



RAUDONDVARIO DVARAS



# HISTORICAL PATH: RAUDONAVRIS-BAUSKA

TOURISM PUBLICATION



BAUSKAS PILS

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**Project partners:** PI Raudondvaris Manor, Kaunas District Municipality, Bauska Castle Museum, Bauska Municipality.

The Interreg V-A Latvia-Lithuania Programme, 2014-2020, aims to contribute to the sustainable development of the Programme area by helping it become an attractive and competitive place to live, work and visit. Official website of the Programme: [www.latlit.eu](http://www.latlit.eu)

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# RAUDONDVARIS MANOR PUBLIC INSTITUTION



Place of residence: Pilies takas 1, Raudondvaris, LT-54127,  
Kaunas district, Lithuania.

Opening hours: Mon-Thur 8:00-17:00, Fri 8:00-15:45. Lunch break 12:00-12:45.

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Raudondvaris Manor is a monument of Lithuanian Renaissance architecture of the early 17th century. The manor is situated on the upper terrace of the right bank of the Nevėžis River, near the confluence of the Nevėžis and Nemunas rivers, 9 km from Kaunas in the direction of Jurbarkas. The main building of the Raudondvaris estate is the castle palace and its tower. The palace, together with two official buildings, a conservatory, stables and an ice rink, located in on a 3.8-hectare park, forms a unified manorestate.

In 1549 (on May 1st), King Sigismund Augustus gifted Vilkija Manor, together with other adjacent manors, to Barbora Radvilaitė on the occasion of her wedding. According to the administrative distribution of the time, the manor also owned the lands stretching up to the confluence of the Nemunas and Nevėžis rivers, including Raudondvaris, but this property belonged to Barbara for only a couple of years – until 8 May, 1551, i.e., until her death. In 1572, Sigismund Augustus granted a privilege to Kaunas Chamber of Commerce representative, Vaitiekus Dzievaltauskas, assigning to him new lands in the municipalities of Ariogala, Vilkija and Upytė instead of the royal estates. Historians say that it was Vaitiekus Dzievaltauskas who started construction of the castle in the second half of the 16th century. Later, the manor was ruled by a number of Lithuania's most prominent nobles: Dzievaltauskas, Kosakowski, Radziwilla, Vorlovski, Zabiela and Tyszkiewicz.

The most distinct traces in the architectural estate of Raudondvaris Manor are those of the activities of its last governors, the Tyszkiewicz family of counts. After the fire of 1831, when the wooden buildings of the manor burnt down, Count Benedict Emmanuel Tyszkiewicz built a new manor estate, now made of brick. Famous architects are known to have worked here during this period: Lithuanian Jonas Margevičius, Jacob Waller from Prussia and Italian Lauras Cezaris Anikinis.

The owner spared no expense on the manor house. The houses were heated by wood-burning stoves of Swedish glazed bricks, the walls were decorated with portraits of kings and nobles, and the rooms were lit by chic chandeliers. An avid traveller, Benedict Emmanuel Tyszkiewicz brought the palace's interior decorations from many different countries. Monogrammed cutlery came from Germany and America, porcelain from England, and linen from Holland. Even at that time, the palace already had machines for grating potatoes and making sparkling water, much to the astonishment of servants. And two scales were used to measure the manor's wealth. Some were used to weigh coins, others to weigh diamonds. Under the Tyszkiewicz rule, Raudondvaris Manor became a magnificent residence of the counts, with vast collections of paintings, artworks, rare books, exotic plants and animals.



## **RAUDONDVARIS MANOR TODAY**

After Raudondvaris Manor was taken over by Kaunas District Municipality, four renovation projects were implemented in the period 2009-2015. Their implementation, aimed at adapting Raudondvaris Manor for tourism purposes, was carried out with the help of municipality and EU funds. After the renovation, cultural and project activities were launched.

### **MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTION:**

1. Administration of Raudondvaris Manor;
2. Organisation of events;
3. Participation in project activities;
4. Rental of property;
5. Provision of information, advice, artstudies, residency and training services;
6. Practical assistance to small and medium-sized business entities related to the arts;
7. International cooperation;
8. Participation in exhibitions and fairs.

Thanks to the project's implementation, the castle building has been renovated and adapted for public use. In the spring and summer of 2012, the park's grounds were restored, and old varieties of roses were brought back to the estate. The park's paths and benches have also been landscaped and a security camera surveillance system installed. The park hosts Kaunas district's most important events – the festival celebrating State Day, "Lithuania in Raudondvaris Manor", on 6 July and the Kaunas district Christmas tree lighting ceremony, marking the beginning of festive events throughout the district.

The renovated manor castle hosts Kaunas district civil registration ceremonies, conferences, chamber concerts, ceremonial meetings and visits of national and foreign diplomats and delegations. A few years ago, the Baltic presidents and representatives of the European Parliament also visited the city.



The tower side hosts Kaunas District Museum, which fosters close links between the past and present, and which curates, researches and displays museum collections reflecting the cultural history of Kaunas region. It houses objects from the life and work of Lithuanian music patriarch and composer Juozas Naujalis, as well as photos of the estate's governors, the Counts Tyszkiewicz. It also hosts exhibitions of works not only by Lithuanians, but also by famous artists from around the world, such as Salvador Dali, Marc Chagall and René Magritte.



The basement of the palace, also known as the castle dungeons, is home to the Medžiotojų Užeiga restaurant, which welcomes tourists for refreshments and to sample dumplings made according to the Tyszkiewicz recipe on hot summer days.

In the new cultural space, converted from the former manor stables, Kaunas District Municipality signed a cooperation agreement with Kaunas State Music Theatre, Kaunas National Drama Theatre, Kaunas State Philharmonic Orchestra, the Kaunas branch of the Lithuanian Photographers Union, and accordion virtuoso Martynas Levickis, who have become the major partners of the Arts Incubator. The agreement commits the partners to presenting



professional performing arts concerts and educational performances to the local community and visiting guests.

The exhibition hall at the Raudondvaris Manor Arts Incubator attracts a wide range of artists. The exhibition includes works from the international photography festival Kaunas Photo, images by photographer Antanas Sutkus, beautiful images of the country and Kaunas district captured by the We love Lithuania project, and many others.

