



The Best of Latvia in 6 days

24-30 May 2015

We offer you:

- A comprehensive tour of Latvia
- Guided visits to selected places of interest and sight-seeing (English speaker guides)
- Reserved luxury buses
- Lunch and dinners included
- Club 6th Anniversary Gala evening

Costs:

- EUR 690/ person
- EUR 1280/ Couple

(accommodation excluded)

Organized by: The Baltic Rotary Club of Riga - Celebrating 6 years...

Dear Rotarians,

Towards the end of May 2015, from the 24th to 30th, The Baltic Rotary Club of Riga will host Rotarians and their guests to an exciting and thrilling tour of the best in Latvia, as part of its 6th Anniversary celebrations. We will guide you through many other unforgettable places: Riga, UNESCO World Heritage Site, chosen as the prettiest European city by USA TODAY; our Tour will be devoted also to the discovery of Latvia - according to



Huffington Post is "Europe's Best Kept Secret" (see http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/24/lativa-travel_n_4981083.html). An almost untouched natural ecosystem and unforgettable historical destinations are waiting you. Come and witness this beauties during

the summer of 2015 and join us in celebrating our 6th Anniversary in style, friendship and comfort; proceeds from the event will be donated towards the many charitable projects, of The Baltic Rotary Club of Riga, for orphans and pensioners.

Reservations



- In the following pages please find the sightseeing and attractions that will be seen during the Tour, plus the events, subject to discretionary changes.
- Maximum number of entries

- limited to 50 persons only
- Book early to avoid disappointment
- Minimum number of persons for the event to be conducted is 25.

For further details and Tour reservation please contact Alberto De Luca or James Samuel on rigabalticrotaryclub@gmail.com.

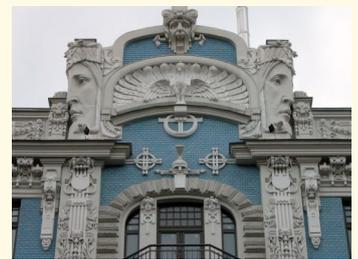


I: Riga and Jurmala



Old Riga (in Latvian Vecrīga) is the historical and geographical center of Riga on the right bank of the Daugava. Old Riga comprises a fairly small interior fortification system area (built during XIII-XVIII centuries), where unique middle-aged architectural monuments are concentrated. During medieval times, Riga was a mighty harbor and was a member city of the Hanseatic League which joined the traders of the Baltic Region and North Germany. The Large and the Small Guild, as well as the reconstructed

House of the Blackheads recall the Hanseatic times. These were built by the Guilds of craftsmen and artists buildings in a growing city. Old Riga is a masterpiece of architecture which has retained the atmosphere of old times .



Jurmala is the city by the Gulf of Riga stretching along 33 km of coastline with modern relaxation and resort facilities. The look of Jurmala in the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century is its wooden houses with fascinating wood engraving decors in building facades and rooftop structures. Romantic streets and wooden cottages surrounded by pine trees also nowadays create the vision of the olden days. The wooden buildings of Jurmala

are significant and unique cultural heritage. The architectural features of Classicism, Art Nouveau, National Romanticism, and Functionalism harmoniously co-exist here. 414 buildings have been included in the List of Architectural Monuments. The town of Jurmala is also proud of its unique natural resources – therapeutic thermal waters, peat mud, pine forests, healthy maritime climate, dunes and beaches covering 32.8 kilometres.



II: Zemgale



Zemgale is a historical region located in the central part of Latvia, to the South from Riga. The Zemgale region is located along the border of Lithuania and is also bordered by the Latgale, Vidzeme, Kurzeme and Riga planning regions. The region has the status of one of the four historical and cultural regions of Latvia, the region

takes its name from the Baltic people known as Semigallians.

The **Bauska Castle** is surrounded by a picturesque scenery on the land strip between the rivers Musa and Memele. The castle represents an example of military architecture in the period from 15th to 17th century .



The Rundale Palace ensemble, one of the most outstanding monuments of Baroque and Rococo architecture in Latvia, was built between 1736 and 1740 as a summer residence for

Ernst Johann Biron.

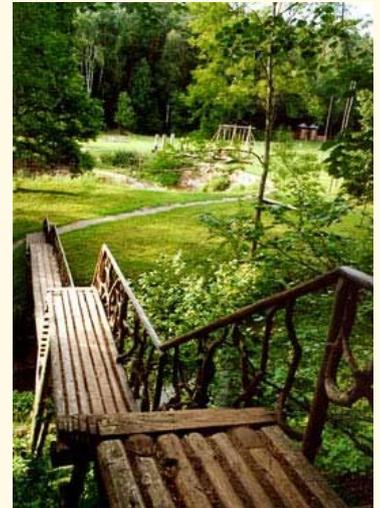
The Mezotne Palace is one of the brightest examples of classicism architecture in Latvia, The present building of

Mezotne Palace was constructed from 1797 to 1802 according to the design of Italian architect Giacomo Quarenghi.

