

LATVIA  ESTONIA

1914-1991



MILITARY HERITAGE

TOURISM GUIDE

-  173 objects
-  12 touring routes
-  travel map



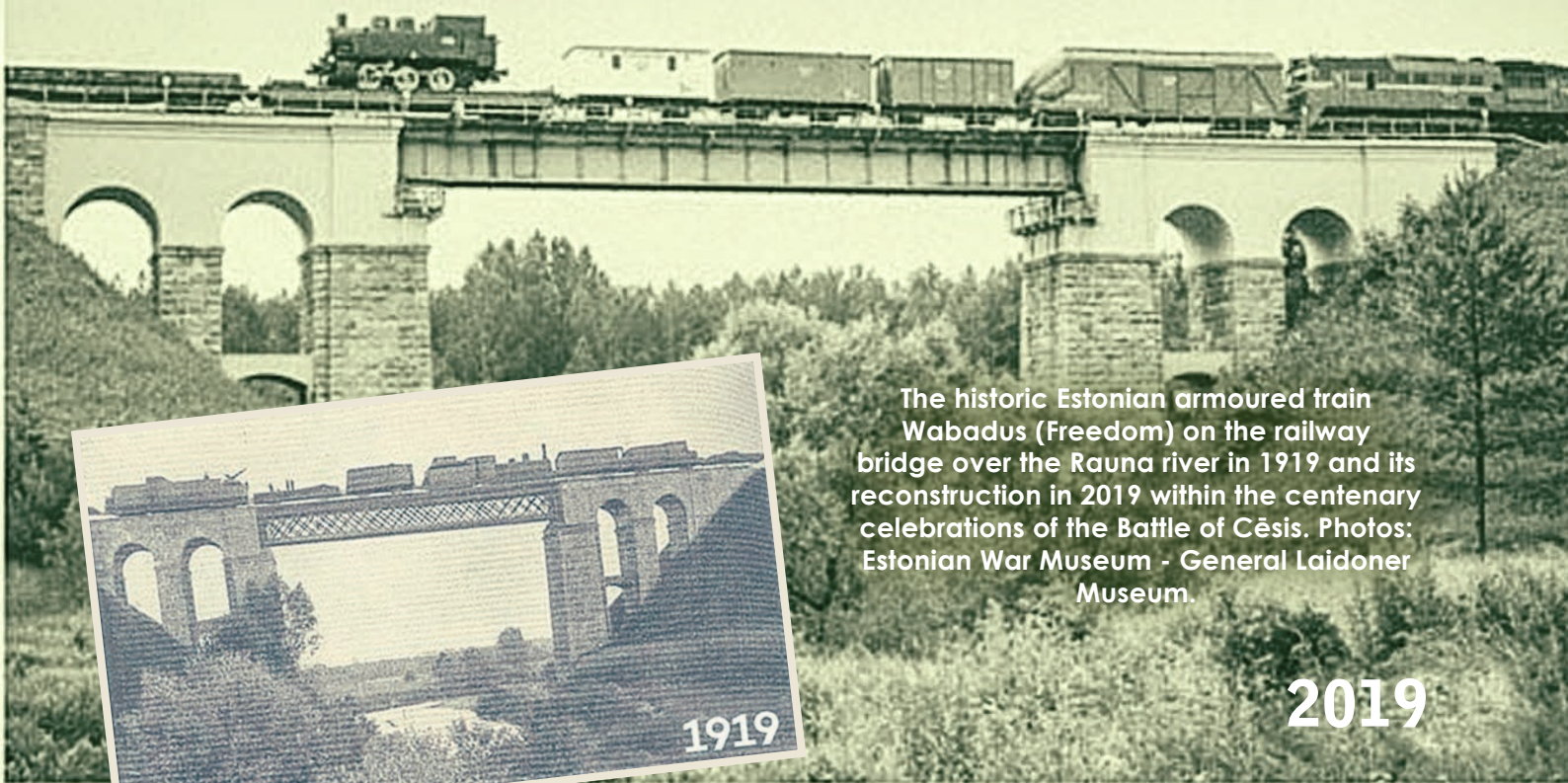


WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE GUIDE?

When traveling in Estonia and Latvia, you can visit sites and objects related to military heritage history of both countries from the beginning of World War I in 1914 and the establishment of both countries' independence in 1918, till the period of restoration of independence in 1990/1991.

There are military heritage sites included in this guide such as museums, fortifications, military equipment, hiking trails, bunkers, battle sites, military towns, infrastructure and memorial sites. In addition to object visits you can experience guided tours, hikes and trips at places where military events once occurred, stories and meals at a campfire, accommodations in a partisan bunker, and other interactive experiences.

Multi-day tours are recommended for exploring the military heritage sites. Serving as an overview, the map included to the guide lists the described 173 military heritage sites in Latvia and Estonia and the 12 recommended tours.



The historic Estonian armoured train Wabadus (Freedom) on the railway bridge over the Rauna river in 1919 and its reconstruction in 2019 within the centenary celebrations of the Battle of Cēsis. Photos: Estonian War Museum - General Laidoner Museum.

