

MEET RĪGA



Meeting and Convention Planner's Guide
to Riga & Latvia

MEET RĪGA

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The logo consists of the words "LIVE" and "RĪGA" stacked vertically in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a dark blue square background.

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Conference & Meeting Guide



Introduction

Finding the Right Place

Every meeting planner knows that finding a talented and dependable Destination Management Company (DMC) or Professional Conference Organizer (PCO) is a critical component in the success of an international event. An excellent DMC or PCO must not only offer a full-service operation, but must also have a complete understanding and passion for the destination. A DMC or PCO needs to provide imagination, expertise, creativity, and sometimes influence in order to carry out distinctive and exclusive programs for meetings, congresses, and conferences.

But what exactly does a DMC do, and how can you find the right onsite partner to act as your “right arm” in Riga, Latvia? Most DMCs provide a wide array of products and services that will meet and, ideally, exceed your delegates’ needs. Services cover logistical roles ranging from meet and greet, transportation services, local tours, and day trips to booking of hotels, conference venues, catering companies, AV, florists, customized programs, theme events, and entertainment. Acting as a cultural liaison, a good DMC can also provide its local knowledge at the registration desk, giving the planner and delegates an added sense of comfort and security. A PCO takes on the role of coordinator and consultant, and is responsible for logistics and administration in the organization and preparation of meetings.

There are undoubtedly many advantages to working with a local MDC or PCO. But how do you go about finding a professional organization with the expertise, adequate infrastructure, and staffing to provide you with exceptional service? Several research options are available to you, such as professional association directories. Most truly professional DMCs or PCOs belong to one of the associations mentioned in the section Service Suppliers – such as MEET RIGA, MPI, ICCA, SITE, and Euromic – or belong to a globally recognized travel management company like American Express Travel, Carlson Wagonlit, HRG, and BCD. According to Latvian legislation, DMCs and PCOs must have a license that is equal to full travel agency services.

When searching for a DMC or PCO, check the list of suppliers on our website, www.MeetRiga.com, to get a better idea of the services provided.



Why Riga?

Why choose the Latvian capital to host your next meeting? Quite simply, Riga is the perfect fit. The city is the right size for either small board meetings, with only a handful of colleagues, or large conferences with over a thousand participants – anyone can be easily accommodated. Riga is compact enough to be traversed on foot, minimizing travel times, and large enough to offer a variety of options for venues and accommodations. These include not only a wide range of hotels – from classical masterpieces to boutique design hotels – but also many different types of conference facilities, with services available for competitive prices that are far lower than other cities in the region.

This sheer variety is an essential aspect of Riga, and draws thousands of travelers from around the globe every month. These visitors take advantage of the quick and easy connections to Riga, with direct flights from almost a hundred international cities and daily ferry service from Stockholm. In Riga, visitors appreciate the stunning range of architectural styles and the rich, multicultural heritage bestowed by the city's eight-hundred-year history. This has helped turn the modern-day city into a vibrant cosmopolitan capital, home to a variety of residents and a wealth of different features. Your meeting can also benefit from this diversity, as it is possible to organize your board meeting, conference, kick-off event, and gala dinner in settings from various historical periods – from medieval castles in the countryside, to opulent Baroque ballrooms in Old Riga, to Soviet-themed events in historic Communist-era spaces.

Whatever kind of event you choose, Riga's experienced conference experts will help you plan it down to the last detail, be it a gourmet dinner in a country manor or a gala concert featuring a star musician. Conference facilities in Riga are fully equipped with the latest high-tech equipment, including broadband internet access and first-class catering services. And if you choose, you can even take your conference outside to

one of the city's verdant parks and gardens, which feature ample WiFi connections from outdoor access points. In fact, sustainable conferences are Riga's specialty, as it is possible to walk to and from almost all the venues in the city, minimizing your carbon footprint, or to stay in an eco-friendly Green-Key hotel, protecting the planet's resources. You can even cater your events with fresh, organic products from the city's farmer's markets, enjoying the full bounty of Latvian nature.

Of course, you can also appreciate Latvian nature up close, by hosting your meetings or conferences in a rustic settings during any of the region's four distinct seasons. Latvia is filled with glittering blue lakes and swiftly flowing rivers, and has more than five hundred kilometers of pristine coastline. Meetings or conferences can be organized at any of these countryside locations, in any season. And after a long day of meetings, you can take your employees for a seaside picnic to sample local culinary delicacies, or offer a day of fishing or boating in the gulf as a much-deserved break from their everyday routine. These events can then be followed up with a short ride back to Riga and a sumptuous dinner at one of the city's fine gourmet restaurants – a contrast in settings that perfectly exemplifies the diversity of milieus and the variety of offerings that define this fascinating, ever-changing city.



