



# LATVIA'S TOP EVENTS 2016

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☐ annual event

#### Disclaimer

Information prepared in December 2015. Riga Tourism Development Bureau and Latvian Tourism Development Agency are not responsible for any changes made by the event organisers. You can receive more information on the events at Tourism Information Centres in Riga and other Latvian cities or on the websites of events listed.

#### BALTOUR International Travel Trade Fair

05.02.-07.02. ☐ Riga

The largest travel trade fair in the Baltics annually opens the new tourist season. The fair includes the broadest range of the new season's tourism products for travellers, and traditionally gathers the top professionals in their field. Visitors can become involved and get to know the latest tourism options in Latvia, the Baltics, and around the world.

[www.balttour.lv](http://www.balttour.lv)

#### Rally Liepāja European Rally Championship Round

05.02.-07.02. ☐ Liepāja, Kuldīga

Both local and foreign drivers will show off their high speed driving skills on the snowy and icy roads of Liepāja and Kuldīga districts. Competitors will have to cover a distance of 220 km over three days. At the rally, feel a warm and welcoming atmosphere everywhere you go - whether having a nice cup of tea in a cozy café in the heart of Liepāja or when watching the rally in a snowy forest near a bonfire in the headlights of the fast rally cars.

[www.lvrally.lv](http://www.lvrally.lv)

#### International Ice Sculpture Festival

05.02.-07.02. ☐ Jelgava

Visit the park which has the largest exhibition of ice sculptures in the Baltics, and where musical shows, demonstrations of sculpture creation, and various activities for children will be organised. With the fall of night, visitors will be treated to synchronised ice sculpture, music and light performances.

[www.festivali.jelgava.lv](http://www.festivali.jelgava.lv)

#### Vienna Classics Festival

12.02.-27.02. Riga

The biannual festival is dedicated to the music of the greatest Viennese composers - Beethoven, Haydn and Mozart. Classical music from Vienna is one of the most precious gems of European culture. To this very day, the work of these renowned composers never fails to excite new listeners. During the festival, concerts and performances are held in Riga, as well as other towns and cities throughout Latvia.

[www.vinesklasika.lv](http://www.vinesklasika.lv)

### Smelt Festival in Liepāja

13.02. ☐ Liepāja

During the harsh months of winter, anglers can be found sitting on the frozen canal next to ice-holes and spooning smelts. This is a years-old tradition in Liepāja, therefore a smelt-catching competition is a natural result. It will also be possible to taste the smelts smelling like cucumbers (!), take part in interesting winter activities and enjoy the scheduled entertainment.

[www.liepaja.lv](http://www.liepaja.lv)

### WINDSTREAM Spring Festival

20.03.-12.04. ☐ Rīga

The RIGA Orchestra is organising the WINDSTREAM Spring Festival with the motto: "Wake up and remember, hear and enjoy!"

[www.music.lv/riga](http://www.music.lv/riga)

### Riga Jazz Stage

07.04.-09.04. ☐ Rīga

The festival gives a chance for young jazz artists to perform on international stage together with musicians from other countries. Each year along with the category "Jazz Vocal", a different music instrument category is selected.

[www.rigajazz.lv](http://www.rigajazz.lv)

### Daugavpils International Folklore Festival

22.04.-24.04. ☐ Daugavpils

The goal of the festival is to promote traditional Latvian and foreign culture, develop and enhance the traditions of folk groups and ethnographic ensembles.

[www.daugavpils.lv](http://www.daugavpils.lv)

### Latgale Pottery Days

29.04.-30.04. ☐ Rēzekne

The open house at the Latgale potters' workshops features demonstrations by and meetings with craftsmen, plus stoking and opening of kilns, the chance of buying pottery fresh from the kiln, an exhibition, and lectures on the theory of applied arts.

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

### Forest Night Festival

30.04. ☐ Tērvete Nature Park

The event is dedicated to spring awakening, for those yearning for special feelings on illuminated paths of the forest where you will come across fairy-tale creatures, experience striking illumination and fire shows, with Tervete Nature Park's pines as background.

[www.mammadaba.lv](http://www.mammadaba.lv)

### Lido zivis Festival

30.04. ☐ Kuldīga

The highly entertaining spring thaw festival, Lido zivis, which takes place in Kuldīga.

[www.kuldiga.lv](http://www.kuldiga.lv)

### Speed festival - "Kurzeme" Rally

06.05.-07.05. ☐ Liepāja

The main event of summertime's motorsport is a delight not only for its participants, but also for fans of rally technical events.

[www.rallykurzeme.lv](http://www.rallykurzeme.lv)

### The Strongman Race

07.05. ☐ Ķegums

The Strongman Race in the Baltics is a unique extreme endurance run, in where everybody can, by overcoming several dozen obstacles, learn how to overcome oneself, test the limits of abilities, physical shape, and understand that participation is excellent self-motivation.

[www.stiproskrejens.lv](http://www.stiproskrejens.lv), [www.thestrongrace.com](http://www.thestrongrace.com)

### Liepāja Tweed Ride

07.05. ☐ Liepāja

Bicycle fans dressed in the traditional tweed outfits of the 1930s gather together to ride in the streets of Liepāja. Programme includes concerts, dances, old-style designed photo studio and other activities.