2019

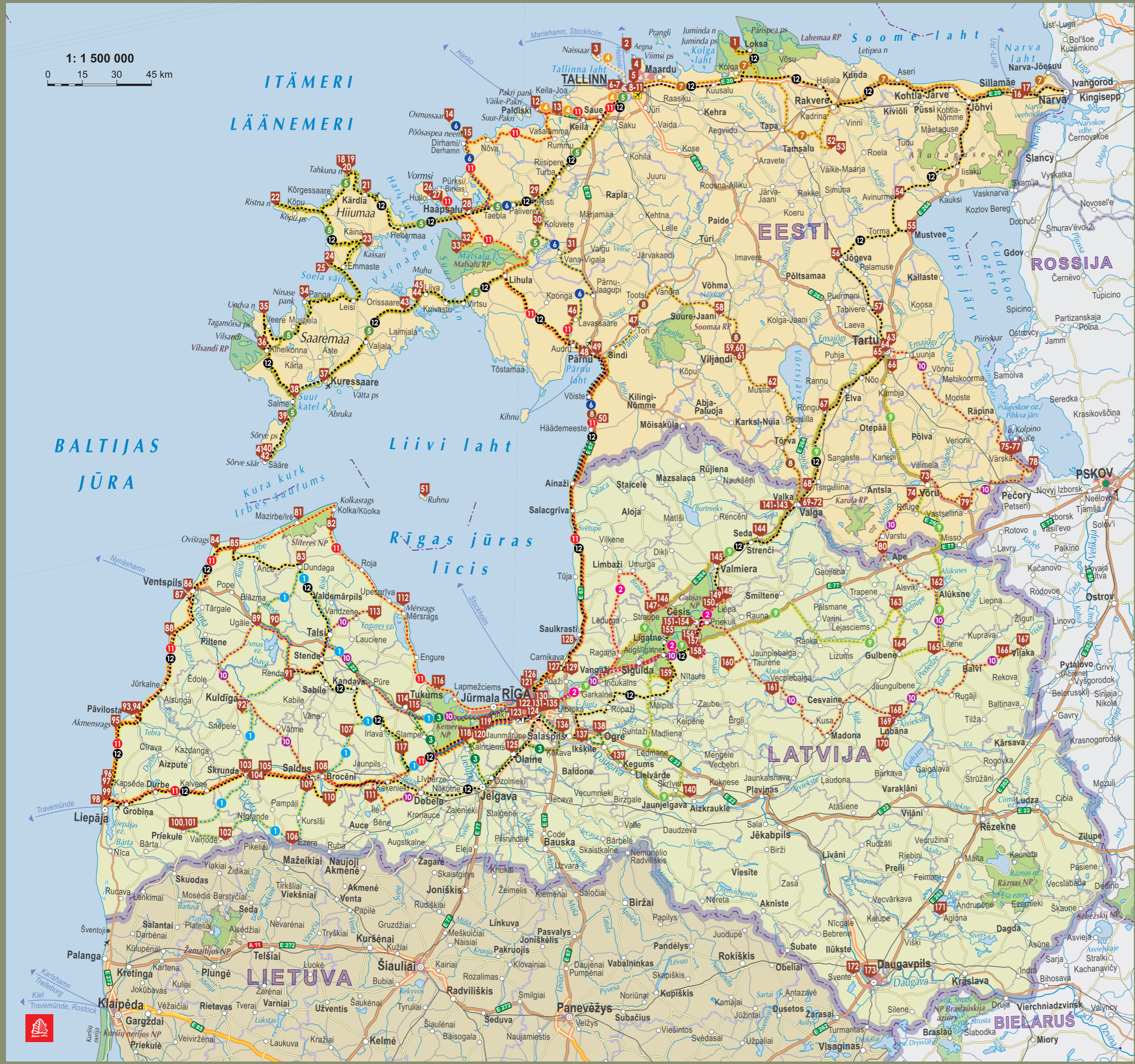


Interreg
Estonia-Latvia
European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

1: 1 500 000



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HISTORICAL PERIODS

Each military heritage site included in this guide belongs to one or more historical periods listed in the site description:

1. PERIOD

World War I / Wars of Independence 1914-1920



Latvian riflemen in gas masks on the front of Riga, 1916. Photo: Museum of the Christmas battles. 


World War I 1914-1918


Before the establishment of the Estonian and Latvian states, Latvian and Estonian soldiers served in the Imperial Russian Army during World War I. Although both countries proclaimed independence at the end of the war, this did not bring peace for their people. Latvia and Estonia had to defend their existence against several military forces with political ambitions. Germany tried to claim the territories of Latvia and Estonia, Baltic Germans attempted to establish their own country there, Soviet Russia fought to annex the Baltic countries, and officers of the former Russian Empire had a goal to defeat Bolsheviks and return the Baltic provinces to Russia.

Wars of Independence 1918-1920

The end of World War I marked the beginning of the Wars of Independence for Latvia and Estonia. By repelling multiple enemies the two young countries proved their ability to exist as independent states.



The narrow-gauge (600 mm) railway in Ventspils. Photo: Ivars Salmanis. 

The Coastal Battery No. 43 at Sõrve in Saaremaa. Photo: Kati Aus. 



Diving to minesweeper Gentia. Photo: Mikko Paasi. 


Exposition in Cultural Heritage Center "Tīnūži Manor". Photo: Kaspars Špēlis. 



2. PERIOD

World War II, 1939-1945




Photo: Museum of Battles in More. 

At the outbreak of World War II, both Latvia and Estonia declared neutrality. However a treaty between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany had defined the spheres of power between the two totalitarian regimes and soon the Baltic states were occupied by the Soviet Union. The Soviets were driven out by Nazis in 1941 only to return in 1944. Many Estonian and Latvian men were forced to fight on both sides.



The Kurzeme Fortress Museum in Zante.
Photo: Tukums Tourist Information Center. 



The open-air exposition at the Museum of Battles in More. Photo: Museum of Battles in More. 

3. PERIOD


National partisan movement – forest brothers 1944-~1957

At the beginning of the Soviet occupation regime, many men refused to collaborate with the Soviet regime, hid in the forests and continued fighting. Some also feared repressions for their previous service in the German or Finnish armed forces.




Forest brothers from Emmaste area, Hiiumaa, 1950. Photo: Hiiumaa Museum collection. 



National partisan bunker "Meža brāļi" (Forest brothers) in "Amadas". 




Vana-Võromaa Museum and Art Gallery.
Photo: Anneli Kana. 

