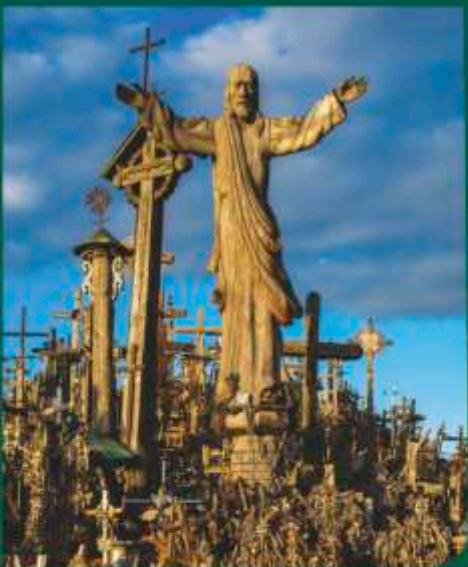




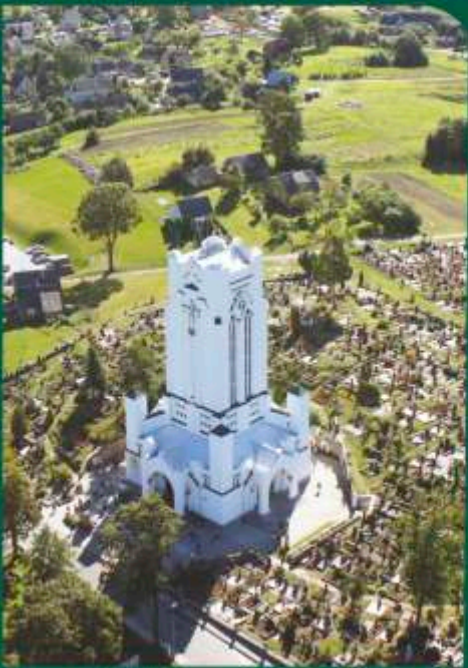
THE WAY OF GRACE

VIA GRATIARUM

RELIGIOUS TOURISM ROUTE



ŠIAULIAI DISTRICT • ŠIAULIAI CITY • Kelmė DISTRICT • RASEINIAI DISTRICT



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Welcome to the Way of Grace (Via Gratiarum)!

This publication presents a route for pilgrims and religious tourists in the four Lithuanian municipalities of Šiauliai city, Kelmė, Raseiniai, and Šiauliai districts. While travelling on the Way of Grace (Latin: Via Gratiarum) pilgrims and tourists will visit 30 exceptional religious objects and have the possibility to visit other unique cultural and natural heritage sites. This route is related to other paths of pilgrims in Lithuania – St. James's and Camino Lituano. Even five sites of the Way of Grace are also listed on the Pilgrim Route of John Paul II.



The Religious Significance of the Way of Grace for Pilgrims

We meet with the Lord, and we experience His grace during the pilgrimage. The Way of Grace is a journey in faith and hope. It is a journey of acceptance of God's love and God's mercy. This way is illuminated by the Divine Light, and the Holy Spirit travels along. Enclosed in the veil of grace, we open our own hearts to the Lord, we take a fresh look at our lives, and we turn to Jesus, who gives us Eternity.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you!" (1 Corinthians 16:23) is written in the Bible. Grace is a gift of God, a miracle, a sign of faith, and a symbol of the believer's devotion and renewal. Holy places are the sources of miracles and divine grace. Grace is a sense of God's love, peace and communion with God. Grace is a help to respond to the call to become the Children of God, and to become partakers of divine nature and eternal life.

Grace is undeserved. It is a gift from God, and the Holy Spirit pours it into our souls. The only condition of grace is faith. "For it is by grace

you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

We prepare to receive the gifts and blessings of God while walking the Way of Grace. We constantly ask God to receive grace and thank Him for what we have received. Asking for grace, we erect the crosses at the Hill of Crosses or, expressing gratitude, we hang the thanksgiving symbols – votive amulets – near miraculous images. These are the evidences of God's grace and recognizable symbols of God's goodness.

The received grace, working in us, encourages more and more faith and trust to the Lord. Dear travellers, are you ready to be in the communion with God for the healing of the soul and the body, for the chance to accept the grace of God, and to discover the meaning of life, to experience the sense of inexhaustible bliss? This is the mystery of Grace, this is the Way of Grace, this is the way of the Lord.



The most important places of pilgrimage on the Way of Grace:

- * The Hill of Crosses is an exceptional and unique place of pilgrimage in the world, a place of the exaltation of the Cross.
- * St. Apostles Peter and Paul's Cathedral in Šiauliai is the main church of the Šiauliai diocese, built in the Renaissance style, distinguished by one of the tallest church towers in Lithuania.
- * The Church of the Virgin Mary the Queen of Angels in Tytuvėnai and the ensemble of the Bernardine monastery is a place of the Miraculous Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the site of the Chapel of Holy Stairs.
- * Šiluva Basilica of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary and the Chapel of the Apparition is a recognized place of the Apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the place of the miraculous also crowned image of the Mother of God.









































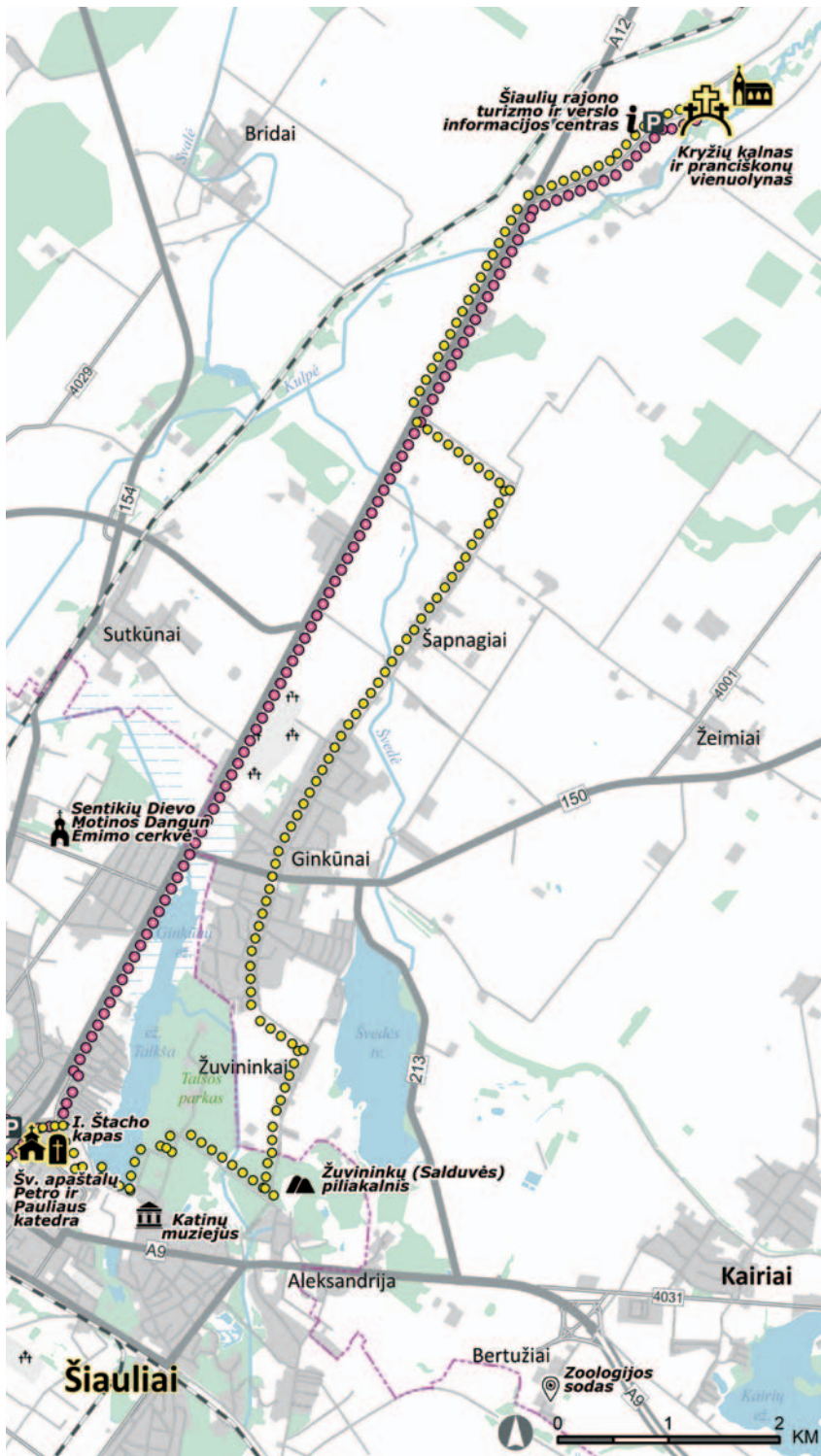
Traveller's memo:

- * The path is circular. You can start and end the trip at the same point or anywhere else on the route. The trip can be divided into parts or completed at a time.
- * Recommended directions of the Way: The Hill of Crosses – Šiauliai – Kurtuvėnai – Kelmė – Šiluva – Tytuvėnai – Šiauliai or Šiluva – Tytuvėnai – Šiauliai – the Hill of Crosses – Šiauliai – Kurtuvėnai – Kelmė – Šiluva.
- * We advise pilgrims to participate in the Holy Mass every day, to make a confession and to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion during the trip.
- * You can travel on foot (7-8 days), by bicycle (3-4 days) or by car (2-3 days).
- * The length of the pedestrian and bicycle route is 185 km, when travelling by car, it is 190 km.
- * The length of the day trip depends on the time spent travelling and the accommodation you choose.
- * Travellers decide themselves whether to visit the marked objects of culture or nature. More information about these attractions is available on the websites of regional parks and tourist information centres (see pages 33-34).



Map Symbols

	The Object of the Pilgrim Way		Bus Station
	The Way of Grace by car		Train Station
	The Way of Grace on foot and by bicycle		Parking Area
	Information centre		Camp Area
	Catholic Church		Other Point of Interest
	Orthodox or Old Believers Church		Manor
	Chapel		Museum
	Shrines of other Religions		Educational trail
	Monastery		Mound
	Cross		Spring
	Cemetery		Stone
	The Hill of Crosses		Tree
	Railway		Lake, river, or pond
	Main road		Wetland
	Country road		Administrative boundaries
	Regional road		Cemetery
	Local road		Forest
	River		Urban area



The Hill of Crosses – Šiauliai



Distance **16 km** (asphalt 6 km, other roads 10 km)



Distance **11 km** (asphalt 11 km)

Hikers or cyclists, travelling towards Šiauliai Cathedral, will be able to admire the plains of Northern Lithuania, visit Žuvininkai (Salduvė) mound, the Museum of Cats, the shore of the Lake Talkša with the Iron Fox sculpture and the Sundial Square.



The Hill of Crosses

Jurgaičiai Vill., Šiauliai District Municipality

56.015889, 23.416234

The Hill of Crosses is a unique place in the world. The hill is located 12 km north of Šiauliai. It is believed that in the Middle Ages, a wooden castle, called Kula in chronicles, stood on this hill. The castle was destroyed by the Livonian army in 1348. Local people say that the first crosses were built in the middle of the 19th century, praying for the grace and health of God. People considered this hill a holy place. Others claimed that the construction of the crosses began in 1831 and 1863 as

„In this place, where we have now found ourselves travelling through the land of Lithuania, we are invited to reflect on the mystery of the Cross ... The Cross is also an exaltation ... and a sign of God's Love ... and a sign of eternal Life in God ...“

The words of St. Pope John Paul II on the Hill of Crosses in 1993.

the commemoration of the dead of the uprisings against Tsarist Russia. During the period of the Lithuanian occupation, the Hill of Crosses remained a symbol of heroic resistance and freedom. The sculpture of Virgin Mary – Distributor of God's Grace – stands in the middle of the hill. In the Chapel of the Hill of Crosses, also known as the Chapel of the Pope, Pope John Paul II, together with the Lithuanian bishops, held the Holy Mass on 7 September 1993. A common motive for building crosses is to request God's grace or thank for already received grace. The Hill of Crosses is also available at night when place is beautifully illuminated.

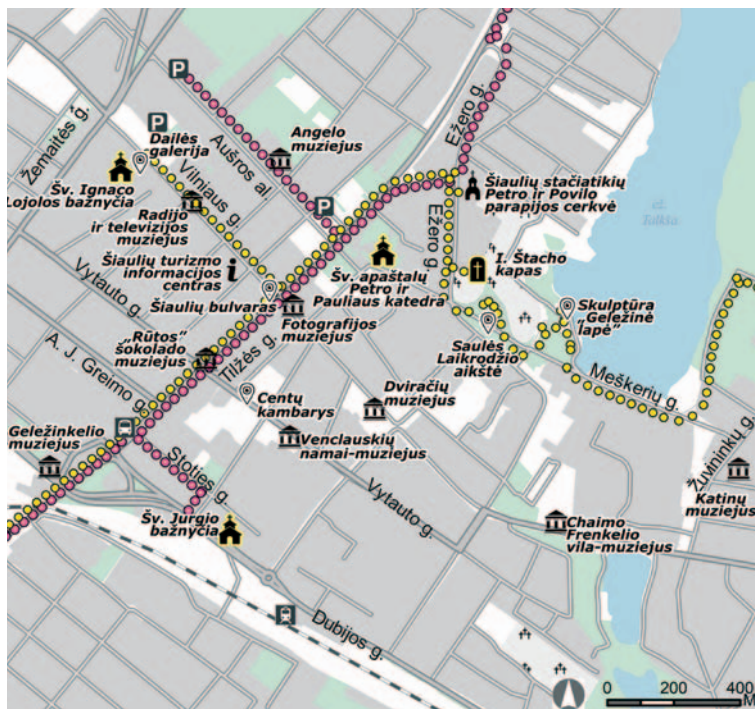
The Franciscan Monastery of the Hill of Crosses

Jurgaičiai Vill., Šiauliai District Municipality

56.01714, 23.42040

In the fall of 1993, Pope John Paul II, during a visit to the Franciscan monastery on Mount La Verna in Italy, encouraged the Franciscan brothers to build a monastery by the Hill of Crosses. The Franciscans responded to the Pope's call. The building, standing 300 meters from the Hill of Crosses, was built with the help of the Franciscan brothers of the province of Tuscany. It was solemnly consecrated on 8 July 2000. The Franciscans in their prayers often ask God for grace and renewal in the light of the Gospel.





Šiauliai

There are many unique museums in Šiauliai: Chocolate, Photography, Radio and Television, Angels, Bicycles, Railway, and many others. It is necessary to go for a walk in one of the oldest European boulevards – Vilnius Pedestrian Street. There are 5 Catholic churches in Šiauliai, as well as Orthodox and Old Believers churches, and the former synagogue of the Šiauliai Frenkel factory.

St. Apostles Peter and Paul's Cathedral

Aušros takas 3

55.932786, 23.320037

The tower of the Renaissance cathedral (height – 70 m) is visible from all the main roads. The church was built in the 17th century. The Šiauliai diocese was founded by Pope John Paul II on 8 May 1997. The church became St. Apostles Peter and Paul's Cathedral. One of the oldest sundials in Lithuania is installed on the



southern wall of the cathedral facade. The cathedral has two famous images of the Virgin Mary. Next to them are signs of thanksgiving – votive amulets. In the chapel of the Mother of God, prayers are given in the forms of litanies or rosary, and in the Chapel of the Divine Mercy, the main prayer is the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

St. George's Church

Kražių St. 17

55.925223, 23.312811

The neo-Byzantine style church in Šiauliai was built in 1908, at the expense of the Russian Tsarist government. The church is consecrated and named for St. George. After the Tsarist army withdrew from Lithuania in 1915, the church of the Russian army was closed and was not used for some time. The Germans converted the church into a warehouse during World War I. After the war, it was handed over to the spiritual needs of the 3rd Regiment of the Lithuanian Armed Forces. The church was consecrated to the title of St. George the Martyr on 6 July 1919. The sculpture of the Virgin Mary with the Baby is in the nave on the left wall of the Church. This sculpture is famous for its grace.



Monument to Pope John Paul II and St. Ignatius Loyola Church
 Vilniaus St. 247B
 55.934949, 23.307445

The church is located in the city centre, next to Vilnius Street. Pope John Paul II blessed the church and the future Jesuit school during his visit to Lithuania on 7 September 1993. The Jesuits are guided by the slogan “For the greater glory of God” in their activities. They are devoted to the grace of God. Often, they implemented various complex tasks such



as missions or educational activities. The Jesuit monastery was established in Šiauliai in 1930 under the care of Priest Benediktas Andruška (first Rector). A Public Oratorio was built in 1935. St. Ignatius Church and monastery were closed in 1949. The church was converted into a warehouse and later, a gym. The church was returned to the faithful in 1990. The monument to Pope John Paul II was erected in the churchyard to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Pope’s visit to Lithuania. The path from the boulevard to the papal sculpture was named after Pope John Paul II. Residents of Šiauliai consider the following event to be a miracle: Pope John Paul II smeared his cassock with paint while he was kneeling at St. Ignatius Loyola Church. Red spot was noticed at the exact place where the cassock was smeared in a sculpture built next to the church.

”Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my intellect, and all my will, all that I have and possess. You have given all to me: to you, Lord, I return it! Everything is yours, do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me.”

St. Ignatius of Loyola



**Ignacas Štachas Tomb,
The Old Cemetery of Šiauliai**
Ežero St. 64
55.932224, 23.324914

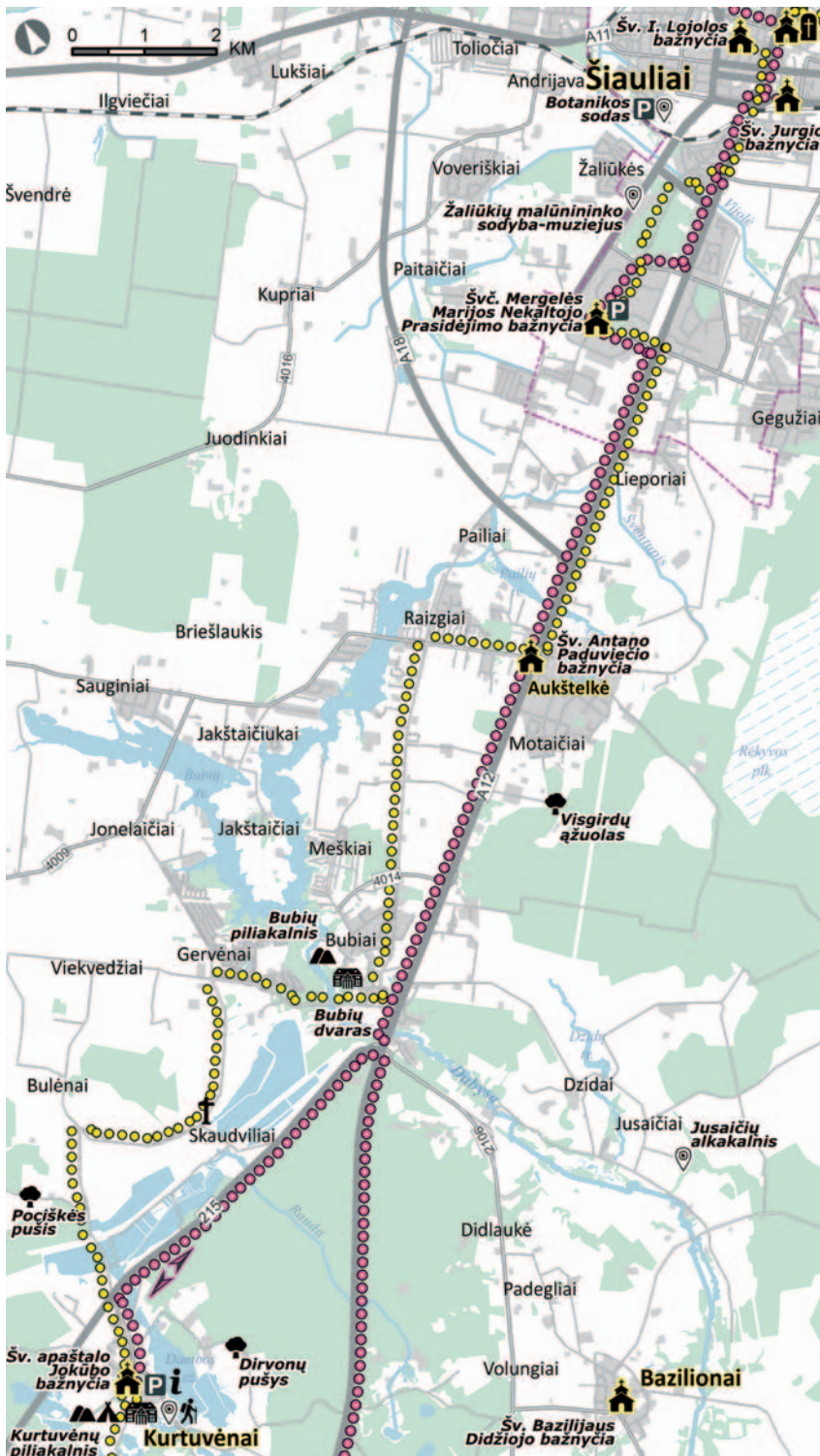
Priest Ignacas Štachas (born on 9 October 1797 in Varniai, died on 28 October 1854 in Šiauliai) is one of the pioneers of sobriety in Lithuania. It is believed that people who pray at the grave of priest I. Štachas receive grace. Students visited his tomb before exams. People in despair and sinners walked around his grave on their knees wishing to return to the path of righteousness. The priest is buried in the Old Cemetery, on the slope of

St. John Hill. The beatification case of Priest Ignacas Štachas was opened in 2016. Other famous people are also buried in this cemetery.

**The Church of the Immaculate
Conception of the Virgin Mary**
Gegužių St. 57
55.912497, 23.252573

The church was built in 2009. The church building resembles two palms clasped in prayer. The Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary was founded in October 1993 in the unfinished Nuklon Cultural House. The church moved to other premises in 2006. On the walls of the church are the Stations of the Way of Cross created by sculptor A. Rimavičius (1865–1933). The talent of this wood carver was the grace of God and a gift of the Holy Spirit.





Šiauliai – Kurtuvėnai



Distance **30 km** (asphalt 17 km, other roads 13 km)



Distance **23 km** (asphalt 23 km)

It is worth climbing the mound in Bubiai and visiting Bubiai Manor, while travelling from Šiauliai to Kurtuvėnai. Manor house buildings, the famous wooden manor barn and a mound, are also awaiting visitors in Kurtuvėnai. There are plenty of trails and routes, as well as various natural and cultural objects in the Kurtuvėnai Regional Park. The famous sacred hill of Girnikai is near Pociškė Pine.



The Church of St. Anthony of Padua in Aukštelkė

Ajerų St. 4, Aukštelkė Vill., Šiauliai District Municipality
55.881124, 23.202858

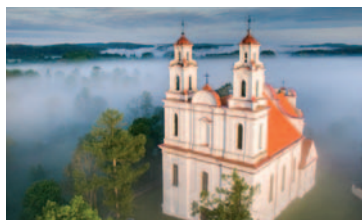
A chapel was built in Aukštelkė Manor about 1764. Under the care of A. Radavičius, the brick chapel was built in 1885. It belonged to Šiauliai Parish and was serviced by Šiauliai priests. It was destroyed in the battles of World War I in 1915. Priest Vincentas Jarulaitis (1859–1939, buried in Aukštelkė) rebuilt the chapel in 1932. After World War II, the chapel was called a church. It was renovated in 1967. The sculptures of angels are on the front façade of the church. Often, angels transmit the messages of God to

