

(LLE) Lithuania > Latvi > Estonia: Schengen agreement members

LATVIA:

GEN: cc

POP: Latvian: 60%; Russian: 29% (Roman Cath);

HIST: Stone Age, 2000BC migration of future Latvians, > post WWII -- see below

Post-WWI: independent EST w/OO highest GDP etc in Euro; , BUT,

1939, Soviet's occupied, mass killings, Siberan deportations, N,

1941>1945: 175K Latvians killed or deported, N,

post WWII: Soviets return w/ more mass killings & deportations; Finally,

1991, EST broke free in middle of failed Moscow coup , e "[Baltic Chain](#)", Singing REV, ;
barricades,

1991: join UN; **2004:** joined EU

NOTE: 2004-2007: highest EU econ growth, UNFORTUNATELY, now closer ties > Russia;

NAT Personality: may be like Poland 4 same reason; Jurmala -- Blog _ NO

RIGA:

TRANS-IN: (from Kaunas or Vilnius)

BUS:

Vilnius > Riga: (4 ½ h, freq: 7:30 & 9:30 am, \$22)

Kaunas > Riga: (5½h, \$22) (Save a night in Vilnius ?)

AIR: Vilnius > Riga: (2½h)

Kaunas > Vilnius AP: VNO

TRN: (1½h) easy transfer from Vilnius > AP; same \$

BUS: (1½h) easy transfer from Vilnius > AP; same \$

Vilnius > AP: (evry 10min,) **See above Vilnius OPT**

Vilnius AP > Riga AP: (3/d, 1h, \$23-154)

Lidosta Riga AP (Line 22) > Riga: (evry ½h, ½h,

TRN: lousy TRN sched --- min 10h

Vilni~ TRN >Daugavpils (3h; 4/wk: Sat: 5:42am & 11:45am / Sun: , 3h, 5:42am & 11:45am)

Daugavpils> Riga pasažieru: (3h; 3/d #809.@ 5:37pm (2 ½ h layover) ..

TRANS-OUT: > Tallin:

BUS: 3 ½ h - no transfers BEST OPT

Riga BUS Ecolines > TALL: (3½h, DP: 02:30 & 08:00, E15)

Other bus -- twice as long

AIR: Vilnius > Riga: (2½h)

Riga BUS Line 22 > Riga AP: (evry 1/2h, 1/2h)

Riga AP (RIX) > Tallin AP (TLL): (7:35a, 12:15p, 1:50p, 1h, \$30-110)

Tallin AP (Line 244) > Tallinn: (evry ¼, 5min,

TRN: NO

ACCM:

Tree House HOS: 0.6km, 9.7, 10\$17, 14\$17, ~~6\$20~~, 8\$22,

LOC FAC: BIKE, KIT, bkft, maps, lock, KIT, W/D, elevator, read lite, lug stor,

REV: GUD: LOC: bus, GUD KIT, , bed /pow,lites; cln, NO Party,

BAD:

Cinnamon Sally Backpackers HOS: 0.6km, 9.7, 1-x,8x, 6x,4x, \$14-20

LOC FAC: maps, lock, elevator, read lite,w/d, kit?, lug stor, tour,

REV: GUD: extended 2 times, staff, LOC: btwn Riga CNTR > OT, next > bus/trn sta4 day trips,

AP bus, OT, CNTR MKT) , morn waffles, cln, free walk tour, no shoes,

Wicked Weasel HOS: 0.9km, 9.8, 6x,4xD \$15-18

LOC FAC: maps, lock, read lite, KIT, bike, LUG stor, tour, w/d,

REV: GUD: LOC: bus STA, gud beds, staff,

BAD: noisy EXT bars,

Naughty Squirrel Backpackers HOS: 0.9km, 9.7, 10x,4x,6x,8xD\$15-21 ; S \$47

FAC: maps, lock, w/d, KIT, lug stor, tour,

REV: GUD: staff, secure, LOC: bus sta,

BAD: party (pub crawl),

2 Wheels: 1.7km, 9.6,\$18

FAC:

REV: GUD:

BAD:

Tiger HOS: 1.1km, 9, \$9

FAC:

REV: GUD:

BAD:

Funky HOS & Apartments: 1.5km, 8.9, \$13

FAC:

REV: GUD:

BAD:

FOOD: cc

SITES:

12¾ =

1½+D

1½

CENTRAL MKT (Centraltirgus MKT):

LOC: Next > OT by RIV; Mon – Saturday: 08.00-18.00, Sunday: 08.00-17.00

OO largest EURO MKTs-- INT /EXT sections: locals sell: fruits / veggies > cakes, dairy, clothes & bags.

CAUTION: don't wander off at **outside market's** outer rim: poor, dirty & unsafe **pickpockets**, of course

**OT TOWN:****Rozena ST**

LOC: E side of Riga CATH

OO shortest, narrowest sts; 1.80 m wide;

LEGEND: first Riga foundry 4 cannons & bells. Used 2B a cave at end of ST, BUT NOW -- "Rozengrals" restaurant: medieval style, "... lit by candles" w/clay (4 tourists).

ST lit w/ several star shaped lamps.

½

**ROZENGRĀLS REST:**

LOC: OT CNTR on ...

Noted in the 1293 scripts as most ancient wine-vault & festival place of Riga City Council!

5 halls, w/ medieval atmosphere; w/ OT recipes! Largest room: w/ 1) 4-m high arches, 2) only Riga well 3) first defensive wall medieval fragment, 1201!

¼



Riga Cathedral – OOM HIST CHR organ in wrld.

½

3 BROTHERS:

LOC: In OT on Maza Pils ST & everywhere!

Almost impossible > photograph, but pretty nonetheless.

Together, oldest complex of Riga dwelling houses in Riga: 1) white house: 15th C, 2) yellow: 16th C, 3) green: 17th C.

¾



Cosy, wooden bldgs > art nouveau, from Modernism > Gothic; different parts town; unique statues of cats, wooden compounds, & colorful houses.

St. James (Jacob's) Catholic Cathedral –

1/4

SWEDISH GATE & OT CITY WALLS

1/2



LOC: OT, at end of Aldaru ST

Only small part of Riga's OT city walls extant at Swedish Gate (Zviedru vārti), 1698 -- when Sweden conquered city, only OT "original-looks" structure. **OT city wall bit** ➡➡

INT fact: city executioner's apt above gate who put red rose in window nite B4 head rolled.