Tervete Nature Park is

famous for its old and especially tall pine trees. The trees for years have been used to make ornate wooden sculptures, some of which have been placed in the park to reflect the fairy tale characters of the famous Latvian writer Anna Brigadere's work.

Jelgava Palace is the largest Baroque style palace in the Baltic states. It was built in the 18th century based on the design of Bartolomeo Rastrelli as a residence for the Dukes of Courland .



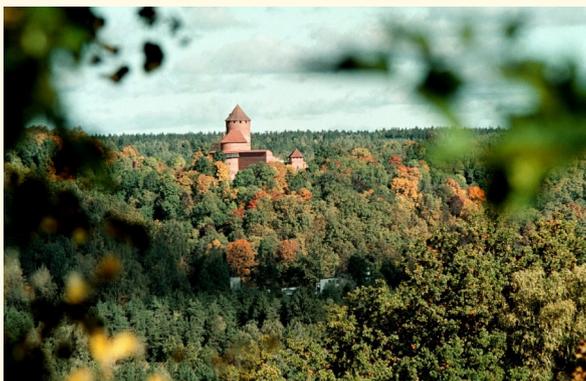
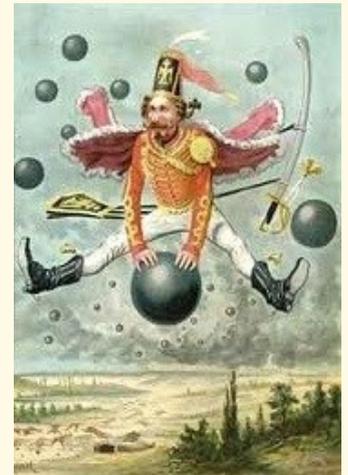
III: Vidzeme

In the region Vidzeme you can enjoy the picturesque beauty of rivers and lakes, rejoice in the landscapes of forests, meadows, hills and valleys. The oldest towns of Vidzeme keep the most significant cultural and architectural heritage, each with its own charm, history and culture.

The **Munchausen's museum** is located at the picturesque seaside of Vidzeme in Dunte. Hieronymus Carl Friedrich von Münchhausen was a German nobleman and a famous racon-

teur of tall tales. He joined the Russian military and took part in two campaigns against the Ottoman Turks. Upon returning home, Münchhausen is said to have told a number of outrageously farfetched stories about his adventures. Münchhausen's reputation as a storyteller has been exaggerated by writers, giving birth to a fully fictionalized literary character usually called simply Baron Munchausen. The Munchausen's museum is one

of the most visited ones in Latvia. In the room of Munchausen's wife Jacobine you'll find a real corner of 18th century ladies paradise. In baron Munchausen's turn you'll find a dozen of fresh game birds hunted down with a single shot. Munchausen's trail on the museum's territory is 5.3 km long and reaches the sea. It is the longest footbridge made of aspen planks in Europe.



Turaida Museum Reserve includes Turaida Castle and the surrounding area, and is the largest protected cultural monument in the country. The name Turaida means "God's garden" in the language of the ancient inhabitants, the Livonians. Turaida castle rises above the green foliage like an imposing ship built out of red brick.

Visitors of Turaida Museum Reserve can familiarise themselves with the more striking elements of medieval castle-building while taking a walk along the castle ramparts. The museum contains Dainas Hill a garden of sculptures dedicated to Latvian folklore.





IV: Kurzeme

Kurzeme is situated in the west of Latvia. From the western side Kurzeme is washed by the Baltic Sea, from the northeast - by the Gulf of Riga. Kurzeme has always been associated with the sea, sand dunes, prosperous towns, thick forests, mysterious marshes and picturesque land-

scapes.

Cape Kolka is a meeting place created by nature. Seas and people meet here. Man with nature, sunrise with sunset. Near the cape is a lighthouse and the village of Kolka. There is a line of picturesque old Livonian settlements along the Baltic Sea shore, including Vaide, Saunags, Pitrag, Košrags and Sīkrags.

Mazirbe is one of twelve Livonian villages on the Livonian Coast. It is the cultural capital of the Livonians.



The Livonians are the nearly extinct indigenous inhabitants of Livonia, a large part of north-western Latvia and south-western Estonia.

Livonian language was closely related to Estonian and Finnish. The last native speaker of Livonian, died in 2013.



Jaunpils Castle is one of the few medieval castles which has retained its original appearance. Jaunpils Castle was built in 1301 as a fortress of the Livonian Order. The castle was built by Gottfried von Roga, Master of the Livonian Order. The scenic surroundings and the social folklore serve as the backdrop for tourist attractions. A romantic atmosphere prevails here because everything is taking place in a seven century old castle. Re-enacted theatrical tours of the castle are offered.



Latgale Region borders with Russian Federation in the east, Republic of Belarus in south-east, and Republic of Lithuania in the south.

