

# ELK *and* KAUNAS

WEEK BRIMFUL OF ATTRACTIONS



Weekly rest in two cities and at the same time stay in two countries, is a proposition definitely worth considering on holiday. Such a memorable and eventful vacation can be spent in Elk and Kaunas. These are two cities, less than 200 km apart. Elk, with over 60,000 residents, is situated in Masuria, north-eastern Poland, and Kaunas, with about 300,000 inhabitants lies in the very heart of Lithuania. In both cities, there is a great variety of accommodation options, including hotels and guesthouses. We present a proposal for spending three days in Elk and the next three in Kaunas. We assume that one day will be dedicated for checking out of the hotel in one city, accommodation in the other, and the passage between them. The distance between the two cities can be negotiated in about 4 hours, the fastest by car. It should also be remembered that Poland and Lithuania are divided into hour time difference. You are heartily welcome!

## DAY ONE

On the first day of your stay in Elk, we recommend attractions related to the location of the city by the lake. Amateurs of active leisure can plan a long walk along the promenade fringing significant part of its shore (over 6 km). At the promenade, there are several water equipment rentals, therefore you can canoe or enjoy your time in boat or pedalo. By making use of the bike rental, Elk can be explored from the perspective of two wheels. It is worth noting, that along the entire length of the promenade a convenient bike path is built. On the promenade's starting point, we will find a ropes course with three routes of diversified difficulty. During your stay at the lake, of course, you shall not miss sunbathing. The best conditions for such are provided by the beach located near oś. Jeziorna. There are many cafes, pubs, and restaurants along the promenade, so you need not look far for a short break, coffee or a meal. For those who await thrill, in Elk they can find, among others: a waterpark, many tennis courts, horse riding centers and a climbing wall.

## DAY TWO

Another day of our stay in Elk can be devoted to widening the knowledge of the natural and cultural heritage of the city and the region. Let's start with visiting the Center for Ecology Education, with an interestingly arranged section- the Lake Museum. The facility is located near the promenade, adjacent to the estuary of the Elk River to the Elckie Lake. In the historic water tower erected in 1895, there is located the private Museum of the Water Drop. Here, you can see, among others, the old pumping machines and other items related to water. On the list of Elk's monuments, two churches occupy a prominent position. The elder comes from 1847-1850 and bears a name under the invocation of the Sacred Heart. Its characteristic tower is visible from many different parts of the city. Slightly younger, because from 1893-1895, is the Elk's Cathedral of the bishop and martyr - Saint Wojciech. Many Elk's tenement houses still hold its historic character. They come mostly from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century and are majorly located on the streets: Armii Krajowej, Tadeusza Kościuszko,

## DAY ONE

Let us spend the first day in Kaunas on a trip around the old town. Undeniably, it is worth visiting the Kaunas castle and the museum, which functions in the tower. Strolling nearby the Santaka Park, we can marvel over the monument of John Paul II, and above all, the unique place of Wilia estuary to Niemen. In the center of the old town, there is a magnificent town hall, which due to its color and shape is being called the „white swan”. Moreover, the Kaunas City museum operates there. Furthermore, you can find a number of restaurants in the town hall square. It will be a great option to eat a lunch in one of them. After a short break, we can continue our tour of the old town. A musthave for every tourist is seeing the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the House of Perkunas with an exhibition dedicated to Adam Mickiewicz. Likewise, the baroque Jesuit church under the invocation of Saint Francis Xavier is as attractive as places above mentioned. Additionally, on the terrace of the monastery, there is a viewpoint. After visiting the Town Hall Square, our next point is Vilnius Street. It locates many beautiful tenements, including Historical Presidential Palace. The last attraction of the day will be tasting the local beer.

## DAY TWO

On the second day, let's visit the new town. Here, you can admire the modernist architecture of Kaunas. A walk along the Avenue of Freedom (Laisvės avenue) will provide us with unforgettable impressions. It appears as one of the longest pedestrian streets in Europe because it is 1.7 km long and extends from the old town of Kaunas to the church of St. Michael the Archangel. Going down the Avenue, on the list of objects to see there are, among others: the church of St. Gertrude, the building of the Main Post Office, the Musical Theater, the National Drama Theater, as well as the monument of Vytautas the Great. Furthermore, there are many shops, cafes, bars, and restaurants on the spot. It becomes a favorite place, where Kaunas' residents promenade and meet. We strongly encourage to have a moment of rest and eat lunch here. After the meal, we can stroll down the







Marszałka J. Piłsudskiego and Armii Krajowej. A vital place on the list of monuments in Elk is occupied by the ruins of the former Teutonic castle and a bridge leading to them.