Lat War WWII MUS/Powder Medieval TOW:/

1

LOC: Due EES of Swedish Gate

WWII EST occupation **SEE "Latvian War MUS - Wiki.pdf"**

Powder TOW:

17th C name cuz gunpowder stored, 11 cannons in TOW, & "cannon ball catcher" (?). Later, 1) prison 2) torture chamber, 3) weapons storage until 1883.

MUS's wing added on > display exhibition.

Round TOW: height: 25.6 m, DIA: 14.3 m, Walls: 3' thick
cannon balls walled in > remind of Second Northern War.



PARK (OT surrounded by ...)

1



LOC: Close > OT Town & Freedom Monument

canal running through it w/ **bridge** & love locks [love locks](#).
Walk, ducks.

Bastejkalns (Bastion Hill):

1/2

LOC: Park NE edge of OT

Last Bastion of Riga" was assembled from remains of older ramparts taken down in 1860's.
Rumour has it they built it on top of a landfill > rid city of its smell

Freedom Monument:

1/4



LOC: Close > park & OT Town

Long foreign occupation HIST **so** freedom's critical value, significant symbol dedicated > Latvian heroes freedom fight: 1918-1920.

NATIVITY OF CHRIST CATHEDRAL:/ biggest Riga Orthodox CHR

3/4

LOC: NE of OT across PK Canal; : Close > Freedom Monument

NOTE: oldest OT CHRs w/ **roosters** atop their spires, **not crosses** cuz ...

TRAD, rooster scares devil away & watches 4 God.

flashy Neo-Byzantine Russian style 1876 > 1883

CAUTION: DRESS CODE - NO shorts.



ART NOUVEAU DISTRICT

LOC: Albert ST, NNE of Kronvalda Park; 20-30m walk from OT Town
Fascinating [Art Nouveau](#) architecture: Riga's 800 art nouveau bldgs, majority around Albert ST.

art nouveau: nature & myth inspired: flowers, sphinxes & Cerberuses** on hse. ("hound of Hades", monstrous multi-headed dog)

1



MUS of Barricades of 1991:/ SEE "3 MUS- Barricades of 1991.pdf"

1

LOC: E of Riga CATH



Expresses Nation's mighty spirit, unity & self-confidence in carving LAT.

declaration "On Restoration of Independence of Republic of EST", May 4, 1990 casting off of Soviet's 50 year, Jan 1991 **BUT** USSR retaliated against LAT < LITH & EST, start in LITH attacking unarmed civilians, **THEN**,.....

... **Rīga, LAT** which erected city-wide barricades in just 1 day.

barricades surrounded most IMP state, PUB bldgs. main bridges & roads.

Thousands of **unarmed people** guarded city's STs w/ bonfires, providing each other food & hot tea & singing songs that united nation. Majority participated in courageously unarmed resistance. Most still survive.

THIS exact 1 day--moment established LAT resolve & self-confidence turning tide toward Latvia's independence.

Baltic's capital cities barricades also inspiring symbols 4 LIT, LAT & EST Independence Movements. Population's

St. Peter's CHR:

LAT's Reformation start here, 1522; cool 72 metres observation TOW, €9.

EXT sculpture: 4 animals: a donkey, a dog, a cat & a rooster standing on each other: Brothers Grimm fairy tale represents Town Musicians of Bremen.

3/4



Riga Synagogue (Peitav Shul):

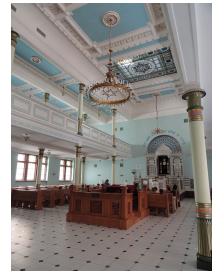
1/2

1903-1905, wonderful Art Nouveau architecture; **only** synagogue Nazi's spared occupation destruction cuz area's high bldg density > fire risky.

After World War II: warehouse.

1 of few Soviets allowed > remain open. After LAT independence, 1991, damaged by [bombings in 1995 & 1998](#).

>>>



BLACKHEADS HSE:

3/4



LOC: In OT Town's "Town Hall" Sq

If a single, upper class German Middle ages merchant, this your HOS, 1334 & a venue 4 meetings & banquets. Germans bombed > ruin, 6/28/1941; Soviets demolished remains, 1948. Re-built, 1995 > 1999.

MUS of Occupation:/ 1940-1991

1

LOC: right next > Blackheads House

4 Fatherland & Freedom/Tēvzemei un Brīvībai



OUTSIDE OT:

W & SW of OT:

2½

1

Kipsala Island/:

LOC/DIRECS: easy bus or trolleybus

Riga's OT views across riv; beautiful classical OT houses (some run down & some done up); fresh, open & quiet

gentrification, evolution, w/o tourist FAC, interesting & creepy; > walk about, particularly, if deserted.

Also, walk Vansu bridge

Kalniciema ST Quarter / Kalniciema ST MKT:

1½

LOC: WWS of OT across Vansu Tilts (bridge) over RIV @ corner of Kalneciems & Melnsils STs; 6 restored wooden houses surrounding a small apple orchard
Farmers' MKT every Saturday

NE of OT:

1½

Graffiti: Perkons Saule Daugava: ST artists lrgst Baltics graffiti, 1

LOC: 1+/- mi NE13 of OT @ Krišjāņa Barona iela 114

> celebrate Riga as European Capital of Culture, in 2014 two Latvia's most renowned ST artists - Rudens Stencil & Kiwie - created biggest Baltic graffiti mural - 800 sq m, 1500+ spray cans; ancient & modern styles.

Also Graffiti: Gray Rainbow by Kiwie:

½

LOC: 1mi+ NE13 of OT @ Alauksta iela 13



DT: IMP! Just Outside of Riga: E of Riga:

Riga State Ethno Open Air MUS

1d

LOC: 6 mi NE of OT on RT A2 ; 30 min drive E of Riga 1 May - 30 Sept: 10:00 - 20:00

TRANS: Line 1 BUS (37 min) OR Line 1 TRAM(52 min)]

3rd OPT: 2 buses: Line 7599 bus, Line 28 bus (23 min)]

- OO oldest / largest EURO open-air MUS
- > Lake Jugla, worldly unique cuz collected exhibitions B4 war-- thus good shape.
- 118 HIST bldgs from all 4 of Latvia's provinces – Kurzeme, Vidzeme, Zemgale & Latgale, most originally constructed btwn 17th C > 1930s.

