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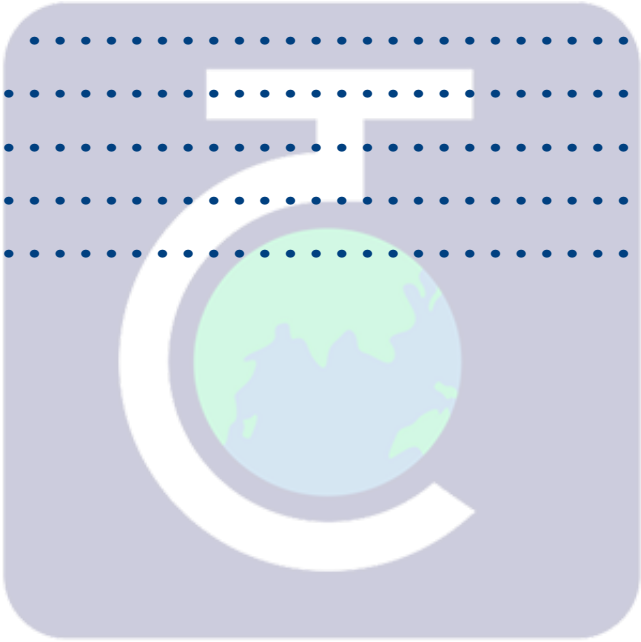
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1. Geographical location

"Riga lies on the southern shores of the Baltic Sea on both banks of River Daugava which divides it into two parts: Vecriga (Old Riga) and Pardaugava. The banks are connected by five bridges, including one only for handling railway traffic. Natural landscapes form 39% of the total city, 23% of which are green areas. The largest river of Riga is River Daugava. In addition, Riga has small rivers, ponds and nine lakes which together constitute 17.6% of blue area of the city, giving it a nice natural landscape. Riga is also a key Baltic port with major exports being dairy products and timber."



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2. Neighbouring cities/countries

The Closest Cities To Riga Are Kaunas, Lithuania (228 Kms), Vilnius, Lithuania (263 Kms), Pskov, Russia (275 Kms), Tallinn, Estonia (279 Kms) And Helsinki, Finland (360 Kms).



3. Significance

One Should Visit Riga For Its Beautiful And Diverse Architecture. Its Famous For Its Multi Cuisine Diverse Restaurants One Should Try. The Spa Treatments Of This City Are Very Well Known Across Countries And One Should Definitely Indulge In Them.



4. History

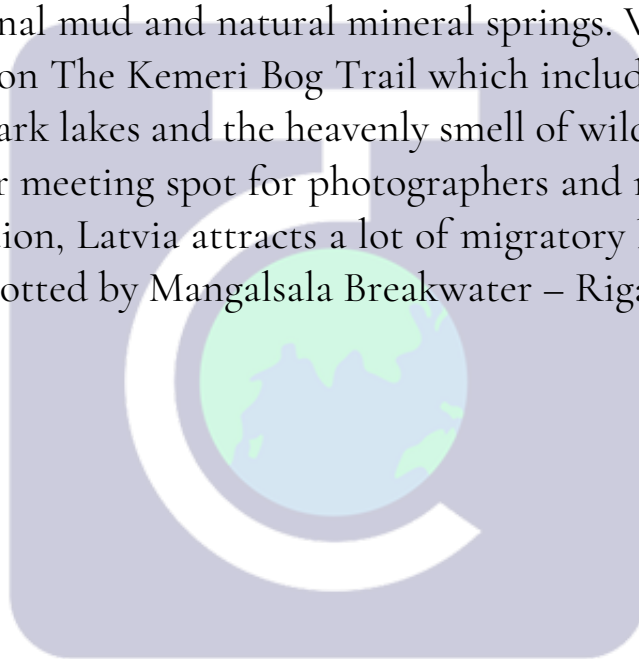
"Riga Is A City Steeped In History. The City Was Ruled By The Soviets, Poles, Germans And Swedesh, All Of Whom Have Left Their Mark In The Development Of This Beautiful City. Despite Changing Rulers, The City Maintained Its Status As A Developing City With Booming Trade And Industrial Growth. Riga Was Founded In 1201 (as Archeological Excavations Prove) When German Bishop Albert (Albrecht Von Buxthoeven) Started Building A Castle Near The Gulf Of Rīga. The City Became The Centre Of German Crusades From This Point Onwards And The Period From 12th-19th Century In Riga Is Called The Age Of German Rule. During Early 1900s, The City Saw Rapid Development Of Trade And Other Economic Sectors (notably The Food Industries). Although Soon After This Boom, Latvian Economy Was Disastrously Hit By World War II And Soviet Occupation. It Was In Late 1980s When The Movement For Independence Picked Up And Riga Became The Centre Of Political Activity. The Republic Of Latvia Finally Regained Independence In 1990 And Riga Became The Capital City."

5. Cultural identity

Riga is a culturally rich city. It is called the cultural capital of the Baltics. The city saw a great population and financial boom in 19th-20th century and Riga's architecture is the most visible remnant of this boom. The cityscape today, may be dominated by Gothic spires but it is the classic art nouveau architecture that builds the flesh of this city. Riga is world renowned for its 19th century wood architecture and Art Nouveau buildings, which are considered unequalled in the world by the connoisseurs of art and architecture. The historic centre of Riga is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a living illustration of the splendid European history. Art nouveau in Riga isn't relegated only to the city's buildings but extends into everyday lives and homes (furniture and fashion) of the people of Riga. The main streets that fall under Riga's Art Nouveau district are Elizabetes Street, Alberta and Strelnieku Streets. More information on Art Nouveau architecture in Riga can be obtained from The Latvian Museum of Architecture in Old Riga. Riga is also quite a theatrical city. It has many good theatres preserving the rich traditions of Latvian and international drama. The oldest drama theatre in Riga is the Riga Russian Theatre set up in 1883. The Latvian National Opera is well known for its operas and ballet troupe. The Latvian National Theatre, founded in 1919, is one of the biggest in the country.

6. Natural resources

"Latvia boasts of a rich cultural heritage. The capital city is world renowned for its 19th century wood architecture and Art Nouveau buildings, which are considered unequalled in the world by the connoisseurs of art and architecture. You can also find natural beauty in abundance in Riga. Kemeru National Park (Kemeru nacionālais park) which is just 50 km from the capital city of Riga is known for its medicinal mud and natural mineral springs. Visitors also enjoy the picturesque marshes on The Kemeru Bog Trail which includes the beautiful sight of moss, pine trees, dark lakes and the heavenly smell of wild rosemary. The place has become a popular meeting spot for photographers and nature lovers. Thanks to the country's location, Latvia attracts a lot of migratory birds during autumn. Many birds can be spotted by Mangalsala Breakwater – Riga Sea Gate. "



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. Riga Zoo

Tagged as the oldest zoo in the Baltics, Riga Zoo is an abode to over 90 species of wild animals from around the globe. The surrounding area of Mežaparks, a hilly pine forest, provides a lot of other activities for people to make their outing enjoyable. Spot Japanese macaques, African zebras, lions, tigers, Galapagos tortoises, Asian red pandas and European bears as well as rare birds, snakes, and frogs in the tropical house.

Address : Meža prospekts 1, LV-1014, Riga, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1014

Location : 57.0062017, 24.157535800000005

Contact : 37167518409

Website : <http://www.rigazoo.lv/public/>

Nearest Public Transport : Mežaparks Light Rail Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €6 Children (4-18 years), students, Seniors (up to 70 years): €4 Children under 4, Seniors (70 years and above): Free admission Family ticket (2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children): €17 Each additional child: €2

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-19:00hrs Tropical House: 11:00hrs-18:45hrs

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time : 15-20 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.2. Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation

Standing as the oldest public museum in the Baltics, Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation retraces the history of the city and its port in chronological fashion. Scattered over 3 floors, it houses a repository of significant cultural, historical and artistic value and marks a good start point to soak in the history and development of Latvia.

