

Saturday 6th May
RigaSuggested
Times

Attraction

Opening
TimesAdmission
Fee

16:30

St. Mary's Dome Cathedral

Address: Doma laukums 1, Riga 1050, Latvia

10:00 – 17:00 N/A

*Walk along Jauniela and admire the Art Nouveau architecture.***Riga Town Hall Square (Rātslaukums)**

Address: Kalku iela, Riga, Latvia

N/A

N/A

16:45 – 17:30

St. Peter's Church, Viewing Platform and Art Exhibition

Address: Skarnu iela 19, Riga 1050, Latvia

10:00 – 19:00

€9 Platform
€3 Exhibition

17:30

Bremen Town Musicians (Brēmenes muzikanti)

Address: Skarnu Street, between St. Peter's Church and Convent wall, Riga, Latvia

N/A

N/A

17:35 – 17:50

St. John's Church (Jāņa baznīca)

Address: Jana 7, Riga, Latvia

11:00 – 20:00

N/A

Līvu Square (Līvu laukums)

Address: Līvu laukums, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

N/A

N/A

Cat House (Kaku Nams)

Address: Meistaru iela 19, Riga LV-1050, Latvia

N/A

N/A

Small Guild of Riga (Maza Gilde)

Address: Amatu iela 5, Riga 1050, Latvia

N/A

N/A

Return to the accommodation by 18:30

Attraction Info

Old City Riga (Vecrīga) is the original area of Riga and consists of the historic city limits before the city was greatly expanded in the late 19th century. In the old days, Vecrīga was protected by a surrounding wall except the side adjacent to the Daugava river bank. When the wall was torn down, the waters from Daugava filled the space creating (Riga City Canal).

Website: <http://www.latvia.travel/en>

St. Mary's Dome Cathedral was established in 1211 with the laying of the foundation stone during a solemn service conducted by Bishop Albert. The Romanesque style church has been added to and adapted over the years. A large spire was added in the 16th century, and then Baroque towers were added two hundred years later.

Website: <http://www.doms.lv/index/?lang=eng>

Jauniela is a street located between the Dome Square and the Town Hall Square in Riga's Old Town, and is said to be one of the most beautiful streets in the city. Lined with colourful old buildings and paved with cobblestone, it has been the site for filming several movies. In addition to the rainbow of Art Nouveau buildings, the appearance of flowers nearly everywhere on Jauniela is notable, from the windows to the balconies. Jauniela is popular with locals and visitors alike, with a variety of shopping, dining and nightlife options.

Most of the medieval **Town Hall Square** was destroyed during the last war, but has now been rebuilt with mixed results. The reconstructed town hall on the northern side of the square is graced with a baroque tower and a postmodern roof and is now once again open for business.

St. Peter's Church and Viewing Platform offers a magnificent view of the Riga city panorama, 72 meters high up. The three sphere interior of the St. Peter's church provides an opportunity to learn the history of the building including a number of original architectural features – the crypt, renovated stone and wooden epitaphs and a magnificent seven prong candle holder made in 1596. Riga St. Peter's Church is a frequent site of international exhibitions presenting sculpture and painting, photos, art nouveau and applied art.

Website: <http://peterbaznica.riga.lv/en/news/>

Opening Times: <http://peterbaznica.riga.lv/en/serviceshours/>

"Bremen Town Musicians" was created by Bremen artist Krista Baumgaertel. The sculpture is based on a fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm, but created with a political subtext as it was inspired by Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika. The sculpture, a gift from Riga's sister city Bremen, was made in 1990. It's a humorous approach towards previous political stereotypes. The bronze figures are not staring through the window at the robbers' feast at a table full of drinks and food; they are peering through the Iron Curtain on a completely new world where they had thought to find a bone or a piece of meat.

Website: <https://www.liveriga.com/en/3123-bremen-town-musicians>

St. John's Church was first mentioned in 1297 when it served as the chapel of a Dominican abbey. The building was used for a time as the city's armoury, until it was taken over by a Lutheran congregation in 1582. During the building's construction two monks were bricked into the southern wall and lived out their lives there, fed through the window grate.

Website: www.janabaznica.lv

Livu Square is surrounded by beautiful buildings. The popular square is home to live music, outside cafes and different events. There is a small fair that is opened almost every day. In the winter this square becomes the home for the central ice rink of the city.

The Cat House is named for two black felines perched on the points of its towers. Not only did the beasts curse their first sculptor, he fatally fell while putting them up, but their purpose was to cause trouble. Roughly 100 years ago, the Latvian owner of the building was excluded from the powerful Big Guild across the road by its ethnocentric German occupants. He ordered the cats to be turned around, backside up, as an insult to his enemies. They were turned around after a lengthy court battle and he was eventually admitted to the Guild.

The Small Guild of Riga building was opened on 9th February 1866. The Small Guild house was built as a location place of rooms for crafts-corporations, ceremonies and representations.

Website: <http://www.gilde.lv/maza/MGgalvaANG.html>

Sunday 7th May
RigaSuggested
Times

Attraction

Opening
TimesAdmission
Fee

Walk past The Three Brothers (Trīs brāļi), Maza Pils St., Riga, Latvia.

08:45 – 09:15 St. James Cathedral (Jēkaba katedrāle)
Address: Jekaba iela 9, Riga 1050, Latvia

07:00 – 19:00 N/A
(Closed between 13:00 – 14:30)

20 minute walk.

Walk past the parliament building (Latvijas Republikas Saeima - Jekaba iela 11, Riga 1050, Latvia) and on to the Swedish Gate (Zviedru Varti). Carry on walking through Kronvalda Parks and over the Pilsetas Kanals.

10:00 – 11:00 Riga Art Nouveau Museum (Rīgas Jūgendstila muzejs)
Address: Alberta iela 12, Riga 1010, Latvia

10:00 – 18:00 €5

Study the Art Nouveau buildings along Albert Street (Alberta iela).

15 minute walk.

11:45 – 13:00 KGB Corner House
Guided tours of the hallways, cells, cellar and exercise yard in English at noon.
Address: Brivibas iela 61, Riga 1010, Latvia

10:00 – 16:00 N/A
Tour €5

Lunch **KASHA | Gourmet**
Address: Stabu iela 14, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia

10:00 – 20:00 N/A

5 minute walk.

14:00 – 14:15 St. Alexander Nevsky Church
(Rīgas Svētā Aleksandra Ņevska pareizticīgo baznīca)
Address: Brivibas iela 56, Riga 1011, Latvia

? N/A

5 minute walk.

14:20 – 15:00 Nativity of Christ Cathedral
(Rīgas Kristus Piedzimšanas pareizticīgo katedrāle)
Address: Brivibas bulvaris 23, Riga 1050, Latvia

? N/A

15:00 – 16:30 Latvian National Museum Of Art
(Latvijas Nacionālais mākslas muzejs)
Address: Jaņa Rozentāla laukums 1, Rīga, LV-1010, Latvia

10:00 – 17:00 N/A

Study the architecture of the Art Academy of Latvia (Latvijas Mākslas akadēmija).
20 minute walk back to the accommodation via Freedom Monument (Brivibas Piemineklis - 1 Brivibas iela) and Bastion Hill (Bastejkalns). If time permits, a the Art Museum RIGA BOURSE could be visited on the way home (see below)

Alternatives

Art Museum RIGA BOURSE (Mākslas muzejs "Rīgas Birža") 10:00 18:00 €6
Address: Dome Square 6, Riga LV-1050, Latvia

Attraction Info

The Three Brothers are the oldest stone residential buildings in the city and represent different stages in the architectural development of Riga, from medieval to Baroque. The oldest of the three is N°17 and dates back to the 15th century. The other two were built in the 17th and 18th centuries, respectively. Unfortunately, not much is known about the history of these abodes, including who owned them.