Jurmala Open Air MUS:

OVN/DT Riga **RUNDALE**: :YES - Impressive, 8mil E restore

TRANS-IN:

DT from Riga: 7h, ?\$; 7h, €22.50;

ACCM: cc

FAC:

REV: GUD:

BAD:

FOOD: cc

SITES: cc

Rundale PAL & MUS: **LOC:** Due S of Riga



Marvelous stately baroque home, design: great aka

Versailles of Baltic **Rastrelli** ARCH (of ST Petersburg palaces):

- **E Wing:** Open > PUB: – Gilt Hall, White Hall, Great Gallery (E wing)
- **Central block:** Duke's RES w/ reception parlours & private RMs
- **E block** – fully restored Duchess's RMs
- Francesco Rastrelli, architect (also St. Petersburg's Hermitage) superbly restored Baroque & Rococo masterpiece w/ art treasures ,& surrounded rose garden.

W of Riga

OVN^{Riga} **KULDIGA** W EST: SEE “Kuldiga.pdf” Maybe ?? 2/ OVN

A gentler age, beautiful town: mix of Baroque splendour & soulful timber houses, Europe's widest waterfall [Read more about Kuldiga](#)



TRANS-IN: BUS: (3/d [11:45a-3:12p], 2 ½)-- ??

TRANS-OUT: BUS: (3/d [6:10p -9:25p], 2 ½)-- ??

ACCM: cc

AmatniekiOS: S: \$50

Mezvalde

FAC:

REV: GUD:

BAD:

FOOD: cc

SITES: cc

HIST CNTR: LOC: W of Riga

admired & praised by poets & painters. 17th & 18th Cs, distinctive ARCH: preserved OT wooden bldgs on sm & narrow ST;

town SQ, from settlement beginning townspeople ga red; still does; weavers' exhibitions, TRAD festivities etc.

Oldest wooden bldg: 1670: **LOC:** near town SQ; **OT town hall**, 17th C.

Venta waterfall (Ventas rumba):

Widest Euro waterfall, 240 m; naturally formed; legends & historic events. Spring's , “fish flying up ledge” migration i.e.: famous aka “place where y catch salmon in air”.

OT brick bridge:

1874, Euro's longest RD bridge of its kind: 164 m; 19th C construct~ standards – 500 feet long & 26 feet wide, allows passing carriages; seven brick vaults spans .

2 spans blown up in WWII. Bridge's 'race of naked' annual 4 Midsummer nights TRAD.



Alekšupīte RIV canal-led >> Kuldīga, → → → → →

flows alongside bldg walls = Venice of EST.



DT > E **Gaudjas NP**: Riga DT or OVN LOCAL?

(Gauja National Park includes Sigulda, Latagne & Cesis)

Sigulda:

TRANS-IN: Riga > Sigulda > Cesis

BUS:

TRN: Riga **Pasažieru?** > Sigulda: (2 ½ h, 4/d [#838, 0754-9:08; 860, 864, 872, 874]

TRANS-LOCAL: BUS #12:> all sites, 7 /day;

DIRECS: walk east from the Sigulda TRN STA's platform **QUICKLY** cuz BUS leaves soon after Riga TRN arrives. THEN, to BUS right outside MUS ENTRY; 5 Euro/.

SIGULDA INFO:

12. ⁽³¹¹²⁾ MARŠRUTA AUTOBUSS				
Sanatorija	KRIMULDA	c.Turaidu	7.15 ⁻⁶⁻⁷ Sk.D.	
	9.35	10.30 ⁶⁷ V	12.05	14.10
	15.10	16.20 ⁻⁶⁻⁷	16.20 ⁶⁷ līdz TURAIDAI (01.05. - 31.10.)	
	17.10 [←] ATĪET NO 1 PLATFORMAS	18.00 līdz TURAIDAI	18.50 ⁶⁷	
14. ⁽³¹¹⁴⁾ MARŠRUTA AUTOBUSS no 1.maija līdz 31.oktobrim				
Gleznotājkalns PILSĒTAS KAPI				
	9.10 ⁵⁶⁷	11.10 ⁵⁶⁷	12.45 ⁵⁶⁷	

TRANS-OUT::

Sigulda > Cesis: (evry 4h, 1¼h, \$2.50

TRN: (2/d, ½ h,

BUS: (hrly, ¾ h)

Sigulda > Riga: #843: 15:34 > 16:48; #845: 17:11 > 18:24

TRN: (4/d, 2h, 10min

BUS: (hrly, 2h)

TIC Sigulda Aizrauj, Ausekļa ST 6,

GEN: "Swiss of EAST" cuz pine trees - not Mts., but hiking trails, castles

1207, Livonian Order takes, but soon, shared btwn **confronting** Brothers of Sword & Bishop Albert of Riga.

2 brick castles strategically constructed on Gauja RIV shore > protect property from ea other & local Baltic tribe attacks; around castles settlements developed into 3 villages: Sigulda, Turaida & Krimulda.

Gauja National PK: admin CNTR; **Turaida MUS Reserve**: (turisms.tmr@apollo.lv). **M-Su 09:00-20:00.**

OPT: Walk wooded trails > **Turaida**.

LOC: **Nearby Cable car** : > Sigulda (on other side of Gauja RIV) every ½ hour ; **Turaidas ST 10**
(near N of Sigulda, across RIV), ☎ +371 67 972-376

Turaida: part of Sigulda town, but RIV Gauja RIV separates

DIRECS: cable car across valley, THEN, up & down variety of paths & steps > **Turaida VILL & castle**, N, return along RIV valley visit **Gutman's Cave**. 10km.

* **ACCM:** stay in Sigulda

Livonija Livonija: \$38

LOC FAC:

REV: GUD:

BAD:

HOT Kaķis: \$38

LOC FAC:

REV: GUD:

BAD:

Parks Guest Hse: \$39

LOC FAC:

REV: GUD:

BAD:

FOOD: 2 lrg buffet / cafés open : all day, all week: BRK > late evening; opposite main shopping area.
Kaku Maja, aka “ Cat Hse”: Pils iela 8, rest & bakery: inexpensive,

Sagulda SITES: **TIC:** Info & maps

SEE “Latvian (Riga) Ethno Open Air MUS.pdf” - Wiki

LOC: just on outskirts of Riga DT: Riga > Sigulda,

1) Sigulda New Castle:



LOC: Pils iela 16

DIRECS: FROM TRN STA walk approx 15 min -- past white church -- > NEW Castle of Sigulda; **No INT access**; EXT only;

HIST: 1878.in the Neo-Gothic style as the living house for the owners of the manor, the Kropotkin family. built @end of 19 th C.

