A.J. Šokoladas C-5. Vilniaus 134, tel. (+370) 698 103 31. A charming café in the heart of the city, perhaps best known for its fine range of Belgian chocolates made daily in Trakai and delivered fresh every morning. Good coffee too. Deen 07:30 - 22:00. Fri 07:30 - 24:00. Sat 09:00 - 24:00. Sun 10:00 - 22:00. cc 🗑 🐨

Mimoza C-5, Vilniaus 219, tel. (+370) 678 067 24. A dinky little vellow affair with a sprinkling of tables, cakes like mother used to make, Lithuanian folk music and milky coffee. One of a score or so of similar places in the area. this one stands out for being both bright and cheerful. > Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sun 10:00 - 18:00.

Presto C-5. Vilniaus 134, tel. (+370) 415 235 00, www.presto.lt. As well as selling a mind-boggling array of tea and coffee to take away and make at home. Presto also has a handful of tables for drinking the stuff on the premises. A few light sweet and savoury snacks are also available, i you can find a space among the pensioners. > Open 07:30 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 21:00. @ @

Prie Teatro C-5, Tilžės 151, tel. (+370) 415 249 61. Not knowing quite what it is Prie Teatro is perhaps best described as a café True it serves food including a cheap and cheerful set lunch menu, and granted you can drink there in the evening, but with it's enormous people-watching windows and propensity to attract a theatrical crowd when the neighbouring theatre is putting on a show, vour best bet is to use it as a place to imbibe a cup of coffee amidst the city's ntellectual elite as you're passing. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. 🚾

### Chinese

Panda C-5, Tilžės 144, tel. (+370) 610 001 86. Glitzy curtains and a few Chinese bits and bobs thrown about the place create an atmosphere redolent of the sort of eating house you'd find on the outskirts of Beijing. Chinese people who can cook working in the kitchen also ensure that ever without the full collection of ingredients the meals on offer are at least vaguely Chinese. The bamboo and mushroom soup was particularly good. although the recommended beef dish lacked the classic oomph required to make it truly outstanding. The menu is extensive, and even includes frogs' legs, a couple of which, if transplanted onto the waitress, would speed things up here no end. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00. Fri 10:00 - 23:00. Sat 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 11:00 - 22:00. 35Lt. → @

### Blast to the past

Pieno Baras D-5, Trakų 38, tel. (+370) 415 233 84. Pieno Baras translates as Milk Bar, a dying breed of establishments in Lithuania. A one-time Soviet-era high street staple, most have now closed their doors forever. In an attempt to keep up with the times, this particular milk bar has had the decorators in and now serves weak coffee and tea, basic buns and of course milk in more convivial surroundings. Notable for the interesting Soviet-era cameo on the wall, with the exception of the owner who nearly bit our heads off for being interested in her establishment, the staff are made up of semi-retired, rather giggly ladies. A truly Lithuanian experience indeed. ▶ Open 07:30 - 18:30 Closed Sat, Sun. 🕡

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### WHAT TO SEE

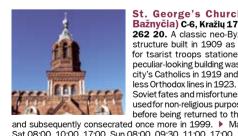
Despite a propensity for almost total destruction just about every time it sees a war, contemporary Šiauliai offers more sightseeing opportunities than most cities twice its size. Everything from 17th-century churches to the most extraordinary collection of museums and of course not forgetting the Hill of Crosses are all begging to be explored, and should all be visited when you're in town. The city centre itself is a surprisingly good-looking piece of real estate, with one or two remaining Soviet-era masterpieces and a collection of lovely 1930s buildings scattered along Aušros.

# Churches



Sts. Peter & Paul's Cathedral (Šv. D-5. Aušros 3. tel. (+370) 415 280 77. ıkatedra.lt. Completed at the start of the 17th century and receiving little in the way of changes over the centuries despite the devastation reaped on the city around it, he glorious Renaissance-style Sts. Peter and Paul's Cathedral is without doubt the most famous landmark in Šiauliai. A gleaming white nasterpiece with a red-topped single steeple owering over the city skyline, the plain white interior is notable for its simple design, the addition of three vast golden chandeliers and

the Stations of the Cross scattered around the walls being the most outstanding features. A wooden cross outside com nemorates a former wooden church built on the site. Mass 07:00, 07:30. 17:00, 18:00, Sat 08:00, 09:00, 10:00, 17:00, 18:00, Sun 08:00, 09:30, 11:00, 12:30, 18:00.



. George's Church (Šv. Jurgio yčia) C-6, Kražių 17, tel. (+370) 415 262 20. A classic neo-Byzantine red brick tructure built in 1909 as a garrison church for tsarist troops stationed in the city, this and international markets. culiar-looking building was taken over by the ess Orthodox lines in 1923. Suffering the usual Soviet fates and misfortunes, the building was usedfor non-religious purposes for many young before being returned to the Catholic Charlos and subsequently consecrated once more in 1999. Mass 07:30, 17:00,

St. Ignatius' Church (Šv. Ignaco os Bažnyčia) C-5, Vilniaus 245, tel. (+370) 414 376 00. One of the few hurches in Lithuania converted from a dwelling house, this strange-looking church was bought by the Jesuits in 1930 and converted for religious use. The church was closed by the occupying Soviet regime soon after the end of WWII and the two priests who oversaw its construction thrown in

prison. Spending time as a warehouse, gym and theatre, St. Ignatius' was returned to the Jesuits in 1990. The Papal visit to Lithuania in 1993 saw not only Pope John Paul II visit the church but use its attached residence as his chosen place to stay. With no tower, the church is impossible to see from anywhere but close up. Find it hidden away just south of Vilniaus, close the junction with Žemaitės. > Mass 18:00, Sun 09:00, 11:00, 18:00.



Povilo Bažnyčia) D-5, Rygos 2a, tel. (+370) 414 329 10. More a chapel than church, the city's only remaining Russian Orthodox house of worship can be found inside ne Russian section of the Old City Cemetery. Charming if understated, what the building hides inside remains a mystery owing to the doors being closed to the public most of the ime. Services Sat 16:00, Sun 09:00.

## WHERE TO EAT

Pekinas C-5. Višinskio 41. tel. (+370) 414 204 10. The classiest of the city's Chinese restaurants if not of all its restaurants no matter what the cuisine, feast from an astounding menu of classic and not-so classic Chinese dishes in a restrained Chinese atmosphere, albeit one with a large dragon in a fountain in the of a 1950s seaside cafeteria somewhere along the south coast of England, find little in the way of opulence but plenty of charm and, if you choose the right day, middle of the room. Aimed at rich locals as well as visiting Nato staff. Pekinas can also boast by far the best wine list of Šiauliai's competing Chinese restaurants. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00. 30Lt. 🚾 🗑

Bravaria C-5, Tilžės 109 (Saulės Miestas), tel. (+370) 652 620 92. Southern Germany meets the fall of the Roman Empire inside a modern shopping centre no less. It's all lederhosen, gurgling fountains and the strains of oom-pa-pa here, providing a worryingly authentic version of Lithuania circa 1943. One of the best places in town for large groups, the menu has been thoughtfully designed with lots of colour photographs of the food, which is really rather good indeed. Little touches like dressing on the salad make all the difference here, although the German beer they brew on the premises could be better. Avoid the dark one at all costs. It's quite undrinkable. • Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 02:00. 15Lt. 

### Lithuanian



There are essentially two types of ithuanian restaurant in Lithuania. The first and most obvious variety features pigtailed waitresses in national dress serving plates of potatoes and beetroot soup in an atmosphere reminiscent of an old barn. The second is less easy to oin down, and is perhaps best described as a restaurant or café serving predomi-

nantly but not exclusively Lithuanian favourites in an atmosphere you won't find anywhere other than in Lithuania. Rather than insult the best intentions of the good restaurant owners of Šiauliai and call the former of the two Folk restaurants, we choose to list both types of restaurant together.

Juonė Pastuogė C-5. Aušros 31a, tel. (+370) 415 249 26, www.jonis. It. Come to Šiauliai, don't come here, and consider yourself a sinner. Arguably the city's most famous if not notorious establishment. Juone Pastuoge's genius is manifold. Essentially your classic, wood-encrusted, folksy traditional Lithuanian restaurant and bar, find it bristling with hardcore bumpkins of every persuasion, hell-bent on stuffing their faces with cepelinai and pigs' ears and bouncing around on the tiny upstairs dance floor to the rhythms of the live folk bands who play here so often. Summertime sees two outdoor courtyards open for even more adventures. Highly recommended. Dopen 11:00 - 18:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 01:00. Closed Sun. 10Lt. @ 🖟 🗑

Prie Bokšto C-5, Vytauto 103, tel. (+370) 415 205 50. Handy for the Water Sanitation Museum and one of the cheapest options in town for classic Lithuanian canteen food, unfortunately the menu and the staff function in Lithuanian only, meaning you'll need an interpreter to eat here. The lunch menu is practically giveaway. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00, Sat 10:00 - 15:00. 5Lt. Closed Sun.

Roneta C-4. Aušros 41. tel. (+370) 415 259 28. A goldfish bowl on the bar, old maps of Lithuania on the walls and a gentleman with an impressive moustache nursing a bottle of beer in the corner all point to the fact that this is your classic Lithuanian restaurant. Not the type of classic Lithuanian restaurant featuring waitresses dressed in peasant costumes and combine narvesters screwed to the walls mind you. Baffling to the uninitiated but worth a go if you like an adventure, try the full portion of cepelinai if you're feeling brave. Deen 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Sat. Sun. 7Lt.