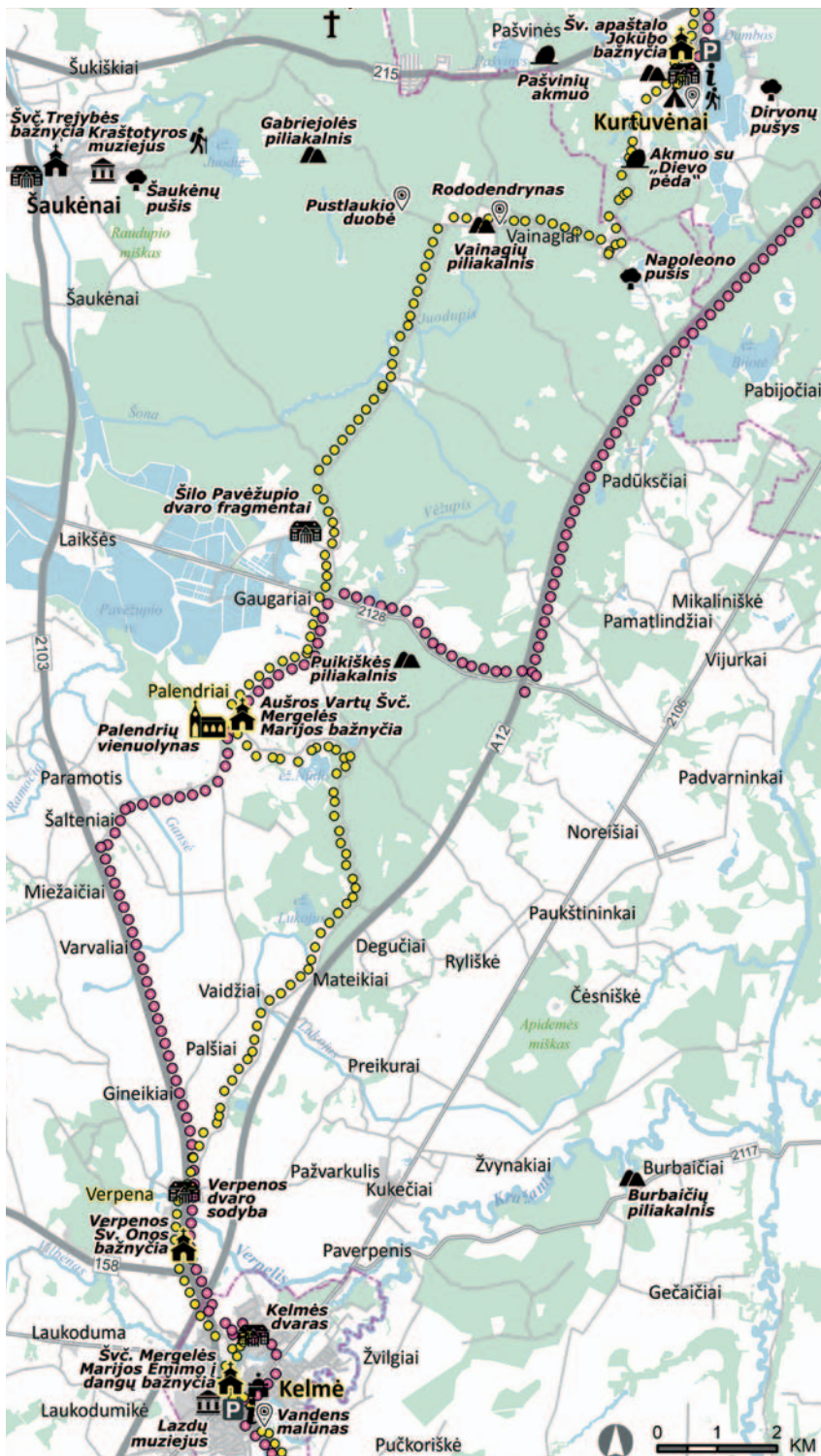
people. An angel appeared to the Virgin Mary said her “Hail, full of grace. The Lord is with you” (Luke 1:28).

The Church of the St. Apostle James in Kurtuvėnai

P. Višinskio St. 33, Kurtuvėnai, Šiauliai District Municipality
55.828447, 23.047448

The Church of St. Apostle James is in the late Baroque style, built in 1792. Its towers reach a height of 50 m. The church is rich in mysterious and dark naves and narrow corridors. Burial cellars with 12 crypts are under the church. Next to the right altar is the sculpture of King of the Baby Jesus (Prague Baby). A lot of votive amulets witnessing people's thanks for received grace are near to it.





Kurtuvėnai – Kelmė



Distance **32 km** (asphalt 4 km, other roads 28 km)



Distance **43 km** (asphalt 36 km, other roads 7 km)



Travelling from Kurtuvėnai to Palendriai one can see a lot of natural curiosities like the “God’s foot” stone, the pine of Napoleon, Vainagai Mound and the Vainagai Forest Trail.

Palendriai St. Benedict's Monastery and Church of the Virgin Mary of Gates of Dawn

Palendriai, Kelmė District Municipality
55.729976, 22.935375

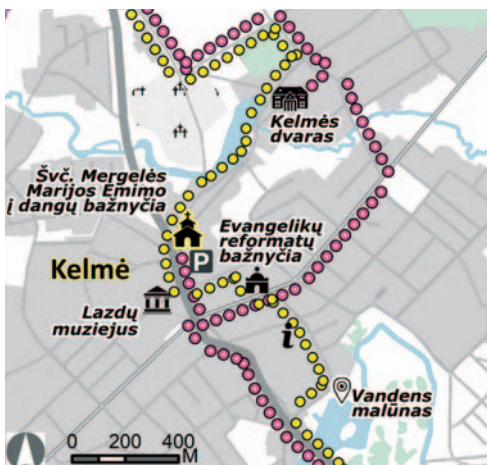
The Monastery is in the village of Palendriai. The Benedictines moved into the newly built monastery in the autumn of 2001. Anyone can go to the monastery church and pray with the monks. The Benedictines commit to seek the love and mercy of God by keeping vows of obedience, consistency, chastity, and poverty. The monastery holds the relic of the cross on which Christ was tormented and a spike of the thorn crown. It is believed that these relics touched the body of Christ. Next to the monastery is the Church of the Virgin Mary of the Gates of Dawn or the Public Oratorio of the Virgin Mary of the Gates of Dawn. The church is not functioning, but it is one of the most interesting and beautiful examples of reinforced concrete Lithuanian architecture of the pre-war period. The church was built by the Lithuanian priest and patron Kazimieras Ambrozaitis according to the project of Šiauliai architect Vladas Bitė. Construction

began in 1935 and the church was consecrated in 1938.

The Church of St. Anne in Verpena
Kelmės St. 38, Verpena, Kelmė
District Municipality
55.653136 22.918788

The church in Verpena was built on the initiative of Count Valavičius in 1775. The Catholics of Kelmė also prayed there in 1901–1908 because the church in Kelmė was being built at that time. The tradition of travelling in a procession two and a half kilometres from Kelmė church to Verpena during St. Anne’s Indulgence Feast has survived. The wooden church of Verpena is a single-tower, single-nave, rectangular in plan, and has forms of folk architecture. In its forms, it resembles the brick church of the Evangelical Reformed in Kelmė. The cross of the crucified Jesus on the central altar of the church is tilted forward, as if bringing believers closer to His suffering, to His holiness, and to the opportunity to experience the grace He radiates.





"Jesus, Love of all loving, You were always in me and I was forgetting you. You were in my heart, and I was looking for you elsewhere. When I kept myself far from you, You were waiting for me. And now I dare to tell You: 'Risen Christ, you are my life.'"

**Ecumenical prayer of
Taizè Community**

Kelmė

One must visit the Kelmė manor homestead. This baroque style provincial manor is the home to Kelmė Regional Museum. The Museum of Sticks and Water Mill built in 19th century are worth visiting in Kelmė as well.

