

Knock knock, Lithuania



 Viktorija Stapone



www.lithuania.travel

Lithuania

A country
in Northern
Europe

A small one –
only 65,300 km²

Has more than
30,000 streams
and rivers

Known for its
forests and
natural treasures

Has more
than 6,000
lakes

Inhabited by
more than 340
bird species

5 national parks,
3 wildlife reserves,
30 regional parks,
402 state reserves

Each and every one of
us gets more than half a
hectare of forest area

Our ground
water is pure
and untainted

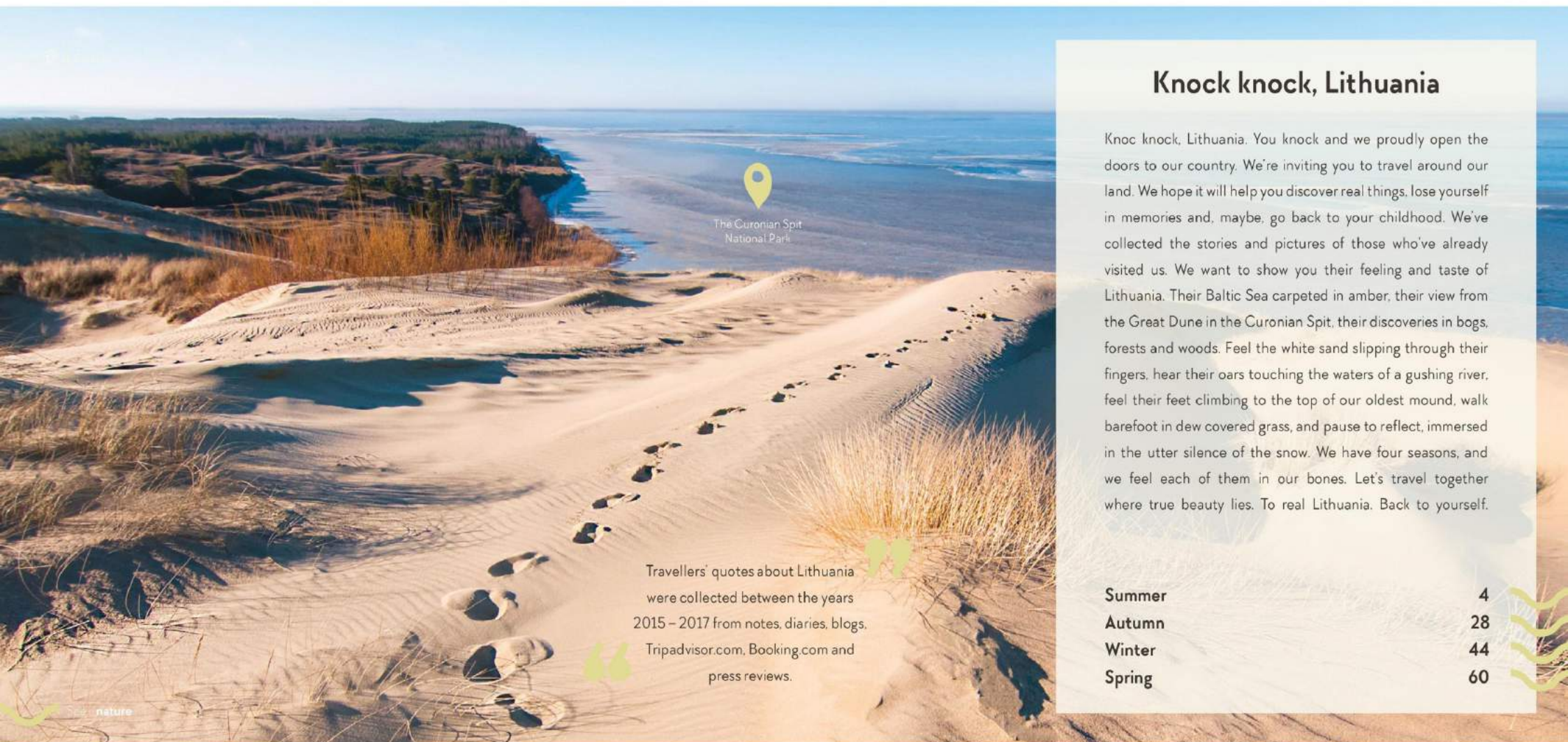
European bison and deer
walk our woods, Eurasian
lynxes visit as well

We know our mushrooms,
pick berries, herbs and
gather honey

The Curonian Spit
is a UNESCO World
Heritage Site

Salmon spawn in
our capital Vilnius

 A. Jūrė, M. Karotkis, A. Umbrasaitė



The Curonian Spit
National Park

Knock knock, Lithuania

Knoc knock, Lithuania. You knock and we proudly open the doors to our country. We're inviting you to travel around our land. We hope it will help you discover real things, lose yourself in memories and, maybe, go back to your childhood. We've collected the stories and pictures of those who've already visited us. We want to show you their feeling and taste of Lithuania. Their Baltic Sea carpeted in amber, their view from the Great Dune in the Curonian Spit, their discoveries in bogs, forests and woods. Feel the white sand slipping through their fingers, hear their oars touching the waters of a gushing river, feel their feet climbing to the top of our oldest mound, walk barefoot in dew covered grass, and pause to reflect, immersed in the utter silence of the snow. We have four seasons, and we feel each of them in our bones. Let's travel together where true beauty lies. To real Lithuania. Back to yourself.

Travellers' quotes about Lithuania were collected between the years 2015 – 2017 from notes, diaries, blogs, Tripadvisor.com, Booking.com and press reviews.

Summer	4
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SUMMER

We look forward to summer. We start counting down the days after Christmas. In summer, we go on canoe trips, try to master power kites or hop into a saddle for horseback riding, or count the stars while sitting by a campfire. In summer, we listen to blues on the shores of lakes. At the foot of mounds, we learn to forge iron, hollow wood to build boats and make magic drinks that gave our ancestors the strength to create this great country of Lithuania. Our summers have the smell of childhood, mist rising from the meadows, fresh milk, sand castles and translucent pieces of amber found on the beach early in the morning. They sound like the songs of migrating birds and crickets in wild meadows, and silence. Wrap your arms around it. Get closer to yourself, to the things that are real.



Five amazing things to do in Lithuania in summer

1.

Spend a night in a tent underneath the stars.

2.

Go horseback riding in Kurtuvėnai.

3.

