

3. INFORMATION ABOUT LITHUANIA, ŠIAULIAI AND ŠIAULIAI STATE COLLEGE

3.2. ŠIAULIAI

Šiauliai is located in the northern part of Lithuania. It was first mentioned in the chronicles on the 22 September 1236. The Livonian Order was destroyed in this battle (Sun Battle). Some claim this is why Šiauliai is known as the City of Sun. The Victory of Lithuanians and their allies in this battle is a very important event in the history of the State of Lithuania. The Sun Clock Square was arranged in 1986 to commemorate the 750th anniversary of this victory. On this occasion the Hunter sculpture was built too. It symbolizes the origin of the town's name. The town got its name from soldiers and hunters who lived there.

The whole area of the city is 81.13 sq. km. According to the area Šiauliai is the third biggest town, according to the number of inhabitants (125.453 inhabitants in 2010) it is the fourth.

Šiauliai is famous for Bubiai Mound 15 km from Šiauliai known for its wooden castle which was burnt by Crusaders, Salduvė Mound which is in the Eastern part of the town. Domantai-Jurgaičiai Mound is a sacred place; its other name is the Hill of Crosses.

The town sometimes flourished, sometimes suffered from wars, plague, and fires. Today it is the largest cultural, industrial and scientific centre in Northern Lithuania.