St. James Cathedral was first mentioned in historical sources in 1225. In 1522, it became the first church in Latvia to hold a Lutheran service, but 60 years later during a brief spell under Polish rule it was returned to its Catholic flock, who have held it ever since. It's also interesting to note that St. James was one of the first three churches built in Riga and unlike Riga Cathedral and St. Peter's where mass was held in German, it held services in Latvian until the Reformation.

Website: www.catholic.lv

The **Saeima** is the parliament of the Republic of Latvia. It is a unicameral parliament consisting of 100 members who are elected by proportional representation, with seats allocated to political parties which gain at least 5% of the popular vote. Elections are scheduled to be held once every four years, normally on the first Saturday of October.

The **Swedish Gate** was erected in 1698 as a part of the Riga Wall to provide access to barracks outside the city wall.

Pilsētas kanāls, the city's old moat, once protected the medieval interior from invaders. Today, the snaking ravine has been incorporated into a thin belt of stunning parkland splitting Old and Central Rīga.

Riga Art Nouveau Museum was opened on April 23rd, 2009. It is located in the apartment where the outstanding Latvian architect Konstantīns Pēkšēns (1859 - 1928) lived until 1907. The building was constructed in 1903 as K. Pēkšēns private house. The project for it is the work of K. Pēkšēns himself together with Eižens Laube, then a student of architecture. The ornamental reliefs, craftily incorporated in the architectonic shape, feature stylized motifs from the local flora and fauna - fir needles and cones and squirrels. The building has a spiral staircase with ornamental ceiling paintings, quite possibly sketched by the prominent Latvian artist Janis Rozentāls. This Art Nouveau staircase is among the most impressive not only in Riga but also the whole of Europe.

Website: <http://www.jugendstils.riga.lv/eng>

Opening Times: <http://www.jugendstils.riga.lv/eng/muzejs>

Albert Street is a street known for its Art Nouveau buildings. It is named after Bishop Albert who founded Riga in 1201. Many of the apartment buildings along the street were designed by the Russian architect Mikhail Eisenstein who was particularly active in Riga at the beginning of the twentieth century. The architectural style makes use of structural and decorative elements of romantic nationalism common to northern Europe at the time. Konstantīns Pēkšēns and Eižens Laube, a teacher and his pupil respectively, were prominent in building design on the street at the same time.

The KGB Corner House now houses an exhibition on the activities of the KGB (previously known as the Cheka). On 17 June 1940, the regular Soviet armed forces entered Latvia together with specialised internal military units that established the activities of the Cheka. The Cheka continued actively working in Latvia until 1991. It is responsible for deaths of thousands of Latvian citizens, as well as for physical and mental suffering. The operation of the Cheka in Latvia was closely associated with the building on the corner of Brīvības and Stabu streets. Already in September 1940, soon after the occupation, work started in order to adapt the building for the needs of the Cheka. The building became a place where Latvian citizens suspected to be in opposition to the occupational regime were held in custody, interrogated and in 1940–41 also executed. Persecution of opponents of the Soviet regime continued also after World War II. It was directed against Latvian national partisans and members of anti-Soviet movements. In the post war period, investigations were conducted in the Corner House, but executions were performed in the Rīga Central Prison.

Website: <http://okupacijasmuzejs.lv/en/kgb-building>

Opening Times: <http://okupacijasmuzejs.lv/en/visit-us/opening-times>

The St. Alexander Nevsky Church built between 1820 and 1825. In 1862 its eclectic-style belfry was added. Yellow and round with a large green dome, it's hard to miss it on the corner of Brīvības and Blaumaņa. Inside you'll find three porticoes, beautiful icons and, unusually, a central altar in the middle of the room.

Website: www.xram.lv

The Nativity of Christ Cathedral was built between 1876 and 1884. This yellow-brick church capped with five gilded cupolas was turned into a planetarium during the occupation but was finally returned to its congregation in 1990. The Soviets

destroyed many of the church's ornate works of art including wall and ceiling frescoes by the famous Russian painter Vereshchagin. Much of the cathedral has now been restored to its former glory.

Website: www.sobor.lv

Latvian National Museum Of Art permanent display exhibits Latvian art from the 19th and 20th Centuries. The main objective is to create a visual, emotional story of Latvian art development and its social, geopolitical and historical context. In the display, the most important authors and art works from each period are selected. It is modern and visitor friendly display, arranged chronologically by the principle of stylistic and narrative forms. A novelty in the display are the artworks from the time period 1945–2000, covering the art that has been created while Latvia was under the Soviet occupation and in the first decade of independence in 1990's. In addition to traditional art forms – painting, sculpture and graphic art – also art works of the photo, installation and video are exhibited.

Website: <http://www.lnmm.lv/en/lnma>

Opening Times: <http://www.lnmm.lv/en/lnma/hours>

The Art Academy of Latvia is a massive red brick neo-gothic structure on the edge of the Esplanāde Park and was originally built as a business school in 1905 and was meant to reflect the wealth and power of the old Hanseatic League, but its commercial function was short-lived. The Latvian Academy of Art was founded by the nation's preeminent painter Vilhelms Purvītis (1872 - 1945) in 1919 and it began teaching students in this building in 1921. You can visit the building to take a look at its stunning art nouveau stained glass windows or to check out one of the frequent exhibitions held here by its students.

Website: www.lma.lv

The Freedom Monument was funded entirely by donations from residents and constructed as a memorial to those who fell in Latvia's struggle for independence. It was unveiled on November 18, 1935 as part of sculptor Karlis Zale's project "Mirdzi kā zvaigzne!" (Shine Like a Star). The 42.7 meter high monument is made up of 56 sculptures, divided into 13 sculptural groups on four levels, which depict Latvian history and culture. At the base of the monument the motto For Fatherland and Freedom is inscribed. At the top of the monument's obelisk is the nine-meter symbol of freedom – a young woman holding three stars above her head, which symbolize the three historic provinces of Latvia, and national unity.

Website: <http://www.latvia.travel/en/sight/freedom-monument>

Bastion Hill is one of the most romantic places in central Riga, as it features narrow paths, alleys of trees, stone garden, water cascade, and offers beautiful views of the city.

The Art Museum RIGA BOURSE is housed in Venetian renaissance palazzo style building, built between 1852 and 1855. The design was by the St. Petersburg architect of German origin Harald Julius Bosse (1812-1894). The museum has four permanent displays – the Oriental Gallery with a broad selection of Japanese, Chinese, Indian and Indonesian traditional art as well as Latvia's only Egyptian wood mummy sarcophagus. The Painting Gallery has Western European works from the 16th – 19th century. On display in the Western Gallery is a collection of 18th – 20th century West European porcelain supplemented by German and Austrian painting from the first half of the 19th century as well as early 20th century Belgian painting and there is also the Silver Cabinet.

Website: <http://lnmm.lv/en/mmr/b>

Opening Times: <http://lnmm.lv/en/mmr/b/hours>

Monday 8th May
Riga

Suggested
Times

Attraction

Opening
Times

Admission
Fee

08:00 – 08:15 **St. Saviour's Anglican Church** ? N/A
Address: Anglikanu iela 2a, Riga 1050, Latvia

08:15 **Riga Castle** N/A N/A
Address: Pils laukums 3, Riga 1050, Latvia

30 minute walk along the bank of the Daugava River, past Big Christopher (Lielais Kristaps), and viewing the National Library of Latvia on the west bank of the river.

09:00 – 09:55 **Central Market (Centraltirgus)** 08:00 – 17:00 N/A
Address: Negu iela 7, Riga 1050, Latvia

5 minute walk.