Address : Palasta iela 4, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.9484905, 24.104435599999988

Contact : +371 67 356 676

Website : <http://lnvm.lv/>

Nearest Public Transport : 11.novembra krastmala Bus Station Grēcinieku iela Light Rail Station

Entry Fee : €4.27

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 20 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.3. St. Peter's Church

Dedicated to St. Peter, St. Peter's Church is the tallest church in Riga and offers an unbeatable view of the city. Built in 1209, it was included in UNESCO's World Heritage list in 1997 and is thronged by visitors all year round. Situated in the historic center of the city, this Lutheran church is one of the most monumental architectural masterpieces in the city and is a chief example of the 13th-century Gothic style architecture.

Address : Skārņu iela 19, Rīga, LV-1050

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.9475485, 24.1093200000000025

Contact : 371-67181941

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

Nearest Public Transport : Grēcinieku iela Light Rail Station 11.novembra krastmala Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €11 Students (with supporting documentation): €8 Students (school age): €5 Children (up to 7 years old): Free admission

Open & Close Timing : September to April: Tuesday to Saturday: 10:00hrs-18:00hrs Sunday: 12:00hrs-18:00hrs May to August: Tuesday to Saturday: 10:00hrs-19:00hrs Sunday: 12:00hrs-19:00hrs Closed on Mondays

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.4. Latvian Ethnographic Open Air Museum

Scattered over an area of 87.66 hectares, Latvian Ethnographic Open Air Museum

stands as the oldest open-air museums across Europe and is perched on the banks of the Lake Jugla. The museum is an abode to 118 historic buildings coming from all Latvian regions dating back to the 17th century up till the early 1930s. Have a glance through the homes of Latvian farmers, craftsmen, and fishermen coupled with permanent exhibitions of household and work equipment.

Address : Brīvības gatve 440, Vidzemes priekšpilsēta, Rīga, LV-1024, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1024

Location : 56.9910785, 24.2781110999999

Contact : +371 67 994 106

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

Nearest Public Transport : Vēdzirnavu iela Bus Station

Entry Fee : 1st October to 30th April: Adults: €2 Seniors, full-time students: €1.40 Pupils, Disabled (3rd level): €0.70 Family (1-2 adults and 1-4 children below 18), 1 large family: €4 Groups (at least 10 people): €1.40 1st May to 30th September: Adults: €4 Full-time students: €2 Senior citizens: €2.50 Pupils, Disabled (3rd level): €1.40 Families (1-2 adults and 1-4 children below 18): €8.50 Groups (at least 10 people): €3.50

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.5. Latvian National Museum of Art

One of the most stunning ancient buildings in the city, this National Museum of Art is an architectural marvel coupled with an extensive collection of over 52,000 works by Baltic and Russian painters as well as sculptors. Soak in the art history dating back to the 19th and 20th centuries as well as get your eyes stuck on the masterpieces. Gaze at the majestic facade built in ornate and Classicism style and get surprised with the roof terraces offering breath taking views of the city.

Address : Jaņa Rozentāla laukums 1, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1010, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1010

Location : 56.9558289999999, 24.1130752999999

Contact : +371 67 324 461

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

Nearest Public Transport : Elizabetes iela Bus Station

Entry Fee : Great Exhibition Hall: Adults: €3.50 Schools, Students, and Seniors: €2 Permanent display: Adults: €3 Schools: €0.50 Students and Seniors: €1.50 Family ticket: €5

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Thursday: 10:00hrs-18:00hrs Friday: 10:00hrs-20:00hrs Saturday and Sunday: 10:00hrs-17:00hrs Monday closed

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.6. Latvian Museum of Natural History

Head to view nature right in the epicenter of the city at the Latvian Museum of Natural History which stands as the largest and also the oldest museum of natural history and sciences among the Baltic states. Take a tour through the exhibits that unveil human evolution, framed animals, and birds from all over the world, a massive collection of insects, plants, and minerals, a tour into the history of the earth, volcanic eruptions, interactive displays, quizzes, and stories.

Address : K.Barona 4, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.9495023, 24.1181814999999

Contact : +371 67 356 023

Website : <http://www.dabasmuzejs.gov.lv>

Nearest Public Transport : Merķeļa iela Bus Station

Entry Fee : Pupils (7-18 years): €1 Students, Seniors: €2 Adults: €3 Family ticket (1-2 adults and 1-2 children under 18): 20% off on admission Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday: Free admission between 16:30hrs-17:00hrs Thursday: Free admission between 17:00hrs-19:00hrs

Open & Close Timing : Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10:00hrs-17:00hrs Thursday: 10:00hrs-19:00hrs Monday and Tuesday closed

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.7. Riga Motor Museum

Listen to some exhilarating stories and spot a massive and distinct collection of antique motor vehicles at this museum where the exhibition speaks about unique vehicles, renowned people and the most prominent historical events related to the automotive world. Let your children take over the interactive elements installed throughout the museum to gain knowledge. Head here if you are an automobile aficionado or a fan of Soviet memorabilia.

Address : Sergeja Eizenšteina iela 8, Vidzemes priekšpilsēta, Rīga, LV-1079, Latvia
Zipcode : LV-1079

Location : 56.9704997, 24.2275501

Contact : +371 67 025 888

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

Nearest Public Transport : Motormuzejs Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €10 Children, students, seniors (60 years and above): €5
Family ticket (2 adults and up to 4 children): €20 Family ticket (1 adults and up to 4 children): €15 Adult group ticket (group of 10 or more people): €9 per person
Children, student, senior group ticket (group of 10 or more people): €4 per person
Children (up to 6 years), People with 2nd and 3rd group of disability, Children with disabilities and people with 1st group of disability and the accompanying person: Free admission

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.8. Latvian Railway History Museum

Enter into the world of railways at this interactive Railway History Museum established in 1990 with a unique setting near the functioning railway line. Browse through the collections comprising of photographic negatives, postcards as well as pictures highlighting engineering structures, the process of railway line building, railwaymen's life and work scenes, locomotives for passenger cars and goods wagons.

Address : Uzvaras bulvāris 2/4, Zemgales priekšpilsēta, Rīga, LV-1048, Latvia
Zipcode : LV-1048

Location : 56.9409394, 24.094477999999999

Contact : +371 67 232 849

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

Nearest Public Transport : Nacionālā bibliotēka Light rail Station Valguma iela Bus Station

Entry Fee : Students: €1 Adults: €2.50 Guided tour LV (10-30 people): €7.50 Guided tour ENG, RU (10-30 people): €15 Children, Member of ICOM, persons with disabilities: Free admission

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday: 10:00hrs-13:30hrs Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday: 10:00hrs-17:00hrs Thursday: 10:00hrs-20:00hrs Sunday and Monday closed

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.9. Riga Cathedral

One of the oldest sacred buildings and the largest medieval church in the Baltics, this cathedral stands as an icon of Old Town of Riga and is a blend of different architectural styles. Marvel at the renowned organ of the dome cathedral made in 1884 and standing as the biggest organ in the world comprising of 6718 pipes. Featuring Romanesque, early Gothic, Baroque, and Art Nouveau styles, it is known as the largest medieval church across Latvia and Baltic states.

Address : Herdera laukums 6, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.949016, 24.1047588

Contact : +371 67 227 573

Website : <http://www.doms.lv/index/>

Nearest Public Transport : 11.novembra krastmala Bus Station

Entry Fee : €3

Open & Close Timing : 1st July to 30th September: Monday, Tuesday, Saturday, and Sunday: 09:00hrs-18:00hrs Wednesday and Friday: 09:00hrs-17:00hrs Thursday: 09:00hrs-17:30hrs 1st October to 30th June: Daily 10:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.10. Līvu Akvaparks

Head to Līvu Akvaparks for a fun-filled day in the lap of water and adventure. Labeled as Latvia's largest indoor water park, it is an abode to a wave pool, water slides, children's pool, outdoor pool, and numerous other attractions to pique your interest coupled with a poolside bar, cafeteria, saunas, and hot tubs. Spread across an area of 18000 square meters and across 3 floors, it stands as the largest closed-type water park in Northern Europe.