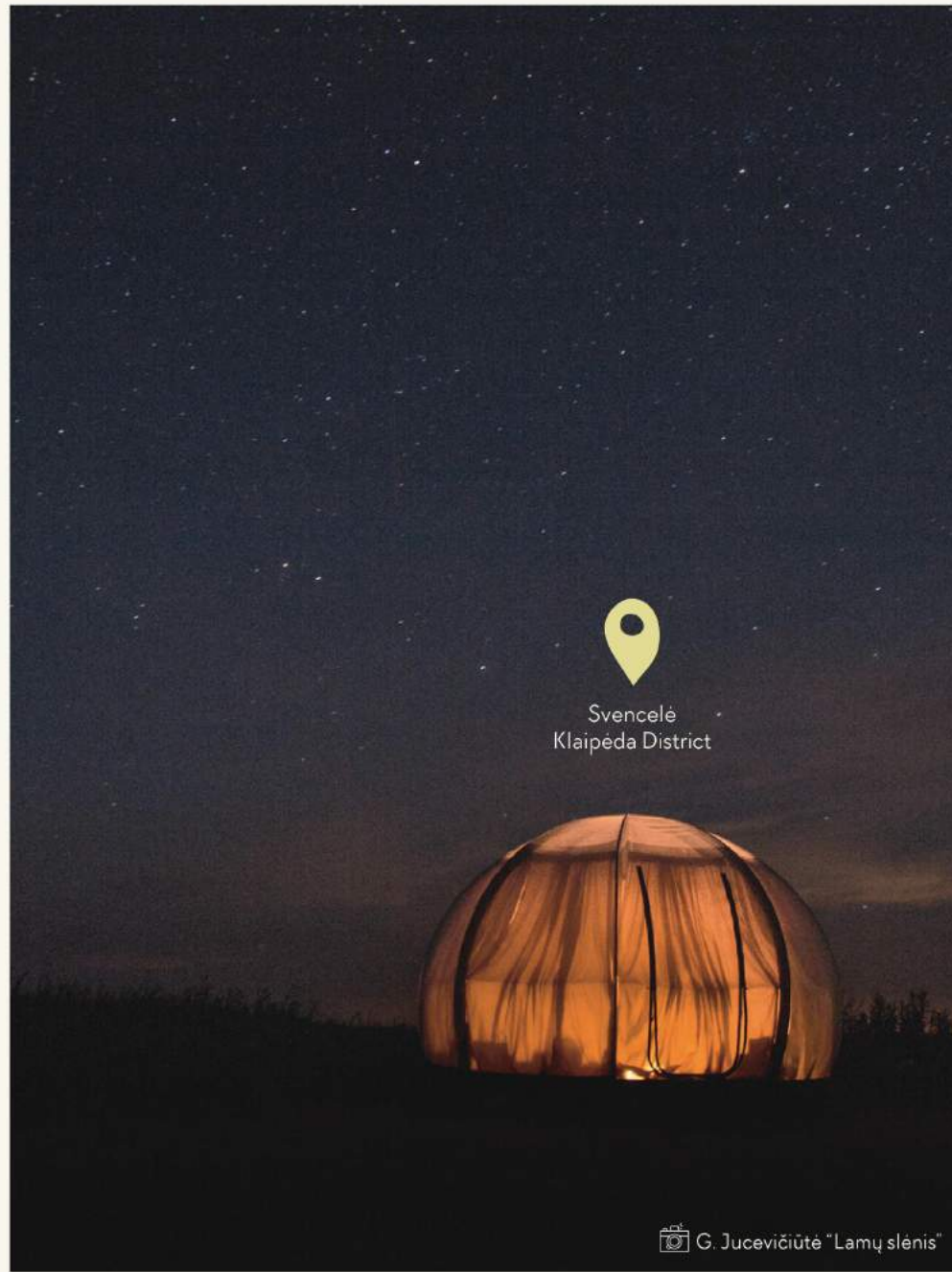
Have a rendezvous with dolphins in Klaipėda Dolphinarium.

4.

Watch aquatic warblers in Žuvintas Reserve.

5.

Find a common sundew in Aukštumala raised bog.

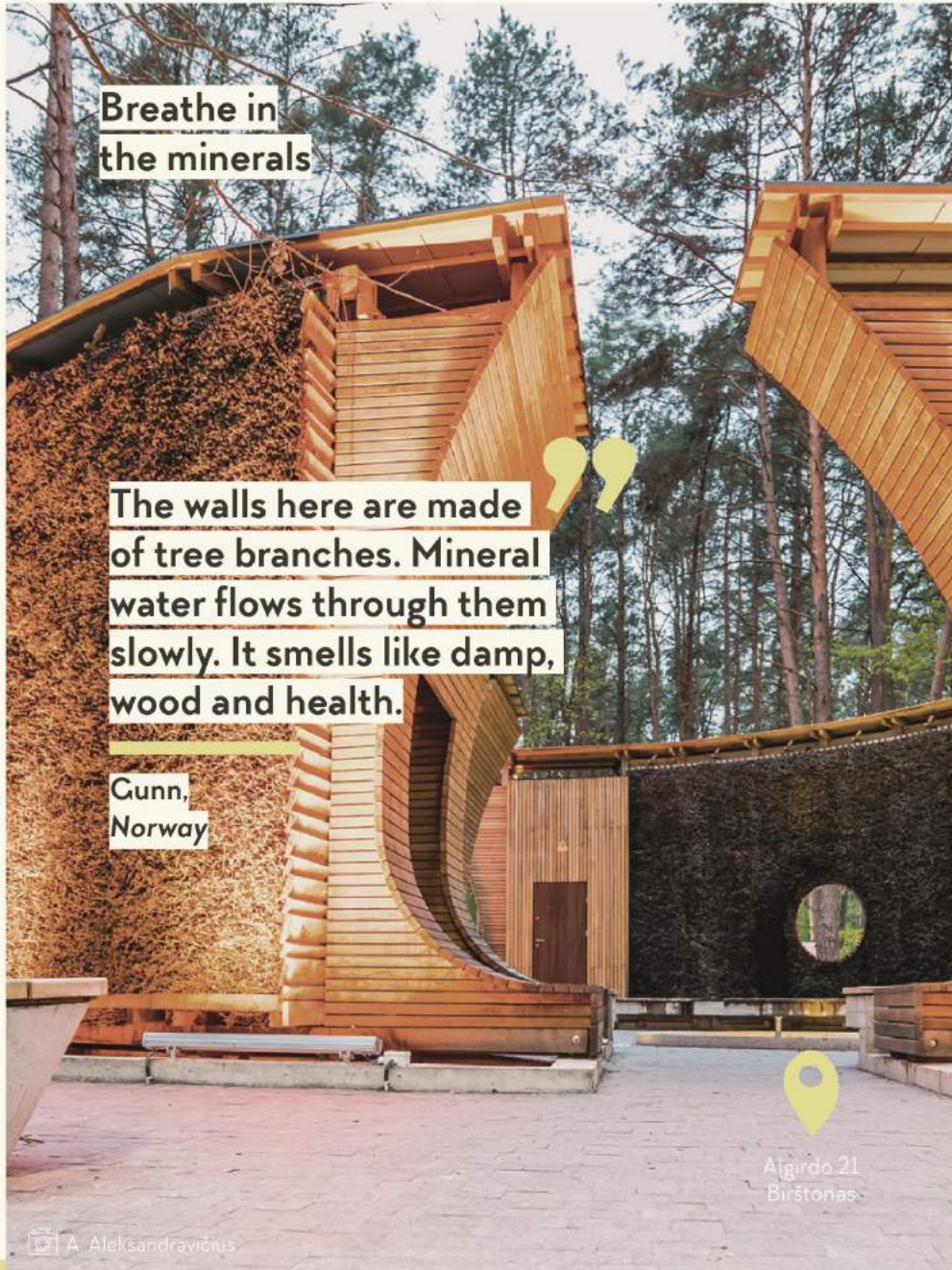


It's like a landscape covered in snow, but with sand instead of snow. And the view is quite astonishing. Bring your camera and take some pictures.