The gallery spaces are also the favourites of painters. Some of the most impressive exhibits belong to Prof. Giedrius Kazimierėnas. The artist's paintings depicting the times of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, rich in historical motifs and metaphors, decorated the Arts Incubator during its opening. Exhibitions are also organised by Kaunas district amateur artists, folk artists, Lithuanian Hunters Union, etc.

The Arts Incubator's Concert Hall has hosted numerous live music concerts by the country's most famous music personalities, performers from America, Portugal, Cape Verde, Germany, Poland, Argentina and neighbouring Latvia. Concerts by artists from Kaunas Jazz, Operetta at Kaunas Castle, Pažaislis Festival and Christopher Festival are held annually. The cycle of festivals in Raudondvaris was also expanded by M.A.M.A. Summer and Šlagerių Karaliai (Smash-Hit Kings), the biggest music festival, and the brand new festival Gėlių muzikos vakarai Raudondvario dvare (Flower and Music Evenings at Raudondvaris Manor).

In 2019, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of the composer Juozas Naujalis, who was born in Raudondvaris, the Incubator presented a joint project between the National Kaunas Drama Theatre and Raudondvaris Manor – a dramatic play entitled "Evening of the Word. The Newcomer is Different". Concerts by the Kaunas State Choir and the Kaunas City Symphony Orchestra were organised and a vinyl record of their performance of works by J. Naujalis was released.

The Raudondvaris Manor Arts Incubator is not only a cultural and artistic venue, but also a tool for promoting small and medium-sized businesses. After the renovation, half of the spaces in the Arts Incubator have been transformed into residences where artists and craftspeople are invited to work. It currently has studios for interior design, costume design, amber, eco-friendly candles, ceramics, and festive and linen items. The creators regularly organise various educational workshops for children and adults, as well as for tourists from abroad.



Visitors to Raudondvaris Manor are pleasantly impressed by the opportunity to organise various photo sessions, participate in a theatrical excursion with a Renaissance lady and dances, and acquire manor merchandise and handmade souvenirs made of amber, ceramics, ecological wax, natural fragrances, soap and linen by crafts people working in the Arts Incubator.



## THE HISTORIC PATH: RAUDONDVARIS - BAUSKĖ (LLI-498)

In 2021-2022, PI Raudondvaris Manor and Bauska Castle Museum implement a joint project, LLI-498: Historical path:Raudondvaris – Bauska. This project was implemented to take advantage of the Interreg V-A Latvia-Lithuania Cross-border Cooperation Programme, 2014-2020, to develop natural and cultural heritage and to address the common challenges facing both regions.

### HERITAGE TREASURES ARE NOT JUST IN BIG CITIES

"Lithuania and Latvia are neighbours, united not only by a common border, but also by common history, culture, customs and traditions," said Snieguolė Navickienė, Director of Raudondvaris Manor Tourist routes between Latvian and Lithuanian have long been established, with many Lithuanians travelling to Riga, Jurmala and Ventspils, and Latvians visiting Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda and Šiauliai. These are the major cities, the centres of attraction. Unfortunately, tourist traffic in the provinces is much lower."

"When travelling around Latvia, I saw many small yet very attractive cultural buildings, one of them being Bauska Castle. The idea arose to connect two Lithuanian and Latvian cultural heritage buildings with each other, to present them to their communities, to open a new tourist route and to attract more visitors to the Raudondvaris Manor and Bauska Castle," said Navickienė about the purpose of the project.

The Director of Raudondvaris Manor pointed out that although both regions are engaged in the same cultural activities, so far no cultural partnership activities have been implemented.

### SOMETHING FOR TOURISTS TO DO IN THE COLD SEASON

According to statistics, tourism is negatively affected by competition between cities and districts. For example, according to the Lithuanian Department of Statistics, in 2018, the number of tourist overnight stays in Kaunas City amounted to 445,954, while in Kaunas district, there were



only 19,339. Similar trends are observed in neighbouring Latvia.

An even greater challenge, despite the favourable conditions for the development of tourism provided by sustainable regional development and natural and cultural heritage (castles, manors, mounds and museums), is seasonality.

The number of tourists arriving and staying at least one night during the cold season in both Bauska and Kaunas districts is significantly reduced – in winter, water tourism services and bicycle paths are not available, etc.

While looking at the figures for the last five years, it is encouraging to see that the number of overnight stays by Lithuanians in Latvian accommodation has increased by two-thirds (67%, to 318,000), while the number of overnight stays by Latvians in Lithuania has risen by 83% (up to 263,000). Nevertheless, the largest number of tourists arrived in the warm season.

In order to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Interreg V-A Latvia-Lithuania Cross-border Cooperation Programme to develop and enhance natural and cultural heritage and to address the common challenges in the regions, Raudondvaris Manor and Bauska Castle Museum have entered into a cultural partnership agreement to implement



the "Historical Route: Raudondvaris – Bauska" project.

The aim of the project is to increase the number of tourists during the cold season in the Programme area by creating artistic, educational and sports activities specifically for this season, which will contribute to the improvement of the historical, natural and cultural heritage of the Bauska and Kaunas regions.

### **FROM ANCIENT INSTRUMENTS TO NEW FESTIVALS**

What exactly is foreseen in the "Historical Route: Raudondvaris – Bauska" project?

Firstly, a new joint Raudondvaris-Bauska tourist route will be developed to promote the cultural heritage sites of these regions during the cold season.

Raudondvaris Manor and Bauska Castle Museum are planning to create new themed educational activities called "The Baltic Treasures", where participants will create their own souvenirs based on information about ancient crafts in Kaunas district and Bauska region.

According to Ruta Garklava, Project Manager of Bauska Castle Museum, "Lighting in the Renaissance Castle" will introduce the lighting elements used during the Renaissance period and invite tourists to



try out the things people did in the evenings at that time.

Artistic programmes "A Night in the Renaissance" and "Concerts of Early Music from the 15th-17th century" will be presented at Raudondvaris Manor and Bauska Castle.

As Ruta Garklava, project manager of Bauska Castle Museum, stated in her presentation, the project funds will be used to produce and buy replicas of 16th-17th century musical instruments and to improve the concert hall for the winter concert series, based on the examples of original prototypes.

A 17th-century artillery exhibition in Bauska Castle and two Castle Day festivals at Raudondvaris Manor are planned.

Other equipment necessary for Programme activities (lighting elements, an ice-skating rink and concert equipment) will also be acquired from project funds.