Senasis Sodžius C-6, Stoties 3, tel. (+370) 414 318 67. Folksy furniture, fresh flowers on the tables, an intriguing set of mosaics on the walls and an old-fashioned, homely atmosphere provide the backdrop for a simple restaurant dedicated to the ancient art of filling people to bursting with honest peasant cooking. The menu is a cavalcade of nationalist nutrition cooked to provide pleasure and calories in equal amounts. Dopen 11:00 - 18:00, Sat

Šiauliai being the anomaly it is, its most famous site, the Hill of Crosses,

is several kilometres north of the city in the middle of the countryside. A

iingling testimony to the stubborn resilience of a nation, be sure to leave

Paul's Cathedral, its lofty spire visible from just about anywhere in the

city, is not only worth a peep inside but should be applauded vigorously

for being there at all in a city twice devastated by war in the last hundred

Frenkel's Villa is a fitting tribute to the city's once vibrant Jewish com-

munity and should definitely be included on any brief itinerary around

the city. Of Siauliai's multitude of museums, the three that really stand

Engine Museum, although an accompanying native speaker is vital in

Three factories in Šiauliai are open to the general public for excursions, al-

though to date none of them are available in English. Put enough pressure

on them however and the situation is bound to change. In the mean time,

Baltik Vairas Pramonės 3, tel. (+370) 415 991 11. Founded on Christmas

Day 1948 by the fabulously named USSR Automobile, Tractor, Motorcycle

and Ricycle Industry Council in typical Soviet bureaucratic style it took

another two years before the first Eaglet bicycle rolled off the production

line in what's become an immensely prolific factory as well as a great source of both pride and employment for Siauliai. Now privatised and 50 per cent

owned by the German bicycle manufacturers. Panther the Baltik Vairas plant

boasts seven assembly lines producing a range of bicycles for the domestic

factory dates back to the late 17th century, and since then the company has

had an interesting and illustrious time. During the period of Russian rule from 1795 to 1915, banned Lithuanian-language literature was hidden on Gubernija

property, and before WWII the Lithuanian narrow gauge railway network ran a

line directly into the factory ensuring a rapid distribution of the their products.

The company was privatised in 1996, and now produces a range of beers,

Rūta C-5, Tilžės 133, tel. (+370) 415 230 71. Founded in 1913 by Antanas

Gricevičius, who studied confectionary art in Vilnius, Šiauliai and St. Petersburg, today's modernfactory has come a long way since the first sweets were produced

in a small timber house. Today's production shops cover a total area of some

5,000 square metres, employ almost 250 local staff and produce a wide range of

delicious chocolates, liqueur chocolates, pralines and other treats. > Open 08:30

Aušra (Dawn) C-5, Aušros and Kaštonų. The tacit rule of thumb for

Lithuanian monuments appears to be that if it's male it's standing up, and if

it's female it's sitting down. This 2003 statue of a woman by the Lithuanian

sculptress Dalia Matulaitė, also responsible for the Lazdynų Pelėda monument in Vilnius, conforms to the rule rather nicely. In the pipeline for a couple of

decades before finally getting the go-ahead, Aušra (Auszra) was the name of

the Lithuanian nationalist revival movements of the late-19th and early-20th

century as well as the moniker of the first newspaper published in the Lithuanian

language (1883-1886), and therefore plays a significant role in the hearts and

Solar Disks (Saulės Diskai) C-5. Vasario 16-osios 62 Unveiled on October

1, 2006 to celebrate both the 770th anniversary of the city as well as the comple-

tion of the renovation of the square it stands in Lithuanian sculptor Gintautas

Lukošaitis' abstract creation echoes the city's miscellaneous associations with

the sun and is already serving as a useful place to meet. It's construction is such

that the reflections it casts provide hours of endless entertainment, proving there's

- 19:30, Sat 08:30 - 15:30. Closed Sun.

Monuments

minds of the locals

more to it than first meets the eye.

find yourself a friendly local interpreter to go along with you

ut are the Aušros Palace, Bicycle Museum and the child-friendly Fire

and say a prayer when you visit. The Renaissance Sts. Peter &

ugh now given over almost exclusively to Lithuanian history,

WHAT TO SEE

**Essential Siauliai** 

order to get the full effect from all three.

Industrial tourism

### WHERE TO EAT

International

Closed Sun. 30Lt. CC

Valdemaro Ledainė C-5, Aušros 54, tel. (+370) 415 202 04. Reminiscent

a warm welcome from the people who work here. More than just a café for eating

ice cream in, also find a menu of Lithuanian dishes plus plenty of soft and hard

drinks. Next to the City Park, and accordingly extremely busy during the summer.

Fortas C-5, Tilžės 109 (Saulės Miestas), tel. (+370) 414 219 58. Lots of

cool shades of brown and a gaggle of chirpy waitresses on hand to ferry items from a menu of hit and miss international dishes served with gay abandon. The

a laugh. The service could be better, but if you don't mind a bumbling waitress

Retro C-5, Vilniaus 146, tel. (+370) 415 212 02. A wire-sculpture Edwardian

lady by the door and their own twee art gallery in the same building provide two clues as to what you're going to find inside this place. Echoing back to the golden,

inter-war period between the two flattenings of the city, the feminine decoration

plates of food including Mexican stew and steak. Definitely one for the ladies

this. Find the entrance a little way up Dvaro on the right. > Open 11:00 - 23:00.

Brodvėjaus Pica C-5, Vilniaus 146, tel. (+370) 415 004 12, Remarkably

excellent, good value pizzas of the thin and crispy variety churned out in a range

their bar is downstairs, and that you can also eat down there if you like. > Open

Čili Pica C-5. Vilniaus 128. tel. (+370) 413 999 08. www.cilipica.lt. A

slightly industrial feel compounded with a smattering of distressed furniture be-

travs what's under the surface just one more of the country's favourite pizza chain

outlets. Good value if nothing to write home about, the pizzas in question serve

of grilled meat, pasta and Lithuanian fare. > Open 08:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 08:00

their purpose well. Find alongside the Italian pie classics the customary additions

- 24:00, Sun 08:00 - 22:00. 13Lt. 🖶 🚾 🗟 🗑 🞟

of sizes and flavours. Also a few grilled meat offerings and local dishes. Note tha

10:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 24:00, Sun 11:00 - 22:00. 13Lt. 🖼 🚾

features lots of trinkets and old photographs to gaze upon whilst demolishing

giving you the bill half way through your meal you won't be too put off by the place.

food's pretty good by all accounts, and their themed menus are always good for

• Open 10:00 - 22:00, Fri 10:00 - 23:00, Sat 11:00 - 23:00.

▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 24:00. 13Lt. @ 🗑 🐨

Soviet Soldier's Plinth (Sovietų Kario Postamentas) C-5, Prisikėlimo Aikštė. The manly statue of a Soviet soldier once stood outside the Cathedral back when the square it stood in was known as Pergalès Aikštė (Victory Square), Long since hauled off to take pride of place by the front door of the restaurant at Grūto Parkas near Druskininkai, all that remains is the granite plinth, complete with the words, in Russian and Lithuanian, Honour for the Glorious Red Army, the Winner! The tale of the monument is worth mentioning. The work of the Russian sculptor Alexander Penkov and made from aluminium collected from the European battlefields of WWII, the statue was built by German prisoners of war and unveiled or Soviet Army Day, February 23, 1947. Harsh weather conditions spoilt the glory of the occasion by freezing the covering to the statue, an embarrassing hiccup that required the calling in of a couple of rock climbers to get it off. When the monument was dismantled in 1991, a bottle was found inside the plinth containing two German banknotes and a list of the names of the prisoners who built it. News of the event reached Germany, culminating in a visit to the city by the surviving prisoners. The bottle, banknotes and a copy of the list are now on display in the Sajūdis exhibition at the Aušros Palace (see Museums).

Saulys, atop the Sundial (see below)

Sundial (Saulės Laikrodis) D-5, Ežero and S. Šalkauskio. A collaborative work of public art constructed as part of the city's 750th anniversary, supported at the base by three works by the Lithuanian artists A. Černiauskas, R. Jurėla, and A. Vyšniūnas, find at the top of a 17-metre pole the golden figure of Saulys (The Archer, picture above) by Stanislovas Kuzma (b. 1947). A composite of concepts involving the sun, the archer and time, the sundial is inscribed with at the base with the numbers 12, 3 and 6, making up the date of the famous local battle that created the city.

# Museums

WHAT TO SEE

Aušros Palace (Aušros Alėjos Rūmai) C-4, Aušros 47, tel. (+370) 415 243 91. Established in 1923, this is the home of Šiauliai's Aušros Museum, which has several branches throughout the city. This particular building houses several permanent exhibitions including a typically yawn-inducing archaeology depart ment complete with models of how local villages looked like thousands of years ago and several glass cases full of spears and broken pots. More interesting is city's Catholics in 1919 and remodelled along Gubernija C-3, Dvaro 179, tel. (+370) 415 919 00. The first Gubernija the Peasant Life at the Turn of the 20th Century exhibition, featuring recreations of peasant homes of the time and examples of what the people who lived in them used to wear. The adjoining room contains some startlingly cruel folk wood carvings whilst upstairs is a small memorial to the Sąjūdis (Reform) movement who helped bring about an end to the Soviet occupation of the country. Among the many photographs and other trinkets are a German beer bottle found inside the former Soviet Soldier's Monument that once stood outside the Cathedral and that was built by German prisoners of war soon after the Red Army captured the city in 1944. Deen 09:00 - 17:00, Sat 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Sun.