Steffen,
Germany

The Curonian Spit
National Park

Take some
mind-blowing
pictures



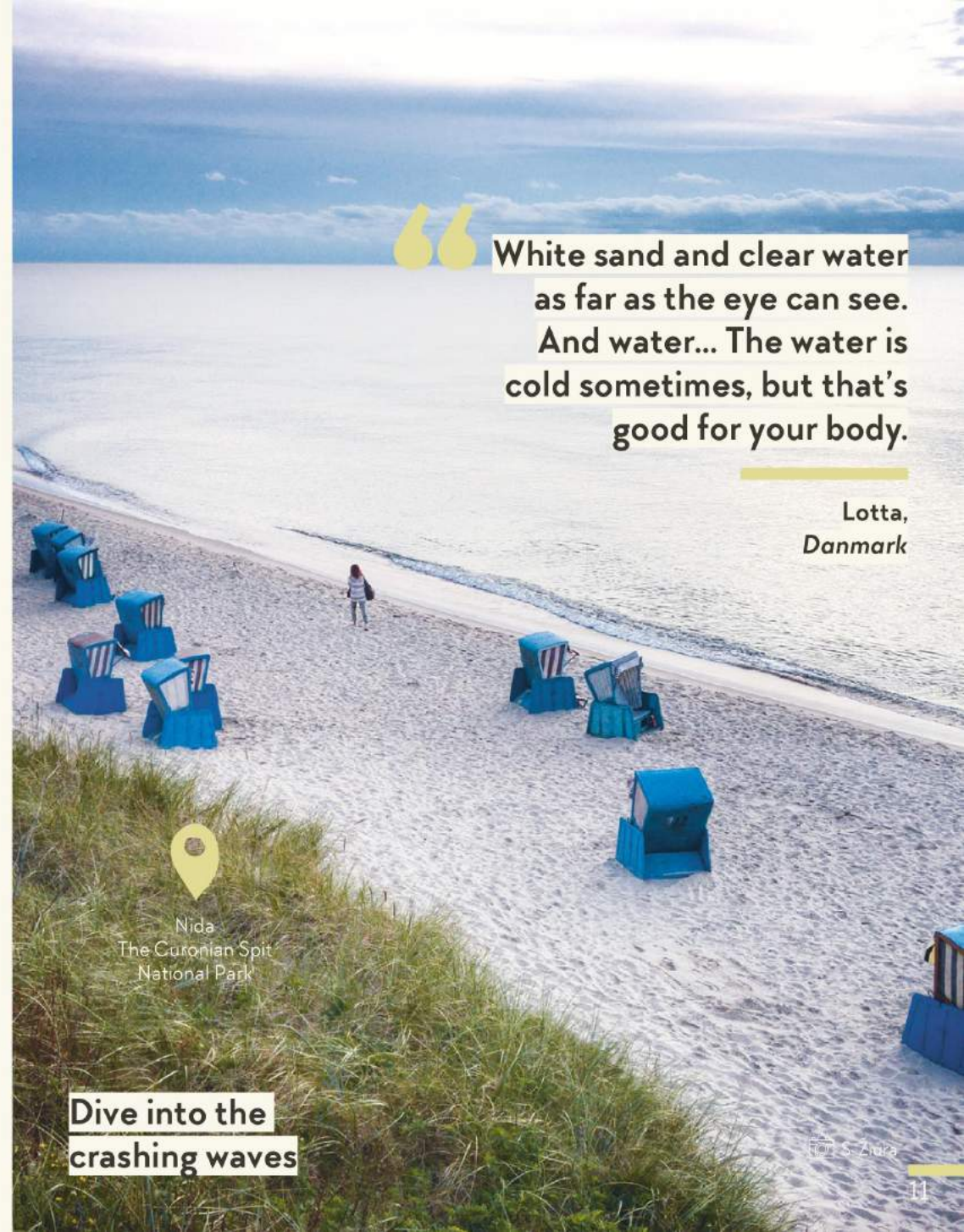
**Breathe in
the minerals**

**The walls here are made
of tree branches. Mineral
water flows through them
slowly. It smells like damp,
wood and health.**

**Gunn,
Norway**

Algirdo.21
Birštonas

A. Aleksandravičius



**White sand and clear water
as far as the eye can see.
And water... The water is
cold sometimes, but that's
good for your body.**

**Lotta,
Denmark**



Nida
The Curonian Spit
National Park

**Dive into the
crashing waves**

S. Zdra

Enjoy a
romantic sunset



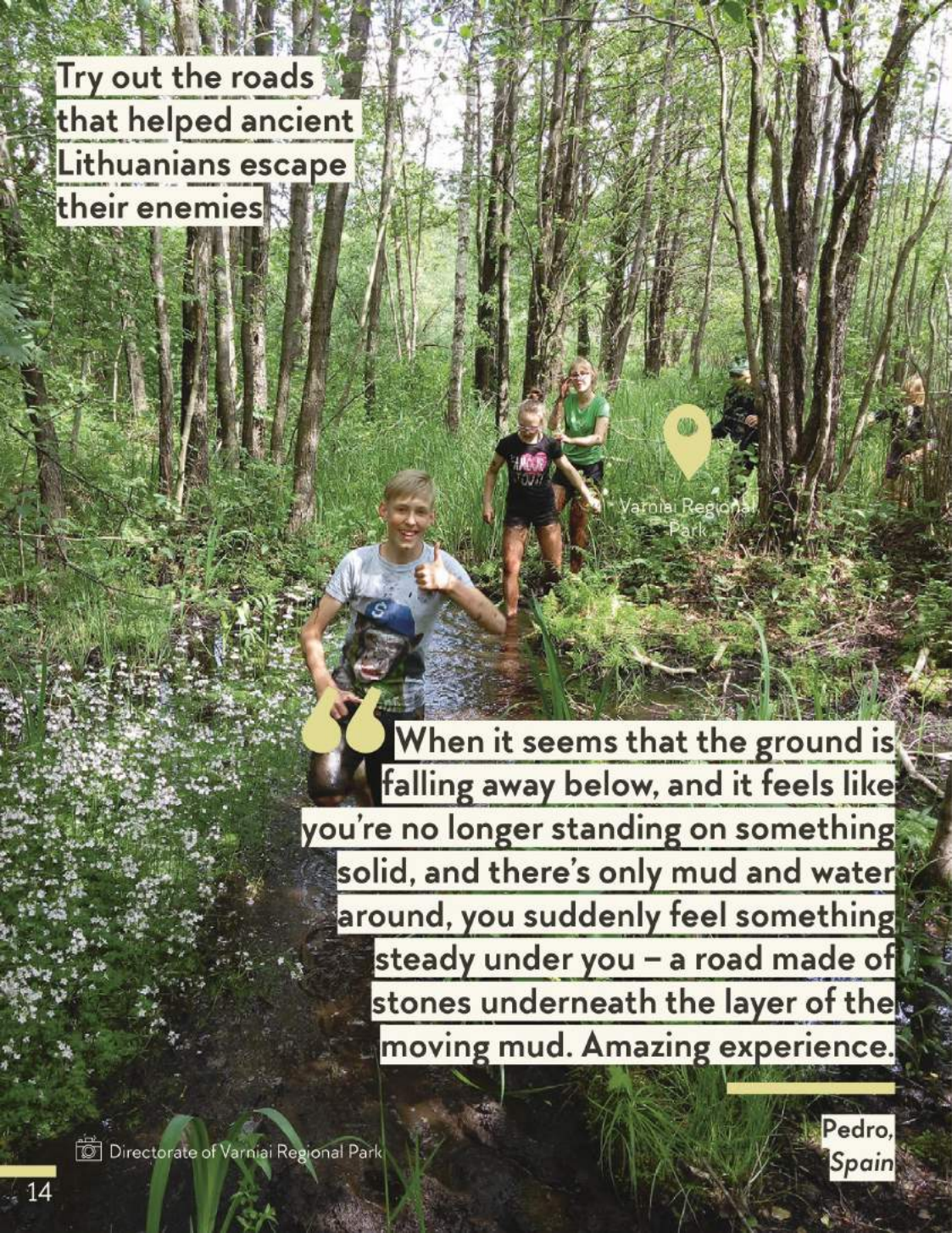
Palanga



That night, when the sunset came, at the end of the pier, he asked me if I'd like to cross all bridges and swim through all seas together. I said 'Yes'. This is a place of our love.

Olesia,
Ukraine

Try out the roads that helped ancient Lithuanians escape their enemies



Varniai Regional Park

When it seems that the ground is falling away below, and it feels like you're no longer standing on something solid, and there's only mud and water around, you suddenly feel something steady under you – a road made of stones underneath the layer of the moving mud. Amazing experience.

Pedro, Spain




Something changes when you're in the wind. You're in the water, standing on a board and soaring ahead. Only 'here' and 'now' remain, you see, hear and feel everything!

Jordis, Lithuania

Svencelė
Klaipėda District

Catch the wind in Svencelė



Take in the vast
immensity of bogs

“
If you mean to count all
200 plant species that can
be found here, you must
be a botanist. I'm not, but
looking around this bog of
vast immensity was great.

Sten,
Sweden

Nemunas Delta
Regional Park

**Find the magical
fern flower at night**



Verkiiai Regional
Park



**According to the old belief,
heavy dew foretells successful
harvest. Dew was also said to
possess healing powers, which
could restore youth.
Very mysterious.**

**Krystyne,
Poland**

The road is famous for its castles and manors that can be visited en route. These buildings were used as opulent residences rather than defensive structures.

Alan,
France

Pilis village
Jurbarkas District

Follow the Nemunas
River to the sea

R. Anusauskas

Hoist your
sails

Žemaitija National
Park

Sun, warm water, a brisk wind fills your sail, and you fly away together with the waves... With the wind. The speed takes over your mind. It's so serene. You must feel it to truly understand it.

Lior,
Israel

Gedgaudiene



Žemaitija
National Park

“
For some, they’re
just flowers growing in
the meadows. For those
who know them, they’re
herbs that strengthen
your health and protect
you from trouble.”