## **PROJECT BENEFITS FOR BOTH REGIONS**

The project will involve resident creators of crafts and various other art fields under the supervision of both partners, and organise joint workshops and seminars for project partners and residents to share experiences, review the regional tourism situation during the cold season and find effective solutions.

It is expected that the results of the project will be valuable for both partners – Raudondvaris Manor and Bauska Castle Museum – and that the new educational and artistic programmes, the acquisition of equipment necessary for both the implementation of the project's activities and the continuity of the project's results, the development of theme exhibitions, and the creation of two new festivals, will together create an attractive Raudondvaris-Bauska tourist route to promote the regions' cultural heritage during the cold season.

"We are pleased that our ideas have been heard and that funding has been allocated to the project," says Raudondvaris Manor Director, Sniegulė Navickienė.

There is no doubt that the results of the project will bring mutual benefits to Kaunas district and Bauska region, i.e., in both regions, the flow of tourists will increase during the cold season, including not only one-day visits, but also accommodation for at least one night, as the regions become more attractive and new activities increase tourist awareness.

# "CASTLE DAY" INTERNATIONAL HISTORICAL FESTIVAL

In the autumn, Raudondvaris Manor hosts the "Castle Day" two-day international historical festival. It is an event representing cultural heritage and contributing to the promotion of European estates at local and international levels. "Castle Day" will take visitors to medieval, Renaissance and 19th century periods and introduce them to the peculiarities of the life of the nobles and townspeople of that time. The festival participants will also be treated to an unforgettable knight tournament, medieval entertainment, crafts and educational workshops that will draw out their creativity, a trade fair, entertainment for children, etc. Those interested in gastronomy will be welcomed into the manor's kitchen where they can taste the host's delicious soup or stew, as well as other culinary specialities presented by festival guests.

The history of the manor tells us that one of its former governors, Count Benedict Henrik Tyszkiewicz, who was a great art enthusiast and an avid and passionate music lover, had a small orchestra at the manor





that would entertain him and his guests. The Count was also fond of the theatre, with a theatre company putting on performances and a variety of artists coming regularly to the manor. Cultural life at the manor was buzzing. Following the tradition of Count B.H. Tyszkiewicz to invite a wide range of artists and performers to the manor, the festival brings together craftsmen and artists from Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and other European countries. The evening part of the festival features performances by Kaunas State Musical Theatre, the fire and knight show troupe, Medieval Messengers, Lithuanian music groups, the Cracovia Danza Ballet troupe from Krakow and art groups from abroad.

The festival is free of charge.

The festival is organised at Raudondvaris Manor in September/October.

More info: [www.raudondvarioldvaras.lt](http://www.raudondvarioldvaras.lt),  Raudondvaris Manor





## **"BALTIC TREASURES" EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME**

"Baltic Treasures" is a new educational programme created within the framework of the 2021-2022 "Historical Route: Raudondvaris-Bauskē (LLI-498)" project. A team of ten craftseducators, including masters of floristry, leatherworking, calligraphy, jewellery, woodwork, candle making, natural perfume making, amber, ceramics and textiles, from both Bauska and Raudondvaris, shared their ideas, knowledge and experience during the workshop, creating a new educational programme. In presenting their ideas, the craftsmen drew inspiration from medieval, Renaissance and Baltic mythological historical sources, as well as from the history of Raudondvaris Manor and Bauska Castle. The educators have been given the task of using as many natural materials as possible to create the "treasures", so participants will also have to work with fresh flowers and herbs, amber, silk and many other materials, using authentic tools that were used by craftspeople in olden times.

This new educational programme invites visitors to embark on a historical journey that will introduce them to the culture of manors, the authenticity created by artisans in Raudondvaris Manor and Bauska Castle and the crafts that used to exist in manors and castles. The programme is in the form of open workshops, where not one but several educators are on hand to help participants make a new "treasure" and at the same time reveal its history and origin. In this way, the participants, through creative travelling, create their own Baltic treasure chest, which contains both the secrets of the jewels they have created and a piece of authentic history.

The programme is free. The number of participants is limited.

The education programme at Raudondvaris Manor and Bauska Castle Museum is available in the autumn-winter season.

Registration for the programme at Raudondvaris Manor:

**raudondvarioldvaras@gmail.com**

Registration for the programme at Bauska Castle:

**bauskaspils@bauska.lv.**

**The Baltic Treasures educational programme at Raudondvaris Manor introduces participants to:** rose water, amber charms/bracelets, jewellery bags, rune making and floristry.

**The Baltic Treasures educational programme at Bauska Castle introduces participants to:** calligraphy, plant wreath weaving, graphite decorating techniques, leather basket making and metal jewellery making..







## "A NIGHT IN THE RENAISSANCE" HISTORICAL DANCE PROGRAMME

In the last week of 2021, before the big feast of the year, Raudondvaris Manor not only performed the works of Renaissance composers with ancient musical instruments, but also prepared an event of historical dance and costume presentation – "A Night in the Renaissance".

An international team of 15 performers from Latvia and Lithuania worked on the event programme. Latvia was represented by the historical dance group *Ballare*, whose repertoire includes dances from the Middle Ages to the 17th century and from various European countries. The original works of old choreographers were used to create authentic dances. Ballare is directed by Guna Ezermale, a renowned ballerina and professional choreographer.

The Lithuanian team consisted of *Viduramžiai LT*, a group of medieval entertainment performers and dancers led by Karolis Jankauskas. The dancers perform dances typical of the 14th and 15th centuries, showing the passions of the nobility and the poverty of beggars, the ecstasy of pilgrims and the life of peasants, the happiness of lovers and the sufferings



of outcasts. Each dance depicts a different miniature of medieval life. The dances were recreated by Europe's best masters of ancient dance.

With the sound of old music, beautiful costumes and dance moves, the enchanting performance is presented to the audience of groups at both Raudondvaris Manor and Bauska Castle. During the concert, the audience not only watches the dancing and immerses themselves in the history of the costumes worn by the performers, but also has the opportunity to try their hand at ballroom dancing.

"A Night in the Renaissance" concerts at Raudondvaris Manor and Bauska Castle Museum are available in the autumn-winter season.