Address : Viestura iela 24, Jūrmala, LV-2010, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-2010

Location : 56.9740303, 23.8604503999999

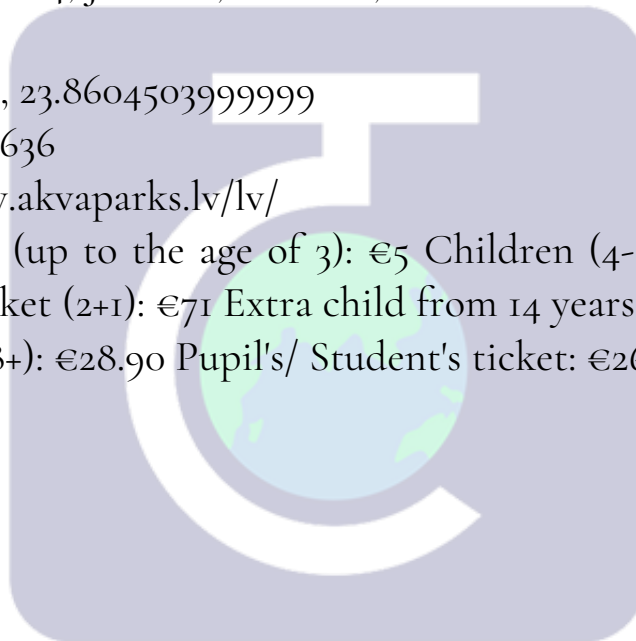
Contact : +371 67 755 636

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

Entry Fee : Children (up to the age of 3): €5 Children (4-5 years): €7 Children (6-14): €20 Family ticket (2+1): €71 Extra child from 14 years including: €11 Senior ticket: €26 Adults (18+): €28.90 Pupil's/ Student's ticket: €26

Time Required : 12

Buy Ticket : Yes



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7.2. Free

7.2.1. Freedom Monument

Sited right in the heart of the city, the Freedom Monument is 42.7 meters tall memorial devoted to the Latvian heroes in the fight for freedom 1918-1920. Affectionately known as 'Milda', the monument is the focal point of the city and was financed entirely by public donations. Presently, the Freedom Monument is the most snapshotted monument across all Baltic states and one of the chief attractions in the city.

Address : Central District, Riga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.9514905, 24.11330429999998

Website : <http://www.latvia.travel/lv/apskates-vieta/brivibas-piemineklis>

Nearest Public Transport : Brīvības pieminēklis Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Art Nouveau Riga Jugendstila Paviljons

Inspired by the beauty of Art Nouveau in the city of Riga, this museum, as well as store, accommodates original interior decors, jewelry, ceramics, and souvenirs. The city is renowned for its finest concentration of Art Nouveau buildings with 1/3rd all over the city being architecturally famous.

Address : Strēlnieku iela 9, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1010, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1010

Location : 56.9596974, 24.108056199999965

Contact : +371 67 333 030

Website : <https://artnouveauriga.lv/>

Nearest Public Transport : Elizabetes iela Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Riga Central Market

The Central Market which has been the largest market in Europe since the 90s is still a major tourist attraction and a chief place of trade for many Latvians. Situated a few hundred meters from Old Town, it includes 5 pavilions - vegetables, dairy, meat, fish and gastronomy products and an outdoor area with stalls and stands. The produce is always fresh and visitors can expect some really good bargains in the city. It is the largest marketplace in the Baltics and retains the lovely feel of a traditional trade emporium even today.

Address : Nēģu iela 7, Latgales priekšpilsēta, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.9435575, 24.114863900000046

Contact : +371 67 229 985

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

Nearest Public Transport : Centrāltirgus Light Rail Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Vērmānes garden

Covering an area of 12 acres in the city center, the Vērmānes Park tagged as the 2nd oldest park often hosts free concerts and other events throughout the year. One can also find beautiful sculptures and statues of many popular Latvian artists. You will find good eateries while strolling across the park with BIBLIOTĒKA NŌI being the best serving mouth-watering Latvian dishes and desserts coupled with an excellent list of wines. A good place to relax and unwind, it is a chirpy spot for people of all ages and interests right from children to hipsters.

Address : Tērbatas iela 2D, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.951617, 24.1187774

Nearest Public Transport : Inženieru iela Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. National Library of Latvia

Established in 1919, the National Library of Latvia serves as the legal deposit library of Latvia and its new edifice was inaugurated in 2014. Not only a storehouse of information but it is also a striking architectural symbol of the country too and is known to host numerous exhibitions and events. At the National Library you can find and read the books you're looking for, participate in discussions, enjoy chamber music and concerts, view some great exhibitions and also enjoy some breathtaking views of the capital city from the 8th floor.

Address : Mūkusalas iela 3, Zemgales priekšpilsēta, Rīga, LV-1423, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1423

Location : 56.941013, 24.096625000000017

Contact : +371 67 806 135

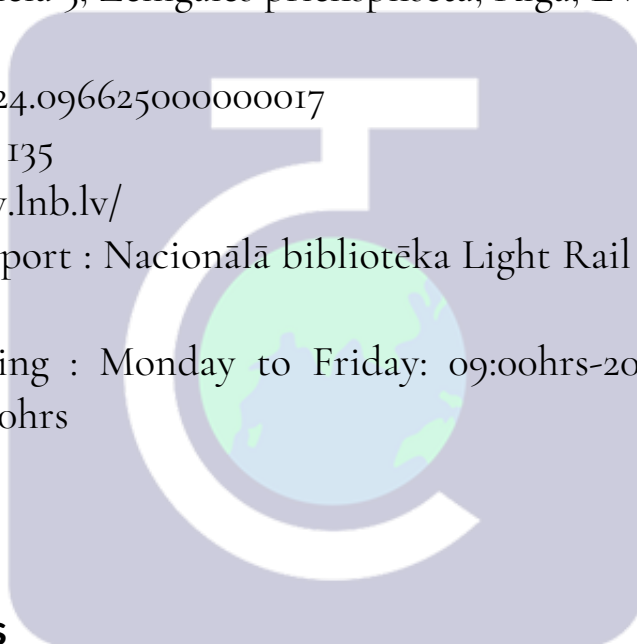
Website : <http://www.lnb.lv/>

Nearest Public Transport : Nacionālā bibliotēka Light Rail Station Valguma iela Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Friday: 09:00hrs-20:00hrs Saturday and Sunday: 10:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No



7.2.6. Berga Bazars

A major upscale shopping venue right in the center of Riga, Berga Bazars features tiny boutique shops selling a diverse range of items including cosmetics and gorgeous clothing. You may take a stroll around, relax at one of the spas, grab a bite to eat or sip on a coffee or fill your bags with some local souvenirs. If you happen to be there on 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, you may witness antique and food bazaar as well.

Address : Elizabetes iela 83, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.950411, 24.122613300000012

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Galleria

This renowned downtown shopping center scattered across several floors offers a galvanizing shopping experience and gives you a taste of the city. Head here to find everything you need right from fashion to beauty, shoes to clothing, beverages to tobacco products and exclusive gifts, watches and much more.

Address : Audēju iela 16, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.9480161, 24.112719200000015

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Tērbatas iela

Zipcode : 0

Location : 56.9564248, 24.127025099999997

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Kr. Barona iela

Zipcode : 0

Location : 56.957755, 24.134425800000003

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. Alfa

Renowned as the biggest shopping mall in Riga, Alfa is an abode to numerous shops ranging from clothes, accessories to electronics and home products. Step in the hypermarket or stomach it up at the food court. After using away all your cash for souvenirs, you may see a movie at the cinema here.