Eleonora,
Italy



Get yourself a
bouquet of herbs



“
When they told us we’ll have
plenty to do in this river, we
didn’t believe them. But then
the night came, and when we
were sitting around a campfire,
at a bonfire in the woods, we
understood what they’d meant.
Tired, but happy.”


Suzan & Peter,
Germany



Ūla River
Varėna District



Grab an oar
and go for it



Taste the honey
of wild bees


Dzūkija
National Park

“ Fresh honey from
a tree hollow with
pollen, with the smell
of summer, with thin and
frail beeswax that you
can eat as well – what
can be better?


Ruth,
Netherlands

 Morivenas

Lithuanian Summer Treasures

Our summers are filled with smells and tastes. Our green fields are full of ripening wild strawberries, juicy red raspberries and sweet bundles of blueberries. Bees dance in blooming flowers, feast on the taste of summer and then infuse it into their honey. We spread it on a slice of bread or cheese exploding with the smells of meadows. The greenery holds the magical secrets of Saint John's Day. After drying our herbs and flowers, we drink summer tea. Wouldn't you like to bring back home a drop of Lithuanian summer?



 G. Jucevičiūtė "Lamų slėnis"

“The ancient Lithuanians thought bees were sacred, understood human speech and were able to change their lives. And the word “bičiulis’ (friend)” originates from the word “bitės’ (bees)”.

Lucia,
Spain

Health preserved
in a jar of honey



“Maybe, a bit strange at first but, actually, unusually smooth, and even better when dried – lasts longer and can survive the longest of trips.

Valerie,
France

Summer-scented
curd cheese

AUTUMN

Autumn comes with the drop of the first apple. It's a sign for us to take our wooden baskets, go to our gardens and forests, and fill our homes with the smells of apple pies and dried boletes. Our autumn brims over with colours. It's an autumn from Claude Monet's paintings – a little bit sleepy and constantly wrapped in a translucent, iridescent cloak of mist. It weaves intricate spiderwebs, whispers from beneath the fallen leaves, waves the wings of the departing storks and cranes, and dances around the rain-kissed cranberries in bogs. In autumn, we remember our friends, light candles and gaze into each other's eyes. Long autumn evenings only hide the things that are genuine. Like us.





📷 M. Kristijonas Kuliešius



📷 allthebeautifulthings



📷 Vytautas Mineral SPA



📷 A. Kulkauškaite



📷 J. Daniūnas

Five remarkable things to do in Lithuania in autumn

1. Go for a narrow-gauge train ride in Anykščiai.
2. Pick apples in the gardens of the eastern Lithuania.
3. Try out a therapeutic mud bath in Birštonas.
4. Make yourself natural beeswax candles in Dzūkija National Park.
5. Take part in the Autumn Equinox Celebration at Amber Bay in Juodkrantė.

Go round the
Plateliai Lake
by bike


Žemaitija
National Park

“

It's quite a challenge - the lake is huge and the bike path around it goes for 24 kilometres. But the views are incredible, especially from the viewpoints.

Urs,
Switzerland



Traditional
Mushroom Fest
Varėna



We don't have mushroom festivals in America, I don't think there are any in Europe as well. The amount of wild mushrooms in Lithuanian forests is astonishing!

Robert,
USA

Grab a wooden basket, and off we go!



Cook fish soup that real fishermen eat



A very good place for Lithuanian seasonal fish experience. The island people know what to do with it. They always have fresh fish.



Rusnė Island
Šilutė District

Jorg,
Germany

Wave at the
birds flying by



Ventė Cape
Curonian Lagoon
Šilutė District

Ventė Cape is the biggest
bird catching and ringing base
in Europe. A perfect spot for
those of you who like to spend
time calmly in fresh air, also
excellent for bird watchers.

Kathryn,
Sweden

 M. Jovaiša



They stand as loyal
sentries waiting for
the sailors to come
back. Can there be a
more romantic place for
a date at the seaside?

Torben,
Norway



Nida Lighthouse
Curonian Spit
Nida



Meet up with
your date at
the lighthouse

 A. Aleksandravičius

Go on a boat ride
down the river,
which is also a street



Minija village
Šilutė District



Local people call this
village “Venice”. There
are no streets here, and
neighbours go to visit
each other by boat.


George,
USA

“ The water of the lake was smooth as glass. When our legs stopped shaking, we could enjoy the magnificent views all around.

Michail,
Russia

Paddle across
lakes


Aukštaitija
National Park

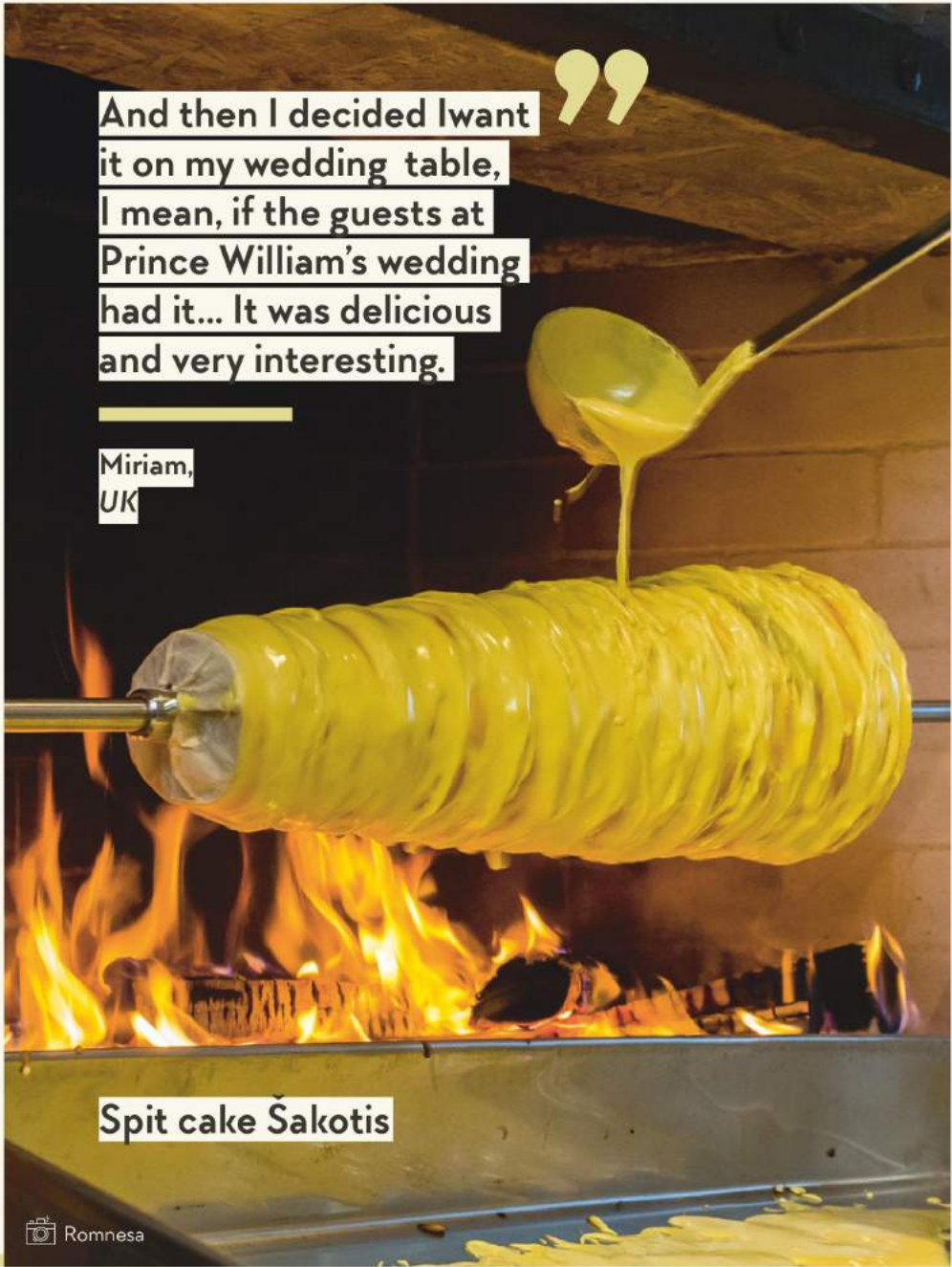
 D. Buragas



Lithuanian Autumn Treasures

When autumn starts painting the roadside forests, we look for its gifts – pumpkins scattered around our fields, mushrooms lost in the woods and apples prancing around the branches of apple-trees. Having harvested our crops, we grind flour and extract oil from flax and hemp. And suddenly our long autumn evenings start smelling like pies and summer memories. Here, take a bite.

