

**Newsletter No.2**

For everyone interested in improving the  
accessibility of cultural heritage and  
tourism development



## Medininkai Castle

Medininkai castle - is the largest enclosure type castle in Lithuania and one of the largest defensive structures of this type in the Eastern Europe. The castle was built by Grand Duke of Lithuania Gediminas (1316-1341) in order to protect the Grand Duchy of Lithuania from the attacks of the Teutonic Order. The castle was used purely for defensive purposes: it had no duke and there was no settlement around it. The exact date of the construction of the castle is not known. The first time when the castle was mentioned in historical sources was only in 1387, in the descriptions of the routes of the scouts of the Teutonic Order.

At that time Medininkai was one of the largest cities of Lithuania and the defence centre. After the christening of Lithuania (1387) one of the first seven churches was built here under the order of Grand Duke of Lithuania Vytautas.

The significance of the castle was the highest at the end of the 14th century - the beginning of the 15th century when it was used for defence. It is known that Algirdas and Jogaila, the son and grandson of Duke Gediminas. Later the castle became the summer residence of Grand Duke Kazimieras Jogailaitis.

In 1415, Grand Duke of Lithuania Vytautas wrote a letter to Grand Master of the Teutonic Order in Medininkai castle, while in 1426 he called the castle "his own".

In the following centuries, the significance of Medininkai castle decreased and manor buildings were established here. During the World War II, concentration camp was established in the castle yard and Polish prisoners were held there.

Since 2004 Medininkai castle belongs to Trakai History Museum. Since then, active restoration has begun.



### Medininkai Castle

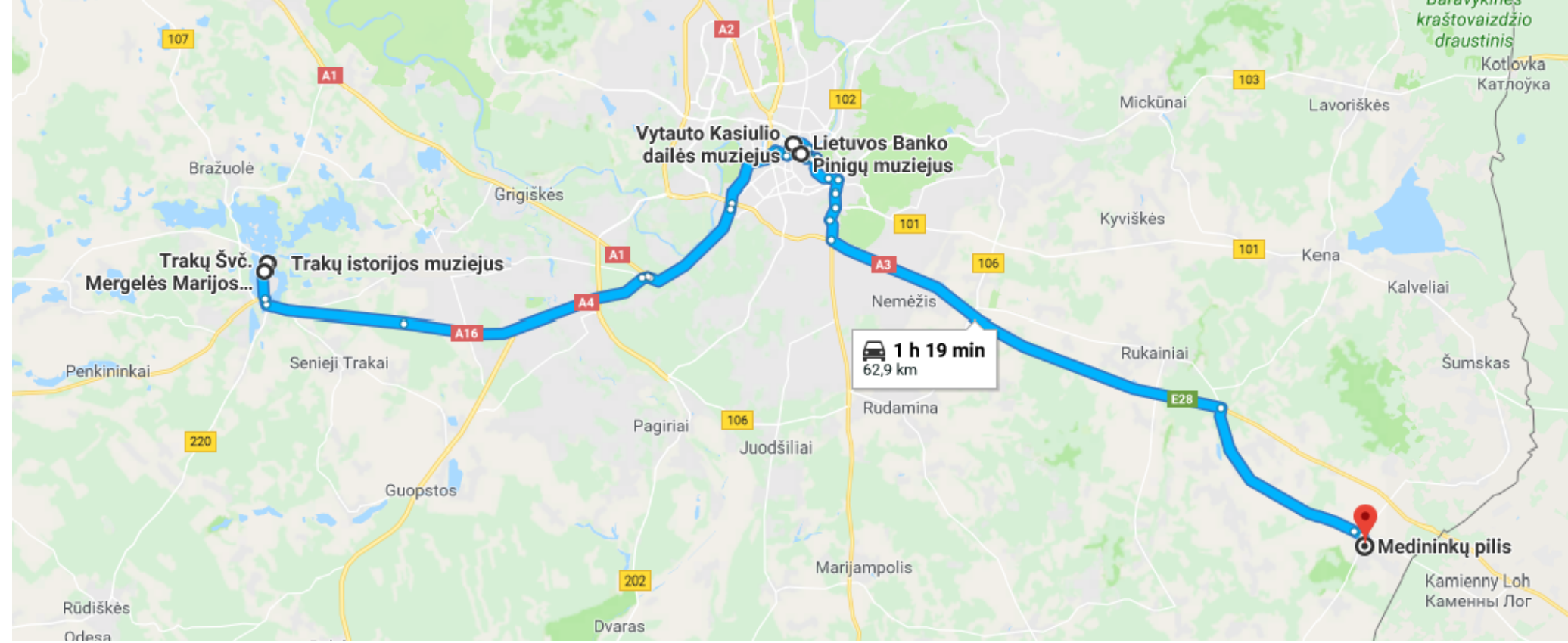
Address: Šv. Kazimiero str. 2, LT-13192  
Medininkai village, Vilnius district, Lithuania  
Phone: +370 525 05 595, +370 696 60 246  
E-mail:  
[aleksandras.krivoseinas@medininkaipilis.lt](mailto:aleksandras.krivoseinas@medininkaipilis.lt)  
Working hours:  
April–October III – VII 10:00-18:00  
November–March III – VII 9:00-17:00  
GPS: 54.539454, 25.649984  
[www.medininkaipilis.lt](http://www.medininkaipilis.lt)



### Vilnius region Route

1. Medininkai Castle.
2. Vytautas Kasiulis Art Museum.
3. Money Museum of Lithuania Bank.
4. Trakai Basilica of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
5. Trakai History Museum, Exhibition of Liturgical Art.