More info: [www.raudondvarioldvaras.lt](http://www.raudondvarioldvaras.lt),  Raudondvaris Manor, [www.bauskaspils.lv](http://www.bauskaspils.lv),  Bauskas pils muzejs.

## WINTER MERRYMAKING AT RAUDONDVARIS MANOR ICE SKATING RINK

The festive winter season in Kaunas district begins with the district's Christmas tree lighting event, which traditionally takes place at Raudondvaris Manor. Christmas installations are illuminated in the park, ice chunks are turned into heroes from the most famous fairy tales at the hands of artists, while music, a souvenir fair and hot delicacies create a good atmosphere for visitors.

Thanks to the project, the manor park was equipped with a skating rink, the only open-air skating rink in the entire Kaunas region. Two free skating lessons for children and adults with a professional trainer are organised in

the skating rink twice a week. Sessions are also organised for students of Kaunas district schools during school lessons, thus encouraging them to take physical exercise in the fresh air. You do not need to bring your own skates as there is a skate rental point at the rink. Visitors are welcome at the manor skating rink until spring.

In order to realise the potential of the skating rink and to create rich activities, a Bavarian curling competition was organised in February 2022 at the Manor Skating Rink, in conjunction with project partners from Bauska. All those interested in this winter sport, which is rapidly gaining popularity in the world and in Lithuania, could come and watch the event for free. After the competition, the audience was entertained by performances by figure skaters and then had the opportunity to try the sport for themselves. The competition was organised by Forsarus sports club, the Lithuanian Curling Federation and the Lithuanian Bavarian Curling Association.

The skating rink at Raudondvaris Manor is already becoming a traditional winter entertainment venue, and so it is planned to introduce more activities on ice in the coming season. Bavarian curling, a charming game that does not require much technical preparation and is suitable for all ages, could be one of them.

More info: [www.raudondvarioldvaras.lt](http://www.raudondvarioldvaras.lt),  Raudondvaris Manor





## PLACES OF INTEREST AROUND RAUDONDVARIS MANOR

We suggest you start your route from Raudondvaris.

The most striking feature of the town is the red brick manor house, which gives the settlement its name, Raudondvaris. The **architectural estate of Raudondvaris Manor** consists of a 3.8-hectare park, a palace, two official buildings, a conservatory, stables and an ice rink. It is believed that the family of Count Tyszkiewicz, the last wards of the manor, left the most prominent trace here. To get to know the manor better, visit the **Kaunas District Museum** located in the castle building. Be sure to visit the **Kaunas District Tourism and Business Information Centre** for souvenirs, advice and free tourist publications.

OPENING HOURS OF KAUNAS DISTRICT MUSEUM:  
WED-SUN 10.00–18.00 TEL. +370 612 53314

OPENING HOURS OF KAUNAS DISTRICT TOURISM AND BUSINESS  
INFORMATION CENTRE: MON-FRI 8.30–17.00, SAT 10.00–15.00  
TEL. +370 699 48833, +370 640 41855



## WHERE TO EAT?

### Raudondvario Dvaro Oranžerija restaurant

The conservatory was built between 1837 and 1839 in classical and neo-Gothic style and was restored between 2010 and 2013 as part of a project to adapt the conservatory to a catering business. It is a white gem of elegance in a cultural heritage estate. The restaurant's refined and cosy surroundings, with a green orangery rotunda reminiscent of the time of the Counts and charming park paths leading to the Nevėžys Landscape Reserve.

**OPENING HOURS:** Mon Closed, Tue-Sat 11:00-21:00, Sun 11:00-20:00  
**Tel.** +370 685 52294, +370 686 82566

When you leave Raudondvaris Manor, visit the Raudondvaris bakery for delicious kibinai and fresh **croissants at Mano Paryžius**.

**ADDRESS:** 1-4 Didžioji St., Raudondvaris

**OPENING HOURS:** Mon Closed, Tue-Fri 10:00-18:00, Sat 11:00-16:00  
**Tel.** +370 684 45157



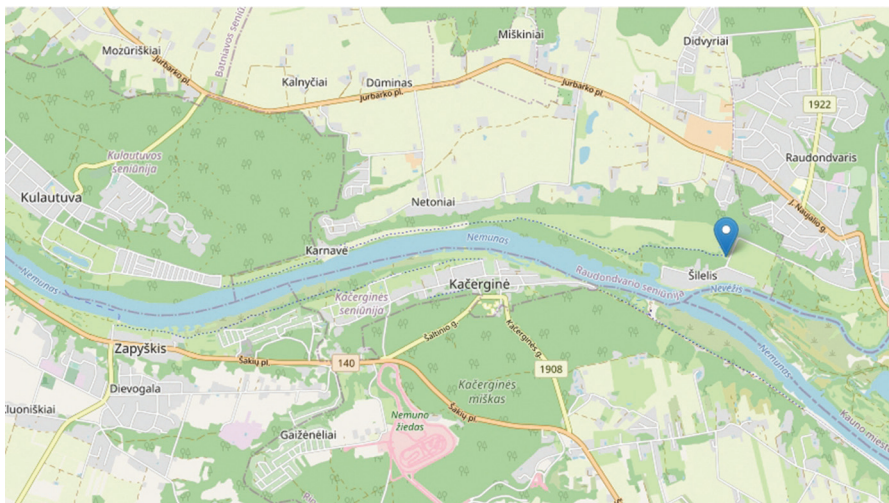
Continue to the **Traditional Crafts Centre**, where you will be introduced to rare engines, agricultural machinery, steam machines, cars, work tools used by the masters of the interwar Lithuanian countryside, and

household items made in Lithuania and abroad.

**OPENING HOURS: Tue-Sat 9:00–18:00. Lunch break 12:00–13:00**

**ADDRESS: 66 Raguvos St., Biliūnai village, Raudondvaris sub-municipal area. Tel. +370 656 13675**

The next stop is Kulautuva, with its tranquillity and beautiful nature. Kulautuva can also be reached by bicycle along the **Šilelis village – Kulautuva** route.



History tells us that Kulautuva was one of the most popular resorts in Lithuania between the wars (4-7 thousand people used to stay here at a time), second only to Palanga in terms of the number of tourists. Today, it is a place where you can regain peace of mind by spending quality time in nature.

