

THE BEAST'S FOOTPRINTS

SCULPTURE

Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50

FOR THE CURIOUS ONES

Come rain or shine, whether it's a pea-souper or a blizzard, the Beast stands guard at the tip of Nemunas Island, near the Žalgiris Arena, keeping a watchful eye on anyone approaching along the Nemunas River from Sankiai. Legend has it that if you stop by the sculpture (crafted by Darius Petreikis) to say hello while whizzing along the Nemunas embankment, you'll be blessed with beastly good luck for the rest of the day.

TOOTH

A. Jakšto g.

The Beast of Kaunas is the oldest resident of the city's waterways and underground realms, older than Kaunas itself, so it's no surprise that every few decades, an archaeologist digs up some intriguing find they can't quite place. The most recent discovery is a proper tooth of the Beast of Kaunas, and its size gives us a good idea of its owner's... well, let's just say he's not small! Anyone can have a gander at the tooth, unearthed by ceramicist Remigijus Sederevičius – it's on display near Kaunas Castle.

LAIR

Kauno piliis, Pilies g. 17

We've already mentioned that the Beast of Kaunas lives in Underground Kaunas and only emerges when the townsfolk are fast asleep. But when does the Beast doze off? During the day, of course, and we know just the spot. You need to creep quietly to Kaunas Castle and have a listen near the ground. Hear that snoring? You're not hearing things!

And now, we'll let you in on a few more of the Beast of Kaunas' favourite spots. Perhaps you'll uncover even more footprints and make a bit of history yourself?

- He fills the shelves of the Tourist Information Centre (Laisvės al. 36) with new souvenirs and maps at night. (Cheeky chap!)
- He pops up to wave at the smiling sundial while having a dip in the Nemunas River near the Vytautas the Great Bridge.
- He sits at the Santaka (Confluence of Nemunas and Neris rivers) and ponders the good life.
- During the warmer months, instead of a shower, he takes a plunge in Kaunas' fountains – a different one each day!
- He nibbles on books in Kaunas' libraries.
- He rings the bell in the Pažaislis Monastery bell tower. (When nobody's looking, of course.)

Hi,

It's absolutely smashing to have you in Kaunas, a city where peace and good vibes are overseen by... a Beast, no less! Yes, the Mythical Beast of Kaunas is a creature dwelling in the sprawling Underworld Kaunas. He only pops up in Sunny Kaunas after dark, when we're all tucked up in bed, to make sure everything's tickety-boo. But, over the centuries, Kaunesians have stumbled upon many clues the Beast has left behind. In 2022, when Kaunas was crowned European Capital of Culture, the Beast had made it from being local into becoming an international celebrity. After five years of non-stop celebrations, the Beast needed a proper rest, and now he's raring to go – ready to play, explore, and discover all over again. We've gathered all the Beast's footprints and favourite haunts in Kaunas onto this map, perfect for family adventures and a jolly good time. Grab it and get stuck in!

THE BEAST'S GAME

We're inviting you to visit 8 museums, hand-picked by the Beast himself. Have a brilliant time with the

FOR THE CURIOUS ONES

SCIENCE ISLAND

Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50

We've already forgotten how Kaunas and Lithuania got by without this centre. Your heart will melt at the exhibition containing more than 140 objects, engaging both children and their grown-ups. By the way, if you're umming and ahing about whether it's worth getting tickets to the beastly popular planetarium, you'll thank us later for urging you to do so.

KAUNAS TOWN HALL

Rotušės a. 15

If you're wondering where Kaunesians get their wit, fun, and charm, it's, of course, from the spells of the Beast of Kaunas. But there are more reasons. They're revealed by the sensitive, modern, and playful exhibition of the Kaunas City Museum.

THE FOLK MUSIC MUSEUM OF THE KAUNAS CITY MUSEUM

L. Zamenhofo g. 12 / Kurpių g. 12

With its 7000 exhibits, the museum is not only a great place to explore different types of birbynės (Lithuanian wind instruments). Here, even the stairs play music, which the Beast of Kaunas especially loves to scamper up and down. After all, the entire museum exhibition is designed to be touched, tried, and otherwise explored in the fantastic world of sounds.

LITHUANIAN AVIATION MUSEUM

Veiverių g. 132

The Beast himself can fly but does not like to. However, aeroplanes are like cousins to him because of their appearance, so he often stops by to have a good sniff around the museum's outdoor exhibition. When the museum itself is finally renovated, we'll definitely give you a shout!