Diverse relief, woods and fields replaced by lakes and hills interlaced with serpentine highroads account for the typically mosaic Latgale landscape. There are three areas of protected landscapes in the region – that of Augszeme and along the bends of the Rivers Augšdaugava and Daugava, which are famous for their outstanding picturesque and diverse land-

scapes and special beauty

Koknese Castle is a complex in Koknese, dating from the 13th century. The castle was situated on a high bluff overlooking the Daugava river valley. In 1965 a hydroelectric dam was built downriver, creating a reservoir that partially submerged the castle and flooded the surrounding valley



V: Latgale



Preiļi is one of the oldest settlements in Latvia. It was first mentioned in written sources in 1250. Country estate ensem-



bles had become an integral part of the 19th century landscape and architecture in the Preiļi district.

Aglona Basilica was built in the late baroque style and it is decorated with two 60 metre high towers. Every year on the 15th of August, pilgrims congregate in Aglona to mark the day of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven. This is one of the best known sacred sites in the world; groins vaults, arches and columns richly decorated in rococo style can be found inside



Daugavpils Mark Rothko Art Centre is a multifunctional complex of contemporary art, culture and education situated in the Arsenalbuilding at Daugavpils Fortress. It is the only

place in Eastern Europe where the original masterpieces of the famous painter and the founder of the abstract expressionism Mark Rothko can be seen.

VI: 6th Anniversary Riga Baltic Rotary Club Gala

The Tour will be concluded with a grand event: the Gala Evening for the 6th Year Anniversary of the Club.

Take the opportunity to celebrate with our friends and us in a joyous dinner with orchestral live music, dances, games and various other entertainments.

Venue and details will be finalized once we will have the definitive number of participants.

Dress Code: For GENTLEMEN - Formal, dark suit. For LADIES – evening gown, ball gown, cocktail dress.



*We obtained special rates for your accommodation with **Albert Hotel** (<http://www.alberthotel.lv>), a comfortable 4 stars hotel, conveniently located in the heart of the enchanting Art Nouveau district within the very center of the city. Different rooms typology are available (see reservation form); trips will start and end at Albert Hotel premises. Please send your reservation form filled in directly to the hotel via email, fax or mail at the addresses therein specified. Thank you.*





Reservation request

33rd Dzirnavu street, Riga, LV-1010
Ph. +371 67331717, Fax. +371 67331718

e-mail: reservations@alberthotel.lv

Accommodation request ALBERT HOTEL

Reservation details:

Block CODE: ___ Rotary ___

Ordered by: _____

Contact person: _____ Linda or Una _____

PLEASE FILL IN:

Guest Name _____
/please use capital letters/

Arrival (Check-in) date _____ Departure (check-out) date _____

Room: Standard Single _____ Standard Double/Twin _____
Superior Single* _____ Superior Double/Twin* _____

Rates 23.05. – 31.05.15.: 74 EUR per standart single room / 79 EUR per standart Double room / 89 EUR per Superior single room / 94 EUR per Superior double/twin room

Rates include buffet breakfast, WIFI and 12% VAT.

*Number of superior rooms is limited

Please, note that hotel rooms are only guaranteed if the booking is made until 31.03.2015, afterwards – subject to availability

Payment:

Credit Card _____ /cc number/ _____ /exp. date/

Albert Hotel accepts a cancellation of reservation 24 hours prior to arrival free of charge. In case of no arrival or later cancellation, the hotel reserves the right to charge 100% of the first night's accommodation as a No- Show fee.

Guest Signature _____

Date _____

Notes: _____



To The Baltic Rotary Club of Riga. (hereafter Organizer).

Application for the participation in “The Best of Latvia in 6 days” Tour

Please hereby find my request to participate to the Tour and connected events taking place from 24th to 30th of May 2015 in Riga:

Name: _____ Surname: _____
Birthplace: _____ Date of birth: _____
Belonging to club _____ District: _____
Phone nr _____ e-mail: _____
Residence address _____
Country _____

Accompanied by:

Name: _____ Surname: _____
Birthplace _____ Date of birth _____

Name: _____ Surname: _____
Birthplace _____ Date of birth _____

Name: _____ Surname: _____
Birthplace _____ Date of birth _____

The participation fees in the tour amount to 690€ per person or 1280€ per couple. (hereafter The Fee) The Fee includes a comprehensive tour of Latvia with English spoken guides during the whole Tour, exclusive use of luxury touring bus, lunch and dinners, participation to the Gala Dinner for the 5th year Anniversary of the Club, tickets and entrance fees to museums and the other selected attractions as described in “The Best of Latvia in 6 days” brochure I received from the Organizer

I understood that:

the Fee does not include transports costs from my city to Riga and return nor accommodation costs; the programme may be subject to changes due to organizational reasons, atmospheric conditions and other force majeure events and that the event will take place only if the Organizer will receive a minimum of 25 applications within the date of 20th of March 2015.

My payment shall be performed within 31st of March 2015 via bank transfer, after confirmation by Organizer that the minimum number of participants is reached, to the following account:

RIGAS BALTIJAS ROTARI KLUBS, BIEDRIBA,
(Baltic Rotary Club of Riga)
REG. NR. 40008134665,
IBAN LV58UNLA0050013381733 SWIFT: UNLALV2X
A/S SEB BANKA

Date: _____

Signature of the applicant