How Can We Help?

Excited by the prospect of having your next meeting in Riga? Well, leave it up to us to help you organize your upcoming event! MEET RIGA is the city's official conventions bureau, whose partners include major hotels, conference and event venues, Destination Management Companies, Professional Conference Organizers, meeting and incentive agencies, the commercial airline airBaltic, chartered bus companies, and many others. Exhaustive list, isn't it? Thankfully, this list of partners is joined by a common goal: to attract more international events to Latvia. In order to achieve this aim, we believe the best method is to provide excellent services for international travel planners, meeting planners, and media representatives.

After contacting MEET RIGA, we will provide you with a full range of services to help you plan your upcoming event. If you aren't sure exactly what you'd like for your event, then we can offer inspiring ideas and advice for the meeting itself as well as for post-meeting activities. Thanks to our broad list of partners, we can also provide professional and objective information about hotels, venues, meeting and event agencies, transportation, DMCs, and PCOs, in addition to a full calendar of events in Riga. Our partners can provide assistance in arranging trips around the capital or farther afield in Latvia. They can also provide bid support for international meetings, as well as promotional materials and free photos for publication on your website or brochures.

MEET RIGA also provides assistance to the media, as we are very conscious of the invaluable role played by the international press in disseminating information about Latvia to a global audience. In addition to the services listed above, we also provide the press with complimentary use of our photo data base, background information and fact-checks on various topics related to Riga and Latvia, as well as assistance in arranging comprehensive media tours of the country.

Here at MEET RIGA, we take pride in our ability to provide objective, professional advice to meeting planners, media representatives, and others who wish to organize events in Riga. We strive to do our best to handle your request with the utmost care and respect, and will do everything in our power to make sure your event in Riga is the best you have ever had! After all, Riga is our home, and we want to make you feel as happy and comfortable here as we do. So, how can we help?

Travel Planner

Air

There are direct flights to Riga from more than 80 cities in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. The Latvian national airline, airBaltic (www.airbaltic.com), provides easy and convenient connections with more than forty Interline partners from more than 3,000 cities all over the world. Following airlines operate regular flights to Riga – AirBaltic, Belavia, Aeroflot, Ellinair, Finnair, LOT, Lufthansa, Norwegian, Ryanair, Transaero, Turkish Airlines, UTair, Uzbekistan Airways, Wizz Air, OnuAir and SmarLinx.

Riga International Airport (www.riga-airport.com) is one of the most modern airports in Europe, and meets all international standards of safety, efficiency, and comfort. The airport is only ten kilometers southwest of the Riga city center. A taxi ride from the airport to central Riga takes between ten and twenty minutes, depending upon the traffic, and costs approximately 10–13 EUR. Bus no. 22 departs for the Riga city center every 10–20 minutes from opposite the bus terminal building near the Old Town. A bus ride costs 1 EUR, but could be subject to changes. Airport Express shuttle bus service is also available to and from the airport; a ride costs 4.50 EUR.

Airport Information: phone (00 371) 2931 1187. For English-speaking information about all transport schedules, call 1188 (when inside Latvia) or (00 371) 6700 1188 (from outside Latvia).

Ferry

Ferry connections to Riga are available from Stockholm. Tallink (www.tallink.com) operates regular daily ferry connections from Stockholm to Riga. The ferry terminal building is located at Eksporta iela 1, directly northwest of the Presidential Palace.

Train

Train connections to Riga are available from Moscow (twice daily), St. Petersburg (daily), and Pskov (daily), operated by the Latvian State Railway Company Latvijas Dzelzceļš (www.ldz.lv). The recently renovated Riga Central Railway Station is located at Stacijas Square, directly east of the Old Town border.

Bus

Bus connections to Riga are available from Berlin, Hamburg, Warsaw, Prague, Pskov, Kiev, Grodno, Vilnius, Tallinn, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kaliningrad, Minsk, and many other international cities. Most international bus services are operated by Eurolines (www.eurolines.lv), Ecolines (www.ecolines.lv), and Nordeka (www.nordeka.lv). Riga Bus Terminal (www.autoosta.lv) is located at Prāgas iela 1 east of the Old Town border and west of Riga Central Market.

Taxi

For taxi rides, the official maximum tariff per kilometer is 0.71 EUR. The initial tariff is 2.13 EUR. Some dubious taxi companies sometimes try to cheat passengers. We recommend you use Red Cab and Baltic Taxi cabs. Taxis can be booked by calling 8383 or 8000 1313 for Red Cab, and 8500 or 2000 8500 for Baltic Taxi.