10:00 – 10:45 **Riga Ghetto and Latvian Holocaust Museum** 10:00 – 18:00 €5
Address: Maskavas 14a, Riga, Latvia

5 minute walk.

11:00 – 11:30 **Latvian Academy of Sciences - Panorama Deck** 09:00 – 22:00 €4
Address: Akademijas laukums 1, Riga 1050, Latvia

11:30 – 12:00 **Orthodox Church of the Annunciation** ? N/A
(Dievmātes pasludināšanas pareizticīgo baznīca)
(Рижский Храм Благовещения Пресвятой Богородицы.)
Address:

12:00 – 12:10 **Great Choral Synagogue Memorial** N/A N/A
Address: Gogola iela 25, Riga 1050, Latvia

20 minute walk.

12:30 – 13:30 **Folkklubs Ala Pagrabs** 12:00 – 01:00 N/A
Lunch
Address: Peldu iela 19, Centra rajons, Riga, LV-1050, Latvia

13:30 – 14:30 **The Museum of the Occupation of Latvia** 11:00 – 17:00 €10
Address: Raina bulvaris 7, Riga 1050, Latvia

5 minute walk.

14:35 – 16:00 **Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation** 10:00 – 17:00 €4.27
Address: Palasta iela 4, Riga 1050, Latvia

5 minute walk.

16:05 – 17:00 **Latvian War Museum**
Address: Smilshu iela 20, Riga 1050, Latvia

10:00 – 18:00 N/A

Attraction Info

St. Saviour's Anglican Church's congregation was founded in 1822, and the foundation stone of the church was laid in 1857. A shipload of earth was sent from Britain so that the church could be built on British soil. Bricks were provided as well. The church was dedicated on July 26 1859, as the Church of St. Saviour in Riga, and the first regular church service was held in November 1859.

Website: www.anglicanriga.lv

Riga Castle was built in 1330 as a base for the Livonian Order, however, the castle was destroyed several times during battles with the local townspeople. After the Order's destruction, the various occupiers of the city housed their governors inside. Latvia's first post-Cold War president Guntis Ulmanis made it his official office to continue the tradition begun by Latvia's interwar presidents in the 1920s and 1930s. It also housed the National History Museum of Latvia, but tragically, a fire broke out during renovations on June 21, 2013 and parts of the interior were gutted. Priceless historical objects from the museum that were stored in the basement were also damaged or destroyed.

Website: www.president.lv

Big Christopher, the city's protector from floods and other natural disasters, first appeared in the 16th century, in a small cave by a bank of the Daugava River. Legend says that one day after returning home from carrying the Christ child across the deep waters of the river, the humble giant found a pile of gold which he used to build Riga. For centuries he has been a symbol of the city, and its inhabitants paid tribute to him with flowers and lit candles, asking for his blessing before embarking on a long journey. In modern times, Big Christopher was moved to the safety of the Museum of Riga's History and Navigation. Today, a replica stands in a small glass structure on the bank of the Daugava, so he might once again greet seafaring visitors and keep a close watch over the city he built.

The National Library of Latvia was designed by the internationally acclaimed Latvian-born architect Gunnar Birkerts (USA), and opened in 2014.

Website: <http://www.lnb.lv/en>

Opening Times: <http://www.lnb.lv/en/opening-times/opening-times>

The Central Market was opened in 1930, in disused zeppelin hangers. In the 1930s, Riga inhabitants could boast of the largest and most modern market in Europe. It was comfortable, bright, clean and neat. Farmers were glad to bring their products to Riga. By 1961 during the Soviet period, the storage facilities could store up to 700 tonnes of products. 3 stock tunnels were connected with outlets near the channel. Cargo elevators were used to lift up the necessary goods. Some Nouveau architecture elements as well as pre-war neoclassical effects were used in the market project. It occupies 72.3 thousand square metres of space and has over 3000 trade stands, each 1 to 100 square metres in size.

Website: <https://www.rct.lv/en/>

Riga Ghetto Museum is located in the historic area bordering the former ghetto. More than 70,000 names of Holocaust victims and a photo exhibition, focusing on anti-Semitic propaganda, the Holocaust in Latvia, the resistance movement and those who provided safe haven, are set on a piece of land, covered by cobblestone taken from the streets of the former ghetto.

Website: <http://www.rgm.lv/?lang=en>

Latvian Academy of Sciences observation deck offers Riga guests and local residents to have a breath-taking view of Riga's Old Town and the Daugava River from the building's 17th-floor balcony at the height of 65 metres.

Website: <https://www.liveriga.com/en/4084-latvian-academy-of-sciences-observation-deck>

The Orthodox Church of the Annunciation was built in 1818. The original church that once stood here was destroyed when the entire area was razed in 1812 to deprive Napoleon's army of shelter. The army took a different route. Fortunately, some of the historic icons were saved and now adorn the walls of the current yellow wooden church.

The Great Choral Synagogue Memorial is on the site this one-time place of worship and scene of one of the most beastly crimes committed during the Nazi occupation of Latvia. On July 4, 1941, hundreds of Jewish refugees from Lithuania and local Latvian Jews were herded into the basement of the Great Choral Synagogue which was then intentionally burned to the ground. Only ruins, a metal menorah and a memorial stone remain. A memorial to Žanis Lipke and other Latvians who saved hundreds of Jews is located next to it

Folkklubs Ala Pagrabs is an authentic Latvian tavern with a modern twist. A place where you can experience culture, music, delicious food and enjoy conversations in good company.

Website: <http://www.folkklubs.lv/en>

The Museum of the Occupation of Latvia's goal is to portray life during the three occupation periods suffered by Latvia and Latvians. The first section of the exhibit documents the events that led to Latvia's occupation: Soviet and Nazi pact, finalized on 23 August 1939, by Molotov and Ribbentrop, which divided East Europe into Soviet and Nazi spheres of influence. Further on, the Museum visitors follow the events of the first Soviet occupation (1940-1941), then Nazi occupation period (1941-1944/45), and the second Soviet occupation (1944/45-1991). The exhibit concludes with documentation of the people's struggle to renew their independence in the late 1980s and the reclaiming of sovereignty in 1991.

Website: <http://okupacijasmuzejs.lv/en>

Opening Times: <http://okupacijasmuzejs.lv/en/visit-us/opening-times>

The Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation is the oldest public museum in Latvia and the Baltic, and is one of the oldest in Europe. The Museum is located in Old Town, in a noteworthy 13th – 20th century architectural monument – the Riga Dome complex. The origins of the Museum are to be found in the 18th century. At the heart of this rich and varied exposition is the personal collection of the Riga doctor Nikolas von Himzel's (1729-1764) scientific and artistic exhibits. After his death his mother, Katrina von Himzel, gave the collection to the city of Riga, in accordance with her son's wishes. On 22 February 1773 the Riga Town Council established the Museum.

Website: <http://www.rigamuz.lv/km/index.php?m=izvelne&l=lv>

Opening Times: http://www.rigamuz.lv/km/index.php?m=info_apm&l=en

The Latvian War museum is one of the oldest and largest museums in Latvia. It was founded in 1916 as the Latvian riflemen museum. Since 1919 the museum is located in the Powder Tower (14th century), one of the former fortification towers of Riga. The museum's aim is to reveal to the public the complex military and political history of Latvia, with particular emphasis on the 20th century, during which the Latvian nation had to fight for its independence twice. Permanent exhibitions about the art of warfare and Latvian soldiers, First and Second world wars, Latvian Army, Soviet occupation and the gaining of independence in 1918 and 1991 can be seen in the museum.

Website: http://www.karamuzejs.lv/lkm/home.aspx?sc_lang=en

Tuesday 9th May
Bauska & Lithuania

Suggested
Times

Attraction

Opening
Times

Admission
Fee

Set off at 07:45. 1 hour and 30 minute drive.

