Alternate names: Vilnius [Lith], Vilna [Rus], Wilno [Pol], Vilnine [Yid], Wilna [Ger], Vi??a [Latv], Vilnia, Wilno, Vilnyus, Russian: ??????, Б?????С. ???????-Yiddish. <strong><a title="ShtetlSeeker" href="http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg%7Ejgsys%7Eshtetlexp5%7E-2620663%7EZ%7EMILES%7E%7E%7E%7E%7E%7EFEATURE%7EY%" target="_blank">ShtetlSeeker</a></strong>

Ghetto in flames; the struggle and destruction of the Jews in Vilna in the Holocaust</p>

Yizkors: <em><a href="http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg%7Ejgsys%7Eyizkor%7Elookup_pb%7E154" target="_blank">Ghetto in flames; the struggle and destruction of the Jews in Vilna in the Holocaust</a></em> (Jerusalem, 1980); <em><a href="http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg%7Ejgsys%7Eyizkor%7Elookup_pb%7E155" target="_blank">Yerushalayim de Lita</a></em> (New York, 1974); <em><a href="http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg%7Ejgsys%7Eyizkor%7Elookup_pb%7E247" target="_blank">Ir Vilna: Zikhronot adat Yisrael ve-toldot haye gedoleha</a></em> (Vilna, 1900); <em><a href="http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg%7Ejgsys%7Eyizkor%7Elookup_pb%7E273" target="_blank">Bleter vegn Vilne; zamlbukh</a></em> (Tel Aviv, 1974);


History of the three Jewish cemeteries in Vilnius of which only one remains, the new Jewish cemetery opened in Ñenkin? district near Suderv? Cemetery. "The oldest and the largest Jewish cemetery was established in Ñnipishok suburb, now in Ñirm?nai elderate, on the opposite bank of the Neris River than Gediminas Tower in the 15th century. It was closed by Tsarist authorities in 1831. It was destroyed by the Soviet authorities in 1949-1950 during the construction of Ñalgiris Stadium. The Palace of Concerts and Sports (Lithuanian: ÑK) was built in 1971 right in the middle of the former cemetery. In 2005, apartment and office buildings were built on top of another part of the site, incurring condemnation from international Jewish organizations and resulted in a motion being passed in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008, condemning Lithuania for its "failure to protect the historic Jewish cemetery in Vilnius." In August 2009 Lithuanian government reached agreement with Jewish organizations on the boundaries of the cemetery and granted it protected status. Buildings already on the site will not be demolished. [September 2009]

Part of Lithuania's power grid coated in Jewish tombstones?/utm_source=twitterfeed&amp;utm_medium=twitter" target="_blank">Part of Lithuania's power grid coated in Jewish tombstones</a> (Aug 2015)

CEMETERIES:
[UPDATE] Uzupis Cemetery Matzevot<br />
According to the Lithuanian Jewish Community website, a stairway at the Protestant Evangelical Church made of Jewish gravestones was dismantled. Under Soviet rule the building turned into the Kronika Cinema when the gravestones where moved there in 1957. In 1990, it was returned to church ownership. In 2013, the steps made from matzevot were acknowledged. <br />
All existing death records for the City of Vilnius from 1837 to 1940 have been translated and indexed by LitvakSIG and Vilnius District Research Group of LitvakSIG at: <a target="_blank" href="https://www.litvak-cemetery.info/en/component/fabrik/details/10/270">map</a> [Aug 2015] Established in the end of 15th century and closed
for burials at the beginning of the 19th century when in 1829 Jewish cemetery in Zarechye (Uzupis; on the Olandu Street) was established in 1829. The archive preserves no separate lists for people buried on this cemetery. [June 2016]<br />

**Suderves Street Cemetery:** <a href="http://litvak-cemetery.info/en/component/fabrik/details/10/268">Map</a><br />

Large maintained cemetery is still in use with a couple thousand stones or so. Also many new stones commemorate ghetto fighters, Bundists, and underground, etc. Some stones have been moved here from other cemeteries. There is an old lady who "works" there who seems to know where everyone is. In Vilnius (Vilna) are two Jewish cemeteries, one post WWII, that is well kept and quite large, one older, which has been desecrated. Many of its stones were removed for building a large series of steps leading to the Communist Party Headquarters. I have photos of both cemeteries; quite a contrast. Source: <a href="mailto:p.bennett@worldnet.att.net?subject=Vilnius%20Jewish%20cemetery" target="_blank">Philip Bennet</a><br />

**Maișiagala Jewish Cemetery** <a href="http://litvak-cemetery.info/en/component/fabrik/details/10/263" target="_blank">map and digitized gravestones</a> [August 2015]<br />

There were originally three cemeteries. The Russians built on the old one having first transferred the mausoleum of the Gaon and his family to the new cemetery (first used in 1941). After a considerable outcry, the municipality had restored the remains of the intermediate cemetery, but when we went to visit it in 1995, we found that it had been totally vandalized beyond repair. Source: <a href="mailto:shoshly@canaan.co.il?subject=Vilnius%20cemetery" target="_blank">Len Yodaiken</a><br />

The Jewish Community of Lithuania was granted the right to look after the functioning Jewish cemetery in the city, i.e. they are now in charge of insuring the security of the cemetery, cleaning etc. (previously done by the state). They do not own the land, but are in charge. The Community appointed "Stella" company to take care of all the matters pertaining to the cemetery. Company's director is Mr. J. Guring. The company has almost completed the inventory of the cemetery and downloading the data on the computer. The work is costly and the company would like to receive some reimbursement for it. Source: Dr. Alperovitch at <a href="mailto:jewishcom@post.5ci.lt">jewishcom@post.5ci.lt</a> [February 2002]<br />

Vandalism: Vandals demolished 22 gravestones in the Vilnius (Vilna) Jewish cemetery on the night of 23 June 2006. The President of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus, city officials, and others all reacted strongly to the destruction, saying they hoped the perpetrators would soon be identified. With assistance from the municipality, the gravestones were quickly restored, but the vandals have not been apprehended. The news was announced on the Jewish community of Lithuania <a href="http://www.bagnowka.com/?m=cm&g=show_pod&idg=2191">photos</a> [March 2007]<br />

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Jews were buried in the cemetery until 1946. This cemetery was destroyed in 1959. The archive preserves no separate lists for people buried on this cemetery. [June 2016]

[UPDATE] [December 2016]

MASS GRAVE:

Ponar, Ponary: forest mass killing site 10 miles south of Vilnius.

[UPDATE] [February 2017]


Photos courtesy <a href="mailto:merlek@bell.net">Merle Kastner</a>
Youtube video from conference in Vilnius: Jewish Cemeteries in Europe/CAJC, with much footage of Vilnius Jewish cemeteries [November 2015]<br />

Lead article re: virtual tour of old Vilna cemetery [January 2016]

Virtual tour link - photos & text [January 2016]

Preserving Jewish Headstones for a Memorial [June 2016]

Wikipedia: Jewish Cemeteries of Vilnius [November 2017]