REST & city council in castle.



DIRECS: > **Sigulda castle:** 30-min walk from **cable car STA** – follow SE road, THEN, @ **walking stick square**, turn L onto Cesu iela. THEN, turn L @ roundabout onto Pils iela and THEN, follow road > Jauna Pils (new castle) , THEN, 40 min walk > TRN STA.

2) Sigulda Medieval Castle:

LOC: Pils iela 18 behind New Castle; LOC next > Sigulda New castle.

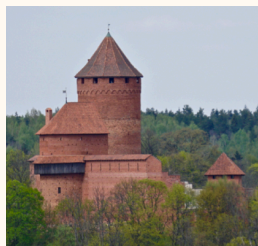
DIRECS: THEN, past Sigulda New Castle GARD > Medieval Sigulda Castle (2€). 1207, NOW, after restore, walk walls and climb TOW. Built in 1207 by Order of Brethren of Sword. mostly ruins.



3) Cable Car

> Gauja RIV's other side by cable car (7€ 1way/12€ return) -- this alone justifies entire DT. May colours: Indian summer-like. NOTE: Watch for bear hanging on top of a tree!

4) Krimulda Castle



DIRECS: On other RIV side, walk W a-while > On other RIV side, walk W a-while > Krimulda Manor, 1897.

Once, romantic escapes, THEN, TB hospital, NOW, rehab centre; beautiful terrace

views of Gauja Valley., 1897. Once, romantic escapes, THEN, TB hospital, NOW, rehab centre; beautiful terrace views of Gauja Valley.



Maija Roza (May Rose) **MYTH:**

1601, in Polish-Swedish war, Swedes took Turaida castle. Greif, the castle clerk, found a baby girl in her dead mother's arms, adopted & raised her in castle as his daughter, named her. Maija Greif grew up, met Viktor Heil, young German Sigulda castle apprentice gardener across valley, fell in love. From loft, could've seen other castle.
 Polish army deserter, Adam Jakubowski worked in castle, infatuated w/ Maija & woo-ed her. She rejected cuz engaged to Heil. Consumed by jealousy, drunk Jakubowski lost his job, BUT decided she was his & hatched a plan.

5) Gutman's (Gūtmaņa) Cave (Latvian: *Gūtmaņa ala*): w/ wall inscriptions

LOC: ½-way btwn Sigulda & Turaida castle w/sm creek flowing from.

DIRECS: Walk down

serpentine road > **Gutmanis Cave:**

Legend: creek water from Gutmanis' tears; drinking = healthy & more lifespan. Try @ risk.



lrst Baltic cave Baltics: . Newlyweds drink "holy" cave water: health& long life.

Countless inscriptions: some 16th C. >>>



Maija Roze CONNECTION:

Rose of Turaida Legend: Heil & Maija rendezvoused here in evenings. Heil hewed smaller cave next to grotto so privacy away from pilgrims. Today, cordoned off by least intimidating fence ever made.

Death of the Rose

Maija Greif died here. 6 Aug, 1620, Maija rec'd note supposedly from Heil > meet him @ grotto earlier. She & younger step-sister Lenta came > gather flowers for meeting. @ Gutmanis cave, Jakubowski confronted her (he wrote note) vowing to have her, like it or not.

Maija begged him to let her go; (really good part) she gave him her scarf, claiming it would make the wearer invincible. She tied it around her neck and invited him to test it with his sword – which he did. Lenta screamed as her step-sister fell and died, duped or dumb Jakubowski in remorse hanged himself.

Heil found dead Mija, but in haste to seek help, left hatchet in cave &, became a suspect.

Lenta & Piotr Skudritz, whom Jakubowski revealed his plan to, testimony cleared Viktor.

Heil buried Maija @ end of Turaida CHR's graveyard & planted linden tree on her grave; grave head's cross bore same words as deadly scarf: "*Love is stronger than death.*" ... but a scarf is not stronger than a sword.

_) Krimulda Manor & Castle ruins:

LOC: about 800m SW of Turaida.

Krimulda Manor:

LOC: follow Ainas ? > 'rocky precipice > cable car > Krimulda Manor.

Krimulda Medieval Castle Ruins: Krimulda Castle Ruins (Krimuldas pilsdrupas):

LOC: near Krimulda Manor

Ruins only: actual Livonian Knights castle blown up, 1601.

Prince Lieven's Classic style **manor** complex

Krimuldas MUS(*Krimuldas muiža*), 13th C castle

LOC: from Gutman Cave Walk up hill ; Mednieku ST 3

(SW of Turaida, btwn roads P7 & P8), ☎ +371 679 72232 (krimulda@lis.lv, fax: +371 679

71721). M-Sa 9:00-19:00, Su 10:00-19:00.

1255 > 1566, **Riga Domkapitulus' castle**. n, various unrests until

1817, Prince Johann Lieven bot. **Manor hse**,

1848, remains intact w/ parks, numerous promenades & **wood stairs** installed later. Lieven family owned > 1921.

NOW, rehabilitation institution evolving > tourism & recreation complex.

Cafe "Milly": herbal teas. ACCM: €36-40.

_) Turaida castle / manor ruins & Dainu Hill: €5



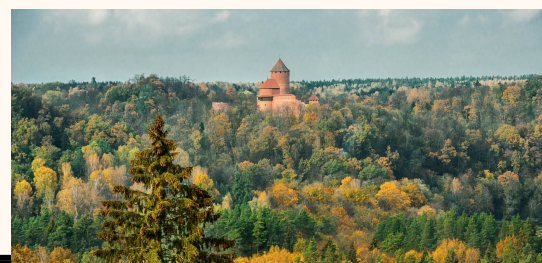
("God's Garden" in ancient Livonian) heavenly gardens (5€), 1214, Turaida means "God's Garden". fabulous Rnd redbrick TOW's top views: Gauja NP Latvian hero's huge sculptures.

estate complex: (42ha, Soviet era rebuild; now, exhibition space & sm café; valley

Medieval castle, CHR &

HIST since 11th C: ; 1214, 18th C lightning struck gunpowder destroying, but later restored.

open-air exhibitions: (9:00-10:00, 18:00-20:00) €2.85;



Maija Roze's tomb:

LOC: ? - Local Know

THEN, **DIRECS:** From Turaida Castle: don't walk back, INSTEAD, BUS line 12 (,50€0 back > Sigulda train station: Turaida Castle's TIK office bus schedule.