 EverySpecialDay



”
And then I decided I want
it on my wedding table,
I mean, if the guests at
Prince William’s wedding
had it... It was delicious
and very interesting.

Miriam,
UK

Spit cake Šakotis



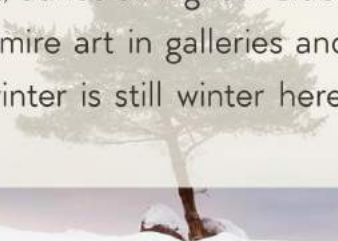
Hemp oil

”
So very fresh and almost alive,
with a very special taste. It is
said that Lithuanians have used
hemp oil since the beginning
of time. In the bottle, which
I’ve brought home with me,
you sort of see tradition and
modernity mixed in one.

Marie,
Japan

WINTER

Lithuanian winters are cold. Bring your eiderdown jacket. Don't forget a hat and a scarf as well. Warm, waterproof boots are also a good idea. You can get some gloves or mittens here, if you like. Woollen ones, decorated with colourful handmade ornaments. Sometimes there's so much snow here around Christmas time that children have to go to Santa Claus on their sledges and pick up the gifts themselves. In winter, you can go skating, ride sleighs pulled by horses with bells jingling, go ice fishing or roll around the snow naked after a boiling wood-scented sauna. When nights become longer than days, we go into the countryside to spend some time in the frost-sparkled peace and quiet, dance all night in clubs filled with music and heat, admire art in galleries and do a lot of sports. Because winter is still winter here.



Five great things to do in Lithuania in winter

1.

Remember your childhood – build a snowman.

2.

Go ice fishing on the Curonian Lagoon.

3.

Decorate a Christmas tree with fruit and vegetables for wildlife.

4.

Drive a go-kart at full speed on an icy lake.

5.

Dive into an ice-hole in a lake after a hot sauna.





The Treetop
Walking Path
Dvaronys village 5
Anykščiai



You've never seen before
trees at that level. And in
the end – the observation
tower – amazing views.

Vatėn,
Israel

See a snow-
covered forest
from up above



Užgavėnės begins on the night before Ash Wednesday, when Morė, an effigy of winter, is burnt. Devils, witches, goats and other joyful and frightening characters appear in costume during the celebrations.

**Thomas,
Ireland**



**Rumšiškės
Kaišiadorys District**

Banish winter from Lithuania in Rumšiškės

 A. Aleksandravičius



**Musteika village
Dzūkija
National Park**



You can forget all problems, concentrating only on the feelings of this special time you spent there. I can't explain it, you have to try it!

**Johannes,
Germany**

Scrub yourself clean with a birch-branch whisk in a sauna

 Ž. Markėnas

Take a walk through juniper treetops



Juniper Valley
Arlaviškės village
Kaunas District



The air is so fresh here
that it takes your breath
away. But, maybe, it's
the junipers giving off
their therapeutic and
disinfecting "fragrance"?

Simon,
Italy



“Cold. Freezing cold. White, clean space all around you and you – soaring underneath the sail. Your thoughts soar together with you, and there’s nothing that could stop you now!”

Rudolf,
Austria



Dusia Lake
Lazdijai District

Raise your sails in
pure white solitude

Take a ride in a sled pulled by huskies

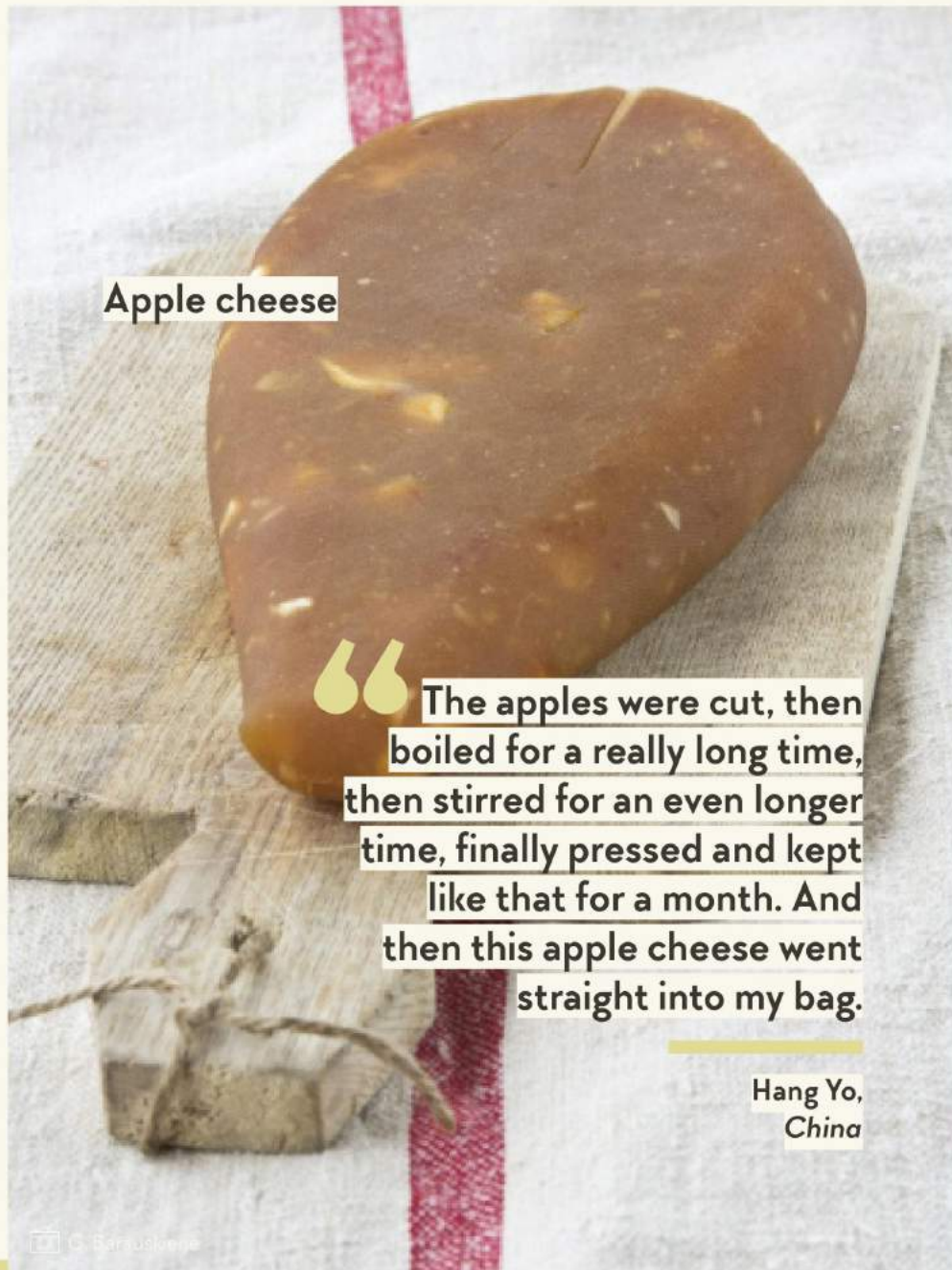
Žalgiris village
Elektrėnai
Municipality

The dogs give you an immense feeling of happiness and joy. Riding in a bundle of warm blankets – it doesn't get better than this. And I've simply fallen in love with the dogs.

Ksena,
UK

Lithuanian Winter Treasures

In winter, we usually eat the goods we collected in summer. We strengthen our health with various herbal teas, we share amongst ourselves the wonderful gifts of forests and we indulge in eating the amazing vitamin-rich goods that our fields and gardens have produced. On Christmas Eve, our tables bear the treasures provided by nature. We've packed something for you, too – take home the things we're so proud of.



