

## COUNTRY PROFILE

The **Lithuanian flag** is yellow, green and red. The colors represent the **sun**, the **fertility** of the country and the **blood** that was spilled to gain independence.

Reportedly, Lithuania is the country with the **most hot-air balloons per inhabitant**. The love for aviation can also be seen in the country's cuisine: "Cepelinai" are considered the **national dish**: stuffed potato dumplings in the shape of a blimp.

Whoever uses their phone while **crossing the street** in Lithuania is subject to a **fine** of up to twelve euro.

Lithuanian is one of the **oldest languages in the world** and uses **ancient Indian Sanskrit**. The Lithuanian letter "ė" does not exist in any other language: It is an expression of femininity.

The **Curonian Spit** is a peninsula that is also referred to as the "**Lithuanian Sahara**" due to its **60-meter-high dunes**. In **Nida**, it is possible to visit the former vacation home of German author **Thomas Mann**.

**Kaunas** calls itself the **Christmas capital of the Baltic** and has a remarkably creative city marketing strategy. For example, the electricity for the Christmas lights was generated once using **energy from coffee grounds** donated by cafes and bars.

Lithuania is known for its **many storks** and has one of the highest populations of the bird in Europe. Even the rare **black stork** nests in the Baltic country.

"Laba Diena!" is a traditional greeting in Lithuania. Located next to the Baltic Sea, this country offers breathtaking landscapes dotted with forests, swamps and lakes. Lithuania earned the nickname "Northern Italy of the Baltic" due to the many baroque-style buildings in its capital city Vilnius and because its almost 2.8 million inhabitants are known for being temperamental. Until 1990, Lithuania belonged to the Soviet Union. Since 2004, it has been part of the EU. A modern country in the process of transformation. More information, such as why you should not whistle inside buildings in Lithuania, can be found in our country profile section.

The **national sport is basketball**. Lithuania has achieved great international success in this sport. **Arvydas Sabonis** was one of the most famous Lithuanian players, having made it onto the NBA's Hall of Fame.

**Dzūkija National Park** is Lithuania's largest nature reserve. The area is full of rivers and moors and is home to **eagles, wolves and elk**.

**Whistling prohibited:** Many people in Lithuania believe that **whistling inside a building brings bad luck**.

**Vilnius** ● **GAUDRĖ**  
**ELEKTROBALT**

**Perfume:** Lithuania is the only country in the world with an **official national perfume**. "Lietuvos kvapas" (the scent of Lithuania) is a mix of musk, sandalwood and cedar and is intended to smell like **fire and moss**.