

## ZALENSAI FARMSTEAD

### *A Modern and Sustainable Tourism Farmstead*

#### **Identification data:**

Name: Roma and Eimantas Zalensai

Location: Padubysis village, Vilkijos eldership, Kaunas district, Lithuania

Size: 36 rooms, 3000 people may be hosted in the whole complex at the same time.

Year established: 1996

Product: rural tourism service

Web / Facebook / Twitter: <https://www.zalensai.lt>

Zalensai Farmstead was established in 1996 and renovated in 2016. It is equipped with 18 rooms, therefore, it can accommodate 80 people at once. The renovated and universal farmstead is feasible for everyone and various celebrations, such as weddings, family parties, corporate staff training, seminars or for resting. The farmstead also has two harbours, which are situated nearby. The homestead of Zalensai consists of Entertainment and Recreation Valley, which consists of different sized farmsteads, exceptional May Outing Valley and Campsite Dubysa. Those, who want to spend time on the shore of Dubysa by themselves, can stay in their personal tents. Around 3000 people may be hosted in the whole complex at the same time.

25 years ago, the owner of the homestead, mother, and now grandmother, Roma Zalensienė got an idea to establish the first farmstead in the incredibly beautiful Dubysa valley, which was symbolically named after the family. As the years gone by, the son of Zalensai, Irmantas and daughter Erika also spent their childhood here. Since they started loving this beautiful place of nature right from the beginning, they could not imagine their future anywhere else. Therefore, they chose studies (study programs in agricultural economics and rural development administration), which would be perfect for applying the acquired knowledge in order to help the family business to improve and develop.

Currently, Zalensai Farmstead complex is intensively managed by Eimantas and Roma Zalensai, daughter Erika and son Irmantas with his wife Simona. All of them are not only a harmonious and united family, but also closely cooperating colleagues, who have the main value.

The farmstead is only 45 kilometres away from Kaunas. Zalensai Entertainment and Recreation Valley can be easily reached when travelling from bid Lithuanian towns Kaunas, Vilnius or Klaipėda. The farmstead is situated in Padubysys village (Kaunas district), in a peaceful place, surrounded by the forest, on the shore of Dubysa River.

Homestead owners since 1998 are active members of the Lithuanian Rural Tourism Association. The association unites homesteads, represents the interests of rural tourism members in various institutions and organizations, organizes seminars, conferences, fairs and exhibitions, helps the members of the association to improve their qualifications, service quality and increase sales. The event organized by the association, which is especially popular and attracts a lot of visitors, is the Open Day in the Village, which takes place every year in May.

Both friends and family will find a suitable activity in different Zalensai farmsteads or will be able to take a break from work and daily routine. Those who love peace, can arrive here and enjoy birds chirping, rustling forest and a calm stroll in a valley. Those, who tend to spend their leisure actively, may choose kayaking trips. Later, they can regain their strength in the Campsite Dubysa, to swim in a river or hot tub. Here you can also find other outdoor entertainment: football and volleyball grounds, basketball board and orientation competitions. For those who want something more extreme, they can choose flying in a paraglider, seasonal hunt or to entertain in archery or shooting with a pneumatic gun.

Catering is organized in the homestead. Food is made from local produce, some of which is sourced from local farmers. The homestead is heated with biofuel, bio-waste is composted, food waste is given to a neighbor who keeps chickens.

It is one of the first rural tourism homesteads established in Lithuania and is associated with high quality services. The farm has a wide range of services and is farmed together by two generations. The hosts are very hospitable, happy when the guests of the homestead return more than once, good impressions are passed down from generation to generation.

In the near future - to maintain a similar volume of services and improve the quality of tourism services. It is dreamed that the third generation would continue the rural tourism business. The owners of the homestead see the perspectives of organizing educational programs, are open to educational events and welcome educators, organizers of camps, artists or craftsmen's plein airs.

**Photos:**



(Source: <https://www.zalensai.lt/>)