



# LATGALE *unites*

Beautiful holidays in Latgale and Pskov



Ceļš ar atdalītām kustības joslām, ātrgaitas ceļš  
 Дорога с разделёнными полосами, скоростная дорога  
 Dual carriageway, expressway  
 Straße mit getrennten Fahrbahnen, Autobahn  
 Kahe eraldi liiklussuudõndiga tee

Maģistrālais ceļš • Galvenais ceļš  
 Магистральная дорога • Главная дорога  
 Trunk road • Main road  
 Fernverkehrsstraße • Hauptstraße  
 Rahvusvaheline tee • Põhimaantee

Reģionālie ceļi  
 Территориальные дороги  
 Regional roads  
 Regionale Verbindungsstraßen  
 Tugimaantee

Prāriejie ceļi  
 Прочие дороги  
 Other roads  
 Andere Straßen  
 Muud teed

Ceļi ar segumu  
 Дороги с покрытием  
 Surfaced roads  
 Straßen mit Deckung  
 Kattega teed

Ceļi bez seguma  
 Дороги без покрытия  
 Unsurfaced roads  
 Unbefestigte Wege  
 Katteta teed

Attālumi km  
 Расстояния в км  
 Distances in km  
 Entfernungen in km  
 Vahekaugus km

Dzelzeņš  
 Железная дорога  
 Railway  
 Eisenbahn  
 Raudtee

Lidosta  
 Аэропорт  
 Airport  
 Flughafen  
 Lennujaam

VIENTUČI • LUDONKA  
 Пункт перехода границы  
 Check point  
 Grenzübergang  
 Piiripunkt

Nacionālais parks  
 Национальный парк  
 National park  
 Nationalpark  
 Rahvuspark

Pilsēta • Lauku apdzīvotā vieta  
 Город • Сельский населённый пункт  
 City, town • Rural settlement  
 Stadt • Ländliche Ortschaft  
 Linn • Küla

0 20 km

**PSKOV**  
**Ludza**  
 Gavry





## Vasals Latgolā! [Welcome to Latgale!]

"Travellers may open their hearts to the sights and bless their eyes with glimpses of beauty. Travellers may set their hearts free. Where the eyes, ears and heart are free, the soul bathes in beauty." These are the words of Latvian writer and philosopher Zenta Mauriņa, and they fit well with the idea of our travel guide – an invitation to explore the Latgale and Pskov regions.

People eternally strive for the unknown; to behold, view, gain and wonder. We dream of mountain peaks reaching into the sky, palm trees on the beaches, cities, millions of skyscrapers and shining funfairs. But deep in our hearts, dwells a silent wish to be in the wilds of nature, to walk barefoot into the clear water of a lake, to enjoy berries in the forest, spend some quiet time in a wooden chapel, to watch a potter moulding clay.

Latgale is a region far away from the capital Riga and we have often met people, who say – what is there to do so far from Riga? Oh, how they are mistaken! You are holding a travel guide, in which we have summarised only a small piece of everything you can see, feel and enjoy in the Latgale and Pskov regions. Cultural heritage and traditions coexist here with modern possibilities. Citizens of Latgale are able to intuitively unite the ancient and the modern without harming the environment or soul. Faith is the very thing that made it possible for us to maintain positivity and joy despite the hardships of life.

A lot of active, enterprising, venturesome and wholeheartedly interested people of the Pskov and Latgale regions took part in the creation of this travel guide. In the name of the Latgale Planning Region I sincerely thank all Latgale local governments, their Tourism development and information centres, tourism entrepreneurs, cooperation partners from the Pskov region in Russia and everyone who made investments in the popularisation and development of the Latgale and Pskov regions. May the results of our work be productive!

You are given a wonderful chance to explore the Latgale and Pskov regions, choosing the most suitable things to see and do for you - nature tourism, recuperation, tasting Latgale's culinary heritage, craftsmen workshops, extreme adventures and many other offers. All you need to do is make a plan of your travel, and book your visit to the chosen tourism sights where necessary. We also invite tourism agencies to include Latgale and Pskov in their travel routes under the heading exotic trips. To obtain information on tourism options, feel welcome to visit any of our tourism information centres.

May this travel guide become a source of inspiration and ideas for your most beautiful holidays at any time of the year!

Yours faithfully,

**Iveta MAĻINA-TABŪNE**

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# LATGALE unites



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Phone: +371 64624300  
[www.latgale.lv](http://www.latgale.lv), [www.visitlatgale.com](http://www.visitlatgale.com)

Publisher: **Advertising Agency "Bulterjers", Ltd.**  
47 Čiekurkalna 1 Line, Rīga, LV-1026, Latvia  
Phone: +371 67310534  
[www.bulterjers.lv](http://www.bulterjers.lv)

Printed by „Lietuvos Rytas” typography,  
using „Rotoprint”, Ltd  
poligraphic management services.

Any reproduction is prohibited without  
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Cover photo: Jānis Vidmants  
Design: SIA Advertising Agency "Bulterjers", Ltd.  
Text: Antra Veļķere  
Translation from Latvian: "Skrivanek Baltic"

## Fortress and red bricks

Daugavpils Fortress is an excellent fortification construction, with a total area of more than 150 ha. It is the only example of a fortress built in the first half of the 19th century in Eastern Europe that has been preserved without almost any changes. The broken line of the fortification is made of a rampart with 8 bastions and other protective constructions. The bridge fortification is on the left bank of the River Daugava. Every detail of the fortress was created using the experience of the best Russian and European architecture schools. The inside of the great building was planned according to traditional warrior city examples – the ceremonial square in the centre with administrative and apartment blocks surrounding it. All facades were built in an Empirical style, except for the Nicolay gates and Water Tower, which were built in a gothic shape. The Fortress has four monumental gates that are named the Alexandr, Constantine, Nicolay and Michail gates. An important part of the building are its dungeons – strong, closed constructions intended to offer protection from direct artillery shell-hits. The Fortress was built over many decades, and it was built of red clay bricks that were made in Daugavpils. It marks the beginning of the Daugavpils red clay brick architecture era.

The Armoury building has been converted and is now the world famous artist's Mark Rotko art centre – a multifunctional contemporary art complex, culture and education centre. As for the separate outer fortification dungeons they are occupied by the largest population of wintering bats in Latvia.

Get to know more about the Fortress of Daugavpils and the examples of red brick architecture in the Culture and Information Centre of Daugavpils Fortress. Phone: **+371 65424043**

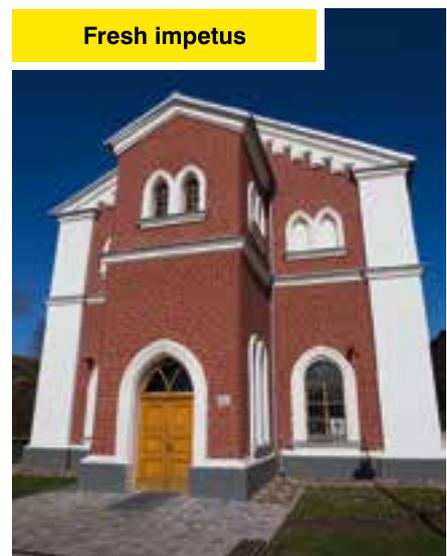
Background – fragment of the Fortress of Daugavpils in early spring.  
Photo: Bulterjers



Awaiting changes



Fresh impetus



## The Fortress flyers



## Awaiting changes

The old and new, the collapsed and restored – all of this is the contrasting reality of Daugavpils Fortress. Alongside the renewed street lights and high quality restored buildings there are time consumed, crumbled. Soviet times violated brick walls that still await for a careful touch. The Fortress revives with dignity; true to its history and values.

Photo: Vineta Ozere

## Fresh impetus

The Culture and Information Centre of Daugavpils Fortress is placed in the former water lifting building, which was built in 1865. The building was used to supply the fortress with water. The 3000 bucket capacity water container was filled from 3 wells on the bank of the The Daugava using a steam machine. The restoration of the building took place from 2009 till 2011.

## The Fortress flyers

The second largest Baltic state colony of wintering bats dwells in the dungeons of the fortress. More than 5 bat species (mostly water night bats) winter here, about 1000 flyers altogether. From November to April it is forbidden to disturb them; in the summer they can be seen flying over the territory of the fortress. Tadpole shrimps, a species that is approximately 220 million years old and very rare in Europe have also been found here.

Photo: Māris Grunskis

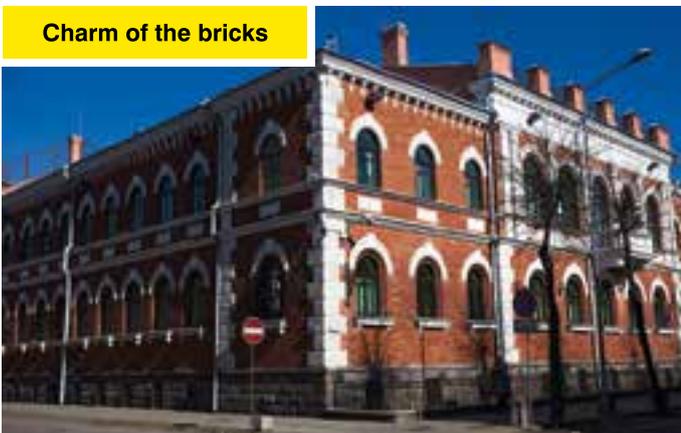
## Charm of the bricks

An excellent example of the red brick architecture is the Bank of Latvia Daugavpils branch building, built at the end of the 19th century as an administrative building for the needs of the Russian National bank's Dvinsk department. It exhibits predominantly neo-renaissance forms with features of classicism. After reconstruction, the building's original size and facade decoration have been preserved.

## Merchants' heritage

The red brick buildings built in the beginning of the 20th century, were called "Hebrew merchant houses". These houses can still be found in Daugavpils, Rēzekne and Dagda. The houses were small shops selling different goods, but on the second floor there were living apartments. The architecture is simple and laconic without decorations or complicated details.

## Charm of the bricks



## Merchants' heritage



## “Zeimuļš” in Rēzekne and wood as inspiration

An old legend tells of a ruler’s daughter Rose, who still lives underground in Rēzekne castle and awaits the one to take her out into the world. Right here, next to the castle hill, in the bend of the river Rēzekne the Eastern Latvian centre of creative services “Zeimuļš” was founded. The centre stands out with its many inclined planes and sizes of different configurations. The centre is built on many levels, also inside of the steep relief. The building’s roof is made of different angled planes and they are all covered with green sod. The roof erases the distinction of the building and environment making the building an organic part of the environment. The symbolic pencils in the green magnitude indicate the functions of the building and attracts attention with the originality.

More information on the Eastern Latvian centre of creative services in Rēzekne city, Rēzekne and Vijāni districts Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 64622222**

Background – “Zeimuļš” at night.

Photo: Jānis Ozers



Wooden laces



Contrasts in Krāslava





## Wooden laces

Rēzekne Art and Design Secondary School's Art house was built at the end of the 19th century. The house is richly decorated with woodcarvings in an Eclectic style. It used to belong to a merchant family, it was a teacher institute, school, tuberculosis dispensary, and military commissariat. In 1995 Rēzekne Art College purchased it and restored it.

More information on Rēzekne architectural heritage in Rēzekne city, Rēzekne and Vijāni districts Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 64622222**

## Contrasts in Krāslava

Krāslava, a district in the Southeast of Latvia surrounded by Daugava River bends and lakes, invites to explore, learn and enjoy. The unusual wooden houses are characteristic of Latgale, and they reveal the multiform and filigree woodcarvings in Krāslava city. No two houses are the same; all are unique.

More information on ancient woodcarving architecture in heritage in Krāslava Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 6562201**

## Windmills

In Pastari (Riebiņi district), the only Dutch-style windmill with reversible passage mechanism can be found. Pastari windmill was built in 1902. The first floor was built of split boulders, and the upper floors of wood. The building is sealed with wooden planks and covered with chippings. The windmill's sails were restored in 2012.

More information: Aglona Business Support Centre. Phone: **+371 65322100**

Photo: Aleksandrs Lebedis

## Endurance

Bērzgales church is one of the oldest wooden churches in Latvia. It was built from 1744 to 1751. The church walls were built out of beams, and sealed with wooden planks. The outer look of the church has not changed significantly since then. Inside, there is a 17th century altar with beautiful archaic Baroque woodcarvings and one of the oldest organs in Latgale that still works.

More information: Aglona Business Support Centre. Phone: **+371 65322100**

## The power of colour

Pudinava Holy Godmother Shelter Orthodox church is visible from a long way away because of its vivid colours; it cannot be missed. The first church was built in 1778 but the one restored and still present today was built in 1862. The church can be seen by appointment.

More information: Kārsava Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 29327265**

Windmills



Endurance



The power of colour



## Land of God

Latgale has strong Catholic traditions that create a respectful and united attitude towards God alongside with the other existing confessions – Orthodox, Old-believers and Lutherans. In every home there is a place, where despite the daily rush, a moment is devoted to faith and receiving God's mercy. Since religious traditions are strong here, many churches are well preserved and looked after, the same as with many objects of sacred art; mainly icons and crucifixes. Churches in Latgale are not only a significant part of spiritual life, they also create a specific image of Latgale that calls to come here. Latgale has been long known as the land of Mara (*in Latin: Terra Mariana*) or the land of Saint Mary the Virgin. Aglona is one of the largest Catholic centres in the Baltic states and a global holy site. Every year on the 15th of August, the day of Saint Mary the Virgin, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from all over Europe come to Aglona Basilica. Pasiene, Aglona, Rēzekne, Vijāni, Kārsava churches – here God's blessing compels anyone to bow their heads and wallow in silent contemplation.

More information: Aglona Busines Support Centre. Phone: **+371 65322100**.

Background – Aglona Basilica

Photo: Jānis Ozers



Home of Angels



# Sacral tourism

## Home of Angels

Pasiene St. Dominic Roman Catholic church was built with the support of Count J. Borh in 1761. It is one of the most beautiful sacral buildings in Latvia, often called the Eastern Europe baroque pearl and the High Song. The specific division of the floors of both towers creates a rath silhouette that gives the impression of it striving to reach up into the sky. The architecture is rich with decorations. The splendid 17th century Baroque and Rococo interior features have remained – the magnificent main altar, organ, rostrum, Christ immersion sculpture group and side altars. In the church there are many figures of the saint and angels with different facial expressions. There is a legend that if you enter when sad, you will first see the sad angel, if you enter happy, then all angels will be smiling.

More information: Zilupe district tourism organiser.  
Phone: **+371 28656530**

## Vīļāni

Vīļāni St. Archangel Michael Rome Catholic church and cloister started to be built in 1753 by Baron Miķelis Rīks. It was one of the most beautiful and splendid churches in Latgale. During the Second World War the church and cloister were partly destroyed but they were restored again after the war. Nowadays Vīļāni St. Albert Marianus cloister is the largest male cloister in Latvia.

More information: Rēzekne city, Rēzekne and Vīļāni districts Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 64622222**

## Rēzekne

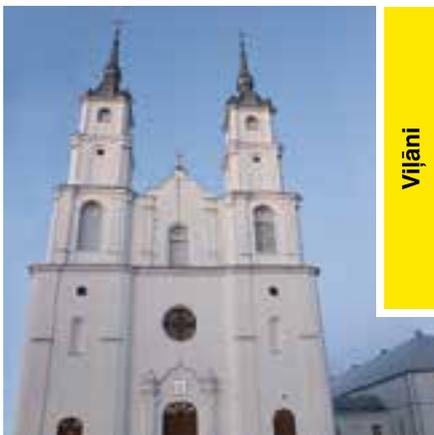
The Holy Jesus Heart Rome cathedral was built in a Gothic style from 1888 to 1902 by Riga engineer Florian Viganovski's project. It is the largest church in Rezekne. The cathedral is famous for the first depictions in stained glass of the Bishops of Livonia, St. Maynard and St. Albert. Since 1995 it has been the Rēzekne – Aglona diocese centre with a Bishop's seat.

More information: Rēzekne city, Rēzekne and Vīļāni Districts Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 64622222**

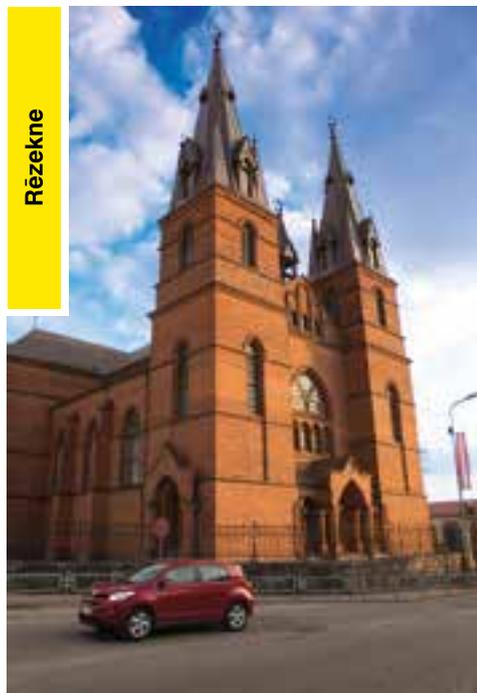
## Kārsava

Malnava Rosary Holy Virgin Rome Catholic church was built in 1741. It is a two tower wooden log building sealed with wooden planks. Next to the old wooden church there is the new stone church that was started in 1932. The construction was delayed by the Second World War until 1995. Kārsava is the only place in Latvia with two churches beside one another.