THEN, DIRECS: back > TRN STA

1) walk back > Sigulda BUS, OR --

2) walk > Krimulda > cable car (back ?) across RIV/valley > Sigulda (7 E 1-way), OR,

3) hike path from cave > Krimulda.

TRANS- OUT:

Cesis BUS > Riga:

Cesis > Tartu:

TRN:

From Cesis, **LAT**: (3 ½ h, Cesis>Valga: (1h10min, DP:12:31p>1:55p),
Valga>Tartu: (1h12min, DP: 1:55p or 5:15p)

Direct TRN: Tartu > Riga: post track construction completion

GEN: country life –

stunning Livonian castle, soaring CHR spires, cobbled roads & lazy lagoon ; Lu ran influenced by ancient paganism; series of dramatic protests aka “ Singing Revolution

FOOD: “Slow Food” movement growing; mandatory 10% tip;

ACCM: exquisite provincial

HOT Katrina: \$33

Livu Apartamenti: \$33

TRANS-OUT: then back > Riga

SITES:

Cesis town:

13th century's 2nd ½ plan: mk place w/ CHR : town's cntr , **housing** core: Livonian Order's * w/ its 3 fortified **TOWs.**; dolomite stone wall encircled town w/ eight TOWs & 5 gates.

Medieval age BLDGs:

ST John's CHR (built 1281–1284),

Order's castle ruins

Cesis Castle: hill fort & fortification walls: **LOC**: on Riekstu hill
in Castle PK,

ACCESS: >> MUS in adjoining salmon-pink 'new castle'

Oldest structure/settlement, fortified wooden castle,

HIST: Vends tribe built: 18-m-high (59.06 ft) mound w/ partly preserved fortification system; located near major trade RT: W > E & dominated regional countryside; W end's 2 TOWs





- 1) GER crusaders aka [Livonian Brothers of the Sword](#) began construction of castle *Wenden* near hill fort in 1209. When castle enlarged & fortified, it served as res 4 Order's Master.
 - 2) 1577, during [Livonian War](#), castle destroyed > frustrate [Ivan Terrible](#), decisively defeated in [Battle of Wenden \(1578\)](#).
 - 3) 1598, incorporated into [Polish-LITH Commonwealth](#) creating [Wenden Voivodeship](#)
 - 4). 1620, Wenden conquered by Sweden. rebuilt afterwards, but destroyed again in 1703's [Great N War](#) by [Russian army](#) & L ruined.
 - 5) From 16th C end, adapted > Cēsis castle estate wants.
 - 6) 1777, Cēsis castle estate bot by Count Sievers, new res built on castle's E Block site, joining w/ fortification TOW.
 - 7) **June 1919, Battle of Cēsis** : EST & LAT beat Germans, OO decisive LAT War of Independ~ battles
 - 8) Since 1949, Cēsis HIST MUS home in New Castle.
- front yard of New Castle enclosed by **granary** & **stable-coach hse**; now housing [Exhibition Hall](#).
 Beside granary: oldest **brewery** in EST — [Cēsu Alus](#), 1878, during last yrs of Count Sievers' residency, BUT --- origins date back > Livonian Order.

SITES:

Cēsis castle PK: **LOC:** Further on

1812, romantic character of time, w/ its foot-paths, [exotic plants](#), & castle's ruins reflection in pond.

MISC: ---



- 1) **Wall Fragments** @ Valņu iela & Palasta iela. [See adjacent MAP](#)
- 2) **RD networks:** Ancient (medieval) & bldg plots survive: but bldgs destroyed by 1748.
- 3) 18th C bldgs: 16 & 25 Rīgas iela (ST), [See GMps iP6](#)
- 4) Early 19th C bldgs: 15 & 47 Rīgas iela, 6 Gaujas iela, & or ST.
2nd ½ 19th C:
- 5) **new Rīga-Pskov highway** (1868) & Rīga-Valka RR line (1889) sped town development.
- 6) **Raunas iela**, RR STA > OT: made into wide, presentable ST w/
 - 1) Latvian Society Hse @ 10 Raunas iela, ,
 - 2) Regional Court Bldg, 14 Raunas iela .

DT: Arāisi Lake Castle: **LOC:** S of Cēsis about 6mi?

S of Reconstructed 9th C ancient Latgallians settlement on Lake Arāisi island.

NO Ungurmuiza Manor House & Tea House: too far N of Cēsis

NO DT: Jaunmoku Hunting PAL: not IMPRESS, under restore,

NO DT: Liepāja: W [EST](#), on [Baltic Sea](#) , 3rd largest

NO DT: Curonian Spit (UNESCO world heritage site)

NO DT: Ligatne (nuclear bunker): uneventful LOC: WWS of Cesis

NO DT: Helsinki; Yes it worth it. Take sandwiches 4 boat

Cesis, LAT > Tartu, EST: OPTION ?

TARTU:

GEN:

- OOoldest, 1030 OT town, (4 some people this best city/town in Baltics), 2nd largest city,
- EST's intellectual hub cuz U of Tartu; oldest EST city,
- CNTR: Handsome classical 18th-C bldgs
- **Soup neighborhood**: every ST named after a soup ingredient: potatoes, beans & peas.
- OT **wooden houses** / stately bldgs line these STs, just next > Emajõgi RIV, parks.



TRANS-IN:

BUS:

- OVN: Tallinn >< Tartu: (DP: 3x/hr, 5AM >& midnight, 2.5 > 3 hours, €8-11 less senior discount). Some buses have free wireless internet & BUS attendants available.
- **LuxExpress**: (3/d, Riga >< Tartu, 4h, €15-18.
- **SimpleExpress & Ecolines**: - few euros cheaper.

TRN:

- From Cesis, **LAT**: (3 ½ h, Cesis>Valga: (1h10min, DP:12:31p>1:55p), Valga>Tartu: (1h12min, DP: 1:55p or 5:15p)

- **Direct TRN**: Tartu > Riga: post track construction completion

TRANS-OUT:

TRN:

- Tartu > Tallinn (direct): (5/d: 06:22, 07:34, 08:42), 2h, \$15)

BUS:

- Tartu > Tallinn (direct): (freq, 2½h, \$17)

Elron: several /day -- Tartu > TALLINN, via [Tapa](#), 2 hours, €9 (2nd CL) , €13 (1st CL); free wifi.