We recommend visiting **Swan Lake** with its **Madonna sculpture**, the **Church of the Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary** in Kulautuva, the mineral water cistern, the place of the apparition of the **Blessed Virgin Mary and the valley of Gods and Goddesses**. Take a stroll along Acacia Avenue and try your hand at walking Kulautuva's wellness trails. The tracks vary in length from 2.6 to 6 km, so you can choose according to your preference.

For game lovers, a great way to explore the city is to take part in an **interactive game** called **Koolautuva**. If you're curious, make sure to have





a phone with an internet connection, find a building with a **street art mural** called **"Home"** and embark on an adventurous journey. It will take you 3-4 hours to visit all the stops.

During the summer season (June-September) **Kamane Cable Park**, the wakeboarding park at Kulautuva quarry rents water sports equipment and provides catering services.

Those who wish to grill their own food can use the Grill Zone in Kulautuva (54.942276, 23.632133).

**Tel. +370 632 81080**

**ADDRESS: Pamario g. 18, Kulautuva**

## WHERE TO STAY?

Agritourism farmhouses:

### **Gojus.**

ADDRESS: Akacijų al. 20, Kulautuva.

Tel. +370 675 48861, +370 686 09306

### **Petrauskas homestead.**

ADDRESS: Kranto g. 5, Kulautuva. Tel. +370 689 27519

Guest houses:

### **Park apartments in Kulautuva.**

ADDRESS: Liudo Giros g. 3, Kulautuva. Tel. +370 640 52217

### **Kulautuvos Poilsio Namai .**

ADDRESS: Poilsio g. 12, Kulautuva. Tel. +370 682 00879



During the summer season (May-September), the **Nevėžis ferry** is open, transferring cyclists and pedestrians to Zapyškis on the other side of the river Nemunas. In Zapyškis, we offer visits to the renovated **old Zapyškis St. John the Baptist Church**. Take a break in the marina's recreation area.



Zapyškis St. John the Baptist Church is one of the oldest brick buildings in Lithuania, a unique Gothic architectural structure from the second half of the 16th century, built by local builders. It was built by Povilas Sapiega, the governor of Naugarduk, who owned large tracts of land and forests, on his manor in Sapiegiškis, later called Zapyškis.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the church has not been used for religious purposes. In 2002, it was granted status as a cultural monument. In recent years, the church has become a centre for cultural and musical life.

**ADDRESS: Muziejaus g. 1, Zapyškis. Tel. +370 608 34591**

The crew of the **Zapyškis ship** will be waiting at the Zapyškis dock to take you on sightseeing tours! Trips on the Nemunas are a great opportunity to get to know the unique towns of the Kaunas district resort area better. Sailing on the modern and comfortable Zapyškis, you'll never get tired of admiring the changing coastal views.

**The Zapyškis sails during the summer season (May-September)**

Tickets are sold on board. Price €5 (free for children under 7 years) The boat can accommodate up to 23 passengers. A minimum of 6 people is required for sailings. **Informacija tel. +370 37 548 118**



Afterwards, we suggest a bike ride to **Kačerginė** on the Zapyškis-Kačerginė-Ringaudai bicycle path. Kačerginė, which was named the most visited Lithuanian resort during the interwar period and has been located on the Nemunas riverbank since the 1930s, charms holidaymakers with its peacefulness, enchanting landscape and unique architecture.

We invite you to take a journey through a town filled with fresh pine air!



In Kačerginė, we invite you to visit **Linden Park and view the street art mural, Interrupted Lives. We also suggest a visit to St. Anne's Chapel, V. Rėklaitis Villa, Šaltiniai Square, and a walk along the Šaltiniai Trail.**

### **St. Anne's Chapel**

Kačerginė Chapel of St Anne was built according to the design of architect Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis in 1936. However, it turned out to be too conventional for the clients, so his drawings waited 62 years for their time to come. In the spring of 1998, architects Feliksas Jackeivičius and Gediminas Jurevičius revised the project without changing the proportions and the main accents of the building. On 26th December 1998, St. Anne's Chapel in Kačerginė celebrated its first Holy Mass.

The long wooden walls of the neo-Gothic chapel blend harmoniously with the glass planes of the facades. The interior space is seamless. An impression of height and light is created by graceful wood structures.

There is a small sacristy overhang on the west side. Next to the chapel, you will also see a 12-metre-high bell tower.

**ADDRESS: J. Janonio g. 11, Kačerginė. Tel. +370 641 10128**

### **V. Rėklaitis Villa**

After arriving in Kačerginė, Rėklaitis left behind one of the most striking architectural monuments in the town – a villa. The villa is thought to have been built around 1935-1938, on the main street of Kačerginė (J. Janonio g.), in the then village of Palankiai. The building is one-storey high, slightly asymmetrical, and made of smooth wooden planks. A glazed porch with an entrance can be seen from the street. And from the two-storey tower on the courtyard side, you can see the Nemunas River, the greenery of the meadows in spring and summer, the beauty of the Panemunė region and the town of Kulautuva on the other side of the Nemunas.

**ADDRESS: J. Janonio g. 86, Kačerginė**



### **Šaltiniai Square**

The square features an artistic fountain with spring water that refreshes every passer-by. The spring is a symbol of life and spiritual values, and this square contributes to the mobilisation of the Kačerginė community and the revival of the town.

The composition "Birds of the Morning" by Stasys Žirgulis and the stone pillar "The Doors of Ages", decorated with a fire poker, introduce

visitors to the town's legend.

**ADDRESS: J. Zikaro gatvė, Kačerginė**

Walking along the Šaltiniai Trail, you will reach Pypliai Mound, one of the most beautiful mounds in Kaunas district.



### **Pypliai Mound**

The mound is located on the left bank of the Nemunas River at the eastern side of the Kačerginė Forest, opposite the mouth of the Nevėžis River. Steps lead to the top of the mound. It offers breathtaking views of the Nemunas River and the towers of Raudondvaris Church.

According to legend and to 20th-century Lithuanian historians Zenonas Ivinskis and Kazimieras Paunksnis, the Castle of Pilėnai, destroyed in 1336, may have stood here. Unwilling to surrender to the Crusaders, the Lithuanian defenders burned all the castle's treasures and committed suicide to avoid being taken prisoner. It was built around 500 years ago, then abandoned. It is now visited by scientists, tourists and travellers.

