

# THE CHEST GAZETTE

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## Uzupis

Užupis is the eastern part of Vilnius on the right bank of Vilnelė river. In the 16th century, after enclosing the city with a defensive wall, Užupis was only a suburb which was connected to the city by three bridges. The city separated from the suburbs legally a well. Užupis became inhabited by craftsmen, salesmen and clergymen. Later the Jewish people moved in. In the 19th century Vilnius University students, philomaths and philaretics often visited the beautiful places of Užupis. During the Soviet era, Užupis became a very shabby district: the buildings were old, not renovated, most of them did not have water supply, central heating.

A couple of decades ago, artists and other bohemian people moved into this dilapidated and not very reputable area: they rented houses, workshops, and started new lives in abandoned houses. Eventually, Užupis became a bohemian district, and on 1 April, 1998 (Fools' Day in Lithuania) the community declared the independence of Užupis . This district also has its own constitution, flag and other necessary state attributes. Today Užupis is a prestigious bohemian district of Vilnius, full of visualizations and new projects, many cafes, restaurants, art galleries.



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