Rent a Car

All major international car rental companies have offices at Riga International Airport, and many of them have offices in the city center as well: AVIS Rent a Car (www.avis.lv), Budget (www.budget.lv), Europcar (www.europcar.lv), Hertz (www.hertz.lv), and Sixt (www.sixt.lv).

Driving

Major highways connect Riga to Tallinn, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kaunas, and Vilnius. Northern and southern road links have recently been modernized. The speed limit is



50 km/h in urban areas and 90 km/h on rural roads, if not marked otherwise. On some highways the speed limit is 100 km/h. Headlights must be switched on at all times. Winter tires must be used from December 1 to March 30. Seat belts are compulsory. Mobile phones may be used only with a headset/hands-free system while driving. The permitted alcohol limit is 0.5 per thousand. Parking in downtown Riga costs 1.40–2.80 EUR per hour. Guarded parking is recommended at night. To call the police, please dial 02; for towing service, please dial 1888 / 8000 000 (24h service) or contact a representative from your car rental company.

Public Transport

Riga has an extensive network of trams, buses, trolleybuses, and local trains. Service runs from 5 a.m. to midnight. Ticket prices vary and may be purchased from the driver at rate 1,20 EUR for one time ride, but it's better to purchase tickets at kiosks before the ride. For more information, please visit: <https://www.rigassatiksm.lv/en/tickets-and-e-ticket/>

City Bike Rental

Visitors to the Latvian capital can now rent bicycles from one of nine SIXT bicycle stands in Riga. To use the service, register online or by phone. When you wish to take a ride, call the SIXT bicycle hotline at +371 67 67 67 80; you will receive a key code to unlock the bike of your choice. When you are done with the bicycle, simply lock it at any SIXT bicycle stand and call the hotline again. For more information: <http://www.sixtbicycle.lv/en/riga/>

Yachting

Sea ports with facilities for yachts can be found in Riga as well as in Engure, Lielupe, Liepāja, Mērsrags, Pāvilosta, Roja, Salacgrīva, Skulte, and Ventspils.

<http://www.latvia.travel/en/yachting-latvia>

Riverboats and Canal Boats

Riverboats offer tours on the river Daugava and trips from Riga to Jūrmala, and wooden canal boats offer tours on the charming Riga canal. Some riverboats have restaurants and can be rented for private functions. More information is available from local DMCs.

<http://www.rigacruises.com/>

Accommodations

A list of recommended hotels can be found at the MEET RIGA convention bureau database, <http://liveriga.com/en/conference-venues/meet>, in the section entitled Convention Hotels.

A more comprehensive list of hotels in Riga and Latvia can be found and booked at <http://liveriga.com/en/en/hotels/stay>

For additional information, please contact the MEET RIGA at:

Ratslaukums 1, Riga, LV-1050, Latvia

Phone: + 371 6718 1092

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Useful Information

Border & Customs Formalities

Visas: Latvia joined the Schengen Zone in 2007.

More information about visa requirements for citizens of other countries can be found at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: <http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/service/>

VAT Refund: Value Added Tax on goods bought in Latvian shops with a TAX FREE Shopping sign at the entrance may be refunded upon leaving Latvia by air, sea, or land, as long as you have a Tax Free shopping receipt that was validated by customs upon departure.

More information at www.global-blue.com, or call + 371 6721 2590, or inquire at locations with the TAX FREE sign.

Export Regulations: If you wish to export valuable art works and antiques, a permit is required from the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (www.mantojums.lv). Reach them by phone at +371 6722 9272. To export furs and hunting trophies, a license is required from the State Forestry Department (call +371 6702 7251).

Money Matters

Currency and Currency Exchange: The Latvian currency is the Euro (EUR).

Credit Cards: Most restaurants, hotels, and shops accept major credit cards.

Banking Hours: Standard opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9–17. Some banks are open later as well as on Saturdays. Currency exchange offices are open on Sunday, too. Cash machines/ATM can be found all over the city.

Time

Time in Riga: Riga is two hours ahead of GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) during the winter season and three hours ahead of GMT during the summer season. Daylight savings time is set on the same dates as in Western Europe. Riga is located in the same time zone as Helsinki, Tallinn, Vilnius, and Athens.

Public Holidays: Latvia has many commemorative days, when the Latvian flag is hung from buildings.

The following dates are public holidays:

January 1, New Year's Day; March/April, Good Friday and Easter; May 1, Labor Day, Convocation Day of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Latvia; May 4, Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia; June 23–24, Midsummer (Jāņi); November 18, Independence Day; December 25–26, Christmas.

Power and Communications

Electricity: 220 volts AC, 50 Hz; European-style 2-pin plugs are in use.

