



BUSTLING TRAKAI TOWN HALL'S MARKET

EVENT: HALL'S MARKET
DATE: 31.05-02.06 (DURING THE "TRAKAI SUMMER" FESTIVAL)
LOCATION: CRIMEAN KARAITES ISLAND AND KARAIMAI STREET

At the intersection of Karaimai and Vytautas streets, in the center of the former market or Town Hall Square stands St. Nepomuk Roadside Pole, it remembers the seventeenth century when this pole was used as a bulletin board. The pole acquired its current image only in the beginning of the 19th century when the sculpture of Saint John of Nepomuk was erected at the top of the column. St. Nepomuk protects against disasters

in the water and is the patron of fishermen. In Lithuania, he is often found in chapels near the water.

Today St. Nepomuk Roadside Pole emphasizes and reminds us of the historical center of Trakai, where large fairs, markets and festivals took place. Historical sources mention that in 1470 this former market square was inhabited by people of various nationalities, probably traders, for whom the plots around the square were commercially important. At the beginning of the 16th century, when Trakai lost its political significance, cultural and economic stagnation began in the city. From then on, Trakai was an ordinary city, where trade and crafts largely met modest lo-

cal needs. It is true that at the end of the century when the situation of the Crimean Karaites improved, and according to the Second Statute of Lithuania, Trakai became the center of the voivodeship, trade and crafts recovered.

Every year during the “Trakai Summer” festival, the bustling Town Hall Market attracts craftsmen from all over Lithuania, whose trade and demonstration of crafts stretches along Karaimai street. The main goal of the event is to gather creators and creative craftsmen and sell products of their craft. Other traders trading in imported non-compliant products are not allowed at the venue. It's important to trade in non-mass-production items, food products, folk musical instruments and other products of the ethnic material heritage made from traditional raw materials by hand and other old or equivalent new technologies.



To preserve and foster the traditions of our nation so that we can admire them every year while spinning in the whirlpool of fun and enjoying the time proven tastes. To repeat, because by reliving the past in the present we re-discover traditions and even ourselves.





WHEN CABBAGES FINISH MATURING THEIR HEADS IT'S TIME TO THE FAIR

EVENT: CABBAGE DAY FAIR IN THE CABBAGE ISLAND
DATE: 15TH OF AUGUST
LOCATION: THE CRIMEAN KARAITES (CABBAGE ISLAND)

Summer and Autumn junction – the Assumption Day is also called the Cabbage Day by the residents of Dzūkija region. At this point, cabbages end maturing their heads predicting the upcoming autumn. It has long been feared that worms wouldn't attack and destroy cabbages. Food supplies in winter meant a reassuring and peaceful tomorrow for everyone, that's why women used to

stroke the heads of the cabbages hoping to draw attention of the divine powers. It was thought that this way there would be no shortage of food in winter and it would be possible to wait for the spring calmly.

There were various fairs in Lithuania, they were called differently: market, fair or jomarkas. Fair is trade accompanying any church celebration – indulgences. The word is German origin Kirche messe (transl. church trade). From the ancient times fairs were an opportunity to sell the most harvested garden or allotment goodies and purchase those that could be in short supply during winter. In addition, Cabbage Day fair has always been a great opportunity to socialize, share news, joys and worries.

Cabbage Day fair in Trakai that ac-



companies the Assumption Day indulgencies takes place on the island between the city and the castle every year. The locals call it the Cabbage Island because the Crimean Karaites grew cabbages there. There is no shortage of fun during the Cabbage Day fair. Bustling craftsmen fair gathers groups of people who want to buy products of non-mass production, food products and taste a delicious cabbage soup made by a local housewife. Crafts are also on display in

the fair: carving, production of of herbal teas, candles, leather products, knitting, and so on. The sound of music spreads all over Trakai and pulls people into a whirlpool of dances, songs and good mood. The festival pulsates with the spirit of community, which is extremely important when fostering and preserving old traditions and providing them with continuity.