<p>09:15 – 09:45 Tourist Information Center Address: Jurgaičiai Village, Meškuičiai Rural Municipality, LT-81439 Šiauliai Region</p>	<p>09:00 – 18:00 N/A</p>
<p>09:45 – 10:30 Siauliai Hill of Crosses Address: Jurgaičiu k., Meskuiciu sen., Siauliu r. Siauliai, Siauliai 81439, Lithuania</p>	<p>N/A N/A</p>
<p>1 hour drive.</p>	
<p>11:30 – 14:30 Rundale Palace Museum (Rundales Pils) Address: Pilsrundale, Bauska 3901, Latvia</p>	<p>10:00 – 18:00 Various</p>
<p>10 minute drive.</p>	
<p>14:45 – 15:45 Bauska Castle Address: Pilskalns, Bauska 3901, Latvia</p>	<p>09:00 – 19:00 €5</p>
<p>15:45 – 16:00 Bauska St. Georgijs the Orthodox Church Address: Bauska, Bauskas pilsēta, LV-3901, Latvia</p>	<p>(09:00 – 15:00) N/A Outside view only</p>
<p>16:00 – 16:45 Bauska Town Hall Address: Ratslaukums 1, Bauska 3901, Latvia</p>	<p>N/A N/A</p>

1 hour drive back to Riga. Arrive 17:45

Alternatives

<p>Bauska Motor museum (CSDD Rīgas Motormuzeja Bauskas filiāle) Address: Sarkanmuiža 6, Codes pagasts, Bauskas novads, Bauska, LV-3901, Latvia</p>	<p>10:00 – 18:00 €2</p>
<p>Bauska local history and art museum (Bauskas Novadpētniecības un mākslas muzejs) Address: Kalna iela 6, Bauska 3901, Latvia</p>	<p>10:00 – 18:00 €1.40</p>

Attraction Info

The Hill of Crosses is an historical architectural monument of about 100 000 crosses. It is said that first crosses were erected here by the next-of-kin of the rebels that fell in the 1831 rebellion. It is a unique composition of folk art. The Hill of crosses attracts people with its peace, spirituality, authenticity and sacred nature. The hill of crosses was visited by Pope John Paul II. Even more crosses appeared after the rebellion in 1863. At the time the traditions of visiting and erecting crosses on the hill of crosses were being formed. The Hill of crosses became a place of vows in Lithuania. In the beginning of the 20th century, the hill was already quite well known. It was being visited by a lot of people, and services and feasts were taking place here. Now it has about 100 000 crosses.

Website: <http://www.hillofcrosses.com/>

The Rundāle Palace was originally built during the 16th century. The name of Rundāle comes from the German place-name Ruhenthal (Valley of Peace). However, in 1735 Ernst Johann von Biron bought the Rundāle property and completely tore it down. The stones, bricks and even the mortar were used in the construction of the new palace. The new palace was constructed during two periods, from 1736 until 1740 and from 1764 until 1768. In 1795 the palace came into the possession of the Zubov family and they remained in their hands until 1920. The palace was severely damaged during both world wars, and a series of renovations were made during the 20th century. Visitors can visit the staterooms (the White Hall, Gold Hall, and Grand Gallery), the Duke's former living quarters and staterooms and the Duchess' apartments. There is also a permanent exhibition - "From the Gothic Style to Art Nouveau. European and Latvian Decorative Arts 15th – 20th C." The park of Rundāle Palace is an essential part of the palace complex; it has retained its original layout without any significant changes, and have been compared favourably to the gardens at the Palace of Versailles.

Website: <http://rundale.net/en/>

Opening Times: <http://rundale.net/en/information/opening-hours/>

The Bauska Castle was built during the rule of the Master of the Livonian Order, Heidenreich Vinke von Overberg (1439 – 1450). The Livonian Order constructed the castle to strengthen their power over Semigallia, protect the border with Lithuania and control the trade route from Lithuania to Riga. The collection of the Bauska Castle Museum includes materials obtained in archaeological excavations, negative photographs, transparencies and photographs containing information about the castle's architecture and reflecting the respective historical events, paintings, engravings, drawings and plans illustrating the Bauska Castle, furniture, ceramics, art objects and printed materials for the castle's interior design.

Website: <http://www.bauskaspils.lv/en/castle-and-museum>

Opening Times: <http://www.bauskaspils.lv/en/contact>

Bauska St. Georgijs the Orthodox Church was built in 1881 based on the project by the outstanding Latvian architect Jānis Fridrihs Baumanis. The original late 19th century iconostasis, which was considered lost for a long time, was set in its place again in 2009.

Website: <http://www.tourism.bauska.lv/en/attractions/top/bauska-st-georgijs-the-orthodox-church-10>

Bauska Town Hall is a recently rebuilt 17th century town hall building located in the middle of the Bauska Market Square.

Bauska Motor Museum is a branch of the Riga Motor Museum. The exposition features four historic vehicle collections - 'Soviet all-wheel drive vehicles', 'Military vehicles', 'Farm machinery in Latvia 1920's – 1990's', and 'Cars in Latvia 1920's – 1990's', as well as the exhibition 'Life in the countryside'.

Website: <http://www.motormuzejs.lv/index.php/en/visit-us-ba-en>

The Bauska local history and art museum's collection consists of 56 thousands of various units. They are divided into smaller collections: printed matter, documents, textile, photos and negatives, furniture, craftsmen tools and product, lighting fixtures, pieces of art, earthenware, numismatics, orders, badges etc.

Website: <http://www.bauskasmuzejs.lv/en?id=18>

Wednesday 10th May
Jurmala, Cape Kolka
Ventspils & Kuldiga

Suggested
Times

Attraction

Opening
Times

Admission
Fee

Set off at 07:00. 30 minute drive.

07:30 – 08:00 **Jurmala Beach** N/A N/A
Address: Tirgoņu iela 1, Jūrmala, LV-2015, Latvia

2 hour drive. When driving through Kolka, check out the Lutheran, Orthodox and Catholic churches just off the main road.

10:00 – 11:00 **Cape Kolka** N/A N/A
Address: 3275, Kolkas pagasts, Latvia

20 minute drive.

11:20 – 11:45 **Slitere Lighthouse (Šlīteres bāka)** 10:00 – 17:00 ?
Address: Dundaga parish, LV-3270, Latvia

30 minute drive.

12:15 – 12:30 **Ventspils International Radio Astronomy Center** Outside view only N/A
Address: Irbene, Ance parish, LV-3601, Latvia

30 minute drive.

13:00 – 14:00 **Ostas 23** ? N/A
Lunch Address: Ostas iela 23, Ventspils, LV-3601, Latvia

14:00 – 15:00 **The Castle of the Livonian order** 10:00 – 18:00 €2.10
Address: Jana iela 17, Ventspils 3601, Latvia

15 minute walk along Ostas iela, on the banks of the Venta River.

15:15 – 15:25 **Orthodox Church of Saint Nicolay** ? N/A
(Ventspils Sv. Nikolaja pareizticīgo baznīca)
Address: Plosta iela 10, Ventspils, LV-3601, Latvia

5 minute walk through the Market Place, to the Town Hall Square.

15:30 – 15:40 **Ventspils Nicolay Lutheran Church** ? N/A
(Ventspils Evaņģēliski luteriskā baznīca)
Address: Tirgus 2, Ventspils, LV-3601, Latvia

10 minute walk back to the car.
1 hour drive.

17:00 – 18:00 **Kuldiga District Museum** 10:00 – 18:00 €1.50
Address: Pils iela 5, Kuldiga 3301, Latvia

18:00 – 18:10	Venta Waterfall (Ventas Rumba) Address: Venta Waterfall (Ventas Rumba)	N/A	N/A
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Walk past the Kuldīga Brick Bridge.