[www.liepaja.travel](http://www.liepaja.travel)

**Lattelecom Marathon**

15.05. ☐ Riga

If you have never been to Riga, then participation in a marathon or half-marathon is a good reason to visit one of the most beautiful cities on the Baltic Sea coast. Since 2007, the Riga Marathon is officially in line with the AIMS standard, guaranteeing the race international recognition.

[www.lattelecomrigasmaratons.lv](http://www.lattelecomrigasmaratons.lv)

**Riga Restaurant Week**

16.05.-22.05. Riga

During this special week, Riga's restaurants open their doors to all gourmands and other food fans willing to treat themselves to an array of delicious flavors at an affordable price of 15-20 euros for a three-course meal. For the entire week, all the city's residents and guests have the chance to savor a select array of the best foods prepared by experienced and innovative chefs who give each meal a modern and sophisticated twist.

[www.liveriga.com](http://www.liveriga.com)

**Museum Night**

21.05. ☐ Latvia

Museums, theatres, concert halls, libraries, universities, churches and other venues in Latvia open all night, or until the wee hours, in this annual Europe-wide happening.

[www.muzeju-nakts.lv](http://www.muzeju-nakts.lv), [www.muzeji.lv](http://www.muzeji.lv)

**International street culture festival & competition "Urbanstyle"**

21.05. Latvia

The festival will blend street culture, extreme sports, street athletics and streetball, dance, RAP music and graffiti art.

[www.daugavpils.lv](http://www.daugavpils.lv)

**Liiv Village Celebration**

21.05.-22.05. ☐ Liepāja

One of the largest traditional culture events in Latvia combining folk and ethno music with traditional culture, arts&crafts, as well as food sampling. This huge trade show also highlights craftsmanship. A broad programme of folk dance and music, painting, modelling and others, showing Latvian heritage and history through old and contemporary ways of expression.

[www.liepajaskc.lv](http://www.liepajaskc.lv)

**Jelgava City Festival**

27.05.-29.05. ☐ Jelgava

The biggest festival of the year in Jelgava with a wide range of activities, including performances, shows, exhibitions, concerts and parades.

[www.jelgava.lv](http://www.jelgava.lv)

**Cycling Festival**

28.05. ☐ Kuldīga

The largest non-commercial event in Latvia will commence in Kuldīga for the eighth time. Various routes at several distances are available. The traditional late-night ride will also be held.

[www.velokuldiga.lv](http://www.velokuldiga.lv)

**Classical music concert at Dobele Lilac Garden**

28.05. ☐ Dobele

Music performed by the best Latvian musicians and soloists from the Opera House together with the scent of blooming lilacs is truly an unforgettable event. Dobele Garden is one of the largest lilac gardens in Europe.

[www.lvai.lv](http://www.lvai.lv)

**Viking Festival "Seeburg 2016"**

28.05. ☐ Grobiņa

The sole festival dedicated to the Viking cultural heritage in Latvia. Here the ancient Viking settlement on Skabardis Hill is revived - have a look at and try out weapons and armament from back in days, watch ancient battle re-enactments, get to know the traditions and lifestyle.

[www.grobinasturisms.lv](http://www.grobinasturisms.lv)

**Riga Festival**

30.05.-20.06. ☐ Riga

The Festival offers various theatre plays, art exhibitions, multimedia and open-air events, as well as activities for children. Usually also the street cafes and restaurants of Old Riga do their share in organisation of Festival events.

[www.rigasfestivals.lv](http://www.rigasfestivals.lv)

### Daugavpils City Festival

30.05.-05.06. ☐ Daugavpils

During the festival, the city's birthday is marked with an extensive programme of festivities. For one whole week, in various locations around the city, cultural, sporty, and rec/relax are held, and special care has been given to the younger set. Several thousand people from Latvia and abroad usually make this scene in the SE Latvia city.

[www.kultura.daugavpils.lv](http://www.kultura.daugavpils.lv)

### Riga Opera Festival

01.06.-11.06. ☐ Riga

Founded in 1998 as the first festival of its size and scale in Eastern Europe, it has already become a treasured tradition. The festival is highly anticipated by both Latvian audiences and opera-lovers from abroad, which form the majority of all Riga Opera Festival fans.

[www.opera.lv](http://www.opera.lv)

### Acoustic music festival: Silver Gull

03.06.-05.06 ☐ Salacgriva region

At the core of the festival lies the inheritance and popularization of acoustic music traditions, returning to the basics. It is the first and, up to now, the only festival in Latvia and the Baltics which assembles bands of different genres - from folklore ensembles to jazz and alternative rock bands - that have the skill and talent and the desire to play acoustically. A band competition, series of concerts and related events - all during the festival.

[www.sudrabakaija.lv](http://www.sudrabakaija.lv)

### Slitere Travellers Days

04.06.-05.06. ☐ Slitere National Park

You are welcome to experience a number of activities including popular nature and cultural history tours on foot, on bicycle or boat. Special attention is paid to local Livonian cookery heritage and cooking skills as well.

[www.visit.dundaga.lv](http://www.visit.dundaga.lv)

### Festival of World Music at Tigulji Hill in Talsi

04.06. ☐ Talsi

National and foreign folk music will come together in united sound and ambience at this concert on the highest hill in Talsi.

[www.arpasaule.lv](http://www.arpasaule.lv), [www.talsi.lv](http://www.talsi.lv)

### The Festival of Twin Cities Valka and Valga

08.06.-12.06. ☐ Valka - Valga

The vast programme includes a Livonian fair, gala ball and also the traditional boat rally in the River Pedele.