More information: Kārsava Tourism Information Point.  
Phone: **+371 29327265**



Vīļāni



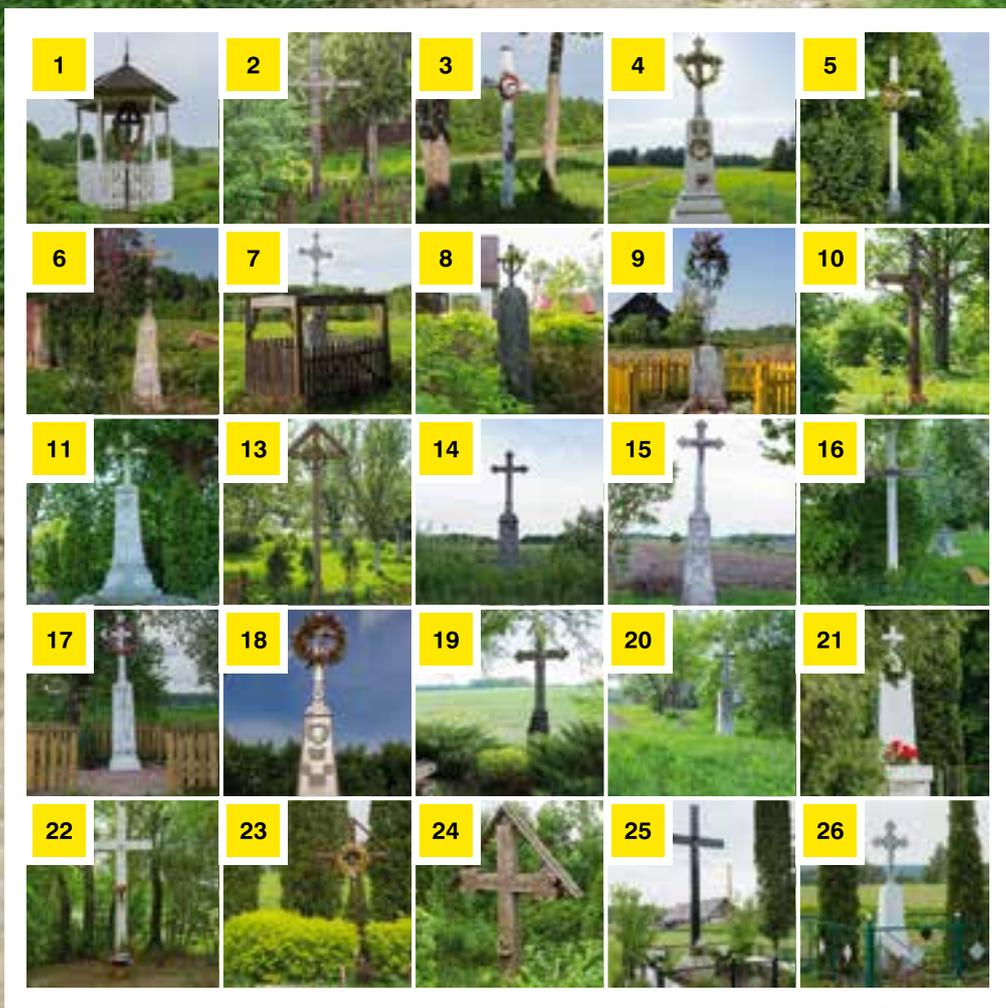
Rēzekne



Kārsava

# Crucifixes' road in Vabole

May chants



# Sacral tourism

Crucifixes – a specific depiction of Jesus being crucified – is an integral symbol of Catholic Latgale and it indicates a place where one can pray at any time. The installation of the crucifixes in Latgale began in the 18th century. Here were, large parishes and churches were far away, so a tradition was introduced to hold sacred celebrations in May by the erected village crosses. For 40 years (1864 - 1904) Latin alphabet letters were forbidden in Latgale and gatherings at crucifixes helped the national language and Latgalian identity to survive. The preservation of tradition and folk education was especially helped by the Skrinda brothers - Benedikts, Kazimirs and Antons. Each Latgale village had one or two crucifixes that united people and formed a social life. Different crucifixes were meant for different places, e.g., village, private house, road, road crossing, cemetery church crucifixes. The village crucifixes were placed on the side of the main village road. Crucifixes were usually placed near trees and they were decorated with flowers. They were of different heights and shapes. Sometimes they were even 4m high, and many were placed under a roof. Crucifixes of cast iron with concrete bases were widespread, and wood was also widely used. Crucifixes have also been made in Latgale recently, especially in the 1990s, when many were restored and built anew. The largest amount of crucifixes is in the Daugavpils district Vabole parish – out of 44 crucifixes, 26 have remained and can be seen on a 25 km long route called Crucifixes' Road. It is a unique tourism object that allows a varied history adventure to be combined with a spiritual experience, attracting both pilgrims and bicycle or car travellers.

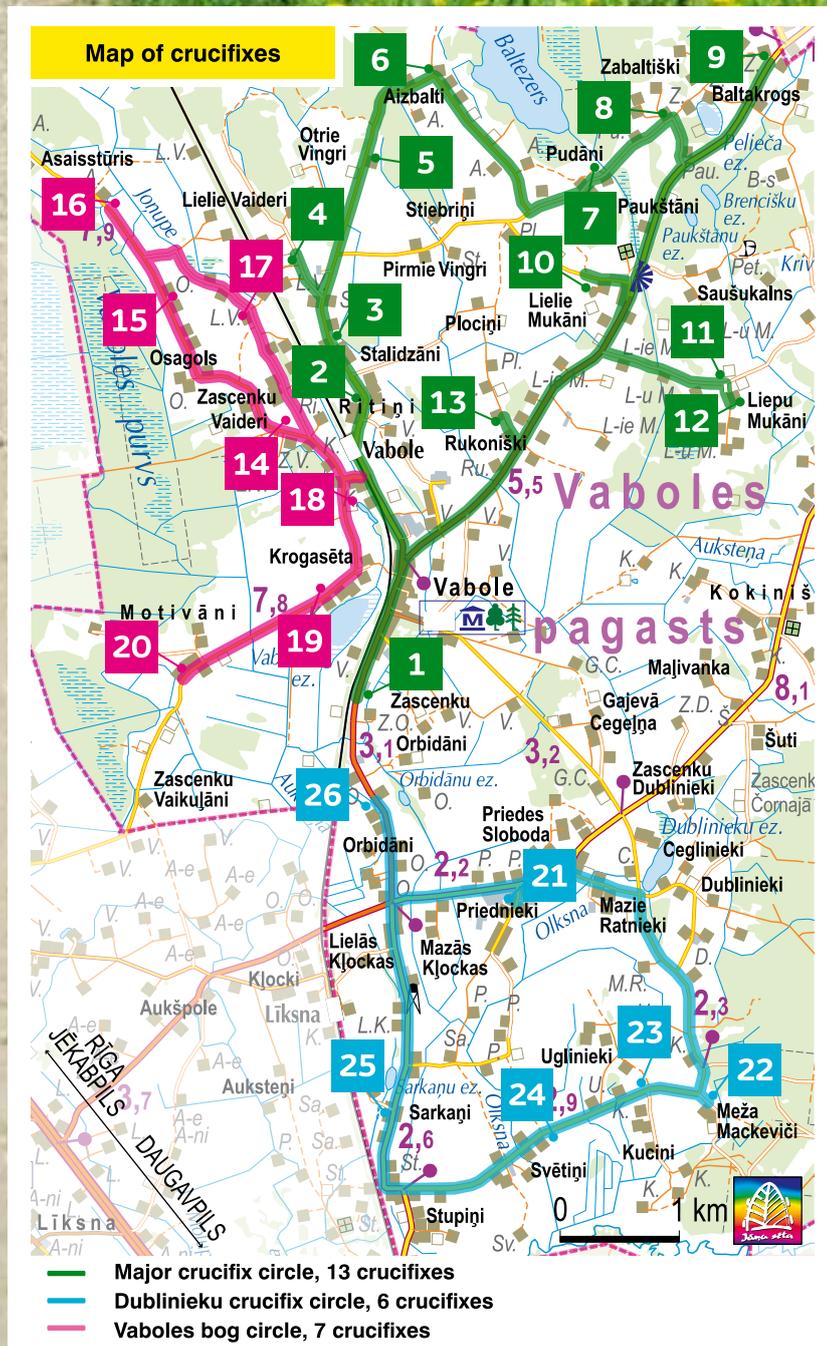
The family house of the first of Latgale's culture revival activists – The Skrinda brothers – has not remained. The memorial place with the crucifix "Liepu Mukāni" can be found on picture 12. The Skrinda family museum is placed elsewhere, in one of the Vabole parish manor buildings built at the beginning of the 19th century by Count Boleslav Ziberg-Plater.

More information about the "Skrinda family museum".  
Phone: +371 65471009

## May chants

May is the month of the Holy Virgin in the Catholic calendar. It is a time when special celebrations are held in her honour, that are called "chants at the cross". The celebrations are held on May evenings when festively dressed people gather at the crucifixes. Nowadays, the May chants in Vabole parish are held at the crucifixes in Sarkani, Kucini, Big Vaideri.

Photo: Bulterjers



## Church hill

Of all the regions in Latvia, only in Latgale can so many different confessions be found beside one another. From 1561 to 1772 Latgale belonged to Poland where Catholicism was predominant, and so it became the main religion in the region. In 1772 Latgale was included into the Russian Empire where Orthodox practise was predominant and so it became the second most widespread confession in Latgale. Old-believers arrived to Latgale from Russia in the second half of the 17th century trying to escape persecution and settled in the Latgale countryside, creating their own parishes. Nowadays there are six old-believer oratories in Daugavpils. In the 17th century Hebrews from Ukraine also settled in Latgale. Hebrew communities were established in Daugavpils and Kraslava, but in the beginning of the 20th century Daugavpils became one of the most important Hebrew culture and education centres in Eastern Europe. Approximately 100 years ago there were more than 40 synagogues and oratories in Daugavpils and half of the city inhabitants were Hebrews. The effect of the Holocaust, deportation and emigration was devastating for these people. Now only about 200 Hebrews live in Latgale. Proof of the religious variety is given on Daugavpils Church hill where churches of four confessions sit beside one another: Martin Luther cathedral, Holy Virgin Roman Catholic church, Saint martyrs' Boris and Gleb Orthodox church, Old-believer Church of the Resurrection, The Holy Virgin Birth and Saint Nicholas church. The Hebrew synagogue – Kadish oratory can also be found in the city centre.

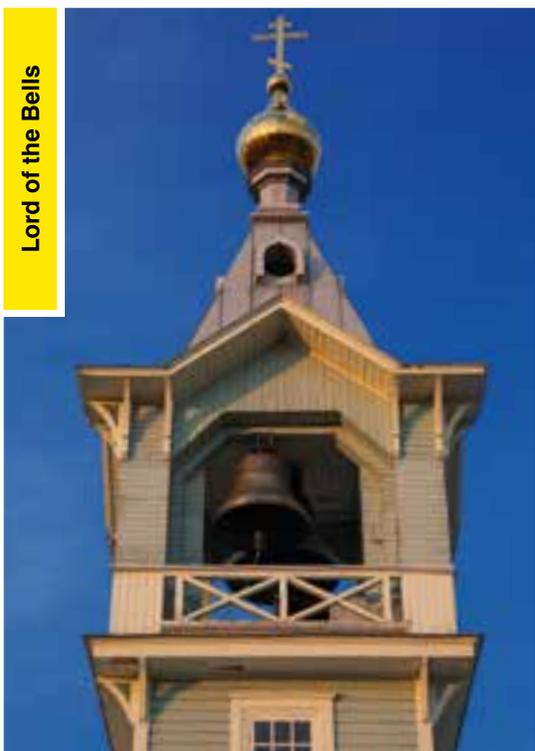
More information on sacral tourism objects in Daugavpils District Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: +371 65422818



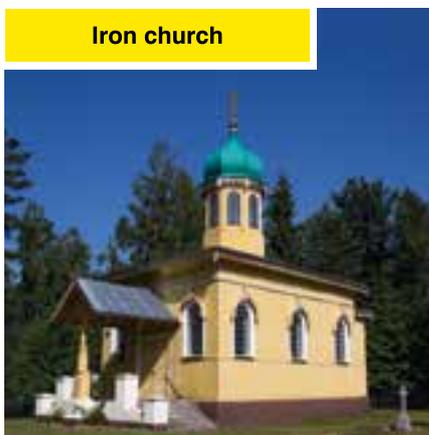
Synagogue



Lord of the Bells



Iron church



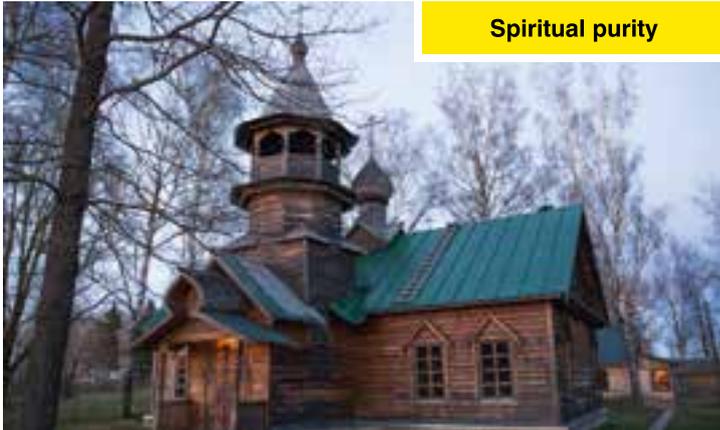
Dome glory



## Church hill



## Spiritual purity



## Tower stairs



## Slutišķi



## Synagogue - Kadish oratory

Daugavpils Synagogue was built in 1850. After its renovation in 2005 it was opened by the president of the Republic of Latvia Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga. The synagogue is supported by the children of the artist Mark Rotko. It has even been visited by tourists from Australia and South Africa. The oratory is on the first floor and the museum is on the second floor. The exposition in the museum tells the story of Hebrew life and the traditions of Latgale and Daugavpils since 1935.

More information: Daugavpils district Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65422818**

Photo: Butlerjers

## Lord of the Bells

Rezekne St. Nicholas Old-believer Church stands out with an impressive bell tower above the church building. It has three bells that were cast of silver and copper in 1905. One of them weighs 4832 kg, the clapper alone weights 200 kg, and it is the largest church bell in Latvia. The church was built in 1895 and the construction can still hold the "Lords of the Bells".

## Iron church

Jersika's Revelation of Christ Church was built 1866. It is unique due to its construction – the walls, window frames, roof rafters, roof, the base of the dome and the dome itself have been made of iron or cast iron. The church is popularly referred to as the Iron church. Until 1904 the church was situated in Daugavpils where the St. Boris-Gleb Cathedral is standing now.

## Dome glory

The Saints Boris and Gleb Cathedral was built in 1905. The majestic cathedral is special due to its 10 tower domes, 5 of which were built on the elevated middle of the church. All the domes are gilded and it makes the architectonic church look even more glorious. This church looks different from every angle.

More information: Daugavpils district Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65422818**

## Church hill

The view of Church hill, shown in the picture, can be seen from The Daugavpils hotel "Latgola".

Photo: Jānis Vidmants

## Spiritual purity

Kārsava St. Euphrosyne Orthodox Church stands out due to its carefully created wood carvings, where every element is real perfection. In 1985 the temple was restored in the spirit of the Russian sacral traditions of wooden architecture due to the participation of skilled craftsmen from Riga, Pskov and Moscow.

More information: Kārsava Tourism Information Point.  
Phone: **+371 29327265**

## Tower stairs

Rēzekne Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is the only Lutheran church in the city. It was built from 1933 to 1938 in a Neo-gothic style using red bricks, by the project of the construction engineer J. Cirulis. Nowadays there is viewing area in the 37m high church tower with wooden stairs leading to it. Traces left by the Second World War can be seen as well.

More information: Rēzekne city Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 64622222**

Photo: Jānis Vidmants

## Slutišķi

In Slutišķi (Daugavpils district, Naujiena parish) a unique old-believer village building complex has remained. It was planned at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Now, the Ethnographic Open Air Museum is situated there. The buildings are log houses built in a peasant tradition and decorated with woodcarvings, each of which is unique and different from one another.

More information: Daugavpils district Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65422818**

Photo: Jānis Ozers

## Relieving of the soul

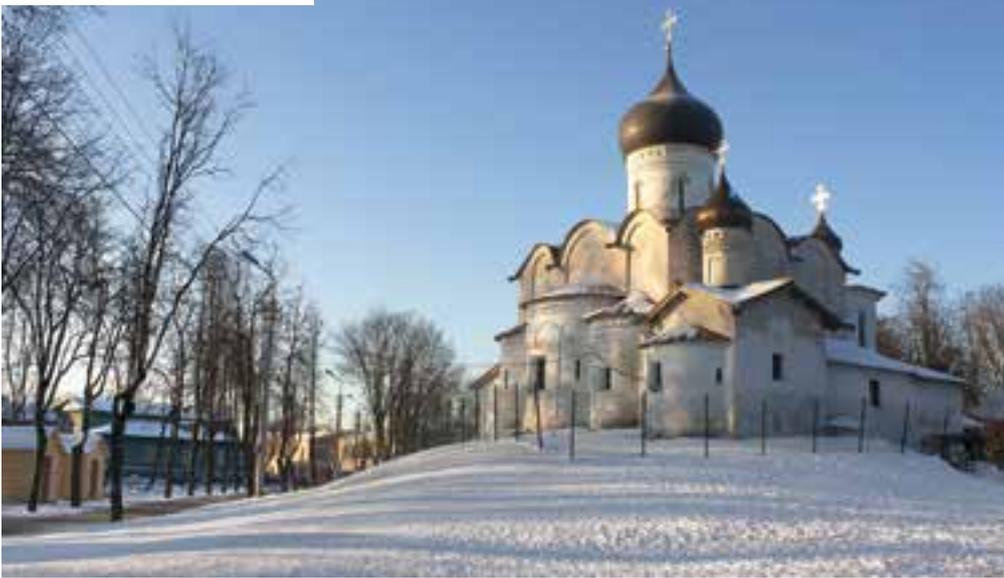
Pskov is one of the most ancient Russian cities on the banks of the River Velikaya. Its history dates back more than 1,110 years. Being initially a walled town, it defended the west border of Russia up until the 18th century and survived dozens of attacks. Pskov is one of the orthodox cities in the State. The first Holy Trinity Cathedral in Russia was built here. Pskov has more than 30 churches that are visited annually by thousands of tourists and pilgrims. This is the place where the extraordinary Russian traditions of icon art and fresco painting appeared. Pskov and its vicinity gives spiritual power and allows the soul to feel peace and the presence of God.