Apple cheese

“ The apples were cut, then boiled for a really long time, then stirred for an even longer time, finally pressed and kept like that for a month. And then this apple cheese went straight into my bag.

Hang Yo,
China



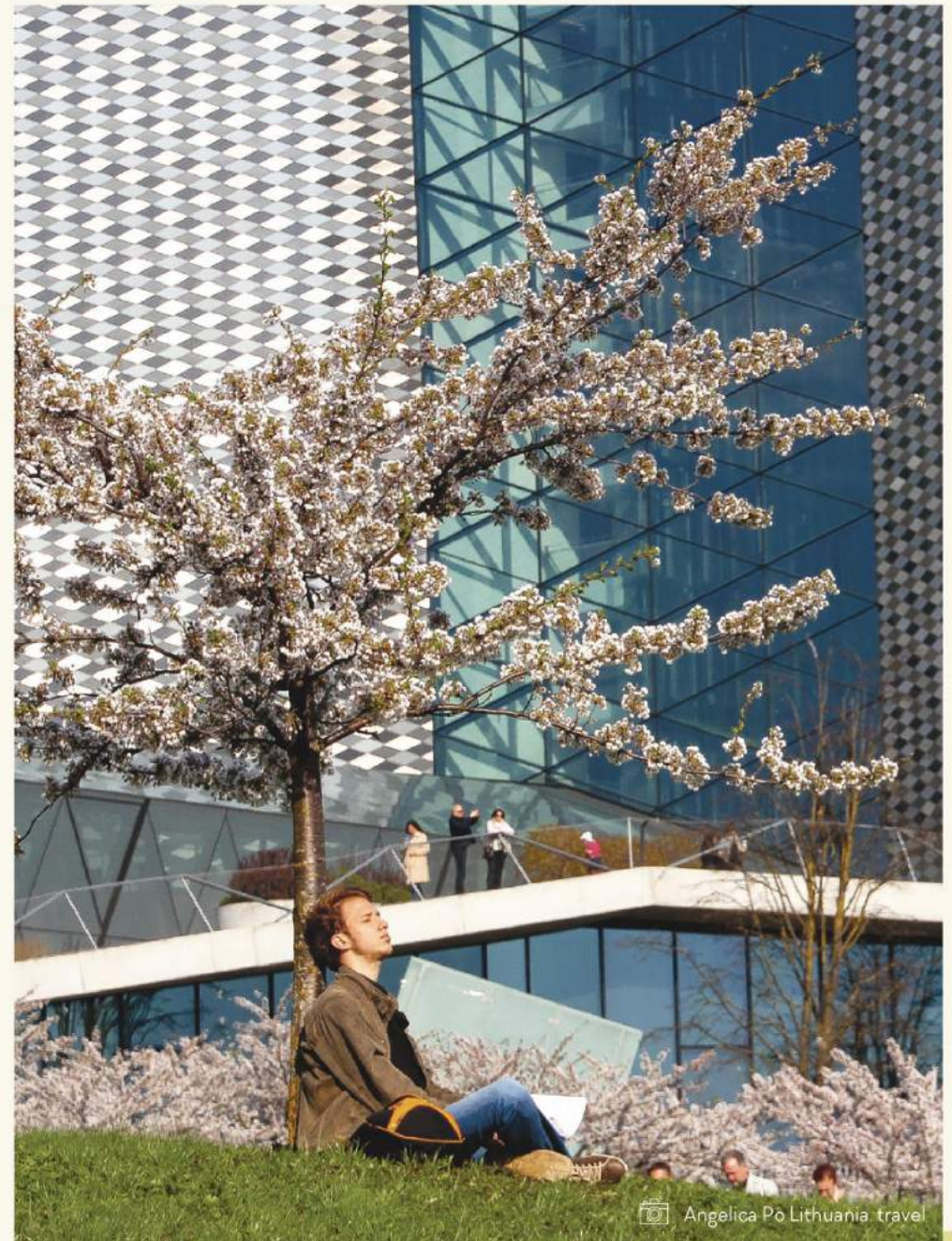
Dried mushrooms

“ You must put the mushrooms in cold water and leave them there for several hours, after that they're ready – put them in a beetroot soup, on some herring or cook the most delicious dumplings with dried mushrooms in the world.

Dorota,
Poland

SPRING

Spring slinks into Lithuania across the sleeping fields. It is as if the earth breathes in and softly whispers: "No more snow". Grass sprouts up and trees come into leaf. Then, in the midst of enchanted nights, trees burst into blossom. Have you ever tried walking on a carpet of white petals soaked in the lingering aroma of apple trees? The blooming is a reminder that night always changes into day, and youth always wins. You can find this inscribed in the history of our young, independent country as well. The things we do in spring? We decorate Easter eggs, pack our backpacks for the first hiking trips, and go to forests, gardens or city parks with friends. We also travel to Pamarys to watch the spring flood and feel incredibly proud of its people. Because life is real here. Just as Lithuania is.



Five awesome things to do in Lithuania in spring

1.

Decorate some Easter eggs.



2.

Gather a bouquet of liverleafs in Neris Regional Park.



3.

Go for an off-road ride in Labanoras Wood.



4.

See the spring flood in Rusnė.



5.


Fly over Trakai Castle and admire 44 lakes.



Vilnius



G. Jucevičius "Mūsų slėnis"



Kernavė offers exceptional testimony to the evolution of human settlements in the Baltic region in Europe over some 10 millennia, with evidence of contact between pagan and Christian funeral traditions.

