Aukštaitija | Latgale | Vitebsk Region

Bella Dvina and the Baltic Country of Lakes

BellaDvina

BALTIC COUNTRY OF LAKES

EN

Tourism map 1 : 500 000

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Latgale region in Latvia, Panevėžys, Utena, Vilnius, Alytus and Kaunas counties in Lithuania, as well as Vitebsk, Mogilev, Minsk and Grodno oblasts take part in the Programme. The Joint Managing Authority of the programme is the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania.

The web site of the programme is www.enpi-cbc.eu.

The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and people beyond its borders.

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Legend

- Main road with dual carriageway
- Main road with number (E85 A6 M6)
- National road with number (P20 102 P25)
- Other road
- Surfaced, gravel
- Road under construction
- Distances in km (26)
- Railway
- International border crossing point
- No passage
- Airport
- State border (Belarus, Russia, Latvia, Lithuania)
- Limit of administrative unit
- Limit of protected area
- Lake
- River
- Forest
- Field, lawn
- Marsh
- TOP-10 points of interest in Aukštaitija (Lithuania)
- TOP-10 points of interest in Latgale (Latvia)
- TOP-10 points of interest in Vitebsk Region (Belarus)

VICIEBSK	above 300 000 inhabitants
ORŠA	100 000–300 000 inhabitants
RĖZEKNE	30 000–100 000 inhabitants
UTENA	10 000–30 000 inhabitants
Zarasai	3 000–10 000 inhabitants
Borkavičy	1 000–3 000 inhabitants
Priežmale	below 1 000 inhabitants
VILNIUS	National capital

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Latgale (Latvia)

1. **Aglona Basilica** Basilica str. 8, Aglona, +371 653 81109, +371 29472155
2. **Daugavpils Fortress** Daugavas iela, Daugavpils, +371 654 22818, info@visitdaugavpils.lv, www.visitdaugavpils.lv
3. **Aglona Bread Museum** Daugavpils iela 7, Aglona, +371 29287044, www.aglonasmaize.vos.lv
4. **Nature park "Daugavas loki"** Daugavpils novads, Krāslavas novads, +371 654 71321, +371 656 22201 tscirkovska@ra.lv, info@visitdaugavpils.lv, http://turisms.kraslava.lv, www.nasjene.lv
5. **Latgale potters workshops** +371 646 05005, +371 26332249, +371 29128695 www.podnikuskola.vos.lv
6. **Wooden housing of the Ludza historic centre** +371 657 07203, +371 29467925 tic@ludza.lv, ligakomdatele@inbox.lv, http://turisms.ludza.lv
7. **Latgale Art and Crafts Centre** Domes iela 1, Līksna, +371 653 81855, +371 28603333 lmac@inbox.lv, www.latgalesamatniieki.lv
8. **Miniature Kingdom and Doll Gallery** Daugavpils iela 21, Preiļi, +371 653 21737, +371 26423837 lenalisa@inbox.lv, www.lelkukarsvalsts.lv
9. **Museum "Andrupenes lauku sēta"** Andrupene, Dagdas novads, +371 26458876 lauksnesteja@inbox.lv
10. **Private Antiquities Collection "Saipetnieki"** Saipetnieki, Lazdukalna pag., Rugāju novads, +371 26519360

Aukštaitija (Lithuania)