[www.visit.valka.lv](http://www.visit.valka.lv)

### Summer Signs International Sand Sculpture Festival

11.06.-12.06. ☐ Jelgava

The oldest and largest sand sculpture festival in the Baltics. More than twenty recognised sculptors from all over the world will be creating from 14,000 tonnes of sand. Live music is a key part of the festival, as are sand workshops for children. Be on hand and catch the process of sculpting. When darkness falls, the sculptures will appear in a different light, in a shadow play of sorts.

[www.festivali.jelgava.lv](http://www.festivali.jelgava.lv)

### Lilium Vindaviensis Knights Tournament

11.06.-12.06. ☐ Ventspils

For two days in June, the Livonian Order castle yard will gather together romantics who favour the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, re-enactment groups - who will be battling each other, winning and celebrating. Everything will be for real!

[www.kulturascentrs.ventspils.lv](http://www.kulturascentrs.ventspils.lv), [www.visitventspils.com](http://www.visitventspils.com), [muzejs.ventspils.lv](http://muzejs.ventspils.lv)

### Big Latgale Market

18.06. ☐ Ludza

Craftsmen, farmers and singers from Latgale and elsewhere will gather at the Ludza Castle Mound to hail the Big Latgale Market and the Summer Solstice. Visitors will be able to enjoy demonstrations of olden day crafts, learn secrets from master craftsmen and buy their products for use or enjoyment, participate in ancient Latgalian battles and games, and sing or dance together with Latgalian folk ensembles. When the sun sets, we will join together to celebrate Summer Solstice, sing homages to and about the sun, and celebrate Midsummer festival Liigo! as our forefathers/mothers did.

[www.ludza.lv](http://www.ludza.lv), [www.ludzasamatnieki.lv](http://www.ludzasamatnieki.lv)

### Summer Solstice celebration at open-air museum Vitolnieki

21.06. ☐ Pape, Rucava region

Summer Solstice celebration according to ancient traditions - warm up songs, traditional food, the sun setting into the sea, songs about the sun, dancing around the bonfire and feasting till the next sunrise.

[www.liepaja.travel](http://www.liepaja.travel)

### Liigo! market on Old Town Riga's Dome Square

22.06. ☐ Riga

Celebration of the Latvian pagan holiday, the year's shortest night, is the "most Latvian" of all traditions, and its key features are beer, caraway cheese, dances and Liigo! songs by the bonfire until dawn. Before you head out for the country, visit the special Midsummer Fair annually held on Dome Square to properly prepare. Impressive flower bunches and garlands, delicious smoked meat and fish, home made cheese from all Latvian regions - all that along with cheerful singing, and shopping all day long at the Fair!

[www.kultura.riga.lv](http://www.kultura.riga.lv), [www.avesol.riga.lv](http://www.avesol.riga.lv)

### Midsummer Liigo! festivities at 11.novembra krastmala and at Dzegužkalns

23.06. ☐ Riga

In Riga, riverside, at the 11 Novembra krastmala (11 November Embankment), is where the city-sponsored Ligosim Krastmalā! event offers everyone [opting not to go countryside] the chance to enjoy a programme that is replete with folk singers, dancers, Latvian actors, artists, bands and DJs. The entertainment goes on into the wee hours and visitors can enjoy special foods and bonfires in the heart of the city. Riga-Pardaugava's Dzegužkalns Park is another setting for the traditional all-night celebration. All Rigans and visitors to the city are invited to learn how to make your own oak-leaf or flower crown, and take part in the bonfire lighting ritual. Free of charge.

[www.kultura.riga.lv](http://www.kultura.riga.lv)

### Rīgas Ritmi Festival

29.06.-2.07. ☐ Riga

One of the most popular music festivals in Latvia that attracts a multitude of internationally-recognised artists. Gigs at various venues in Riga, and also a chance to hear up-and-coming young stars.

[www.rigasritmi.lv](http://www.rigasritmi.lv)

### Saulkrasti Festival

01.07.-03.07. ☐ Saulkrasti

The festival at the quaint seaside town will start on Friday with a sunset concert on the White Dune. Saturday morning, it's wake-up activities and a lively festival market. During the day, Sun Square will welcome you with various entertaining activities and a concert for children. The applied arts and paintings exhibition will be open and sporting events are scheduled. In the evening, visitors welcome to participate in the parade which will proceed to the Saulkrasti outdoor stage where the Gala Concert will be held.

[www.visitsaulkrasti.lv](http://www.visitsaulkrasti.lv)

### Garden Festival

02.07. ☐ Rundale Palace

Held when the rose bloom reaches its peak; thousands in attendance, including foreigners. and gathers together thousands of interested visitors not only from Latvia but also from other countries. Every year the festival's theme has something to do with fruit trees and bushes, flowering bulbs, roses, and historic partners. This year is devoted to the tenth anniversary of the rose garden. It has already been a decade since it was first laid out and planted.

[www.rundale.net](http://www.rundale.net)

### Cēsis Art Festival

08.07.-28.07. ☐ Cēsis

Its organisers strive (and rarely fail) to offer a music, cinematic, theatrical, and visual art events programme that promotes an understanding of the processes behind contemporary culture worldwide. The festival is unique, thanks to its experimental daring and resolve to present creative expression by top notch, recognised artists. A celebration of the arts throughout the whole month, which reaches its culmination in the open-air opera performances in Pils Parks (Castle Park). Thanks to its reputation and fame, the festival is also attended by devotees from many foreign countries.