It is one of the 5 objects  
presented on the route of the  
Vilnius region, adapted for  
people with disabilities and  
for those who are interested  
in more convenient  
accessibility.



The object is about 35 km from Vilnius.

Lithuania's highest summits, Aukštasis and Juozapinė Hills (almost 300 meters above sea level) are located in the Medininkai highlands.

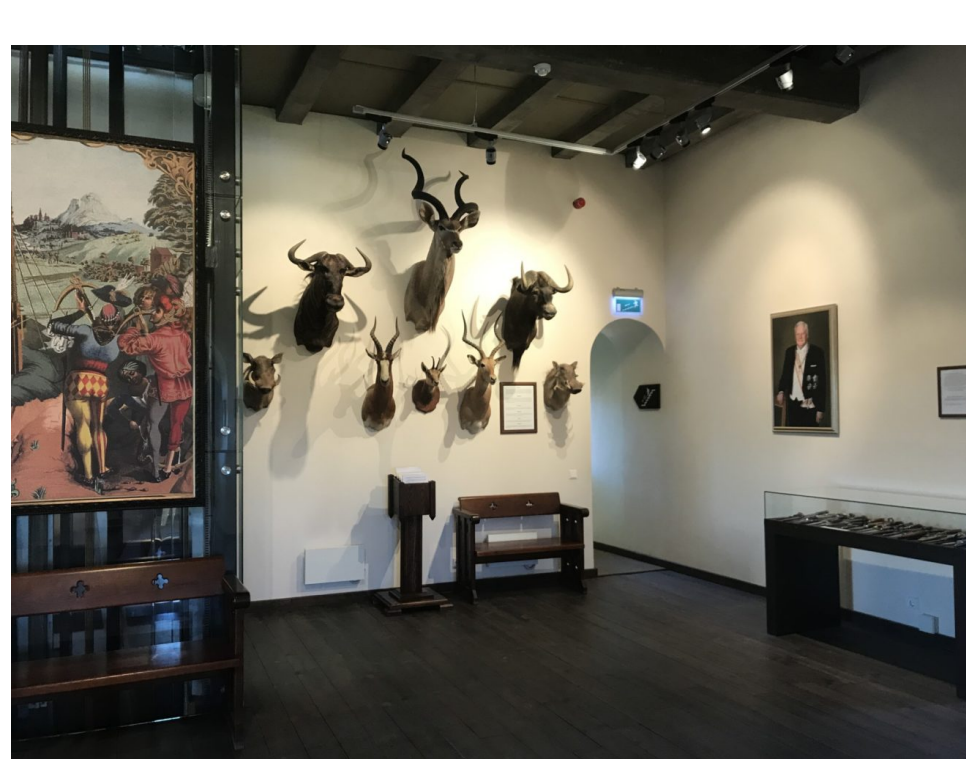
### Exposition of Medininkai Castle

After the restoration Medininkai Castle was opened in 2012. Expositions in five floors of the tower of the castle reveal the history of the castle and Lithuania. The visitors are able to know more about the brick castles of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Together with the images of the most important castles of Lithuania they can see rare bricks with animal footprints. They were collected from the whole territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

On the second floor the visitors can see the arms of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania from the 14th to the 18th centuries. A very interesting exhibit is one of the first firearms used in our country. The hall is decorated by the historical painting of Giedrius Kazimierėnas "Žalgirio mūšis. Rūstybės diena" (The Battle of Žalgiris. The Day of Wrath) 2012, depicting one of the most important events in the history of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania - the denouement of the several-centuries long expansion of the Teutonic Order. On the third floor there is an exposition of silver goods of the 10th - 20th centuries made by the masters of Lithuania. One of the rarest exhibits - silver horse collar weighing 2 kg, which was found in the northern Lithuania.

The fourth and fifth floors are almost completely reconstructed, there are only few historical fragments left.

On the fourth floors there is a collection of hunting trophies and hunting knives of the President of the Republic of Lithuania Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas. The collection was donated to the museum by his daughter Audronė. The top floor has a representation hall. From the fifth floor you can go to the observation deck of the donjon and look around the surroundings of Medininkai.



Medininkai Castle hosts such traditional events as "Medininkai Castle Games", "Siege of Medininkai Castle", "Saint Jonas' Festival in Medininkai" and others. Various educational programmes are also organized in the castle.

Would like to know more

### Legend about the construction of the castle

According to the legend, Medininkai and Krėva castle have a close connection as both of them were built at the same time by gods and giants. They were so strong that while laying the bricks of the walls, they lent tools to each other by throwing them from Medininkai to Krėva and back.

*Krėva castle - one of the oldest brick castles in Lithuania, located near Krėva town (now Smurgainiai district, Grdono region, Belarus).*

### The object is accessible to people with disabilities:

Parking lot is suitable for people with disabilities, near the object (it is possible to enter to the territory of the castle, parking place next to the donjon tower)

Public transport stop is up to 300m away.

Access to the object is a smooth entry.

It's easy to move inside the object, there are no obstacles.

The facility has an elevator.

The object has for the toilet for the disabled (4th floor).



Would like to know more

For more places adapted for people with disabilities visiting can be found at:  
[www.beslenksciu.lt/turizmas-visiems/](http://www.beslenksciu.lt/turizmas-visiems/)

Keep up with all the news!



Lithuanian Union of People with Disabilities  
Gėlių st. 7, LT – 01137 Vilnius, Lithuania  
Tel: +370 5 269-13-08  
Fax: +370 5 231-28-82



2014-2020 Operational  
Programme for the  
European Union Funds  
Investments in Lithuania