Phone: Pay phones operated by Lattelecom, the national phone company, accept phone cards that can be purchased in kiosks. For directory enquiries, dial 1188. Also keep in mind the following numbers: emergency, 112; fire, 01; police, 02; ambulance, 03; gas emergency service, 04. To make international calls, dial 00 followed by the country code. To call Latvia from abroad, dial the international code 00 371 followed by an eight digit number. Latvia has three GSM operators: LMT, Tele2, and Bite.

Postal Services: Postage to other European Union countries costs from 0,65 EUR for postcards. More information at <http://www.pasts.lv/en/>



Express mail and courier services: DHL, TNT, UPS, EMS, Federal Express, and Autopasts. When sending postcards or letters, look for yellow boxes with the word "Pasts."

Internet Access: Most hotels and venues have broadband internet access. Internet access is often free of charge. Riga also has numerous internet cafes and wireless internet access points.

Tax Advice for Convention Organizers:

Convention organizers who are VAT registered in the country of their headquarters are liable to be registered for VAT in Latvia and must charge customers Latvian VAT. Applications for VAT refunds must be submitted within six months of the end of the taxation year and posted or handed in at: Large Taxpayers Board, State Revenue Service, Jeruzalemes iela 1, LV-1010, Riga, Latvia. These provisions are the same as in other EU member countries.

For more information and questions, please contact the following:

email: consultation@vid.gov.lv; for custom issues by email, please contact: MP.konsultacija@vid.gov.lv

Health

Disabled People: An increasing number of hotels and venues are making their sites accessible for disabled people. The street environment is becoming more friendly for people in wheelchairs, though some obstacles may still exist.

Medical Care: Travelers with medical insurance are entitled to medical care in Riga.

Vaccination: There are no mandatory vaccinations required for entering Latvia. If you plan on hiking in the countryside or in the forests between March and October, a vaccine against tick-borne encephalitis is advisable.

<http://www.liveriga.com/en/3866-medical-tourism>

Tourism Information Offices

Tourist information offices are found in most Latvian cities and towns. In Riga the main tourist information offices are located at the Blackhead House on Ratslaukums 6 and at the Russian Drama Theatre at Kalku iela 16 on Livu Square. In Jūrmala the main tourist information office is located next to the Majori Train station at Lienes iela 5. In Liepāja the tourist information office can be found at Rose Square (Rožu laukums) 5/6.

Opening Hours

Most shops are open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; however, shops in shopping malls are open until 10 p.m. Food stores are often open from 8 a.m. to midnight. Some food stores are open 24h.



Incentive Ideas within the City of Riga

Riga City Rally

Discover and experience the Latvian capital in a whole new way. You can choose one of several “city rallies,” either with a historical theme or with a treasure hunt.

Riga Black Balsam Discovery Tour

Discover one of the best preserved secrets in the world – the recipe for Riga Black Balsam. Taste the Latvians' beloved balsam, hear the story behind the legendary drink, and learn various recipes for making cocktails at home.

Backstage Opera Tour

A unique opportunity to see the opera's beautiful stage decorations up close and watch the singers and ballet dancers rehearse on stage. End the tour with a champagne reception and private recital in the opera house's White Hall.

Cooking Master Classes

Pamper yourself with cooking master classes after a long day of meetings! You will be surprised to learn that cooking is not a complex process but, rather, a relaxing way to spend the evening. Learn to cook traditional Latvian meals or, if you wish, assemble your own menu and invent a new dish.

Take a Peek into Riga's Past

Taking a peek into the historical lifestyle of wealthy 17th century Rigans is much easier than you think. You don't even need a time machine! Just make a quick call to the Mencendorf House and you will be guided on a tour of this historical building. At the end of the tour you will enjoy a feast of pancakes cooked with an original 17th century recipe.

Tickle Your Taste Buds at the Market Place

Visit the most largest and most famous food market in Northern Europe, Riga's Central Market, and tickle your taste buds with local specialties from the Latvian countryside. At the Central Market, you can find delicious Latvian cheeses, taste various delicacies at the meat market, and the end tour by sampling freshly smoked fish. You can also buy fresh produce to prepare later at your cooking master class.

Underground Medieval Feast in the Old City

Experience a medieval celebration and enjoy the pleasures of a sumptuous feast. You can taste specialties from the kitchens of various medieval castles, such as the deer ragout prepared exclusively for Queen Blanche of Navarre, or the rabbit meat stew borrowed from the menu of her majesty Isabella of Bavaria.

Spy Games

Up until only recently, the streets of Riga were filled with secret service and KGB agents. They searched the city for spies, whom they locked up in the basement of the notorious Corner House in central Riga. Quick, hide – someone is coming for you!