[www.cesufestivals.lv](http://www.cesufestivals.lv)

### Sea Festival in Roja

09.07. ☐ Roja

The capital of sea festivals - Roja, invites you to a great time and the biggest beach party on the northern Kurzeme coast. Ships, mermaids, traditional visit by the Sea King, exciting fishermen games, rather serious sports and games to be taken seriously, a children's beach, wide range of entertainment, fish soup, and a market - all as it should be when celebrating any event. The festival's concerts take place on the beach, and fireworks will light the evening sky over the sea.

[www.jurassvetki.lv](http://www.jurassvetki.lv)

### Sea Festival in Liepāja

09.07. ☐ Liepāja

The Sea Festival's start signal will be the horns of ships, ahead of the commemorative moment for fishermen and sailors who have perished in the deep. The festive mood will be brought in by a wide variety of entertainment events, sports contests. The welcoming ceremony of Neptune is an integral part of the Sea Festival. There will also be an arts&crafts fair.

[www.liepajaskultura.lv](http://www.liepajaskultura.lv)

### Sea Festival in Ventspils

09.07.-10.07. ☐ Ventspils

In Ventspils, the Sea Festival is taken seriously, which is just as it should be for a city by the sea. This is a time where family, friends and colleagues who are sailing across other seas are remembered. Various events in the Sea Festival will take place on the Osta Street promenade, the Livonian Order castle yard, on the square by the Pārventa Library, and will conclude with a concert and a dance party in Reņķa Garden.

[www.ventspils.lv](http://www.ventspils.lv), [www.kulturascentrs.ventspils.lv](http://www.kulturascentrs.ventspils.lv),  
[www.visitventspils.com](http://www.visitventspils.com), [muzejs.ventspils.lv](http://muzejs.ventspils.lv)

### International Bach Music Festival

10.07. ☐ Jaunmoku Castle

Throughout the day concerts are held at Jaunmoku Castle and the area, the visitors can meet creative professionals, visit art exhibitions and engage in environmentally-friendly activities, but at night, traditional Bach music concerts are held.

[www.jaunmokupils.lv](http://www.jaunmokupils.lv)

### International Early Music Festival

13.07.-16.07. ☐ Riga, Rundale Palace

Stands among the most sophisticated cultural happenings in Latvia; the concerts are held in the Medieval Riga churches and concert halls, as well as Rundale Palace. The festival brings back the masterpieces by Purcell, Vivaldi, Telemann, Gluck, Handel and other Baroque masters. There are gorgeous outfits, authentic instruments, all performed among Baroque architecture and interiors. Thousands usually flock to the closing concert in Rundale Palace Park - in the fragrance of blooming roses.

[www.smf.lv](http://www.smf.lv)

### Dzīres Kuldīgā Festival

14.07.-17.07. ☐ Kuldīga

Held in one of the most beautiful towns in Latvia, this event offers a chance to experience wonderful and architecturally well-preserved sights of Kuldīga. Lasting several days, the bill includes a wide range of shows and performances day and night.

[www.kuldiga.lv](http://www.kuldiga.lv)

### Bauska Country Music festival

15.07.-16.07. ☐ Bauska

This is one of the four regular international festivals of its kind in Europe gathering leading country music artists of Latvia, Europe and sometimes guests from the USA. The festival has become a major leisure event for families. During the festival, attendees can live in a tent town, enjoy the picturesque surroundings of Bauska, as well as visit Bauska Castle and participate in various amusement and recreational activities.

[www.countrybauska.lv](http://www.countrybauska.lv)

### Rose Festival

15.07.-17.07. ☐ Tukums

The event gathers florists from Latvia and abroad to make innovative rose compositions, and everyone can contribute to making the largest garland of roses in the world or take part in "The Rose Wheels" - a crazy race in a self-made non-mechanical vehicle. You will have a chance to savor nature and the allure of the rose world at the rose nursery "Rozītes", which boasts the widest variety of historical, English, Chinese, Japanese and other types of roses, totalling more than 300 varieties.

[www.visttukums.lv](http://www.visttukums.lv)

Positivus Festival
15.07.-17.07. ☐ Salacgrīva
The largest and most important rock music festival in the Baltics offers a long lineup of international stars and high quality music, friendly atmosphere, and a good time for all the entire weekend. The location of the festival - the beautiful coastline at Salacgrīva, provides atmosphere that allows everyone to fully enjoy precious summer moments, greatly appreciated by the participating musicians themselves.
<a href="http://www.positivusfestival.com">www.positivusfestival.com</a>

Kurland Bike Meet
15.07.-17.07. ☐ Ventspils
More than 2,000 bikers from Latvia and abroad gather for the event - an impressive parade of motorcycles through the streets of Ventspils. Bike fans can take photos and attend presentations by the moto teams. The event's evening programme will involve the participation of various artists and takes place on the Seaside Camping grounds, lasting into the small hours of the following day.
<a href="http://www.kulturascentrs.ventspils.lv">www.kulturascentrs.ventspils.lv</a> , <a href="http://www.visitventspils.com">www.visitventspils.com</a> , <a href="http://muzejs.ventspils.lv">muzejs.ventspils.lv</a>