4. PERIOD

Under Soviet occupation/On the way to the restoration of Independence 1945-1991

During the decades of the Cold War, the Baltic countries found themselves on the boundary of opposing powers. Large number of Red Army forces were located in Latvia and Estonia, airports, military ports and bases for nuclear weapons were installed, etc. The Iron Curtain isolated people from the rest of the world. Latvia and Estonia restored their independence in 1990 and 1991 respectively as the Soviet Union collapsed.



Soviet destroyer at the Tukums airfield, 1967. Tukums Museum. 



Secret Soviet bunker in Līgatne. 



The Irbene radio telescope. Photo: Gita Memmēna. 

SYMBOLS

4

You can find each military heritage site on the map by the **number** assigned to it.

Each military heritage site contains a description and contact information. The description section indicates the location, historical context, brief information on what visitors will see and what additional services are available (e.g. guided tours, meals, overnight stays, reality games, etc.). The contact information section contains the address of the site, GPS coordinates, web address and phone number.

For many sites that can be seen in the countryside, such as battle and memorial sites, former military buildings, the address and telephone number do not exist and therefore cannot be listed. At some military heritage sites, external information stands may be viewable at any time.

We recommend that you contact each venue in advance to learn about its opening hours and the services that they provide.

-  62 Distance from the capital city
-  Information in Latvian
-  Information in Estonian
-  Information in Russian
-  Information in English
-  Information in Finnish
-  Information in German
-  Road sign leading to site available
-  Site can be visited individually
-  Site can be visited in organized groups
-  Accommodation available
-  Catering available
-  Limited visiting hours
-  Book visit in advance
-  Parking available
-  Resting place available
-  WiFi available
-  Hard to find site
-  Toilet
-  Guide available
-  Souvenirs available
-  Entrance fee
-  Activities available

www.militaryheritagetourism.info

MILITARY HERITAGE TOURISM OBJECTS

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Hara harbour is situated in the village of the same name in Harju County. There was a border guard outpost on the shoreline facing the island of Hara which was used during both the imperial era and the era of independence prior to World War II. The outpost was taken over by the Soviet Border Guard during the occupation of Estonia. A military harbour – the historic Hara submarine base or degaussing station – was constructed nearby. Degaussing was done using underwater technical facilities and enabled ship and submarine hulls to repel magnetic mines. The whole port area used to be a restricted zone. Currently the port houses a visitor center and is used as a marina. The history of the base can be explored on site, with the quay and ruins also accessible to visitors.

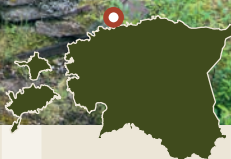


1

Hara harbour - historic Hara submarine base ●

Hara sadam, Kuusalu vald,
Estonia, Harjumaa,
GPS: 59.5889,25.6128

+372 56 900 433
www.harasadam.ee/hara-allveelaevade-baas
sadam@harasadam.ee



2

Aegna Island ●●●

Aegna saar, Tallinn,
Estonia, Harjumaa,
GPS: 59.5835,24.7581

www.aegna.ee/ekskursioonid
aegna@aegna.ee



The three square kilometres of this island in the north-eastern corner of Tallinn Bay are the site of an extensive network of coastal defence batteries and a three-kilometre narrow-gauge railway built before World War I as a continuation of the fortification work begun by Peter the Great in the 18th century. Construction of the Alexander Nevsky Battery began in 1915. The 180-metre concrete structure was coupled at both ends with barbets supporting two 12-inch guns each.

In 1918, following the declaration of the independence of Estonia, the coastal defences were taken over by the Estonian Navy. The importance of Aegna in the coastal defence of Estonia is reflected in the fact that, at its peak, half the men serving in the Naval Fortress Division were stationed on the island. The existing infrastructure enabled the locals to manage on their own in winter, since disruptions to sea traffic were common.

After World War II, the Soviet Navy Baltic Fleet Air Defence branch, consisting of around 100 marines, was stationed on Aegna until 1957. A new anti-aircraft battery made up of four concrete gun pits 45 metres apart was constructed near the Alexander Nevsky Battery searchlight bunker in the north-western part of the island. Bofors 40-mm guns formerly used by the Estonian military were installed. Due to the Estonian coastline being a restricted area during the Soviet era, travelling to Aegna only became possible again in the 1960s. Traces of different military periods are still clearly visible on the island.

Island, which covers 19 square kilometres in the Bay of Tallinn, was acquired by the Imperial Russian Navy in 1912, forcing out the locals. The navy built ports, railways and coast batteries as part of Peter the Great's Naval Fortress on the island. During World War I and the War of Independence, the island also held a prisoner-of-war camp. The newly independent Republic of Estonia retained the island as part of the established coastal defence system, but allowed the locals to return to it. During the Soviet occupation, the island was under the control of the military, who built a naval mine depot and factory there. The buildings and equipment left behind on Naissaar by the Soviet Army can still be partially explored today. The network of bunkers designed to form the naval fortress goes deep underground. Some of the bunkers and artillery mounts are still accessible. A full tour of the island can be taken in a day. Naissaar is home to 40 kilometres of narrow gauge railways, the laying of which began in 1913 during the czarist era. Today a 2.4 kilometre segment of it has been restored. The Museum of Coastal Folk has various exhibitions on display for visitors to the island providing a more elaborate overview of the island's history. A military exhibition is on display in the Soviet-era career soldiers' living quarters in Mõnniku village, which showcases both the islands' earlier and more recent military past.



