have survived for hundreds of years. Strasbourg has been the subject of a centuries-long tug of war between France and Germany, and is all the more exciting and beautiful for it. We're left with a city boasting beautiful turn-of-the-century districts built by the Germans, and hi-tech 17th-century fortifications designed by Vauban. The sense of cross-pollination continues in the cuisine and wine, and also in the presence of international institutions like the European Parliament.

Lets explore the best things to do in Strasbourg:

1. **Strasbourg Cathedral.** For 227 years up to 1874 this spellbinding sandstone cathedral was the tallest building in the world, and is still the highest surviving structure to have been built entirely during the medieval period. Writers have waxed lyrical about it for hundreds of years, and it's hard not to be moved by the west facade or the view of the vaults that greets you once you step inside. Another astounding thing about the cathedral is how much of it dates to the 1100s, including the entirety of the apse on the east side of the building. You cannot turn down a trip to the top of the north tower, completed in 1439, and with views as far as the Black Forest, 30 kilometres away.
2. **La Petite France.** The most photogenic area in the city: Millers, fishermen and tanners plied their trades in this district of waterways, weirs and locks crowded by black and white half-timbered (colombage) houses. These quaint old structures are from the 1500s and 1600s, and if you stand back and look up you can make out the opening in the roofs where animal hides were once laid out in the sun to dry. On some of the cobblestone streets like Rue du Bain aux Plantes the houses look unfeasibly top-heavy, and every few paces are traditional restaurants serving Alsatian specialties like choucroute garnie.
3. **Parc de l'Orangerie.** Just across the Ill from the European Parliament and the Court of Human Rights, the Parc de l'Orangerie took shape during the revolution when 140 orange trees confiscated from Château de Bouxwiller were granted to the city. There are now only three of these trees remaining, and you can still see them on certain days in the park's greenhouses. Naturally there's a lot more to this fantastic park than that: You have a large boating lake, lots of long, leafy avenues, lawns, and even a mini-zoo and farm for kids. There's also a stork reintroduction centre; this type of bird has a special place in Strasbourg folklore, and it's meant to be good luck for a household if a pair perch on the roof.
4. **Barrage Vauban.** Despite being built in the 1600s this fortified bridge and weir on the River Ill was a cornerstone of the city's defences as late as the Franco-Prussian War in 1870. It was made with pink sandstone from the Vosges, according to plans drawn up by Vauban (the great French military engineer). The idea was that in times of siege it would raise the level of the Ill and flood the lands to the south, and also drop barriers to prevent invaders from passing through. There's an internal corridor running the length of the structure and you can go up to the roof to see the towers of the Ponts Couverts and the cathedral.
5. **Ponts Couverts.** Heralding your entry to Petite France is a set of three fortified bridges that you'll know for their four tall square towers. These were built in the 1300s and were part of the city's original line of ramparts. The bridges' name is a bit of a misnomer these days as they aren't actually covered any more: Up to the 1700s the crossings were protected by long roofs that would have offered cover during sieges. The bridges became obsolete after the Barrage Vauban was completed upriver and the roofs have been gone for almost 300 years, but the name survives.

6. **Église Saint-Thomas.** Further proof that Strasbourg is at a cultural crossroads is this protestant church, which was the main Lutheran place of worship after Strasbourg became part of France in 1681. Église Saint-Thomas was completed in the 1520s and is the only example of a German-style hall church in the region. This means that unlike most churches in France, the nave and the aisles have the same height. They are brought under one roof and so are missing a clerestory (windows to light the nave). There's much to explore inside, including a large gothic fresco of St. Michael and the stunning romanesque sarcophagus of Bishop Adeloeh, from the 1100s. Finally, turn your gaze to the gallery organ from 1741, which was praised by Mozart when he played it in 1778.

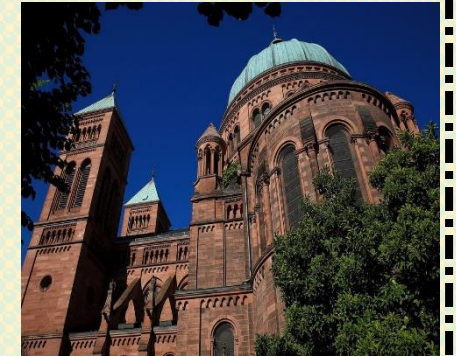
7. **Musée Alsacien.** With a supreme location in a 17th-century house on a quayside of the River Ill, the Musée Alsacien couldn't be better placed to teach you about local traditions and art in the city. The galleries provide several reconstructions of historic home scenes and workshops, all presented with original ceramics, costume, furniture, tools, toys and everyday utensils. The most intriguing displays deal with the traditional "savoir-faire" of the Alsace region, so illustrating how, for instance, wine was pressed in the 1700s and talking you through the Roman origins of wine-growing.

