

FROM THE LOST SHTETL TO THE FLOURISHING SHTOT



One-Day Cultural Route in Northern Lithuania

Set out on a meaningful journey that connects the “Lost Shtetl” museum in Šeduva and the Chaim Frenkel Villa museum in Šiauliai into one cohesive cultural experience.



Šeduva

16 sites in Šeduva,
3 sites of Jewish mass killings in
the Pakuteniai and Liaudiškiai forests





39 km

Šiauliai

Square of the Righteous Among the Nations,
gates of the Šiauliai ghettos,
Frenkel Factory Synagogue,
Venclauskiai House-Museum



CHAIMAS
FRENKELIS
VILLA-MUSEUM

Šeduva Jewish History Museum

LOST SHTETL



Šeduva Jewish History Museum “Lost Shtetl” (14 Žvejų St., Šeduva) invites visitors to discover a lost world – the small towns where Jewish communities lived and created for centuries, shaping the cultural identity of Lithuania and the wider region. Through historical documents, photographs, town maps, and video testimonies, the exhibition reconstructs everyday life in the shtetl, its social and religious life, and presents professions, community traditions, and individual human stories.

The museum introduces visitors to the everyday life, traditions, crafts, and community structure of the shtetl – the small town with a large Jewish community that existed in Lithuania before the Second World War.

This introduction to shtetl culture and history creates an important historical and emotional context for a further journey to Šiauliai – a city where the Jewish community contributed to the development of modern industry, culture, and society.



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Chaim Frenkel Villa Museum



The Chaim Frenkel Villa museum (74 Vilniaus St., Šiauliai), with its surrounding park and an impressive rose garden established to mark the centenary of the restoration of Lithuanian statehood, invites visitors to explore the history of the Frenkel family and the Jewish community of Šiauliai.

In 1908, Chaim and Dora Frenkel built a villa next to their thriving leather processing factory – a two-story residential house. It is one of the few surviving early 20th-century examples of Art Nouveau (Secession/Jugendstil) architecture in Lithuania. The building's façade combines elements of various styles, while the authentic interior stands out for its wooden finishes and elaborate stucco decoration.

The museum exhibition "The Frenkel Family, Industrialists" tells the story of two generations of the Frenkel family and the Jewish community of Šiauliai, as well as their role in the city's economic and cultural life. The reconstructed interiors of the industrialists' home allow visitors to experience the lifestyle, traditions, and values of a modern Jewish family from the late 19th to the early 20th century.



En route

16 sites in Šėduva (Jewish houses, the former synagogue site, and memorials), marked with blue cards featuring QR codes that lead to audio stories. The locations of the sites are indicated on an information board in Šėduva's central square.

Three sites of Jewish mass killings in the Pakuteniai and Liaudiškiai forests (loststetl.com/lt/cemetery-memorials).

Square of the Righteous Among the Nations (at the intersection of Ežero St. and Vilniaus St., Šiauliai).

Gates of the Šiauliai ghettos: the first ghetto at the intersection of Vytauto St. and Žalgirio St., and the second at the intersection of Trakų St. and Ežero St.

Frenkel Factory Synagogue (68 Vilniaus St., Šiauliai).

Venclauskiai House-Museum, a branch of the Šiauliai "Aušros" museum (89 Vytauto St., Šiauliai).



Route information

Duration: a one-day trip, 6–8 hours (visits to additional sites may extend the duration).

Distance: 39 km

Dining: The Chaim Frenkel Villa museum also houses the “Bleu de Frenkel” restaurant, offering contemporary cuisine in an elegant, historic setting.

Transport: Free parking is available at both museums, including designated spaces for buses and visitors with disabilities.

Opening hours and tickets

“Lost Shtetl”:

Tue–Sun: 10:00–18:00

Mon: closed

Admission is free, but advance booking of a visit time and a free ticket is required at loststetl.com/It

Chaim Frenkel Villa museum:

Tue–Fri: 10:00–18:00

Sat–Sun: 11:00–17:00

Mon: closed

Admission: €6, reduced €3. Discounts apply to school pupils, students, seniors, and visitors with disabilities. Tickets are available at the museum box office or online at shop.ausrosmuziejus.lt

Registration

Advance booking is recommended for guided tours and for reserving visit times at both museums.

- At the “Lost Shtetl” museum, free guided tours are offered several times a day; advance registration is required. Registration by phone: +370 628 01742.
- At the Chaim Frenkel Villa museum, guided tours cost €20 per group. Advance registration is required. Registration by phone: +370 4152 43 89.

Both museums can also be visited individually.



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