3

Naissaar Island ●●

Naissaar, Estonia,
Harjumaa,
GPS: 59.5631,24.5187

+372 528 0406
rannarahvamuuseum.ee/naissaare-muuseum
info@rannarahvamuuseum.ee



The museum, which has been housed in the mid-19th century historicist Viimsi Manor since 2001, conducts research into and both preserves and displays Estonian military history. Its predecessors were the Estonian War of Liberation Museum (founded on 19 January 1919) and a museum dedicated to General Laidoner established at the manor by decree of the Viimsi Municipal Government in 1993. During the Soviet occupation, the manor was used by a naval intelligence unit: after the withdrawal of the Soviet Army, the building was in a dire state. The museum was founded by decree of Minister of Defence Jüri Luik on 26 February 2001. Since then, the museum has operated under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defence. Its main exhibition showcases wars fought in Estonia and abroad in which Estonians have participated. Part of the exhibition is dedicated to Commander-in-Chief Johan Laidoner, who owned the manor from 1923-1940. The military equipment hangar near the main building displays a variety of artillery pieces and vehicles.



4

Estonian War Museum - General Laidoner museum ●●●●

Mõisa tee 1, Viimsi, Viimsi vald, +372 621 7410
Estonia, Harjumaa, esm.ee
GPS: 59.5015,24.8345 info@esm.ee



5

Memorial to the victims of communism ●●

Maarjamäe, Tallinn,
Estonia, Harjumaa,
GPS: 59.4568,24.8129

www.memoriaal.ee



The memorial is located in Maarjamäe, Tallinn and is dedicated to all of the victims of the communist regime. Estonia lost every fifth person of its population as a consequence of the terror imposed by the occupying regime, ie more than 75,000 people.

Memorial consists of two parts - 'Journey', with name plaques of the victims; and a symbolical 'Home Garden', with informative texts and stone tablets marking sites of terror.

The Seaplane Harbour is situated on the water's edge in the Kalamaja district of Tallinn.

It was commissioned during World War I by Russian Emperor Nicholas II as part of Peter the Great's Naval Fortress. The museum, based in the historic seaplane hangar, has around 200 original exhibits on display: the submarine Lembit, the 100-year-old icebreaker Suur Tõll, the seaplane Short 184, the oldest Estonian shipwreck, mines, cannons and more. Temporary exhibitions complement the main exhibition. The seaplane hangar is architecturally unique: its domed roof was one of the first thin concrete shell structures of its kind.

The museum's programs and materials for individual visits are fun and educational for adults and children alike.



6

Seaplane Harbour ●●●

Vesilennuki 6, Tallinn,
Estonia, Harjumaa, +372 6 200 550
GPS: 59.4518,24.7384 meremuuseum.ee/lennusadam
booking@meremuuseum.ee



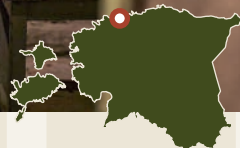
A former naval fortress located in the Kalamaja district of Tallinn. Designed by military engineers Étienne-Louis Boullée and Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, Patarei was commissioned in 1829 by Russian Emperor Nicholas I. The complex was opened in 1840, but this did not mean that construction work was complete. The fortress underwent renovations: there were fears that the British and French would attack from the Baltic Sea after the outbreak of the Crimean War in 1853. This did indeed come to pass, but it did not escalate into large-scale warfare. Only a few shots were fired from Patarei. As a result of the adoption of explosive projectiles, Patarei was decommissioned as a fortress in 1858 and was thereafter used as barracks. During the era of Estonia's independence, Patarei was turned into a prison, which operated until 2002. It had also been used as a prison during the German and Soviet occupations. The atrocities committed there by those regimes made the place infamous among the population. The architecturally prominent building, which covers four hectares, is now home to an exhibition entitled 'Communism is Prison', which shines the spotlight on communist ideology, communist crimes and the history of the building. Renovations of this remarkable architectural wonder covering four hectares began in 2020. By 2026 Patarei shall be an integrated urban landscape complete with commercial space, living quarters and leisure options. The original prison interior and exercise yards shall be preserved in the eastern wing of the building. Already there's an exhibition on the communist ideology and atrocities and the history of the building covering close to 1200 square metres.



7

Patarei sea fortress ●●●

Kalaranna 28, Tallinn, Estonia,
Harjumaa,
GPS: 59.4507,24.7420



8

KGB Prison cells in Tallinn ●

Pagari 1, Tallinn, Estonia,
Harjumaa,
GPS: 59.4407,24.7474

+372 668 0250
www.vabamu.ee/kgb
broneering@vabamu.ee; info@vabamu.ee



The museum is located in the cellar of the former NKVD and KGB headquarters in the center of Tallinn. The building at 1 Pagari Street was home to one of the most infamous and feared pre-trial detention centers of the Soviet era, where many Estonian politicians, state officials, intellectuals, War of Independence veterans and even commoners were tortured and sentenced to death or prison. The unmodified cells are the epitome of the Red Terror and are now open to visitors. The museum consists of two corridors, six prison cells and one solitary confinement cell. The main exhibition, entitled 'History of the KGB House', recalls the atrocities committed there. This address has had an interesting past. The residential building constructed here in 1912 was the headquarters of the Provisional Government of Estonia and the military high command during the War of Independence. Then, until 1940, the building housed the Ministry of War of the Republic of Estonia. In March 1991 the building became the head office of the Estonian Police. Today, 1 Pagari Street has regained its former residential use.

Hotel Viru in Tallinn was built in 1972. The hotel for foreigners also had to suit the national security body, ie KGB. The museum tells the story of more than just one hotel and the KGB. It is a treasure trove of stories of two different worlds - one which existed mostly on paper, of happy Soviet citizens living in friendship and never wanting for anything, led by a wise, all-powerful group of men in a place where there were never any accidents or catastrophes; and the other real world, which was a very different and a much tougher place to live in.