CHILDREN LITERATURE MUSEUM

K. Donelaičio g. 13

In the museum, you can immerse yourself in fun educational events and creative workshops. In the basement, you can explore the Creature researcher rooms created by the popular writer Kotryna Zylė. Say hi to friends of the Beast!

M. K. ČIURLIONIS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART

V. Putvinskio g. 55

There are many footprints of the Beast of Kaunas in Čiurlionis' paintings. Special educational programmes will help you discover them and immerse yourself in the genius' world. Don't miss the chance to see Čiurlionis' virtual reality films – there are two of them.

whole family, and don't forget to get a special game stamp at each one. Once you've collected all eight stamps, pop into the Kaunas IN Tourist Information Centre to claim a beastly brilliant souvenir!

The game's on until Kaunas' birthday in 2026.

- Lithuanian Sports Museum (Lietuvos sporto muziejus)
- Science and Innovation Promotion Centre 'Science Island' (Mokslo sala)
- Lithuanian Museum of Education (Lietuvos švietimo muziejus)
- Children Literature Museum (Vaikų literatūros muziejus)
- A. Žmuidzinavičius Creations and Collections Museum (Devils' Museum) (A. Žmuidzinavičiaus kūrinių ir rinkinių muziejus (Velnų muziejus))
- Kaunas Tadas Ivanauskas Zoology Museum (Kauno Tado Ivanausko zoologijos muziejus)
- The Kaunas Town Hall branch of the Kaunas City Museum (KMM Kauno Rotušė)
- The Kaunas Castle branch of the Kaunas City Museum (KMM Kauno piliis)

TOURISM INFORMATION

„KAUNAS IN“ Laisvės al. 36, Rotušės a. 15, Kaunas
+370 616 50991 | info@kaunas.in.lt | visit.kaunas.lt

VYTAUTAS THE GREAT WAR MUSEUM

K. Donelaičio g. 64

After exploring the exhibitions brimming with battles for freedom, don't forget to take a picture with the cousins of the Beast of Kaunas guarding the entrance, brought from Biržai. And after that, head to the Sixth Fort of the Kaunas Fortress, where there's an open-air exhibition of military equipment that's sure to impress.

KAUNAS TADAS IVANAUSKAS ZOOLOGY MUSEUM

Laisvės al. 106

We can assure you that there is no stuffed Beast here, but you can visit time and time again, and discover something new, like a new bird, mammal or butterfly. Check out the list of educational programmes prepared by the staff.

A. ŽMUIDZINAVIČIUS CREATIONS AND COLLECTIONS MUSEUM (DEVILS' MUSEUM)

V. Putvinskio g. 64

Back in 1906, the writer Juozas Tumas-Vaižgantas gave a little devil to the artist Antanas Žmuidzinavičius. Today, the number of exhibits in the devil collection has exceeded 3000! Beastly fun and not at all scary.

KAUNAS CASTLE

Pilies g. 17

Kaunas Castle is one of the oldest buildings in the city, but there's no room for lichen and mould here. From the castle court and cross-bow shooting activities to clay pottery workshops – everything's designed so that, if you fancy your own castle, you can not only build it but also defend it. Family days are often held in this and other branches of the Kaunas City Museum. When you come along, don't forget to check how the Beast of Kaunas is getting on with his snoring.

LITHUANIAN MUSEUM OF EDUCATION

Vytauto pr. 52

The Beast is so old that he remembers the days when there were no schools. But he admits he missed out and recommends a visit to the museum, where you'll see how much the education system has changed since the first schools, homemade tools, and long-forgotten punishments.

LITHUANIAN SPORTS MUSEUM

Muziejaus g. 7

If the younger members of your family haven't yet decided whether they want to be footballers or ice hockey players when they grow up, this museum might just give them a nudge in the right direction. Next to the main exhibition, there are also circus history and boxing sections.

BASKETBALL HOUSE

Santakos g. 11

Right next to the sports museum – and a palace dedicated to the most treasured sport for Lithuanians. In the Basketball House, everyone can get acquainted with the most important achievements of our compatriots, admire their trophies, balls, and even trainers.

MAIRONIS LITHUANIAN LAITERONIS MUSEUM

Rotušės a. 13

"Literature Changes," claims the interactive exhibition presenting the work and lives of Lithuanian writers. After visiting, the school literature list won't seem quite so dull... It's always lovely to wander around Maironis' apartment and garden, where it's perfect for enjoying an ice cream in the summer and, of course, a good read.

