VILNIUS

let's go! maršrutą su nuotykiaisime!
Simas! Vilkis has disappeared! I need you! / Where are you? / At the Cathedral, come over! / OK!

1. So, what happened? 2. I was sitting watching the skateboarders in the square, and suddenly Vilkis was gone! Just like that!
He might have wandered over to the Vilnelė. He and I have had some good walks by the river.

Hm-mm ... yes. He was trying to hide a bone in the Bernardine Garden yesterday, but we were told to leave, for digging a hole in the garden and for bringing a dog in, remember? He might have gone back to get his bone.
Let's go, we might find him there. Vilki!

VAROM, GAL RASIME JI TEN!

VILKI!!!

He was digging somewhere around here ... Vi-il-ki-is!
1. Hi, I see you're interested in our medicinal herb garden? Sorry, but we don't grow wolfsbane here, the berries are very poisonous. In the 15th century, when the Bernardine monks started a garden here to grow medicinal plants, they used it for themselves and to treat others. Yarrow, coneflower ... 2. Oh no! You don't understand! We've lost our dog Vilkis.
1. You mean you’re looking for a dog in this herb garden? 4. Oh! Something’s not right here...
Ecclesia is not a plant. It means “a church” in Latin. St Anne’s Church!

1. What could it mean? Is it some kind of sign? / You’re in the heart of Vilnius, the most ancient and mysterious place, so it could be anything. / Shall we go St Anne’s? 2. Run along!
Go past Vilnius’ oldest oak tree, and past the Art Academy bridge. Only, don’t trample on everything!
2. Dear Oak, have you seen my dog Vilkis? / Come on, Aistė, stop that. We'll find him without your pagan nonsense. 3. All right, all right. I'm just trying everything I can!

1. It's like looking for needle in a haystack. 2. It's locked! Wow! A handle with the devil's head! / And what's this?!
1. Strange writing... / It's some kind of map! 2. With a wolf sign! / Maybe it's a map? / And a kitten! / Where's the kitten?! / There! Oops... it's gone... 3. I don't understand... It looks like a picture of a castle... / Let's go to Pilies Street. It's not far from here.

1. Ouch! / Mind your head. Did you know that in the Middle Ages the streets here were four metres lower? I read somewhere... 2. Ah yes, Mum told me she went to some cellar in the Amber Museum where you can see how people lived in those times. / Shall we have a look? / Maybe not now... I miss Vilkis...
Beautiful lady, how's your sweetheart? / What a lot of people, we won't find anybody. / Maybe it's time to call Mum?

1. Vilgaudas, don't begin all that again ... / But he's hanging around at John's, I'll go and get him, with all his airs and graces! / Vilgaudas! Don't! 2. Did you hear that?! They're going to catch Vilkis at John's! / John's? That must be the church of the two St Johns? Let's go to the church! There's a bell tower there, you can see everything from the top.
1. This place has always frightened me. A bricked-up balcony and a skull. It’s awful.

2. How would you like a picture of a kitten? Or sunflowers? To scare away the demons, ha-ha! How funny. My sweetheart’s picture by my bed is enough.

2. Look, Google maps shows we’re here. The bell tower of the Church of St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist.
Ugh, what a lot of spiders!
Wow, what a view!

Hey, kid, don't fall! / What does it matter? I've seen much worse things. / What do you mean?
1. It's an old story. I once spent the night in the church to watch over the body of a rich man. Some men came to the window desperate for money, threatened me and told me to take all the rings from the hand of the dead man. I don't know why, but I agreed ... But the worst was still to come. The corpse sat up in its coffin, shouting at the top of its voice: 'Accursed Brothers, save me!'

1. Then the tombstones started cracking open, and hundreds of skeletons crept out of the crypt towards me! After that, I'm not afraid to sit here ... / Simas, look! It's a ghost! Aaargh! 3. Let's get out of here!
This day is turning into a nightmare! / Just don't look back! / The map, meow!

1. Phew, I'm out of breath! So we made it to the Town Hall, in only one minute! 2. Did you hear what that cat was meowing about? Something about a map. / I think you're imagining things ... But I'd like to know what this code means ... / I think it's got something to do with Vilkis. / It would be very strange, but maybe you're right ... Shall we give it a try?
Look, I'm sick of this Sherlock Holmes stuff getting us nowhere. Let's go home. / What about Vilkis? I'm listening to my intuition, and I feel that everything has a meaning.