Slide and Sweep

Host your company's curling championships in Riga! Curling is a fun and challenging activity: players slide a heavy stone down a stretch of ice while their teammates use special brooms to sweep the surface, trying to make the stone stop right in the center of a circle. You can also challenge one of the many Latvian curling teams, whose members will be more than happy to compete.

Shaken, Not Stirred!

This has nothing to do with Mr. Bond. Instead, we offer a first-class bartender show and a master class on cocktail preparation. You will learn how to prepare world-famous cocktails, and discover the secrets behind their recipes. You will also learn countless ways to mix Riga Black Balsam to make fabulous, refreshing drinks for special occasions.



Latvia. Best Enjoyed Slowly

The best things in life should be savored and enjoyed slowly.

From small meetings in the idyllic countryside and charming villages to extensive events in the capital city of Riga – all of this can be organized and then enjoyed slowly in Latvia. Appreciate not only Latvia's beneficial location in the middle of the Baltic states, but also the country's compact size. After a successful business or professional meeting, you'll find a remarkable array of experiences nearby that make time spent here truly unforgettable. Delight in Latvia's magnificent architecture, culture, and music. Taste delicious, naturally produced Slow Food. Enjoy unique seasonal celebrations, festivals, and sporting events. Relax on pristine white sand beaches and stroll through untouched nature reserves. Experience four distinct seasons and something truly extraordinary.

Maybe your next event here
will be better than ever before?!
Welcome to Latvia!



Latvian Tourism Development Agency

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Delight

Delight your senses with an enlightening journey of the mind through Latvia's castles, manor houses, churches, and architectural masterpieces. Allow your eyes to see and admire stunning works of art and explore fascinating museums. Feast your ears on the sounds of world-class classical music and opera.

Taste

Latvian food is delicious, fresh, and, most importantly of all, it is natural and organic, with meals lovingly prepared with Slow Food principles in mind. Riga is home to the biggest market in all of Europe, where the continent's largest selection of natural produce can be purchased. It is also a city that boasts hundreds of restaurants offering fine international cuisine from all corners of the globe.

Enjoy

Escape from it all and enjoy unique festivals, colorful seasonal celebrations, and top international sporting events. In Latvia, the visitor is encouraged to experience something new – something unique and unforgettable. And most of all, to enjoy it slowly.

Relax

Relaxation is the key to a good life balance, ongoing health, and a sense of well-being. With its hundreds of kilometers of pristine white sand beaches, countless untouched nature reserves, and world-class spa resorts, Latvia is the destination of choice for those who wish to truly unwind.

Experience

Revel in the slow, gradual changing of the seasons, savoring the transformation from deep winter into the bright freshness of springtime and the atmospheric white nights of midsummer. Discover previously unknown talents and experience something truly extraordinary as you immerse yourself in the mysteries of the Latvian countryside.



Cesis – Where the Past Meets the Future.

Cesis is so homey and cozy that a trip here seems like a visit to a kind Latvian granny. This is a place where genuine cordiality and real coziness vibrate in the air; where one can laze a bit and forget about everything else in the world; and where each visitor is welcomed warmly and plied with the tastiest honey-covered bread slices ever. Cesis is not only one of the oldest towns in the country, but also one of the most authentically Latvian towns. Rich in picturesque landscapes and testimonies of the past, Cesis embodies both an intriguing sense of antiquity and modern self-esteem.

The city's history encompasses the era of the old Vendi tribe, which gave the city its German name, Venden; the events of the year 1206, when the town was first mentioned in chronicles; the era of the Hanseatic League, when even the counsels of the Hanseatic cities in the Baltic region took place here; as well as the period of count Walter von Plettenberg, under whose reign the city prospered. Cesis is also the origin of the red-white-red national flag of Latvia.

Both Cesis and the Cesis district are among the most attractive locations for incentives, seminars, and conferences. The Cesis Castle complex offers different halls in different sizes and styles for seminars, featuring modern presentation equipment. Theatrical performances in the medieval castle will conjure up a romantic atmosphere, getting everyone involved through role-playing, music, and meals. A great complements to incentive activities are bicycling, hiking, and rafting in summer, and skiing in winter, helping you to relax and enjoy the magic of nature.

The modern city of Cesis awaits visitors from far and near to share its aura of antiquity, many attractions and interesting sights, and its signature coziness, letting guests enjoy the town's hospitality and helping you to reach the goals of your seminar or conference.

