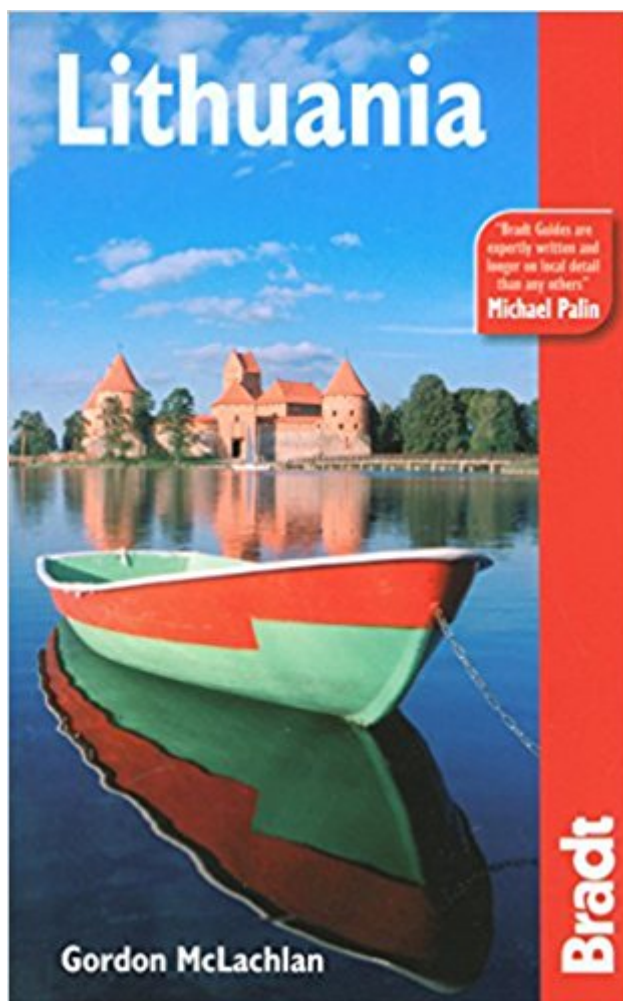




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Lithuania (Bradt Travel Guide)



Synopsis

Now into its fifth edition, Lithuania is an invaluable guide for planning a memorable vacation in this most hospitable of European countries. Some of the many attractions featured are the atmospheric Hill of Crosses at Siauliai, the charming seaside town of Palanga and the provincial town of Kaunas with its museums and botanical gardens. For those seeking a tranquil retreat by the Baltic Sea, the Curonian Spit National Park is well covered, with its town of Nida perched amongst a wilderness of dunes. An overview of the country's chequered history is provided in addition to all the information necessary to create the perfect itinerary.

Book Information

Series: Bradt Travel Guide

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Bradt Travel Guides; 5th edition (May 22, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1841622281

ISBN-13: 978-1841622286

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.2 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,007,761 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Travel > Europe > Lithuania #1448 in Books > Travel > Europe > General

Customer Reviews

'Best guidebook.' The Sunday Times

Lithuania is a small country brimming with attractions, and it receives unrivalled coverage in this fully revised fifth edition. City lovers will be in their element among the vibrant cafés and exuberant Gothic and Baroque architecture of Vilnius and Kaunas; naturalists can choose from five national parks, with wild dunes and peaceful lakes; and hedonists can float between the beach resort of Palanga and the prestigious spa at Druskininkai. Whether you're planning a weekend break or longer stay, Bradt's Lithuania is an indispensable companion. * The lowdown on the best places to eat and drink* Explore Vilnius's monumental Old Town* Wander around Kaunas and its museums* Stroll along the Curonian Spit and among its Dead Dunes* Comprehensive coverage of history and the arts

This is really the only complete travel book on Lithuania available. Complete coverage of the whole country. I especially liked the History chapter and the Further Reading Appendix. I always like to read up on the history of where I'm going and this book is an outstanding resource. The Where to Stay sections were large and useful. My only complaints are that this book could use color maps instead and more detailed transport sections. I would have liked it to list the estimated travel prices and travel times in a table. Actually, I wish most travel guides would have a table summarizing everything from hotels, restaurants and transport but most travel guides don't do that.

I'm taking to these Bradt guides. As a dedicated Rough Guide reader, I have to say that these books impress me. There's something to the Bradt guides that other guides lack, and it's hard to put your finger on it. They're not glossy photo essays, and they don't include finely detailed maps. I think it's the depth of the writing that convinces me. You can tell that these books aren't packed with ill-informed "facts" or airline magazine history. You can tell that the authors aren't just blowing smoke. This book covers Lithuania like the winter rain. The historic, cultural and literary contexts are superb. The listings are exhaustive and accurate. The "sites" are deep, not limited to tourist traps in Vilnius. The book covers all the cities and towns for cultural tourists, and covers interesting natural sites for eco-tourists. It's a complete picture, and you'll learn something too. My only complaints are relative lack of photography (even less than a Rough Guide) and a seemingly intentional neglect of Czeslaw Milosz, the great Polish poet born and raised in (what was then) Polish Wilno.

This book was very helpful and addressed more things than I had hoped. It got down to the necessities of day to day living, traveling and dealing with the culture, in a concise manner. We lived in central Europe previously in the 90s and found this much more helpful than any of the books that were available at that time. I'd recommend it if you're planning a trip to or an extended stay in Lithuania.

great

Once a year I go to Lithuania and spend a month there teaching about spirituality. The people are wonderful and the country magical. This is a great book about a beautiful, quaint, poetic country. If you are thinking about going to Europe buy this book and pack your bags for Lithuania.

Make no mistake, I am no devoted fan of Bradt guides. I have read my share of shoddy, poorly edited, lazily researched and prejudiced Bradt guides. So I approached this book with a very healthy dose of scepticism. The fact is, the guide is very well researched, very up-to-date; even airline info is accurate and relevant! That's actually a great compliment: most big and respectable (?) publishing houses like Lonely Planet are still struggling to come up with anything more substantial than "common sense" (in most case, it isn't even that) factoids such as their supreme insult to intelligence "pack as little as possible but take everything you need". But enough about Lonely Planet - they are my favorite whipping boy and this review is not about them. So we agreed that Bradt is well-researched and accurate. The regional information (outside Vilnius and Kaunas and Klaipeda) is, at the moment, second to none; main cities are also covered very well. The writer had enough sense to seek extensive advice in Lithuania from everyone who is anyone in travel writing business. It seems that the (formerly) glorious publishers of Vilnius In Your Pocket (they were incredibly good before they overstretched themselves, spread their editorial effort too thin and apparently stopped investing into their famous gold-standard research) quietly helped Bradt with all their knowledge, in return for a modest and barely noticeable plug. Not fair? Well, maybe, but it helped Bradt. This book is worth every penny. Besides practicalities, it has good articles on history and language and culture, too. There is very little to fault on content side. It looks like there's nothing missing, and I don't say things like this too often. Having said all that, I am still not impressed with their graphic design. It looks amateurish; a bit of gloss and color and visual guidance would be in order. Some places look as if they were designed by your uncle in his free time on home computer. Maybe it appeals to some people, but many will be put off, thinking - why should I spend good money on something that looks like a college newsletter? This would be a superficial reaction, but one which does no favors to publishers when trying to sell the book. Overall, the book is still worth your money - by all means. For Lithuania, you don't need to bother with Lonely Planet, who were so far in the lead six or seven years ago that it seemed like no-one could catch up with them. Since then, LP stood still and Bradt evolved incredibly, and now fortunes are reversed. Again, at the moment (September 2003) there is nothing better on the market.

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