The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Kelmė

Dariaus ir Girėno St. 20
55.633940, 22.932427

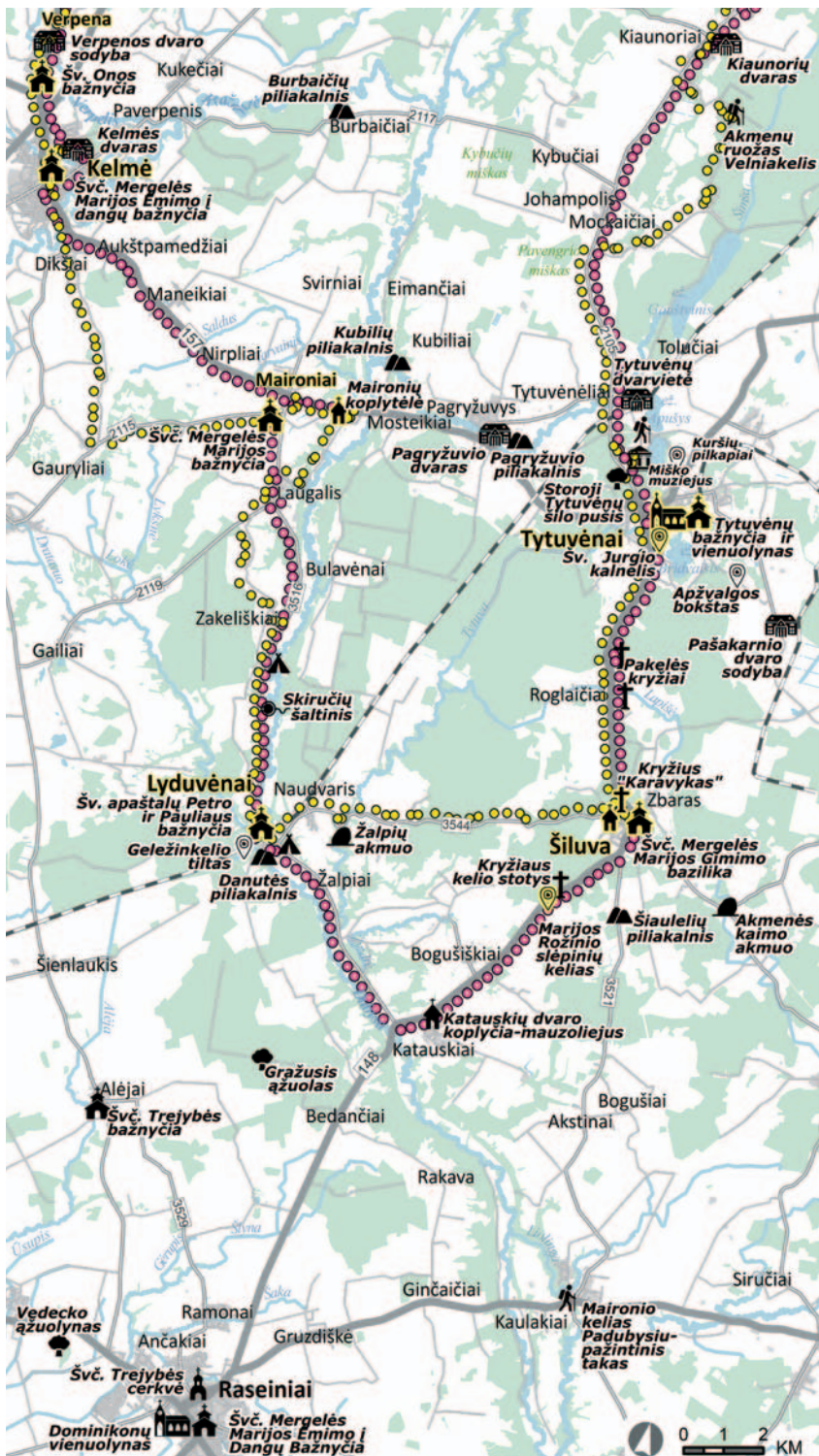
The Grand Duke Vytautas built the first church in Kelmė in 1416. Kelmė Church has been rebuilt several times. The foundations of the new brick church were consecrated in 1901, and the church itself was built in 1908. The church is neo-Gothic, with a Latin cross plan, with a three-walled apse and a high façade tower. There is also a tower at the crossroads of the roofs. This church is distinguished by the exceptional acoustics inviting meditation on God's love and preparation to receive the grace of God.



Evangelical Reformed Church in Kelmė

Vytauto Didžiojo St. 75
55.631886, 22.936535

The Samogitian elder Jurgis Gruzevskis funded the construction of this church in 1615. The church building is a mixed Gothic and Renaissance style. The church is single-nave, single-tower, with a Gothic three-walled apse, and Gothic windows. One of the most important issues of Reformed doctrine is the matter of justification. Believers of the Reformed Church believe that man receives salvation through the grace of God. *Sola Gratia*, "only grace," is at the heart of the Reformed faith. Salvation comes from the grace of God. It's not just the God-given forgiveness of sins, but also the inner rebirth of man. Without God's grace of justification, man alone cannot earn salvation by his own efforts.



Kelmė – Šiluva



Distance **38 km** (asphalt 8 km, other roads 30 km)



Distance **35 km** (asphalt 27 km, other roads 8 km)

The route from Kelmė to Šiluva leads through Lyduvėnai, which has the longest and the highest railway bridge in Lithuania, extending for 599 m and rising 42 m above the Dubysa River Valley. The impressive landscape of Dubysa Valley and the panorama of the bridge opens from Danutė Mound.



The Chapel of Maironiai

Maironiai Vill., Kelmė District
Municipality
55.601343, 23.072212

The chapel is located in the Dubysa Valley, by the Kelmė–Tytuvėnai road, two kilometers from the Maironiai Church. A large stone with embossed marks, according to old people, shows a child's foot, stick, and knee, beneath the chapel. An altar with the Statue of the Virgin Mary is inside the chapel. The crosses around the chapel are the signs of gratitude for the grace of God received here.

The Church of the Virgin Mary in Maironiai

Maironiai Vill., Kelmė District
Municipality
55.595633, 23.043673

The first chapel in Maironiai was built by Saudininkai landowner Juozas Stankevičius in 1782. The chapel became a branch of Lyduvėnai parish in 1817. The village formed on the land of



the Saudininkai Manor was named Maironiai in 1927. The church has a form of folk architecture, a rectangular plan, with a three-walled apse, and a tower. There are 3 altars and the painting “The Three Kings” from 18th century. The painting of St. Isidore, the praying patron of farmers illuminated by the rays of God's grace, is above it. The Angel plows the land instead of St. Isidore.

The Church of the St. Apostles Peter and Paul in Lyduvėnai

Lyduvėnai, Raseiniai District
Municipality
55.507471, 23.081401

The church was built in 1764. It has late Baroque features. During World War II, the church was badly damaged. Later, in the post-war years, the church was restored. There is an impressive image of the Virgin Mary with the apostles waiting for the Holy Spirit above the presbytery. The Lord gave grace and sent the Holy Spirit to the people. Pentecost commemorates that event.



The Chapel-Mausoleum of Katauskiai Manor

Koplyčios St. 1, Katauskiai,
Raseiniai District Municipality
55.479146, 23.172049

This chapel is one of the former buildings of Katauskiai Manor. It was built in 1835. This chapel is one of the former buildings of Katauskiai Manor. It was built in 1835. The chapel was restored in 2008, commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the Apparition of the Virgin Mary in Šiluva. Manor chapels were small and mostly dedicated for the needs of landlord families in Lithuania. Landlords believed that the grace of God can be obtained in their families if a chapel stands on their land.

The Road of the Mysteries of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The road from Raseiniai to Šiluva,
Raseiniai District Municipality

There are 20 stops along the 18 kilometre length road from Raseiniai to Šiluva. These stops are dedicated to the Mysteries of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The project of the Road



of the Mysteries of the Rosary was launched in 2012, and was dedicated to the 600th Anniversary of the Baptism of Samogitia, celebrated in 2013. About 30 wooden crosses and chapel pillars were created during the plein air and erected between Raseiniai and Šiluva. Story chapels dedicated to the Mysteries of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary were erected next to the existing wooden crosses in 2017. They form the stops of the Mysteries of the Rosary of Joy, Light, Suffering, and Glory. The final stop of the Mysteries of Rosary is the Apparition place of the Virgin Mary in Šiluva. While praying the Rosary, we meditate on mysteries and pray God's help to follow what these mysteries teach and seek to win the grace of the Lord. While travelling this way, you will also reach the Church of St. Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Raseiniai, where the relics of Blessed Theophilus Matulionis are kept.

The Stations of the Way of the Cross

Šiluva Forest, Raseiniai District
Municipality
55.510129, 23.201143

These stations were established in 2013. A total of 14 chapel pillars of the Way of the Cross have been erected in Šiluva Forest. The stations are most suitable for pilgrims travelling from Raseiniai. The length of the Way of the Cross through the forest of Šiluva to the Apparition Chapel is 2.5 km. Travellers ask for grace of the Lord, forgiveness for sins and peace at the prayers of the Way of the Cross.

Šiluva

The Apparition of the Virgin Mary in Šiluva is one of the oldest in Europe and the only one in Lithuania officially recognized by the Catholic Church.

The Basilica of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Šiluva

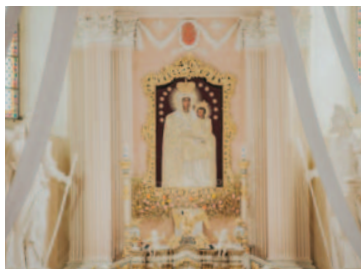
M. Jurgaičio St. 2, Šiluva
55.530256, 23.224594

The first Catholic church in Šiluva was built in 1457. Later, the Calvinists took over, but the Apparition of the Virgin Mary in 1608 and the events that followed, when documents of the Catholic Church and a miraculous image were found in a chest buried in the ground, helped the Catholics reclaim the lands. On the high altar of the church is a famous and miraculous image of the Mother of God of Šiluva with the Child Jesus. The image was painted in the 17th century and was crowned in 1786. Even today, the image is famous for grace, and this is evidenced by the hanging votive amulets. The red brick church was built in 1786. The space between Šiluva church and chapel was reconstructed and a monument to John Paul II was built in 2008.