Cesis Tourism Development and Information Center

Pils laukums 9, Cesis LV-4101, Latvia

Phone: +371 6412 1815; +371 2831 8318

e-mail: info@cesis.lv

www.tourism.cesis.lv



Daugavpils

“From the stones of the historic fortress and the proud Jugendstil in the city center, to small wooden houses in the suburbs with grayish–blue shutters and geraniums on the windowsills – Daugavpils is a city with a pronounced feeling of home and protection that accompanies every person who was born here or has lived here for some time.” (Poet Anna Rancane)

Daugavpils – the second largest city in Latvia and center of the East Latvian region – has given the world the outstanding painter Mark Rothko, the “King of Tango” Oscar Strok, and the actor, stage director, and public and political figure Solomon Mikhoels (Vovsi). The symbols of the city are the nineteenth–century fortress and Church Hill, with the churches of four confessions. The historical center of Daugavpils is a town–planning monument of national importance. The central part of the city was developed in the nineteenth century in accordance with design documents approved in St. Petersburg in 1826. The historical center is the most attractive place in the city and one of the most successful examples of reaching a compromise between the old and the new. Daugavpils is one of the few Latvian cities that can boast a unique ensemble of classical and eclectic buildings. The cultural and historical heritage, including town planning, architectural, artistic, industrial, and historical monuments, together with the surrounding landscapes, shapes the image of Daugavpils and adds special charm to the city. Welcome to Daugavpils!

Daugavpils Regional Tourism Information Centre

22a Rigas iela, Daugavpils, LV–5401, Latvia

Phone: +371 6542 2818,

E–mail: info@visitdaugavpils.lv,

www.visitdaugavpils.lv.



Great Liepaja

When choosing a travel destination, it's always a good idea to visit a place that offers unique sights not available anywhere else. Sights, sounds, and experiences that are unique in Latvia, the Baltics, Europe, and around the world...

In the World

- The largest mechanical organ, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Cathedral.
- Liepāja's beaches have the finest, whitest sand.
- Saint Meinard Catholic Church, the former Vatican pavilion used during the international exhibition EXPO 2000 in Hannover, Germany.

In Europe

- Peter's Market is one of the most beautiful market pavilions.
- Karosta Prison, the only former military prison open to tourists.
- Rotatable steel bridge over the Karosta canal – a unique example of engineering and a technical marvel.

In the Baltics

- The oldest electric tram.
- The largest historical military territory – Liepāja Fortress and Karosta (Naval Port).
- The highest building with cupolas – Liepāja St. Nicholas Orthodox Marine Cathedral in Karosta (Naval Port).

The charm of Liepāja is concealed in its special atmosphere. Sometimes calm, sometimes swirling, like the sea washing the shores of the city. Genuine and truthful – this is Liepāja. Liepāja has grown from a small village into the third largest city in Latvia, with a population of 85,000 people. Liepāja is well-known as a city of culture and entertainment. It is the home of the oldest professional Latvian theater and the internationally recognized Liepāja Symphony Orchestra. The city is also the cradle of Latvian rock music, hosting various

annual rock, classical, and organ music festivals, as well as theater, dance and art festivals.

Liepāja's beach is a great place to relax. It is 50 to 80 meters wide when the wind is calm. The Blue Flag has been awarded to Liepāja's beach each year since 2001.

Karosta (Naval Port) holds a special place in the history of Liepāja. It was built at the turn of the 20th century as a military base for the Russian Empire. Today, the neighborhood is a special part of the city, where Tsarist architecture coexists with the Soviet-era heritage.

Liepaja's Menciņi

Liepāja's guests won't leave hungry. In case you don't know what local delicacy to order at a pub or restaurant, the city of Liepāja has ensured that its most traditional dish – Liepāja's menciņi – will be available in all of the city's cafes and restaurants.

The dish is highly recommended because it's prepared according to an old-fashioned country recipe from Southern Kurzeme, which includes potatoes, smoked cod, and onions in a steaming hot ceramic pot.

Liepaja Region Tourism Information Office

Rožu laukums 5/6, Liepaja, LV-3401, Latvia
Phone: + 371 6348 0808, mob. +371 2940 2111
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www.liepajaturisms.lv



© Baltic Beach Hotel



Jurmala – the Biggest Seaside Resort in the Baltics!

Your business partners will be pleasantly surprised by the idea of organizing a seminar or corporate event in the Latvian resort town of Jurmala, which won a European Destination of Excellence award from the European Commission in 2010. Jurmala is the largest seaside resort in the Baltic states, located just 25 km from the Latvian capital of Riga and only a 15-minute drive from Riga International Airport. Therefore Jurmala is a convenient place to organize a seminar or conference. The resort town has become a popular location for international conferences and meetings.