SITES:

Main Tartu UNI bldg

OT town:

Town Hall SQ. kissing students font symbol of Tartu. [edit](#)

Soup Neighborhood. Neighborhood where all of ST named after soup ingredients.

Features charming OT wooden hse. [edit](#)

MUS of KGB Cells, Riia 15b, ☎ 7461717,

LOC: basement of "Grey House"

This nondescript bldg known as Gray Hse & HQrt of EST KGB. It tells story of how prisoners were treated re, & some stories about EST resistance heroes, Forest Bros. MUS sm & does not have very big sign, so look carefully. [Edit](#)

University of Tartu MUS

Gothic cathedral ruins: LOC: Atop Toomemägi

- 1) 13th C, originally by German knights. 2) 15th C, substantially rebuilt, 3) 1525, despoiled during Reformation: as a barn, 4) 1804 & 1809, partly rebuilt 4 university library, 5) NOIW, MUS w/ student illustrating exhibits.

HIST 1920s lift > top & working your way down.

1) **Morgenstern Hall** retains historic library's look: lined w/ Ancient Greek muses statues

2) **Cabinet of Crazy Scientist:** hand's on science themselves.(kids)

3) Beautiful **White Hall** , **Treasury:** w/ eclectic items: 1) death mask of Russian poet Aleksandr Pushkin, 2) 1504 Dürer print, 3) human hand once used 4 anatomy lessons, 4) set of elaborate cheat-sheet scrolls extracted from 1980s students.

NOTE: May > Sep: MUS TIK includes entry > cathedral tower's top viewing platform.

ST. John's CHR. 1323 / 14th C CHR famous 4 1000s of medieval terracotta sculptures in niches around main portal.

TARTU > Saatse & Return

Saatse Boot: Long distance from Tartu UNLESS different Lat > EST route:

- **LOC:** road from Vdarska > Saatse
- **TRANS:** car, a bicycle or even a donkey; but NOT by foot
- Peculiar border irregularity: only way > legally enter Russia without a visa, RD crosses border more than once, but passage >> "Boot" more widely known, in part, cuz travelers arrested > nearest Russian border post.
- Boot area: former farm, which, 4 unknown Soviet era reason attached > Gorodische VILL instead of neighbouring EST villages: Sesniki or Luterдд. Former farm owner forced >> Russian & EST checkpoints whenever returned home, abandoned decade ago.

Piusa:

- **Piusa Sand Caves:** man-made minneral caves w/ bats
- **LOC:** Far SE corner near Russi

Excess researched, but not used:

Vilnius: NO:

Presidential PAL
 Slushko PAL
 Radziwiłł PAL
 Tyzenhaus PAL
 St. Nicholas CHR

Cathedral of Theotokos
 House of Signatories
 National MUS of LITH
 Vilnius city wall Fragments

DT: NO: Parnu: (beach scene

Kose Parish: LOC: SSE of Tallinn???

Tuhala Witch's Well: all about rainfall

NO too far Varstu Parrish LOC:

Pahni Megaphones: 3

Ridala Parish: NO out of way

Ungru Manor: tragic love MON

NO Hara SUB Base : decomissioned

Liuthuania > Belarus:

GEN:

Belarusian government open > W government & people stance (if y open minded & have good goals).

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- [Minsk](#) - capital
- [Brest](#) - regional capital on W border w/ Poland w/ impressive ARCH sights
- [Lida](#) - medium-sized city w/ well-preserved medieval castle.
- [Mir Castle Complex](#) — another UNESCO World Heritage site. tours > Mir often visit additionally nearby city of [Navahrudak](#), once IMP LOC w/ impressive ruins of gothic castle.

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TRANS-IN: Salzburg TRN > *SSW) > Zell am see BUS (¼h) (S) > Kaprun

ACCM:

FOOD:

SITES:

TRANS-IN:
ACCM:
FOOD:
SITES:

TRANS-IN:
ACCM:
FOOD:
SITES:

TRANS-IN:
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FOOD:
SITES:

TRANS-IN:
ACCM:
FOOD:
SITES:

TRANS-IN:
ACCM:
FOOD:
SITES:

EST:

NO Viljandi: Only 1 site & not much > see



GEN: Rich 2,600 years HIST w/ HIST architecture extant.

LOC: S EST;

TRANS-IN: from Cesis, LAT > : Cesis TRN >Valga (2/d, 1h10m,\$9, #874,872), THEN,
 Valga bussijaam BUS > Viljandi bussijaam (1½h, evry 4h: #178,179

TRANS-OUT: Viljandi > Tartu Buy local; 66K

TRN: (,

BUS: (evry 1¼h, 1½h)

SITES:

Viljandi Teutonic Order Castle: 16th C

In lush park, of Viljandi's hilltop castle's **scant remains** form a picturesque set of ruins w/ sweeping views over valley & lake below.

Built, 1224, by **German Knights of Sword** on a series of 3 small hills divided by ravines, replaced a 9th C EST hill-fort; finally disrepaired after 17th C Polish-Swedish wars.

Only **scant wall sections & crumbling foundations** remain, BUT interesting display panels (ENG) of castle's layout.

1 approaches > fortress: elegant 50m **suspension footbridge**, 1879, 4 another set of castle ruins at Tarvastu, THEN, 1931, moved here.

A small **cemetery** > rear of castle park final resting place of German soldiers killed here during WWII.