**ADDRESS: Pypliai village, Ringaudai sub-municipal area**



A photograph of Bauska Castle, a large stone fortress with a red-tiled roof and a prominent round tower on the left. The castle is situated on a hill overlooking a river. The foreground shows the river's surface with some rocks and greenery along the bank.

# BAUSKA CASTLE MUSEUM

Address: Bauska Castle Museum, Pilskalns Street,  
Bauska, Bauska County, LV 3901, Latvia

Working hours: V–X 10.00–18.00 daily, XI–IV 11.00–17.00 daily, Monday closed

Tel. +371 63923793; +371 20011880; +371 63922280

E-mail: [bauskaspils@bauska.lv](mailto:bauskaspils@bauska.lv)



## **HISTORY OF BAUSKA CASTLE**

### **Livonian Order Castle**

Bauska Castle was built on the site of a fortified Balts settlement of the Late Bronze Age. The oldest document mentioning the construction of Bauska Castle dates back to 1443, but it was first mentioned in the list of the Livonian Order's castles in 1451. Mainly, the castle served as a military defence building on the southern border of Livonia, but also as the administrative centre of the Bauska Vogtei, where the Bauska Vogt carried out judicial, police, financial and military administration functions.

The confluence of the Rivers Mūsa and Mēmele blocked access to the castle from the south, west and north, so special measures were needed to protect the eastern side. In the main castle and the castle-front, seven semi-circular and quadrangular gun turrets protruding from the plane of the walls are built in the middle and corners of the defensive walls. To resist the destructive power of bullets, the outer walls of the fortress were built especially thick, but not as high as in the older Livonian Order Castles.

The decorative forms of the late Gothic style that prevailed in Livonia in the 15th century are expressed in the vaults and architectural details

of the castle's living spaces. The most luxurious living space with a star-shaped vault was on the second floor of the central tower.

### **Residence of the dukes of Courland**

After the dissolution of the Livonian Order, Gotthard Kettler (1517–1587), the last master of the Livonian Order, became the first duke of Courland and Semigallia. Between 1570 and 1580, the castle-front reconstruction of the Bauska Castle began – turning into a typical fortified residence with bastions and ramparts for the defence, economic and representative needs of the State. After the death of the first Duke Gotthard Kettler, in 1587 the court and chancellery of his eldest son – Duke Friedrich (1569–1642) moved to Bauska Castle. The new, enlarged ducal residence was fully completed in 1596, according to a stone tab with the inscription SOLI DEO GLORIA ANNO 1596 found in the castle ruins.

The facades were decorated with Sgraffito technique typical of Mannerism, giving the illusion that the castle was built of stone blocks. The eastern facade facing the city was crowned by a roof with a three-tiered gable. The layout of the interior of the castle was simple: the rooms were walk-through and lined up one behind the other. The plasticity of the interior shapes was achieved by the deep windows in the thick walls and the rhythmic arrangement of the massive cast beams. Two first floor rooms of the northern block were covered by cross vaults. The walls were plastered, but some were decorated with paintings. The castle was heated by fireplaces and Renaissance furnaces. As firearms developed, fortifications were created around the castle.

During the Great Northern War, in 1701, the castle was occupied by Swedish troops, who improved the existing land ramparts by order of King Karl XII of Sweden. In 1706, when Russian troops left the castle, it was partially blown up. After the war, the castle was no longer repaired and gradually transformed into romantic ruins. In the 1930s, a viewing platform was built in the great tower of the Livonian Order castle and conservation works were carried out on the walls. In the 1960s, it was decided to adapt the ruins of the castle for the needs of international tourism and a partial reconstruction of the castle was started, as well as archaeological excavations in the territory of the new castle. The Bauska Castle Museum was founded in 1990. The restoration of the residence of the dukes of Bauska Castle was completed in 2014, thanks to the funding from the Bauska municipality and the EU.





## **ON DISPLAY AT THE BAUSKA CASTLE MUSEUM:**

### **Exhibition of the interiors in the northern block**

In the interior of the castle, the restoration of the original building elements and plasterwork, and the reconstruction of the lost elements have been carried out. Remaining fragments of the original decoration can be seen on the stairs of the main entrance, in doorway and fireplace mouldings and floorings. The stairs of the main entrance lead to the hallway with walk-through ceremonial halls on the west side, and the duke's and duchess's rooms and reception room are on the east side. The duke's reception halls and private apartments are furnished with typical objects of the Renaissance era representing function of their rooms – chests, tables, chairs, beds, lighting fixtures, fireplace accessories, tapestries, etc. With Renaissance ornaments, mythological figures and portraits covering the reconstructed late 16th century tile furnaces, the rooms are made luxurious. The windows of the duke's room are decorated with colourful stained-glass windows with the coats of arms of the duke and duchess' families, while the floor is covered with reconstructed and original polychrome glazed floor tiles.

### **Exhibition of the interiors in the southern block**

During the castle's existence, the second floor of the southern block was occupied by the Hauptmans bedroom, dining room, kitchen, and hall. Now, there is a hall where concerts, early dance classes, seminars and social events take place. Next is a gallery of copies of portraits of Duke Jacob of Courland and his family. Nearby is a kitchen exhibition illustrating 16th–17th century kitchen equipment with a range of items appropriate for the time. The audience room is decorated with peculiar candleholders, a bright chandelier, a set of tapestry chairs, a scribe's desk, and a Hauptman's table. In the reconstructed Mannerist furnaces have been included restored original tiles.

The first floor of the southern block is utility rooms – a housekeeper's room, a cart-house, a stable, cellars, and a gatekeeper's room.



**The historical exhibition of Bauska Castle** displays artefacts and materials giving insight to the oldest settlement in Bauska region and Semigallian culture before the 13th century. The history display of Bauska Castle is based on documents of historical events related to the construction of the Livonian Order castle in the middle of the 15th century and creation of residence of the dukes of Courland in the end of the 16th century. The exhibition presents objects found during the archaeological excavations of Bauska Castle, which reveal not only the construction history of the castle and its connection with military conflicts, but also the everyday life of the castle inhabitants, including the court of the Duchy of Courland. It provides information about the fate of the fortress during the Livonian War, Polish-Swedish War, and the Great Northern War, as well as about the beginning of the exploration and restoration of the castle.



