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Hello! I am the old town of Ukmergė

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Visit Ukmergė, one of the oldest towns in Lithuania. Referring to the legend, once a beautiful girl lived in the local forests, and people called her Vilkmerge ("a wolf's girl"). She saved Tautvilas, Son of Duke Dausprungas, from wolves, who soon built a castle near the river Shventoji and named the place Vilkmerge, and later the name changed to Ukmerge.

Ukmergė is one of the few Lithuanian cities that have preserved their authentic old town. Tourists are always fascinated by historical neo-gothic, neo-renaissance, neo-baroque, neo-classical style brick buildings, by impressive prayer houses of various nations, and cobblestone streets. Ukmergė is one of the oldest towns in Lithuania. Although castles and settlements might have been here much earlier, officially, the foundation of the town dates back to 1333, the year of the first indication of Ukmergė in recorded sources. Walking around the old part of the town, please, pay attention to the arrangement of decisively important natural (geological) objects. The town is "squeezed" by the mound, the river Shventoji and the stream Vilkmergė. In the 19th century, construction of the roads crossing the town center and leading to important Lithuanian cities, and the old public road Warsaw - St. Petersburg greatly influenced the growth of Ukmergė. Today, the crossroads with the surrounding environment are considered a monument of archaeology and urbanism.

1. Ukmergė Mound
2. Ukmergė Old Believers 'Church of St. Guardian Mother of God (Pokrov)

3.1 Path Podole Kamenec

3.2 Path Mirabeliu by the river Shventoji

4. Ukmergė Local History Museum
5. Tower of the old fire station
6. Monument to Lithuanian Independence "Lituania Restituta"
7. Sculpture "Dog Keksas"
8. Castle Park
9. St. Trinity Church
10. "Arts Alley"
11. Former Great Jewish Synagogue
12. Fish Street

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UKMERGĖ



1 UKMERGE MOUND

It is a very old hill, used for defence as early as the first millennium, AD. In the beginning of the 13th century, a wooden castle stood on the top of the mound close to the confluence of the river Shventoji and the stream Vilkmergėlė. It is fascinating, that only two Lithuanian cities - Vilnius and Ukmergė - have such naturally shaped observation areas in the centre of the town. In addition, Ukmergė Mound is considered a state-secured object of real estate cultural heritage. Its slopes are steep and reach the height of 16 metres. A serpentine path constructed of dense metal net with lighting built into the railing leads to the top of the mound.

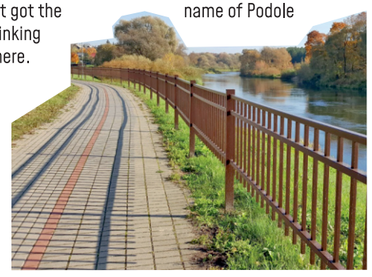
2 UKMERGE OLD BELIEVERS' CHURCH OF ST. GUARDIAN MOTHER OF GOD (POKROV)



It is an exclusive construction of timber architectural heritage. The church was built in 1873. There is a spacious hall for worship on one side, and a living room for the chief priest on the other side there. During World War I, the German army installed stables here. In 2006, the church was renovated and, currently, liturgical prayers for the congregation are held there.

3.1 PATH PODOLE KAMENEC AND 3.2 PATH MIRABELIU BY THE RIVER SHVENTOJI

In 2012, after the shore cleanup of the river Shventoji from Vilnius to Jonas Basanavichius streets, an 800-meter illuminated cycling and walking path was built. It got the name of Podole Kamenec, a Ukrainian partner city of Ukmergė. There is a drinking water station, benches and a children's playground there.





In 2021-2023, a pedestrian Path Mirabeliu with leisure and entertainment areas was built to the west of the bridge along the right bank of the river Shventoji. Path Mirabelių is a one-kilometre walking route with access to the river, a children's playground, recreation and outing areas.

4 UKMERGE MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY



Since the establishment on May 6th, 1944, Ukmergė Museum of Local History has been rearranged several times. A few years ago, it was relocated once more; and this time to the spacious and modernized premises of the ex-cinema "Draugystė", accommodated for the museum purposes. The newly established permanent exhibition of the Museum presents the history and culture of Ukmergė as an integral part of Lithuanian history. Interactive technologies, historical objects and exhibits from various periods stored in the museum enable creation of a cultural space where every visitor - young or old – can get new facts and experience history in action by experimenting with the objects on display.



5 TOWER OF THE OLD FIRE STATION

The 18-meter-high fire station tower was built in the 19th century. The bell, hanging above the observation platform of the tower, served as the town clock, telling the citizens the time. According to the regulation of the time, day and night the guards of the fire brigade observed the situation in the town and its surroundings from the top of the tower. Broadcasting accurate time was a significant function of the fire service and an integral fragment of the town life. Now this unique construction serves a great place to discover the town. A wonderful panorama of the town opens from the top of the tower. Ukmergė Museum of Local History offers a guided tour to the tower of the old fire station, which leaves numerous positive impressions.