Hmm ... We've come to another place on the map. And what's next? / Look! Isn't that Vilkis?
I'm so glad you showed up, children.

This little doggie wandered into my café this morning, and I've been wondering what to do with him. It seems he likes my bagels, though. What a sweet tooth he's got! / Thank you so much for looking after him!
I can’t believe it! It’s changed ... The map’s changed! / So shall we explore the town tomorrow, too? I’ve really enjoyed it.

‘Exciting adventures and discoveries are waiting for you on every street in Vilnius, in every square, or just around the corner. Go out, turn around on the spot three times, and maybe something unexpected will happen.’
Katedra → Bernardinų sodas → Šv. Onos bažnyčia → Gintaro muziejus (Šv. Mykolo g. 8) → Pilės gatvė → Šv. Jonų bažnyčia ir varpinė → Rotušė → Geto aukų aikštė (Cemacho Šabado paminklas)


2. Žengdami pro Bernardinų sodo vartus, atsiminkite svarbią pasivaikščiojimą po Vilnių taisyklę – žvalgytis ir į šonus, ir aukštyn! Jums iš kairės ant kalno boluoja Trijų Kryžių paminklas, matote? Bernardinų sodo (anksčiau vadintame Šventaragio slėnyje) galima smagią leisti laiką, važiuoti dviračiu, rieduliais, riedlente, ilsėtis prie Vilnelės, viliotis ant parko vejos, rengti iškylas, žaisti šachmatais, supiltis karuselėmis, žiūrėti kino filmus... 2013 m. atkurta Bernardinų sodas – labai graži ir rami vieta pačioje miesto širdyje. Šalia jėjimo nuo Šv. Bruno gatvės auga seniausias Vilniaus ažuolas, kurio amžius siekia 400 metų. Šią vietovę atkovojo ir iš pelkės klestėjo sodu pavertė bernardinų vienuoliai ir Vilniaus universiteto mokslininkai.


Šiaudų ryšulėlis prie durų reiškė, kad viduje veikia smuklė. Joje žmogus galėjo ne tik pavalgyti ir apsinakvoti, bet ir pašerti savo žirgą, tad galima sakyti, kad smuklė kadaise atstojo ir restoraną, ir viešbutį, ir degalinę.


1. **The Cathedral Basilica**, usually referred to simply as Vilnius Cathedral, is the main Lithuanian Catholic church, for celebrating the most important religious feasts. Cathedral Square is another important location, the site of the founding of the city. It is in the legendary Šventaragis Valley, where the pagan rulers of Lithuania were cremated, and Perkūnas was worshipped. The crypt of the Cathedral holds the remains of grand dukes and other important people who were buried here (the crypt can be viewed only by advance arrangement). Can you see the pink paving stones on the square? They show the outline of the old wall that used to enclose the Lower Castle. The castles area was surrounded by water. In the square, there is a monument to Grand Duke Gediminas, who is considered to be the founder of the city, mainly because of his mention of it in letters he sent in 1323.

2. When you go through the gate of the **Bernardinų Garden**, remember a very important rule in visiting Vilnius: look up and around you! On the hill to your left gleams the white Monument of Three Crosses. Can you see it? The Bernardinų Garden (it was once called the Youth Gardens) is a place for enjoyment: cycling, roller-skating, skateboarding, sitting by the River Vilnelė, rolling on the lawns, picnicking, playing chess, having a ride on the merry-go-round, and watching films. The oldest oak tree in Vilnius, about 400 years old, is by the entrance from Šv. Brunono St. Restored in 2013, the Bernardinų Garden is a beautiful and quiet place in the heart of the city, originally reclaimed from marshes and turned into a flourishing garden by Franciscan friars and the scholars of Vilnius University.

3. Built 500 years ago, **St Anne’s Church** is the most handsome Late Gothic structure in Lithuania; the style is also called Flamboyant Gothic. At that time, Gothic buildings in Western Europe were built of soft stone, which was also used for sculptures and other decorative features. That stone was unavailable in Vilnius; therefore, an unknown architect designed bricks in 33 different shapes, and used them like pieces of Lego to compose the façade of the church. Go up closer to the main door and look at the handle. What do you see? A little devil, of course.