Festival of war history reconstruction clubs
16.07.-17.07. ☐ Daugavpils
Shots will be fired in Daugavpils Fortress, the smell of gunpowder will fill the air. Participants, dressed in historic army uniforms, will imitate old-time events, while audience members will be able to take a picture with the soldiers, ride horses, shop at the crafts fair, enjoy concerts and performances.
<a href="http://www.daugavpils.lv">www.daugavpils.lv</a>

Saulkrasti Jazz Festival
18.07. - 23.07. ☐ Saulkrasti
What a great way to spend midsummer nights outdoors! Enjoy the finest local and world famous jazz music celebrities. Festival's main venue is the Saulkrasti resort Minhauzena Unda, although it offers more than 10 various open-air concerts all over town. Concerts during the day are on the stage in Saulkrasti city center where admission is free. Feel good every summer in July - at Saulkrasti Jazz Festival!
<a href="http://www.saulkrastijazz.lv">www.saulkrastijazz.lv</a>

Sand sculpture festival "Golden Sand Grain"
22.07.-24.07. ☐ Ventspils
Professional artists and amateurs from Latvia and other countries will gather on Ventspils Beach by the Southern Breakwater to surprise Ventspils residents and guests with works of art made of "mere" sand and water.
<a href="http://www.visitventspils.com">www.visitventspils.com</a> , <a href="http://kulturascentrs.ventspils.lv">kulturascentrs.ventspils.lv</a>

Cēsis 810 Anniversary Celebration
22.07.-24.07. ☐ Cēsis
The festival offers an extensive programme of events and activities satisfying various tastes. On Friday, academic and classical music performances are offered by well-known artists. On Saturday, the city is divided into six zones, each with a different theme, with fireworks and a party under the stars - "Fonofests", capping the fun. Sunday is devoted to sports and games.
<a href="http://www.cesis.lv">www.cesis.lv</a>

Cinema and Art Festival RojaL
28.07.-30.07. ☐ Roja
The festival's aim is to have the cinema and art industry spread its wings outside of Riga, gathering new and experienced professionals from the movie-making industry, local and foreign. Movie showings on the beach.
<a href="http://www.rojal.lv">www.rojal.lv</a>

Street theater festival "Earth. Sky. Sea"
29.07.-30.07. Liepāja
Experience circus tricks, meet mimes, watch a flash improvisational performance and enjoy many other street theater activities in the center of Liepāja. Professional Latvian street theater artists and artists from other European cities will take part in the festival.
<a href="http://www.liepajaskultura.lv">www.liepajaskultura.lv</a>



### Classical music festival at Salacgriva

29.07.-07.08. ☞ Salacgriva

Under the guidance of the festival's patron - Russian violin virtuoso Alexey Lundin, annually, a team of the leading musical masters of the world, is created to share their expertise with workshop participants from the music schools of Latvia and Europe. During the festival, high-quality classical music concerts take place in churches, community centres and outdoors in Salacgriva municipality. An absolute must - the GALA Concert of the festival, which takes place at Kuiviži Jacht port and has the artists performing on a floating stage.

[www.klasikasalacgrivafestival.lv](http://www.klasikasalacgrivafestival.lv)

### LMT Summer Sound

29.07.-30.07. ☞ Liepāja

The festival's location on Liepāja's beach has been praised both by the artists and by fans. Every summer for two days this festival gathers together thousands of lovers of good music, diverse arts, and quality entertainment, and - for sure - the air is filled with great sound, fun and laughter. More than fifty bands, DJs and artists perform on the festival's stages, delivering a variety of music styles that will cater to any taste.

[www.summersound.lv](http://www.summersound.lv)

### Medieval Day at Cēsis Castle

30.07.-31.07. ☞ Cēsis

During this day, special emphasis is placed on how life was during the Middle Ages, specifically focusing on knighthood, competitions, field battles, and demonstrations of combat technique. Performances from Medieval music ensembles, markets, food halls, demonstrations of craftsmanship, and other thematic activities.

[www.cesupils.lv](http://www.cesupils.lv)

### Ventspils City Festival

05.08-07.08. ☞ Ventspils

The festivities will include the traditional Baltic Flower Carpet Festival and a parade. Wide variety of live music and sports activities throughout the day on the Osta Street Promenade, at Rātslaukums, on Dzirnavu Square, and a party will be arranged in the Reņķa Garden.

[www.kulturascentrs.ventspils.lv](http://www.kulturascentrs.ventspils.lv), [www.visitventspils.com](http://www.visitventspils.com)

### MilFest

05.08.-07.08. ☞ Valga - Valka

International Valga Military History Festival includes a parade of troops and military equipment, battle shows, an open-air concert, a fair of antiques and crafts, and many exciting adventures.

[www.visit.valka.lv](http://www.visit.valka.lv)

### Aluksne Town Festival

05.08.-07.08. ☞ Alūksne

Enjoy concerts and performances, buy something tasty or items practical or frivolous at the crafts fair, marking the most important festival of Latvia's highest altitude town, together with its residents!