9

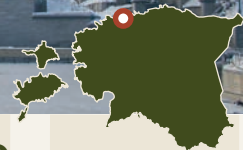
Hotel Viru and KGB museum ●

Viru väljak 4, Tallinn,
Estonia, Harjumaa
GPS: 59.4366,24.7559

+372 6809300
viru.ee/et/Kgb/Event/17360
viru.reservation@sok.fi



War of Independence Victory Column is 23.5-metre high, made from 143 glass panels and crowned with the Cross of Liberty. It was designed by Rainer Sternfeld, Andri Laidre, Kadri Kiho and Anto Savi. The monument is dedicated to all those who have fought for the freedom and independence of Estonia. The idea for a monument commemorating the war had already been conceived to Freedom Square in Tallinn before World War II, but never came to fruition. The current monument was inaugurated in the first minutes of 23 June 2009.



10

War of Independence Victory Column ●

Vabaduse väljak, Tallinn,
Estonia, Harjumaa,
GPS: 59.4340,24.7430

+372 621 7410
esm.ee
info@esm.ee



11

Vabamu Museum of Occupations and Freedom ●●

Toompea 8, Tallinn,
Estonia, Harjumaa,
GPS: 59.4327,24.7397

+372 668 0250, www.vabamu.ee,
broneering@vabamu.ee,
info@vabamu.ee

RU FI

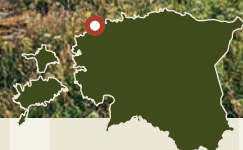


Vabamu Museum is situated in the center of Tallinn. A private museum, it opened in 2003 to showcase Estonian history from 1940-1991. The museum recalls stories from recent history highlighting both the value and fragility of freedom.

The main exhibition and the films shown at the museum provide an overview of the Soviet occupation, oppression, national resistance and the Singing Revolution. The main exhibition, 'Freedom Has No Limits', is divided into five topics: 'Inhumanity', 'In Exile', 'Soviet Estonia', 'Restoration' and 'Freedom'. Museum visitors can take an audio tour (in Estonian, Russian, English, Finnish, German, French or Spanish) to guide them on this immersive and retrospective journey through history. There are also activities for children, offering an unforgettable experience for the whole family.

The town of Paldiski (historically known as Rågervik) is located on the north coast of Estonia on the Pakri peninsula. It has been an important port since the Great Northern War. In 1718, Russian Emperor Peter the Great ordered the construction of a fortified seaport and other military facilities here, turning the town into one of the most important naval bases in the empire.

In the summers during the interwar period of Estonian independence, Paldiski was a training site for armoured trains. As a result of the Mutual Assistance Pact forced upon the Republic of Estonia by the Soviet Union in 1939, Paldiski fell under the control of the Red Army. Paldiski Naval Base was formed and further fortifications were constructed. The Paldiski region was of significant importance in the coastal defence system of the Red Banner Baltic Fleet. In the 1960s, one of only three nuclear submarine training centres in the Soviet Union (equipped with a mock-up of a nuclear submarine) was opened in Paldiski. The town and the Pakri islands were closed to the public and kept secret. Paldiski had two nuclear reactors, which have since been encased in concrete. Soviet-era buildings have become a rare sight in Paldiski. The bastions of Peter the Great's Naval Fortress are open to tourists.



12

Paldiski - Soviet-era closed city ●

Paldiski, Estonia,
Harjumaa,
GPS: 59.3500,24.0500

+372 526 5499
heli.nurger@gmail.com



The memorial to the victims of the Holocaust is situated not far from the small borough of Klooga. The first monument was erected here in 1951, but it essentially praised the Soviet ideology and did little to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust. In 1994, the plaques on the monument were replaced with new ones at the request of the Jewish community in Estonia so as to do justice to the victims' ethnic roots. On the 50th anniversary of the mass murder perpetrated in Klooga, a monument to the Jews killed in Estonia from 1941-1944 was unveiled 100 meters from the first monument. In 2005, a third monument was unveiled commemorating the Jews who died or were killed in the concentration camp in Klooga.

The memorial was renovated in 2013 to tie the three monuments together, with the Estonian History Museum opening an outdoor exhibition here entitled 'Klooga camp and the Holocaust'.

Klooga concentration camp was established by the German regime in September 1943. It was a forced-labour sub-camp of the Vaivara concentration camp complex in Estonia. On 19 September 1944, one of the largest mass murders in German-occupied Estonia was committed: all of the Jews at the camp (around 2000 in total) were killed as the Red Army approached.



13

Klooga concentration camp and Holocaust memorial ●

Klooga, Lääne-Harju vald,
Estonia, Harjumaa,
GPS: 59.3289,24.2180

+372 696 8660, klooga.nazismvictims.ee
post@ajaloomuuseum.ee
tellimus@ajaloomuuseum.e



14

Osmussaar Island ●

Osmussaar, Lääne-Nigula
vald, Estonia, Läänemaa,
GPS: 59.2938,23.3782

+372 566 55 777, +372 5866 9980
rita@osmussaar.ee
info@osmussaarereisid.ee



The island of Osmussaar is situated off the north-west coast of Estonia. The whole island was annexed for the use of the Soviet Army, with a signal unit stationed there. The island was claimed under the Mutual Assistance Pact in 1940, forcing the locals to leave. Of all the intricate coastal defences planned on the island in 1940, only two batteries and underground ammunition storage were ever built. The 13-metre fire control tower (or range finding tower) was completed in 1941. The battery comprised two twin 180-mm guns. Some sources state that the battery was ready for combat by 1 September 1941, four months ahead of schedule. Others claim that only the 180-mm gun facility to the south had been set up by this time. This 130-mm coastal battery is located in the north-western part of the island. The 130-mm battery and 76-mm air-defence guns were the only firepower on Osmussaar for the first two months of the war in 1941.

The military outpost is situated in the village of Spitham in Lääne-Nigula municipality on the Gulf of Finland. Construction of the outpost began in 1958. It is assumed that the military unit from Osmussaar was relocated here. Tents were used prior to the completion of the barracks, with senior officers accommodated on local farms. Barracks, a canteen and technical facilities were built. Its diesel power generator also provided electricity to the village. In 1993 the military unit was relocated to Leningrad oblast in Russia.