1. **Narrow gauge railway** Vilties g. 2, Anykščiai, +370 381 54597, +370 620 38243, +370 381 58015, +370 612 81067 www.siaurukomuzejus.lt, www.siaurukas.eu
2. **Alpine-coaster ride** Kalno g. 25, Anykščiai, +370 381 78144, +370 698 73879 www.kalnokalnas.lt
3. **Horse Museum** Niūronys, Anykščių r. sav., +370 623 70629 www.arklomuziejus.lt
4. **Panorama tower in Bijeikiai village by Rubikiai Lake** Bijeikiai, Anykščių r. sav.
5. **Vytautas Valiuzis Pottery Museum** Topolių g. 7, Leliūnai, Utenos r. sav., +370 686 22807, +370 615 49525 www.utenosmuziejus.lt
6. **Light and music fountain with a water screen at Dusetoki Lake** Aušros g., Utena, +370 389 54546, +370 687 21938
7. **"Utenos" beer Museum** Pramonės g. 12, Utena, +370 618 87753 jonas.lingys@svyturys.lt, muziejus@utenosalus.lt, www.utenosalus.lt
8. **Slyninka watermill** Slyninka, Zarasų r. sav., +370 686 23348, +370 687 59106 vandenmalunas@gmail.com, www.slyninkosmalunas.lt
9. **Observation ring and shore of Zarasas lake** D. Bukonto g., Zarasai www.zarasai.lt/tic
10. **Stelmužė nature and culture heritage** (oak-tree, the Church of the Holy Cross, Church Art Museum) Stelmužė, Imbrado sen., Zarasų r. sav. www.zarasai.lt/tic

Vitebsk Region (Belarus)

1. **Holy Virgin Maria Ascension Roman Catholic Church** Vidzy, Braslaŭski rajon, +375 215 328695
2. **Marc Chagall Museum** ul. Prokrovskaja 11, Viciebsk, +375 212 363468 www.chagal-vitebsk.com
3. **St. Anna Catholic Church** Miory, Hlybocki rajon, +375 215 632949
4. **Holy Virgin Maria Assumption and St. Iosafat Kuntsevich Catholic Church** ul. Kirova, Miory, +375 215 2418836
5. **Saint Sophia Cathedral** ul. Zamkowaja 1, Polack, +375 214 445340, +375 214 426949 www.polotsk.museum.by
6. **Holy Mother Assumption Church (Sarja Catholic Church)** ul. Stroitel'naja, Sarja, Verchniadzvinski rajon, +375 215 123777
7. **Monastery of the Savior and Saint Euphrosyne** ul. Eufrosini Polockaj 89, Polack +375 214 462099, +375 214 426949
8. **Fraternal Seminary at the Bogoyavlensky Monastery** ul. Nižne-Pokrovskaja 22, Polack, +375 214 445722, +375 214 426949 www.polotsk.museum.by
9. **Repin's Museum-Estate** Ruba, Ricebski rajon, +375 212 291673 www.gorod.vitebsk.by
10. **Tyzenhaus Palace** ul. Sovetskaja 2, Pastavy

Bella Dvina and the Baltic Country of Lakes – Regions of Endless Discovery

Dear travellers!

It may be the first time you see these metaphoric names - Bella Dvina and Baltic Country of Lakes – and you thoughtfully turn the globe around and ask yourself, where these poetically named places you've never heard of can be.

These lands lie where the mythical Daugava River flows – the river that is known since the ancient times as a legendary trade route from the Varangians to the Greeks. When you look at the map, you see at once that Daugava (Western Dvina) „belongs" to the people of three countries – Russia, Belarus and Latvia. However, the countless lakes forming the Baltic Country of Lakes resemble a thread of pearls that bonds Latvia and Lithuania. While borders split countries and peoples apart, rivers bring them together. For rivers are like the wind and birds that know no borders. It has been like that for centuries, and things have not changed much ever since: only the times are changing, and the waters of the river have seen these times pass by.

Like a magnet, Bella Dvina and the Baltic Country of Lakes attract tourists and romantic souls from all parts of the world. Here you will find all the ingredients for the most savoury tourist meal, which even the most sophisticated travel gourmet will enjoy. When arriving here, you will have a unique opportunity to visit three beautiful regions with rich and diverse culture – Latgale in Latvia, Aukštaitija in Lithuania and Vitebsk Region in Belarus.

For centuries, cities and villages evolved along the banks of Western Dvina (Daugava), and alike the many lakes of the Baltic Country of Lakes, these cities and villages still conceal thousands of unveiled historical enigmas. Think of Polotsk, the oldest city of Belarus, or Vitebsk, the centre of culture monuments and festive traditions, or peaceful Disna, the smallest city of Belarus, or Nature Park „Daugavas loki" (Meanders of Daugava), residing on the steep banks of Daugava and concealing many unique natural attractions.