4. The **basement of the Amber Museum** (8 Šv. Mikolo St). It is worth descending into the basement of the museum to learn how citizens of Vilnius used to live in the Middle Ages! The present basement level was their ground floor or street level. People worked here, and stored goods. The buildings on the busier streets housed little shops with living quarters above them. Most citizens in Medieval Vilnius had smallholdings with enclosed backyards, a vegetable patch, a barn and livestock ... The streets were not laid out, and housewives threw dirty water out of their windows and open doors ... Can you imagine the stench! Later on, gutters were dug along the streets for waste and rainwater to run down, and the streets were given wooden pavements. The streets were crooked, as they had developed naturally along roads that wound their way around the houses.

5. **Pilies St** is the main street in the Old Town, and dates back to the Middle Ages. It used to link the castle with the Town Hall and the market square, which formed the heart of the city. Rich merchants and craftspeople would live on this street, and priests used to live close to the Cathedral. At that time, few people
could read, and they found what they needed by following the signs. A bundle of straw signified an inn. People could get food and lodging there, and fodder for a horse. Indeed, we could say that an old inn was a restaurant, hotel and petrol station, all in one.

6. When you go past the Church of St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist on Pilies St, look up at the ornate sculptural plaque laid into the wall, complete with a skull. It marks the burial place of a famous person. Did you know that old churches used to be burial places too? Not only priests, but also rich townsfolk, knights and nobles were buried in the church of the two St Johns.

An old legend tells us of people buried in the church rising from the dead. ‘Two hundred years ago, a rich Vilnius citizen passed away. His relatives wanted a solemn funeral for him, and arranged it in what was then the most ornate church in the city. The deceased was laid out in his coffin in splendid burial clothes, and with expensive rings on his hands. The crowd of mourners included a couple of crafty finger robbers, who had their eyes on the treasure on the dead person’s hands. The church was locked up securely for the night, and the boy who usually guarded it stayed to watch over the coffin. The robbers called the boy over to them, and threatened him so badly that he agreed to steal the rings and pass them to the robbers through the window. As soon as he touched the hand, the corpse jumped up in its coffin, with its eyes wide open, shouting: “Accursed brothers, come and rescue me!” A terrible din of splitting burial stones filled the church, the lids of crypts and coffins broke, and hundreds of ghosts appeared. The boy took his fingers off the dead man’s hand, and fled up the steps into the organ loft. The skeletons tried every way they could to reach him, but did not manage to break down the door. These horrors lasted all night, until the cock crowed. In the morning, when people came to unlock the church, they found the boy half-dead, and the church full of bones, broken coffins and a terrible smell. Most of the coffins and sarcophagi in the crypts were broken, and there were broken skeletons scattered all over the place ... The coffins used to hold rich men, nobles, politicians, worthy knights, and even priests. Only a few of them were intact, in which Jesuit priests rested in eternal peace.’

The bell tower of the Church of St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist adjacent to Vilnius University provides another chance to get a view of Vilnius. There is an entry fee, but the experience is worth it. Don’t miss Foucault’s Pendulum inside the bell tower. It’s a simple device conceived as an experiment to demonstrate the rotation of the Earth.

7. The Town Hall is the seat of the municipal government, and is usually built in the main square of the town. In former times, it housed not only the rulers’ offices, but also courts, the treasury, archives and an armoury. The cellars served as a prison, and the place even had an executioner. It also housed the town theatre. Our grandparents can remember how the Town Hall was turned into an art gallery. These days, it hosts all kinds of events, concerts, book launches, exhibitions and festivals. The building is decorated with the coat of arms of the city, St Christopher carrying the child Jesus on his shoulder.

Ghetto Victims Square in the Old Town is the site of a monument to the physician Tsemakh Shabad, who lived in Vilnius and became the prototype for the character of Doctor Oh-It-Hurts. People remember him being so kind that he treated children and animals for free. This sculpture, showing the doctor caring for a girl with a cat, was made by the sculptor Romualdas Kvintas. You can stroke the cat’s nose for good luck.
Vilnius. Eime!


Vilnius. Let’s go!

You have in your hands the first adventure walk in Vilnius by Aistė and Simas. It’s a picture story about two friends who are looking for their dog, but they find much more: mysterious historic places in the town and unusual people. If you follow these characters, you’ll visit eight important places in Vilnius, and find something new and unseen. So... let’s go!