Address : Brīvības gatve 372, Vidzemes priekšpilsēta, Rīga, LV-1006, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1006

Location : 56.98256259999999, 24.2037854

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



7.2.11. Museum of the Occupation of Latvia

If you wish to understand tantalizing Latvia's history, head to this museum that unravels the country's history right from 1940 to 1991 when both the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany practiced their occupations. Browse through the documents, photographs, and objects that speak of the tragedy which hit the Latvian residents under the harsh conditions created by foreign powers. Note: The entry is free, however, you can opt for guided tours.(1-3 people: €10 per person, 4-10 people: €3 per person, 11+ people: €2.5 per person)

Address : Raiņa bulvāris 7, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.9470334, 24.1064698

Contact : +371 67 212 715

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

Nearest Public Transport : 11.novembra krastmala Bus Station Grēcinieku iela Light Rail Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 11:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No



7.2.12. The Latvian War museum

One of the largest and oldest museums unravels the country's military history with special importance on the 20th century when the people fought for their independence. Go through the themed exhibitions related to medieval and modern military history, various events from First and Second World Wars, declaration of independent Latvian nation, the creation of the state, and a vast collection of uniforms, medals, and weapons.

Address : Smilšu iela 20, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.9511912, 24.1083065

Contact : +371 67 228 147

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

Nearest Public Transport : Nacionālā opera Light Rail Station

Open & Close Timing : April to October: Daily 10:00hrs-18:00hrs November to March: Daily 10:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.13. Riga Nativity of Christ Cathedral

Standing as the biggest Russian Orthodox church in the city, this cathedral is representative of stunning architecture and stability thronged by a large number of foreign visitors as well as those who seek solace and sanctuary. The neo-Byzantine style attracts visitors from far and wide with uniquely rich and high artistic value interior. This edifice is renowned for its magnificent collection of old and valuable icons, clergymen outfits, 3 painted iconostasis, and Byzantine-style frescoes adorned with Orthodox Christian ornamentation.

Address : Brīvības bulvāris 23, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.953951, 24.115628

Contact : +371 67 212 901

Nearest Public Transport : Esplanāde Bus Station

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.14. Kronvalda park

Spread across 11.92 hectares, the Kronvalda Park is split into 2 parts by the city canal and depicts a blend of old time along with modernity. An abode to over 104 foreign species and bushes, and a magnificent fountain proffering light and color shows at night, this verdant shade card of green is thronged by visitors and locals alike. You may enjoy boat and water bicycle rides in the canal and let your children enjoy in the playground or roller-skating tracks.

Address : Kalpaka bulvāris 12, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1010, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1010

Location : 56.9569675, 24.1050894999999

Nearest Public Transport : Medicīnas muzejs Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.15. House of the Blackheads

One of the most stunning edifices in Riga, House of the Blackheads, formerly known as the New House, stands as an architectural treasure since 1334. Dominating the heart of Riga's Old Town in the Town Hall Square, gaze at the opulent facade of the masterpiece depicting diverse architectural styles, go through the works of artisans and craftsmen portrayed in chandeliers, painted ceilings, armor sets, portraits, stained glass adorned with ornamentation, and Blackheads' Coat of Arms.

Address : Rātslaukums 7, Central District, Riga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.947123, 24.1068979

Contact : +371 67 181 800

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

Nearest Public Transport : 11.novembra krastmala Bus Station Grēcinieku iela Light Rail Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.16. Riga Castle

Standing for over 700 years on the embankment of Daugava, Riga Castle has seen dreadful destruction, a number of crowned heads, many destructive wars and is the residence of the President of Latvia presently. Marvel at the late Classicism architecture and interiors that speak about the centuries-long formation and historical phases of the castle. Head to this prominent monument of Latvian historical and cultural heritage.

Address : Central District, Riga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.9509516, 24.1005815999999

Contact : +371 67 092 106

Website : http://www.president.lv/pk/content/?cat_id=11&lng=en

Nearest Public Transport : 11.novembra krastmala Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.17. Pulvertornis (Powder Tower)

Built in 1330, Pulvertornis or the Powder Tower is one of early Riga's barricade wall towers and formerly known as the Sand Tower serving as a defensive system building. Reconstructed a number of times, the earlier entrance was at a height of 5 meters which made anyone climb the stairs to reach the tower.

Address : Smilšu iela 20, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.9511979, 24.1086582

Contact : +371 67 223 743

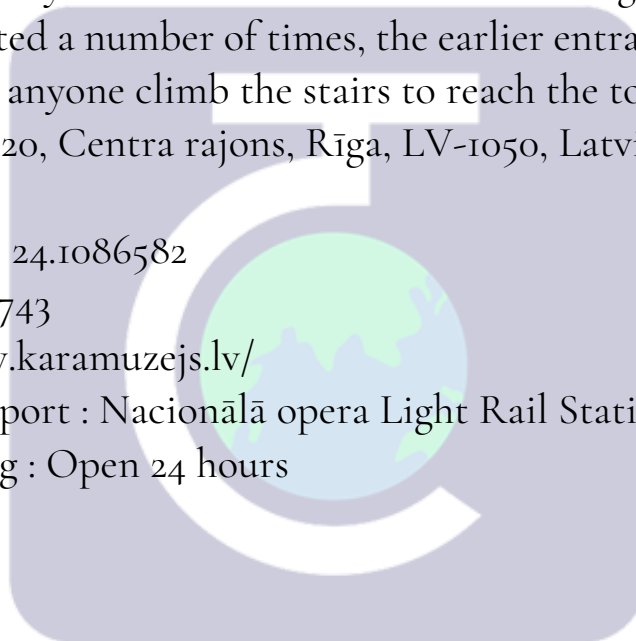
Website : <http://www.karamuzejs.lv/>

Nearest Public Transport : Nacionālā opera Light Rail Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No



7.2.18. The Swedish Gate

Out of the 8 gates of the city's fortification wall, the so-called Swedish Gate is the only surviving one having been built in 1698 letting you enter Old Riga. Marvel at this architectural monument and get clicked here.

Address : Atgriežu iela, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.9514284, 24.1063910999999

Nearest Public Transport : Nacionālā opera Light Rail Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.19. Bastejkalna parks

Named after the Bastion Hill that it houses, the Bastejkalna Park is a beautiful retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city and makes for a good place to visit and stroll around. You'll spot beautiful bridges, flower beds, as well as benches to sit on and relax in the lap of nature or get yourself a good Instagram upload. You may also rent a boat and have a ride across the canal or hang a love-lock on the bridge with your better-half to pledge your attachment.

Address : Central District, Riga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.9516813, 24.1120278999999

Website : <https://www.riga.lv/lv>

Nearest Public Transport : Brīvības piemineklis Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.20. Esplanāde

Spread across an area of 8.75 hectares, Esplanāde makes for a perfect natural setting right in the heart of the city. If you wish to stroll around or just relax with nature, head to this huge green patch and make the most of it.

Address : Reimersa iela 1, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1050

Location : 56.9544645, 24.1139396999999

Contact : +371 67 772 211

Website : <https://www.liveriga.com/lv/1636-esplanade>

Nearest Public Transport : Esplanāde Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.21. National Botanic Garden

If you wish to see the largest collection of plants in the Baltics, then head to the National Botanic Garden which is an abode to over 14,000 different species. Go through the expansive collection of trees, perennial, food, and greenhouse which in turn makes this green attraction a renowned destination for educational and

recreational purposes across all 4 seasons. Enter this oasis of calm and beauty while visiting Riga.

Address : Miera iela 1, Salaspils, Salaspils pilsēta, LV-2169, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-2169

Location : 56.8637607, 24.35822519999999

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.22. Lucavsala recreational park

Head to this natural setting situated in between the hustle and bustle of the city on an island in Riga. Attracting majority of the children, it turns out to be a huge play area for kids and heaven for residents who wish to enjoy nature right in the city center. To add to the beauty, there is also a swimming facility available with changing cabins, a huge playground for children, and a 230-metre long cable system for wakeboarding.

Address : Zemgale Suburb, Riga, LV-1004, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1004

Location : 56.93025189999999, 24.1116712

Contact : +371 28 877 971

Website : <http://rigawakepark.lv/>

Nearest Public Transport : Lucavsala Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.23. Ziedoņdārzs

Set up in 1939, Ziedoņdārzs is nestled between the center of Riga and suburbs encircled by high stone edifices on Čaka Street on one side and old wooden houses as well as narrow streets on the other side. Get clicked at the fountain which displays sculptures of frogs or just lose yourself in historic charm of this natural setting. Head to this popular leisure place for families as well as kids and seniors.