More information: Pskov Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+7 953 2425700**

Background: Holy Trinity Cathedral of the Pskov Kremlin (built in 1699)

Photo: © iStockphoto.com

### The pearls of the city



# Pskov and Pskov region

## The pearls of the city

St. Basil Church was built on a hill in the middle of the town in 1413. It is a beautiful stone building with elements of architecture that are typical to Pskov churches. During Soviet times the church served as a storehouse, and later as an archive for documents. In 2003 it was returned to the Orthodox church and its doors have been open to everyone since.

Photo: © Walencienne, Dreamstime.com

## The sacral arts

The fresco painting museum that was created by the Greek masters of the 12th century is located in the Mirozha Cloister of the Cathedral of the Transfiguration of the Saviour. The museum stores 80% of the initial fresco paintings. It is in the UNESCO list of the World's unique masterpieces. The Mirozha Cloister was founded in 1156 and was one of the first Christian cloisters in Ancient Russia.

Photo: © iStockphoto.com

## The breath of centuries

Since olden days the Orthodox Saints, Kosmas and Damian, have been the protectors of the smiths and handicraftsmen who helped everyone. Legend says that the smiths' shops were built in the outskirts of Pskov, at the bottom of Gremyachaya mountain. The first known information about the church is from 1383. However, the official construction of this church was initiated in 1540.

Foto: © Walencienne, Dreamstime.com

## Pilgrimage

The Hdy Dormition Pskovo-Pechersky monastery is 50 km away from Pskov. It is like a town within a town with 11 temples. The Monastery was founded in 1473 in the mountain caves. Only the facade of the Monastery is seen from the outside. The temple, the premises for thanksgiving services and the tombs are located in the caves. Since its foundation the Monastery has never been closed for visitors.

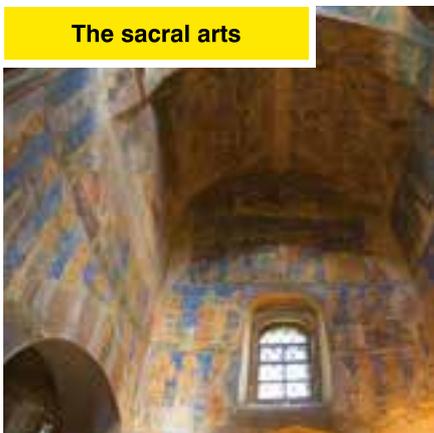
Photo: © Dreamstime.com



## Pilgrimage



## The sacral arts



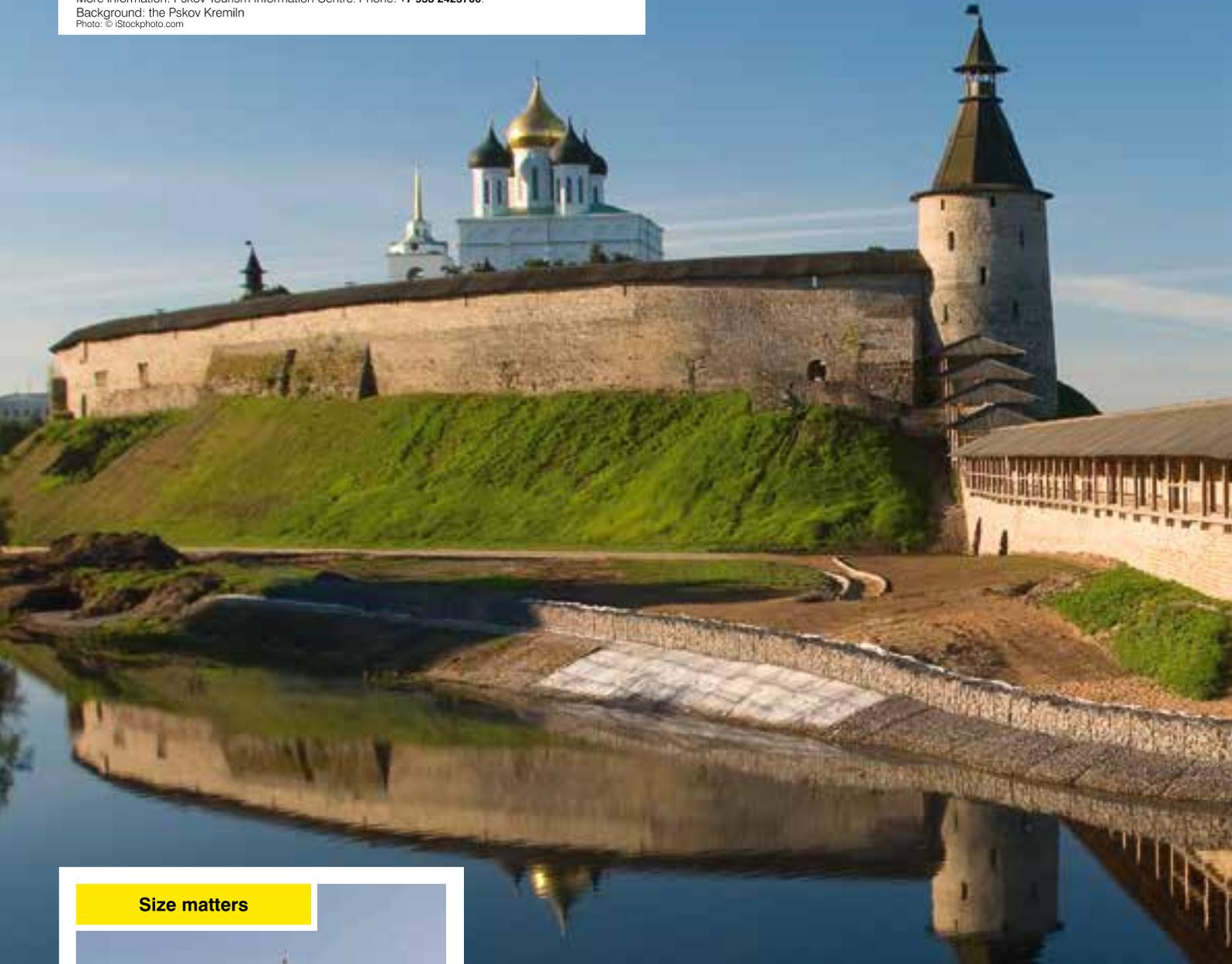
## The breath of centuries



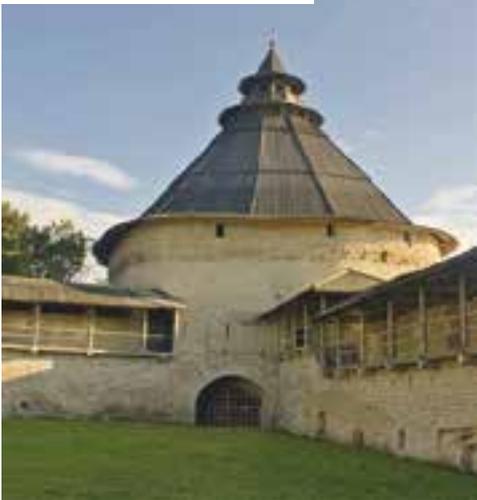
## Krom – the Pskov Kremlin

In chronicles Pskov as town has been mentioned as from 903. This is the largest medieval fortress in Europe. The walls have been built of stones, their height is from 6 till 8 metres, thickness from 2,5 till 6 metres, and the entire territory occupies 3 hectares. The Kremlin had particular social, political, and culturally historical role in the development of the city.

More information: Pskov Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+7 953 2425700**.  
Background: the Pskov Kremlin  
Photo: © iStockphoto.com



**Size matters**



**The old and new**



# Pskov and Pskov region

## Size matters

The construction of Pokrov Tower was initiated in the 15th century. It is the mightiest tower among all the towers in Pskov, and one of the largest medieval towers in Europe. The circuit of the tower is 90 m. The inner part of the tower was built in five layers. Up to nowadays the tower has been restored several times. The last time was in 2010 when the wooden hipped cupola was restored.

Photo: © Walencienne, Dreamstime.com

## The old and new

Pskov is great confirmation of the fact of how skilfully the historical and modern constructions can be combined. The impressive stone walls of the Kremlin are on one bank of the river, and the curved paved promenade with elegantly restored stone buildings are on the other side of the river, attracting the attention of the tourists. Lots of verdure and benches provide peaceful relaxation.

Photo: © iStockphoto.com

## The breath of history

The memorial cross was erected in 2003 in honour of the 1,100th Anniversary of the Pskov Kremlin. The cross is not far away from the Holy Trinity Cathedral – in the place where the Annunciation Cathedral was located. This cathedral was destroyed in 1933.

Photo: © iStockphoto.com

## Izborsk

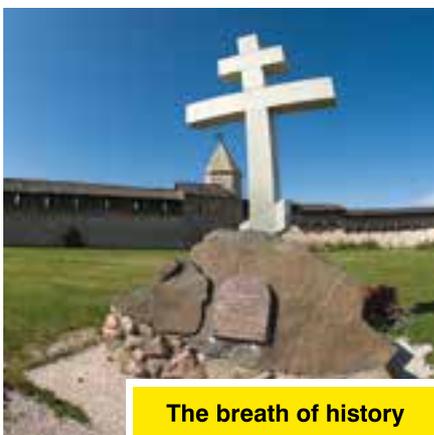
Izborsk was a town in the west of the Pskov region. It was mentioned for the first time in historical sources in 862. In 1956 Izborsk lost its status of a town. Now its name is Staroizborsk village. This place is famous for the fortress of Izborsk, due to its stone walls which inspired the outstanding artist Nikolai Rerih and the well-known film director Andrei Tarkovsky.

Photo: © iStockphoto.com

## Slovensk spring

The twelve sacred springs of Slovensk attract tourists from all over the world. They say that only one sip of this clear and ice-cold water is able to give special powers to a human. Each of the springs has its own special healing power that strengthens and releases from evil. The springs meet in the lake, where ice-cold water does not stop the swimmers from searching for the power elixir.

Photo: © Leoco, Dreamstime.com



The breath of history



Izborsk



Slovensk spring

## The Land of blue lakes

They say that in ancient times the lakes were flying in the sky and fell down on the ground as soon as they heard their names mentioned. Half of all Latvian lakes are located in Latgale. There are 703 lakes comprising a total area of 452.38 km<sup>2</sup>. The largest Latvian lakes – Lubāns and Rāzna – are located here. Latgale is proud of having the deepest lake in the Baltics and Poland – Drīdzis. It is 65.1 m deep and 11 km long. There are lots of curves and nine islands. Just as a hedgehog has many spikes, Lake Ežezers has 41 islands. Many of these islands have a special title, e.g. the largest island is named Big Bear Island (Lielā Lāča sala). There is also Big Sheep Island (Lielā Aitu sala), Small Calves Island (Mazā Teļu sala), Goat Island (Kazu sala), Humpback Island (Kupra sala), the Island of Cupid (Mīlas sala), etc. The Lake of the Devil (Velnezers) in the region of Krāslava is surrounded by trees and reflects the sky like a framed precious stone. Its clear water shines in so many colours that it is hard to believe that the lake has no relation to supernatural powers. The marvellous Lake Adamova has many curves and eight islands. At the beginning of the 19th century, Helena Karaulova, the owner of the Adamovas estate, discovered a healing mineral water source in the lake shore. The mineral water was named St. Helena's Crystal Water. It received the highest awards in the international exhibitions in London and Paris. In 1913 the monthly exports of this magic water exceeded 100,000 bottles. Among the hills of Latgale there are such lakes as Rušons, Siverss, Cirma and others.

In the Pskov region, at the border between Russia and Estonia, Lake Pleskava can be found. Its area is 709 km<sup>2</sup>. The narrow Lake Lemmijervs connects Lake Pleskava with the famous Lake Peipus.

In the background: view to Rāzna from Malta-Kaunata highway.

Photo: Butterjers



The games of Velnezers



Lake Rāzna



Lake Stropu

## Lake Adamovas



# Lakes

## The games of Velnezers

They say that the lake comes from space and has special powers that cause various strange events with unhappy endings. The local inhabitants prefer to pass the lake by.

More information: Aglona Business Support Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65322100**

## Lake Rāznas

Karlis Skalbe, the master of Latvian fairy tales, has a legend about the origin of Lake Rāzna: "Once upon a time there lived, a Virgin by the name Rasna... or legendary spring pixie, I do not remember precisely, It was long time ago. One morning, while singing happily, she spilled a cup of water in this hollow, and the lake appeared. It still sparkles brightly and brings joy to the people".

More information: Rēzekne city, Rēzekne and Viļāni Districts Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 64622222**

Photo: Aleksandrs Lebedis

## Lake Stropu

Lake Stropu in the Daugavpils city area is a favourite leisure place for inhabitants and city guests. Lake Stropu's bathing ground has been awarded the blue flag which is the world's most popular eco-certificate. It confirms that the water quality complies with the standards, that safety is provided by the rescue service and the surroundings are facilitated. In 2003 Lake Stropu was the only lake in Eastern Latvia to receive the blue flag.

More information: Daugavpils Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65422818**

## The path at Ežezers

In the eastern part of the lake are the Gates of Simočka where the water never freezes in winter. In summer the lake shores are perfect for outdoor recreation.

More information: Dagda Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65681421**

Photo: Jānis Ozers

## The deepest Lake Dīrdzis

There is an opinion that Dīrdzis is a river that originated before the Ice Age. It is a real discovery for anglers, as there are over 14 species of fish.

More information: Krāslava Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65622201**

Photo: Aleksandrs Lebedis

## Lake Adamovas

One of the favourite recreation places in the Rēzekne region. This is a place to derive strength and power for a longer time. It is no wonder that mineral water sources were found here.

More information: Rēzekne city, Rēzekne and Viļāni Districts Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 64622222**

Photo: Jānis Vidmants

## The path at Ežezers



## The Deepest Lake Dīrdzis



## Lubāns

The largest Lake in Latvia, which in total, with the surrounding wetland, comprises an area of 813 km<sup>2</sup> (the actual lake – 80.7 km<sup>2</sup>) and has been admitted as a unique European nature site of world significance. The wetland areas of the Lubāns (bogs, wet meadows and humid forests) of an area of 78 000 ha are one of the largest in Europe. 236 bird species can be found here, from which 52 species have been registered in the Latvian Red Book. With 23 fish species, the Lake's waters are a real paradise for fishermen. Carp weighting up to 30 kg can be caught here. The wetland area of Lake Lubans was the first settlement in the Latvian territory in the Stone Age. Around 30 ancient settlement places were found here, which can be recognised as the origin of Baltic civilisation. Ancient people made amber jewellery which was found in the settlements.

More information: Rēzekne city, Rēzekne and Viļāni Districts Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 64622222** Photo: Jānis Ozers



Light-house



Designed environment



# Lakes

## Light-house

On the shores of Lake Lubāns, at the place of a ruined water pumping station, without harm to the surrounding environment, a modern tourism development centre "Light-house" was created within the framework of the Latvian and Lithuanian crossborder cooperation programme. Climb up the light-house and watch the birds. Take a ride on a boat or enjoy fish soup, which is based on an old recipe and boiled over a fire-place in an open pot.

## Designed environment

An asphalted road leads to the light-house and it is an excellent place for parties, conferences and active leisure. From the conference and exhibition hall, there is a nice view of the lake and Kvapāni ditches. In the "Saime" premise's kitchen you can cook freshly caught fish, but the most beautiful dreams can be enjoyed in the Water or Wind Rooms. All the rooms have been furnished in an integrated and original design.

## Beach

Sun-heated golden sand, light wind and refreshing swimming session. About 2 km from the light-house, a wooden path takes you to a facilitated beach. All the conveniences for leisure can be found here: dressing cabins, fire-places, tables, benches, rubbish bins and biological toilets. In the swimming place the sand at the bottom of the lake is smooth and the water crystal clear.

## Fishing village

Īdeņa is the only fishing village in Latvia, which is not established near the sea. Village houses are situated not along the road, but on the banks of the lake because boats were used for traffic. The houses have thatched roofs and there are no windows facing the side of the lake so that the wind does not force out the heat. The fishing farm "Zvejnieki" is founded in the village, which together with its basic commercial activities, offers nature tourism, sauna services and self-smoked fish.



