

# 1st GUIDED TOUR:

## Castles of Panemune and Smalininkai WGS



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 but their impressive towers and strong walls may be deceptive. Only a couple of kilometers away from Kaunas limits is **Raudondvaris** with its castle-like a red brick manor, built in 16-17th centuries. Further on you will pass **Raudone**, a castle with a 33,5 m fairy-tale like gothic tower now used as a school. It was originally built in the late 16th century and rebuilt after suffering heavy damage in World War 2. Finally, there is the Renaissance **Panemune** castle. Dating to 1604 now it houses a museum and you may climb on its mighty towers. The castle is being restored, the surrounding park is still providing a nice stroll. Also we will visit **Smalininkai**. It is small city, where is the oldest water gauging station (1812-2016).



The Raudondvaris Manor is the monument of the beginning of the 17th century of Renaissance architecture in Lithuania.

Historians claim that the castle had been started building by Kaunas chamberlain, Wojciech Dzewaltowski in the second half of the 16th century. Later, the castle estate was owned by a number of prominent Lithuanian nobility.

During the First World War and the Second World War, the German armed forces destroyed the castle a lot. The Great Tower of the Raudone Castle was also damaged and much of the construction was badly affected. After the Second World War, the Raudone Castle was rebuilt and a primary school was established here, which works till nowadays and is the only one school located in the castle in Lithuania.



The Panemune Castle was erected on the right shore of Nemunas river. The castle was built by Hungarian nobleman Eperjesh who bought the surrounding lands from Lithuanian local inhabitants. The nowadays Panemune Castle was built as his luxurious residence in 1610. Since then until 1925 the castle was a private property.



Smalininkai is situated in the former samogitian part of Memelland on the right-hand shore of the Nemunas River. It was a part of German East Prussia and was called Schmallingken. It was a part of Lithuania between 1923 - 1939 and since the World War II.