18:10 – 18:20	Aleksūpīte Waterfall Address: Aleksūpīte,, Kuldīga, Kuldīgas pilsēta, LV-3301, Latvia	N/A	N/A
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18:20 – 18:30	St Catherine's Church (Kuldīgas Sv. Katrīnas Baznīca) Address: Baznīcas iela 31, Kuldīga 3301, Latvia	?	N/A
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10 minute walk.

18:40 – 18:50	Kuldīga Orthodox Church of the Holy Virgin (Kuldīgas Sv. Dievmātes Patvēruma pareizticīgo baznīca) Address:	?	N/A
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10 minute walk along the Liepājas Street Promenade to the Old Town Hall and Square.

19:00 Dinner	Pagrabiņš Address: Baznīcas iela 5, Kuldīga, Kuldīgas pilsēta, LV-3301, Latvia	11:00 – 23:00	N/A
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2 hour drive back to Riga

Jūrmala is a resort town stretching 32 km (20 miles) and sandwiched between the Gulf of Riga and the Lielupe River. It has a 33 km (21 miles) stretch of white-sand beach, and a population of 56,646, making it the fifth largest city in Latvia. While Latvia was part of the Soviet Union, Jūrmala was a favorite holiday-resort and tourist destination for high-level Communist Party officials, particularly Leonid Brezhnev and Nikita Khrushchev. Jūrmala's reputation as a spa destination began in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Wealthy landowners began the tradition of relaxing at the seaside, and Russian army officers came here to rest after the Napoleonic Wars, returning later with their families.

Website: <http://www.latvia.travel/en/city/jurmala-8>

Cape Kolka is the most pronounced horn on the shores of Latvia, and it is where the waves from two seas clash – the open Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga. Come spring, Cape Kolka is an ideal place to watch migratory birds. In the summer, it is a paradise on earth for those who love vacations on the beach, while in the autumn and winter it is a fine place to witness the greatness of nature.

Website: <http://www.kolkasrags.lv/en>

Slitere Lighthouse was built in 1849 and was used as a day navigation object for ships. The electric lamp that was introduced in the 1960s was switched off in 1999. The lighthouse is now open to tourists. The observation room on the fifth floor is situated 100 meters above sea level. From here, visitors receive a breathtaking view of Slitere National Park forests and the Baltic Sea.

Website: <http://slitere.lv/en/home/for-visitors/slitere-lighthouse/>

The Ventspils International Radio Astronomy Center is to carry out fundamental research in the areas of astronomy and astrophysics, as well as applied research in space technology. The RT-32 radio telescope is at 32 metres diameter the largest such device in Northern Europe and allegedly the eighth largest in the world. The parabolic antennas are used for observation of inter-star environments, the Sun, asteroids and other objects flying near Earth, including space debris, as well as objects outside the solar system. The site was built by the Soviet Navy in the 1960s to monitor the NATO enemy's moves and communications. Given its location right on the edge of the Soviet empire and close to the Baltic Sea, it was one of the most important installations of its kind during the Cold War. The site, code-named "Little Star", was of course totally secret, closed-off and well-guarded. Several hundred scientists worked here monitoring the West. A whole town was built for them and the guards and technical support staff and their families with all the necessary infrastructure. At its peak the town had up to 3000 inhabitants.

Website: <http://www.latvia.travel/en/sight/ventspils-international-radio-astronomy-center>

The Ostas 23 café provides simple meals with a great view over the Venta River.

Website: <http://www.ostas23.lv/>

The Castle of the Livonian order, which houses Ventspils Museum since September 2001, is the oldest preserved building in Ventspils, built in the second half of the 13th century (first mentioned in 1290). The castle was built as a convent-house type building with an inner yard, and can be regarded as the oldest medieval fortress in Latvia to have retained its original form virtually unchanged. The castle chapel is the oldest preserved church building in the region of Kurzeme. In the 13th–16th century the castle was used by the brothers of the Livonian Order, later there was an Evangelical Lutheran church in the castle (1706–1835), a Russian Orthodox church (1845–1901) and also a prison (1832–1959). The castle housed various administrative institutions and army units. The Soviet garrison left the castle in 1983. The permanent exhibition of Ventspils Museum is devoted to the history of the castle, the city, the port and the Ventspils region, and featuring Latvia's only digital exhibition 'Living history'.

Website: <http://muzejs.ventspils.lv/en/the-castle-of-the-livonian-order/>

Opening Times: <http://muzejs.ventspils.lv/en/the-castle-of-the-livonian-order/opening-hours/>

The Orthodox Church of Saint Nicolay was built in 1901 by the architecture traditions of orthodox churches of 17th century – in neo byzantine style with five domes. During World War I (1915-1918) horse stables and fuel warehouse for needs of the German army were built here. After long reconstruction works church was opened only in 1927.

Website: <http://www.visitventspils.com/en/things-to-do-in-ventspils/512/?category=24>

The construction of **Ventspils Nicolay Lutheran Church** was initiated at the beginning of the 18th century, but it dragged on until it was built at an impressive speed from 1834-1835, owing thanks to resoluteness of the pastor F.N. Paufler and financial support of Russian Tsar. Built in late classicism style, the church got its name of St. Nicolay because he is the prospector of

sailors and fishermen. Its architect and construction manager was Johann Eduard de Vite. The altar piece painted by Alexander von Roenne in 1888, was given as a Christmas present to the church by the congregations of Ventspils and Piltene.
Website: <http://www.visitventspils.com/en/things-to-do-in-ventspils/514/?category=24>

Kuldīga District Museum is housed in a building that legend has it was the Russian Pavilion at the exhibition in Paris in 1900. Today the museum offers varied exhibitions. The exhibition on the third floor is devoted to the town's history. The second floor has been designed as an apartment of a rich family living in Kuldīga at the beginning of the 20th century. Visitors are introduced to their daily routine: a dining room, a lady's boudoir, a music room, a kitchen and a master's room where visitors may enjoy Jānis Mētra playing card collection.

Website: <http://www.kuldigasmuzejs.lv/en/>

The Venta waterfall (Ventas rumba) is the widest waterfall in Europe. This 240 meter wide naturally formed waterfall is associated with a number of legends and historic events. In spring, one can watch the fish flying up the ledge; due to this, Kuldīga was once famous as a "place where they catch salmon in the air".

The Kuldīga Brick Bridge across the Venta was built in 1874 and is the longest bridge of this kind of road bridge in Europe – 164 m. It was built according to 19th century standards – 500 feet long and 26 feet wide, allowing two carriages to pass each other. It consisted of seven spans of brick vaults. During World War I two of the spans were blown up. The 'race of the naked' over the bridge has become an annual tradition for Midsummer nights.

Alekšupīte Waterfall was built up in the 17th century to use the stream to operate the first paper mill in Kurzeme. As the waterfall is created artificially and is located next to the unattended mill building.

St Catherine's Church was originally built in 1252. However, it was built anew with baroque style wood carvings on the altar. The church was given the name of St Catherine, the patroness of the town. One of the most successful rulers of the Duchy of Courland, Duke Jacob was baptized in this church, and his wedding to Princess Louise Charlotte of Brandenburg also took place here.

Website: <http://www.kuldigas.lelb.lv/>

The Church of the Holy Virgin was built in 1871 and it has the smallest parish in the city. The dome frescos, as well as portraits of Holy Mary, the Archangel Gabriel and evangelists carved in the Tsarist gate are worth seeing.

Liepājas Street is a pedestrian street with several unique 17th – 20th century buildings, fascinating doors and skylight windows above them demonstrate the development of different architectural styles.