Beach



Fishing village



## Leisure activities near water in the Latgale and Pskov Region

In the large photo – one of the boat wharfs in Lake Ciriša not far from Aglona Stage.  
Photo: Buterjers



**Palkino**



**Aglona**

# Lakes and Recreational Places

It is as if the lakes of Latgale have been specially created for one to get rest on their shores and enjoy the enchantment of nature – care-free lying down on a sandy beach, swimming in the refreshing water, enjoying a romantic trip by boat, and watching the sunset on the beach, when the only sound you hear around is the chirring of grasshoppers. Even one day spent in such a paradise-like place fills a person with energy and positive thoughts for a long time after. Both in Latgale and in the neighbouring Pskov Region, the lakes are natural and untransformed; the water here is clear and unpolluted, so no wonder that there are lots of fish. Birds also choose to make their nests in the vicinity of the lakes, being not disturbed by noises of the urban environment. Our lakes are irresistible at any time of the year. You can sit on the beach during the golden autumn period, observe the blossoming of the first anemones and meet spring or go skiing around the lake, enjoying the white snowy landscapes. Thinking about holiday-makers and tourists, the lakes' beaches have been made increasingly more well-attended and facilitated. A convenient approach to the lake will be provided, bathing-boxes arranged, an active recreation area for sport lovers, playgrounds for children, benches and tables installed; in some places, there are footbridges and berths for boats arranged. Safety is also taken care of. Within the framework of the project "Tour around Latgale & Pskov", 19 beaches in Latgale and 5 beaches in the Pskov Region will be facilitated by the end of this summer.

## Palkino

The Smolina Lake beach in Palkino, (Pskov Region) is especially intended to provide opportunities for the active recreation of children and youth. Beaches of other lakes are facilitated as well.

## Aglona

The increasing number of new recreational places at the water are being constructed and created at all of the most visited tourist destinations in the Latgale area, including Aglona, whose name is known worldwide.

## Lake Raudiņu

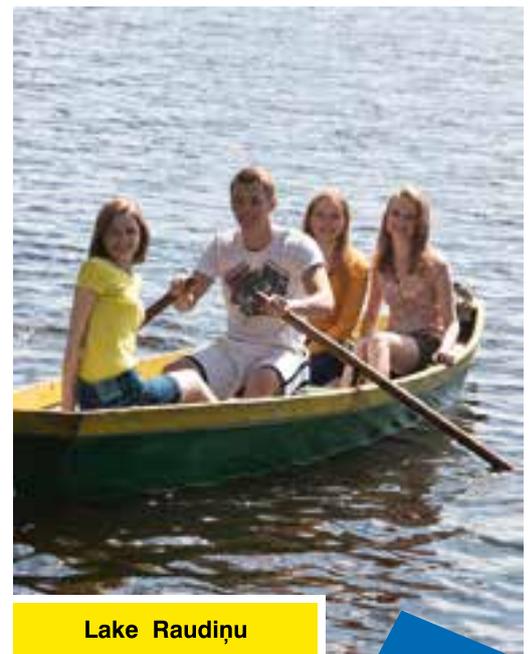
The bulk of guest houses and camping places located at Latgale lakes offer boat rental for taking a trip or fishing.

Photo: Jānis Vidmants

Further information about the facilitated places of recreation at the lakes can be found at: <http://visitatgale.com/lv/objects/list?c=12>



Facilitated strands arranged till 2013 by the framework of the project "Tour de Latgale & Pskov".



Lake Raudiņu

## Closer to the Sky

“There are high hills on the other side of the lake...,” – this is a line from the Latgalian folk song. The best way of enjoying the charm of the Latgale landscape is by looking at it from above. You do not have to be a bird and go up in the air, it is sufficient to climb to the top of any of the highest hills in Latgale. Four of the 15 highest Latvian hills are located there: Lielais Liepu Hill, Dzerkaļu Hill, Dubuļu Hill and Karaļu Hill. A little lower is Mākoņkalns, which is located next to Lake Rāzna. The top of the Mākoņkalns provides an inspiring view over Lake Rāzna. In winter, skiers and other snow sport lovers are attracted by pistes arranged at Egluķkalns (Spruce Hill), Sāra Hill and Saules kalns (Sun Hill).

Background image – view from Mākoņkalns to the Lake Rāznas area  
Photo: Bulterjers



**Mākoņkalns**



**Lielais Liepu Hill**



## Mākoņkalns (Cloud hill)

Mākoņkalns or Cloud Hill is 247.4 m high. In 1252 the Livonian Order built the oldest fortress of the crusaders in Latgale at the top of this hill – the legendary Volkenberga Castle. Today, only fragments of the big defensive wall and a collapsed underground route have remained. For climbing up the hill, one has to take an upright pathway on the wooden stairs.

More information: Rēzekne, the Rēzekne Region and the Viļāni Region Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 64622222**

## Lielais Liepu kalns (Large Linden tree hill)

The Large Linden tree hill is the highest peak in Latgale and the third highest in Latvia – 289.3 m. There is a 34 m high wooden watchtower built on top of the hill, which is the largest in Latvia. Nine observation platforms are arranged in the tower at different levels. This is the highest observation place in Latvia – 323 m above sea level. There is an 830 metre long pathway arranged from the foot of the hill and up to the tower, with several rest areas, where one can sit down and recover their breath.

More information: Rēzekne, the Rēzekne Region and the Viļāni Region Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 64622222**

Photo: Aleksandrs Lebedis

## Colour of blue

In early spring soon after the snowmelt, when the lakes break free of the ice cover and start their first waves, the slopes of the Latgale hills get coloured in blue. These are the blue anemones, with golden middles, which look as if they adjust the colour of their flowers to the azure colour of the lakes. And the sprouts that force their way from the ground up to the tops of the hills welcome the migratory birds who are returning home.

## Alps of Aglona

Are these the houses of the 13 dwarfs? No, they are comfortable camping houses of the "Alps of Aglona" recreational complex on the shore of the picturesque Lake Raudņū. In Aglona forest, on the slope of a hill, an obstacle test course has been built, popularly referred to as the "Forest Caf". Crawl, climb up, bend, hang, swing and get your shot of adrenaline for a longer period!

More information: Aglona Business Support Centre. Phone: **+371 65322100**

Photo: Jānis Vidmants

## Eglūkalns (Spruce hill)

As it is obvious from its name, Eglūkalns is covered with a spruce forest. The hill is 220.1 m high, and there is a 25 m high observation tower built on its top, from where one of the clearest Latvian lakes – Sventes Lake – and even towers of Daugavpils churches located 12 km away are easily seen. A hill skiing base is arranged here, with pistes of different lengths and complexity, and lots of opportunities for recreation.

More information: Daugavpils Region Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 65422818**

Colour of blue



Alps of Aglona



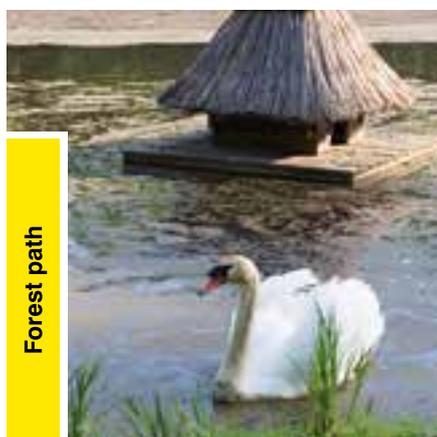
Eglūkalns



## Meanders of the River Daugava

The only place in Latvia where the River Daugava has preserved its natural course is in the natural park in the Daugava valley from Krāslava to Naujene. Here the river has eight major bends, 4 – 6 km long each. One of them is in the picture taken from the Vasargeliški observation tower. The „Meanders of the River Daugava (*Daugavas loki*)” park is a place with special cultural and historical value for our people and it is put on 10 lats banknotes. The ethnographic museum of Naujene launched a Guinness world record worthy project in 2012, asking everyone to take part in the creation of Latvia’s biggest patchwork cover. After many years it is planned to cover the Daugava with it from one bank to the other in the place known as “Daugava Gates” where the river is 500-600 metres wide.

More information: Daugavpils District Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 65422818** and Krāslavas Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 65622201**



Forest path



Swamp path



Vārkava path

## Forest path

In the valley overgrown with mighty trees the forest scenery park „Pilskalnes Siguldiņa” has been created. Here one can walk along various educational paths. The “Sprīdītis” path for kids with 32 wooden sculptures, the “History witnesses” path with World War I heritage, the “Swamp” path over the cranberry swamps and the “Highland scenery” path with 6 lakes and springs.

Photo: Vineta Ozere

## Swamp path

Andrupene swamp is small but it embraces the world of varied plants and living creatures. The wooden path, which is 750 metres long, bends across the swamp and encourages one to meet various mosses, closely observe mysterious pools, be amazed by insect eating plant sundew, smell wild rosemary, learn what marsh cinquefoil is and taste cranberries in the autumn.

More information: Dagda Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65681421**

## Meanders of the River Daugava

The most impressive views of the unique scenery at the meanders of the Daugava can be gained through looking at them from a bird's eye panorama. Take the opportunity and climb the 24 m high Vasargeliški observation tower, from where the whole bend of Daugava is exposed in all its beauty.

Photo: Mihails Ignats

## Vārkava path

Along the reed-grown banks of the River Dubna goes the Vārkava path. It passes by 5 cultural and historical objects and 15 natural objects. Choose the topic of excursion which seems more appealing to you – whether it is gaining knowledge about flora and fauna, exploring the life in the fields, walking in a dendrologist's shoes, learning about medicinal plants or researching the River Dubna.

More information: Preiļi Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65322041**

## Stiglova ravine

Stiglova spring ravine has been nominated as the Latvian Geological object of the year in 2013. It has steep slopes and sandstone banks which are 3-4 metres high. Approximately 60 various kinds of plants grow there. At a 2 km long section of ravine there is a big Stiglova stone with a 28.7 m<sup>3</sup> above ground part. Fire trenches from the partisan liberation wars from 1919-1920 have also been preserved.

More information: Viļaka District Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 29213878**

Photo: Aleksandrs Lebedis



Meanders of the River Daugava



Stiglova ravine



## Strawberries, birds and wild horses

The nature of Latgale is varied, as are the opportunities to enjoy it. In your tour, include one of the many nature trails of Latgale and improve your knowledge of the ever mysterious world of flora and fauna. Admire red deers and their noble antlers in the red deer park in Rugāji; observe birds in Višķi parish, the birthplace of the Russian Empress Catherine, or visit the unique Dviete Wetlands Nature Park – the home of wild horses and cows. In the spring of 2013 Dviete experienced an impressive whirlpool in Dviete that easily engulfed huge pieces of ice. The Dviete whirlpool video received around 5 million views on Youtube.com.

The strawberry aroma and taste, both in winter and summer, is offered by the owners of the farmstead "Zemeņu krastiņi" (Strawberry banks) in the Aglona district. On the bank of Lake Gerinamovas-Ilzas, they have created an attractive and unique strawberry world and educational nature trails. If your children are set on believing that milk come from a store, bring them to "Zemeņu krastiņi". Here in the meadows with lush grass pastures and the most genuine brown cows, anyone can observe or even participate in milking. Freshly milked milk tastes completely different; it is full of the life-giving strength of nature that we lack so much in our everyday life. Just be open to adventures!

Photo: Butterjers



Dviete wetlands



Red deer park

# Nature observing

## Dviete wetlands

Nature park "Dvietes palienes" (Dviete wetlands) is one of the largest and the best-preserved natural river wetlands in Latvia and Europe. During flood water the small Dviete River may rise by 6 metres.

More information: Dviete Valley Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 26109353**

## Red deer park

In Rugāji parish "Mežsētas" there is a 200 hectare large park for pedigree red deer; there are around 350 red deers, as well as several wild boar families. Near the park there are 15 observation platforms. Close by, in a 12 hectare large territory, there are fish ponds where you can catch fat carp, whiskered catfish, sturgeon, salmon, eel and crawfish.

More information: Rugāji parish Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 26355954**

Photo: Aleksandrs Lebedis

## Bird tower

Bird watching is becoming increasingly popular in Latvia. Various events are being organised – Bird Day, specialised tours, bird watching and counting competitions. Currently in Latvia there are 355 registered bird species. Birds can be best observed from a special tower. Contact your local tourist information centre to learn about the location of the towers and the species that are most active during the corresponding time. Do not forget to take binoculars!

## Strawberry trail

You are invited by the welcoming hostess of "Zemeņu krastiņi" to visit the Strawberry trail and meet the Strawberry Queen, pixie and the good witch. While on the Tree trail you will learn how to talk to the trees and receive their life-giving energy.

## Milking

Believe it or not, but "Zemeņu krastiņi" offers to teach a very ancient skill – how to milk a cow. Warm, fragrant milk is dripping into the bucket and the hostess gently invites one to taste it. Do the city dwellers know what real, freshly milked milk tastes like?

More information: Aglona Business Support Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65322100**

### Strawberry trail



### Bird tower



### Milking



# Rothko – Star of Latgale

Daugavpils Mark Rothko Art Centre



## Daugavpils Mark Rothko Art Centre

Mark Rothko (1903–1970, b. Marcus Rotkovich) who was born in Dvinsk (today – Daugavpils, Latvia) is one of the best known artists of the XX century. In 1913 his family emigrated to the United States. Rothko was a key figure in the development of post-war paintings in the United States and the founder of the so-called New York School of Abstract Expressionism.

Several leading art museums exhibit Rothko's works, and now the Mark Rothko Art Centre in Daugavpils is among them. The Centre was opened on 24 April 2013. It is located inside the renovated Daugavpils fortress' Arsenal building, and it is the biggest art centre in Latvia. The area of about 2000 m<sup>2</sup> includes various expositions and exhibitions and is divided into four sectors. Rothko Sector exhibits six original paintings of Mark Rothko, which were kindly deposited by Kate and Christopher Rothko. Rothko Sector also includes the Rothko Silent Room, video hall, reproductions of Rothko paintings and digital exposition. The library collection includes about 400 unique books on art. "The Centre tells a story about Rothko – how his life was influenced by the living environment, childhood memories of Daugavpils, how Rothko's personality and creativeness were formed," says Inga Goldberga, Manager of the Marketing Division. A visit to Rothko Sector would take at least 45 minutes.

The Art Centre also includes the Contemporary Arts Sector, a sector for art projects and a sector for expositions of regional artists. An important line of activity of the Centre is the Club of Creative Industries – a platform aimed at supporting creative initiatives in the region. The Art Centre also includes the coffee bar *Arsenāls* and a children's room.

For additional information visit the website of Daugavpils Mark Rothko Art Centre [www.rothkocenter.com](http://www.rothkocenter.com) or contact by phone. **+371 65430273** or **+371 29455008**

Photo: Bulterjers

1. Exposition of six original paintings of Mark Rothko
2. A moment of meditation in the Silent Room
3. Part of the interactive exposition on Rothko's life
4. Artists' workshops and residences located in Rothko Centre
5. Library offering unique books on art
6. Space for several exhibitions and an exposition of artists from Latgale region



4



3



5



6

## Glass of Līvāni

The name of the Līvāni Glass Factory (earlier known as Livenhoff Glass Factory) was mentioned in historical sources in 1887. The factory survived various ages, several times it suspended production and then restarted it again, still the factory has been idle since 2008. The people of Līvāni are willed to keep the traditions of the glass factory that now are gradually being forgotten since the factory has been closed. The Glass Factory History Museum moved from the former premises of the Board to the Latgale Arts and Crafts Centre in Līvāni. The museum was founded in 1979, but in the new premises it was opened only on 12 April, 2013. It is a unique possibility to see the glass products of the factory collected together. There are about 3,000 outstanding glass masterpieces that were collected over a period of more than 100 years. The collection has both simple formed bottles and complicated design masterpieces. The premises of the museum are wide and light and are equipped in a modern way. This makes it possible to see every exhibit item and to enjoy the wide range of colours.

More information: Līvāni Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 65381856**

Background: work plan of the glass master Inga Salmiņa  
Photo: Jānis Vidmants





**1. The glass master at work**

Inga Salmiņa is a glass master who works in the Latgale Arts and Crafts Centre in Līvāni. The glass is thawing, and the pliable liquid of glass takes the forms created by the master. Inga is willed to share her experience and offers the guests of the Centre the chance to peer at the glass world secrets and create their own glass knickknacks.

**2. Eternal value – glass jewellery**

The pieces of jewellery created by the glass masters of Latgale are stylish and unique. The combinations and colours of the glass beads are endless. One should only trust the charm and find the best matching jewellery for oneself. The fashion for the glass jewellery is eternal all over the world.

**3. Borderless design**

Līvāni Glass Factory used to be proud of the creative ideas and experiments of its masters that made the factory famous. The Līvāni Glass Factory was well-known both for its colourless and colourful products. The glass items travelled to different countries in the world, including the historical homeland of glass – Egypt.

**4. Impressive glass chandelier**

Each component of this impressive chandelier was created by the professional glass-blower. The skills of the glass master to create hundreds of equal components are admirable. The joined elements are able to transform the interior beyond recognition.

**5. Glassware by the Līvāni Glass Factory**

No one is able to manage daily life without comfortable and amazing glassware. The glass vases and ice-cream dishes produced at the Līvāni Glass Factory are still kept in many households. It seems that this glass is much more resistant than many other modern glass products that break into small pieces after just a tap.

**6. The world under the cupola**

Life has stopped. The whole century stands still under the showcases: from tea glasses, carafes, oil lamp cylinders and wind lamp glasses up to vacuum bottles and colourless crystal dishes, that from the point of view of quality are equal to the famous Bohemian crystals, lamps, candle holders, aquariums and vases. However, it is better to see the exhibition in person.