Bicycle Museum (Dviračių Muzieius) D-5. Vilniaus 139. tel. (+370) **415 243 95.** Proof that you don't need a onverted power station or banks of computer screens to make a great museum, Siauliai's exemplary Bicycle Museum offers three floors of over 250 bicycles and other bicycle-related paraphernalia. The top floor is given over to early models, including old wooden machines and a charming Ger man tricycle complete with a velvet seat and believed to be around 100 years old

Downstairs is a collection of Lithuanian bicycles made in the city's still active bicvcle factory (see Industrial tourism) as well as highlighting some extraordinary bicycle-related stories including that of 73-year-old Liudas Aleksa who between April and October 1960 cycled 11.800km from Klaipeda to Vladivostok before promptly falling down dead three days after his arrival. Downstairs is a veritable menagerie of experimental and battery-powered machines. There really are too many good things to mention here, including the 1974 Lithuanian copy of the classic Chopper bike that never went into production, some truly awe-inspiring pictures of bicycles that never made it beyond the drawing board including an entire bicycle system along the lines of cable cars and a firemen's bicycle made for three fire-fighters. Unfortunately, English explanations are thin on the ground, and as with so many of the city's museums, having a native speaker show you around is paramount if you want to get the full experience. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Sun. Admission 6/3Lt.

# WHERE TO EAT



Arkos C-5. Vilniaus 213, tel. (+370) 415 202 05. Considered by many to be

ranslating into English as dining room or canteen, the classic Lithuanian valgykla offers students and workers simple, hearty meals in unsophisticated surroundings at rock bottom prices. Although Šiauliai prices are hardly going to bankrupt most readers of this guide, there's no shame in watching your pennies, especially if you're travelling on a particularly tight budget Don't expect English menus or polyglots among the staff however. A student in the queue should be able to help, or, if you have to, point at something somebody's already eating.

Dubysa C-6, Stoties 2, tel. (+370) 414 337 33, Contrary to popular belief, the humble valgykla isn't on the verge of extinction as proved by this place. A relatively new venture, find the usual array of cheap and cheerful dishes served by monoglot babes in their 50s to everyone from hard-up students to old age pensioners. > Open 07:30 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 19:00,

Svirmantė C-5, Aušros 19a, tel. (+370) 413 976 20. Located insid the police station and entered via a door at the back of the building, find all the usual offerings from *plovas* to *Žemaičių blynai* for silly prices. Not the most wholesome of restaurants it's true, this one is only really worth visiting if you're down on your luck or are truly interested in the minutiae of Lithuanian social culture. Deen 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun. 6Lt.

Gedimino Pizza C-5, Višinskio 41b, tel. (+370) 618 002 00. Above the Rezonansas music shop, this extremely basic pizza place is generally full of school ids and friends of the chef. Not exactly located in salubrious surroundings, the 20 pizzas in two sizes on offer are at least edible and cheap. Deep 11:00 - 23:00, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 24:00. 12Lt. 🕸 🚾 🗑

Mambo Pizza C-5, Tilžės 109 (Saulės Miestas), tel. (+370) 652 921 18. Glowing orange columns, equally lustrous furniture and a choice of decent pizzas plus the usual meaty options. Mambo somehow manages to cook among the best and the worst steaks in the country, the most recent one we tried looking like a child's shoe and tasting like a child's shoe too. Not only does the chef appear to be up in the clouds half the time, the restaurant does too, providing splendid views of the matchstick hoi polloi shuffling about in the streets below. > Open 10:00 - 24:00. 15Lt. 🕸 🕭 🚾 🗟 🗑 🚥

Picerija Italija C-5. Vilniaus 167, tel. (+370) 415 208 66. Located among a little clot of pizza restaurants, this one stands out for its furniture made from iron girders and the anthropological seating by the windows more than for what they get up to in the kitchen. Alongside a humdrum roll call of edible if not spectacular pizzas, find the usual collection of pasta and meat offerings. 🕨 Open 07:30 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 22:00. 10Lt. 🕸 🚾 🗑 🚥

### Sandwiches

R Kiosk C-5, Tilžės 151. A national chain of shops selling cigarettes, soft drinks and sweeties, R Kiosk's avant-garde approach to takeaway sandwiches and wraps deserves at least a little attention, and here it is. A welcome addition for those in search of a snack whilst on the hoof. R Kiosk also sells a number of maps, including an excellent one of Šiauliai, Also at: Tilžės 109 (Saulės Miestas). ▶ Open 07:00 - 22:00. cc

### WHAT TO SEE

Cat Museum (Katinų Muziejus) E-6, Žuvininkų 18, tel. (+370) 415 238 83. Opened in 1990 to an unsuspecting world who still can't quite get over the shock, Šiauliai's quirkiest museum by far features over 10,000 cats manifest in every possible material from ceramics to postcards to stained glass. Pointless unless you're bonkers about cats or just plain bonkers, the museum also includes a couple of rooms filled with animals including an albino python and a glass tank full of cockroaches. Located just east of the city centre, follow the broken road until you reach what looks like a school on the corner on the right. > Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Sun. Admission 4/2Lt.

Fire Engine Museum (Gaisrinių Automobilių Muziejus) Lakūnų 2 (air nort). tel. (+370) 415 420 03. Where most cities can't summon up the energy or enthusiasm to open one fire brigade-related museum, Šiauliai opens two. This one's run by the nice people who provide fire support services at the airport and is made up of a single hangar full of fire engines. There's a story behind each one if you're prepared to learn the language or take an interpreter along, plus children are allowed to scramble about inside them, beep the horns and generally have a good time. Most of the machines are modernish Soviet beasts although there are a couple of gems including a gorgeous converted 1957 Chevrolet 4400 complete with original wooden interior. Not easy to find, follow the road out to the airport, turn left onto Lakūnų and it's the first collection of buildings on the right. If the hangar's closed, walk to the far end building on the right and find somebody to open up for you. Open 08:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun. Admission free.

Fire Protection Museum (Priešgaisrinės Apsaugos Muziejus) C-3, Basanavičiaus 89, tel. (+370) 413 979 11. A tiny room upstairs inside the fire station, this rather depressing museum includes a lovely old German wooder fire engine from around 1900, a handful of uniforms and examples of what can happen to ordinary household goods if they catch fire. One for those who have a genuine interest in firemen, and of little curiosity to anybody else. > Open by appointment only. Admission free.

Just exactly when the first Jews settled in Šiauliai (or Shavl as it's known in

the Jewish world) is uncertain. What is known relates to a likely apocryphal

### Jewish Siauliai

story dated around the latter half of the 17th century when the city was still a small village. One day, the village's Christians were bringing a large new bell for their church when they somehow managed to drop it in a river and couldn't get it out again. A Jewish gentleman by the name of Reb Zev Nurok Katz risked his life and successfully retrieved the bell, for which in return he received rights for himself and his family to reside in Siauliai. The first known nagogue was built from wood in 1749, around the same time as the founding of the Jewish Cemetery, now a forlorn, raped and abandoned place betwee Šilo and Rėkyvos. Šiauliai was notable in Lithuania for being one of the few towns where Jews prospered beyond their usual stations in local life as traders, eepers and artisans. Among those Jews who excelled in public life wa the Ukmerge-born industrialist and philanthropist Chaim Frenkel (1857-1920), the owner of the largest leather-processing factory in the Russian Empire, which still stands next to the villa he built in 1908 (see Museums). On June 26, 1941 the German army entered Siauliai and began murdering the Jewish population almost immediately. Two ghettos were set up, of which a memoria stone stands at the junction of Ezero and Traku. By the time the Red Army marched into the city on July 27, 1944, of its Jewish population of 8,000 in 1939 just 500 Jews remained. Šiauliai no longer has an active Jewish community, and there's little left to see. As well as the places mentioned above the two other most notable Jewish sites are the old synagogue at Vilniaus 68, now a small chapel used by an obscure Christian sect and the rather tasteless low walls on either side of Aušros Takas, the small path that leads from the Cathedral to the Sundial. The stones used for their construction, which bear no memorial stone, were pilfered from the walls that once surrounded the Jewish Cemetery, which was closed in 1965. Old Jewish Cemetery (Senosios Žydu Kapinės) D-6. Between Šilo

and Rekyvos. Opened in 1701 or 1748 depending on which source you read the desolate and depressing open space where the city's Jews once laid at rest was closed in 1965. A small, graffiti-spattered memorial stone lies at the former entrance with only a few broken graves still to be found. The stone wall that once surrounded the cemetery only survives along its northern borde Pillaged by uncultured Soviet officials and their willing Lithuanian accomplices a small part of it has been unceremoniously incorporated into the flight of steps near the Cathedral know as Aušros Takas.

### BARS & CLUBS

A good night out in Šiauliai generally involves the spending of little money followed by a sore head in the morning. Although the choice of bars is limited, what choices there are really are very good indeed. Whereas other large Lithuanian cities have gone for the slick and painfully bland approach to bar design. siauliai's nightlife entrepreneurs rely more on the good nature of their clients rather than making everything look nice. After you've finished sampling the local Gubernija beer, bend your steps in the direction of one of the city's curious nightclubs, most of them lost in a land that time forgot and all of them promis ing to furnish visitors with memories to last for years to come. Walking the dark streets at night is as safe as it is in any civilised country, although do exercise caution with your valuables. Leaving mobile phones and wallets lying around on tables or inside unattended pockets is asking for trouble.

a restaurant and serving by all accounts a reasonable choice of dishes including a good value business lunch. Arkos' real claim to fame is that it's the most comfort able bar in town. Frequented by well-heeled locals and visiting foreigners alike, the décor features authentic vaulted brick ceilings, an ancient gramophone and a huge screen for the broadcasting of major basketball games. We advent of miscellaneous live cabaret acts. > Open 10:00 - 24:00.