Address : Aleksandra Čaka iela 88, Latgales priekšpilsēta, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia

Zipcode : LV-1011

Location : 56.956609, 24.140699
Website : <https://www.liveriga.com/lv/2993-ziedondarzs>
Nearest Public Transport : Matīsa iela Bus Station
Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours
Time Required : 1
Buy Ticket : No

7.2.24. Viesturdārzs

A shade card of yellow and green right in the city center, Viesturdārzs makes for a wonderful relaxing spot spread on an area of 7.60 hectares. Also known as the Song Festival Park, this park is adorned with Dutch Linden passages, canals, ponds, and false aisles keeping in vogue with modern 8th century French as well as Dutch style.

Address : Eksporta iela 6, Ziemeļu rajons, Rīga, LV-1010, Latvia
Zipcode : LV-1010
Location : 56.963554, 24.1003815999999
Website : <http://viesturdarzs.lv/ru/about-us>
Nearest Public Transport : Vašingtona laukums Light Rail Station
Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours
Time Required : 1
Buy Ticket : No

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8. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

"The Most Popular Outdoor Sport In Latvia Is Ice Hockey. The Professional Ice Hockey Team Based In Riga Is Dinamo Riga. It Was One Of Eleven Teams Which Took Part In The First Soviet Championship Tournament In 1946-1947. Skiing Is Also A Popular Adventure Activity During Wintertime. Some Ski Resorts Spray Artificial Snow On Ski Slopes During This Time To Attract Tourists."

- **Latvian Sports Statium Museum:**

Address : Alksnāja iela 9, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Location : 56.961199,24.116255

Contact No : +371 67 211 365

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

Open/Close time : 10:00 hrs- 17:00hrs

9. Spas and relaxation

- **Taka Spa:**

Address : Kronvalda bulvāris 3, Rīga, LV-1010, Latvia

Location : 56.955014,24.102229

Contact No : +371 67 323 150

Website : <http://www.takaspa.lv/sakums/>



10. Events calendar

Month

Events

Riga music festival

Popularly known as the International Festival of Music Traditions, Riga Music Festival takes place in January each year and plays both Latvian and international traditional music.

Winterfest

This is an annual event organised by Herman Braun Foundation from November till mid February. Winterfest is basically an International Opera Festival where lovely chamber music is played by some of the most celebrated composers in the world.

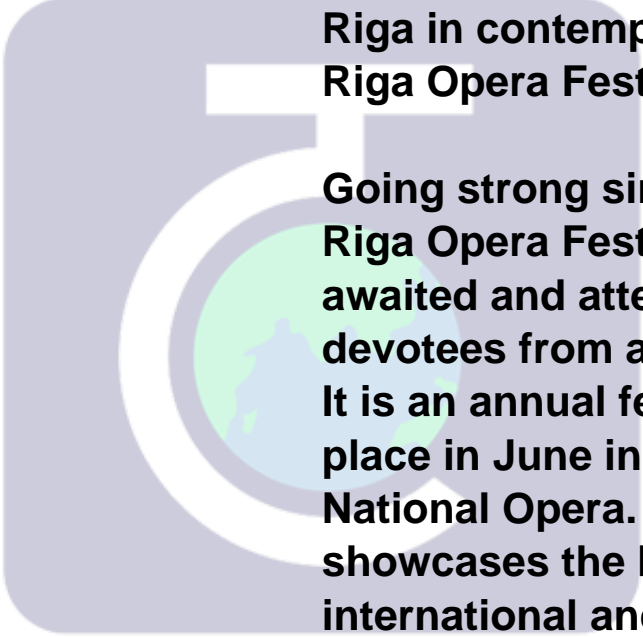
Winterfest

This is an annual event organised by Herman Braun Foundation from November till mid February. Winterfest is basically an International Opera Festival where lovely chamber music is played by some of the most celebrated composers in the world.

Latvian Contemporary Drama Festival 'Insight'

Come March and the people of Riga gear up for the most awaited festival of the year i.e the Latvian Contemporary Drama Festival "Insight". The festival celebrates the shining stars of Riga in contemporary drama.

Riga Opera Festival



Going strong since 1998, the Riga Opera Festival is religiously awaited and attended by opera devotees from across the world. It is an annual festival and takes place in June in the Latvian National Opera. The festival showcases the best seasonal international and Latvian opera.

Early Music Festival

This festival takes place during June-July and celebrates the folk music of Latvia.

Latvian Song and Dance Festival


The Latvian Song and Dance Festival is the mother of all festivities in Riga. It is held every 5 years during summer time to celebrate Latvian music, dance and culture. You can see a lot of

art exhibitions, colorful parades, and music concerts during this time.

Early Music Festival

This festival takes place during June-July and celebrates the folk music of Latvia.

Riga Salsa Festival



The Riga salsa festival takes place during August-September. During this time, salsa classes and performances take place in Riga with some best salsa experts participating from around the world.

Riga Salsa Festival

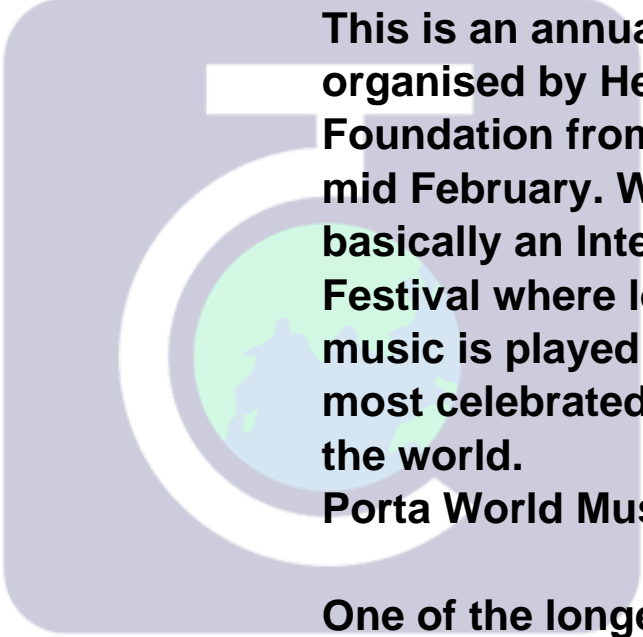
The Riga salsa festival takes place during August-September. During this time, salsa classes and performances take place in Riga with some best salsa experts participating from around the world.

Autumn Chamber Music Festival

"Autumn Chamber Music Days" mark a month long celebration of the beautiful chamber music. The festival is held in September - October in the beautiful halls of Riga.

International Jazz Festival

The international jazz festival is an extremely popular event that lasts for two weeks with performances from Czech and international jazz musicians.
Winterfest



This is an annual event organised by Herman Braun Foundation from November till mid February. Winterfest is basically an International Opera Festival where lovely chamber music is played by some of the most celebrated composers in the world.

Porta World Music Festival

One of the longest running music festivals in Riga, the Porta World Music Festival celebrates music from around the different corners of the world with performances that last a month in November.

Winterfest

This is an annual event organised by Herman Braun Foundation from November till mid February. Winterfest is basically an International Opera

Festival where lovely chamber music is played by some of the most celebrated composers in the world.