Photo: Jānis Ozers

**7. Facade of the Līvāni Glass Museum**

Photo: Vineta Ozere



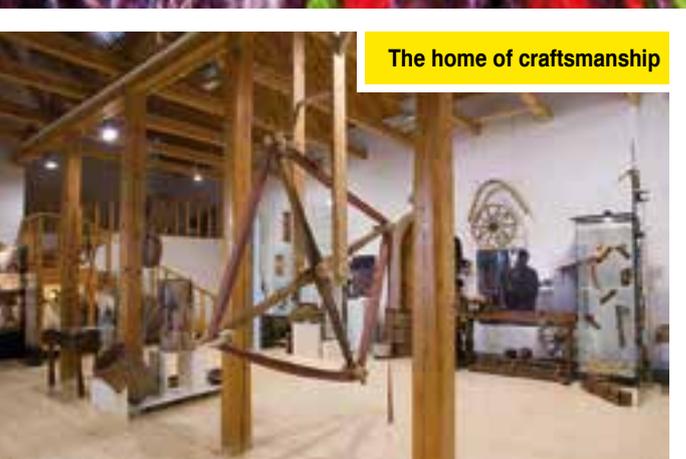
## Creative oases

The handicraftsmen of Latgale are people with skilful hands, that's for sure. They have inborn craftsmanship. The skills are passed on from generation to generation and polished like precious stones. For a long time, generations of potters, weavers, jewellers, smiths, barrel makers, wood carvers, wicker workers, furniture masters and others have been developed. By the way, the most splendid jewellery that was rich in ornamental design, was worn by the people of Latgale. In turn, a smith was the most ancient profession in Latgale. Nowadays the craftsmanship is still highly valued in Latgale. There are three large active craftsmanship centres: the Latgale Arts and Crafts Centre in Līvāni, the Ludza Craftsmen Centre in the ancient Latvian town of Ludza, as well as the Daugavpils Clay Arts Centre. Everyone who is willed to learn, to see and to try out their own skills in craftsmanship are kindly welcome.

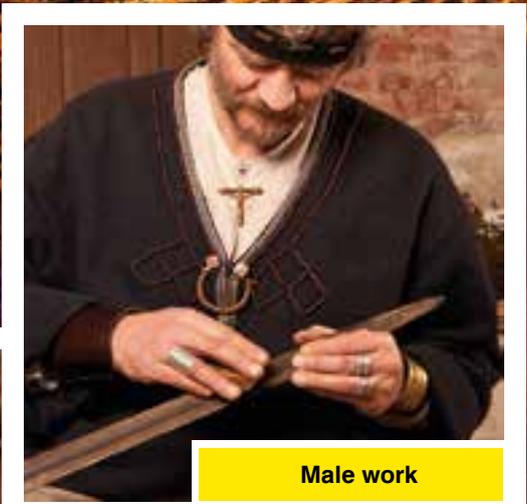
More information about the Ludza Craftsmen Centre: Ludza Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65707203** Photo of the Ludza craftsmen and their created items: Jānis Vidmants

More information about the exposition "Craftsmen in Latgale": Līvāni Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65381856** General photo of the exposition: Jānis Ozers

More information about the Daugavpils Clay Arts Centre: Daugavpils Regional Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 65422818** General photo of the potters work exposition: Vīneta Ozere



The home of craftsmanship



Male work



Master's aura



Wickerworks



**Female work**



## The home of craftsmanship

The Līvāni Craftsmanship Centre was founded in 2003 in the place where the Baron Līvens built the Līvāni estate in 1533. There are pottery, glass and textile arts workshops. The Līvāni Glass Museum has also been open here since 12 April 2013. The exposition 'The Craftsmen in Latgale' is located in the barn of the ancient estate. It exhibits the longest belt (94 m long) in Latvia.

## Master's aura

Salimons Kīpluks is the only master in Latvia who creates flax bast shoes. Being a teenager he made his first bast shoes for wearing to school in winter. The master also creates various wickerworks of rods, makes wood items and binds birch whisks for saunas.

## Male work

Ēriks Kondrāts, the chief of the Ludza Craftsmen Centre and the main narrator weaves baskets, makes adornments and creates other male works. He also knows the ancient dishes of the people of Latgale and is interested in the history of cooking traditions. He treats the guests of the Craftsmen Centre with the delicious soup, cooked in a big cauldron in an authentic kitchen of Latgale.

## Wickerworks

The masters of Latgale turn the unattractive willow rods into various goods that are helpful for daily household usage and also serve as an interior decoration.

## Female work

The diligent needlewomen of Latgale weave, sew, knit and create amazing things. The authentic national suits and flax clothes of Latgale, as well as the bright knitted things, woven braids, belts and other items can be purchased in Ludza Craftsmen Centre.

## Works of clay

The concept of Latgale and its ceramic traditions are inseparable. Ceramics is found in every craftsmen centre or in every creative workshop. The Clay Arts Centre was founded in the former tram depot in honour of the ancient craftsmanship and arts in Daugavpils.

## Works of clay



## “Baltic Raku” and the fine vibrations of clay in Daugavpils

Toughened ceramics is an unusual and unique technique that dates back to more than 600 years ago. Until the 19th century it was widely spread in the Baltic States, Belarus and several regions of Russia. It is unique in its special after-burning technique where rye flour yeast is used instead of glass glaze which is rich in chemical metal oxides. “It’s a completely ecological technique that was only possible where rye was grown and where people ate black rye bread,” says artist-ceramist Ilona Šauša. Today this technology has become of interest again and Daugavpils Ceramic Art centre is the only place in the Baltics with an exhibition of pottery made by this technology.

„Raku” is a Japanese hieroglyph that represents a similar pottery technique. It is used to make tea ceremony tea sets in Japan and it dates back to about 400 years ago. Americans also have their own raku, which they discovered about 50 years ago. The principles of raku pottery are similar everywhere: clay dishes are rapidly removed from the oven and whilst still hot and glowing are cooled down in water or fresh air. The Japanese use green tea for this purpose, the Americans use dry leaves, and the Balts – rye flour yeast. When visiting the Ceramic Art Centre one can taste herbal tea from a cup produced according to the „Baltic Raku” technique and also buy it.

More information on the Daugavpils Ceramic Art Centre is available in the Daugavpils county Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 65422818**

Photo: Jānis Ozers



Līga Čible



Ilona Šauša



**Nelliya Dzalba**



**Ilona Šauša**

Professional artist and manager of cultural projects, head of the „Baltic Raku“ society. Along with pottery, she also enjoys taking part in the realisation of various art projects, including international multifunctional art projects. Everyone is welcome to experience the artistic atmosphere of this centre. Potters' wheels are humming, folk musical instruments are being played, folk dance steps are audible, creative activities are happening, and on weekends they host weddings. „You will be able to try out pottery and maybe even see how the largest pottery kiln in Latgale works,“ promises Ilona, who kindly asks to book before visiting the Ceramic Art Centre.

**Līga Čible**

In her everyday life she is the deputy of the chief artist of Daugavpils, but her free time is devoted to decorative applied art. „I work with different, also unconventional, materials: paper, threads, cables. I am passionate about the transformation of ceramics in contemporary modern art installations,“ says the artist. Her works have been given as presents to Boris Grebenshchikov, Mark Rothko's son Christopher, etc.

**Nelliya Dzalba**

Nelliya represents the newest generation of the potter family. She graduated from the Faculty of Music and Art of the University of Daugavpils. She has been working with pottery since 2006 and thinks that clay is a fantastic material that can be used in different ways. „I like making various knick-knacks: necklaces, earrings, buttons and clay lamps,“ reveals the new ceramist.



**Mairita Folkmane**

„I am an experimenter and I try out different techniques and materials,“ says Mairita. Her passion is the ability to transform a spiritual idea into a material object. Mairita is certain that art has to radiate positive energy; then it is pleasant to look at. Her current material is porcelain, which is transformed into unique art products.



**Mairita Folkmane**



## The living clay of Latgale

Clay from Latgale is ductile, shiny and clean; potters' fingers will not find any debris or stones. Such clay is like a gift from God, it mends itself into the form assigned by the craftsman, transforming into what is known as Latgale's pottery: one of the most characteristic Latvian nationally cultural values with traditions dating back hundreds of years. There are potter families living in the Latgale region where this profession has been passed down from several generations, and the family name serves as a unique brand. They dig and knead the clay and fire the kiln themselves. Real potters of Latgale do everything properly; the opening of the kiln is a special occasion for everyone. Many potters are invited to be present at this magical moment, when the most beautiful clay wares are removed from the kiln. People in Latgale are very hospitable. You will also have the chance to feel the touch of the clay on your hands, sit at the potter's wheel and create your own clay miracle, like ceramist Valdis Pauliņš from Kraslava does in the photo report. He also invites all who are interested to join at the opening of the kiln. Considering the specifics of a potter's work, it is advisable to apply to the craftsmen at least a week in advance.

More information about ceramists in Latgale:

Ēriks Kudlis – Ludza Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 65707203**

Photo: Jānis Vidmants

Valdis Pauliņš – Krāslava Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 65622201**

Photo: Jānis Ozers

Valentīns Petjko – Daugavpils county's Tourism Information Centre Phone: **+371 65422818**

Photo: Jānis Ozers

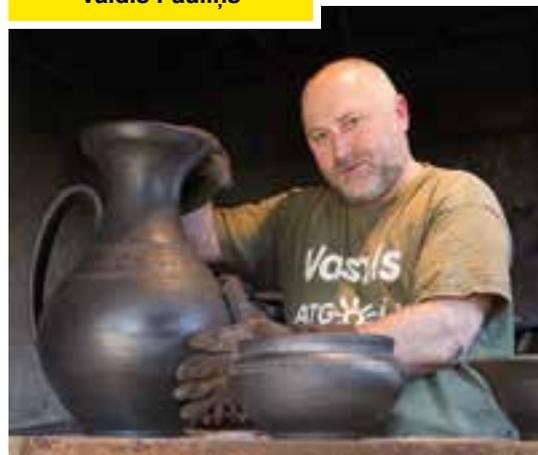
Evalds Vasilevskis – Rēzekne city's, Rēzekne and Vīlāni county's Tourism Information Centre.

Phone: **+371 64622222**

Photo: Aleksandrs Lebedis



**Valdis Pauliņš**



# Pottery

## Valdis Pauliņš

Ceramist Valdis Pauliņš is the only one in Latgale using the ancient technique of „wrapping“ clay products in birch bark.

## Ēriks Kudlis

Ēriks Kudlis, a ceramist of the Craftsmen Centre of Ludza, prefers traditional forms and colours that are characteristic of Latgale.

## Valentīns Petjko

An artist with a natural sense of clay and forms. He created a monument dedicated to Latgale's pottery, which can currently be seen on the pedestrian street in Daugavpils.

## Evalds Vasilevskis

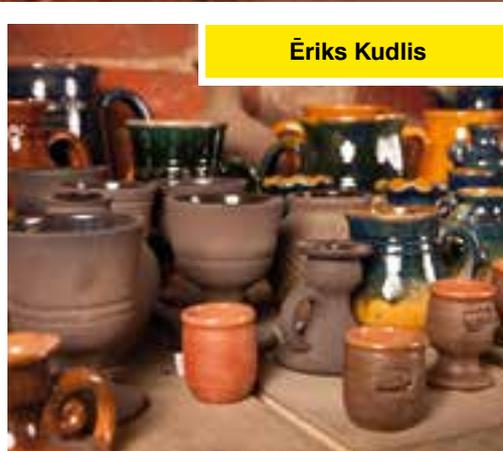
Founder of the Latvian Culture Foundation group „Pūdnieku skūla“ (Potters' School in Latgalian). He fires his work according to an ancient technique: pit-type kiln with deanse technique.



Valentīns Petjko



Ēriks Kudlis



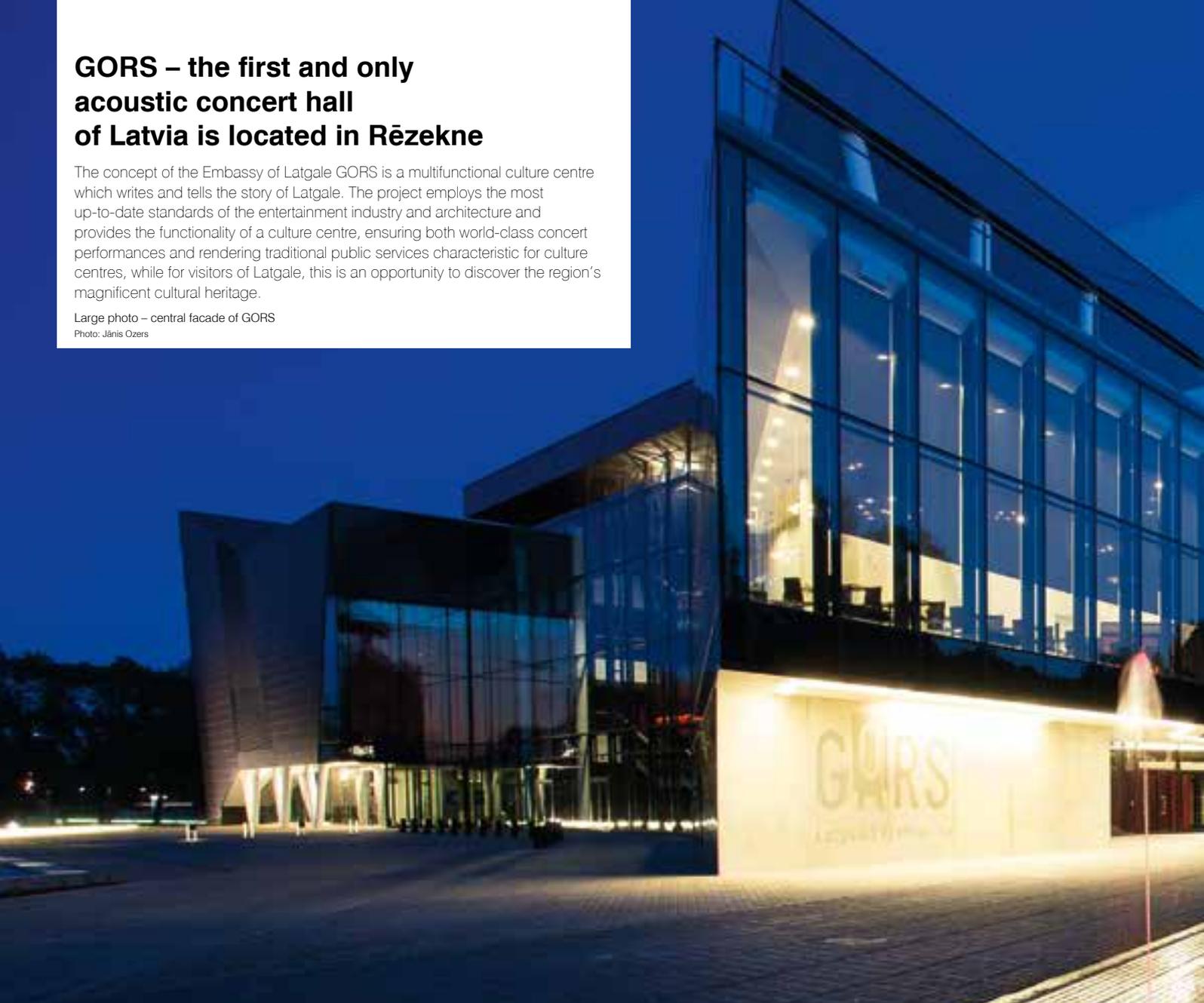
Evalds Vasilevskis



# GORS – the first and only acoustic concert hall of Latvia is located in Rēzekne

The concept of the Embassy of Latgale GORS is a multifunctional culture centre which writes and tells the story of Latgale. The project employs the most up-to-date standards of the entertainment industry and architecture and provides the functionality of a culture centre, ensuring both world-class concert performances and rendering traditional public services characteristic for culture centres, while for visitors of Latgale, this is an opportunity to discover the region's magnificent cultural heritage.

Large photo – central facade of GORS  
Photo: Jānis Ozers



GORS is the first brand new multifunctional concert hall in Latvia. Its construction began in 2011; the opening took place in May 2013. This is a meeting point of various cultures and arts, history and values. GORS is not just a place for the old and long established values of Latgale, it is also a reflection of the most essential trends and developments in the modern world. This place inspires and encourages, it is an embodiment of local achievements and a destination alluring visitors to Latgale in order to discover, enjoy and tell their own stories. In the Latgalian language, the word gōrs means spirit which is immaterial at first but becomes visible, tangible and audible in this centre.

The building of GORS has been influenced by Scandinavian architecture and consists of three main parts which contrast each other with different facade colours and materials. The centre includes two acoustic concert halls – the Great Hall (1000 seats) and the Small Hall (220 seats). Both halls have been designed according to the acoustic calculations. The centre also houses a Choreography Hall, Orchestra rehearsal Hall, music records shop, registry office, restaurant and rooms for experiments, rehearsals of orchestra, choirs and dance groups.

## 1. View to the choreography hall –

here resound the dancing steps of folk, modern or classical dances.

## 2. Eastern facade –

glass constructions underline the centre's openness and provide more light.

## 3. Opening Concert –

the joint symphony orchestra of the Music School of Jānis Ivanovs and the Embassy of Latgale GORS prepare for the opening performance on 19 May 2013. Conductor – Jānis Stafeckis at the podium.

Photo: Aija Eriņa

## 4. Interior elements –

central staircase of concrete and glass design elements.

More information: Rēzekne, the Rēzekne Region and the Viļāni Region Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 64622222**



## Living History

Latgale is a place where centuries meet, where ancient traditions coexist in a modern environment, with the possibility exists to experience surreal feelings by moving into the past. Many Latgallians have abandoned their home and gone to look for happiness in the world. And the door of the father's house remains open. The ones who stay, motivated by their conscience and respect for the heritage of the past, are collecting remaining antiques, organising exhibitions for others to look at. This is how many peculiar exhibitions have been created in farms, which differ from traditional museum exhibitions, as they are made from the heart without academic restrictions. Explore private antique collections, sing along with Latgallian folk songs, try ancient tools and listen to tales of how things were before.