a basement extension of the Brodvejaus Pica restaurant upstairs, the moody atmosphere and the fact that your mum can't see you through the window makes this a popular night haunt for much of the younger section of the town's population. A few beers, wines and spirits are on hand to help move things along before everyone toddles off back to their parents', or, if it's the weekend, to one of Šiauliai scintilating nightspots. Open 10:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 24:00, Sun 11:00 - 22:00. @ @ Kapitonas Morganas C-5, Vilniaus 183, tel. (+370) 415 264 77. A bar to

sit and get sloshed at or the choice of a couple of intimate drinking rooms inside

this Siauliai institution are the options available here. The robust tropical fish are a

rodvėjaus Bar C-5. Vilniaus 146. tel. (+370) 415 004 12. Little more than

nice touch, and the aforementioned cubbyholes provide opportunities for all manner of intimate encounters. Popular with a mixed clientele, find it either completely empty or bursting at the seams depending on what the rest of the town is up to Den 10:00 - 22:00. Fri. Sat 10:00 - 24:00. Sun 11:00 - 23:00. Kišenė C-5. Aušros 13. tel. (+370) 414 266 66. Magnificent if you hit it at the right time, this place isn't called The Pocket for nothing. It's not exactly that it's small in here

it's more to do with the fact that the bar takes up the entire room with the exception of a tiny space between it and the walls just big enough to squeeze a bar stool in. A good place to meet the city's slightly arty, slightly drinky, over-30s set, this is a great place for sessions that have a tendency to go on much longer than the published opening hours would suggest. > Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 13:00 - 24:00. arpas C-5. Vilniaus 154, tel. (+370) 415 021 35. Something akin to a café

but better described as a bar, clump your way down the wiggly staircase into this dark and mildly eccentric venue and enjoy a totally unique experience. Décor and ambience come in the guise of elaborate wrought iron contraptions, glass panels in the floor concealing leftovers from a jumble sale, some nice black and white photography on the walls and rock music. The drinks selection is more than adequate for a good session, plus there's a menu of decent and affordable food to soak it all up with. Dopen 10:00 - 23:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 24:00. @C

Vyno Rūsys C-6, Tilžės 114, tel. (+370) 613 149 01. Actually located around the corner on Stoties, this underground sensation is not for the faint hearted. Frequented by a rough crowd attracted by cheap booze (Kalnapilis at just 2.50Lt for half a litre at the time of writing) and somewhere to keep warm whilst getting plastered, the early closing time gives you an indication of the style of drinking going on here. > Open 07:00 - 19:00.

Martini D-5. Draugvstės 25. tel. (+370) 413 996 88. Aimed and enforced at the over-21s courtesy of a door policy that keeps anyone who doesn't look like they just stepped out of a black BMW out in the cold. Martini is decorated in red PVC, comes with the kind of dance floor designed for girls to dance around their handbags on, and is, in a nutshell, bling. The programme varies from DJs designed to make your grandmother weep to live cabaret acts hired for more or less the same purpose. A gangster rap atmosphere without the rap. > Open 21:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Sun. Entrance 5-10Lt. @ [7]

# WHAT TO SEE



on the roof testifies, the one-time grand residence of the Jewish industrialist Chaim Frenkel spent time as a Jewish grammar school from 1920 until 1940 before being commandeered by the Nazis as officers quarters and finally falling into the hands of the Soviets who used it as a military hospital. Now under the control of the city's Ausros Museum and undergoing much needed renovation work, of the three halls and four galleries open to the pubic just one small space is sadly given over to the Frenkels and the history of the substantial Jewish contribution to the

Frenkel's Villa (Ch. Frenkelio Vila)

D-6. Vilniaus 74. tel. (+370) 415 243

89. Built in 1908 as the weathercock

city. Other rooms celebrate all manner of Lithuanian life from former Lithuanian royalty to Japanese and Chinese art to a recreation of life in the city during the interwar period. Ongoing reconstruction outside is slowly breathing life back into the palace's former gardens including a magnificent fountain found at the back of the building. > Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 17:00. Closed aldas Lapienis Pathology Museum (Osvaldo Lapienio Patologi

ios Muzieius) B-4. V. Kudirkos 99. tel. (+370) 415 242 71. Dr. Osvaldas Lapienis (1928-2001), who founded the hospital's Pathology Department, started collecting his gruesome exhibits in about 1955 for teaching purposes only. His posthumous collection of some 500 pickled body parts, babies, tumours and other delights is now on show inside this grisly museum. > Open by appointment

Police Museum (Policijos Muziejus) C-5, Aušros 19, tel. (+370) 413 975 22. With tours available in Lithuanian and Russian only, you'll need an interpreter to make sense of this peculiar contribution to the city's life of crime-busting. One small room hidden away at the back of the police headquarters showcases everything rom uniforms to examples of the tools used by modern Lithuanian petty criminals to an amusing black and white photograph of the Siauliai police force as it appeared between the wars, complete with ice-cream-cone helmets as worn by the British police force. Depen 08:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun. Admission free

Radio & Television Museum (Radio ir TV Muzieius) C-5. Vilniaus 174, tel. (+370) 415 243 99. Opened in 1982 and seemingly not added to ever since, this tiny little museum features a handful of glass cabinets stuffed with everything from an original Edison phonograph to a black box flight recorder Appealing to the boffin in us all, the rapid onslaught of the digital age means it's unlikely anyone under the age of 30 will know what half the stuff in here's actually for. Once again, a mildly meaningless adventure without the aid of a local to help you explain what it's all about. 

Open 10:00-18:00, Sat 11:00-17:00. Closed Mon, Sun (Oct-June). 10:00 - 18:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Tue

Railway Museum (Geležinkelio Muziejus) C-6, Dubijos 44, tel. (+370) 412 036 84. A small collection of railway related detritus including he usual display of hats, whistles, lamps and clocks plus assorted gifts fron the grateful workers of the Lithuanian Soviet Republic to mark the centenary of the Lithuanian railway system. Free to enter and worth a visit if you just-so happen to be catching a train, look for the old steam locomotive and go down the steps next to it to find the entrance. Dopen 08:00 - 17:30. Closed Sat. Sun. Admission free.



dentvarkos Muziejus) C-5, Vytauto 103. tel. (+370) 415 922 57. Almost as interesting as it sounds, enter the Administracija building, knock on door N°106 and ask the lady to let you in. Once she's found the keys, taken you to the museum realised she's got the wrong keys and consequently goes to get the right ones, comes back again and lets you in, give yourself a least two minutes for this rollercoaster of a

Water Sanitation Museum (Van

do so, although this doesn't usually prevent local entrepreneurs without the museum adventure made up of half a dozen or so dusty sewage pipes, a couple right piece of paper from doing so. All registered tour guides are located on a database at the Tourist Information Centre. If you want to take the official of brushes for cleaning them with, a handful of water sanitation medals and a wal eaturing a photograph of some of the people who've earned them. ▶ Open 08:00 route, these are the people you need to contact. 17:00, Fri 08:00 - 15:45. Closed Sat, Sun. Admission free

### **BARS & CLUBS**

Mega D-5, Rūdės 27a, tel. (+370) 415 252 92. The irony may be lost on its wners, but the fact that you enter via the kind of turnstile usually found at a zoo leaves little else to be written about this place. Brimming with exotic creatures, the space-age furniture, smoke machines and cages for half-naked floozies to wiggle in provide a sizzling if somewhat primordial atmosphere for partygoers to revel in The attached Pop Café offers a welcome relief from the hullabaloo. Deen 10:00 - 03:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 05:00. Entrance 5-10Lt. @

egasas C-5, Vilniaus 225, tel. (+370) 415 024 10. Avoidable Greek restaurant best bookshop in town, find a couple of shelves lined with English landay, yet another bizarre club by night, Pegasus is, thankfully like its namesake from guage bestsellers plus more space given over to a good choice of guide Greek mythology, mortal. Pegasus (the accent is on the second syllable if you need to ask somebody how to get there) doesn't have anything special to offer beyond the classic small town mix of pop music, squeaky girls and large, bald-headed me Hours of fun just so long as you remember to leave your sophisticated, big city ideas in the hotel. ▶ Open 10:00 - 03:00, Mon 10:00 - 21:00, Thu 10:00 - 04:00, Fri, Sat Confectionary 10:00 - 05:00, Sun 18:00 - 03:00. Entrance 5-15Lt. @C Rūta C-5. Tilžės 133. tel. (+370) 415 230 71. www.ruta.lt. The retail

eatro Bufetas C-5, Tilžės 155, tel. (+370) 415 215 09. Located around unique and delightfully edible gifts and souvenirs. > Open 08:30 - 19:30, Sat the back of the Siauliai Drama Theatre, this much talked about club featuring some of the country's more interesting and eclectic DJs evades all attempts at being visited. For information about events, see the flyers dotted about town. > Oper 20:00 - 03:00. Entrance 5-15Lt. 📝 If you're thinking of giving flowers to somebody in Lithuania, remember

## Adult entertainment

Aistros Masažai B-7, Pramonės 6 Escape (Bruklinas), tel. (+370) 670 888 82, www.aistrosmasazai.lt. A range of exotic massages for men and women, including aromatherapy ones, ones with honey and the fabulous-sounding Foundation Hands. Also at Aido 8 (Akropolis), tel. (+370) 608 246 66. Open 10:00 - 21:00. Open 10:00 - 06:00.

Escape B-7, Pramonés 6 (Bruklinas), tel. (+370) 670 888 82 www.escapeclub.lt. As the name implies, escape daily life (or the wife), relax and have a good time. Highlights include different girls dancing every week, erotic sauna and Jacuzzi and the chance to rent a private hall. > Open 22:00 - 06:00. Entrance 30Lt.

### **Bowling & Billiards**

WHAT TO SEE

Fri 08:00 - 15:45. Closed Sat, Sun.