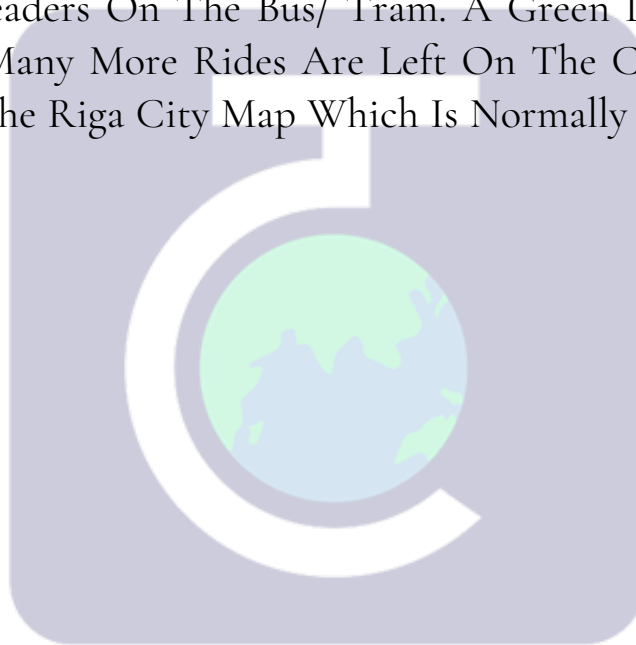
11. Key local guides and tours

"If you find it difficult to explore Riga all by yourself, you can easily find a tour guide to assist you in Riga. There are many private companies that offer guided tours across the city. Some tour guides cover all the sightseeing excursions in Riga while some tours are focused on just a particula



12. Transportation hubs

"Riga Is Easily Navigable With Buses, Trams And Trolley Buses That Take You To Any Part Of The City In About 30-45 Minutes And Operate From As Early As 05:00 To As Late As 01:00. You Can Easily Buy Tickets For Multiple Rides (Tickets For Ten Rides Costs 12-15USD) At Designated Riga Transport Ticket Offices. If You Want To Check The Status, Just Press The Ticket Against The Electronic Ticket Readers On The Bus/ Tram. A Green Light Will Flash And You Can See How Many More Rides Are Left On The Card.City Routes Can Also Be Found On The Riga City Map Which Is Normally Available From Most City Kiosks."



Index**13. Transportation cost**

"A Great Way To Save Time And Money Is To Get Hold Of The Famous 'Riga Card' Which Offers Discounted Sightseeing Tours, Public Transportation, Reduced Prices In Restaurants Etc. The Card Costs €16 - €26 Approximately. ""Red Cab"" And The Green ""Baltic Taxi"" Are The Two Most Common Taxi Providers In The City. Usually, The Base Fare Is Around 2.25 USD With Further Kms Charged 0.75 USD Approximately. A Cab From The Airport Into The City Takes 15 Minutes Approximately And Costs About 13-20 USD. Additionally, Airport Express Runs From Riga Airport To Riga City Centre (and Back) From 05:20 Till 00:10 Everyday. You Can Rent A Car Or Bicycle Too. "



Index**14. Baggage allowance**

"In Most Buses And Trains, Passengers Are Allowed To Bring One Item Of Hand Baggage With The Maximum Of Two Items Of Free Baggage Items Which Are Placed Into The Baggage Compartment. Wheeled Cases May Be Comfortable To Carry But The Streets In Riga Are Cobbled And Narrow So They Don't Make A Good Choice. Backpacks Are Comfortable To Carry Around In The City. "



Index**15. Must try food and local savouries**

"It Is Not For Nothing That Riga Is Called The 'Gastronomical Capital Of The Baltic'. The City Offers A Fantastic Fusion Cuisine Where One Can Relish Both Traditional Latvian Delicacies And Modern Meals. Latvian Meat Is Very Famous. The Most Common Meat In Latvian Cuisine Is Pork. Chicken, Lamb And Beef Are Also Commonly Had. When In Riga, You Must Also Try Their Famous Latvian Fish. Smoked Fish Is A Speciality In Riga Or Rather The Entire Baltic Region. You Will Find Many Options To Buy Fish In The Central Market. Latvians Also Eat A Lot Of Beans, Hot Bacon Pies, Carrot Pies, Porridge, Rye Bread, Honey And Frothy Beer. Look Out For 'courlanders Carrot Pie' And 'grey Peas With Bacon' On The Menus For A Perfect Traditional Latvian Cuisine. Sorrel Soup, Birch Juice And Riga Black Balsam (herbal Liquor) Are Also Worth Trying. Although Not Characteristic Of Latvian Cuisine, Russian Dumplings And Sushi Are Also Served And Enjoyed At A Lot Of Places. "

16. Restaurant & Nightlife

Food -

- **Vincents:**

Address : Latvia

Location : 56.958854,24.104509

Contact No : 371 67 332 634

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

Open / Close Time : 24 hours

- **Street Burger:**

Address : Blaumaņa iela 10, Rīga, LV-1001, Latvia

Location : 56.943997,24.079988

Contact No : 371 26 627 722

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

Open / Close Time : 11:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Folkklubs Alan:**

Address : Peldu iela 19, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

Location : 56.946137,24.107729

Contact No : 371 27 796 914

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

Open / Close Time : 12:00-1:00 hours

- **French Bar:**

Address : Mazā Monētu iela 8, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050,

Location : 56.948570,24.107441

Contact No : 371 67 220 353

Website : <http://frenchbar.lv/>

Open / Close Time : 17:00 hours- 3:00 hours

- **Sky Bar:**

Address : Radisson Blu Hotel Latvija, Elizabetes Str 55, Riga

Location : 56.954917,24.117686

Contact No : 371 67 772 222

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

Open / Close Time : 17:00 hours- 3:00 hours



17. Average meal cost

A Whole Meal (including Snacks And Drinks) At A Decent Place In Riga Can Easily Be Had For Up To €22-€35 Per Person. Beer, Is Quite Reasonable At Around €2-€3 For A Mug Or Bottle.



18. Shopping

"Riga Is Ranked As 'the Best European City Based On Cost Effectiveness' In FDI Magazine Annual Study "European Cities And Regions Of The Future 2014/2015". The City Is A Perfect Place For Shopping And Entertainment. Shops In Riga Are Scattered All Around But Highest Concentration Of Shops Can Be Found In The Old Town And The City Centre. The Main Market Is The Central Market Which Is Open From 07: 00 AM - 6: 00 PM Everyday (slight Variation Possible). It Is The Largest Marketplace In The Baltics And Is Like A Big Trade Emporium. You Can Shop A Lot Of Things In The Central Market In Riga From Dodgy DVDs To Fresh Farm Produce. Even If You Don't Plan To Shop Much Here, The Central Market Makes For A Good Tourist Spot And A Cultural Experience. There Are Many Swanky Shopping Malls In Riga. Alpha Mall Is Good For Clothing, Footwear And Sporting Goods. It Has A Cinema And Some Good Restaurants Too. Berga Bazārs Is Another Upscale Shopping Venue. The Place Also Features Antique And Food Bazaar On The Second And Fourth Saturday Of Every Month. Galleria Riga Is Also A Great Multiplex Located In Downtown Riga. Other Shopping Districts Include Terbatas Iela, And Kr Barona Iela. The Sakta Flower Market Just Outside Vermandarzs Park Is Also Very Popular Among The Tourists. The City Has Its Share Of High Street Stores Including The Likes Of Zara, Oasis And H&M. Pottery Articles, Knitted Mittens, Jewellery, Or Soya Wax Candles Make Great Souvenirs And Can Be Easily Found."

19. Tourist benefits

If You Are A Resident Of A Non-EU Country, You Are Entitled To A Refund Of The Value Added Tax (VAT) For The Goods Purchased In Riga From Shops With A TAX FREE Shopping Sign At The Entrance. If You Wish To Get A Refund, You Only Have To Present Your Global Blue Tax Free Cheque Together With The Purchase Receipt Before Leaving Riga. It Is Advised That You Allow Enough Time At The Airport To For The Refund Formalities. Also It Is Better To Keep The Purchase And Receipt In Your Hand Luggage, If Possible, To Avoid Unnecessary Hassle.