The Chapel of Apparition in Šiluva

Jono Pauliaus II St. 2, Šiluva
55.530679, 23.219894

For a long time, a wooden chapel stood at the site of the Apparition of the Virgin Mary. The brick chapel was designed on the occasion of the



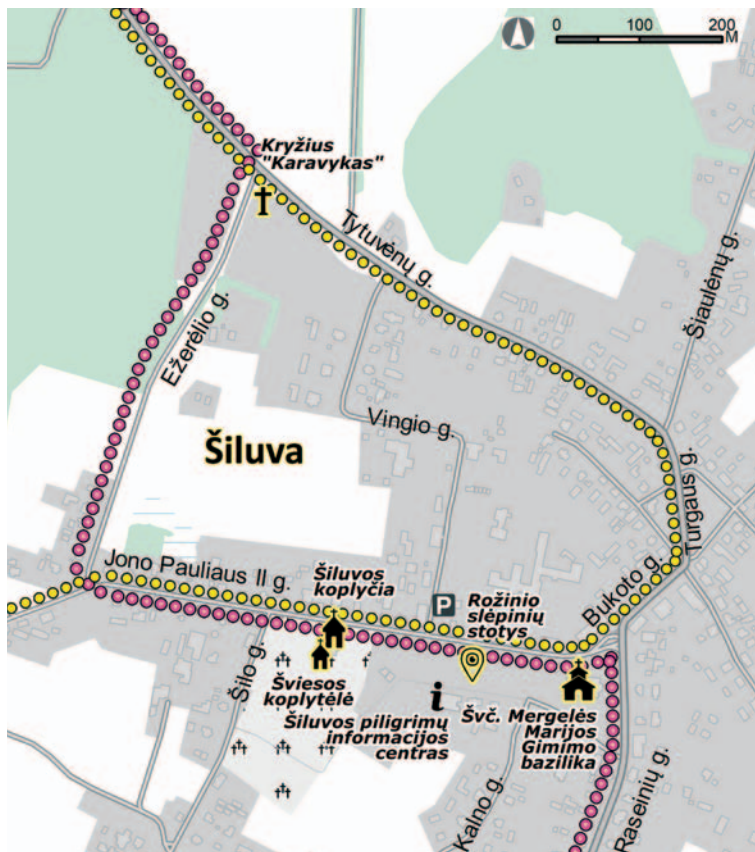
300th Anniversary of the Apparition of the Virgin Mary in Šiluva (architect A. Vivulskis). The cornerstone was consecrated by Maironis in 1912. The 44-meter height chapel was finally completed only in 1924. The altar was built on the Stone of Apparition inside the chapel. The Sculpture of the Blessed Virgin Mary is above. All places of the Apparitions of the Virgin Mary give hope, renewal, and the grace of God.



“Oh, the miraculous St. Mary in Šiluva, I desire to serve God and You, to give the greatest honour, and to see God in heaven with You forever - help me, the most gracious Virgin, to achieve that!”

The Prayer to the Virgin Mary of Šiluva

Information for pilgrims:



The Chapel of Lights

Jono Pauliaus II St. 2, Šiluva
55.530679, 23.219894

The Chapel of Lights founded behind the Chapel of Apparition in 2019. An intentional candle, which can be purchased at the Pilgrim Information Centre, can be lit here. Candles are for four intentions: “Health of Patients, pray for us” means asking for health, physical, spiritual or mental healing, and other grace; “God, thank you” expresses gratitude for the received grace; “Jesus, I trust you” is an expression of trust of Jesus in various situations of life; and “Accept to the Kingdom of Heaven” is a prayer for the dead.

The Stations of the Mysteries of the Rosary

Šiluva Square, Šiluva
55.530460, 23.222700

The stations are set up around the sacred square. The Stations of the Mysteries of the Rosary are made of stone, each 3.5 m high, 1 m wide, and 0.5 m thick. In the centre of the cross-shaped pillar, there is a bas-relief made of bronze dedicated to each mystery. The author is sculptor Erikas Daugulis. The Stations of the Mysteries of the



The Rosary (in Latin. Rosarium – “crown of roses,” “garland of roses”) is a set of prayers to reflect on the most important events in the life of Jesus together with the Virgin Mary. The reflections on the Rosary consist of 4 parts: Joy, Light, Suffering, and Glory.



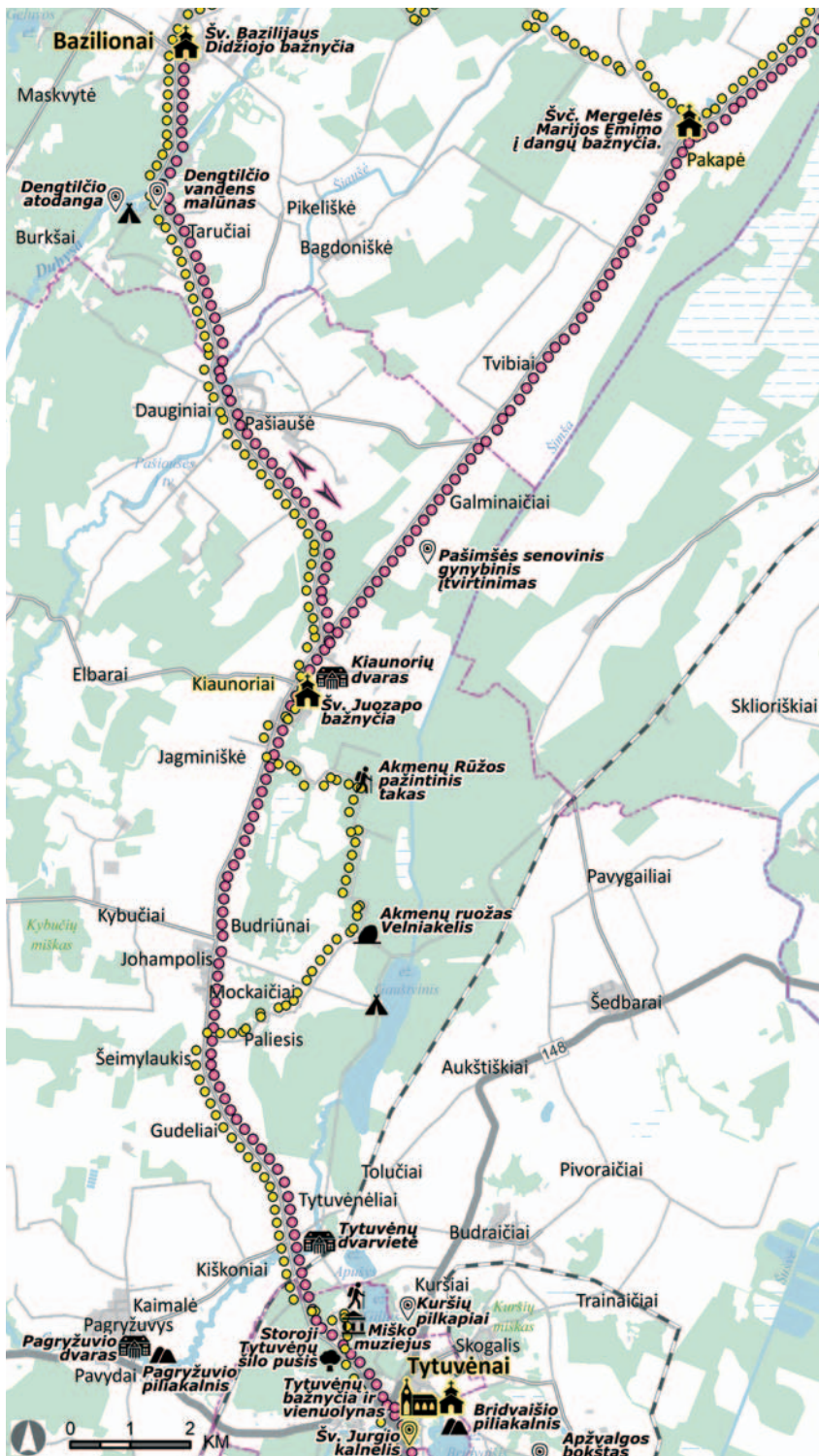
Rosary are meant for pilgrims. A procession of the Rosary prayer from the Chapel of the Apparition to the Basilica takes place both during the Indulgence Feasts and personally. The Prayer of the Rosary is a way to open hearts to faith and joy by the intercession of the Virgin Mary and to thank God for the grace you received.