[www.visitaluksne.lv](http://www.visitaluksne.lv)

### Ethnic minority - the Liivs, gather together at Mazirbe

06.08. ☞ Mazirbe

Representatives of related nations from Estonia, Finland, Hungary, etc., come together for the Liiv Festival in Mazirbe. Mazirbe was once the largest Liiv village on the Kurzeme shoreline, important centre for fishing and shipping. Now the Liiv traditions can be observed in the material and mental culture, dialect, personalities in literature and art, the green-white-blue colours of the Liiv flag.

[www.visit.dundaga.lv](http://www.visit.dundaga.lv)

### Melodic Music Festival - "The Train Riga - Valka"

06.08. Valka

At the Festival, you will hear different types of music - Jazz, Pop, Rock and Schlager; each of you will find something to suit your taste! Everyone near and far is invited, as well as the guests, who can get a great opportunity to know Latvian music in its brilliant diversity.

[www.visit.valka.lv](http://www.visit.valka.lv)

### Fontaine Festival

12.08.-13.08. ☞ Liepāja

Domestic and foreign bands - rock, blues, jazz, folk, on five stages. Port city of Liepāja (SW Latvia)

[www.fontaine.lv](http://www.fontaine.lv)

### Ludza Town Festival

12.08.-14.08. ☐ Ludza

The oldest town of Latvia invites for a three day festival of live music in the park from the open-air stage and the Livonian Castle Mound, art and theme exhibitions, sports competitions, shows, street theater, workshops for kids and the Ancient Crafts Day with workshops of Latgale's craftsmen, skills school and culinary heritage.

[www.ludza.lv](http://www.ludza.lv)

### Medieval Festival in Jaunpils

13.08. ☐ Jaunpils Castle

Medieval knights' tournaments, wedding ceremonies, theatre performances, dancing and other entertainment here. The crafts fair and workshops are open for grown-ups and children alike. The guests are entertained by Medieval characters, dungeon masters, court ladies, monks, servant girls, knights, and the rest of the castle clan. The ambience at this festival is more than special because it is organised in a castle seven centuries old.

[www.jaunpilspils.lv](http://www.jaunpilspils.lv)

### Semigallian Festival

13.08.-14.08. ☐ Tērvete

There is an archaeological settlement open at the foot of Tervete Castle hill where history reconstruction clubs and folklore groups from the Baltic States, Scandinavian countries, Belarus, Russia and Poland demonstrate the lifestyle of the 9th-13th centuries. Watch the knights' tournament, horse-riding shows, try out archery and learn ancient skills. An arts&crafts fair will also be open.

[www.lielkenins.lv](http://www.lielkenins.lv)

### International Contemporary and Video Art festival "Waterpieces"

18.08.-21.08. ☐ Riga

Ti is one of the key annual events for moving image and digital arts culture in Latvia, celebrating the intersection of film and music, and bringing a wide spectrum of the best local and international animation, video and installation art to its audience.

[www.noass.lv/udensgabali](http://www.noass.lv/udensgabali)

### Riga City Festival

19.08.-21.08. ☐ Riga

Countless concerts in Riga's concert halls, gardens and parks, games, entertainment and sporting activities for grown-ups and children will take place during the festival. It is also a great opportunity to celebrate Riga and its wonderful architecture, as well as to get to know suburban areas better. Traditionally, the Riga Retro international antique car convention takes place annually. Events are also on at Vērmānes Dārzs, Doma Laukums, 11.Novembra krastmala, the Spiķeri Quarter, and in other locations. For one and all!

[www.rigassvetki.lv](http://www.rigassvetki.lv)

### Lamprey Festival

20.08. ☐ Carnikava

For a whole day visitors can enjoy a wide range of well-known artists as well as going by fisherman boat to the place where Gauja River meets the Baltic Sea. During the day it is also possible to taste grilled lamprey or lamprey soup that is made in the king-size pot, or purchase something memorable in the traditional craftsman's market.

[www.carnikava.lv](http://www.carnikava.lv), [www.tourism.carnikava.lv](http://www.tourism.carnikava.lv)

### General Latvian Milk, Bread and Honey Festival and Milk Carton Boat Regatta

27.08. ☐ Jelgava

150 craftsmen, farmers and entrepreneurs present their products and goods made in Latvia. During the festival take part in or observe cooking, milking cows, and eating competitions, tournaments and workshops for tots. As part of the festival, in Lielupe, the one and only Milk Carton Boat Regatta in Europe. The boats participating in this regatta are made of 40,000 air-filled cartons.

[www.festivali.jelgava.lv](http://www.festivali.jelgava.lv)

### Harvest Festival

03.09. ☐ Vecumnieki region

Each autumn the outdoor museum Auseklis Mill holds a harvest festival where one can view on display various tools and machinery. Take a look and then join in: grinding grain with a hand grinder; threshing corn with horse drawn and steam-powered machines, tilling the soil with ploughs from yesteryear; crafts - basketry, carving wood, metalwork, making brooms, weaving, spinning, knitting, rope making, making roofing shingles, etc.; household chores - churning butter, hand washing clothing, pounding laundry with a bat, making sauerkraut, and more.

[www.ausekludzirnavas.lv](http://www.ausekludzirnavas.lv)

### Narrow Gauge Railway Festival

03.09. ☐ Gulbene - Alūksne

Gulbene-Alūksne "choo-choo" train, Bānītis, is the only one of its kind in the Baltics - a regularly-running narrow gauge rail line. To celebrate anniversary of Bānītis, a festival hosts activities, concerts and performances.

