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## GEDIMINAS CASTLE

It is said that Gediminas Castle was built when the Duke of Lithuania Gediminas had a prophetic dream. This small but powerful castle withstood numerous Crusader attacks. Now Vilnius is unthinkable without it, and the tower of the castle became a symbol of not only the capital city, but also of Lithuania. And it is not surprising that this red-brick building overlooking the magnificent panorama of the capital city of Lithuania is a must in the list of many tourists coming to our country.



### **The story of Gediminas Castle**

Gediminas Castle was built and to date is one of the most beautiful Old Town embellishments. It is clearly visible from every place. Like Vilnius, the castle was first mentioned in 1323. By the way, during the reign of Gediminas, the Castle was not only a political centre of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, but also part of the defensive complex. On 1 January 1919, after the restoration of the state of Lithuania, the flag of Lithuania was officially raised for the first time on the Gediminas Castle Tower.

### **The castle and its museum are visited abundantly**

Gediminas Castle is liked by tourists. You can rise to the hill on which it stands, with a funicular railway, or climb by foot along the ancient cobbled path. It offers a panorama of the city of indescribable beauty, and red roofs of the Old Town delight the eye. Climb up the hill, and go to the castle. There is a museum where the guides will introduce you to the models of Vilnius castles from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Visitors can get acquainted with models of the complex of Vilnius castles, historical weaponry and iconography of the old Vilnius. Some people, especially youth, like settling on a spacious stone fence here and watch the city life from above. The only inconvenience about the place is that you must be on time to get down the hill in order not to be locked in the hill territory. The hill is not available to climb up all day long.

And should you decide to visit the castle at night, when the museum is closed, then quietly sit down on the fence surrounding it – for some time it has been a favorite spot for romantic rendezvous and chats.