Places of interest

Tour guides

Cemeteries

Parks & Gardens

us Navalis C-5, Tilžės 109 (Saulės Miestas), tel. (+370) 415 015 **01.** Ten lanes, funky furniture and a bar to boot, all tucked away on the top floor of a large mall. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 02:00. ☑

Mega D-5, Rūdės 27a, tel. (+370) 415 592 92. Six lanes inside the basement of the club of the same name, complete with a bar and little else. Posh, but not exactly ostentatious, upstairs find 10 pool tables, table football and another bar. Den 10:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 03:00. CC

olis E-6, Vilniaus 47, tel. (+370) 415 215 42. Ten lanes, loud disco music, a bar and little else, all of it slightly outside the city centre. Depen 12:00 - 24:00. **cc** Žaidimų Tunelis C-5, Tilžės 121, tel. (+370) 415 234 67. What it lacks

in lanes it more than makes up for in other departments. For those tempted to visit, also lurking within this quirky little upstairs establishment expect to find two pool tables and a bar designed by a colour-blind hippy. Almost worth putting on your pub-crawl list. Dopen 10:00 - 24:00.



school and now belongs to the Arts faculty of Šiauliai University.

the southern tip of the lake or drive there via the Cat Museum (see Meseums).

Sodas) B-5, Paltalčių 4, tel. (+370) 415 539 34, www.sodas.su.lt. Founded in

1997, the four-hectare botanical gardens in the care and preserve of the city's university are open to the public and well worth a visit. Featuring rock gardens, arboretum,

rare Lithuanian species and medicinal plants from the region, the gardens are both

an education plus a place to get away from it all. Find them just southwest of the city

centre, a five-minute walk from the Medžiotojų Užeiga hotel. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00

of kilometres southeast of the centre is the final resting place of Šiauliai's recently

Čiurlionis, Sofia Kymantaitė-Čiurlionienė (1886-1958), a Lithuanian soldiers' plot

and Kazimieras Venclauskis, whose former house is one the many places worth

visiting when in town. A map of the cemetery can be found next to the main gate,

Battle of the Sun (Saulės Mūšis) C-5, Tilžės 140 (inside the Saulė cinema).

Lithuania's largest example of stained glass is an absolute must-see when in town

Made in 1986 as part of Šiauliai's 750th anniversary celebrations by Kazys Morkūnas (1929-2008) and covering an impressive 200 square metres, the beautifully coloured

work depicts imagined scenes from the 1236 Battle of Saule including sword-wielding

knights and stylised horse heads with strange eyes and big goofy teeth. Inside the Saulė

cinema, it's easy to miss unless you look closely, and can only be truly appreciated if

Lithuanian bureaucracy dictates that showing strangers the sights and

sensations of the country requires a state-endorsed certificate in order to

found along Ežero on the right if walking away from the city centre.

you go inside the building and view it with the daylight behind it.

Old City Cemetery (Senosios Miesto Kapinės) D

5, Ežero. Immediately east of the Cathedral at the bottom

1831 after the cholera epidemic of the same year. Actually comprised of three cemeteries for the burial of members

of the city's Catholic, Russian Orthodox and non-believe

communities, the cemetery is now closed with the excep-

buried here are various family members of the wife of the

tion of the occasional important burial. Among the many

Lithuanian painter and composer Mikaloius Konstantinas

of the hill, the poignant Old City Cemetery was opened in

deceased artists, intellectuals and VIPs. Itself now full to bursting, the cemetery is

restricted to burials of people related to those already laid to rest here.

### WHAT TO SEE

🕨 0pen 08:00 - 24:00. 🚾 🗟 🚥

SHOPPING

Flowers & Plants

large heavy object.

Gifts & Souvenirs

Shopping centres

to cinema. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. 🚾 🞟

14:00. Closed Sun.

Books etc.

Milan it isn't, but for basic goods and adventures inside a growing number

of malls, Šiauliai's shops are more than adequate. Also check the superb

Ziburio Knygynas C-5, Vilniaus 213, tel. (+370) 414 315 57, The

books and maps. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun

outlet of the city's famous confectionary factory. An excellent place for buying

that superstition remains rife here and it's easy to make a mistake.

the right side of your sweetheart and/or future parents-in-law. Firstly.

unless somebody just died, make sure you only give an odd number of

flowers or stems. One will do but isn't particularly welcomed unless it's

potent symbols of death and should be left well alone unless heading to

the cemetery. If giving flowers to members of the older generations avoid

a single red rose for the one you love. Lilies and chrysanthemums are

vellow ones. Yellow is the colour of jealousy, and can be traced back to

the Middle Ages when yellow was the traditional colour of the dresses

worn by ladies of a questionable profession. Carnations, especially red

ones, are symbols of the communists. Again, avoid. And if you just so

happen to be in Lithuania on International Women's Day (March 8), it's

in the morning, dish them out willy-nilly to female colleagues at work.

then turn up at home late at night rather tipsy, clutching the last droopy

specimen. It's then traditional for the wife to set about the man with a

Dabija C-5, Vilniaus 189, tel. (+370) 415 259 59. Next to the Cocker

Clock and hidden away down a flight of stairs and through a rather tacky gift shop, the nice people who work here can sell you individual flowers, make up

bouquets and arrange the local or long-distance sending of flowers. ▶ Open

Devyni Broliai C-5, Tilžės 151, tel. (+370) 414 356 15. An outlet for

some of the work of the Lithuanian Folk Artists' Society, this charming little

shop is the best place in the city to buy traditional gifts and souvenirs you

won't find anywhere else. Among the things on display are wicker baskets

amber jewellery and wood carvings. ▶ Open 11:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00

com. An interesting and occasionally intriguing selection of amber jewellery

Akropolis Aido 8, tel. 1588, www.akropolis.lt. Lithuania's fourth mammoth

Akropolis opened on March 6, 2009 in the south of the city, Bursting with shops

selling everything from cameras to pencils, the huge Akropolis also includes a

large Maxima supermarket and a host of entertainment options from ice skating

Saulės Miestas C-5, Tilžės 109, tel. (+370) 414 224 21, www.

saulesmiestas.lt. Three floors of quality indoor shopping including plenty of

possibilities to buy clothes and footwear. Also find a large Rimi supermarket

on the ground floor, several bars and restaurants and even a bowling alley

Note that the retail outlets close considerably earlier than the mall itself

Inkliuzas C-5, Vilniaus 146, tel. (+370) 415 215 58, www.napole

Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. @

08:30 - 18:30, Sat 08:30 - 16:00. Closed Sun. @

appropriate to give red tulips. The tradition among men is to buy a bunch

here are certain rules that should be adhered to if you wish to keep on

Devvni Broliai, by far the best place in town for local arts and crafts that

Jonas Jovaras Memorial House (Poeto J. Jovaro Memorialinis Namas) C-5. Vytauto 116. tel. (+370) 415 243 94. Jonas Krikščiūnas City Park (Miesto Parkas) C-5. The 12-hectare park immediately north of the Jovaras (1880-1967), the Lithuanian poet and book smuggler during the years city centre was created by the Soviet administration soon after the end of WWII. that the Lithuanian language was banned between 1864 and 1904, lived in who used gangs of comrade volunteers to lay it out, plant trees etc. Now looking this house from 1946 until his death. Now a museum celebrating both him fully grown up, the park is a lovely place to spend time throughout the year. Trees and the literature of the region, the ever-growing archives contain over 3,000 include sycamore and European larch, there are pleasant walkways, an ancient manuscripts and other literary-related objects providing an insight into the lives and works of scores of Lithuanian authors. Very much a work in progress funfair and even a summer concert stage. The white, two-storey building at Aušros 50, situated in the far south of the park, was once a library, where the Lithuanian and sadly lacking in English, this is an interesting diversion for anyone with ar man of letters Jonas Jablonskis (1860-1930) once worked. In 1920 it became a interest in literature, but needs the help of a translator to understand any of it. Open by appointment only. Admission 4/2Lt.

# Wacky Siauliai

ing area of natural beauty immediately east of the action on the other side of Talškos Cockerel Clock (Gaidžio Laikrodis) C-5, Vilniaus and Tilžės. The Ežeras (Talška Lake) is a hugely popular place during the summer and is also visited to a lesser degree when it's covered in snow, not least for the traditional skiing down madcap Cockerel Clock at the junction of Vilniaus and Tilžės has for several the slopes of the Salduvės Žuvininkų Piliakalnis (Salduvė Fishermen's Castle Mound). decades been the traditional place in town for people, including lovers, to meet The park also features a 5km Ecological Path, with 23 stops along the way including In 2003, an act of inspiration and some spare cash led the local Municipality information stands, places to sit and bird observation posts. Follow the footpath around to modify the clock so that it now speaks. Spurting out regular messages, the clock now encourages people to come on a date in a plethora of languages including English, German, French, Russian, Spanish, Esperanto, Hebrew, Swediauliai University Botanical Gardens (Šiauliu Universiteto Botanikos ish, Lithuanian and others.

> Pelicans (Pelikanai) C-5. Vilniaus and Tilžės. B. Kasperavičienė's bizarre 1978 statue of two metal pelicans frolicking in a fountain is one of several intriguing works of public art along Vilniaus. Arguably the most famous of them all, the two feathered friends are actually lovers who, so the story goes, lost their way when flying in a large squadron of pelicans and, being thirsty and seeing a puddle, flew down to quench their thirsts and were turned to stone by a wicked witch.