The Old Town Hall is a 17th century building. The cellar of the building used to be a prison, which nowadays has been transformed into a pub "**Pagrabinš**".

Website: <http://www.pagrabins.lv/en/>

Thursday 11th May
Cesis and Sigulda

Suggested
Times

Attraction

Opening
Times

Admission
Fee

Set off at 08:00. 1 hour 30 minute drive through Gauja National Park.

09:30 – 09:45 **Rožu Square** N/A N/A
Address: Rožu laukums, Cesis, Latvia

09:45 – 10:00 **St. John's Church (Svētā Jāņa baznīca)** ? N/A
Address: Liela Skolas iela 8, Cesis 4101, Latvia

5 minute walk.

10:05 – 11:00 **Cēsis Castle Manor House & Cēsis History and Art Museum** 10:00 – 18:00 €5
Address: Pils laukums 3, Cēsis, Cēsu pilsēta, LV-4101, Latvia (includes the castle)

11:00 – 11:45 **Cēsis Medieval Castle** 10:00 – 18:00 ^
Address: Pils Laukums 9, Cesis 4101, Latvia

Walk through the Castle Park.

12:00 – 12:15 **Christ Transfiguration Orthodox Church** ? N/A
(Cēsu Kristus Apskaidrošanas pareizticīgo baznīca)
Address: Palasta 22, Cēsis, Cēsu pilsēta, LV-4101, Latvia

5 minute walk.

12:30 – 13:15 **Kaferiga**
Lunch Address: Rīgas iela 27, Cēsis, Cēsu pilsēta, LV-4101, Latvia

30 minute drive.

13:45 – 14:00 **Sigulda Evangelic Lutheran Church** 10:00 – 17:00 N/A
Address: Baznīcas Iela 2, Sigulda 2150, Latvia

10 minute walk via the *Sculptural Group Parade of the Knights (Skulptūru grupa "Bruņinieku parāde")* and past the *The New Castle of Sigulda*.

14:20 – 15:00 **Old Sigulda Castle** 09:00 – 20:00 €2
Address: Pils Street 18, Sigulda 2150, Latvia

Walk back to the car.

5 minute drive.

15:20 – 15:55	Gutmanis Cave Address: Sigulda National Park, Sigulda 2150, Latvia	N/A	€2.50 per car
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5 minute drive.

16:00 – 16:45	Turaida Castle Address: Turaida Castle, Sigulda, Latvia	09:00 – 20:00	€3
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16:45 – 17:00	Turaida Lutheran Church (Turaidas Evāņģēliski Luteriskā baznīca) Address: Turaidas iela 10, Sigulda, Siguldas pilsēta, LV-2150, Latvia	?	N/A
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17:00 – 17:30	Folk Song Park Address: Krimuldas pagasts, LV-2150, Latvia	N/A	N/A
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1 hour drive back to Riga.

The Gauja National Park is the largest national park in Latvia, with an area of 917.45 km² running from north-east of Sigulda to south-west of Cēsis along the valley of the Gauja River, from which the park takes its name. The National park is characterized by a high biological diversity, rock outcrops and varied terrain shapes, springs, picturesque landscapes and many historical and cultural monuments from different centuries. The major part of the national park and the dominant is the old valley of the Gauja River. The valley is protected and at the same time it can be used for nature and cultural history tourism, as well as healthy recreation.

Rožu (Rose) Square, the former market square, which is located in front of St. John's Church was known as a lively marketplace from the middle of the 13th century. There was also a pillar of punishment and a well in South-western corner of the square. In the early 20th century the old market square became too small for the city, so in the 1920's it was moved to its current location, and in 1927 it was decided to turn the free area of the former square into a small public garden.

St. John's church was built at the beginning of the 13th century as Christianity advanced into the Baltic, to serve the needs of the Livonian Order. The organ is one of the largest historical concert organs in Latvia. The organ has 41 registers, three-manuals and a pedal. The church altar painting is the masterpiece of the famous Estonian artist Johann Köhler.

Website: <http://cesujana.lnb.lv/?ct=98765>

Opening Times:

Cesis Castle Manor House was built around the year 1761 when the manor belonged to the Von Wolff family. In 1777 the property was bought for 96,000 thalers from Baron Karl von Adam Wolff by Major and later Count Karl Eberhard von Sievers (Sievers, 1745 to 1821). Count Sievers family lived in the manor for five generations until the agrarian reform of Latvian Republic in 1920. During this time, a manor management was developed and the Castle's historical complex was created which is still visible nowadays. The museum was founded in 1925 and with more than 155 000 collection objects it is one of the largest municipal museums in the country. The permanent exhibition "Cēsis – a symbol of Latvian history" is located in the Manor House, which shows the role of Cēsis in Latvian history.

Website: <http://cesupils.lv/en/>

Opening Times: <http://cesupils.lv/en/plan-your-visit/visit-with-children/opening-hours/>

Cēsis Castle's role has changed as significantly as its external appearance during its 800 years of existence. The castle was built around 1214 and originally served as the residence of the Knights of the Livonian Brothers of the Sword, but under the management of its next owner – Teutonic Order – it gained fame as the most powerful fortress in Livonia. Teutonic Order's Livonian land Masters lived here and the Order's annual chapter meetings were often held here. The Order's archive, library, chancery with scriptorium and the Master's mint were all located in Cēsis. The castle suffered greatly in 1577, when, during the siege set by the army of Russian Tsar Ivan the Terrible, 300 people sought refuge in the castle and eventually committed suicide by blowing themselves up with gunpowder. With the rapid development of military equipment, the ancient fortress lost its military importance, but it was still inhabited until the end of the 17th century. After the Great Northern War, the castle was completely abandoned.

Website: <http://cesupils.lv/en/>

Opening Times: <http://cesupils.lv/en/plan-your-visit/visit-with-children/opening-hours/>

Christ Transfiguration Orthodox Church was built by earl Karl Sievers in 1842 in a Byzantine style. In the altar of the church the painting "Resurrection of Christ" can be seen and the internal walls are covered by the paintings of J. Köhler. There is also a cemetery for the Sievers family in the garden of the church.

Sigulda Evangelic Lutheran Church was first mentioned in writings in the 15th century as St. Bartholomew's Church. Its tower was designed by Konstantīns Pēkšēns, the author of the altar piece is Jānis Roberts Tilbergs. Visitors can view the exhibition on the church's history and a series of artworks made from buttons called "The Button mosaics" by Valdis Atāls. Visitors are also welcome to climb the tower.

Website: <http://tourism.sigulda.lv/sigulda-evangelic-lutheran-church/>

The New Castle of Sigulda was built in 1878 in the Neo-Gothic style as the living house for the owners of the manor, the Kropotkin family. The building has changed its owners and functions several times. Since 1993, the Sigulda Region Council has been located in the castle.

Website: <http://tourism.sigulda.lv/the-new-castle-of-sigulda-and-the-manor-center/>

Old Sigulda Castle was built by the Livonian Brothers of the Sword who were later incorporated into the Teutonic Order of the castle, thus the castle eventually became the property of the Livonian Order. The castle was initially built to monitor and control the water ways of the Gauja River and to fend off any invasion attempts from the nearby bishop's castle in Turaida which was located on the river's west coast.

Website: <http://tourism.sigulda.lv/castle-of-livonian-order-in-sigulda/>

Opening Times:

Gutmanis Cave This is the widest and highest cave in the Baltics. It is 19 meters deep, 12 meters wide and 10 meters high. The cave was formed from the yellow-brown sandstone rock of the Gauja river bank; its formation is due to a millennium long interaction between the river and an underground spring. The cave is considered the oldest tourist attraction in Latvia because visitors, from even the earliest days, wanted to leave "decorations" such as names, initials and the dates of their visits engraved on the walls of the cave.