Romualdo,
Italy

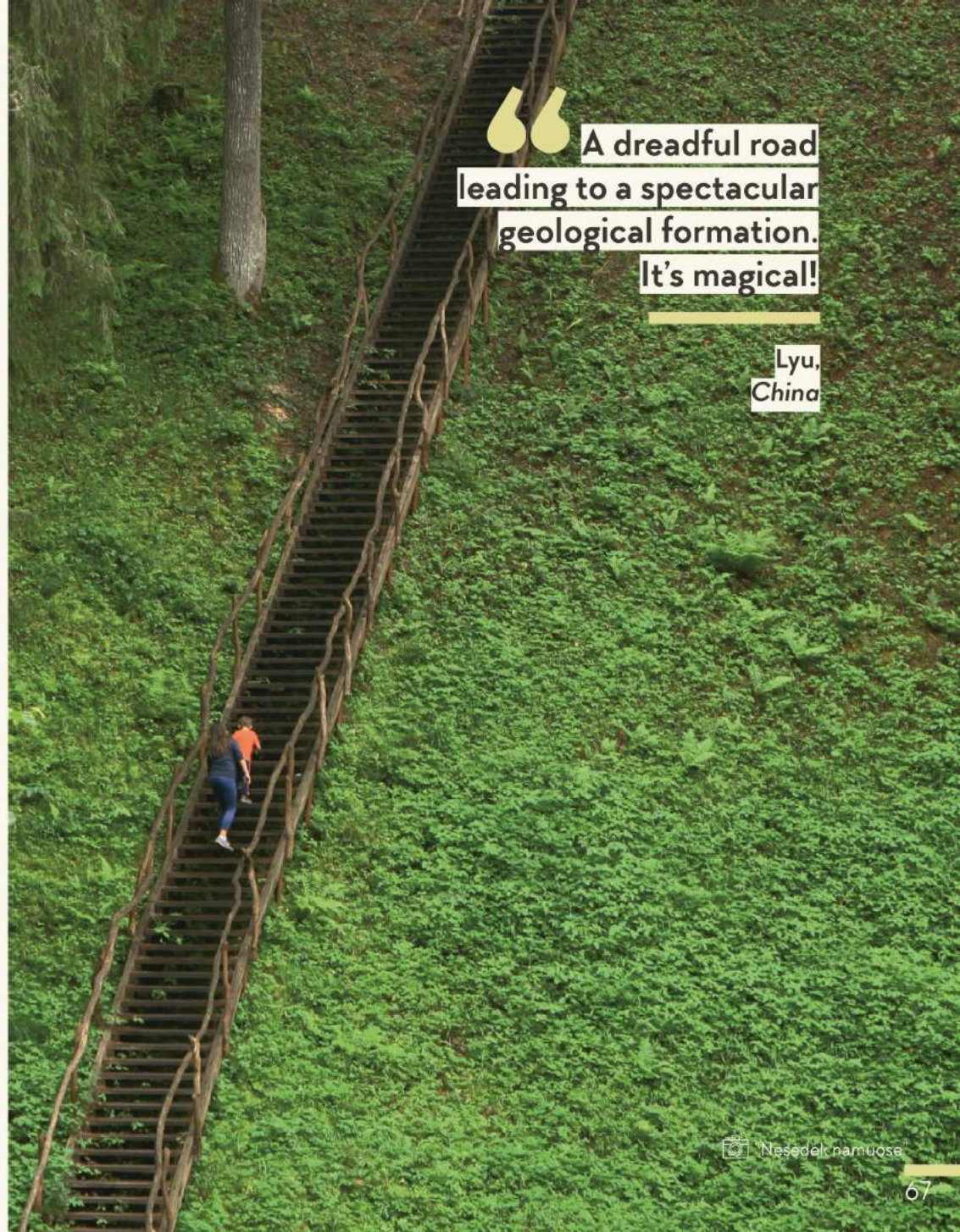
Kernavė
Širvintos District

Climb a mound to meet ancestral spirits



Aukštadvaris
Regional Park

Go down into
the Devil's Pit



“ A dreadful road
leading to a spectacular
geological formation.
It's magical!

Lyu,
China



Pašiliai European
Bison Farm
Panevėžys District



What I saw there reminded me of the old movies about majestic creatures wandering the woods. European bison have been included in the international Red List of endangered species, let's hope these beautiful animals won't disappear off the face of the earth entirely.

Hisashi,
Japan

Meet the king of the woods in Pašiliai

**Go to Birštonas
by boat**



**The views of the banks of
the Nemunas River were
passing by, we bathed in the
greenness of spring and
the pure aroma of water.
Such a romantic trip.**

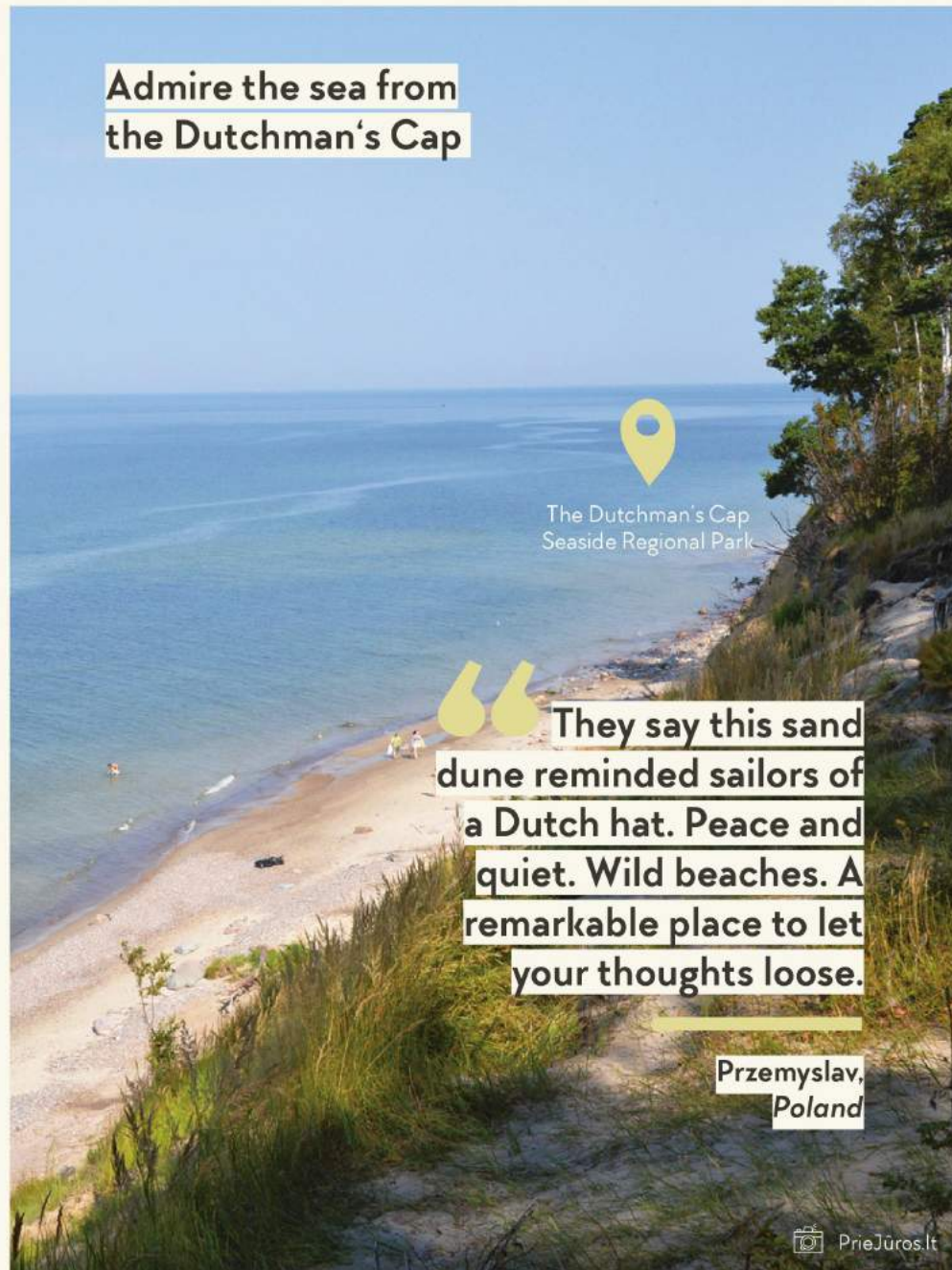
**Delfina,
Scotland**




**Kaunas Lagoon
Regional Park**

 A. Aleksandravičius


**Admire the sea from
the Dutchman's Cap**




**The Dutchman's Cap
Seaside Regional Park**

**They say this sand
dune reminded sailors of
a Dutch hat. Peace and
quiet. Wild beaches. A
remarkable place to let
your thoughts loose.**

**Przemyslaw,
Poland**

 PrieJūros.lt



Tulip Blooming
Festival
Burbiškis Manor
Radviliskis District



A picture-perfect sea of colourful tulips in a strikingly beautiful manor. Every spring, the park hosts the Tulip Festival. And this is such an amazing chance to bring some colour into your life.

Anita,
Norway



River-street
Vaiguva
Plokščiai village
Šakiai District



Maybe it's because there's quite a bit of rain in Lithuania, but there are some villages here where people walk rivers instead of streets. It's really amusing!

Daniel,
Spain

Get your
feet wet

This observation tower reminded my girlfriend of a boat, and to me it looked like the moon. You can observe the lakes nearby from a height of 32 metres. People say they turn pink in summer. It means we have to come back.

