



LATVIA'S TOP EVENTS 2017



www.latvia.travel

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☐ annual event

Disclaimer

Information prepared in December 2016. Investment and Development Agency of Latvia is 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.

International Ice Sculpture Festival

05.02.-11.02. ☐ 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

Smelt Festival in Liepaja

Exact dates will be announced 2 weeks prior

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 Liepaja, 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

Lido zivis Festival

28.04. ☐ Kuldīga

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

www.visit.kuldiga.lv

Latgale Pottery Days

29.04. ☐ 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, 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 Tērvete Nature Park's pines as background.

www.mammadaba.lv

Riga Restaurant Week

08.-14.05. ☐ Riga

During this special week, Riga's restaurants open their doors to all gourmants 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

Lattelecom Marathon

13.-14.05. ☐ 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

Museum Night

20.05. ☐ 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, www.muzeji.lv

Liiv Village Celebration

20.05.-21.05. ☐ 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, including many other genres – folk dance and music, painting, modelling and others, showing Latvian heritage and history through old and contemporary ways of expression. This outdoor festival takes place at the Promenade of Liepāja and every year there are thousands of people in attendance.

www.liepajaskc.lv

Jelgava City Festival

26.05.-28.05. ☐ 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

Cycling Festival

27.05. ☐ 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

Viking Festival "Seeburg 2016"

27.05. ☐ 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

Slītere Travellers Days

03.06.-04.06. ☐ Slītere 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

Festival of World Music at Tigulī Hill in Talsi

03.06. ☐ Talsi

National and foreign folk music will be performed at this concert on the highest hill in Talsi. The composer and performer, Raimonds Tīguls, is the artistic director and brains and soul behind this happening in his hometown, Talsi. On the highest hill between the oaks he has found a place where music from different nations comes together in united sound and ambience.

www.arpasaule.lv, www.talsi.lv

Daugavpils City Festival

05.06.-11.06. ☐ 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

Riga Opera Festival

08.06.-18.06. ☐ 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

Summer Signs International Sand Sculpture Festival

10.06.-11.06. ☐ 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

Big Latgale Market

17.06. ☐ 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, www.ludzasamatnieki.lv

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, 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

Rīgas Ritmi Festival

28.06.-02.07. ☐ 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

Garden Festival

01.07. ☐ Rundale Palace garden

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

International Early Music Festival

05.07.-08.07. ☐ 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 – a brilliant Baroque 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

Bauska Country Music festival

07.07.- 08.07. ☐ 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

Sea Festival in Ventspils

08.07. ☐ 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 festival for people who appreciate the true meaning of the salty sea, the wind in the sails, and returning home after a long voyage. 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.visitventspils.com

Dzīres Kuldīgā Festival

13.07.-16.07. ☐ 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

Positivus Festival

14.07.-16.07. ☐ 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.

www.positivusfestival.com

Kurland Bike Meet

14.07.-15.07. ☐ 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.

www.visitventspils.com

Saulkrasti Jazz Festival

17.07.-22.07. ☐ 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 Minhauzēna 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. As Johnny Griffin once said: "Jazz is music made by and for people who have chosen to feel good in spite of conditions." We invite you to join us and understand what it is to feel good every summer in July – at Saulkrasti Jazz Festival!

www.saulkrastijazz.lv

Lamprey Festival

19.07. ☐ 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.tourism.carnikava.lv

Sand sculpture festival "Golden Sand Grain"

21.07.-23.07. ☐ 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.

www.visitventspils.com

Cēsis 811 Anniversary Celebration

21.07.-23.07. ☐ Cēsis

The festival lasts for three days and 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.

www.cesis.lv

LMT Summer Sound

28.07.-29.07. ☐ 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

Medieval Day at Cēsis Castle

29.07.-30.07. ☐ 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

Ventspils City Festival

05.08. ☐ Ventpils

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 Dzirnāvu Square, and a party will be arranged in the Reņķa Garden.

www.visitventspils.com

Semigallian Festival

12.08.-13.08. ☐ Tērvete

There is an archaeological settlement open at the foot of Tērvete 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

Riga City Festival

18.08.-20.08. ☐ 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 Vērmanes Dārzs, Doma Laukums, 11.Novembra krastmala, the Spiķeri Quarter, and in other locations. For one and all!

www.rigassvetki.lv

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

26.08. ☐ 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

Narrow Gauge Railway Festival

02.09. ☐ 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, www.visitgulbene.lv

White Night Forum of Contemporary Culture

09.09.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

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

Autumn Chamber Music Festival

16.09.-15.10. ☐ 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

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

Miķeļdiena Fair in Old Riga

23.09. ☐ 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

Duke Jacob's fair

07.10. ☐ 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

Apple Festival

07.10. ☐ 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

Rīga Restaurant Week

09.-15.10. ☐ Rīga

During this special week, Rīga'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

Staro Rīga Light Festival

17.11.-20.11. ☐ Rīga

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

Christmas markets in Riga

26.11.-06.01.2017. ☐ Riga

Markets on Doma Square, at the Esplanāde, and on Līvu 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

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

Christmas Tree Trail

09.12.-08.01.2018. ☐ 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

Jarmarka

15.12.-29.12. ☐ 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, 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.visitventspils.com

Welcoming the New Year in Riga, with fireworks

31.12. ☐ Riga

December 31st, Riga residents and visitors can welcome in the New Year doen 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

Riga Tourist Information Centres



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

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