[www.banitis.lv](http://www.banitis.lv), [www.visitgulbene.lv](http://www.visitgulbene.lv)

### Liepāja International Organ Music Festival

09.09.-24.09. ☐ Liepāja

Great performances from great organ players in the stunning St. Trinity Church in Liepāja. The festival serves as "adulation" to the biggest unaltered mechanical organ in the world, which is housed in the church.

[www.liepajaskultura.lv](http://www.liepajaskultura.lv)

### White Night Forum of Contemporary Culture

10.09. ☐ Riga

One night only for art, music, theatre, circus, dance, philosophy, anthropology and cooking, combined here to produce a single message about the time and space in which we live. White Night brings new meaning to public space: places that have been abandoned or which are closed to the public, isolated areas of the city, places that are part of our city's history, now re-discovered by artists in a new and decidedly innovative way.

[www.baltanakts.lv](http://www.baltanakts.lv)

### Bauska Old Town Courtyard Festival

10.09. ☐ Bauska

During the festival, visitors can take a look at more than twenty courtyards in Old Town; there are activities for children and adults, markets, musical performances, and the chance to learn facts about Bauska as the former capital of the duchy of Kurzeme-Zemgale. Through visiting the courtyards and collecting stamps on their events map, visitors can take part into the festival's closing lottery where they have a chance of winning prizes that have been provided by the entrepreneurs who support the festival. In tandem, the Porridge Eating Festival and the Big Murza Garage Sale are also held.

[www.bauskasvecpilseta.lv](http://www.bauskasvecpilseta.lv)

### International music and arts festival "ReStArt"

17.09.-16.10. ☐ Daugavpils

Appearing will be not only local artists, but also Daugavpils' and Latgale's musicians and artists, who are currently pursuing careers abroad.

[www.daugavpils.lv](http://www.daugavpils.lv)

### Autumn Chamber Music Festival

20.09.-18.10. ☐ Riga

The most notable and longest held chamber music festival in Latvia seeks to implement the best Vienna and Salzburg traditions, and the keyword is 'refinement'. The motto of the festival is tête-à-tête - 'a private conversation' in French, emphasizing the uniquely intimate chamber musicianship atmosphere and the very special dialogue that takes place between the audience and musicians. The festival provides stylistically diverse programmes ranging from the classics to jazz, including innovative multimedia projects and unconventional performances.

[www.latvijaskoncerti.lv](http://www.latvijaskoncerti.lv)

### Liepāja Modern Art Night

24.09.-25.09 Liepāja

This citywide event will open places that otherwise cannot be accessed. Abandoned property will be revived and filled with avant-garde art - concerts, performances, shows, projections, exhibitions, movies. Liepāja won't sleep a wink on this night!

[www.liepajaskultura.lv](http://www.liepajaskultura.lv)

### Mikeļdiena Fair in Old Riga

24.09. ☐ Riga

The fair on Doma Square each year showcases home-grown/produced products such as apples, pumpkins, cranberries, herbal teas, honey, bread and bacon. One can also find the best basket for mushroom picking, pottery products, mittens, woollen socks, and many other lovely and practical items from Latvian craftsmen. Throughout the day, singers and dancers will entertain on the large stage.

[www.avesol.riga.lv](http://www.avesol.riga.lv)

### Painter Mark Rothko's birthday in Daugavpils

25.09. ☐ Daugavpils

Daugavpils, the birthplace of modern art groundbreaker Mark Rothko, invites visitors to take part in a full day of art events, performances, and other activities to celebrate his birthday.

[www.rotkocentrs.lv](http://www.rotkocentrs.lv)

### Duke Jacob's fair

01.10. ☐ Kuldīga

Assess works of local craftsmen and taste the homegrown goodies in the garden of the castle. The yard of ancient games will be open. Local chefs will demonstrate their skills in the kitchen.

[www.visit.kuldiga.lv](http://www.visit.kuldiga.lv)

### World RX of Latvia

01.10.-02.10. ☐ Riga

For the first time Latvia will host a round of the FIA World Rallycross Championship. The world's fastest racers including Latvian stars Reinis Nitiss and Janis Baumanis will battle for medals at the Bikernieki circuit which is based just 15 minutes from the centre of Riga and 30 minutes from the international airport.

[www.latviarx.lv](http://www.latviarx.lv)

### Apple Festival

01.10. ☐ Dobele

Dobele, the Latvian "Apple Capital" celebrates a very popular annual festival in honour of this local symbol. Visit the vast and beautiful breeding apple trees garden and enjoy various gastronomic activities such as apple exhibitions and taste-testings, a farmers' fair, cooking demonstrations, and gardening advice, as well as concerts and games.

[www.dobele.lv](http://www.dobele.lv)

### Riga Restaurant Week

10.10.-16.10. Riga

During this special week, Riga's restaurants open their doors to all gourmands willing to treat themselves to an array of delicious flavors for an especially affordable price of 15-20 euros in a three-course meal. For the entire week, local residents and guests have the chance to savor the season's best foods prepared by experienced and innovative chefs who give each meal a modern and sophisticated twist.

[www.liveriga.com](http://www.liveriga.com)

### Lamprey Day

10.10.-11.10. ☐ Salacgrīva

Salacgrīva municipality maintains a unique tradition from olden days - lamprey fishing using weirs. During the Festival it is possible to visit all three lamprey weirs on Salaca River as well as the Svētupe lamprey weir, connoisseurs can taste lamprey soup and freshly fried lamprey, witness how a lamprey is caught, to listen to songs about the sea, rivers and fishermen, and to kick up your heels just a little.