There are lots of opportunities to organize both conferences for up to 600 persons and small workshops or seminars. In Jurmala you will find a wide range of venues to organize your event, from nice wooden architectural monuments, quaint summer cottages, and the Jurmala City Museum to ideally located, modern five-star hotels with high standards. More and more international scale events have been taking place in Jurmala in recent years, including the Baltic Environmental Forum, the Baltic Forum, the conference of the World Presidents' Organization, the Golden Hammer International Advertising Festival, the final reception of the World Tourism Organization Conference, the International Diplomatic Bowling Tournament, the Latvian Resort Conference, and the International Physiotherapists Congress. Try out an untraditional approach while organizing your seminar or conference, and choose Jurmala's white sandy beaches or Nature Park as a venue.

Jurmala has a wide range of possibilities to combine productive work in a pleasant atmosphere with leisure activities. Visitors can try the positive effects of unique innovations in the wellness and recreation industries, offered by the Jurmala's spa centers, tennis courts, yacht clubs, Dzintari Concert Hall, Livu Aqua Park (the biggest in Northern Europe), and, on the border of Jurmala, one of the biggest golf clubs in Latvia, Salienu Golf. The fresh sea air

and pine trees will stimulate brainwork, but in the evening you can regain your strength in a mineral water pool, a walk on the beach, or a relaxing bicycle ride. You can also choose to go amber hunting on the beach, relax in a Russian bath, or taste Latvian smoked fish and beer at the Jurmala Open-Air Museum.

Jurmala is well-known for its natural treasures – the mild climate, sea, healthy air, curative mud, and mineral waters. The main attraction of the resort town lies in its almost 33-km-long white sandy beaches and large pine forests, combined with modern relaxation and resort facilities. In every season there are plenty of events for everyone – art exhibitions, local and international events, and concerts.

Jurmala could easily become your favorite place for corporate events and incentives. The town has a wide range of possibilities to combine productive work in a pleasant atmosphere with team-building activities at any time of year.

Jurmala Tourism Information Centre

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www.tourism.jurmala.lv



Sigulda Thrills

With its convenient location just 50 km from Riga, a wonderful landscape, and unique activities, the city of Sigulda is the perfect place to choose if you want to thrill your spirit with ancient 800-year-old legends, thrill your heart with breathtaking views over the Gauja River valley, and thrill your body and mind like a real champion.

Situated in the ancient Gauja River valley, Sigulda is one of the most beautiful cities in Latvia, and is often called the Latvian Switzerland. For centuries, Sigulda has enticed visitors from all over the world to enjoy the breathtaking views across the valley and to discover the many unique attractions in the city and its surrounding area.

Beautiful in Every Season

Any time of the year – in the golden fall, the snowy silence of winter, the budding of spring, or the sultry summer full of flowers – Sigulda invites you to experience its charms in the season you prefer best.

Meetings, Corporate Events, or Team-Building

With a variety of venues ranging from well-equipped hotels in the romantic city center to cozy guest houses in the very heart of nature, Sigulda is open to people that are looking for emotions, inspiration, and adventures.

Adventure Capital of Latvia

There is no other place in Latvia where you can find such a variety of attractions concentrated within walking distance. Sigulda thrills! Whether it is mankind's age-old dream of flying or a devotion to the true joys of winter, Sigulda has made every effort to provide exhilarating activities for everyone. Are you ready for it? Fly in the Aerodium vertical wind tunnel, take a ride on a real bobsled or summer bob on wheels at the

Sigulda Bobsled and Luge Track, test your courage at adventure parks with obstacle routes in trees, bungee jump from the cable car over the Gauja River, play golf, or hunt deer – trust us, Sigulda will thrill your body and mind!

Enjoy Your Stay!

Music loves to be heard in Sigulda. Whether you enjoy blues, jazz, or opera, you can always find a wide range of performances at the Sigulda Open-Air Stage, located in the middle of the medieval castle ruins, or the White Grand Piano Concert Hall. Sigulda is partnered with Riga as the European Capital of Culture in 2014, and offers outstanding cultural events all year around.

Easy to Reach

Sigulda is located just 50 km from Riga via the A2 highway, but it can also be conveniently reached by regular bus or train connections from Riga.

Your Partner for Planning Events in Sigulda.

Sigulda Regional Tourism Information Center

Raina Street, Sigulda, LV 2150, Latvia

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Ventspils

Ventspils – the city of tomorrow, respecting the past and working for today! Ventspils is the northern gate of Latvia and the biggest port in Kurzeme. Companies from various sectors that reach outside their region actively operate in this seaside city. Ventspils is also a wonderful place for organizing conferences and seminars. The city can not only offer venues equipped according to up-to-date requirements – such as the Ventspils Nafta and Trade Port Business Centre, the Livonian Order Castle, Ventspils University College, the city's libraries, and the Digital Centre – but also provide full-fledged recreation possibilities for seminar participants.