### DAY THREE

The third day is devoted to getting acquainted with the charms of the Elk's Narrow-Gauge Railway. This attraction will appeal especially to children. The railway was constructed in 1911-1918, and in 1992 it was highly acclaimed and considered a technical monument. It is a single-track line with a width of 750 mm and a total length of 48 km, which runs from Elk to Turów. Since 1993, it has acted as a tourist attraction. Before going on tour or after finishing it, you can visit the historic roundhouse. In autumn 2018, the Park of Railway's Discoverers will start its activity. On its area, it is planned to install devices that will allow you to observe the rules of physics used in the work of the narrow gauge railway. Another option for an interesting trip on the third day of your stay in Elk can be canoeing. In Elk and its surroundings, there are excellent conditions for this type of activity. You can take advantage of a dozen propositions for one-day canoeing trips. Individual routes vary in length and difficulty. Among the many proposals for such one-day rafting trips, we recommend the rafting on the Straduna - Elk route. This approximately 14-kilometer downflow will not cause problems even for novice canoeists.

### MAJOR EVENTS

- Pyrotechnic Elk festival, Ogień i Woda (Fire and Water)
- Masurian Balloon Competition
- Masurian Summer Cabaret MULATKA
- Get an idea of Elk (Zorientuj się na Elk)
- Runmagedon
- International Festival of Children and Youth Folklore „Rainbow”
- Competition for the Ladle of the President.

### SOMETHING FOR THE BODY...

There are plenty of restaurants, pubs, and discos in Elk. The greatest density is at the city promenade - in the area of K. Pułaski Street. You can taste Polish cuisine and regional specialties there, such as cabbage with caraway, dzynzalek (small dumplings) and plinče z pomočką (potato patties with stuffing).

All information about tourist attractions in Elk, equipment rental, as well as accommodation and catering options are available at:

[www.turystyka.elk.pl](http://www.turystyka.elk.pl), [www.elk.pl](http://www.elk.pl), [www.mosir.elk.pl](http://www.mosir.elk.pl), [www.muzeum.elk.pl](http://www.muzeum.elk.pl), [www.eck.elk.pl](http://www.eck.elk.pl)



This year, for the first time on the beach in Elk and in the amphitheater in Kaunas, there were festivals of cultures during which vocal and dance groups from Elk and Kaunas were performing. Festivals will take place every year in both cities.

Putvinsko Street, which is famous for its interesting, interwar architecture. Here, you can observe, among others the National M.K. Čiurlionis Museum of Art and the only Museum of Devils in the world. From Putvinsko Street, we can go to Žaliakalnis by funicular. In the vicinity of the upper station, there is the Church of the Resurrection with an observation deck, which offers a beautiful panorama of the city. Do not hesitate to taste local specialties - black bread, cepelinai or cold red beetroot soup.

### DAY THREE

The third day is devoted to visiting Pažaislis (St. Virgin Mary's visit to Elizabeth Church and Abbey buildings) buildings. It is one of the finest, baroque, architectural masterpieces in north-eastern Europe. It is located in the neighborhood of the so-called Kaunas Sea, or artificial lake, which was created as a result of damming water on the Nemunas River. During the summer, you can take a boat from Kaunas See to the Lithuanian Rumšiškės folk museum and have dinner there.



Photo - A. Aleksandravičius

By the Kaunas See, you will find many water equipment rentals. If being interested, there are also organized cruises for individuals. Supposing, you are a type of person who relaxes actively, the great choice will be to rent a bicycle and travel around the city. On the last day of our stay in Kaunas, we can also visit the ninth defensive fort from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. When saying goodbye to Kaunas, it is worth going to the observation deck in Aleksotas by funicular. The view of the Kaunas Old Town will definitely be a remarkable experience.

More information on: [www.visit.kaunas.lt](http://www.visit.kaunas.lt)

### MAIN EVENTS:

- Independence day (February 16)
- Kaunas Jazz festival (end of April start of May)
- Gallery weekend (May)
- Museum Night (May)
- Hanseatic days (May)
- Kaunas Castle Operetta (July)
- Pažaislis music festival (Summer)
- Christmas town (December)

### TOURIST INFORMATION:

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