

## Arrival in Klaipeda:

Klaipeda's busy harbor covers a vast area. Yet its remote location requires an hour long trip from here to the city.



Active freight terminal.



Terminal with cranes.

Ships from all nations anchor here, but (too) many piers remain empty during a sluggish economy.

The rough environmental conditions, as well as the port's strategic location,



Dredging barge.

necessitate a regime of constant repairs and maintenance.

A trip through Klaipeda's business district reveals some stylish infrastructure.

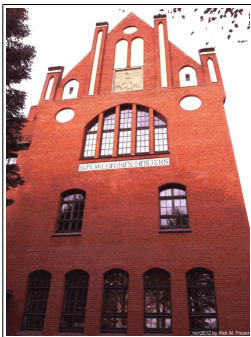


Hotel/Office Park at Naujojo Sodo.



Alongside the main thoroughfare.

But a large part of the city's downtown consists of aging brick & mortar buildings.



The former German Royal Seminar.

The last remnants of a once vibrant German presence in town are left as lost mementos to a bygone era.



Memorial for German WW2 refugees.

The aboriginal inhabitants of Prussia were not ethnic Germans, but had been conquered by the crusading German Order in medieval times.



Lithuania doesn't hide its German

The ancient Prussians (aka "Pruzzen") were a proud and stubborn Baltic people, that got assimilated by the Germans, after their crushing defeat in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

history.

### **The former Memel's downtown:**

The historic buildings near the old port district have been carefully preserved.



*Nearby the  
Old Port Hotel.*



*Old fashioned  
sailing yacht.*

The inner water way is also popular for new residential buildings and private recreation.

While the train's passenger cabins originate from the post Soviet era, the same can unfortunately not be said of the railway's remaining infrastructure.



*Clean Cabins &  
Dirty Service*

The railway employee's barely hidden hostility towards customer service could make any communist apparatchik proud.

The entrance to the one and only trans-national railroad is a mix of aging decay and modern expansion.



*Klaipeda's main  
railway station.*



*A Soviet era  
steam behemoth.*

A few token tributes to the tourist trade are strategically placed throughout the city.

## Currency:

Lithuania became a member of the European Union on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2004, but they have not yet joined the *Euro* zone yet.

Thus they still operate on their own local currency, until now.



*Litas bills, the top two depicting images of Lithuania's capital Vilnius.*

But joining the Euro zone is the paramount goal for all Baltic nations, since the complete EU-Integration is seen by most in the Baltic Nations as the best defense against the ever looming stranglehold embrace of Russia.