Two large radar mounds, a command center, multiple technical bunkers, a garage for transporting equipment, a couple of pillboxes and some ruins remain of the radar station. Only the crumbling canteen remains of its residential quarters.



15

Spitham radar station ●

Spithami küla, Lääne-Nigula vald,
Estonia, Läänemaa,
GPS: 59.2225,23.5240



The memorial is situated on the western slope of Grenaderimägi Hill in the Blue Hills near the old Vaivara cemetery. It symbolises the battle fought in the Blue Hills during World War II between Soviet and German forces.

The first monument in the Blue Hills area – a 6.5-metre wooden cross – was erected here in 1994. The current memorial was completed in 2000. The 12-metre steel cross, which towers over a hectare of land, was designed by artist and blacksmith H. Müller. In the middle of the cross is a composition depicting an explosion. In 2004, a monument in honour of the 20th Waffen Grenadier Division was added to the memorial. Two years later, monuments commemorating the Dutch and Walloon volunteers who fought alongside the Estonians were added. Grenaderimägi Hill regularly changed hands from one battle to the next. The last point of defence, known as the 'Hellhole', was around 100 metres to the east of the memorial cross.



16

Sinimägede (Blue Hills) battlefield memorial ●

Sinimäed, Vaivara, Vaivara vald, Estonia, Ida-Virumaa
GPS: 59.3751,27.8582

+372 5647 4552, +372 392 4634
muuseum@vaivara.ee



17

Sinimägede (Blue Hills) Museum in Vaivara ●

Roheline 19D, Vaivara, Vaivara vald, Estonia, Ida-Virumaa,
GPS: 59.3725,27.8735

+372 5647 4552, +372 392 4634
sinimagedemuuseum.ee
muuseum@vaivara.ee

RU FI



The museum is located in the renovated barn of Vaivara Manor in the small borough of Sinimäe. Its exhibition showcases the World War II battle of the Narva River and the Blue Hills in 1944. It displays firearms, uniforms, soldiers' personal belongings, wartime photographs, and propaganda posters from both sides and more. A big screen shows historical films and documentaries. Despite the topic of war being difficult for some, the exhibition is intended for all ages: while parents can concentrate on the history and the details, the children can interact with the items on display. Historical battlefronts (the 3rd defensive line of St Petersburg and the German East Wall defensive line known as the Tannenberg Line) can be found near the museum.

Tahkuna lighthouse is the tallest cast iron lighthouse on the coasts of Estonia: it is 42.7 metres high from sea level. Czarist Russia had it commissioned from the 1871 World's Fair in Paris. Construction began in 1873 and was completed in 1875. The lighthouse was slightly damaged in both world wars, but was soon repaired. In 1998 the lighthouse underwent major renovations and the lantern room was replaced using a crane. The historic lantern room was placed on the ground next to the lighthouse. The slim, round, tapering tower, which stands 43 metres high, was built from cast-iron components. The watch room floor is surrounded by an open platform on corbel supports. On top of it stands the lantern room with its distinctive cupola. The cast-iron spiral staircase is attached to the outer wall on the inside. Nowadays the light is powered by electricity.

The northern tip of Tahkuna Peninsula was the last bastion of resistance to the Red Army advance from 20-21 October 1941. A German war diary establishes that at 6 AM on 21 October the northern tip of the island was attacked and by 7:45 the lighthouse had been captured without much resistance, with around 900 soldiers taken prisoner. Soviet history books spread stories about the last defender of Hiiumaa, a sailor named Nikolai Chizh, who supposedly had jumped off Tahkuna lighthouse, preferring death over imprisonment.



18

Tahkuna Lighthouse ●

Tahkuna, Hiiumaa vald, Estonia, Hiiumaa,
GPS: 59.0915,22.5862

+37258180755
www.hiiumaa.ee/ettevotte/tahkuna-tuletorn
tuletornid@hiiumaa.ee



The 12-inch coastal battery from World War I and 180-mm and 130-mm coastal batteries from World War II are located in the Tahkuna area. As the original plans before World War I had outlined no batteries on the islands, the war-time construction work of 12-inch coastal battery was hastily carried out according to simplified drawings. Only about a tenth of the concrete work was completed in Tahkuna. Four guns are positioned in two pairs, the distance between guns is 64 m. Three 180-mm coastal batteries with twin towers were built in Estonia, one of them in Hiiumaa. Tahkuna battery no. 316 comprised two 180-mm twin-gun devices MB-2-180. About 500 m North of the guns a two-storey underground control center with two entrance tunnels (85 m and 38 m) was built. On the ceiling of the control center there is an armoured cupola with a visor opening. The Tahkuna 130-mm coastal battery was established in 1941. The buildings of Tahkuna battery have survived in a fairly good state. In the ammunition depots next to the gun blocks occasional shell shelves have survived, they can also be found in the ammunition depots in the rear of the emplacements.

The Lehtma battery, which was completed in 1916, was located 3 km from Lehtma Port in the direction of Tahkuna with four 6-inch Canet' guns on wooden platforms. The emplacements of three guns are still identifiable – one has a full bolt circle and the two others show some base baulk bolts. The fourth gun together with the entire ammunition of the battery was blown up in 1917 and only a large crater remains.



19

Coastal batteries in Tahkuna and Lehtma ● ●

Tahkuna, Hiiumaa vald,
Estonia, Hiiumaa,
GPS: 59.0844,22.5917

www.mil.hiiumaa.ee/tahkuna/index.html



20

Hiiumaa Military Museum ● ● ●

Tahkuna, Hiiumaa vald,
Estonia, Hiiumaa,
GPS: 59.0770,22.5947

+372 5347 9819
militaarmuuseum.ee
info@militaarmuuseum.ee



The museum is located in the former Tahkuna border guard cordon. In order to assemble a team of enthusiasts, in 2005 the non-profit Hiiumaa Association of Military History was established and went to work. When it turned out that in the summer 2007, the Estonian border guard unit was going to move out of Tahkuna Station and the buildings would become redundant, the ambitious idea of setting up an exhibition introducing the military history of Hiiumaa in its old quarters came true.