6 MONUMENT TO LITHUANIAN IDEPENDENCE "LITHUANIA RESTITUTA"

Monument to the Independence of Lithuania "LITHUANIA RESTITUTA" was built in Kęstutis' Square, the heart of the town, in 1930.
The monument represents a girl, lighting an altar of the holy fire, and the inscription in Latin "Lituania Restituta" - Lithuania restored. Referring to the inter-war print media, it was the tallest memorial in Lithuania, 16.7 m in height. The monument was demolished and buried under the ground in the same place in 1950. When national movement Atgimimas (Revival) started, a decision was achieved to rebuild the original monument matching existing representations and drafts. In 1989, during the extensive community action in Kęstutis Square the lower and upper parts of the 6-meter monument were excavated. The foundation of the monument was arranged and consecrated on May 15, 1989.



9 SAINT TRINITY CHURCH

This Byzantine-style brick church was built in 1869. The chronicle of the Church reveals a lot of changes. In 1788, the territory belonged to the Piori monastery that owned a wooden Piori church. In 1845, tsarist authorities closed out the monastery, and the church was soon burned down. In 1869, a brick Orthodox church was built there. During Soviet regime, the church was closed out, and the building was used as a warehouse, afterward - as a marriage hall. In 1991, the building went back to the Church.



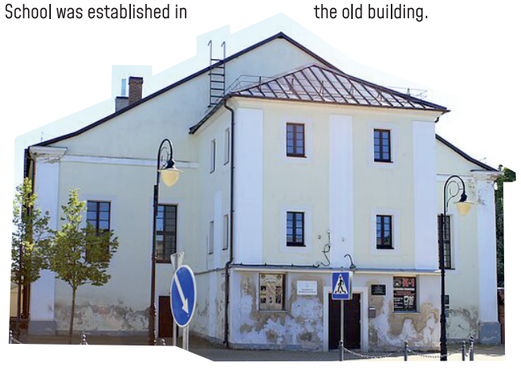
10 "ARTS ALLEY"

"Arts alley" runs along Vienuolynas (Monastery) Street. You can find wonderful samples of art there, e.g., "Haiku bench", Statuette of Pepe Longstocking, fine art projects "Kubas", "Books Bring You Closer ", etc.

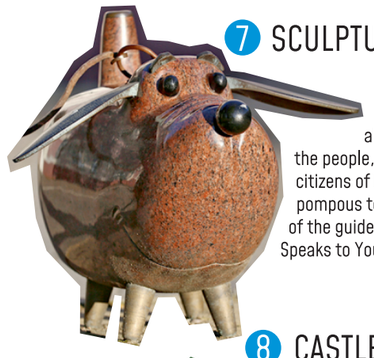


11 FORMER GREAT JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

Great Synagogue used to be the largest and most important Jewish religious foundation in Ukmerge, dated back no later than the 18th century. It was mainly attended by wealthy and well-to-do Jews, who not only prayed there, but also discussed business, trade and other important issues. Originally, Great Synagogue was made of wood, like majority of the buildings in the town. But roughly in 1855, it was rebuilt in brick. In 1877, Great Synagogue was destroyed by the enormous fire, and its reconstruction stared in the same place the same year. The Great Synagogue functioned until 1941. In 1953, a local Sport School was established in the old building.

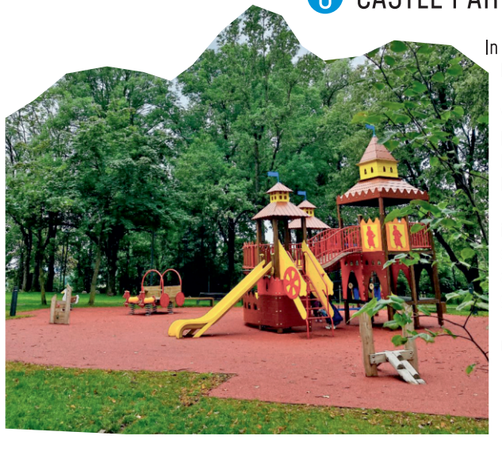


7 SCULPTURE "DOG KEKSAS"



The author of the statuette is Richardas Shirvelis. According to the legend, the dog always remembers and for the rest of his life takes care of the people, who rub friendly its nose, Dog Keksas safeguards both citizens of Ukmergė and visiting tourists, if only they are not too pompous to touch its nose. The statuette of the dog is an element of the guided sightseeing route of talking sculptures "The Town Speaks to You".

8 CASTLE PARK



In the 14th century, the wooden mound castle was burned down and a new brick castle was built on the hill on the other side of the stream Vilkmergėlė. Since then, the town of Ukmergė began to expand and got the Rights of Magdeburg. Large markets and trade fairs were held. But in the 19th century, the castle was finally destroyed. Minimum information about its shape or location is available because its story is covered by legends. Nowadays, there is a green Castle Park, the slopes of which open a great view of the town. There are three lookout towers and children's playgrounds in the newly renovated park.



12 FISH STREET

The street is known as the place of the famous community fish market and the sight of one of the biggest fights in Ukmergė. There is still a fragment of the former store name "Various goods Ch. Galaitė-Oguzienė" on the wall of the house at Street Zhuvų 7, that used to be a shop during the inter-war period. There used to be more stores and diverse workshops in this street. In 1926, Jewish Religious Community of Ukmergė was registered there. Today, the life in the street is also very dynamic. There are studios, beauty salons, various shops there.