20. Essential local apps

One Could Use Essential Apps Such As StopRigaLite,uTalkClassicLearner, Etc



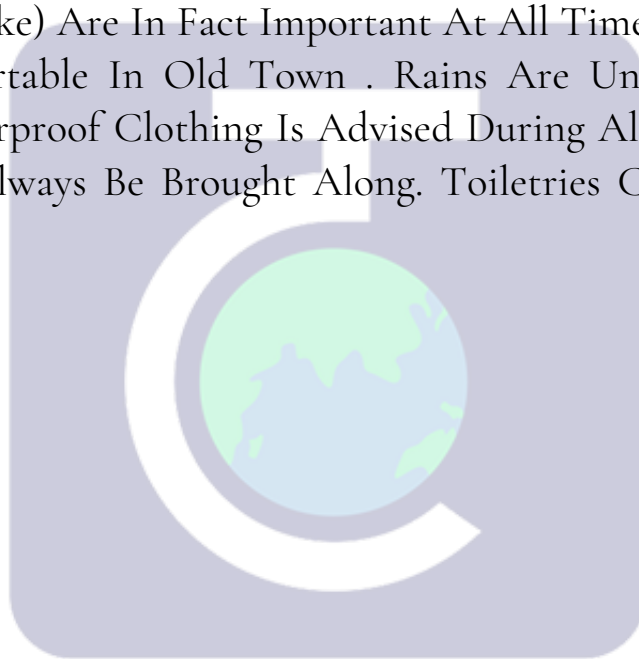
21. Driving

One Needs To Have An International Drivers Licence To Drive Around In Latvia If Not An EU License. On Entry To The City, They Can Take The Latvian Licence And Drive Around.



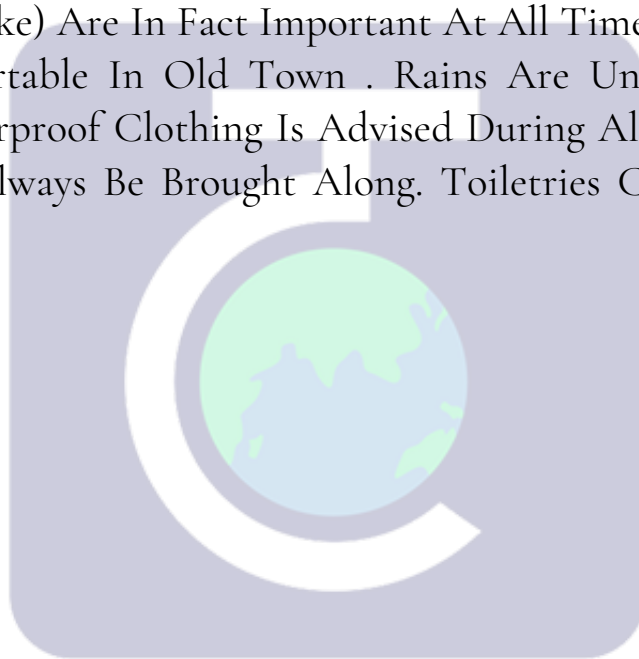
22. Travel essentials

"The Power Sockets Used In Riga Are Of ""Type C"" Europlug And The ""Type E"" And ""Type F"" Schuko. They Have An Electrical Supply Between 220 And 240 Volts AC. Depending On The Country You Come From, You Will Need A Travel Plug Adapter And A Power (voltage) Converter. A Good Pair Of Socks, Boots And Gloves Are Essential During Winters. Appropriate Footwear (Gore-Tex Boots Or The Like) Are In Fact Important At All Times Because The Roads Are Not So Comfortable In Old Town . Rains Are Unpredictable And An Umbrella And Waterproof Clothing Is Advised During All Times. Prescription Medicines Should Always Be Brought Along. Toiletries Can Be Easily Bought From The City. "



23. Essential clothes

"The Power Sockets Used In Riga Are Of ""Type C"" Europlug And The ""Type E"" And ""Type F"" Schuko. They Have An Electrical Supply Between 220 And 240 Volts AC. Depending On The Country You Come From, You Will Need A Travel Plug Adapter And A Power (voltage) Converter. A Good Pair Of Socks, Boots And Gloves Are Essential During Winters. Appropriate Footwear (Gore-Tex Boots Or The Like) Are In Fact Important At All Times Because The Roads Are Not So Comfortable In Old Town . Rains Are Unpredictable And An Umbrella And Waterproof Clothing Is Advised During All Times. Prescription Medicines Should Always Be Brought Along. Toiletries Can Be Easily Bought From The City. "



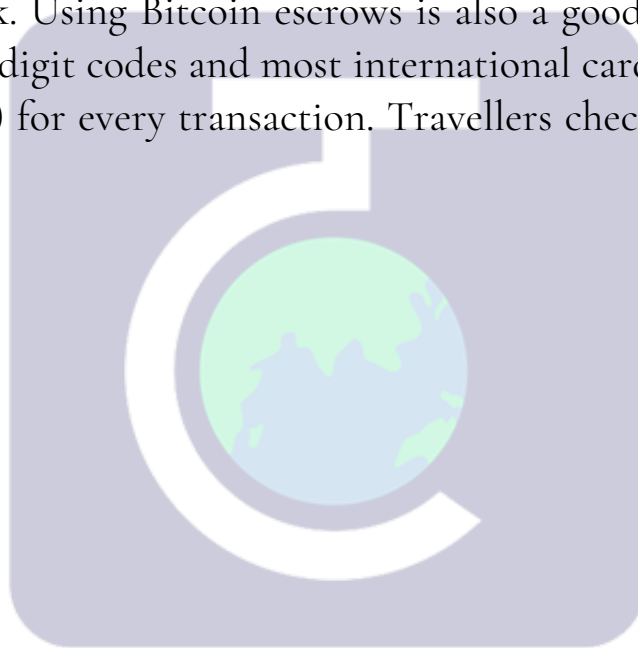
24. Local currency

The Official Currency Of Riga Is The Euro. 1 Euro = 1.14 USD



25. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

"Although credit cards are accepted pretty much everywhere, some places in Latvia are notorious for credit card frauds. It is advised that you pre-inform your bank of your card usage in Riga (especially if it is your first visit) or you could also use reputable ATMs (inside of banks or in a very public area) to pull out money. Also, instead of exchanging currency at overcharged prices in bureaus, find the nearest bank. Using Bitcoin escrows is also a good idea to avoid scams. ATMs accept only 4-digit codes and most international cards. They also charge a small usage fee (1-5%) for every transaction. Travellers checks are not commonly used in Riga. "



26. Staying connected

"The Latvian Capital Has The Largest Number Of (three Lattelecom) Free WiFi Hotspots/ Sq Km In Europe Which Made It The 'European Capital Of Free WiFi' In The Summer Of 2014. You Can Easily Access Free Wireless Internet In Most Cafes/ Hotels And Taxis In Riga. The Three Most Common Cell Phone Networks In Latvia Are LMT, Bite, And Tele2. LMT Has The Widest Coverage. You Can Buy A Starter Pack For €3 - €5 Which Also Includes The SIM. Top-ups Can Be Bought From Any Supermarket, Post Office Or An LMT Store. "



27. Time Zone

Riga falls under EET (Eastern European Time) i.e UTC/ GMT +2 hours.



28. Languages

"The Majority Of Riga's Population Speaks Latvian (the Official Language Of Latvia) And Russian. You Can Also Find Travel Guides Conversing In German. English Is Also Spoken In Riga (Especially In Vecrīga), Particularly Among Younger People. Some Eating Joints Have English On Their Menu, While Some Even Have Separate English Menus. A Point To Note Is That Sellers At The Markets, Sometimes Try To Take Unfair Advantage Of Tourists Who Do Not Understand Latvian Or Russian.



Index**29. Political Scenario**

"The Government Of Riga City Is The Riga City Council (Latvian: Rīgas Dome) And The Head Of The City Government Is The Mayor. The Riga City Council (RCC) Is The Final Decision-making Authority In The City. It Is A Democratically Elected Institution Consisting Of 60 Councillors Who Are Elected In Equal And Direct Elections By Secret Ballot For A Term Of 4 Years.