The Cross of Caravaca

The crossroad of Ežerėlio and Tytuvėnų St., Šiluva
55.535692, 23.218495

The double cross, also called Caravaca, was built on the road to Šiluva Shrine (from the side of Tytuvėnai). The name derives from the town of Caravaca de la Cruz in Spain. It is believed, that the area where such cross is erected is protected by God from the major disasters – plagues, epidemics, outbreaks of other contagious diseases, or storms. By believing in God’s grace and protection, such crosses were usually erected on roadsides, crossroads, heights, in churchyards, or near homesteads. The author of the cross is wood carver and sculptor Adolfas Teresius.





Šiluva–Tytuvėnai – Bazilionai



Distance **29 km** (asphalt 9 km, other roads 20 km)



Distance **25 km** (asphalt 15 km, other roads 10 km)



Travelling from Tytuvėnai to Bazilionai one will get to know the exclusive natural formations – the sections of stones. This is the Devil's Road Stone section and the Cognitive Trail of Akmenų Rūža. The former Kiaunoriai Manor house has survived in Kiaunoriai and the Dengtiltis Exposure and the Dengtiltis Water Mill are near Bazilionai.

St. Joseph's Church in Kiaunoriai

Kiaunoriai Vill., Kelmė District Municipality
55.701684, 23.175918

The first chapel in Kiaunoriai was built in the 18th century. The church was repeatedly demolished, burned, and rebuilt. The current church was built in 1991. A protected oak tree grows next to the churchyard gate. The villagers of Kiaunoriai ask God for grace and funds to complete

the construction of a belfry near the church.

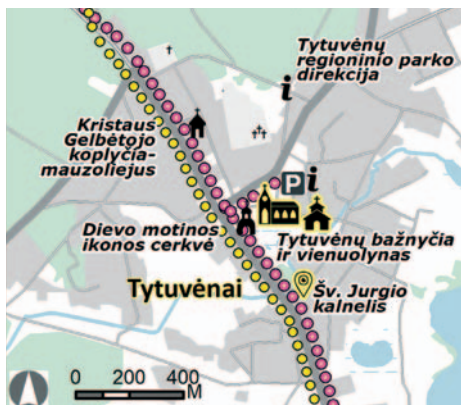
The Church of St. Basil the Great in Bazilionai

Vytauto St. 27A, Bazilionai, Šiauliai District Municipality
55.796299, 23.141599

The first church in Bazilionai was built in 1749. A Basilian monastery stood on this location until 1836. The current wooden church was built in 1933. The building is an example of folk architecture with a rich interior. The church is famous for the sculpture of St. John Nepomuk that was stolen, but by the grace of God, returned to this church.



Basilian monks are Eastern-Rite Catholic (Uniates) monks. The Order of Saint Basil the Great was established in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 1617.



Tytuvėnai

Tytuvėnai Regional Park is rich in natural and cultural objects. Some of them are near the Way of Grace. The Forest Museum, the Thick Pine of Tytuvėnai Forest, and Tytuvėnai Manor remains are worth visiting.

St. George Hill in Tytuvėnai

The Crossroad of Skogalio and Šiluvos St., Tytuvėnai
55.593745, 23.201702

There is a hill called St. George Hill at the intersection of Šiluvos and Skogalio streets in Tytuvėnai. It is believed that a wooden church stood here until the Tytuvėnai Bernardine brick church was built. Traces of foundations and the former cemetery are marked by several stones and other markings. St. George Hill is an important place of the regional history, marking the way to other Tytuvėnai sites famous for grace.

Tytuvėnai Orthodox Church of the Icon of the Mother of God “Kazanskaya”

Šiluvos St. 2 Tytuvėnai
55.596388, 23.198344

The Catholic Church successfully remained open after the uprising of 1863–1864. A separate Orthodox Church was intended for the orthodox brought here by the tsar authority. A. Christianovičius built the temporary church in his manor in Tytuvėnai in 1872. However, a new stone church was already built in 1873–1875. The parish was cared by the priests of Raseiniai and Kolainiai. The Soviet government sought to close



this church. They wanted to set up a warehouse here in 1947 and ordered to pay the debts which the clergy were able to pay in 1953. Currently, the church is a branch of the Orthodox Church of the Apostles Peter and Paul in Šiauliai. Orthodox believe that the grace of the Holy Spirit is attained by prayer, asceticism, and intense efforts of will.



Monastery and church in Tytuvėnai

Maironio St. 2A, Tytuvėnai
55.596644, 23.201095

The ensemble of the Tytuvėnai Bernardine Monastery and the Church of the Virgin Mary Queen of Angels is one of the most interesting and largest complexes of the Lithuanian sacral architecture. This complex is characterized by a variety of architectural styles and was built in the 17-18th centuries. Tytuvėnai Church has a miraculous image of the Mother of God with the Child, and a chapel of the Holy Stairs in the churchyard. The image of Mother of God with the Child is famous for grace, it was painted in the 3rd decade of the 17th century. That is the adornment of the whole church. The Child blesses by the right hand, Mary's right hand is directed to Him as to the source of grace. The monastery complex was finally formed in 1772-1780. An enclosed rectangular cloister with arcade galleries dedicated to the Way of the Cross was installed next to the church. The church also has the relic of St. Pope John Paul II. It is a drop of blood placed in a special capsule.



“We cry out for the defence, holy Mother of God! Do not reject our prayers in our affairs, But always save us from all dangers, Blessed Virgin”.

The prayer of Pope Francis

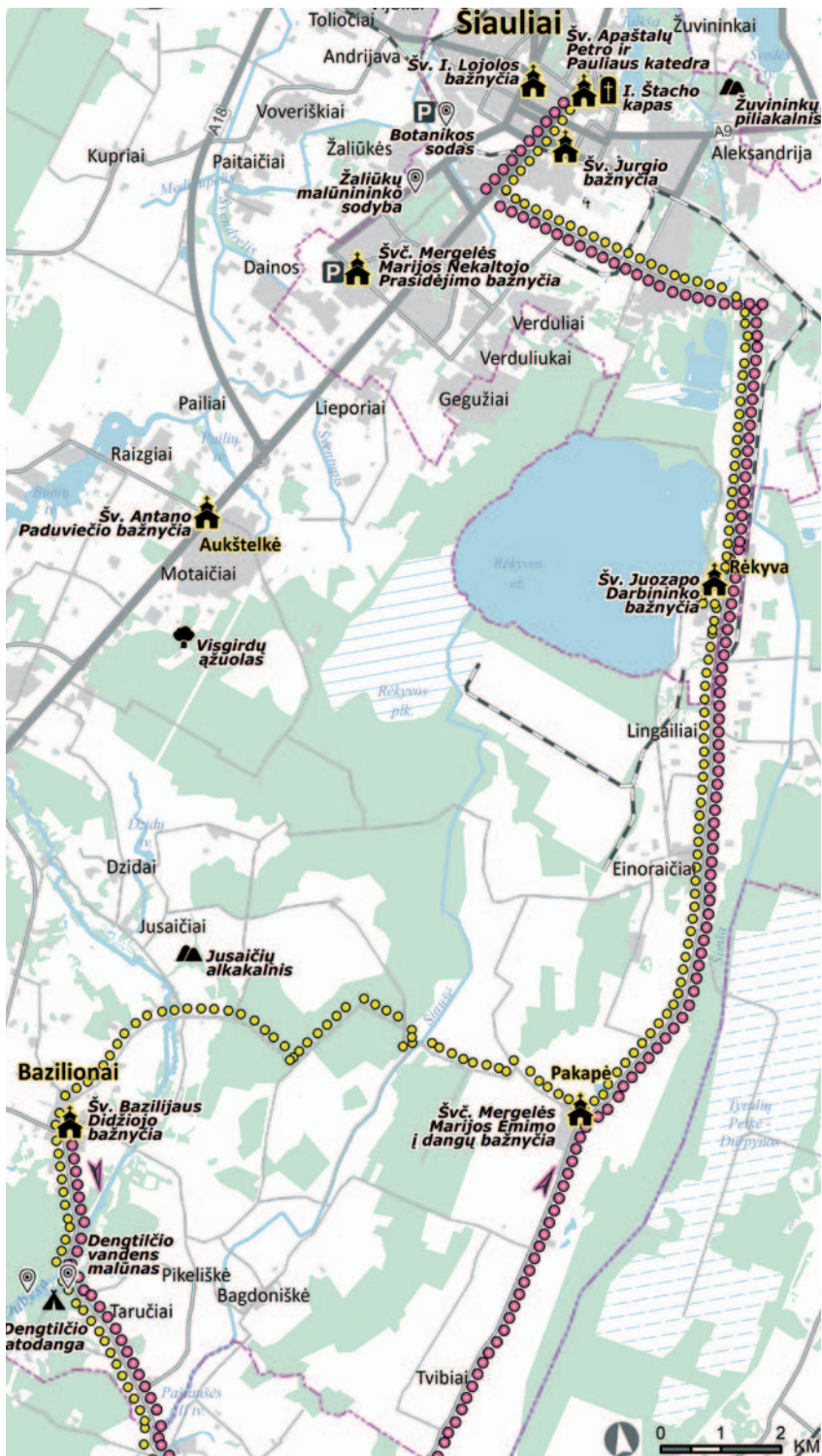
Tytuvėnai Mausoleum Chapel of Christ the Saviour