Ventspils is a popular tourist center in Latvia, offering recreation on the coast of the Baltic Sea on a carefully maintained Blue Flag beach and two excellent water parks. The sports facilities of the Ventspils Olympic Center are often used for high-level athletic events, competitions, and camps. Just 300 meters from the coast you'll also find a seaside camping area, which corresponds to the highest standards of European-level campsites. And the Ventspils Adventure Park offers exciting activities and entertainment during winter and summer.

History is still alive in the old section of Ventspils, the Livonian Order Castle, and the narrow cobblestone streets of the Ostgals neighborhood. You can also enjoy special attractions in the Seaside Open–Air Museum, such as a ride in the narrow-gauge railway train or the Railbike, or go a boat ride through the port of Ventspils on the boat Hercogs Jēkabs (Duke Jacob).

The modern acoustics system at the Sea Gate Theater provides new possibilities for concerts, plays, and shows of various genres. Organizations that choose the Jaunrades nams (Creativity Centre) for their conference venue can enjoy gazing at the stars in the most modern digital planetarium in the Baltic

states and the largest digital planetarium in Latvia, or can observe ongoing processes on the Sun in the observatory equipped with a modern telescope.

Ventspils is also called the Flower Capital of Latvia. Here you will find unique flower sculptures with names like Underwater World, Bobsleigh Team, Ladybirds, and Duck Family, as well as the only flower clock in Latvia. Ventspils is known throughout the country for being a family– and recreation–friendly city.

Ventspils Tourism Information Centre

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Incentive Ideas Outside of Riga

Challenge Yourself and Climb Higher (in Sigulda)

The best way to test your ambition outside the office is to challenge yourself and climb higher! You'll have the unique opportunity to test yourself by prancing through the treetops like a wildcat. Participants can test their abilities either alone or in teams.

Fly Like a Bird at the Aerodium (in Sigulda)

The Aerodium is a vertical wind tunnel where visitors are suspended on a gust of air blowing upwards at a speed of 180–200 km/h. You can fly like a bird, held up in midair by the wind blowing from below.

Amber Hunting (On the Seashore)

The coast is full of million-year-old treasures: amber stones that were once as valuable as gold. Challenge your colleagues to a competition and see who can find the most amber; then turn your discoveries into a beautiful necklace. End your day of amber hunting with a fishermen's picnic on the seashore, sampling freshly smoked fish and beer from local breweries.

Baroque-Style Reception at Rundale Palace (Rundale Village)

Dress up in the fashions of the Baroque and Rococo eras and travel back in time to the Rundale Palace court. Enjoy an antique music concert and learn to dance the Minuet.

Cut Off from the World (Ligatne)

You will be surprised and astonished at how easily you can be cut off from the world and go totally offline! Take the unique opportunity to visit a well-preserved, secret nuclear war bunker nine meters belowground. You can also experience a Soviet-style meal at an authentic cafeteria.

Sliding at High Speeds (Sigulda)

Have an exciting competition at the artificial luge and bobsled track in Sigulda. Race down the track in a slower rubber bobsled in winter or a faster bobsled on wheels in summer. In the winter, you can experience a real full-speed bobsled ride together with an experienced pilot.

Prison Break (Liepaja)

Test your nerves by visiting a real historical prison, where the first inmates served their sentences in the 19th century. You can challenge yourself even further by staying overnight at one of the prison chambers. But keep in mind: prisoner's meals are not served regularly, and food is given only to those who behave.

Golfing at the City's Frontier (Marupe & Vecmilgravis)

Just a few minutes from downtown Riga, you will find two different 18-hole golf courses in an idyllic setting. Organize a partners' tournament or practice your game on the training range – anything is possible. You can finish your event in style with a gourmet meal at the clubhouse restaurant.





Brewery Tour (Valmiera, Bauska, Riga, and Tervete)

Beer brewing has a long history in Latvia, and its ancient techniques have been passed down from brew masters to apprentices. The Riga district and other Latvian regions are home to several excellent breweries. When visiting a particular brewery, you'll have the chance to learn the art of brewing as well as taste various beers. A few of the breweries even have meeting rooms.



Learn the Essentials of Life (Babīte, Liepšalas, and Rūjiņa)

Latvia is renowned throughout Northern Europe for its delicious dark rye bread. After a short drive from the city to the idyllic countryside, you can experience the peaceful process of bread baking. Roll your own dough, place it in the oven, and watch the loaf rise. You can then bring home your very own freshly baked bread to share with your loved ones.