**The exhibition "Bauska Castle – military fortification"** shows Bauska Castle as a 15th–17th century military building, reflecting the development of the defence system from the middle of the 15th century to the beginning of the 18th century. The display comprises fortification plans of Bauska Castle in 17th century, engravings of battle scenes, and military artefacts found in archaeological excavations at Bauska Castle.



The exhibition **"Costumes and jewellery in the Duchy of Courland, 1562–1620"** is about the changes in fashion in the Duchy of Courland during the reign of two generations – the first duke of Courland, Gotthard, and his sons Friedrich and Wilhelm, and it portrays the peculiarities of fashion in the clothing of the duke's relatives in various European countries around the Baltic Sea in the late 16th century and early 17th century. The exhibits comprise portraits of the Kettlers in which Duke Gotthard of Courland, his family and relatives are dressed in characteristic parade costumes, original 17th century costume details and fragments, as well as sets of replica costumes.

The ruins of the Livonian Order castle and the viewing tower, a nature trail along the north wall of the castle.

### SERVICES:

- Guided tours
- Audio guide
- Rental of premises, territory, and equipment
- Artist residencies
- Thematic programmes



### **Dance lesson at the court**

A chance to try out Renaissance dances and court manners under the guidance of programme leader dressed in Renaissance costume, as well as learn about the role of dance at court in the late 16th century and the influence of the dancers' costume on the character and manner of the dance performance.

### **Dressing culture in the Duchy of Courland**

A chance to try on a Renaissance court lady's and/or gentleman's gown and get an idea of the courtier's costume from farthingale and corsets to ruff collar. A chance to get to know the fashion, dressing procedures and costume-making in the late 16th century and early 17th century.

### **Games of the Renaissance**

An activity for children and young people to try out typical Renaissance games. The games are based on game tables seen in the artworks of the Renaissance, ancient records, and archaeological material from Bauska Castle.

### **A visit to Duchess Anna**

A programme for newlyweds and wedding guests, in which a meeting with Duchess Anna is played out, during which it is possible to get to know family values, create a family coat of arms, and learn about wedding tradition in the duchy.





## ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

### Ancient music concerts

Bauska Castle regularly hosts concerts of local and foreign performers of early music (15th–18th centuries), which take place in the concert hall, the castle courtyard, and the central tower of the Livonian Order castle.

### Artist residencies

Bauska Castle is a place where creative activities take place on a regular basis – artist residencies for musicians, artists, and other creative professionals. Accommodations are available, a technically equipped concert hall, three replicas of 17th century musical instruments: positive organ, double virginal, and Renaissance harp. The castle premises can be used to play and record early music, to practice and perform, and to organise various master classes for musicians, dancers and other artists.

### Music and art festival “Vivat, Curlandia!” devoted to the time of Courland-Semigallia dukes Kettlers

Every July, an international two-day festival with concerts of Medieval, Renaissance and Early Baroque music is organised.

### Fencing tournament “Ius gladii”





The fencing tournament is a showcase competition, held every year in the summer, which combines modern foil and epee with a historical setting, giving visitors an idea of both the modern sport of fencing and the essence of historical tournaments, creating the right atmosphere with appropriate musical and entertainment performances.

### **Thematic programme "Artificial lighting in a Renaissance castle"**

Within the framework of the project "Historical Route: Raudondvaris–Bauska", the premises of Bauska Castle have been enriched with replicas of 17th century lightings, which are placed in various exhibition rooms of the castle.



Lighting plays an important role in understanding the daily life of the inhabitants of the Renaissance castle and the possibilities provided by the artificial lighting of the time. During the thematic programme, it will be possible to get acquainted with the types of artificial lighting in Renaissance castles, and their use according to the function of the room – chandeliers, lanterns, candleholders. Experience the sensations of moving around the castle in the dark, under historical lighting and try your hand at practical work by candlelight.

## **Open-air military exposition and thematic programme "Artillery in the 17th century"**

Bauska Castle, within the framework of the project "Historical Route: Raudondvaris–Bauska", has been supplemented with significant details that highlight Bauska Castle as a fortified structure. The iron grills on the windows have been restored to the windows that historically stood on the second floor of the facade and the ground floor of the courtyard. Four 17th-century cannons from the Bauska Castle collection are arranged in the defensive ramparts on period-appropriate field carriages based on 17th-century engravings. A ship's carriage was made for the salute cannon. The exhibition "Bauska Castle – military fortification" is supplemented with reconstructions of a musketeer's costume from the second quarter of the 17th century and an artilleryman's costume from the late 17th century. Outside the castle, information boards provide information about the function of Bauska Castle as a military defensive structure.

The thematic programme will explore Bauska Castle as the fortified residence of the Duke of Courland and Semigallia, highlighting its defensive functions, ramparts and their reconstructions, as well as the weapons used, focusing on cannons, their manufacture, maintenance and use.

### **Early music concerts (15th-17th centuries)**

During the winter seasons of 2021 and 2022, five musicians' residencies took place at Bauska Castle, where early music ensembles prepared and practiced a concert programme during a week, which was presented at the end of the residency both at Bauska Castle and at Raudondvaris Manor.

Within the framework of the project, musical instruments were made according to early 17th century prototypes: a positive organ, a Renaissance harp, and a double virginal. These instruments are available for musicians wishing to give concerts at the castle or to prepare a concert programme or to use them in rehearsals.

The Bauska Castle Concert Hall is equipped with an LED screen, sound system, microphones, sound console, speakers, podiums, chairs, and wooden music sheet holders.

Early music residencies and concerts will remain at Bauska Castle, with performances by both Latvian and foreign artists.



## GET TO KNOW BAUSKA

What to do and see in Bauska if you have two hours or more? We recommend starting with a visit to Bauska Old Town, museums, and nature trail.

If you are planning to spend a whole day in Bauska, book one of the interactive programmes, tastings, or activities in advance.

### BAUSKA OLD TOWN

**Bauska Town Hall** (Rātslaukums 1), T. +371 63923797, 27746484

Built in 1616, it was once the largest and most luxurious in the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia. Renovated in 2012, it is currently the only reconstructed 17th-century town hall in Latvia. There is an exhibition on ancient weights and measures and an interactive programme "Weights and measures in Bauska" and a 17th-century interior. At present, there is the Tourism Information Centre and the Civil Registry Office.