KAUNAS

~~Vytautas Great War (Grand Duke) MUS: Not interested?~~

~~HIST LITH / Kaunas artefacts: prehistoric > now, include HIST weapons.~~

~~tomb of Unknown Soldier & Eternal flame:~~

~~LOC: both, SQ in front of Vytautas Great MUS w/ LITH national Renais figures STATs.~~



~~Bank of LITH: LOC: Maironio str.25; Not interested 1928, as new Central Bank bldg. Very impressive neoclassicism ARCH sm of LITH banknotes & coins of 1st Republic exhibition. of style.~~

~~Devils' MUS: LOC: V. Putvinskio str.64. Not interested~~

~~LITH artist' . Zmuidzinavicius: devils sculptures & carvings collection, PLUS, unique wrld collection of devils. Tel: + 370 37 221 587' Open Tu-Su 11AM-6PM~~

~~ST. Gertrude CHR~~

~~Vytautas' MON:~~

~~LOC: on Laisvės alėja, near Kaunas city municipality bldg~~

~~Vytautas Great MON: M-FAM medieval LITH ruler, 1930; Soviets demolished, 1990 re-erected.~~

? **DTKau: Siauliai : Hill of Crosses** (OOM unique Baltics places) **NO- too far**

LOC: 12 km N of city of [Šiauliai](#), in N [LITH](#). Atop a small promontory

1000s of different cross types includ: small crucifixes & large crosses of metal or wood.

TRANS-IN:

TRANS-OUT:

1993, [Pope John Paul II](#) visited Hill of Crosses, declaring it place 4 hope, peace, love & sacrifice.

2000 [Franciscan hermitage](#) :opened nearby.

INT decor: links > [La Verna](#); MT where ST. [Francis](#) received [stigmata](#) NO jurisdiction control, so anyone free > place Cross.†

Site pays tribute > many LITH people's devotion; pilgrimage spot; also, memorial > those dead due > uprisings & other civil strife.

EST:

NO AGLONA: Cuz only Cathoic CHR , Hiking ???

Current VILL: 3 merged settlements: Aglona, [Somerseta](#) & [Jaunciems](#).
scenic beauty of surrounding area.

TRANS-IN:

ACCM: 1 night

FAC:

REV: GUD:

BAD:

FAC:

REV: GUD:

BAD:

FOOD: cc

SITES: ???

Aglona CATH:

LOC: Located on narrow strip of land btwn lakes [Cirišs](#) & [Egles](#) Aglona town, SE of Riga
(SEE "Aglona CATH Gmap"

Best looking & M IMP EST Catholic CHR: famous 4 [Basilica of Assumption](#)

CHR & MONS: by Dominicans, 1700:

ORIG wooden CHR & MONS: razed, 1760s > construct new CHR, 1768 > 1800; many
thousands Assumption of Mary Day (15 August) pilgrims/yr & Pentecost.

Historic Aglona Mother of God icon =
miraculous & venerated (idolized?), 17th
C.



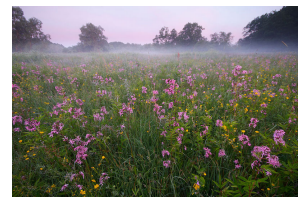
PIK ???

DT: Soomaa National Park

LOC: 23mi NW of **Viljandi** / 80mi S of Tallinn

Primarily a peat bog formed of 10,000 year OT glacier melt; cut by several beautiful rivers, Rent canoe.

1993, “land of bogs.”, many hiking trails: Hupassaare Study Trail, Beaver Trail, Riisa Bog Trail,



NO cuz not IMP or Impressive & may ne under retoration

OVN^{Riga} **JELGAVA: DT or OVN**

LOC: SW of Riga 41 km,

TRANS-IN:

ACCM: cc

FAC:

REV: GUD:

BAD:

FAC:

REV: GUD:

BAD: :



FOOD: cc

SITES: cc

OVN^{Riga} **Jelgava palace's**

Jelgava palace's Duke had Africa & Caribbean colonies) , BUT ARCHly - not that IMP

Post- [Russian Empire](#) control,

1795, French royalty **refuge fleeing French Revolution**.

1798 > 1800 [Louis XVIII of France](#) & family,. Here [Marie-Thérèse-Charlotte of France](#) married [Louis- Antoine, Duke of Angoulême](#),,

1799. ??? 1804 > 1807, again, French King, incogni>.

French royalty: attempted [Versailles](#) court life re-creation, re-establishing court ceremonies includ.: lever & coucher (waking & bedding rituals.)

NO cuz doesn't seem that interesting

Haapsalu

GEN:

TRANS-IN:

Saaremaa > Haapsalu:

TRANS-OUT:

Haapsalu> TALL:

ACCM: ??? Or TALL

SITES:**Haapsalu Castle:**

LOC: W Coast Tallinn, SW of---Lossiplats 3, Haapsalu, 90502

Lääne maakond, EST, Phone: +37-24-72-43-46

13th C, Estonia's architectural treasures: residence of local authorities until 17th C. **Now**, main building's MUS: castle's HIST, medieval weaponry.

Cathedral : OO POP: Former **Oesel-Wiek Bishopric**

cathedral: biggest Baltic States single-nave CHR.

main fortress: w/ grt area / castle grounds/park views,

watchtower now: belfry.



TALL DT / OVN: (S & E):

(2T, 2D ,3N)

4D

>W: ... Hiiumaa ISLAND, Saaremaa Island,

OVN / DT ??? Hiiumaa ISLAND: Hiking,

LOC/DIRECS: > reach Hiiumaa, you can take a plane from Tallinn or a ferry from multiple coastal cities on mainland

1 of several islands off coast in Baltic Sea; . hikers,

Many interesting lighthouses: 1) 19th C **cast iron Tahkuna Lighthouse**: EST's tallest.

2) **Kõpu Lighthouse**: far older, 15th C, **OO Earth's Oldest**.

OVN: Saaremaa Island:

LOC: in Baltic Sea

TIC: OPEN:

5.05–31.05: Monday–friday: 09:00 - 17:00 ; Saturday–sunday: 10:00 - 16:00

01.06–31.08: Monday–friday: 09:00 - 18:00 ; Saturday–sunday: 10:00 - 16:00

E-mail: info@visitsaaremaa.ee (+372) 453 3120

TRANS: TALL > BUS (2): (4¾h -includ 50 min transfer), \$18-36,

On Isle" You will need a car > see sights unless you stick > Kuressaare

BUS:

Bus routes serve, including small villages. Local bus schedules: [Bussipilet](#).

BIKE:

fairly flat, little RD traffic, so biking GUD, **Rent in Kuressaare**.

CAR: astoundingly hi 2 day Island car rental \$650-\$800+

ACCM:

Jaani Turismitalu: 2.9 mi, \$38

Sakla Holiday Hse: 3.7mi, \$21

[Kõljala puhkeküla](#): (4.8 miles from Valjala), \$27)

SITES: Local Saaremaa guides?

* **Kuressaare**, island's capital

Town hero, Suur Tõll, who fought many battles around island against devils & fiends.

