

HBO "Chernobyl" show increases tourism in Lithuania

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In this photo taken on July 16, 2019, a tourist takes a picture of a model of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) at the information center of NPP in Visaginas, some 100 miles northeast of the capital of Vilnius, Lithuania. The HBO TV series "Chernobyl" featuring Soviet-era nuclear nightmares is drawing tourists to the atomic filming locations and helping Lithuania grow as a tourist destination. Photo by: Mindaugas Kulbis/AP Photo

VISAGINAS, Lithuania — A nuclear power plant creates energy that can power cities. There was a bad explosion at one nuclear power plant in 1986. It was in Chernobyl, Ukraine. It is in Eastern Europe. A new TV show about the explosion has brought interest to what happened. It has also attracted visitors to Lithuania. It is also a country in Eastern Europe.

The show was filmed in Lithuania. It is about the explosion in Chernobyl.

Lithuania and Ukraine used to be part of the Soviet Union in Europe. The union split into 15 separate countries. The biggest one is Russia.

More Visitors

"Chernobyl" is the name of the show. It was made by HBO. Lithuania has had more visitors since the show was on earlier in 2019.

Today, people visit a plant that is like the one that exploded. It is the Ignalina nuclear power plant in Lithuania. Mikhail Nefedyev works there. He told visitors what happened when a similar plant exploded in Chernobyl.

The plants could provide electricity for hundreds of homes.

The Ignalina plant was closed 10 years ago. Visitors can still go there, though.

In 1986, Lithuania, then part of the Soviet Union, was one of the places affected by the explosion. Thousands from Lithuania were sent to clean up in Chernobyl. Many of them have died.

Now, the explosion is helping Lithuania attract visitors.

People visit the city of Vilnius and the Ignalina plant. They see where the show was filmed. The plant drew 2,240 visitors in 2018. By July, 1,630 had visited the plant. Interest is growing, plant leaders said.

"They have made a good movie, I guess. But what happened long ago does not bother us now. I think looking backward is not good," Nefedyev said.

Museum And Power Plant

Tourists visit the KGB museum in Vilnius. The KGB is the former Russian spy agency. Parts of the show were shot at the museum. Visitors also see an area of homes built in the 1980s. The homes look like Pripyat, a city near the Chernobyl plant.

Movies were already being made in Lithuania. The HBO show has brought more money there.

After Vilnius, some tourists see the nuclear plant. They wear helmets and go through many long halls. They visit the control center with its buttons and switches.

Antanas Turcinas was among those sent to Chernobyl soon after the explosion. He hopes the show leads to better care for survivors.

"This movie has brought back old memories. Emotions are very strong, because in 1986 we did not understand what we faced. I am happy to be still alive," he said.

Quiz

- 1 Which event happened FIRST?
- (A) Lithuanians went to help clean up in Chernobyl.
 - (B) There was an explosion at the Chernobyl plant.
 - (C) HBO made a show called "Chernobyl."
 - (D) The Ignalina plant in Lithuania closed down.

- 2 According to the article, why are more people visiting Lithuania?
- (A) because it is in Eastern Europe
 - (B) because it used to be part of the Soviet Union
 - (C) because that is where a nuclear power plant exploded
 - (D) because that is where the "Chernobyl" show was filmed

- 3 Read the paragraph from the section "Museum And Power Plant."

Tourists visit the KGB museum in Vilnius. The KGB is the former Russian spy agency. Parts of the show were shot at the museum. Visitors also see an area of homes built in the 1980s. The homes look like Pripyat, a city near the Chernobyl plant.

Which question is answered in this paragraph?

- (A) What do tourists do in the city of Vilnius?
 - (B) When did the Chernobyl explosion happen?
 - (C) Do people still live in the city of Pripyat?
 - (D) How long did it take to make the Chernobyl show?
- 4 Which selection explains what visitors do at the Ignalina power plant?
- (A) Today, people visit a plant that is like the one that exploded. It is the Ignalina nuclear power plant in Lithuania.
 - (B) The Ignalina plant was closed 10 years ago. Visitors can still go there, though.
 - (C) The plant drew 2,240 visitors in 2018. By July, 1,630 had visited the plant.
 - (D) They wear helmets and go through many long halls. They visit the control center with its buttons and switches.