Private collections and small museums often have irregular schedules, so bookings should be made at least three days before visiting.

Photo: Butlerjers.



Latgallian farm



“Vēršukalns”



“Saipetnieki”



Witnesses of Time



## Latgalian farm

If you want to explore how people lived in Latgale at the beginning of the 20th century, you have to go to the farm Andrupene, where an authentic Latgalian farm complex with six houses has been built. There is a dwelling house, a barn, a forge, a smoke sauna, a threshing-barn and a cattle-shed. Just like in the „olden days”: tools, everyday objects and furniture. The ethnographic atmosphere is enriched by performances of a folk group and topical performances, such as a wedding in Latgale.

More information: Dagda's Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65681421**

## Witnesses of Time

Memories of Soviet times provoke various emotions. For some it is an unknown world, for some they are nostalgic memories, and for others – only history. There is a corner in the farm Andrupene that is dedicated to objects collected from the near to distant Soviet times.

## The cultural history museum “Vēršukalns”

The museum is in an old rural house in the Susāju parish. There is a farmer's room, where everyday objects of the olden days can be viewed. The barn next to the house has been refurbished and is available for the permanent exhibition of the works of the parish's craftsmen.

More information: Viļaka county's Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 29213878**

## “Saipetnieki”

One of Latgale's largest private antique museums with a collection of ancient tools, machinery and farm equipment. All exhibits are provided, fixed and polished by the owner himself. More information: Rugāju county's Tourism Information Centre.

More information: Rugāju county's Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 64546674**

Photo: Aleksandrs Lebedis

## Three-fold “Cīrulīši”

There are three different groups of objects available to view. Firstly, a collection of old motorcycles. They are in working order and take part in the North-Latgale rally every year. The second group: tools and farm equipment from the olden days. The third object: a dwelling house with an ancient interior and a mini exhibition of an old pub with a collection of bottles and labels from the beginning of the 20th century.

More information: Viļaka county's Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 29213878**



Three-fold “Cīrulīši”



## Adoration of Bread and “Culinary Heritage”

Bread is not just a meal, it is the wealth of a nation and the Lord’s blessing. When a Latgalian farmer went to sow seeds, he put on his whitest shirt and, at the edge of his field he took off his hat and bowed gratuitously to the Lord and nature. Great power resides in a rye seed sown in autumn – it spends the harsh Latgalian winter as a small green sprout, and next summer there is a rich rye field, filled with golden ears. Wives of Latgalian farmers bake bread in accordance with recipes passed from generation to generation, work dough with the hands, put loaves on maple leaves and put the bread into an authentic stone oven. Such a loaf is filled with strength and good thoughts. At a number of tourism objects, one can taste freshly baked bread and start an unforgettable adventure into Latgale’s “Culinary Heritage”. Enjoy your meal!

Background – wholegrain bread baked at the Andrupene farmyard – exceptionally tasty, rich and beautiful. Photo: Bulterjers



### Kingdom of sweets



### Snails



### Beaver's power



### Smoked fish



# Enjoy your meal!

## Kingdom of sweets

"Dziles" the house of sweets, is the kingdom of the renowned baker of bread and various dainties Aina Barsukova. Both families and groups of tourists can apply for bakery workshops. For example, over two hours you will master pizza-making skills and will cook, possibly, the first cake in your life! You should apply 3-4 days in advance.

More information: Kārsava Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 29327265**

## Snails

You just cannot lose your way – perfect indications will lead you to the "Ošu Māja" snail farm near Preiļi. There will be an excursion and tasting, and you can also obtain various snail-related souvenirs.

More information: Preiļi Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65322041**

## Beaver's power

In Bebrene, beavers occupy an honourable place. Apart from obtaining extensive information about their life, one can taste beaver's meat cooked in different ways. A special dainty is beaver's tail smoked in the historical "black kitchen". And the beaver's glandular tincture is worth the weight of gold – it is a wonder drug against many ailments.

More information: Dvietes Senlejas Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 26109353**

## Smoked fish

Lake Lubāns is rich with fish, and the fresh smoked fish cooked by local fishermen is so tasty that it will make you long for more. The same can be said about the fish soup, which is cooked in "Zvejnieki" house in a huge cast-iron pot over a live fire. It will be sufficient for 50 eaters.

More information: Rēzekne, the Rēzekne Region and the Viļāni Region Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 64622222**

## Museum of Bread

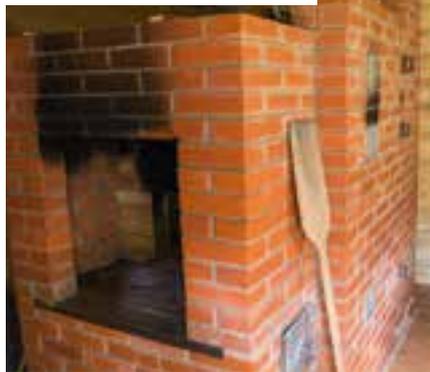
The Aglona Museum of Bread is the only one in the Baltics. Its owner Vija Kudiņa can talk all about the long path of creating bread – from the seed to a ready-made loaf. Vija's knowledge about bread is unique. The museum has collected hundreds of exhibits related to the processing of grains and baking bread. Culinary heritage programmes are offered, with meals in a Latgalian style.

More information: Aglona Business Support Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65322100**

## Bread House

"Mežinieku Mājas" (Bread House) is the place where you can bake your own loaf of rye bread in an old oven under the supervision of a farmer's wife. Eight loaves can be baked at a time – you can take them with you or taste them on the spot. You will also taste 14 types of home-made cheese and beer brewed at home. For bread baking, you are requested to book at least a week in advance.

### Bread House



### Museum of Bread



## Honey, Berries, Herbal Teas, Beer and Home-made Wine

Latgale's nature is perfectly suited to ecological farming – rich blossoming meadows for bees and pickers of medicinal herbs, wide areas for berry bushes, bogs for growing cranberries and fields for own-brewed barley beer. Latgale's borderland nature is particularly untouched and as clean as spring water, the severe touches of agricultural modernisation are not felt here. This has caused the development of bee-keeping and, like cows are an integral part of the Swiss Alps, the borderland nature landscape of Latgale is supplemented by bee-hives. From the meadows of the organic farm "Kramiņi" alone, honey is collected by about 100 bee families. Here farmers offer to start a sweet tour to the kingdom of honey and bees. If you wish to taste freshly picked cranberries, go to "Paipalas" farm. Here in a nicely arranged marsh, five different species of Canadian cranberries find themselves at home. The winemaker Irēna Koleda of Kotleru vineyard invites you to enjoy a glass of home-made wine, made according to ancient recipes from self-grown black, white and red currants. Home cheese has to be obtained from the "Upenīte" farmhouse – it will be an excellent gift.

Background – honey from the Paipalas farm  
Photo: Butlerjers

Fields of cranberries



Kingdom of bees



Raspberry secret



Blackcurrant gifts



Home-made cheese



# Enjoy your meal!

## Fields of cranberries

Carefully tendered and watered cranberries become ready in the autumn, and, glistening with their bright round surfaces in the sun, they entice every picker of berries. The owner of "Paipalas" farm promises – there will be enough berries for everyone.

More information: Baltinava District Tourism Organiser.  
Phone: **+371 29364993**

## Kingdom of bees

"Kramiņi" farm offers the chance to observe a bee-garden, taste and obtain honey products, make wax candles and watch a self-filmed video about the life of bees. By booking in advance, you can also order a honey cake from the farmer's wife.

More information: Kārsava Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 29327265**

Photo: Rolands Zelčs

## Blackcurrant gifts

Blackcurrant is a real vitamin C "bomb"; it has a lot of curative properties. "Upenīte" farmhouse treats visitors to home-made blackcurrant jam, blackcurrant with whipped cream, blackcurrant tea, a fruit drink and wine. Tasty, healthy and refreshing!

## Home-made cheese

Rich and very tasty – this is what can be said about the "Upenīte" farm's home-made cheese from cow's milk. Even the most demanding connoisseurs assess its quality as excellent.

More information: Aglona Business Support Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65322100**

Photo: Vineta Ozere

## Raspberry secret

Wine-maker Irēna Koleda is proud of her raspberry wine, which has deserved special recognition. Marmalades and other dainties are also made from berries, without preservatives and other artificial enhancers.

More information: Preiļi Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65322041**

## This is how beer is made

Dainis Rakstiņš inherited the skills of beer-making from his father. Latgalian beer is made of barley and hops; the preparation process consists of several stages. If you would like to participate in any of these, you have to book at least a month in advance.

More information: Balvi Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 64522597**

## Health teas

"Kurmiši" farm offers 35 types of teas and, alongside the Latvian plants, plants from North America, Tibet, the Altay mountains, Turkey, etc. find themselves at home on the meadows, too. You will find a lot of valuable information and enjoy the herbal teas.

More information: Krāslava Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65622201**

Photo: Ivars Geiba

## How beer is made



## Health teas



## Latgale – the land of saunas

People in Latgale went to saunas like to church, as alongside cleaning your body, one's soul is also renewed. The most popular type of sauna is the black sauna, which is also called the smoke sauna: the furnace is made from a pile of stones underneath which firewood is burned. The sauna does not have flues, so the smoke flows out through the window or the door, covering the walls and the ceiling in soot. Another type of sauna is the black-and-white sauna, which is similar, only the smoke does not get into the room, it flows through a chimney. In a white sauna, a firewood furnace ensures that the sauna stones are hot. Although this guidebook only offers the chance to look at seven saunas, every Latgalian house and guest house actually has a sauna which is used once a week.

The guest house "Mežnieku mājas" has two saunas and it also houses the Latvian "Sauna School" branch in Latgale, where one can learn to become a professional sauna attendant. The landlord Jānis Mežnieks is a renowned sauna attendant. He is able to tell what sauna procedures one is in need of just by looking at them, and anyone finding themselves in his sauna will be "flogged" with whisks from 24 different plants. Sauna attendant Kristīne Šišlova practices old and somewhat magical sauna rituals. She invites her guests to gather medicinal plants. She then makes a herbal tea out of them and sends it to you. While a strawberry ritual awaits you in the "Zemeņu krastiņi" sauna, in the "Jāņi" sauna you will cleanse your energy, and in "Čiekuri" you will receive a massage with clay pots. To fully enjoy sauna rituals, it is advised to book at least a month in advance, in groups of up to six people.

Background – sauna's „Jāņi” footbridge enclosed in bulrush  
Photo: Jānis Ozers



Kristīne and the dwarves



“Zemeņu krastiņi”



## “Mežinieku mājas”



## Kristīne and the dwarves

The sauna attendant of “Turku pirts ciems” (Turkish sauna village) Kristīne can speak to dwarves. “Latgallian dwarves are nothing like Norwegian trolls. Our dwarves are goodhearted, but can take revenge like children if they are annoyed, like taking something and hiding it. Dwarves like sweets, books and good wine,” says Kristīne.

More information: Līvāni Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65381856**

## “Mežinieku mājas”

Part of the sauna ritual is soaking in a wooden tub large enough to fit ten people, where the water is enriched with medicinal herbs. Relaxed muscles after the sauna yield better to a massage, but one’s skin is ready for a beauty cure with nature’s bounty, such as wrapping the body in tree leaves, a carpet of flowers or pine needles. Up to 40 people can book a visit to the sauna, as there is a group of sauna attendants working alongside Jānis in “Mežinieku mājas”.

## “Zemeņu krastiņi”

You will be greeted by the strawberry queen herself and invited to enjoy a sauna adventure. A peculiar rural SPA with various procedures using nature’s bounty: strawberries in different forms, pine cones, white clay from the local lake, etc. “You will feed your skin, renew your immunity and relive your soul,” promises the hostess of the sauna.

More information: Aglona Business Support Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65322100**

## “Jāņi”

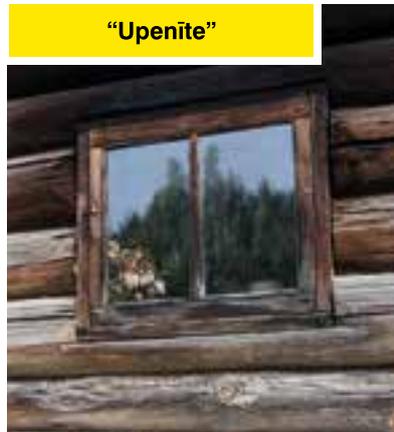
The sauna attendant Jānis is a choir conductor in his everyday life, but saunas are his hobby. He has learnt Ayurveda, which he combines with Latgalliansaunna’s wisdom.

More information: Rēzekne city’s, Rēzekne and Viļāni county’s Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 64622222**

## “Jāņi”



## “Upenīte”



## “Upenīte”

Traditional Latgallian “black sauna”.

More information: Aglona Business Support Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65322100**

## “Čiekuri”

“There is a spirit living in the sauna, and one has to greet him when entering the sauna,” say the owners of the sauna. They are practitioners of the energetic systems of the ancient Baltic signs.

More information: Rēzekne city’s, Rēzekne and Viļāni county’s Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 64622222**

## “Akmeņi”

A sauna and guest house in one with a wide variety of recreational activities and ecotourism. There is picturesque scenery, golf meadows and a sports ground at your disposal, and you can ski around the lake during the winter.

More information: Cibla District Tourism Organisator.  
Phone: **+371 28317569**

## “Čiekuri”



## “Akmeņi”



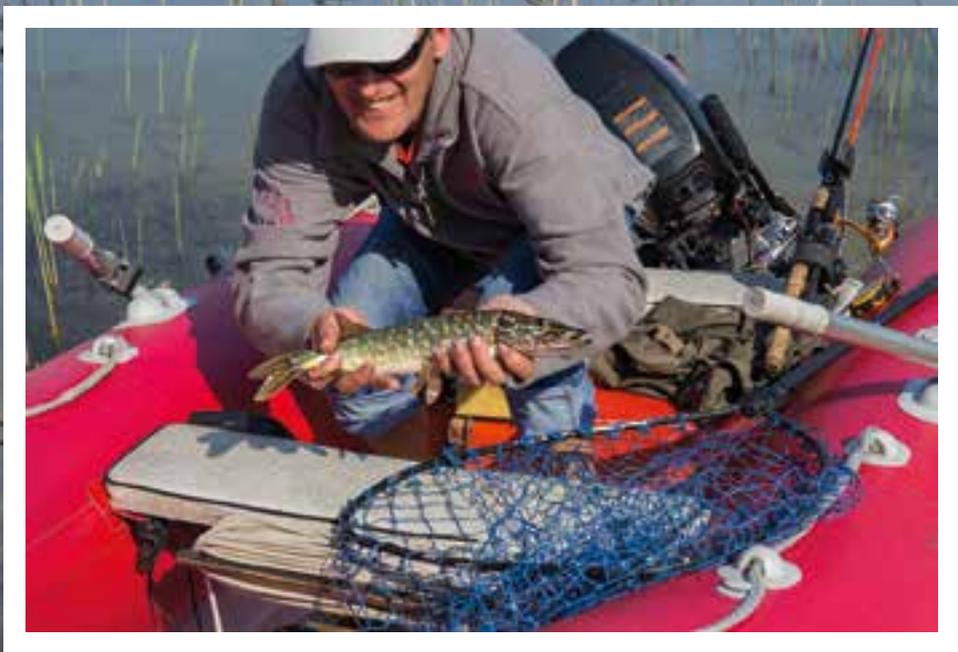
## Fishermen's paradise

It would be a sin to complain about the size of the catch. The large number of lakes and the Daugava flowing through the region are filled with various fish species: pike, pike-perch, carp, tench, perch, roach, bream and others. You can find a lot of catfish and salmon in the part of the river Daugava that is in Latgale. With luck one can catch real giants. However, there are rules you have to follow in order to fish here. You can go out on the lake with a boat only after the 1st May, it is prohibited to fish with nets. There are some lakes in Latgale that require a license to fish in them: lake Rāznas near Rēzekne and Lakes Dagdas, Indras and Sīvera in the Krāslava region. Furthermore, only boats with electric motors are allowed on lake Rāznas. The catch cannot exceed 5 pike, 5 zander and 5 kg of perch.

During winter the frozen lakes encourage many ice fishing enthusiasts. Latgale is a real fishing paradise – beautiful nature, silence and a somewhat wild, untouched landscape. Water splashes along the side of the boat, a light breeze and endless peace. No daily rush, just you and nature.

More information on fishing opportunities in Daugavpils county: Daugavpils county's Tourist Information Centre. Phone: **+371 65422818**

Large pictures: fishing in Stopu Lake near Daugavpils.  
Photo: Jānis Ozers



Ice fishing



At Lake Lubāns



# The big catch



## Ice fishing

Winters are harsh in Latgale and the lakes are covered in thick layers of ice. Ice fishermen are not afraid of the cold; armed with a lot of equipment, they are ready to spend hours on the ice, to bring home a large catch. Even fishermen from the other side of Latvia come here every year. It is said that fish from Latgale are much nicer.

## At the delicious Lake Lubāns

One of the most popular lakes is Lubāns. There are around 20 fish species, and no fisherman leaves the lake empty-handed. Fishermen living next to Lubāns smoke their own fish according to old customs and offer to taste them on the spot or buy them to take home. It is also interesting to see the smokehouses.