An inquisitive traveller, having an ear for what the ancient history and culture monuments witnesses can reveal, will learn about many exciting stories and events. These stories are very different – humorous, bizarre, mysterious, dramatic... yet they all have one thing in common –they all take place on the banks of the old and sacred river.

Major cities of the regions – Daugavpils, Utena, Vitebsk and Polotsk – host many sites of historical and architectural significance that unveil exciting stories about events and personalities of the past, while museums carefully preserve material evidences of the old times. After having acquainted themselves with major values of the cities, travellers are awaited by the deep forests and clear lakes of this land. When enjoying unique landscapes formed by glaciers, bathing in clear lake waters, sitting with a fishing rod on the river bank or in a boat in the middle of a lake, wandering along mysterious nature reserve paths, gathering mushrooms and berries – it is so easy to wash away the everyday rush and forget about all your troubles and worries!

Bella Dvina and the Baltic Country of Lakes – it is a door to a magic land open for all travellers.

Bicycle riders can choose their own pace here, as well as try the routes impassable for cars. Water tourists can wander around labyrinths of picturesque lakes, go down the stream on kayaks, catamarans and rafts and stop at islands to view ancient castle ruins. Legend lovers can get acquainted with the Black Officer haunting the rampart of Ivan the Terrible in Polotsk, as well as with the mysterious inhabitants of Rasony lakes – close relatives to Loch Ness monster. Festival lovers can start a celebrity „hunt" at the International festival Slavic Bazaar in Vitebsk or visit the festival of rural tourism Zaborsky Fest, as well as can learn about national traditions and values of Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus. Traditional crafts enthusiasts will be excited to discover the secrets of the world-famous ceramic art in Latgale and Aukštaitija. Jars and pots, candlesticks and whistles became a traditional symbol of these regions. Every local ceramist uses their own techniques and every local potter develops a peculiar and unique style. You will have a chance to master this craft – to feel how soft and gentle clay is and how accurate the movements of a potter must be, to find out the secrets of glaze making and even to take part in pot firing in the traditional wood-burning oven.

Pilgrims can cast their worries aside while visiting the famous sacred places of the region: ancient Boris Stones, beautiful churches with wonder working icons that set characteristic scenery of Latgale, Aukštaitija and Vitebsk regions. When you are in Daugavpils, you will be shown the Holy Mount that hosts together in one place churches of four traditional faiths. Here you can find the Orthodox Church of Boris and Gleb, the church of Old-Believers, as well as Catholic and Lutheran churches. Yet the most famous and beautiful pearl in the necklace of sacral architecture of Latgale is Aglona Basilica and the abbey. Nowadays Aglona has become one of the main European centres of Catholicism welcoming hundreds of thousands pilgrims every year. In Polotsk, you can learn a lot of interesting things about the holy tutelary spirit of Belarus – Saint Euphrosyne of Polotsk, who founded here a cloister which still keeps the national relic of Belarus – the Cross of Saint Euphrosyne.

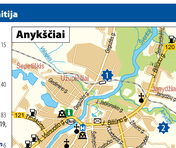
While travelling around Bella Dvina Region and the Baltic Country of Lakes, enjoying their unique nature, learning traditions and culture of local nations, you will come to know that there are far less differences between our nations and traditions than one could expect from people divided by state borders. We have much more in common: legendary tales, national cuisine recipes, secrets of folk crafts and of course common national character traits: hospitality and open heart, friendliness and inexhaustible sense of humour.

Bella Dvina and the Baltic Country of Lakes are the places where everyone can find something interesting and close to heart. As a rule, if visited once, a traveller would return here again and again to enjoy green hills and crystal lakes, listen to the rich tunes of Latgale songs, taste freshly-baked and delicious bread and stay among hospitable and kind-hearted people.

Welcome!

Accommodation in Aukštaitija

Anykščiai district


Anykščiai
Sudeikiai
Kavarskas
Troškūnai
Traupis
Andrioniškis
Skiemonys
Kriaunos
Leliūnai
Rimkai
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