Largest EST island: 8,000-year HIST: ruled by Danes, Swedes, Germans & Russians;

* **Kuressaare Medieval Castle:**

completely intact castle & grounds, NOW, Saaremaa Regional MUS.

LOC:

HOURS: Castle grounds: 24/7, BUT **keep** needs Saaremaa MUS ticket.

ON artificial island w/ moat; best-preserved Baltic castle & region's only intact medieval stone castle

ORIG: 1260s, Current: mighty dolomite fortress 14th C, protective walls added 15th > 18th Cs. Design: admin centre & stronghold.

two tall corner TOWs: more slender Pikk Hermann > E: separated from main castle by a shaft ??? crossed only by a drawbridge > function as -- "last refuge."

Shady park: around castle moat, 186 w/ fine wooden resort bldgs in & around: --,

1) **Spa Hall** (Kuursaal), 1899, now: restaurant,, 2) nearby bandstand, 1920.

HIRE: **rowboats** (per hour €10) or **bikes** (per hour €4) from Spa Hall.



* **Kaali Meteorite Crater Field:**

LOC: 18km from Kuressaare towards Kuivastu.

; sm, unique nine meteor-crater [meteorite craters](#) group on Saaremaa. cluster's impact velocity: 10–20 kilometres / 2nd (6–12 mi/s) & mass: 20–80 tons; broke into pieces @ 5–10 kilometres (3–6 mi) *Kaali järv* ("Lake Kaali"): Largest: 110 metres (360 ft) w/ sm lake nearly circular main [Kaali meteorite crater](#) [Kaali crater](#) depth of 22 metres (72 ft)

Eight smaller craters: diameters: 12 > 40 metres (39 > 131 ft) & depths: 1 > 4 metres (3 > 13 ft), all w/in 1 kilometre (0.62 mi) of main crater.

Age: est-- 4000 ± 1000 [BCE](#) ; ALT est: 660 ± 85 [BCE](#); 7500-7600 years OT probably^[6]

Impact Energy: about 80 [TJ](#) (20 kilotons of TNT), compares w/ [Hiroshima bomb](#)) — burned forests w/in 6 kilometres radius (3.7 mi). Numerous legends, summarized by [Lennart Meri](#)'s book: *Hõbevalge*.^[6]

Kaali lake: M unique EST geological object & IMP TRAD site, Aka 'Holy Lake' it also has an IMP place in TRAD: offering place 4 Cs.

* **Angla Windmills. Only extant Saaremaa windmills,**

LOC: Angla, at 32 kilometre mark on Upa-Leisi road.

* **Kaarma CHR of Saints Peter & Paul.**

LOC: on Laadjala - Kaarma - Karja road at 6 km mark.

After 1261 rebellion, 1) **medieval; baptismal font** (13th C) & 2) **wooden sculpture** of St. Simon of Cyrene (mid-15th C) LOC under pulpit, 3) **pulpit**, 1645.

4) **Neo-Gothic altarpiece:**

5) **Kaarma ring fort:** LOC: 100m E of Kaarma CHR.

* **Karja CHR:**

LOC: 3 km from Angla, towards Koikla.

Isle's smallest CHR, Middle Ages;

FAM: decorative elements: 1) wall frescoes extant, 2) On ceiling, several mysterious, **magical symbols:** 1) 3 - legged triskele, 2) devil looking btwn its legs, 3) pentagram, 4) among others.



Kiipsaare Lighthouse: stranded in water

Sõrve Peninsula: hiking, photography, spectacularly scenic.

? **Asva Fortified Settlement** (tiny VILL): Asva names entire culture. t

LOC: 33 kilometre mark on Kuivastu - Laimjala - Kuressaare road.

OOM ARCH IMP

Bronze-age ARCH site: OOM IMP N Euro ARCH sites;

LOC: behind VILL on a low-lying hayfield in Northern Europe.

? **Jämaja CHR:**

LOC: western shore of Sõrve peninsula, at 21 kilometre mark on Kaugatuma - Sääre road.

Current CHR, 1864, earlier CHR since Middle Ages.

Loode Oak Forest, (Kaarma vald, Saare maakond):.

OO few extant 1st growth park-like forests, orchids, birds

Karujärv (Bear Lake):

LOC. close > Kärla town, going towards Pidula.

Isle's oldest lake, almost 8000 years OT, S shores low &

Pidula manor: mid-18th C

LOC: Approximately 11 kilometres from Kihelkonna towards Muistjala.

OO EST MOST elegant baroque manor houses cuz well thought out proportions & tasteful details,

Pühatu springs:. Isle's largest & most well-known **sacrificial springs**

LOC: on Kuressaare-Võhma road, at 5 kilometre mark, behind Pähkla VILL on a low field, in a little thicket of trees.

Deep green in colour.

Kihelkonna:

* **OT cobble stone road:** 3 km, leads > **Papissaare harbour** - former sail ship bldg site.

HIST: 36 big sailing ships built B4 last war. **Hydro plane hangars:** 1913-14, Some world's OOld oldest monolite concrete bldgs. NOW -- buy smoked flat fish ; **boats** > **Vilsandi island depart.**

* **Mihkli Farm MUS:** traditional farm bldgs collection illustrating OT way of Isle's life

LOC: along road from Kuressaare > Kihelkonna, about 3 km from Kihelkonna.

? **Kihelkonna CHR** (13th c.)

OO BIG EST country CHRs, KEY elements: 1) **organ**, 1805, 2) **altarpiece** "Last Supper", 1591.

Slim **neo-gothic TOW**, 60 m above sea level ; 100 years as light house & landmark -- no light house any more, but grt TOW top view.

Campanile: LOC: next > CHR on hillside (1638, renovated, 2009). t

Kihelkonna cemetery: OO Isle's biggest: Numerous sailors from far away countries, local ship builders, writers, barons.

? **Loona manor** -LOC: Vilsandi National Park CNTR: 3 kms from Kihelkonna VIL CNTR

W/ fossil MUS, information centre, HOT, tenting area, restaurant, tourism services.

Vilsandi island: 2nd oldest EURO nature reserve; NOW, National Park (1910) - silurian cliffs & fossils, birds, 36 species of wild orchids, butterflies, gray seals.

Other sights: 1) Odalätsi springs, 2) Kihelkonna stronghold, first EST mud bath (1824).