Siauliai on what some

No visit to Lithuania, so

it's said, is complete

rosses mysteriously reappearing immediately after every cull. In 1993. the late Pope John Paul II visited, and since then it's become one of Lithuania's major tourist attractions. Visitors are welcome to add their own crosses, or to just walk around with their mouths wide open in awe of the place. To get there take a bus toward Joniškis from the bus station. get off at the large sign marked Kryžių Kalnas (the Domantai stop) and walk a further 2km up the side road. By car, take the A12 (E77) north out of the city and look for the sign. A taxi from Šiauliai costs about 45Lt. Most drivers will be happy to wait while you look around so they can pick

### Donelaičio Cemetery (Donelaičio Kapinės) Donelaičio. Established in Hill of Crosses 1958 as the Old City Cemetery was running out of space, this cemetery a couple

of Crosses (Kryžiu Kal nas), and whoever said it was right. Located

cient castle mound, its origins are a hotbed o ssent. Some argue hat the first planting of a cross dates back as far as the Middle Ages, although no real idence exists of any activity until 1831 when rosses were planted to mark the Novembe Uprising. The hill only really got going after the death of Stalin in 1953, when Lithuanians re ırning from the gulags began planting crosses memory of those who never returned. Numer ous attempts by the Soviets in the 1960s to bulldoze it failed, with the

10:00 - 06:00

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I-VII 22.00 - 06.00 Tel. 8 670 88882 www.EscapeClub.lt



# INTRODUCING ŠIAULIAI

mentioned in rhyme in 1236 in reference to a savage battle between the then Lithuanian tribes and the Sword Brothers, a particularly nasty bunch of monks working for the Bishop of Riga.The monks, so the story goes, were 'cut down like women', and the Battle of Saulė (Saulės Mūšis) as it became known is notable as being the first ever victory of the emerging Lithuanian nation over a significant external power. With a population of just over 130,000, modern Šiauliai retains that original fighting spirit. Almost completely flattened twice during the last hundred years, the start of the 21st century has seen the city balloon into a thriving metropolis thanks in part to its maior trade routes. Šiauliai's distinctly provincial centre features one or two outstanding

bars and restaurants plus a shockingly odd collection of impressive museums and galleries. Small by western European standards, a week here could drive ou nuts. A day or two on the other hand is highly recommended.

A. Mickevičiaus         C.5         Kalno         E-6         Palangos         A-C.2-4         Šeduvos         E-6           Agrastų         E-7         Kanapių         C.7         Pandėlio         C.2         Šermukšnių         C/D-4           Akacjų         B-1         Kapu         D-5         Panevėžio         B-2         Šilubalio         C.2           Akmenės         B/C-6         Karklų         A-2         Papievių         E-6         Šilubalio         B-6
Agrastų E-7 Kanapių C-7 Pandėlio C-2 Šermukšnių C/D-4 Akacių B-1 Kapu D-5 Panevėžio B-2 Šilubalio C-2
Akacıju B-1 Kapu D-5 Panevėžio B-2 Silubalio C-2
Akmenės B/C-6 Karklu A-2 Papieviu E-6 Šilutės B-6
Aleksandrijos E-5 Kaštonų C-5 Papilės D-4 Švendrių D-5
Alytaus D-2/3, E-2 Kauno C-6 Paprūdžio E-6 Šviesos A/B-7
Alyvų D-4 Kėdainių C-1/2 Parko C/D-4 Talšos D-5
Anykščių B-3 Kybartų E-6 Pasvalio E-2/3 Tauro A-3
Aukštabalio A/B-6/7 Klaipėdos B-2 Pataičių B-5 Tiesioji D-4
Aukštoji D-4 Klevų B/C-5 Paukščių Takas A-7 Tilžės A-E 2-7
Ausros C-5 Krantinės E-4 Pavėsiu B/C-1 Tinklu E-5
Aušros Takas D-5 Kražių C-6 Platelių B-2 Tytuvėnų B-6
Ažuolyno A/B-2 Kretingos B/C-2 Plungės B-2 Topolių C/D-4
B. Sruogos B-4 Kulpės C-2 Pramonės B/C-7 Traktoristų D-6
Baltupėnų B-6 Kuršėnų A/B-4 Preilos B-6 Trakų D-5/6
Bijotės B-2 Kuršių B-5 Prienų E-6/7 Troškūnų B-2
Birstono D-2/3, E-2 Kurtuvėnų A/B-6 Prūdelio D-6 Tulpių A/B-4
Birutės A/B/C-2/3/4 L. Giros C-3/4 Pumpučių A/B-5 Ukmergės B-C 1-3
Biržų B-1/2 C-2 Lauko A-6 Purienų D/E-3 Uogynų A-3
Bubių B-6/7 Lazdynų A-2 Pušyno A/B-2 Uosių D-5
D. Poškos D-6/7 Lelijų A/B-4 Putinų D-4 Utenos B-2
Dainavos C/D-6 Liejyklos B-7 Ragainės C/D-6/7 V. Bielskio C-2
Darbininkų B-4 Liepų C/D-3 Raguvos C-2 V. Kudirkos B/C-3-5
Darkiemio B-6 Linu A-3 Rambyno D-4 Vaidilutės C-4
Darželio B-4 Lydos B/C-5 Ramygalos B-2 Vaidoto D-2
Daržininkų A-3 Lyduvėnų B-6 Rasos A-7 Vaisių C-4/5
Daušiškų A/B-5 Lygumų E-6 Rėkyvos D-6/7 Vandentiekio A-3
Dobilo C/D-4 Luokės B-1 Rėžių E-6 Varpo C/D-5
Dotnuvos E-6 M. K. Čiurlionio B-4 Rygos D-4/5 Vasario 16-osios
Draugystės C/D-6 M. Valančiaus B-4/5 Rokiškio B-5 C/D-5
Druskininkų C6/7 Maironio C-4 Rožių A-4 Veiverių E-6
Dubijos A-C 4-6 Malūno A-6 Rūdės C/D – 5/6 Verdulių C-6
Dubysos B-2/3 Margytės B-4 Rugiagėlių B-6 Verduliukų C-6/7
Dvaro C/D 3-5 Marijampolės Rusnės B-5 Vėsos A-3
Eglyno A/B-2 B/C - 2/3 Rūtų D-5 Veterinarijos A-3
Erškėčių C-1 Medelyno B-4/5 S. Daukanto B-4/5 Viduklės B-2
Ežero D 4-6 Medvėgalio B-2/3 S. Nėries C-5 Vijolės B-4
Gamybos D-1 Merkinės D-3, E-2/3 S. Šalkauskio D-5 Vikšrių D-4/5
Geležinkelio B/C – 3 Meškerių E-5/6 Sakalo B-5 Vilijos B-5
Gelsvos B-2 Miglės C-2 Salantų C-4/5 Vilkaviškio E-6/7
Ginkūnų D-5/6 Miglovaros B/C-4/5 Sedos B-1/2 Vilniaus A-E 3-6
Gintaro A-3 Mirty C-2 Serbenty E-6/7 Vingriy D-4
Girulių C-7 Miško C-3 Silų D-6 Vinkšnos D/E-3
Gluosnių D-4/5 Montvilos B/C-4/5 Skirgailos B-3/4 Vinkšnų C-1
Grafo Zubovo C/D-3 Narcizy C-1/2 Skrobly A-2 Vyšnių E-7
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Gumbinės B/C 4-6 Neringos B-6 Smėlio D-4 Voveriškių A-6
Ilgoji D-4 Nidos D-4 Sodo B-D 2/3 Z. Gėlės B-4
J. Basanavičiaus Noreikių A/B - 4/5 Spindulio D/E-3 Žagarės B-2
D-1/2, C-2/3/4 Novatorių A-3 St. Lukauskio C/D-4/5 Žalioji D-4

Stalupėnų Stoties Strazdelio Sukilėlių Šakių Šaltalankiu Šarūno Šatrijos

### ARRIVING & GETTING AROUND

### **Tourist information**

Tourist Information Centre (Turizmo Informacijos Centras) C-5, Vilniaus 213, tel. (+370) 415 231 10, tic@siauliai. It, www.siauliai.tt/tic. An excellent source of information and advice as well as the place to head to if you need a tour guide. Find stacks of free leaflets in English plus maps, souvenirs and other treats. The pleasant, English-speaking staff can also give advice on accommodation plus a plethora of other tourist-related activities in the city and surrounding region.

Den 09:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00, Sun 10:00 - 15:00 (Jun 15 - Sep

ocated a little northwest of the centre of the country, Šiauliai is agreeably situated for getting there by all forms of transport with the exception of by air On the main Vilnius-Klaipėda railway line, the city can be reached from Vilnius in less than three hours and from Klaipėda in about two. Buses run directly from all major towns and cities in the country as well as stopping off in the city en route to other destinations. Siauliai is at the crossroads of two major road routes, the east-west route connecting with several Lithuanian towns and the north-south highway running directly from Riga. Once you've actually arrived, getting around s fairly straightforward as most places of interest are within walking distance of each other. Public transport is efficient, plus taxis are relatively cheap to use.

### Arriving in Siauliai

With two major roads converging on Šiauliai and a convenient if not particularly busy rail route running through the city, arriving is as easy as falling off the proverbial log. Still not up to the standards of other major European destinations both the train and bus stations are seriously lacking in English-speaking staff, or for that matter English signs.

### By bus

Regular bus services connect Šiauliai with all major Lithuanian towns and cities. The bus station is right in the centre, meaning it's possible to walk to many of the hotels listed in this guide. Taxis can be found in the same space where buses terminate. For information on bus station facilities, see the bus station listing below.

Bus Station C-5/6, Tilžės 109, tel. (+370) 415 250 58, www.busturas.lt. Located inside the vast Saulès Miestas shopping mall, the bus station is a modern if somewhat basic affair. Everything is located inside one small hall including toilets, ticket booths, left luggage and vending machines selling drinks and snacks. An ATM is located outside. If you've got time on your hands before your bus departs, your best option is to waste it in one of the mall's cafés or restaurants. > Box

Žalumynų Žarėnų Žemdirbių Žemoji Žibuoklių Žilvičių Žuvininki

Šiauliai is at the junction of the main A11 (E272) and A12 (E77) highways, connecting the city directly with several cities including Vilnius, Klaipeda and Riga. Buy a map before you arrive, and think seriously about booking a hotel with guarded parking. Although Lithuanians no longer have to take their windscreen wipers off when they park their cars, petty theft involving the breaking of a win-

### Local bus schedule

Kaunas
04:00 (1,2,3,4,5,6), 05:15 (1,2,3,4,5,6), 05:45, 06:00, 06:35, 07:10, 07:5
09:20, 10:00, 10:30, 11:20, 12:05, 13:10, 14:10, 15:00, 15:50, 16:20, 17:0
17:45, 18:35 (5,6,7).
Klainėda

07:15, 08:30 (5,6,7), 08:50, 10:40, 13:25, 17:15.