REST AND OUTDOOR GAMES

Places where the Beast enjoys meeting up with all sorts of friends and having a bit of fun.

VMU BOTANICAL GARDEN

Ž. E. Žilūberio g. 6

The Beast of Kaunas learned the hard way that not all cacti are friendly, and it happened one dark night in the botanical garden's greenhouse! Despite a few prickly encounters, he gives this garden top marks the rest of the time. Make sure you visit the Beast's best mate – the Botanical Garden's hedge, known as "the centipede".

ŽALIAKALNIS AND ALEKSOTAS FUNICULARS

Aušros g. 6
Amerikos Lietuvių g. 6

The truth is, despite all his good points, the Beast of Kaunas has a few little flaws. For instance, he's a bit of a lazybones. Knowing this, the people of Kaunas once built funiculars. These historic modes of transport are mainly for a bit of fun these days, even if you don't actually need to get to Aleksotas or Žaliakalnis. The doors close, everyone piles onto the wooden bench, just over a minute later, and the centre of Kaunas is right there. By the way, bikes go free on the funiculars. Beasts too, naturally.

LITHUANIAN ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN

Radvilėnų pl. 21

You'll find dozens of the Beast's friends here! Endangered species, exotic animals, and familiar Lithuanian creatures you might never have seen up close – it's all practically in the centre of Kaunas, in the ancient Ažuolynas (Oak Grove). The oldest zoo in the country is always putting on various celebrations, where children fall even more in love with animals and the fascinating world around them.

UNO PARK

Gervių g. 5P

Lampėdžiai Lake is a popular swimming spot, and the park next to it is a real treat for young climbers. It's not dull for grown-ups either – there are 5 courses with 100 challenges, and the total length of the adventure park's courses is over 1.5 km. Fancy giving the one a go that even gives the Beast of Kaunas the hee-bie-jeebies?

VIENYBĖS SQUARE (UNITY SQUARE)

On sunny days, you'll find the Beast with his friends that enjoy the concrete jungle as much as he does. Some go for a splash in the pools and fountains, others ride around on scooters, skates, skateboards or bikes. The lazier ones watch from the cafes and restaurants that surround the square. If he hears music, his tail starts wagging with delight. The square is central, so there's always something going on.

COURTYARD GALLERY

E. Ožekienės g. 21A

The artist Vytenis Jakas, after stumbling upon some old photos of the Jewish families who used to live in the block, put the photos of people on the walls of the yard. Colourful, lively, and constantly refreshed, this open-air gallery is also a valuable history lesson. The Beast has plenty of friends here – a cat winks from the wall, and if you look up, you'll spot a rather stylish elephant.

SHIPS AROUND KAUNAS

Kaunas is a city of rivers, born from the love of the Nemunas and Neris, so shipping gets special attention here. Beastly fun trips – to Birštonas, Raudondvaris, Zapyškis. Or perhaps you'll decide to conquer the Kaunas Reservoir? By the way, the Yacht Club here is raising future Olympic sailors and rowers.

PLAYGROUNDS

- Plenty of places for the little ones, and the young at heart, to let off steam.
- Nemunas Island
 - Santaka Park
 - Nepriklausomybės Square
 - Oak Grove
 - Panemunė Beach
 - Kaunas Reservoir Beach
 - Lampėdžiai Quarry
 - Santarvė Park
 - Neris Embankment
 - Draugystė Park
 - Kalnietičiai Park
 - City Garden
 - Safe Traffic Town Saugėnai
 - Kovo 11-osios Park

ACTION!

Don't think that the Beast of Kaunas is some wild animal. Oh no, he's well-educated and enjoys a bit of cinema and theatre, especially if it's about him.

CINEMAS

Cinamon, Islandijos pl. 32
Forum Cinemas, Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 49
Romuva, Laisvės al. 54

Cinamon is just the ticket for those wanting a good family film after a shopping spree. Forum Cinemas boasts one of the best cinema

halls in Lithuania, iSense, guaranteeing a top-notch experience while watching the latest flick or cartoon. Romuva is the oldest cinema in Lithuania, charming with its historic setting, thoughtful repertoire, and excellent educational programmes.

NATIONAL KAUNAS DRAMA THEATRE

Laisvės al. 71

The repertoire includes plenty of performances for children and teenagers, and at the end of the season, the theatre organises an educational festival, "Dive into the Theatre", offering the most unexpected ways to get to grips with this art form each year.