According to local folk legend, the spring flowing out of the cave are the tears of the wife of the Liv chief, Rindaugs. The story tells that the chief buried his unfaithful wife in the sandy bank of Gauja river. The poor woman, distraught by her guilty conscience, cried so hard that her tears flowed out of the large cave. To this day, the spring's waters are said to have healing properties. Yet another tale explains how the cave got its name. Long time ago there was a good man who lived in the cave and used the spring water to heal people. "Gut mann" in German means good man.

Gutman's Cave is a place of ancient worship. Up until the 19th century, people would come to make their offerings to the deities. One of the most enduring legends is the story of Maija, the Rose of Turaida. Here is the story: In the spring of 1601 during the Polish-Swedish war, the Swedish army occupied Turaida castle. After the battle the record keeper of the castle, named Greif, found a little girl just a few weeks old among the dead bodies. He took her in and raised her as his daughter. It happened to be the month of May so he named her Maija/May. As the years went by the little girl grew to be a beautiful young maiden and because of her beauty she was called the Rose of Turaida. Her fiancé, Vicor Hail, was a gardener at Sigulda castle on the opposite side of the Gauja river and in the evenings they would meet at Gutman's Cave. During that time there were two Polish deserters – Jakubovsky and Skudritis. Jakubovsky lusted after Maija and wanted her to marry him, but the girl turned down his proposal.

This angered Jakubovsky and he decided to take her by force. He sent Skudritis to her with a fake message from Victor telling her to come to the usual meeting place but at a different time. When the girl arrived and realized that she was trapped, she chose to die instead of be shamed. At that time people believed in the power of magic. Maija had a red silk scarf around her neck; a gift from her fiancé Victor. She offered this scarf, which, she said, bore magic powers and was impossible to cut through in exchange for letting her go. She encouraged Jacobovsky to test the powers of the scarf and use his sword to see if she was telling the truth. Initially Jakubovsky hesitated, but then cut with full force only to see the girl collapse. Jakubovsky, fearing punishment for his deed, ran off to the woods and hung himself. Later that night Victor found his love murdered in the cave and ran to Turaida for help. In the rush he lost his axe at the scene and was eventually accused of murder and sentenced to death. However, the course of events was changed by Skudritis who had followed Jakubovsky and had seen what happened. He told the court what he witnessed and Victor was acquitted. The girl was buried in the cemetery by Turaida church where you may visit her final resting place. For a very long time this story was thought to be a sad legend, but in the middle of the 19th century the court archives in Vidzeme revealed the transcript of the murder case of Maija in the Gutman's Cave dated August 1620. This ancient legend has led many artists to create works in praise of the devotion of The Rose of Turaida and the power of love.

Right next to the Gutman's Cave there is a smaller Victor's cave. The story goes that Victor Hail hacked out this cave for his fiancé, the Rose of Turaida, so she could watch him at work in the gardens of Sigulda castle.

One may find the story of Maija and Victor similar to that of Romeo and Juliet. This Latvian legend of love has its birthplace here in Sigulda and that is why Sigulda bears the title "City of Love." Share in the legend by meeting your loved one at the station clock (a smaller 'brother' of the famous Laima clock in Riga), and go for a romantic walk amid the spring blooms or autumn leaves.

Website: <http://tourism.sigulda.lv/gutman-s-cave/>

Turaida Castle founded in 1214 at the command of Albert, the Bishop of Riga, on the site, where previously was located the wooden stronghold of the Livs. In the Middle Ages Turaida Castle was one of the Archbishop's castles of economic importance, the centre of bailiwick, the residence of district's administrator and military fortification. In the beginning of the 20th century, only fragments of defensive wall and some partially destroyed buildings had been preserved – the Main Tower, Semi-round West Tower and West Block.

Website: http://www.turaida-muzejs.lv/home_en1/

Opening Times: <http://www.turaida-muzejs.lv/plans-to-visit/opening-hours-prices/>

Turaida Lutheran Church is one of the oldest wooden churches in Latvia, built in 1750. The church is located on the Church hill, which is an ancient church building place. Archaeological excavations testify that on this hill there have been previously built at least two churches. The Church hill was used as an ancient burial place.

Website: <http://www.turaida-muzejs.lv/exhibitions/turaida-church-and-church-hill/history-of-the-church/>

Folk Song Park was opened to the public on July 7, 1985, in honour of the 150th anniversary of the birth of folklorist Krišjānis Barons and with a performance of one of the folk songs that he collected – “I Stood and Sang Atop a High Hill.” Initially, the park had 15 sculptures by Indulis Ranka. Turaida is full of songs about work, nature and the fatherland, and it has gradually become a special place at which folk songs can be used to express yearnings for freedom. As the Third Latvian Renaissance approached in the mid-1980s, Folk Song Hill was the place where the Latvian Singing Revolution emerged and continued until the restoration of Latvia’s independence in 1991. Today Folk Song Hill is a symbol for the Singing Revolution, sending an eternal message about the strength of song and the self-respect of the Latvian people.

Website: <http://www.turaida-muzejs.lv/exhibitions/folk-park-mountain-folk/creating/> Opening Times:

Friday 12th May
Riga

Suggested
Times

Attraction

Opening
Times

Admission
Fee

Set off at 08:40. 20 minute drive.

09:00 – 09:45	Riga Brethren Cemetery (Rīgas Brāļu kapi) Address: Aizsaules iela 1B, Ziemeļu rajons, Rīga, LV-1026, Latvia	N/A	N/A
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10 minute drive.

10:00 – 11:30	The National History Museum of Latvia department Dauderi Address: Sarkandaugavas iela 30, Rīga 1005, Latvia	10:00 – 17:00	€0.71
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5 minute drive.

11:30 – 13:30	Aldaris Beer Museum Address: Tvaika iela 44, Rīga 1005, Latvia	09:00 – 18:00	€7
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30 minute drive.

14:00 – 16:00	Latvian Ethnographic Open Air Museum Address: Brīvības gatve 440, Rīga 1024, Latvia	10:00 – 17:00	€4
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10 minute drive.

16:15 – 18:00	Riga Motor Museum (Rīgas motormuzejs) Address: Sergeja Eizensšteina iela 6, Rīga 1079, Latvia	10:00 – 18:00	€10
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25 minute drive back to Riga.

Alternatives

Riga Radio and TV Tower Address: Zakusalas krastmala 1, Rīga 1050, Latvia	10:00 – 20:00	€3.70
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Attraction Info

The Riga Brethren Cemetery is dedicated to the soldiers who fell during World War I and the Latvian Freedom Fights (1915-1920). Approximately 3,000 heroes, including 300 unknown soldiers, lie buried in the Cemetery ground.

Website: <http://en.rigasbralukapi.lv/>

The National History Museum of Latvia Dauderi is based in a nineteenth century house and displays the history of the Republic of Latvia between 1918 and 1940. The building was a family villa of the former brewery Waldschlosschen owner Adolf von Bingner. At that time it was recognized as one of the most beautiful private houses in Riga. Between 1937 and 1940 it was used as a summer house for President and Prime Minister Kārlis Ulmanis.

Website: http://lnvm.lv/en/?page_id=40

Opening Times: http://lnvm.lv/en/?page_id=95

The Aldaris Brewery was established in 1865, and by 1906 it was considered the most modern brewery in Europe. The museum is housed in one of the brewery's original brick buildings and traces the history of Aldaris from its founding to the current day. Stroll amongst antique photographs, copper beer vats from the 1930s and informative displays of the hallowed brewing process. You can also take a look at the real thing as Aldaris beers are still brewed on the premises just behind the glass wall. Finish your experience with a brew in the lovely tasting room that also boasts a 'periodic table of beer' that includes an example of every type of beer brewed around the globe.