Hiiumaa Military Museum was opened on 9 August 2007. The exhibition focuses on the 20th century military issues of Hiiumaa, primarily on the coastal defence batteries and the border guard units. The museum includes smaller structures – a gate house, a weapon checkpoint, a kurilka (a smoking pavilion), a dot (a machine gun bunker), a metal shelter, and a watchtower. There are also some Soviet monuments and memorial plaques.

The idea for this memorial came from Otto Mägi, who was assisted in realising it by his comrade Heino Kerde. In 2001, Mägi petitioned Kärdla City Council for a monument to be erected in memory of Hiiumaa's fallen World War II soldiers. The monument was designed by sculptor Elo Liiv and architects Maris Kerge and Kadri Kerge. The model for the sculpture was Marek Vainumäe from Kärdla.

In total, 685 names are engraved in the granite, all of them fallen in Hiiumaa, regardless of whose uniform they wore. The uniform on the bronze sculpture, on the other hand, is instantly recognizable – the young man is wearing an Estonian uniform and has taken off his German helmet. This is the only monument in Estonia dedicated to all those who fell during World War II, not limited to one side. The monument was unveiled on 25 May 2012.



21

Monument to fallen World War II soldiers of Hiiumaa ●

Posti 2, Kärdla, Hiiumaa vald,
Estonia, Hiiumaa,
GPS: 59.0024,22.7521



The area between the Southern Cape of Ristna and Kalana Port in Hiiumaa is tightly packed with military objects. As the structures of different eras and military units are randomly scattered, you can only wonder about the function of several objects.

The 130 mm four-weapon armed battery completed in 1940 was situated half a kilometre South of its present location. You can identify the craters of two gun emplacements, the parapets and bolt circles. The four surviving ferroconcrete gun blocks were constructed in the 1950s. This is the only battery of such design in Hiiumaa. The circular gun emplacement is surrounded by a closed gallery with two long corridors stretching out from it, lined with ammunition depots.

The 30-metre, cast-iron Ristna lighthouse was assembled in 1874 from components manufactured in France. The lighthouse was badly damaged during World War I and was reinforced with a concrete outer structure in 1921. The lighthouse itself is 29.5 metres high, while its light towers 37 metres above sea level. The light can be seen from 31.5 km away. The lighthouse was also tasked with warning vessels about the ice conditions in the Baltic Sea, alerting them with a blinking red light if the nautical channels were blocked by ice.



22

Ristna coastal battery, radar station and lighthouse ●

Kalana küla, Hiiumaa vald,
Estonia, Hiiumaa,
GPS: 58.9406,22.0560

+37259033892
www.etts.ee/EE/tuletornid/tuletornide-nimekiri/hiiu-ja-laanemaa/673-ristna-tuletorn
info@ristnatuletorn.ee



23

Orjaku military harbour ●

Orjaku küla, Hiiumaa vald,
Estonia, Hiiumaa
GPS: 58.7893,22.7725

+372 5345 5059
orjaku.ee/sadam



A building battalion of the Red Army arrived in Hindu village in October 1939. The local population was ordered to leave their homes before winter. By the following spring the battery area was surrounded by a wire fence. By the autumn of 1940 two barracks, two officers' residential buildings, a canteen, two saunas, a food cellar, two firefighting water reservoirs and a gate guard post were completed.

The crew of the battery included 5 officers and 125 lower rank soldiers. The test firing of guns took place in summer 1941 when boat-like vessels with masts towed by tug boats on long wire ropes appeared. The battery was never fully completed, some of the shelters and the water reservoir are not covered with earth. During the German landing in October an ammunition shelter together with the rest of the battery's ammunition was blown up.

The other three gun blocks have survived more or less intact and dry. Recently, the area has been cleared and the positions can be fairly easily identified. The command post is half filled with water the whole year round.

Around the battery there are five machine gun bunkers, each of a different construction. A couple of hundred metres to the Northwest of the battery position there is a small open observation post. There are two machine gun bunkers by the base as well. Near the upper lighthouse of Sõru there are the ruins of a machine gun bunker with a shooting sector of laid bricks.



24

The 130-mm Coastal Battery at Tohvri (Hindu) No 44 ●

Hindu küla, Hiiumaa vald,
Estonia, Hiiumaa,
GPS: 58.7112,22.4877

www.mil.hiiumaa.ee/tohvri/index.html



The construction of the battery began in 1914. As it was an additional battery, missing in the original plan of the naval fortress and the type of guns was repeatedly changed. Finally four 120-mm Vickers guns were installed. A 200-m length and 10-20-m width sandbar was piled up in defence of the gun emplacements and covered in concrete above the guns. Hindu was the only battery in Hiiumaa that participated in combat operations during the Tagalahe landing on 12 October 1917. After a brief exchange of fire with the German warships the Russian artillerymen fled, leaving the battery intact. The Germans sent a landing unit of soldiers inland that blew up the guns of the battery. One of the German warships that shot Hindu battery, was 'Bayern', the warship with the largest displacement that has ever been in the Estonian waters.

The building of the battery radio station was transported to Emmaste and was used as the community center (demolished in the 1980s). The gun barrels and other larger details were still there in 1937. Today the first and the second gun platforms are still identifiable; the other two are situated on a fenced farmyard. The third gun crater is filled with earth and there is a newly built house facing the sea, the remains of the fourth one is merely a cracked concrete platform. Out of two air defence gun platforms, one survives (a hundred metres toward the nursing home, on the right side of the road). There are no intact buildings.