KAUNAS STATE PUPPET THEATRE

Laisvės al. 87A

The most genuine theatre for children, delighting townspeople for almost 7 decades, offers unexpected premieres every season, and in the repertoire, you'll find the only performance of its kind, "The Beast of Kaunas".

KAUNAS STATE MUSICAL THEATRE

Laisvės al. 91

The children's repertoire of this theatre includes simply fantastic contemporary Lithuanian performances, "Striped Opera" and "Gulliver's Travels", as well as timeless world classics.

KAUNAS STATE PHILHARMONIC

L. Sapiegos g. 5

On many Sundays, there are afternoons for the whole family, where children and their grown-ups are introduced to the history of musical styles, various instruments, and the world's musical heritage.

KAUNAS CITY CHAMBER THEATRE

Kęstučio g. 74A

Young people are welcome in this theatre backstage, on stage, and in the audience. The repertoire includes innovative performances for teenagers and even little ones, and every autumn there's a festival dedicated to rising artists.

FOR RAINY DAYS

It can be beastly fun even when the weather scuppers your weekend plans. Let's head inside!

CURIOCIITY

Islandijos pl. 32

The largest educational entertainment centre for children in the Baltic States, located in the "Mega" shopping centre, invites you to fly into space, step into the shoes of an ambulance crew, feel the heat of volcanic lava, slide on a rainbow, discover cooking, and much more – there are even 20 scenarios here.

ZOOPARK MEGA

Islandijos pl. 52

Turtles, sheep, hedgehogs, and other animals can not only be observed but also petted and fed in the first contact zoo in Lithuania. Such close encounters with animals develop wonderful qualities that will be useful throughout life – patience, gentleness, care, and responsibility.

OAK GROVE LIBRARY

Radastų g. 2

In this contemporary library, there's a Maker-space, aimed at everyone over 7. Here you can find the tools and devices from a needle to a cutter or a 3D printer. This is the place not only to learn but also to develop your creativity, try things out, discover, and invent.

OPOPO

Aušros g. 18
Raudondvario pl. 86A
Pramonės pr. 25

These children's party spaces provide countless scenarios! The trampoline capital OPOPO, located at Pramonės pr., has the biggest selection – here you'll find a football pitch, a racing trampoline, a large slide, a dinosaur trampoline area, a trampoline-mountain, a trampoline-carousel... At Raudondvario pl. and Aušros g. you'll find a more compact space and a bit more privacy.

RIO ARENA

Kaunakiemio g. 5

We know a place in Kaunas where it's always summer and always white sand! All that's missing is the sea, you say? And who needs it? Beach volleyball, tennis, and badminton reign supreme in the arena. And palm trees...

DŽIAUGSMOTEKA

Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 49

If you can't decide which theme to choose for your birthday, just have a look at the Džiaugsmoteka menu. Here you'll dive into a pool of glowing balls, climb walls, enjoy your favourite dishes, have fun on the spinning slide, and, of course, dance the evening away.

HELLO PARK

Savanorių pr. 276

This playground is on another level, in more ways than one. Simply spark your imagination and explore physical installation, colourful projections and much more.

LAZERTRONAS

Varnių g. 48B

It's time to channel your inner Rambo and grab a laser. You'll need a sharp eye, nimble legs, and a bit of strategic thinking.

ŽALGRIS ARENA SWIMMING POOL

Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50

Kaunesians, and not only they, have been waiting for this gem in the very heart of the city for a long time. The most dedicated choose continuous improvement in training, and everyone else has a splash about with their family. The sauna menu is more for the parents, but we assure you that it's very long and detailed indeed!

GIRSTUTIS SWIMMING POOL

Kovo 11-osios g. 26

Three pools are at your service here, perfectly balanced for sports and recreation. There's a shallow, warm pool for babies, a slide for the slightly older ones, and even a wakeboarding park under the roof. All family members will be chuffed with the news about four saunas, a massage venue, and a cafe.

KAUNAS ICE PALACE

Kovo 11-osios g. 26

Ice hockey, figure skating, or synchronised skating, and even the exotically sounding but really fun and engaging curling – it all fits in the palace. Come along even if you've never stood on ice – there's skate hire and instructors for that.

BOULDER HOUSE

V. Krėvės pr. 49

Climbing develops flexibility, improves coordination and fine motor skills. What's more, it's a brilliant opportunity to burn off some energy. That's why celebrating a birthday or another celebration at the climbing centre is a cracking idea.

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

Both people and beasts like to eat well. What do townspeople recommend?