More information: Rēzekne city's, Rēzekne and Viļāni county's Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 64622222**

## Fishing in Lake Nirza

It is one of the most beautiful lakes in the Ludza region. Fishermen who come here want to enjoy untouched nature and early sunrises, when the surface of the lake is still covered in a light veil of fog and the only sound is water gently splashing on the side of the boat. Perch, ide, bream, pike, tench, bream, silver bream, roach, rudd and vendace are living in the lake. A good catch is guaranteed.

Photo: Māris Bozovičs

## “Ozero”

There is a farm “Ozero” in the Ludza region next to Lake Šķaune. People who come here are those who want to catch pike. There is an abundance of them here and the owner of “Ozero” himself takes care of the reproduction of the pike population. Fish fry are regularly let into the lake. Fishermen have bragged about pike of up to 5 kg.

More information: Ludza's Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 65707203**

Photo: Aleksandrs Lebeds

## “Ezerzeme”

The holiday house “Ezerzeme” awaits you at Lake Nirza. Fishermen with their families are especially welcome. While the men are taking care of the catch, the rest of the family can enjoy the picturesque landscape, leisure activities and go to the sauna in the evening. Alongside various freshwater fish, there are also crayfish living in Lake Nirza. Have you ever tasted them? Freshly boiled on a fire on the shore of the lake, still smoking and red. First though, the crayfish need to be caught, which is done

at dusk. More information: Ludza Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 65707203**

Photo: Aleksandrs Lebeds

### Fishing in Lake Nirza



### “Ozero”



### “Ezerzeme”



## Active recreation on water

The rivers and lakes in Latgale invite you to enjoy various active recreation opportunities on the water. A leisurely boat ride with your family or friends, taking in the beautiful landscape. A more extreme boat ride on wilder waterways that have not been prepared for tourists. Waterskiing, rafting or a picnic on a raft. You do not need to worry about necessary equipment, development of a route and other practical help. Boat rentals "Mučas" and "Ezersētas" offer comfortable and safe boats, there is a professional water sports base in "Baški" and you can enjoy the experience of an old rafter at "Beibuks". You will remember such a summer in Latgale for a long time.

The well known waterskiing base "Baški" near Preiļi welcomes anyone who wants to learn waterskiing with a professional trainer from May to October. Waterskiing on a lake is fantastic!

More information on athletic activity opportunities – Aglona Business Support Centre. Phone: **+371 65322100** and Daugavpils county's Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 65422818**.

Background – waterskiing in "Baški"

Photo: Jānis Ozers



"Baški"



# Water tourism



## “Mučas”

“Mučas” offers to rent complete equipment for people interested in boating. A two-seated tourist class canoe, paddles, lifejackets and water proof bags are part of the standard set, which can be supplemented by route development, tour guide services, transport to the starting point of the trip and from the end point of the trip, etc.

More information: Daugavpils Region Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65422818**

Photo: Veronika Lokotko

## “Beibuks”

Enjoying the splendid landscape on an old wooden raft will be an unforgettable adventure. The raft has tables, benches, a grill and everything that is needed for a safe journey. Just like a garden party on water.

More information: Daugavpils Region Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65422818**

Photo: Makars Kirikovs

## “Ezersētas”

On the shore of the lake Užuņa the holiday house “Ezersētas” awaits you. There is a wide variety of recreation activities, from leisurely lying on the beach to long boating trips lasting a few days. The landlord will help you to develop a travel route through several inter-connected lakes.

More information: Aglona Business Support Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65322100**

Photo: Ainārs Streļģis



## “Beibuks”



## “Mučas”



## “Ezersētas”



## Cycling routes in Latgale

Travel through Latgale on a bicycle! Cyclists are provided with route maps and bike rentals. Go on a trip for one or more days and stay in one of the hospitable guest or holiday houses. Cycling routes for different tastes, ages and athletic abilities are available. The total length of the routes is more than 700 km.

Photo: Jānis Vidmants



## 1. Far regions (~ 115 km)

Travelling in the furthest counties of Latgale. An untouched environment, the opportunity to explore ethnographic traditions, proximity to the border, new asphalt and rare traffic.

## 2. The Big Lubāns (49,8 km)

A longer journey, which is worth combining with bird watching. There is also the opportunity to taste smoked fish. Part of the route leads through the dam system of Lubāns with several locks.

## 3. The cradle of wise minds (26,8 km)

Explore the works of Latgalian potters and visit Rogovka, where famous Latvian politicians and educators were born. There are landscape gardens and blacksmith workshops on the way.

## 4. Adamova's arc of landscapes (16,5 km)

Enjoy the picturesque surroundings of Lake Adamova and swim in the crystal-clear waters of the lake. The route goes through the countryside and has a strong relief.

## 5. The Small Ludza Lake (~ 6 km)

Ludza is the oldest city in Latvia (founded in 1177), and during the course of the route one can explore its historical wooden houses and the five lakes that surround the city.

## 6. The string of history (~ 25,7 km)

A journey of the cultural history of Latgale: the Springu castle Hill of a peculiar shape, the catholic church in Ozolmuiža, the museum "Kolnasātas" of the eminent cultural worker Francis Trasūns.

## 7. The peak of Latgale (~ 30 km)

A route with landscapes characteristic of Latgale leads to the third highest peak in Latvia – Lielais Liepu kalns (Large Linden Tree Hill). There is also the fabled Mākonkalns (Cloud Hill) and the steep Dzerkaļu Hill on the way.







## 8. The stone legends of Mākoņkalns (~ 16 km)

Here you will meet old stones each telling a cult story. The names of the stones speak for themselves – The back of the goat, the wide stone, the foot of the Devil, the foot of the horse and the Rukmaņu Boulder. It is advisable to book a guide.

## 9. The cycle of Grīva (~ 25 km)

A route for those who love a landscape of contrasts. You will see an abandoned industrial territory of Līvāni and a peatbog where peat is still produced. The road goes through the forest and you can rest on the shore of Lake Lesalnieku.

## 10. Round the lake Rušons (~ 54 km)

The route includes several other lakes of the region and cultural objects – historical castle hills, old manors and churches. There are places for rest on the shores of Lake Rušons.

## 11. The secrets of Lake Ežezers (~ 36 km)

Cycling tourists are invited to enjoy curved roads, cultural and historical monuments as well as heritage from Soviet times. There are also old oak woods on the shores of Lake Ežezers which is rich with islands and the mythical castle Hill of Dagda.

## 12. The extreme cycle (~ 120 km)

A cycling route lasting several days. Rich with points of interest – churches, including the Basilica of Aglona, manors, the oldest watermills in Latvia, castlehills and nature pathways.

## 13. The big family cycle (~ 20 km)

A nice route around Aglona. See the Basilica of Aglona, taste a sip of healing water from the healthy spring of Aglona, admire the great stone of Ruskuji and visit the Cirišu hydropower plant.

## 14. Round the Lake Sivers (~ 63 km)

Your eyes and heart will enjoy the landscape and untouched nature. The route includes the deepest lake in Latvia, Lake Dridzis, the castle hill of Braslava and several typical villages of Latgale.

## 15. The nature park of Dviete holm (~ 50 km)

The region of Dviete can surprise with diverse landscape – starting from widespread floods and finishing with dried out meadows. Spring and autumn is the best time for bird watching.

## 16. Meanders of the River Daugava. (~ 35 km)

One of the most beautiful places in Latvia with a unique landscape of the original valley of the River Daugava. Diverse nature, a large offering of historical objects and lots of positive emotions.

## 17. The pine woods of Krāslava (~ 10 km)

The cycling route leads through a noble pine wood. You can feel the nature with your heart and breathe fresh, clean air. At the halfway point of the route you will find a resting place with a swing.

Photo: Jānis Vidmants

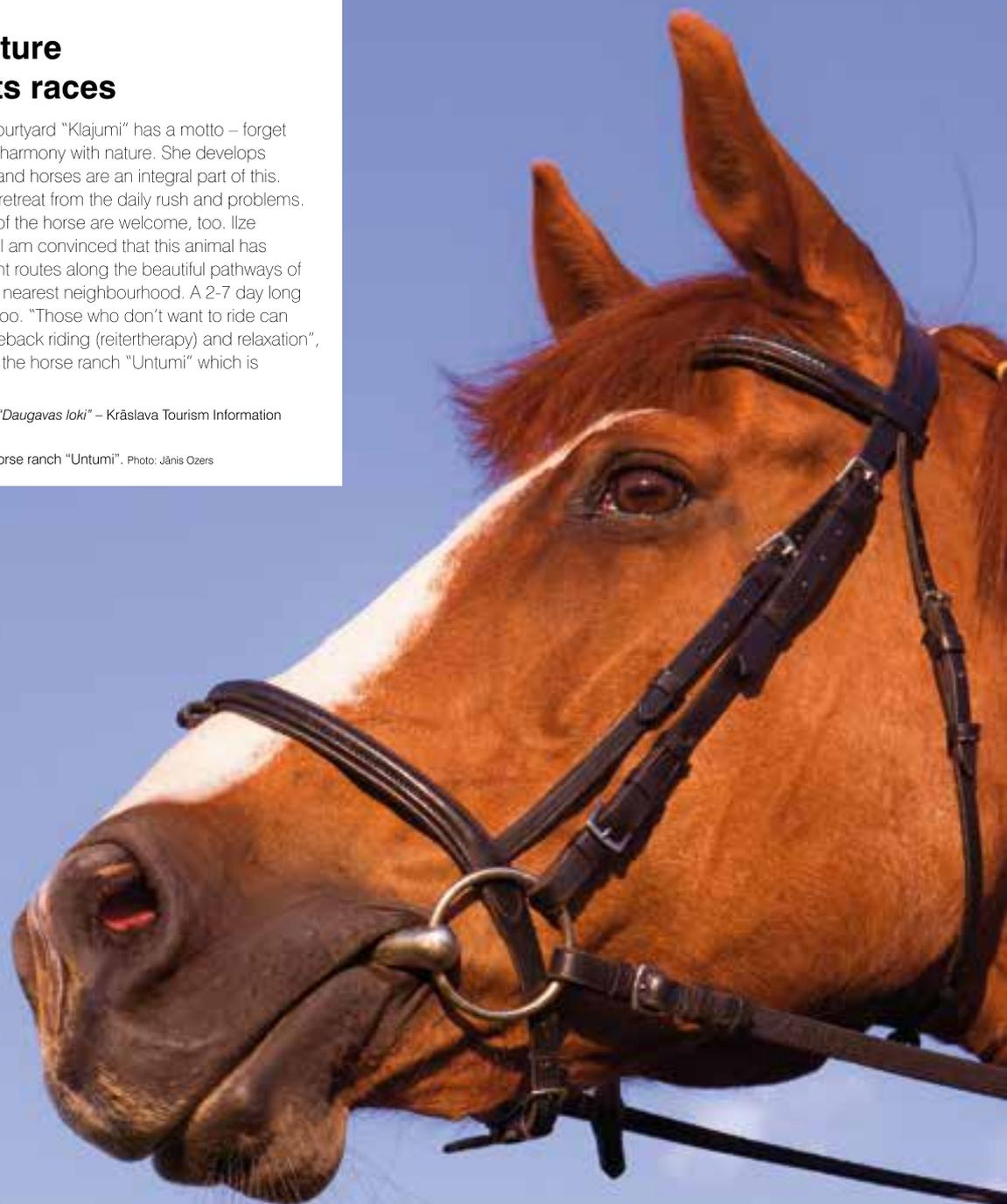


## Riding along the nature pathways and sports races

Ilze Stabulniece, the host of the horse courtyard "Klajumi" has a motto – forget the urbanised city completely and be in harmony with nature. She develops "green" tourism which is nature friendly and horses are an integral part of this. Anyone can come to "Klajumi" to find a retreat from the daily rush and problems. Those who have never sat on the back of the horse are welcome, too. Ilze encourages: "A horse feels people and I am convinced that this animal has a soul." The offer includes seven different routes along the beautiful pathways of the nature park "Daugavas loki" and the nearest neighbourhood. A 2-7 day long ride on the back of the horse is offered too. "Those who don't want to ride can drive in a cart. We offer therapeutic horseback riding (reitertherapy) and relaxation", says the host. Riding is also available at the horse ranch "Untumi" which is situated near Rēzekne.

More information about riding in the nature park "Daugavas loki" – Krāslava Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 65622201**

The large picture – the horse girl Sallija from the horse ranch "Untumi". Photo: Jānis Ozers



"Klajumi"



"Untumi"

## Horse ranch "Klajumi"

The charming hostess of the horse ranch "Klajumi" Ilze Stabulniece invites all lovers of nature to enjoy the landscape of the nature park "Daugavas loki" in the summer or in winter, sitting on horseback or just taking a walk along nature trails and rejoicing in the atmosphere caused by the presence of horses in this wonderful gift of nature.

More information: Krāslava Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65622201**

## Horse ranch "Untumi"

Ligita Harčevska, the hospitable host of the horse ranch "Untumi" awaits everyone who wants to get to know the world where horses contact people. The offer includes – riding, riding on the back of the horse with a saddle or driving in a horse cart as well as training with a professional riding instructor. "We are masters in the riding sport and therefore we can provide a high quality of training. It is possible to get therapeutic horseback riding, too," says Ligita. There is also a special offer in "Untumi". „A possibility to watch storks with special optical equipment. It is a very interesting experience," revels Ligita.

More information: Rēzekne city's, Rēzekne and Viļāni county's Tourism Information Centre. Phone: **+371 64622222**

Photo: Aleksandrs Lebedis

## Farm „Čadi"

Those who are interested in sport riding and competitions of trotters are invited to the farm „Čadi" in the Dagda region. You will be met by Nikolajs Gallejevs who is one of the most experienced professionals in the field of horses and he is an excellent story teller, too. „I have been working with horses since 1968. We organise the competitions of trotters here and therefore a 800m long route has been set up for this purpose which is certified. There is no riding for fun, it is only for those who are professionals. However, everybody can experience the atmosphere of competitions and learn a lot of new things," Nikolajs promises.

More information: Dagda Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65681421**

## Horse ranch "Kapulejas"

Larisa and Andrejs Klitonciki, the hosts of the horse ranch "Kapulejas" breed horses, are specialised in horse carts and organise competitions in horse cart racing. "You can go for a ride with a horse cart – a noble coach or sporting carriage, and during the winter we offer sledges. Children will enjoy riding on ponies, the adults love it, too," Larisa says with a smile. But Andrejs suggests visiting the horse cart racing which takes place in "Kapulejas". The Latgale championship and the Latvian Riding Federation Cup in horse cart racing becomes more and more popular.

More information: Balvi Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 64522597**



"Čadi"



"Kapulejas"



## The zoo

This is not a traditional zoo, where visitors come to see animals. The minizoo in Daugavpils founded by Mihail Pupiņš, a doctor of biology and psychology, is created according to other concepts. "We wanted people to feel a connection to nature. We do not have any fences, we use more glass and have minimised the amount of barriers, so that the animals would not feel imprisoned. Some animals can be touched. Another peculiarity – the exhibition reminds one of a jungle environment, and some animals cannot be immediately observed; one has to find them. Some manage to see them, some do not," says Mihails.

There are around 300 animals in total living here, representing around 85 species, not including such small creatures like insects, crustacean, fish and others. None of the animals have been caught in the wild or have come into captivity against their will. There are birds, small tropical inhabitants – monkeys, degu, chameleons and other creatures, and also various insects. A crocodile lounges in a big aquarium, accompanied by lizards, frogs and snakes. "Families can visit us any time, but we would encourage larger groups to book beforehand. When booking a visit, please tell us something about your occupation and interests, so that we can prepare a tour more to your liking," says Mihails.





Mihails is known in Latvia for recovering an endangered swamp turtle species. The first time he held a swamp turtle was in 1985. After a detailed study of the species and carrying out reproduction for about 30 years, finally in September 2014, the first swamp turtles will be released into the wild. Mihails and his colleagues are active in an international programme for the protection of rare reptiles and amphibians in Latvia "LIFE - HerpetoLatvia". The aim of the project – support the conservation of swamp turtles, copperheads and fire-bellied toad species in Latvia.

1. The plump and cosy cane toad (*Bufo marinus*) is basking in the artificial sunlight.
2. "I wonder what is happening up there today," thinks the Chinese softshell turtle (*Pelodiscus sinensis*) to himself.
3. What a mysterious lad – leopard gecko (*Eublepharis macularius*) – looking from beneath the leaves.
4. The red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) will soon be able to try natural waters.
5. Nice to meet you, I'm a fire-bellied toad (*Bombina bombina*) (*LIFE-HerpetoLatvia animal*).
6. The Madagascar day gecko (*Phelsuma madagascariensis*) skilfully camouflages himself to blend into the surroundings.
7. "Many people at last overcome their fear of snakes here," says Mihails. In the picture: diamond python (*Morelia spilota*).
8. The slightly sleepy caiman crocodile (*Caiman crocodiles*) is watching his neighbourhood.

More information: Daugavpils county's Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65422818**  
Photo: Jānis Ozers



## Dolls, pellets, paintball and the trophies of the war

The region of Latgale is full of contrasts. Besides the picturesque landscape, beautiful churches and diverse world of craftsmen you can find some unique touches, too. They surprise anyone with their uniqueness, rich imagination and aura of mysteriousness. Can any lady resist the temptation of wearing ancient dresses of princesses and allowing some photos be taken together with her friends? This is offered at the Museum of Dolls in Preiļi. While men can be tempted by an exposition of guns and arms collected by the enthusiasts of Latgale who keep the historical heritage in their hearts. The soil of Latgale hides a lot of trophies of the war, each with a story or legend. Here you can still find original evidence from both world wars. A soldier cannot fight without ammunition and earlier the Soviet army was supplied by the Daugavpils Ammunition Factory which is still active. The tower where the pellets are made was built from red bricks in 1911 and it is situated at the highest place of Daugavpils. You can enjoy a breathtaking view of the city from there. When back on the ground again you can try shooting at the rifle range. You should inform the host of this desire before you arrive.

