



National parks of Lithuania

Lithuania has got 5 National parks:

1. Aukštaitija National Park
2. Dzūkija National Park
3. The Curonian Spit National Park
4. Trakai Historical National Park
5. Žemaitija National Park

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Education and Culture
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COMENIUS

Aukštaitija National Park

Aukštaitija (Highland) National Park is the oldest national park in Lithuania.

It was founded in 1974.
The park is on the north-eastern Lithuania.

The authority is located in Palūšė.

Park area takes 40,574 ha,
the water holds 15.5 % .

Forests takes 69 % of the territory.

The park is rich of the landscape and nature conservation.



Tauragnas Lake is the deepest in Lithuania !



The park offers great views of the lakes, cultivated fields and forests. 126 lakes are in this park.

Ladakalnis Mount

The oak stands on Ladakalnis Mount. You can see 7 lakes from this place. There is a tradition to take some small stones and bring to the peak of this mount and leave near the oak.



The famous places to see flora are Palūšė, Ažvinčiai, Ginučiai, Varniškės, Kaziliškis. Forests cover 70% of park's area, mostly pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) stands. They are 60 years old in average, though in Ažvinčiai Wood there are some pine stands older than 200 years. The largest woods are Ažvinčiai Wood (4603 ha) and Minčia Wood (2964 ha).



This picture is of Ginučiai Watermill



Fungi

Aukštaitija National Park is very rich in fungi – there are 633 species. 133 species of them are low fungi including 14 species which were found the first time in Lithuania.



The chanterelle



The edible boletus

Flora of the Aukštaitija National Park consists of more than 800 species of vascular plants. 60 species of vascular plants, 2 of liverworts and 7 species of mosses are included to the Red Data Book.



The ghost orchid
(*Epipogium aphyllum*),



The
pasqueflower



The rattlesnake fern
(*Botrychium matricariifolium*)

Fauna: 1. Insects

About 650 beetle species which represent 56 families were found in the park. The most abundant are weevils.

More than 40 species of dragonflies were found in the park as well.

Big collection of butterflies is presented for park visitors in the Palūšė Visitor Centre



2. Fish

Lakes of Aukštaitija National Park are home for 35 fish species, which represent 13 families.

There can be found

Common bream
(*Abramis brama*), white
bream (*Blicca bjoerkna*),
roach (*Rutilus rutilus*),
perch (*Perca fluviatilis*),
pike (*Esox lucius*) and
common bleak
(*Alburnus alburnus*)



The white bream



3. Reptiles & amphibians

The most common reptiles and amphibians are smooth newt (*Triturus vulgaris*), the pool frog (*Rana lessonae*), lake (marsh) frog (*Rana ridibunda*), the moor frog (*Rana arvalis*), the common (grass) frog (*Rana temporaria*), the poisonous snake (*Vipera berus*), the grass snake (*Natrix natrix*)

The pool frog (*Rana lessonae*),



The poisonous snake (*Vipera berus*),

4. Birds



The sparrow (*Passeriformes*)

- At present **209 bird species** are spotted in the park. 151 species of them stay here for breeding. The biggest diversity is among sparrows (*Passeriformes*) – 86 species. There are 8 species of woodpeckers and 6 species of owls.
- The biggest treasure and something to be proud of are 51 bird species from the Red Data Book. 45 species are protected at European level.

5. Mammals

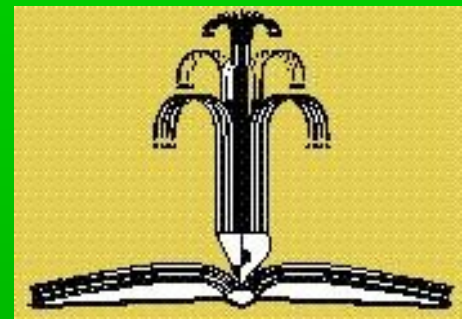
Aukštaitija National Park is a home for about **50 species of mammals**. These are beavers (*Castor fiber*), Red squirrels (*Sciurus vulgaris*), Red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), Wolves (*Canis lupus*), Raccoon dogs (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*), lynxes (*Lynx lynx*) Eurasian badgers (*Meles meles*), Wild boars (*Sus scrofa*) and Roe deers (*Capreolus capreolus*) and elks (*Alces alces*).



The beaver (*Castor fiber*),



A group from Panevėžys 'Verdenė' school



- Lithuanian teacher-Minolė Petronytė Kairienė
- English teacher – Inga Subačienė
- Student - Jonas Zigmantavičius
- Student- Karolis Stanynas
- Student-Roberta Aukštikalnytė
- Student-Agnė Janevičiūtė