



VYTAUTO DIDŽIOJO
UNIVERSITETAS

Kultūros tyrimų centras

International conference
RELIGIOUS HERITAGE AND TOURISM

17th October, 2013
Aula Magna, Gimnazijos g. 7,
Kaunas, Lithuania

CALL FOR PAPERS

The aim of the international conference is to establish scholarly discussion about the concept of religious heritage tourism and to develop the possibilities of more profound knowledge of religious heritage in Lithuania and Latvia. Religious heritage is closely related to traditional cultural heritage and its continuity in contemporary societies, distinguishing religious communities as a particular dimension of overall cultural heritage. One of the conference goals is to develop closer relations between researchers, religious communities and other sectors in society. These relations would not only benefit the gathering of information, but also raise the awareness of religious diversity in Lithuanian and Latvian society and enhance the development of religious tolerance. Religious heritage tourism is able to approach unknown layers of the spirituality of traditional and new religious societies. By increasing the international community's attention to the unique features of Lithuanian and Latvian religious heritage, the project will also promote intercultural dialogue.

We further intend to promote awareness of the tourism potential of the diverse religious heritage of Lithuania and Latvia, and to take concrete steps toward developing 'religious heritage tourism' by bringing together academics, religious authorities, government officials and tourism professionals to discuss both the theoretical concept of religious heritage and practical issues necessary for the development of religious heritage tourism at particular sites. This meeting will also offer opportunities for different religious communities to improve their relations and mutual understanding through cooperation on the common goal of developing religious heritage tourism.

Conference tracks:

- Concept of religious heritage
- Social networks and intercultural communication
- Forms of religious tourism
- Religious tourism and intercultural dialogue
- Religious tourism impact on the cultural and social environment
- Religious tourism: commercialization vs. spirituality
- Places of religious heritage suitable for tourist visitation in Lithuania and Latvia
- Places of worship: festivals and sacred sites
- Organization of religious heritage tourism in specific regions of Lithuania and Latvia

Please submit your abstract (200 words) with your name and institutional affiliation by August 30th, 2013 via e-mail: a.kairaityte@hmf.vdu.lt

Languages: English, Lithuanian.

Each paper will be given 20 minutes for presentation.

Registration fee: 40 Lt

Selected articles would be published in journal of interdisciplinary research studies „Grupės ir aplinkos – Groups and environments“.

Organizing institute: Vytautas Magnus University, Faculty of Humanities, Centre for Cultural Studies.

Conference committee: Dr. Michael Strmiska (State University of New York); Dr. Anita Stasulane (Daugavpils University); Dr. Egidija Ramanauskaitė (Vytautas Magnus University); Dr. Benas Ulevičius (Vytautas Magnus University); Dr. Aušra Kairaitytė (Vytautas Magnus University); Dr. Darius Liutikas (Lithuanian Social Research Centre).

Organizing committee: Dr. Aušra Kairaitytė (Vytautas Magnus University); Gintaras Jaronis (Vytautas Magnus University); Agnė Kalėdienė (Vytautas Magnus University).