Background picture – the decorations made by the artist Jelena Mihailova in the courtyard of her museum.

Photo: Jānis Ozers



The museum of dolls



Pellets Factory



## The museum of dolls

"Dolls are my hobby and I make them from my heart", reveals Jelena Mihailova, the founder of the museum of dolls. Anyone is welcome to the fairy tale where you can feel like a prince or princess in a miniature kingdom. There are around 450 ancient and splendid costumes for adults and children as well as a gallery of dolls made by Jelena.

More information: Preiļi Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65322041**

## The Daugavpils Ammunition Factory (Pellets Factory)

Climbing up the 37 metre high tower of the Ammunition factory is a thrilling adventure. Nowadays it is very rare when the molten lead is poured down from the top of the tower to make the pellets. The factory has nurtured its technologies since the XIX century and most probably it is the only place in the world where these technologies are still used. The inside of the tower is dark, narrow stairs lead up, and looking down can make your head dizzy. The guides of the museum invite you to visit the room-large equipment of the selection and sorting of pellets which is still active and to get to know the museum exposition. Of course, there is a possibility to try shooting in the rifle range at the factory.

More information: Daugavpils county's Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65422818**

## Paintball in Cibla

The childhood dream of Aldis Tihovskis was connected with weapons and shooting. Nowadays it is very rare when the molten lead is poured down from the top of the tower to make the pellets. The factory has nurtured its technologies since the XIX century and most probably it is the only place in the world where these technologies are still used. The inside of the tower is dark, narrow stairs lead up, and looking down can make your head dizzy. The guides of the museum invite you to visit the room-large equipment of the selection and sorting of pellets which is still active and to get to know the museum exposition. Of course, there is a possibility to try shooting in the rifle range at the factory.

More information: Cibla district tourism organisator.  
Phone: **+371 28317569**

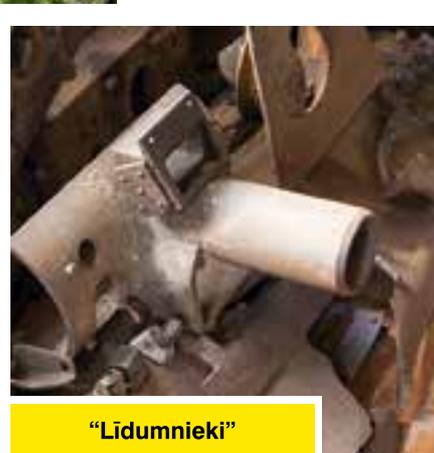
## "Lidumnieki"

The former town hall building of Lidumnieki parish has been converted into a small museum containing relics from World War II. All the exhibits are from the nearest neighbourhood because the war did not spare Latgale and there is lots of war time evidence. The museum is formed by the history enthusiasts and brothers Imants and Ivars Novožilovi and their friends Guntars Sidarāns and Aldis Gusāns. The museum offers the remains of war techniques, bullet pierced helmets, uniforms of different armies with insignias, wartime photos, household objects from the front and different guns. There is a possibility to feel a real wartime atmosphere.

More information: Ludza Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65707203**



Paintball in Cibla



"Lidumnieki"



## Weapons and armoured vehicles of the Second World War

Aglona, not far away from the basilica, offers a contrast to the spiritual world – one of the most interesting exhibitions of World War II in Latvia – a private war museum “WW2”. Valdis Turnovs, the founder of the museum says: “Unlike other museums here you can touch everything and take it into your hands.” The exposition is wide – you can find almost all the real weapons used in the Eastern front of World War II.

In the proximity of Daugavpils you can find the picturesque and renovated manor of Svente. Its territory contains a special hall – the museum of military technics where big armoured vehicles from the war and after-war times are situated side by side. There are tanks, self-propelled howitzers, cannons, SUVs and APCs. This is a real treasury for real men of all ages. But, the manor of Svente has been converted into a four star hotel and offers cosy accommodation.

Background image – Overview of armoured vehicles and artillery exhibition in manor of Svente  
Foto: Butlerjers



“WW2” exhibition



“Kaulu zāģis” (Bone saw)





## “WW2” exhibition

In the war museum one can look at the German and USSR armies' weapons, ammunition, grenades, soldiers' uniforms, documents, photos and soldiers' household items. Valdis Tumovs found most of these in Latvia, Poland and Germany.

## “Kaulu zāģis” (Bone saw)

In the museum “WW2” one can see the MG-42 machine gun known as the bone saw. It is said to be one of the most effective machine guns of the Second World War.

More information: Aglona Business Support Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65322100**

## IS-3 Tank

The most commonly used Soviet tanks of the Second World War are exhibited in the museum of military machinery in Svente. The IS-3 (shown in the picture) is interesting because it is the last heavy tank developed during the war; its predecessor was the IS-2, also known as “Joseph Stalin”. In the exhibition you will find the middle weight T-34 tank, as well as the self-propelled howitzer SAU-152, that were the main soviet armoured vehicle weaponry practically throughout the whole war and remained in military service in many countries for decades.

## GAZ-64

Among the military machinery you will also find the originals of the most popular war-time SUVs: “Willis” or “Jeep Willis” and the soviet analogous GAZ-64 or “Ivan-Willis”, that was produced in the Gorky car factory.

## Interior of the Amphibian

Most of the exhibits are in working condition and with a refurbished interior.

## Svente's manor

Svente's manor is housed in the manor house of the former Count Plāters-Zibers. The area can be proud of its well-kept parks and scenic landscapes.

More information: Daugavpils county's Tourism Information Centre.  
Phone: **+371 65422818**



Svente's manor

IS-3 Tank



GAZ-64



Interior of the Amphibian



## Useful information for travellers

**Latgale region** is located in the Eastern part of Latvia on the borders of the Republic of Latvia and the outer boarder of the European Union with the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus. It is the **borderland of Latvia** – an area where the land border in Latvia is never less than 30 kilometres away. Many of the sightseeing objects in this guide are located within the borderland. **Pskov region**, referred to in this guide, is in Russia, where tourist entry is subject to specific rules. Travelling through the borderland of Latvia and the European Union will definitely be an extraordinary adventure! You will be charmed by the unspoilt environment, wonderful nature, sincere people and the possibility to see that which cannot be seen or experienced anywhere else! But there are specific requirements in this area. The border area consists of **borderland** and the **state border zone** and they are marked with signs and indications. **It is forbidden for travellers to be in the state border zone.**

In order to ensure the necessary conditions, a system exists for guarding the territory of the Republic of Latvia as well as the borderland guarding system; for border surveillance of the territory adjoining the external land border according to the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers, a state border zone is determined, not wider than two kilometres, starting from the State border.

By amendments to the "State border law of the Republic of Latvia" (hereinafter referred to as the Law), that came into effect on 21st March 2012, a person **being in the border zone** must possess and present both an **identity document** and a **special permit** upon the request of State Board Guard officials. The only accepted identity documents are passports or identity cards. **Foreigners must present** not only the identity document, but also a visa, identity card or residence permit proving entitlement to residence.

**To enter the borderland** and visit the sightseeing objects within it, travellers from the age of 15 years and above **must have** a special **terminated pass** issued by the State Border Guard Department. A terminated pass is issued

to a person wishing to remain in the borderland for a period not longer than one year.

To obtain the special pass you must apply (the application form can be found here: [www.rs.gov.lv/index.php?id=803&top=0](http://www.rs.gov.lv/index.php?id=803&top=0)) at any State Border Guard Department, where the pass can be issued after an advance application. The pass is issued within three days and it is free of charge.

An official of the State Border Guard Department who is entitled to take a decision regarding the issuance of a special pass **is also entitled to refuse the issuance of a terminated pass** in the following cases:

- a reinforced border control has been introduced in the relevant borderland;
- an emergency situation or exceptional circumstances have been proclaimed in the relevant borderland;
- the person requesting a special pass, by an adjudication which has come into effect, has been found guilty of committing such a criminal offence connected with human trafficking, terrorism, spying, illegal movement of persons across the State border, smuggling, narcotic or psychotropic substances, weapons, radioactive substances, as well as illegal crossing of the State border.

### **State Border Guard Departments for advance terminated pass applications:**

#### **State Border Guard Central Board**

5 Rūdolfa Street, Rīga,  
phone +371 67075604,  
e-mail: [kanceleja@rs.gov.lv](mailto:kanceleja@rs.gov.lv);

#### **State Border Guard Vilakas Board**

19 Garnizona Street, Vīlaka, Balvi district,  
phone +371 64501915;  
e-mail: [vjp\\_od@rs.gov.lv](mailto:vjp_od@rs.gov.lv)

#### **State Border Guard Ludzas Board**

2b Liepājas Street, Ludza,  
phone +371 65703910;  
e-mail: [ludza\\_dh@rs.gov.lv](mailto:ludza_dh@rs.gov.lv)

#### **State Border Guard Daugavpils Board**

105b A. Pumpura Street, Daugavpils,  
phone +371 65403703;  
e-mail: [dap\\_od@rs.gov.lv](mailto:dap_od@rs.gov.lv)

**More information:** [www.rs.gov.lv](http://www.rs.gov.lv)

### **Information for tourists travelling to the Pskov region**

A visa is required to travel to Russia. In this case a travel visa termed not longer than 30 days will be valid. Visas can be applied for at the Russian Visa Centre ([www.ifs-latvia.com](http://www.ifs-latvia.com)) the Consular Office of the Russian Embassy in Latvia.

### **The documents required to apply for a Russian visa are:**

- Visa application form completed in Russian or English on the website <http://visa.kdmid.ru> printed out and personally signed by the applicant;
- Valid passport (original), that has at least two free pages for the visa. The passport must be valid for at least six months after the end of the term of the visa;
- Passport copy (pages with personal data and photo) – 1 piece;
- Colour photo (on a light background) precisely 3.5x4.5 cm – 1 piece;
- International insurance policy valid in the Russian Federation and fully covering the visa validity period;
- Foreign tourist stay approval by a Russian tourism company registered in the Consular Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation;
- Voucher by a Russian tourism company or original tourism voucher by a Latvian tourism company.

Consular tax for tourist visa issue within 10 days costs **47 USD**. Consular tax for tourist visa issue within 3 days costs **94 USD**.

### **More information:**

#### **Russian Embassy in Latvia Consular Office**

57 Dzīrnavu Street, Rīga,  
phone: +371 67212579

#### **Russian Visa Centre**

83 Brīvības Street, Rīga,  
phone: +371 67370150; +371 67370160

#### **Russian Visa Centre in Daugavpils**

69 Rīgas Street, Daugavpils,  
phone: +371 65457320,  
e-mail: [info@ifs-latvia.com](mailto:info@ifs-latvia.com)

#### **Russian Visa Centre in Liepāja**

18 Kuršu Street, Liepāja,  
phone: +371 63428880,  
e-mail: [info@ifs-latvia.com](mailto:info@ifs-latvia.com)

# Tourism Information Centres in the Latgale Region (Latvia)

## Aglona District Business Support Centre (BSC)

34 Somersetas Street, Aglona, LV-5304  
GPS: 56.0752, 27.0025  
Phone: +371 65322100, +371 29118597  
[turisms@aglona.lv](mailto:turisms@aglona.lv)  
[www.aglona.travel](http://www.aglona.travel)

## Baltinava District Tourism Organiser

16 Kārsavas Street, Baltinava, Baltinava district  
GPS: 56.9426460, 27.6433556  
Phone: +371 29364993, +371 64507268  
[turisms.baltinava@gmail.com](mailto:turisms.baltinava@gmail.com), [www.baltinava.lv](http://www.baltinava.lv)

## Balvi Tourism Information Centre (TIC)

46 Brīvības Street, Balvi, LV-4501  
GPS: 57.130859, 27.257162  
Phone: +371 64522597, +371 29272948  
[turisms@balvi.lv](mailto:turisms@balvi.lv)  
[www.visit.balvi.lv](http://www.visit.balvi.lv), [www.balvi.lv](http://www.balvi.lv)

## Cibla District Tourism Organiser

Lidumnieki, Lidumnieki rural municipality, Cibla district  
Phone: +371 28317569  
[eriks.pavlovs@inbox.lv](mailto:eriks.pavlovs@inbox.lv)  
[www.ciblasnovads.lv](http://www.ciblasnovads.lv)

## Dagda Tourism Information Centre (TIC)

8 Daugavpils Street, Dagda, LV-5674  
GPS: 65.0955429, 27.5398364  
Phone: +371 65681420, +371 26244209, Fax +371 65681421  
[dagdas.fenikss@inbox.lv](mailto:dagdas.fenikss@inbox.lv)  
[www.visitdagda.com](http://www.visitdagda.com)

## Daugavpils Tourism Information Centre (TIC)

22a Rīgas Street (entrance from Ģimnāzijas street),  
Daugavpils, LV-5401  
GPS: 55 52.258, 26 31.031  
Phone: +371 65422818, skype: visitdaugavpils.lv  
[info@visitdaugavpils.lv](mailto:info@visitdaugavpils.lv)  
[www.visitdaugavpils.lv](http://www.visitdaugavpils.lv)  
[facebook.com/Daugavpils.novada.TIC](https://facebook.com/Daugavpils.novada.TIC)  
[twitter.com/daugavpilstic](https://twitter.com/daugavpilstic), [www.draugiem.lv/daugavpilstic](http://www.draugiem.lv/daugavpilstic)

## Daugavpils Fortress Culture and Information Centre

5 Nikolaja Street, Daugavpils fortress, (Daugavpils cietoksnis)  
Daugavpils, LV-5401  
Phone: +371 65424043  
[artjoms.mahlins@daugavpils.lv](mailto:artjoms.mahlins@daugavpils.lv)  
[www.daugavpils.lv](http://www.daugavpils.lv)  
[twitter.com/daugavpils\\_fort](https://twitter.com/daugavpils_fort)

## Kārsava Tourism Information Point (TIP)

53 Vienības Street, Kārsava,  
Kārsavas novads, LV-5717  
GPS: 56.786985, 27.675123  
Phone: +371 29327265  
[turisms@karsava.lv](mailto:turisms@karsava.lv)  
[www.karsava.lv](http://www.karsava.lv)

## Krāslava Tourism Information Centre (TIC)

13 Brīvības Street, Krāslava, LV-5601  
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Phone: +371 65622201, +371 26395176  
Fax: +371 65622266  
[tic@kraslava.lv](mailto:tic@kraslava.lv)  
[www.visitkraslava.com](http://www.visitkraslava.com)



## Līvāni Tourism Information Centre (TIC)

1b Domes Street, Līvāni, LV-5316  
GPS: 56.3551772, 26.1630076  
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[www.livani.lv](http://www.livani.lv)



## Ludza Tourism Information Centre (TIC)

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[www.ludza.lv](http://www.ludza.lv), <http://turisms.ludza.lv>  
[facebook.com/LudzasTIC](https://facebook.com/LudzasTIC)  
[twitter.com/Ludzas\\_TIC](https://twitter.com/Ludzas_TIC)  
[www.draugiem.lv/ludzas-tic/](http://www.draugiem.lv/ludzas-tic/)



## Preiļi Tourism Information Centre (TIC)

4 Kārsavas Street, Preiļi, LV-5301  
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Phone: +371 65322041, +371 29100689,  
+371 29116431  
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## Rēzekne and Viļāni District Tourism Information Centre (TIC)

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[www.rezekne.lv](http://www.rezekne.lv), [www.rezeknesnovads.lv](http://www.rezeknesnovads.lv)



## Rugāji District Tourism Information Centre (TIC)

36 Kurzemes Street, Rugāji, LV-4570  
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Phone: +371 64546674, + 371 26355954  
[www.rugaji.lv](http://www.rugaji.lv)



## Viļaka District Tourism Information Centre (TIC)

13 Balvu Street, Viļaka, LV-4583  
Phone: + 371 29213878  
[turisms@vilaka.lv](mailto:turisms@vilaka.lv)  
[www.vilaka.lv](http://www.vilaka.lv)



## Zilupe District Tourism Organiser

13 Raiņa Street, Zilupe, LV-5751  
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[www.zilupe.lv](http://www.zilupe.lv), [www.pierobeza.lv](http://www.pierobeza.lv)



## Pskov and Pskov Oblast Tourism Information Centre (Russia)

### Pskov Tourism Information Centre

3 Lenin Square, 180000, Pskov  
Phone: +7 953 2425700  
[infopunktpskov@yandex.ru](mailto:infopunktpskov@yandex.ru)  
<http://tourism.pskov.ru/>



# LATGALE unites



## Project "TOUR DE LATGALE & PSKOV", acronym TOUR, No. ELRI-129

Latgale Planning Region  
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This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the Estonia – Latvia – Russia Cross-Border Cooperation Programme within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument 2007-2013. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Latgale Planning Region and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the Programme, Programme participating countries, alongside the European Union.

The Estonia – Latvia – Russia Cross-Border Cooperation Programme within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument 2007-2013, financially supports joint cross border development activities for the improvement of the region's competitiveness by utilising its potential and beneficial location at the crossroads between the EU and the Russian Federation.

The Programme's web-site is [www.estlatrus.eu](http://www.estlatrus.eu)

Total budget of the Project "TOUR DE LATGALE & PSKOV": 1 681 081.20 EUR of which 90% or 1 513 633.68 EUR (1 063 787.80 LVL) is funded by the Estonia – Latvia – Russia Cross-Border Cooperation Programme within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument 2007-2013 and 10% by partners' co-funding.