Website: <http://alusdarbnica.lv/en/>

Opening Times: <http://alusdarbnica.lv/en/museum/>

The Ethnographic Open-Air Museum of Latvia, nestled in a pine forest, is one of Europe's oldest and largest outdoor museums, and can be found alongside the shore of Lake Jugla. Since its establishment in 1924, the museum has collected 118 historical buildings from all over Latvia. Riga and all of Latvia's regions, Kurzeme, Vidzeme, Zemgale, and Latgale, are represented here. The buildings have been set up to give visitors a sense of Latvia's rural landscape. There are farmsteads of Latvian farmers, craftsmen, and fishermen. They all contain permanent exhibitions – household and working tools, interior furnishings – which characterize the time period, the district, and the owner's vocation. From May until September, folk artisans such as potters, weavers, blacksmiths, woodworkers, and teachers of traditional games work at the Open-Air Museum.

Website: <http://brivdabasmuzejs.lv/en/>

Riga Motor Museum is the biggest antique vehicle museum in the Baltic countries. The museum was founded in 1989 on an initiative from Latvia Antique Automobile club (AAK). The museum has an eclectic collection of classic cars from vintage Rolls Royces, BMWs and Mercedes' to Soviet mechanical wonders. Don't miss the Benz Patent Motorwagen – the oldest automobile in the world. Interactive driving games are also available and even the entrance to this modern must-see looks like the grill of a vintage car. You can also pose in front of a green screen and have your photo taken at a Soviet-era parade.

Website: <http://www.motormuzejs.lv/index.php/en/>

Opening Times: <http://www.motormuzejs.lv/index.php/en/homepage-3/opening-hours-and-tickets>

Riga Radio and TV Tower is 368 meters high and the highest tower in the European Union. The Observation Deck, which is located 97 m above Zaķusalas, is the highest publicly accessible viewing point in Riga, and it can be an excellent view of the Old Town.

Website: <http://www.lvrta.lv/company.html?lang=en>

Opening Times: <http://www.lvrta.lv/ekskursija-tv-torn299.html?lang=lv>

Helpful Websites & Apps

<http://www.latvia.travel/en>
www.liveriga.com
<https://www.inyourpocket.com/riga>
<http://www.tourism.bauska.lv/en/>
<http://www.visitventspils.com/en/start/>
<http://www.visit.kuldiga.lv/en/>
<http://turisms.cesis.lv/en/#>
<http://tourism.sigulda.lv/>

Official Latvia Tourist website
 Official Riga Tourist website
 Helpful Riga Tourist website
 Official Bauska Tourist website
 Official Ventspils Tourist website
 Official Kuldiga Tourist website
 Official Cesis Tourist website
 Official Sigulda Tourist website

Other Attractions

Attraction

Riga Zoo

Latvian Museum of Architecture

Museum of Decorative Art and Design
 (Dekoratīvās mākslas un dizaina muzejs)

1991 Barricades Museum
 (1991. Gada Barikazu Dalibnieku Pieminu Zimes Valde)

Mentendorff House (Mencendorfa Nams)

The Secret Soviet Bunker

Website

www.rigazoo.lv

www.archmuseum.lv

www.lnmm.lv

www.barikades.lv

<http://www.mencendorfanams.com/en/>

<http://www.bunkurs.lv/en/>

Address

Mezha prospekts 1, Riga 1014, Latvia

Maza Pils St., Riga, Latvia

Skārņu 10, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Kramu iela 3, Riga 1050, Latvia

Grecinieku iela 18, Riga 1050, Latvia

Skalupes, Līgatne, Latvia

Hints and Tips

Respect: Handshaking is customary when meeting someone for the first time. Latvians can be reserved and formal, but nevertheless very hospitable. Latvians are proud of their culture, and visitors should respect this strong sense of national identity.

Travel Requirements: Latvia is a member of the Schengen Agreement.

Electricity: 220 volts AC, 50 Hz. Round two-pin plugs are in use.

Currency: The Euro. Latvia joined the eurozone in January 2014, so no complicated conversions into lats (the previous national currency) are necessary any longer. However, you will find some odd prices quoted as they have been strictly converted from the old lats price. Banks are mainly open from Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm, and it is advisable to exchange foreign currency in advance of visiting many areas of the countryside, as some places will not accept any bank cards. There are cash machines in all the major cities and towns of Latvia. Most of them accept Eurocard, Mastercard, Visa, JCB, Diner's Club, and American Express credit cards.

Language: Latvian is the official language. Russian, English and German are also widely spoken.

Basic words:

- Thank you - paldies
- Please - lūdzu
- Good morning - labrīt
- Good afternoon - labdien
- Good evening - labvakar
- Yes - jā
- No – nē

Religion: Latvia is mainly Christian, with Lutheran, Roman Catholic and Russian Orthodox the most popular confessions.

Telephone dialing code: +371. To call from Latvia, dial 00 then the country's code that you are wanting to dial to.

Emergency numbers: 112 (police and fire), 113 (ambulance).

Payphones: phonecards required, which can be purchased at kiosks, post offices and in some shops.

Mobile Telephones: Good coverage with roaming agreements with many international phone companies.

Internet: Can be accessed in several internet cafes in Riga, and in some other towns.

Transport – Buses: Buses, trams and trolley buses are used in Riga. Plastic smart cards (long-term use) and cardboard tickets are available (www.rigassatiksme.lv).

Transport – Taxis: The price of the taxi service will be shown on the outside of the taxi. Taxis are available directly on the street, from a taxi rank, or by ordering one by phone. Most taxis only accept cash.

Transport – Driving: It can be a stressful experience. Latvia has the highest accident statistics in the EU – and the main reason is the reckless driving habits of the locals. In most cities and towns in Latvia, on working days from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, you have to pay for parking in the city centre. The cost for car parking is required in advance, using special parking ticket machines or by sms.

Other points to note:

- Drive on the right hand side of the road.
- A valid driver's license is required
- Speed limits are usually 50 kph in cities and 90 kph on highways.
- Blood alcohol limit is 0.2-0.5 promiles.
- Headlights must be on and used at all times, day and night.
- Seatbelts are obligatory for drivers and passengers.

Water: Tap water is safe to drink, however, most locals prefer to boil it before drinking.

Shopping: Latvia is known for its amber, smoked (black) ceramics, silver jewellery, mittens, black (rye) bread, Riga Black Balsam herbal liqueur (Melnais Balzams) and Laima chocolates.

Cuisine: Latvian food has Nordic, Russian and German influences. It tends to be rather fat and rich, with main courses often consisting of potatoes, porridges, pancakes, and soups. Smoked bacon, sausage, other pork products are also favourites, as well as smoked and raw fish.

Try the following:

- Maize Zupa (sweet soup made from rye bread)
- Biesu Zupa (red beetroot soup)
- Kotletes (meatballs served with potatoes)
- Piragi (bacon and onion wrapped in a thin yeast dough)
- Siļķe ar biezpienu (herring served with cottage cheese)
- Commorgan-wieders (braised chuck, ground with celery, onions and wrapped in a crepe and resauteed)
- Griki (buckwheat)
- Skabeti kaposti (sauerkraut)
- Biezpiena Sierins (curd snack made from milk)
- Laima Chocolate

Alcohol Consumption: alcohol can be purchased from age 18 and over. Note, it is prohibited to be drink from an open bottle in the street.

Smoking: Prohibited in most public buildings and also in parks, squares and beached, except if the places are specially designated for smoking.

Tipping: 10% is acceptable in restaurants and cafes, unless the service has already been included in the bill. Tipping is often given, but is not obligatory, to hotel service staff, taxi cab drivers, and hairdressers.

Vaccinations: Forest ticks can be an issue from May to September, and has the risk of tick-born encephalitis.