[www.salacgriva.lv](http://www.salacgriva.lv)

### Staro Rīga Light Festival

17.11.-20.11. ☐ Riga

Staro Rīga offers an international programme of light and multimedia installations. Buildings, squares, bridges and monuments turn into unique pieces of light art, supplemented by performance art and musical and theatrical elements.

[www.staroriga.lv](http://www.staroriga.lv)

### Christmas markets in Riga

27.11.-07.01.2017. ☐ Riga

Markets on Doma Square, at the Esplanāde, and on Līvū Square entice visitors with their pleasant scent of mulled wine and roasted almonds, gingerbread, and merchandise by Latvian craftsmen such as aromatic wax candles, woollen socks, hats and scarves that are perfect for the cold winter weather, eco-friendly wooden toys for children and teddy bears made with love, as well as amber products and silver jewellery - all you would need for original Christmas gifts for your loved ones. Old Riga Christmas markets are a sure sign that Christmas is around the corner!

[www.liveriga.com](http://www.liveriga.com)

### Winter festival "Believe in Wonder!"

03.12. ☐ Kuldīga

Purchase Christmas gifts for yourself and others without any haste on Liepāja Street and renovated Town Hall Square. It will be hard to resist the heart-shaped gingerbread cookies, heaps of cotton candy, glittery glitters and other such marvelous things. Santa Claus will be working in the Elves' guest house, an Elves' Orchestra will perform, as will singers and dancers large and small.

[www.visit.kuldiga.lv](http://www.visit.kuldiga.lv)

### European Christmas Festival

04.12.-30.12. ☐ Riga

The glorious time of Advent, Christmas and New Year's Eve goes so well with the most jovial heritage of Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Vivaldi and other classics, as well as Gregorian chant music, Christmas songs in vivacious jazz rhythms and the New Year's Eve concerts - splendid as always. World-famous soloists and conductors perform here together with the Riga Dome Cathedral Boys Choir, the Latvian Radio Choir and the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra.

[www.eiropasziemasvetki.lv](http://www.eiropasziemasvetki.lv)

### Christmas Tree Trail

09.12.-08.01.2017. ☐ Riga

The festival is an original art happening in the urban environment exhibiting the Christmas symbol - Christmas tree - from new, traditional or avant-garde perspectives and solutions. The Festival's spatial objects are original work created by both experienced creators and artists of urban spatial objects and students of the Latvian Academy of Arts.

[www.eglufestivals.lv](http://www.eglufestivals.lv)

### Jarmarka

19.12.-30.12. ☐ Riga

This colourful exhibition offers its visitors thousands of unique creative work by the art students themselves, including paintings, graphics, textiles, pottery, jewellery, fashion, etc. Anyone interested in seeing this delightful show is welcome. Have a look at and purchase works by young, gifted talent and thereby contribute to the renovation ongoing at the Latvian Academy of Art.

[www.lma.lv](http://www.lma.lv), [www.jarmarka.org](http://www.jarmarka.org)

### Mazbānītis Festival

25.12. ☐ Ventspils

At the Ventspils Seaside Open-Air Museum, Christmastime has been a very special time for several years as it is the time at which the city's beloved narrow gauge train "Mazbānītis" - is decorated with lights and every visitor to the festival gets a ride as a Christmas present. Join the celebration, and encounter fortune telling, gingerbread, pancakes, home-made candles and centuries-old solstice postcards.

[www.kulturascentrs.ventspils.lv](http://www.kulturascentrs.ventspils.lv), [www.visitventspils.com](http://www.visitventspils.com), [muzejs.ventspils.lv](http://muzejs.ventspils.lv)

### Welcoming the New Year in Riga, with fireworks

31.12. ☐ Riga

December 31st, Riga residents and visitors can welcome in the New Year down by the riverside at 11. Novembra krastmala where - from 22:00 and lasting until 02:00, everyone will be entertained by an interesting and dynamic pop concert programme by Latvian recording artists, while the obligatory fireworks display will hit the skies right after 12:00 midnight.

[www.kultura.riga.lv](http://www.kultura.riga.lv)

## Riga Tourist Information Centres



[www.LiveRiga.com](http://www.LiveRiga.com)

Rātslaukums 6. Phone: +371 67037900

Kaļķu iela 16. Phone: +371 67227444

Riga International Coach terminal  
Prāgas iela 1. Phone: +371 67220555

### Working hours

October-April: 10:00-18:00

May-September: 9:00-19:00

[www.LiveRiga.com](http://www.LiveRiga.com)

## Latvia.travel Mobile app (free)

This is your official guide for travelling in Latvia. Free Latvia.travel mobile app for "iPhone" and "Android" users will help to find tourist sites, accommodation, events, restaurants and cafes, tourist information centres. You can also use this app to get around with it's navigation features like walking or driving directions and distance calculation. Easy to use and useful for discovering Latvia!



[www.latvia.travel/mobile](http://www.latvia.travel/mobile)

## Latvia.travel online events calendar



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[www.latvia.travel](http://www.latvia.travel), [www.vimeo.com/channels/latviatravel](http://www.vimeo.com/channels/latviatravel)

[www.latvia.travel](http://www.latvia.travel)