PIO

Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50

Discuss the recently visited Science Island exhibition, grab a bite while waiting for the planetarium show, or simply refuel with great views – you can do it all here, in the small restaurant located on Nemunas Island.

GOODMAN

K. Donelaičio g. 60

Despite being a pescatarian, the Beast of Kaunas takes care of not only the general well-being of the city but also the quality of the burgers. He carefully checks that the chefs pamper small and large eaters only with the highest quality food masterpieces! Goodman offers just that, and waiting for the food won't be long because the tables here are smart and invite you to have a play.

BERNELIŲ UŽEIGA

M. Valančiaus g. 11
Baltų pr. 81
K. Donelaičio g. 11

Hearty, delicious, nutritious, and not at all boring – just like at Grandma's in the countryside. The most authentic Lithuanian dishes here have been awarded the culinary heritage mark, so there's no doubt about the quality. We urge you to save room for the rye bread ice cream.

BISTRONOM

Laisvės al. 37

Delicious grilled dishes delight everyone, and crispy popcorn chicken or American pancakes with mashed berries can be a great lunch after a stroll on Laisvės alėja. By the way, did we mention that the restaurant has a kids' zone where every little Bistronomė visitor can become a chef?!

Kaunas

BEASTLY

ADVENTURES IN KAUNAS

AND FOR DESSERT?

BOOKŠTAS

Kęstučio g. 86 / I. Kanto g. 18

The restaurant's location is very convenient. It's lovely to have a snack before or after a theatre performance, or after visiting one of the museums nearby. And where else can you tuck into traditional Lithuanian grub!

TALUTTI BAKES AND SHAKES

Vasario 16-osios g. 2

A visit to this paradise of cocktails, pancakes, burgers, and the most unexpected flavour combinations can be the highlight of the day! A friendly warning – the portion sizes are fit for a king, so it's best to share.

SPURGINĖ (DONUT SHOP)

Laisvės al. 84

Several generations of Kaunesians have grown up indulging here, and... nothing's changed. The same pleasant staff, cosy interior, fragrant cocoa, and proper, real donuts.

ANGOLO ITALIANO

Muitinės g. 1
Laisvės al. 50

Even the biggest sceptics can't resist this ice cream... Fathers, grandfathers, godmothers, cousins, and the rest of the living creatures are all equal in the queue for it. Everyone knows that when the thermometer rises, they'll meet in the same queue again. But only good things become traditions, right?!

BUNDU

E. Ožekienės g. 11

From grain to bun – everything here is real, family-like, and very delicious. Bundu pastries are made from flour milled in the family mill, and on weekends, when the cafe is lit up by the sun's rays, breakfast turns into quality gatherings.

GELATO ARCHIE

Vilniaus g. 13

Is the variety making your head spin? Not to worry – the founder of this ice cream parlour, Artūras, is able to wrap even five different kinds into a single waffle. We can't tell you what flavours these will be, as the owners are constantly experimenting and offering new delicious flavours.

HOLY DONUT

Vilniaus g. 37
M. Valančiaus g. 19
Vytauto pr. 24

Yet another spot dedicated to the classics is also home to a fantastic breakfast club. They serve bagels which, by the way, originated in Lithuania and were later imported to New York by Litvaks. Who doesn't love a bit of gastro-nomic history?

SALDU

Rotušės a. 15

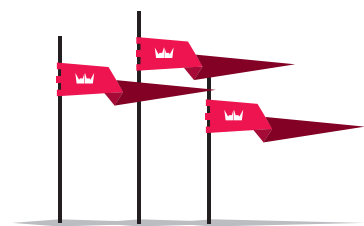
The cafe at Town Hall was founded by some dessert experts, who had gathered a crowd of fans from their little spot at Laisvės alėja. The desserts and ice cream are so delicious and beautiful that the Beast sneaks out of the castle after waking up, to check if there is any left for him.

PUPPET THEATRE CAFE STEBUKLIJ ŠLĖNIS (VALLEY OF MIRACLES)

Laisvės al. 87A

Those who believe in miracles gather here, and it doesn't matter how old they are. And if you're reading this map, it means you belong to the secret society of the Beast of Kaunas, which cannot live without miracles. Let's meet at the "Valley of Miracles"!

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STAMPS AREA

Follow the red flags and discover 8 museums, hand-picked by the Beast himself. Have a brilliant time with the whole family, and don't forget to get a special game stamp at each one. Once you've collected all eight stamps, pop into the Kaunas IN Tourist Information Centre to claim a beastly brilliant souvenir!

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- Science Island
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