04:25, 05:15 (1,2,3,4,5,6), 07:40, 08:55, 10:10, 11:05, 12:20, 12:45, 14:15,

Correct at the time of going to press (October 20, 2009) and subject to change during the lifetime of this mini guide. The website at www.autobu subilietai.It is the best resource for up-to-date, accurate information about

# **ARRIVING & GETTING AROUND**

### International bus schedule

ep.	Arr.	City	Dep.	Arr.
3:15	06:00	Riga	11:55	14:25
7:00	09:40	Riga	12:30	14:45
9:25	11:55	Riga	17:00	19:55
9:30	12:45	Riga	17:45	22:15
5:35	18:20 <sup>even days</sup>	Riga	18:30	20:55
7:00	18:55 <sup>2,7</sup>	Riga	22:10	00:45
3:30	10:40	Tallinn	17:00	00:30
rrect at t	he time of going to press (0	October 20, 2009)	and subject	to chang

during the lifetime of this mini guide.

dow is fairly common. Once you've arrived, you'll find little use for you car with the exception of a visit to the Hill of Crosses and perhaps the Fire Engine Museum.

Reach Šiauliai directly by train from Vilnius (three daily). Klaipėda (five daily) and several stations in between. Near the centre, getting to town is fairly straightforward. Taxis wait for arriving trains in the car park at the front of the station.

Train Station C-6, Dubijos 44, tel. (+370) 412 034 45/(+370) 412 034 77, www.litrail.lt. Five minutes southeast of the city centre, the train station nas recently received a makeover and is now a fairly pleasant experience by all accounts. Nearly everything is located inside the main building including ticke booths, a travel centre accepting cash and credit cards, left luggage and an ATM. Toilets are in a separate building next door behind the small shop. There's no café in the station, so if you've got a long wait, think about taking your own food and drink with you. Box office open 06:10 - 20:30.

### Public transport

Šiauliai is served by an excellent if somewhat dilapidated system of city-run buses. Should you need one, buy a ticket from the driver for 1.60Lt or get one beforehand from a kiosk for just 1.40Lt. Tickets need validating in the little red punch-boxes on board all vehicles. Private minibuses also plough the streets and can be flagged down anywhere. Pay the driver 1.60Lt and tell him when you want to get out. Confusingly, at least for those who knew the old system, private minibuses recently changed their route designations and at the time of writing were displaying two numbers on the front of each vehicle. Unless you speak the lingo or are keen to get thoroughly immersed in the local way of life, your best bet is to avoid public transport altogether. The Tourist Information Centre publishes a good free map of the city's public transport routes.

Javera Tel. 1458/(+370) 415 222 22 (1Lt/km\*) Taksi Tel. 1400/(+370) 415 015 50 (1Lt/km\*) \* Prices listed are for standard daytime/evening journeys within the city

Dep.	Arr.	City	Dep.	Arr.
06:30	09:18	Klaipėda	06:25	08:28
09:06	11:03	Klaipėda	08:12	11:00
11:42	13:51	Klaipėda	11:39	13:36
15:36	18:26	Klaipėda	15:04	17:50
20:08	22:03	Klaipėda	17:00	19:01
08:33	11:08	Vilnius	06:30	09:01
13:41	16:14	Vilnius	09:00	11:39
19:05	21:40	Vilnius	17:30	20:03
Correct at the time of going to proce (October 20, 2000) and subject to change				

Correct at the time of going to press (October 20, 2009) and subject to change during the lifetime of this mini guide. The website at www.litrail.lt is the best resource for up-to-date, accurate information about travelling by train in Lithuania.

### Basic data

Lithuania 3.354.500 Šiauliai 126.215

65,303 square kilometres. Roughly twice the size of Belgium, and the largest of the three Baltic nations. Fertile lowland, peppered with many lakes. North to south, the greatest distance is 276km, east to west is 373km.

### Baltic Sea 99km Belarus 502km Latvia 453km

Poland 91km Russia (Kaliningrad) 227km Longest rive

munas 937km (475km in Lithuania Largest lake Drūkščiai 4.479ha **Highest point** 

# Aukštasis 293.8m Crime & Safety

Crime is rampant in Lithuania, a great deal of it taking place inside the clandestine world of politics and consequently having little if no effect on the average visitor. Crimes closer to home include such petty annoyances as having bits of your car stolen to the inevitable disappearing purses and mobile phones. Don't leave valuables in unattended pockets or lying around on tables. The chances of getting robbed in the street remain tiny. However, caution never did anybody any harm, and you're advised not to flaunt your wallet in stupid places or announce to the entire world your huge wealth by wearing loud jewellery in quiet back streets. Walk tall, look like you know what you're doing, and you won't be troubled.

Lovely Lithuanian domestic electricity flows out the walls at 220V, AC 50Hz and nearly all sockets are of the round two-pin European variety. Some thinner Russian sockets still exist, although if you push hard enough you should get the plug in. Travellers from non-socket-friendly societies should bring an appropriate adaptor, as they're almost impossible to find in Lithuania.

The Lithuanians use the same system as the Americans, considering the floor at street level to be the first floor and so on.

Lithuanian is a very odd language indeed. One of the oldest still spoken today the tongue that time forgot is supposedly similar in grammatical form as well as sharing many of the same words with, of all things, Sanskrit. With seven noun cases, four declension patterns, absolutely no similarity to anything you've ever heard before and an obligation to pronounce the stress on every word in the right place to stand any chance whatsoever of being understood getting to grips with the local lingo is at best tough. Thankfully, many places in Siauliai are now fairly English-friendly.

The unit of currency in Lithuanian is the litas (Lt), which comes in denominations of 10Lt, 20Lt, 50Lt, 100Lt, 200Lt and 500Lt notes, 1, 2 and 5 litas coins and a number of weightless, worthless and perfectly useless centai/centu coins. The litas is pegged to the euro at rate of 3.45Lt to €1. Most places of any note in Siauliai happily accept major credit cards, and ATMs joyfully spew out money to any foreigner with money in their account. If you're planning a trip out of town however, make sure you take plenty of cash along as it can still be rather old fashioned to say the least

### **CULTURE**

For such a small metropolis, Šiauliai packs in a lot of culture. Boasting a serious theatre, concert hall, cultural centre, a large, multi-purpose stadium and a couple of decent cinemas, the city's substantial contribution to art of many persuasions goes without question.

## Cinemas

Foreign films are generally shown in their original language with Lithuanian

Atlantis Cinemas E-3, Tilžės 225, tel. (+370) 414 229 23, www.siau Forum Cinemas Šiauliai Aido 8 (Akropolis), tel. 1567, www.forumci Laikas C-5, Vilniaus 172, tel. (+370) 415 252 08.

### Concert halls

Šiauliai Cultural Centre (Šiaulių Kultūros Centras) C-5, Aušros 31, tel. (+370) 415 241 63. Home to the city's contribution to traditional Lithuanian culture, this crumbling masterpiece hosts regular concerts of folk music as well as providing a base for a plethora of folk-related organisations from singing groups to dance ensembles. The foyer also hosts temporary art exhibitions. 

• Open 08:00 - 22:00. Box office tel. (+370) 415 246 59. Open 10:00 - 13:00, 15:00 - 18:00. 

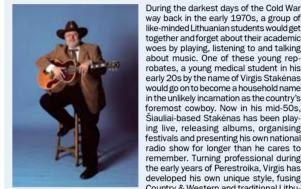
Siauliai Philharmonic (Siaulių Filharmonija) C-5, Aušros 15, tel. (+370) 415 252 07. Founded in 1982, this small cultural organisation based inside a miniscule, Soviet-era red brick building aims to both nurture young musical talen as well as provide a wide programme of concerts. Information on uncoming events is posted outside. Box office open 11:00 - 13:00; 16:00 - 18:00. Sat, Sun open an hour before the concert.

ulių Arena J. Jablonskio 16, tel. (+370) 415 401 51, www.siauliuarena It. A modern, round contraption just south of the city centre hosting everything from rock concerts to sporting events. The venue also has a couple of cafés, plays host to Siauliai's intriguing little Sport Museum and is the home of the local basketball team KK Šiauliai. Dopen 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Šiauliai Drama Theatre (Šiaulių Dramos Teatras) C-5, Tilžės 155, tel. (+370) 415 249 63. www.sdt.lt. Established in 1931, the city's Drama Theatre stages a mind-boggling array of productions throughout the year from the classics to more experimental work. 

Box office open 11:00 - 14:00, 15:00 - 18:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 13:00, 15:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon.

### Virgis Stakėnas



WHERE TO STAY

way back in the early 1970s, a group of like-minded Lithuanian students would get together and forget about their academic woes by playing, listening to and talking about music. One of these young reprobates, a young medical student in his early 20s by the name of Virgis Stakenas ould go on to become a household name in the unlikely incarnation as the country's remost cowboy. Now in his mid-50s, Šiauliai-based Stakėnas has been plav ing live, releasing albums, organising stivals and presenting his own nationa radio show for longer than he cares to remember. Turning professional during the early years of Perestroika, Virgis has leveloped his own unique style, fusing

anian folk music and finding inspiration in a wide range of individuals including Bob Dylan, the Soviet-era Russian underground figure Artiom Troitsky and the Icelandic diva Björk. One of Lithuania's true eccentrics, Virgis Stakenas may not be to everyone's taste, but it's certain the world would be a lesser place without him. See www.stakenas.com for more information, or search or his performances at www.youtube.com.

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# Where next?

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# made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of going to press and errors are no responsibility for changes and errors.