Jovanie,
Italy

Reach the moon

Kirkliai
Observation Tower
Biržai Regional
Park

Go hiking along
the Neris River

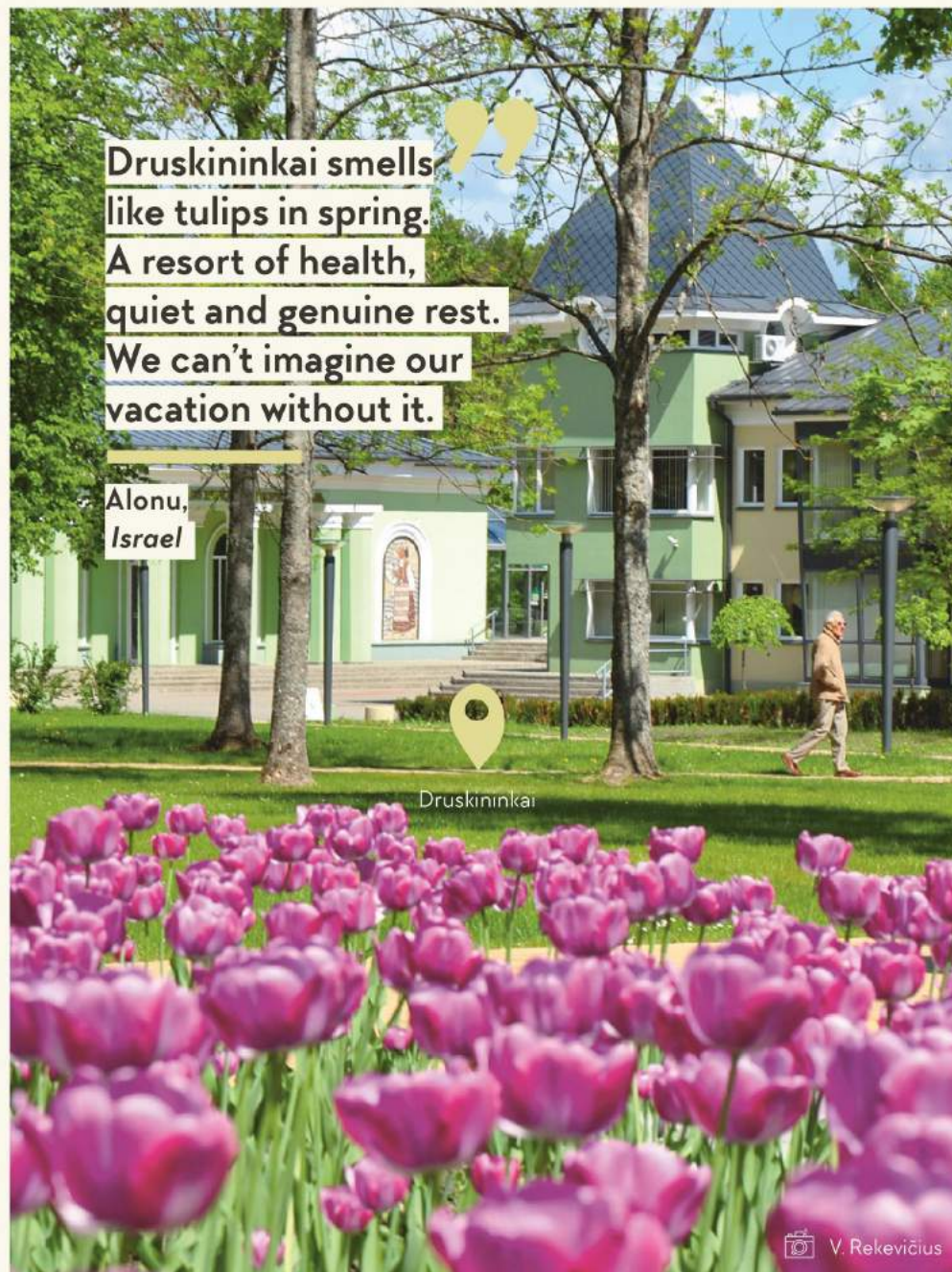


Neris Regional
Park



It was a challenge:
difficult roads, forests
and narrow paths around
mounds. What an
unbelievable day!

Vincent,
France

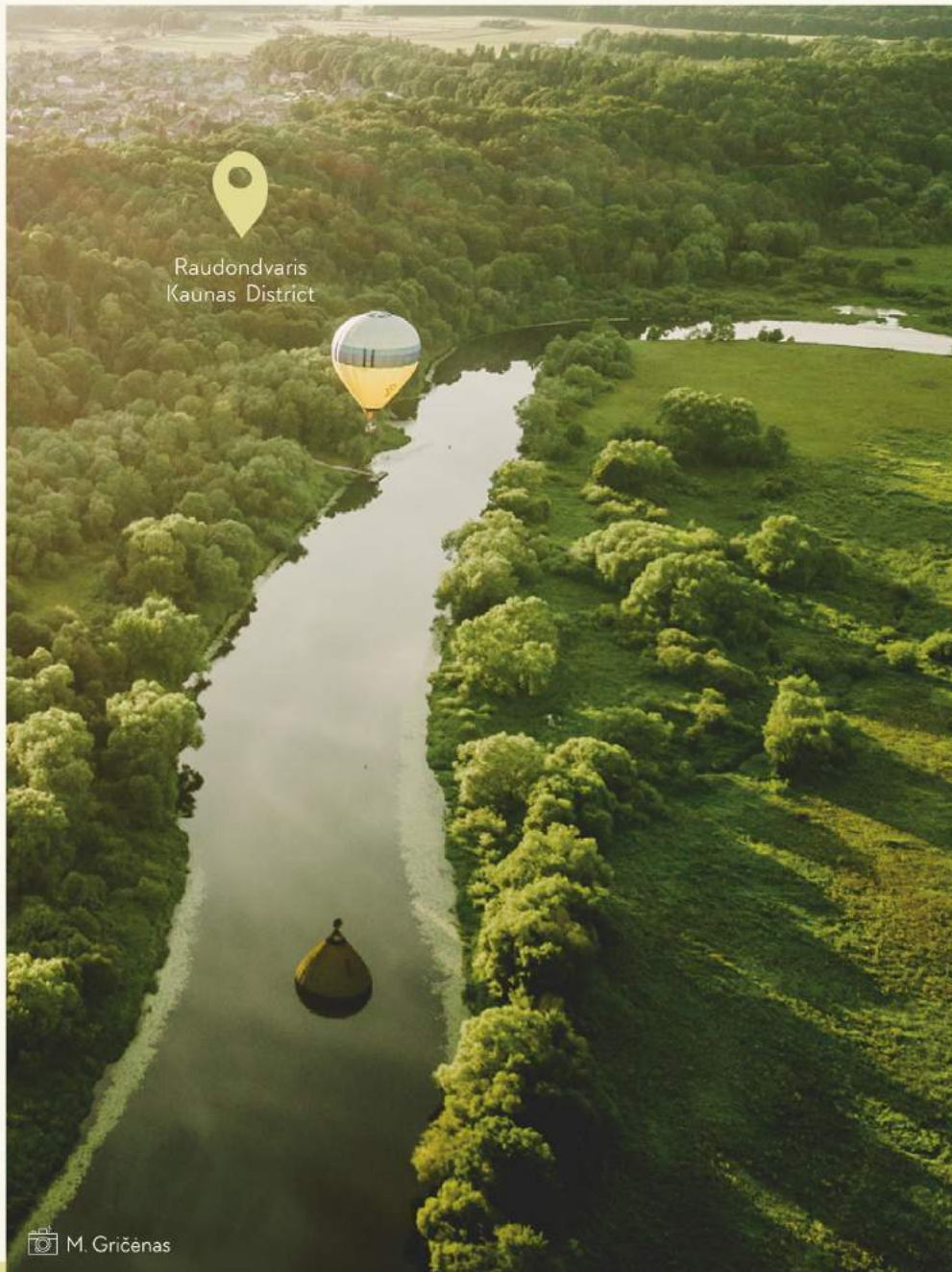


Druskininkai smells
like tulips in spring.
A resort of health,
quiet and genuine rest.
We can't imagine our
vacation without it.

Alonu,
Israel



Druskininkai



Raudondvaris
Kaunas District

M. Gričėnas



Lithuanian Spring Treasures

In spring, we like to go on a diet. We sometimes stop eating meat and can't wait for crunchy radishes to poke their pink noses from the soil, for lettuce leaves to spread out their green beauty, for the first mushrooms to sprout up in forests, and for the first catches of fish in rivers and lakes. A slice of rye bread or a piece of smoke-scented Skilandis (a kind of Lithuanian sausage made with meat, fat, salt, pepper and garlic) brings us back to our childhood. To the place we've come from. Try some, it might work for you, too.

Anusauskas



“My husband eats it like it’s his last meal and would sleep with it under his pillow at night if he could.”

Stacey,
USA

Dark rye bread



“Skilandis”

“Take a very thin slice of “Skilandis”, a normal slice of dark rye bread and a fresh cucumber. That’s all. It is especially good when you are camping in the wild, especially if it’s cold.”

Rack,
UK



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Set your mind free in
the quietude of the sea.

- Ciruliai -



2014-2020 Operational
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M. Kešjonas Kuliešis

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