S. Romerienės St., Tytuvėnai
55.599652, 23.196347

The chapel was built in 1853 by Hieronimas Przcziszewski in memory of his dead wife Celina. The walls, windows and cornices of the chapel are decorated, the windows and doors are in Gothic style. The governors of Tytuvėnai and Pagryžūvis manors and their relatives are buried in the basement of the chapel. Chapel is named after Christ the Saviour. The only way to get grace is personally accept Christ as Saviour.



Tytuvėnai Church has the title of the Virgin Mary Queen of Angels. Portiuncula (In Italian, “small portion of land”) – is a small Catholic Church of Saint Mary of Angels situated in Assisi in Italy. According to a legend the church was restored by St. Francis. The saint experienced many divine grace and supernatural experiences there.



Bazilionai – Šiauliai



Distance **31 km** (asphalt 20 km, other roads 11 km)



Distance **44 km** (asphalt 34 km, other roads 10 km)



While travelling to Šiauliai, you can see Jusaičiai Sacred Hill. The stories are told that the church was on the hill, but later collapsed into it. The road from Bazilionai to Šiauliai also passes through Rėkyva Lake that falls into the top ten of the largest Lithuanian lakes.

The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Pakapė
Kalno St. 6A, Pakapė Vill., Šiauliai District Municipality
55.786235, 23.275379

Eustachijus Karpis, the owner of Pakapė Manor, built a wooden church in 1860. A new church was built in 1879, which has remained almost unchanged to this day. This is one of the few Lithuanian churches painted green. Green

symbolizes the hope of eternal life and salvation and the pursuit of God's grace in the liturgy of the Church.

St. Joseph the Worker Church in Rėkyva
Poilsio St. 1A, Šiauliai
55.859970, 23.333182

The church was built as a chapel of Karpiai Manor in 1800. It received church status in 1936. The church was closed and devastated in about 1956. A warehouse was set up here. By God's grace, the church was returned to the faithful in 1989. The church was consecrated again at the beginning of 1991.

“O God, in your ineffable providence you were pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most holy Mother; grant, we beg you, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our Protector: You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.”

From the Litany of St Joseph



Pilgrim's Calendar. Highlights

- 1st part of January** The Family Festival of the Diocese of Šiauliai.
- 23 April** The Indulgence Feast of St. George at the Church of St. George in Šiauliai.
- Pentecost** The Indulgence Feast at the Cathedral of Šiauliai.
- 1 May*** The Indulgence Feast of St. Joseph the Worker at Rėkyva Church.
- 13 June*** The Indulgence Feast of St. Anthony in Tytuvėnai and Aukštėlė.
- 29 June*** The Indulgence Feast of Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul in Šiauliai Cathedral and Lyduvėnai.
- 11 July** Celebration of St. Benedict and Adoration of the Relic in Palendriai.
- 16 July*** The Indulgence Feast of the Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel in Kiaunoriai.
- 25 July*** The Indulgence Feast of St. James in Kurtuvėnai.
- 26 July*** The Indulgence Feast of St. Ann in Verpena.
- The last Sunday of July** The Indulgence Feast of the Hill of Crosses.
- 2 August*** The Indulgence Feast of the Virgin Mary Queen of Angels – Portiuncula – in Tytuvėnai.
- 6 August*** The Indulgence Feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus in Bazilionai.
- 15 August*** The Indulgence Feast of the Assumption of Virgin Mary in Kelmė and Pakapė.
- 28 August*** The Indulgence Feast of the St. Augustin in Maironiai.
- 8-15 September** The Indulgence Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Šiluva.
- 1st part of September** The Traditional pilgrimage the Hill of Crosses – Šiluva.
- 14 September** The Adoration of the Relic of St. Cross in Palendriai.
- 14 September*** The Indulgence Feast of Exaltation of The Cross in Rėkyva.
- 24 September**** The Indulgence Feast of the Virgin Mary, the Liberator of Prisoners in Kurtuvėnai.
- On the eve of the last Sunday of the liturgical year (Christ the King)** The Adoration of the Relic of St. Spike in Palendriai.
- 8 December*** The Indulgence Feast of the Immaculate Conception in the Church of the Immaculate Conception of Virgin Mary in Šiauliai.
- The 13th day of each month** The Day of the Virgin Mary in Šiluva.

* *Transferred to nearest the Sunday*

** *The last Sunday of September.*

What to see, what to do, where to eat, where to sleep and other information

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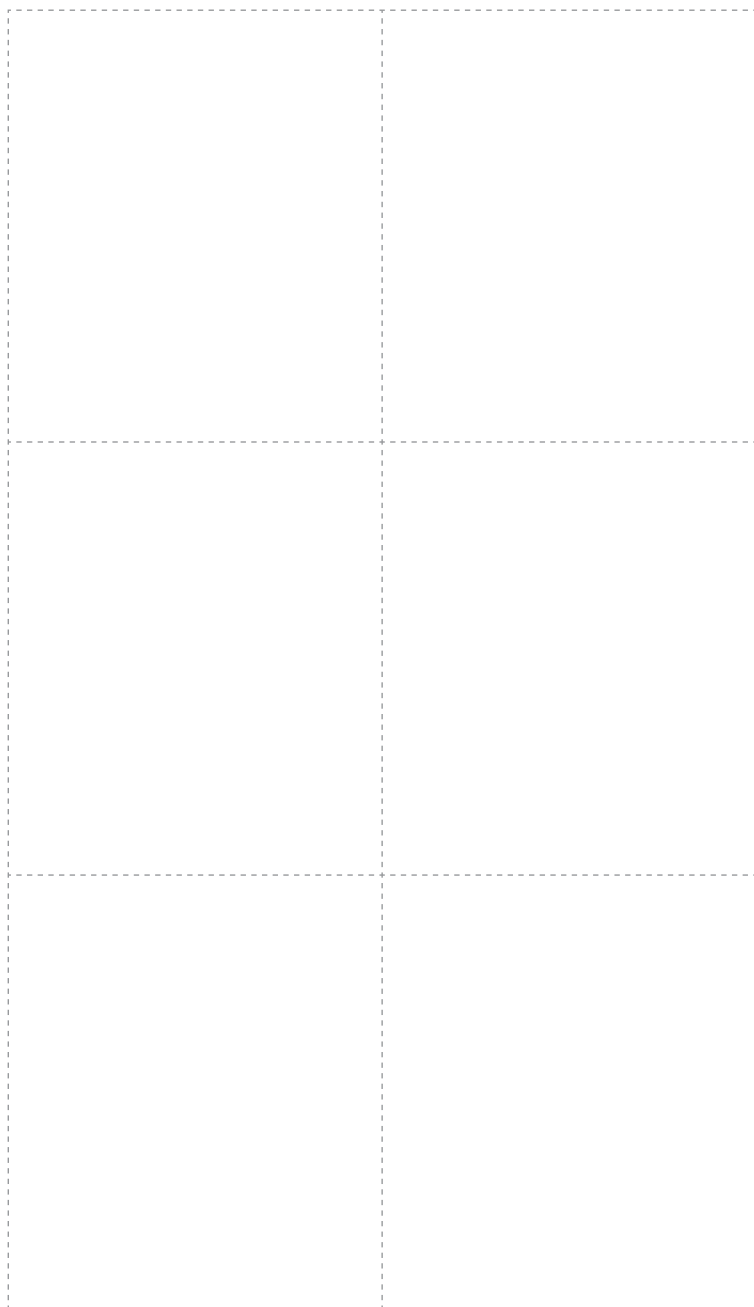
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The Stamps of the Way of Grace



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