# WHERE TO STAY

# Turnė C-6, Rūdės 9, tel. (+370) 415 001 50, fax (+370) 414 292 38, **hotel@turne.lt, www.turne.lt.** If you don't mind sleeping inside an IKEA showroom then this is almost without doubt the best value accommodation in the city centre. With a baffling hotchpotch of nylon carpets, wonky tables and an occasional houseplant thrown infor good measure, each room comes with the absolute minimum of cable television, wireless internet and minibar. Not far from Havana or Mega, this is a good option for people staying in town to explore its peculiar nightlife. ▶ 23 rooms (singles 140Lt, doubles 160 - 180Lt, triples 250Lt, suites 280Lt, business class room 230Lt). 戀⑥@▲P∭ ★★★

Salduvė C-7, Donelaičio 70, tel. (+370) 415 535 93/(+370) 415 535 90 fax (+370) 415 535 90, salduve@gmail.com. Located in a dreary, desolate industrial estate, Salduvė is a beautifully tatty relic of a by-gone Soviet age. You couldn't invent anything more kitsch. The decoration has to be seen to be believed yet as with so many of these hotels, the place is spotless, and the staff get by with large helpings of irony and humour. If you don't mind roughing it a bit, and 

### Guesthouses

Mūsu Verbena C-4. Žemaitės 89. tel. /fax (+370) 412 111 17. verbena@ splius.lt, www.verbena.lt. A smidgen north of the action but well worth the extra taxi fare or muscle power, this lovely little inter-war period guesthouse has been renovated to reflect the style of the time when it was built. A wonderfully unique experience, the owners have made a few welcome concessions including minibars, cable television and wireless internet. The guesthouse restaurant is open to the public and is famous for serving Lithuanian dishes of gargantuar proportions. ▶ 4 rooms (4 doubles 200 - 300Lt). ★ @ ⑤ P ¶ @ ★★★

Saulininko Svečių Namai C-4, Vaisių 24, tel. (+370) 414 365 55/(+370) 686 811 87, fax (+370) 414 218 48, info@saulininkas.com, www.saulin inkas.com. Run by the same people who run the neighbouring Saulininkas hotel (where you need to go to register as well as eat your breakfast if staying in this place), this is a rather neat idea indeed. Offering the same services as the with slightly less luxurious rooms, you can save a bit of cash without really feeling the difference. 11 rooms (3 singles/doubles 100-150Lt, 8 singles 75-90Lt, doubles 90-120Lt, triples 130-170Lt, quads 160-200Lt). 🛦 🚾 🛦 🕒 📼

Jaunimo Nakyvnės Namai D-5. Tilžės 159. tel. (+370) 415 237 64. fax (+370) 415 250 91, jnn@siauliukolegija.lt, www.jnn.siauliukolegija.lt. Clean and modern rooms with exceedingly basic furniture and facilities, bathrooms are shared, and if you want breakfast you'll have to make it yourself in the communal kitchen or forage in the park with the squirrels. For this price though you'd be a fool to complain however. 18 rooms (8 doubles 80Lt, 9 triples 105Lt, 1 suite 130Lt).

Geltona A12 (E77), just north of the city (Beržinės Village), tel. (+370) 415 115 11/(+370) 418 168 45, fax (+370) 415 584 80, info@geltonahotel.com, www.geltonahotel.com. A bit of a way north of the city on the mair A12 (E77) highway, geltona in Lithuanian means yellow, which leaves us little left to do when it comes to describing the outside of the building. It may also be of interest to readers that not only are yellow flowers seldom given to people much in this part of the world as the colour represents the world's oldest profession, but that the rooms lack much in the way of facilities and can be rented by the hour. ▶ 5 rooms (5 doubles 100Lt). ③ ★ @ 圖表 ※ ★★

## Out of town

Grafaitės Svetainė Aušros 1, Ginkūnai, tel. (+370) 415 891 20, fax (+370) 41.5 021 52, info@hotelgrafaite.com, www.hotelgrafaite.com. A combined hotel, conference centre and restaurant 7km north of the city in the small village of Ginkūnai, this marvellous creation wouldn't look out of place in a Brazilian soar opera. Handy for the Hill of Crosses, agoraphobia sufferers and people on the run from the police, before readers rush to book a room it should be made quite clear that there's absolutely nothing to do in a Lithuanian village after the sun sets. Amusing, charming even, but probably not what you're looking for if you need to be in the centre of Siauliai every morning. ▶ 23 rooms (15 doubles 130-160Lt, 1 quad 200-260Lt, 5 suites 200-300Lt). ★ ☆

# WHERE TO STAY

Symbol Key	
Air conditioning	credit cards accepted
Smoking rooms	☆ Conference facilities
Child-friendly	
Fitness centre	P Guarded parking
LAN connection	Take away
Restaurant	① Outside seating
Sauna	Swimming pool
Fireplace	Wireless Internet access
Live music	♠ Pet-friendly
umbala for the Whore to get Para 8	Clubs and Whore to stay section of

From eccentric four-star luxury to a night in a dormitory with a shared toilet, Šiauliai claims just about every kind of accommodation option with the exception of a hotel chain you've ever heard of. Service may be a little different to what you're used to at home, but the people are friendly and the prices look like they should be in euros not the local currency. Good value also means that staying in the centre of the city is always an option for everyone but the cheapest of cheapskates, although just like any other destination without a surplus of hotels, booking in advance is always recommended, especially during the summer months. Breakfast is generally included in the price, although this doesn't mean you have to eat it.

### Upmarket

this guide.

Medžiotojų Užeiga B-5, Dubijos 20, tel. (+370) 415 245 26, fax (+370) 415 245 25, Info@medziotojuuzelga.lt, www.medziotojuuzelga.lt. A brisk few minutes' walk south from the centre and featuring a reception area littered with dead animal heads, the Hunters' Tayern contains neither hunters nor a tavern but don't let that stop you from staying here. The rooms inside this Nato favourite are modern and clean, all coming with satellite television, free cable internet connections and tempting minibars. Extras include a mediocre buffet breakfast, gym and an average restaurant. Good value, although the location could be a little better. ▶ 27 rooms (21 doubles 160 - 200Lt, 4 suites 350 saulininkas.com. On the edge of the City Park in the northern part of the city, Saulininkas is a little oasis of a building providing neat accommoda-

209 11, Info@saulys.lt, www.saulys.lt. A superb location and an equally superb hotel, fumble your way up the giant staircase to be greeted by charming reception staff in a lobby the size of a mansion complete with a lovely café and pictures of grinning Nato staff on the walls. Accommodation comes in a range of options from singles to apartments, all of them well equipped with cable television, wireless internet and posh bathrooms. The Šaulys is also geared up for conferences and even has its own sauna and compact swimming pool. ▶ 39 rooms (19 singles 230Lt, 14 doubles 280Lt, 2 triples 400Lt, 2 suites 370 430Lt, 2 apartments 575 - 690Lt). 图 📵 🖫 🕮 🕮 🕮

omas A-7, Tilžės 63a, tel. (+370) 414 151 50, fax (+370) 414 555 41, Info@hoteltomas.lt, www.hoteltomas.lt. Part delightfully restored tsarist-era building, part post-Independence eyesore, Tomas is a fine hotel indeed with bright, clean rooms and a galaxy of extras from swimming pool to Russian milliards. The staff are an accommodating lot too, but the price doesn't really match the location. Slap bang between the city centre and Akropolis, there's not much point staying here unless you've got a car or can't find anywhere else 

aulys C-5, Vasario 16-osios 40, tel. (+370) 415 208 12, fax (+370) 415

siauliai.inyourpocket.com

Mid-range

hairdresser, but if you don't mind the occasional historical hiccup you're in for a treat. Rooms come in all shapes and sizes with the better ones coming with internet connections, flatscreen televisions and DVD players. Found on the city's main edestrian street, the rooms further up the building afford some wonderful views of Šiauliai spread out below. ▶ 131 rooms (68 singles 105 - 165Lt, 33 doubles 160 - 200Lt, 26 suites 150 - 300Lt, 4 apartments 400Lt). ◎ 🖫 🚾 🛦 🖟 🕑 👚 🞟

Dubijos g. 20, LT-77207, Šiauliai

Tel. (+370 41) 52 45 26, fax (+370 41) 52 45 25

www.medziotojuuzeiga.lt

Saulininkas C-4. Lukauskio 5a. tel. (+370) 414 365 55/(+370)

686 811 87, fax (+370) 414 218 48, info@saulininkas.com, www.

tion options for an honest price. A good one for the ladies, surplus to the

with attached swimming pool to a small solarium. ▶ 13 rooms (singles 150Lt, doubles 180Lt, suites 180 - 350Lt). № ③ 🖫 @ 🗐 🖳 🖫 🍽 🖽 🕮

Šiauliai D-5/6, Draugystės 25, tel. (+370) 414 373 33, fax (+370) 414 383 39, info@hotelsiauliai.lt, www.hotelsiauliai.lt. The city's former Inturist

monstrosity has now been brought almost fully up to scratch courtesy of some much needed repairs, refits and replacements of staff and is now vying for at-

tention as one of the finest hotels in the city. True they've still got an in-house

well-appointed rooms are a feast of pampering possibilities from sauna

### Editor's pick

Nakvynė Šiauliuose B-5, Gumbinės 34, tel. (+370) 614 466 34, info@pirciuslenis.lt, www.nakvynesiauliuose.lt. A pleasant, familyrun place extremely central and really good value for money. Rooms are clean if a little basic with bathroom and kitchen facilities shared between guests. If you're looking for simple lodgings in an excellent location, this one's pretty hard to beat. ▶ 10 rooms (1 single 50Lt, 8 doubles 30 - 60Lt,

# With Druskininkai and Šiauliai now Pocketed, we're looking to find the nex Lithuanian destinations ready for their own miniguides. If you're interested in working with us to promote your city around the world, use the information In Your Pocket guides and mini-guides are published in 50 cities **In Your Pocket**