Not far from Town Hall Square, you can see the works of sculptor Ģirts Burvis – a memorial to the Jews "**Synagogue Garden**" (Rīgas





street 35) and a monument to the poet **Vilis Plūdons (Plūdoņa street/ Salātu street)**, but **the ceramic mosaic with water and fish motives** in Strautnieku street were created by the inhabitants of the municipality and the association "Meistars Gothards" with the aim to revive and promote the Bauska Old Town.

**Bauska Museum** (Klana street 6), T. +371 63960506; [www.bauskasmuzejs.lv](http://www.bauskasmuzejs.lv)

Set in the building of the city's once proudest hotel "Kurzeme". There is an exhibition on the history of Bauska in the 20th century, minorities in Bauska (Jews and Germans), a toy exhibition "Time to Play", Folk Applied Art Studio "Bauska", an interactive programme "Adventure in Bauska in the 20th century". Art exhibitions and events are organised..

**Church of the Holy Spirit** (Plūdoņa street 13A) The oldest surviving building in the Old Town from the late 16th century, it preserves evidence of the city's history and its citizens. At one end of the benches there is a colourful wood-carving which is the oldest depiction of the Bauska Coat of Arms with a golden lion in a red shield. T. +371 26609920



## GUIDES IN THE OLD TOWN

Guided tours of Bauska in Latvian and Russian are organised by the Bauska Museum by prior arrangement; T. +371 63960506

**Free audio guides in the Old Town.** Download the **izi.travel** app on your phone, search Latvia/Bauska and select one of the Bauska Regional Tourism Information Centre's audio guides:

- **"Get to know Bauska!"** – will take you on a two-hour walk around Bauska, exploring the main historical facts and sights. The audio guide is available in Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian, Russian, and English.

• **"The Story of the Jews of Bauska"** will take you on an hour and a half tour of the city, during which you will learn about Bauska's Jewish community, important Jews, sites, and stories. The audio guide is available in Latvian, Russian, and English.

## **BAUSKA NATURE TRAIL**

The Bauska Nature Trail leads from the Old Town towards Bauska Castle. It is located in the Natura 2000 area of Bauska Nature Park, which extends all the way to Mežotne. The Bauska Nature Trail starts in the Bauska Old Town at a modern recreation area and parking lot on Dambja street, which offers a wonderful view of Bauska Castle. Heading along Dambja street towards Brīvības Boulevard, the trail continues along the Mēmele hillside up to Bauska Castle. Before the castle itself, there is an opportunity to take a photo at the revolving "Postcards from Bauska", which allows you to choose between a view of the river or the castle. Continuing along the road, you will arrive at Bauska Castle. The nature trail ends at the place where Lielupe River begins, where the Mūsa and Mēmele meet, which is called Ķirbaksala. According to ancient legends, Lielais Murza used to take magical water at the meeting point (Ķirbaksala), which he recommended to ladies of Courland to wash with for beauty purposes and which he even sold in barrels as "specially treated" to ladies in Jelgava and Riga. At the beginning of the island, there is an environmental feature symbolising the beginning of the Lielupe River. The Bauska Hillfort Stage is located in the park, between the castle and the Ķirbaksala, and hosts various festivals and events every year. Those who prefer a longer walk can go from Ķirbaksala along the Mūsa Coast and see impressive dolomite outcrops. The place before the Ķirbaksala bridge is a popular starting point for boating enthusiasts on the Bauska–Mežotne route. In spring, the Mūsa, Mēmele and Lielupe Rivers are popular licensed vimba fishing grounds.

**Bauska Motor Museum** T. +371 67025887; [www.motormuzejs.lv](http://www.motormuzejs.lv)

One of the largest motor vehicle museums in Zemgale, with four thematic collections of 89 vehicles, military vehicles, RAF, and thematic exhibitions.



### Features subject to prior reservation:

- **Cosmetics factory "GUSTO"** Natural cosmetics factory, organises master classes; T. +371 29245547
- **„Sviesta karamele”.** Organises masterclasses in butter caramel making; T. +371 26567990
- **Saldās brunetes stāsts.** Here they make caramel stuffed nut cookies "Saldā pērle" and roulette "Saldā brunete", and organise masterclasses; T. +371 26010779
- **Winery "Dūmiņu vīni"** produces 27 different wines from fruits, flowers, and vegetables, organises tastings; T. +371 26215635
- **Farm "Vaidelotes"** T. +371 29389993, [www.vaidelotes.lv](http://www.vaidelotes.lv), offers a tour of its farm, collections of herbs and medicinal plants, and offers dishes typical of Zemgale – virtenī, porridge and pies made from home-grown grains.



### WHERE TO EAT?

**Aveņi (pub)** Derpeles street 1, T. +371 63960150

**Rātslaukums** (bistro, closed on holidays) Plūdoņa street 38, T. +371 29680500

**Taverna (cafe)** Rīgas street 27, T. +371 26306309

**Tornis (cafe)** Rīgas street 30, T. +371 26306309

**Mūza (restaurant)** Slimnīcas street 7, T. +371 29999272

**Pie pils (cafe)** Brīvības street 2, T. +371 27727770

**Picu darbnīca (pizzeria)** Kalna street 7, T. +371 22065556

**Hesburger**, Pionieru street 2, T. +371 26338437

**My Paradise, (cafe)** Bērzkalnu street 61, T. +371 27070250

**Argo, (cafe, closed on holidays)** Mēmeles street 23, T. +371 26611334



## WHERE TO STAY?

**Rija Hotel Bauska (hotel)** Slimnīcas street 7, T. +371 29999272

**Pārupes (holiday house)** Pārupes street 15, T. +371 29121436

**Nameji (guest house)** Codes street., T. +371 29882122

**Ir-auto (hostel)** 15 Draudzības street, T. +371 29418559

**Bicycle rental and repair:** "Velosēta" T. +371 29294678

**Scooter rental:** Fiqsy and Instant Ride T. +371 29959030

**Boat rental:** T. +371 20379033 ir „Brāļu laivas", T. +371 26590128

**Bauska swimming pool** (Salātu street 5a), T. +371 26177675

BAUSKA MUNICIPALITY TOURISM INFORMATION CENTRE

Rātslaukums 1, Bauska, T. +371 63923797, +371 27746484, [tic@bauska.lv](mailto:tic@bauska.lv)

[www.visit.bauska.lv](http://www.visit.bauska.lv);  @visitbauska  #visitbauska



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