

RIGA

Bustling Riga, with its pumping nightlife, cobbled streets and marvellous art-nouveau architecture is one of Eastern Europe's most fun cities. Riga is the largest city in all three Baltic states. In its 800 years of history, everyone from German knights to Swedish kings and Soviet commissars have left their footprints, and today Latvia's capital is an exciting European metropolis.

Riga's historical centre is UNESCO World Heritage site noted for its Art Nouveau/Jugendstil architecture and 19th century wooden architecture. Riga also has the largest collection of Art Nouveau buildings in the world.

FROM THE AIRPORT

Most of our tours include an airport transfer directly to your hotel. The driver will be waiting for you at the airport with a sign. You can take a taxi from the airport, and it should not cost more than 10 euros.



CULTURE FASCINATIONS

Old Riga

UNESCO World Heritage recognised Old Riga is the heart and soul of Latvia's capital. Its history goes back more than 800 years. Old Riga is known for cobblestone streets, magnificent churches, architectural masterpieces like the House of Blackheads and squares bursting with summer life.

Art Nouveau architecture

Riga has over 800 Art Nouveau buildings and structures, but the greatest concentration is on Alberta Iela street. Most of the buildings on this street have been designed by a single architect, Mikhail Eisenstein.

Doma Cathedral

The construction of the cathedral began already in 1211 and it has been a work in progress ever since. It is a mix of different styles and one can see elements of Gothic, Romanesque, Baroque and even Art Nouveau styles. The interior holds many works of art, and the adjacent Cloister Garden displays intriguing artefacts from Riga's history. And don't miss a performance on the famous organ, built in 1884 and still considered today to be one of the finest instruments in the world.

Open Air Ethnographic Museum

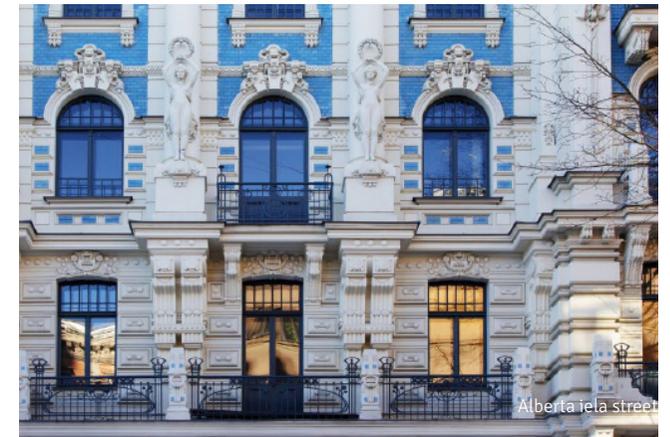
Located right on the city's doorstep, the Open Air Ethnographic Museum is a luscious lakeside park where fine examples of vernacular architecture from all over Latvia have been preserved. Step back in time by visiting peasant homes, workshops, windmills and treasures like the richly ornamented Usma Church.

Latvian National Opera and Ballet

Make sure to visit Latvian National Opera and Ballet, a magnificent neo classical building dating from 1882 in the heart of town. This is the birthplace to one of the world's greatest ballet dancers, Mikhail Baryshnikov and to diva Elina Garanča.

Livu Square

A centre of Riga's youthful life. The square is full of lovely restaurants and bars and is a popular spot for tourists to take a break while exploring the city. Sit back and watch people walking by or admire the magnificent architecture surrounding the square. During summer, the square is filled with flowers, and during winter, the Christmas market takes over.



CULINARY EXPERIENCES

Riga is an adventure for the taste buds too. The enormous Central Market is a treasure trove of earthy sausage, cheese and black bread, smoked fish, and much more. Sample the goods on a picnic in one of Riga's lovely parks, or enjoy a hearty meal in many great value bistro and cafes.

Latvia's cuisine might seem a bit strange at first, but if you are open to try the Latvian delicacies, you are sure to be impressed by the gastronomic journey. Riga gives you a cuisine that is equal parts traditional and modern – you can buy rye bread baked the old fashioned way as easily as you can enjoy smoked trout at an upscale international bistro.

Must try foods and dishes in Latvia include rye bread, cold beet soup, Kvass (beverage fermented from black rye bread), black balsam (highly alcoholic herbal liqueur which has been brewed since 18th century) and Alexandertorte (raspberry filled cake, designed to commemorate Russian Tsar Alexander III's visit to Riga).



Kvass and rye bread



RESTAURANTS

Muusu - Muusu offers a number of different settings including a cosy bar area up front, a spacious bright winter garden in the back and a more intimate second floor that leads out to a stunning courtyard terrace. Look for the historic 18th-century townhouse on one of Old Riga's most picturesque cobblestone streets to find this warm and inviting, yet modern restaurant specialising in upmarket international cuisine.

Address: Skarnu iela 6, Riga

Phone: +371 25772552

Vincents - Vincents is located in one of the most picturesque parts of Riga, just a 15 minute walk from the Old City. Vincents was founded in 1994 and it has since grown to become one of the premier gourmet establishments in Northern Europe. Chef tries to obtain only the best and freshest products, which means that Vincents' menu changes in accordance with the fruits, vegetables, berries and mushrooms that are in season at any particular time.

Address: Elisabetes iela 19, Riga

Phone: +371 673 328 30



Restorans 3 - Supported by wildlife experts, Restaurant 3 continues exploring and discovering the unique tastes of the natural foods characteristic only to the region, which makes their food ever more contemporary. The restaurant focuses on sustainable cooking, from selecting the produce from local farmers and fishermen, and making sure they use every single part of the product.

Address: Kaleju street 3, Riga

Phone: +371 26660060

Restorans Forest - Spoil your taste buds with Latvian contemporary and classic European cuisine, considering seasonal character of field and nature bounty. Great selection of drinks from "Old" and "New" world will satisfy most contrasting tastes of visitors searching for perfect drink to excellent food. Glance through window opens view to National treasury – Opera house and city canal, while enjoying meal and drink of Your choice.

Address: Raina bulvaris 21, Riga, LV-1050

Phone: +371 27724437