30. Economic Scenario

"Latvia's Economy Is One Of The Fastest Growing Economies Of Europe And Is Majorly Driven By Riga's Property Boom And Urban Development. Riga Has Always Been One Of The Key Places Of Culture, Trade And Tourism In Europe. The City's Economic Growth Which Started Majorly During 1990s, Got A Major Boost When Latvia Became A Member Of The European Union In 2004. Since Then, The GDP Of The Region Has Grown By Up To 58% In Comparison To Other Areas In The Country. Riga Is Also A Regular Participant In Various Kinds Of International Projects Like The Network Of Europe's Largest Cities EUROCITIES, The Union Of The Baltic Cities (UBC), And Others, Where The Mission Is To Promote Interethnic Development For Territorially United Region Of The Baltic Sea. The Recent Economic Growth In Riga Has Created A Favorable Condition For Foreign Investment Opportunities In The City.



Index**31. Religious belief**

"Christianity (Lutheran) Is The Main Religion Traditionally Practiced In Riga. It Spread Through The Country During The 9th Till 12th Centuries, With Roman Catholicism Dominating The West And Russian Orthodoxy Dominating The East. There Are Also Small Communities Of Other Faiths, Such As Baptist, Adventist, And Jewish Etc.



32. Visa requirements

"Latvia Is A Member Of The European Union. It Is Also A Part Of The Schengen Area So If You're Travelling From From The Schengen Area, You Do Not Have To Go Through Border Controls. Citizens Of The United States Of America, Canada, Australia, Japan, Israel, Korea, Hong Kong, And Some Other Countries Do Not Need A Visa To Visit (but Not Work) Latvia. They May Stay For Up To 90 Days Within Any Six-month Period. If You Are Not A Citizen Of The EU Or Your Country Of Residence Does Not Have Visa-free Access To Schengen Nations, You Are Required To Have A Valid Passport Along With A Valid Schengen Visa Or A EU Residency Permit.



33. Essential vaccination

One Does Not Need To Take Any Specific Vaccination Before Entering This Country.



34. Theft and Safety

"Latvia Is Not Immune From Fraud But Riga Is A Reasonably Safe City. For Tourists, The Most Common Crimes (especially During Busy Summer Months) Are Pickpocketing And Thefts. Some Of The Most Notorious Areas For Such Crimes Are Vecriga, Central Bus Station, Central Train Station, And The Central Market. It Is Advised You Stay Away From These Areas, Especially During Dark. When In Riga, Keep Your Wits About You. Keep A Check On Your Wallets And Don't Take Drinks From Strangers (even If She's A Beautiful Girl Offering You A Drink). This Is Very Common In The Nightclubs In Riga. Also, Instead Of Hailing A Taxi From The Street, It Is Advised You Book It From A Reputable Source/ Company Beforehand (a Few Good Choices Are Lady Taxi, And Baltic Taxi). Avoid Giving Money To Beggars And Indulging In Extravagance Of Any Form, Especially During Late Hours. Also, Do Not Forget To Check Beforehand If Cover Charges At Clubs Are Normal. The Riga Tourist Police Unit Has A Round The Clock, English Speaking Hotline (+371 2 203 3000 Or +371 67 181818). Emergency Services Can Be Contacted On 112 And The Emergency Contact Number For The National Police Is 110. "

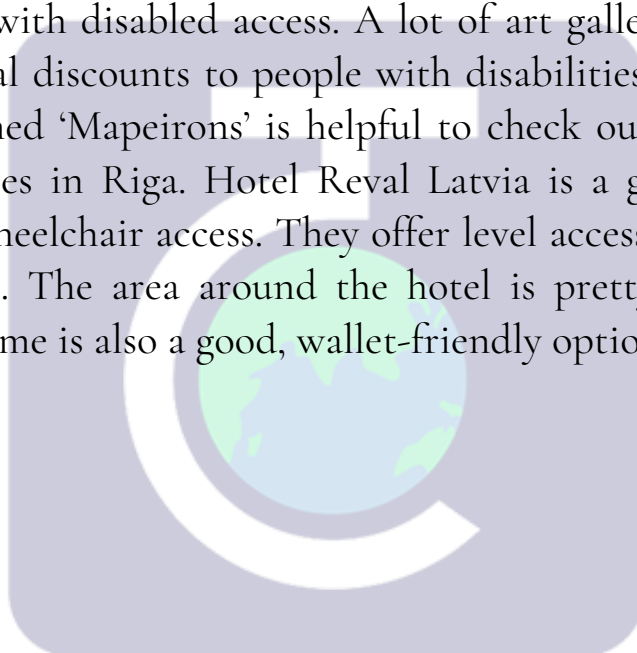
35. Embassy/Consulate

A Lot Of Countries Around The World Have Their Embassies And Consulates In Riga, Latvia So That Visitors Can Seek Assistance From Their Home Country While They Are In Riga. A Complete List Of Embassies In The City Can Be Obtained From: [Www.riga-hotel-guide.com/en/riga-tourist-information/embassies-riga.php](http://www.riga-hotel-guide.com/en/riga-tourist-information/embassies-riga.php)



36. Accessibility

"Special parking spots (with wheelchair markings) are reserved for people with disabilities. These spots are as close to the entrance of the building as possible. Since early 2015, minibuses with disabled wheelchair access and convenient ramps have been running on the specific routes in Riga. You can call +371 66907787 for routes and exact departure times. Both Baltic Taxi and Red Cab also offer taxis with disabled access. A lot of art galleries and museums in Riga also offer special discounts to people with disabilities and their assistants. The mobile app named 'Mapeirons' is helpful to check out some beautiful and easily accessible places in Riga. Hotel Reval Latvia is a good accommodation option in Riga for wheelchair access. They offer level access to the elevators and have spacious rooms. The area around the hotel is pretty good with smooth surfaces. Hotel DeRome is also a good, wallet-friendly option.



37. Emergencies

"All Travellers Are Required To Have A Valid Insurance Policy (covering Medical Expenses) While In Latvia. Pharmacies In Riga Are Open For 24 Hours And Are Usually Well Stocked With Common Over-the-counter Painkillers And First Aid Items. Emergency Medical Aid Can Be Sought Easily (call The Free Number 112) And Is Usually Free. There Are No Mandatory Vaccinations Required For Entering Latvia.



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38. Do's and Don'ts

"Do's Do Carry Your ID All The Time. Don'ts • Do Not Give Money To Beggars • Do Not Walk Around Late At Night • Do Not Wear Extravagant Jewelry • Do Not Engage In Small Talk With Locals. They Are Not Very Friendly. • Do Not Go To Dodgy Bars/ Sex Clubs • Do Not Trust A Beautiful Girl At A Bar Even If She Buys You Some Drinks. • Bar Fights Are Common In Riga. Avoid Being In One. • Do Not Drink And Drive. It Is A Serious Violation. • Do Not Leave Your Car/ Bike Unlocked. • Do Not Leave Valuables In Your Hotel Room. • Avoid Hailing A Taxi From The Street."



39.Tipping basics

Unless Already Included In The Bill, A Tip Of 5 -10% Is Normal In Riga, Depending On The Service You Got Or You Could Just Round Up The Bills. Rounding Up Of Taxi Charges Is Also Common In Riga.



Index**40.Pet info**

Riga Is A Very Pet Friendly City. There Are A Number Of Hotels And Restaurants Which Allow Pets Inside. The Only Concern One Should Have Is About The Various Vaccinations One Should Give Their Pet Before Entering The Country. Also A Pet Requires The Pet Visa When Entering The Country.



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Conclusion – Why to select this destination

"Riga, The Capital Of Latvia, Is The Largest City Of The Baltic States And Houses Over 1/3rd Of Latvia's Total Population. It Was The European Capital Of Culture During 2014, An Honor Co-shared With Umeå In Sweden. The City Is A Chic And Cosmopolitan Cornerstone Of The Baltic With Gorgeous Architecture, Varied Cultural Attractions, Vibrant Nightlife And Great Opportunities For Shopping. Whether It's The Cobblestone Streets Of Old Riga Or The 19th Century Wood Architecture, The Latvian Capital Promises Plenty Of Visual Stimulation For All Tastes."



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