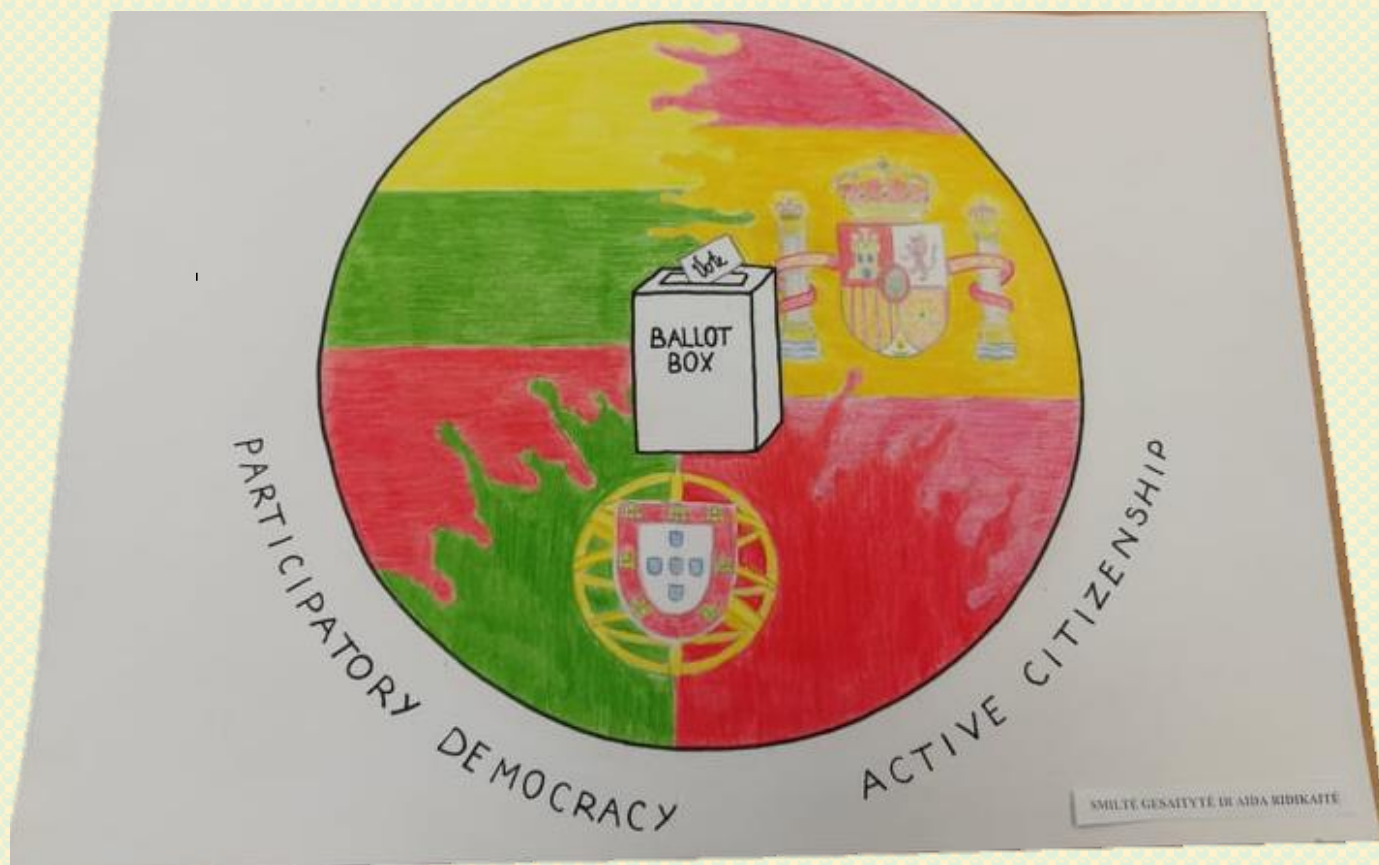
8. **European Parliament.** When you reflect on the city's past, it makes perfect sense that Strasbourg should be home to the European Parliament as it has always been a place where different cultures, faiths and languages have been reconciled. Strasbourg is one of three non-capital cities around the world to have an international institution, and the European Parliament needs to be on your itinerary. You may have to call ahead to get a tour of this modern cylindrical structure, housing the 750-seat debating chamber. Inside are three "internal streets", one of which has a winter garden with a philodendron forest.

9. **Musée Historique de Strasbourg.** Also by the River Ill, Strasbourg's historical museum is in the city's former slaughterhouse and deals with the period between the middle ages and the 18th century. There are weapons, maps, clothing, sketches and sculptures to help illustrate the complicated history of a city at the geographical, and also social, economic and political, nexus point of an entire continent. The shining star of the collection is a plan relief dating to 1727. This is a highly detailed 1/600 scale model of Strasbourg and its outskirts, covering almost 80 square metres. The detail is such that you make out all of the main landmarks, and, yes, the Ponts Couverts were still covered when the model was made!

10. **Eglise Saint-Pierre le Jeune.** Saint-Pierre le Jeune is remarkable because for 200 years it was divided in two by the Protestants and Catholics: The Protestants got the nave, while the Catholics used the choir. The building has architecture from many different periods too. In the crypt for instance are the vestiges of a Columban Church from the 600s, and the cloister is mostly romanesque, dating to the 1000s. Meanwhile the nave and its colourful frescoes are from the 14th and 15th centuries. In the gallery is an 18th-century organ designed by Johann Andreas Silbermann, the same man responsible for the organ at Strasbourg's Church of Saint-Thomas. And like the one there this instrument has national renown, and was used by the organist Helmut Wacha to record the works of Bach.

# Task – match the image with the paragraph!





We hope you have enjoyed reading about Lithuania, our history, language. The pandemic is not an obstacle for enjoyment of summer! The Lithuanian team is wishing all of you good summer weather, an active lifestyle, joy, democracy and solidarity. Stay safe and happy! Love and peace!

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