25

The 120-mm Coastal Battery at Hindu (Sõru) No 34 ●

Hindu küla, Hiiumaa vald,
Estonia, Hiiumaa,
GPS: 58.7026,22.4944

www.mil.hiiumaa.ee/soru/index.html



26

Monument to the War of Independence in Vormsi ●

Hullo kirikuaias kõrval, Vormsi küla,
Vormsi saar, Estonia, Läänemaa,
GPS: 58.9998,23.2305



The monument is a granite boulder standing 2.5 metres high whose front side is polished. It is situated by the western gate of the church yard in Hullo, under some pine trees. The monument was unveiled in 1929, with the date engraved into the rock. This is one of the few monuments to the War of Independence to have survived the Soviet occupation. The fact that the monument is in Swedish and does not have the years 1918-1920 inscribed on it may have helped in this regard. The monument reads: "The inhabitants of the island erected this rock in 1929 in honour of freedom fighters". It is mounted on a stone base. The monument is fenced in by stone bollards with chains.

The outpost is situated in Hullo on the island of Vormsi. It was the last outpost to be built on Vormsi, completed in spring 1985. Characteristic of the confusion that reigned during the Soviet era, the Far North Outpost was constructed using stock building plans: most of the complex is under one roof. It was built by soon-to-be-demobbed conscripts, who were commonly put to such use. The completed building was home to the 17th Border Outpost of the 106th Red Banner Border Guard Squad. They did not have the use of it for long, however, as it was taken over by the Estonian Border Guard in late 1992. The outpost includes a full-sized basketball court and a cinema with balconies. It is also unique for having its sentry post on top of its heating plant chimney, with a staircase winding around it. The property was divided up and privatised by the Ministry of the Interior in 2008. Part of the former outpost site has since been turned into residential land.



27

Hullo border outpost in Vormsi island ●

Hullo küla, Vormsi saar, Vormsi vald,
Estonia, Läänemaa,
GPS: 58.9954,23.2442



The museum is housed in a train station built in the early 20th century to service the railway line connecting to the resort in Haapsalu. Opened in 1997, the museum showcases the one-and-a-half centuries of development of Estonian railways and mediums of communication. Besides decommissioned locomotives, the museum displays an affable station master and an Ericsson Skeleton Type telephone and invites visitors to the station's post office. The outdoor exhibition also displays a World War II German locomotive.

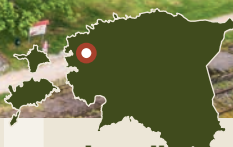


28

Railway and Communication Museum in Haapsalu ●

Raudtee 2, Haapsalu,
Estonia, Läänemaa,
GPS: 58.9381,23.5322

+372 473 4574
www.salm.ee/museumid/raudtee-ja-sidemuseum
raudtee@salm.ee



29

"Railway Tracks Remember" monument to those deported from West-Estonia ● ●

Jaama 16, Risti, Lääne-Nigula
vald, Estonia, Läänemaa,
GPS: 58.9976,24.0494

www.visithaapsalu.com/objekt/risti-kuuditatute-malestusmark



The monument is situated in the small borough of Risti, next to its railway station. Designed by Viljar Ansko, the monument was unveiled in 1999 and is dedicated to all of those deported from Western Estonia. Risti station, the last stop in Lääne County, was the point from which not only the majority of the people from the local area, but also those from Pärnu and Rapla counties and the islands of Hiiumaa and Vormsi were deported to Siberia. A total of 3000 deportees passed through here along with people arrested in Lääne County. The 13-metre monument is mounted on a small railway platform with stone stairs at both ends. Four rails rise up into the air from the platform, which are bound together by a double cross made from rails. Aside from commemorating the mass oppression of the recent past, the cross also represents the history of Risti as a railway settlement.

The War of Independence monument, made from Saaremaa dolomite, was unveiled on 11 July 1926. It was situated on a square near the church in Kullamaa, where the memorial to well-known Estonian composer Rudolf Tobias now stands. It was destroyed in 1945 and unveiled on 30 September 1989. The current location of the monument is between the former pastorate and the church. The monument comprises a tapered obelisk of both protruding and receding blocks on a stepped footing with a Cross of Liberty on top. The second stage of the memorial was added between 1991 and 1999: a nine-step staircase up to a platform surrounded by roughly finished limestone walls. It stands out from other memorials to the War of Independence due to the fact that after its restoration, tablets in memory of the people killed during the Red Terror and World War II were added to the memorial. The stairs leading to the monument are surrounded by walls listing the names of the more than 300 dead.



30

Monument to the War of Independence in Kullamaa ●

Kullamaa küla, Lääne-Nigula vald,
Estonia, Läänemaa,
GPS: 58.8805,24.0752



Põrgupõhja Bunker is situated in the woods near the village of Tiduvere in Rapla County.

By 1945 anti-Soviet dissent had developed into organised resistance movements in many occupied lands, including Estonia. Attempts were made to unify fighter groups and establish a network. This bunker, built in 1947, was an important stronghold for the Forest Brothers.

Fully reconstructed, Põrgupõhja Bunker was opened in 2015, showcasing the everyday life of the Forest Brothers. Anyone interested can spend the night in the bunker and imagine what it must have been like to live in hiding. Adjacent to it is the original site of the bunker, which was destroyed by the NKVD on 31 December 1947, plus its surrounding dirt wall and a memorial to the fallen Forest Brothers.



31

Põrgupõhja bunker ●

Tiduvere küla, Märjamaa vald,
Estonia, Raplamaa,
GPS: 58.7861,24.3398

www.facebook.com/Porgupohjamet-savennarada



32

Põgari House of Prayer ●

Tuuru-Puisse tee, Põgari-Sassi küla, Haapsalu, Estonia, Läänemaa, GPS: 58.8041,23.5318

+372 5330 2935
www.ridalakogudus.ee
maevalla@kogudused.ee



The house of prayer is situated in the village of Põgari-Sassi near the 1 km marker on the Tuuru-Puisse road. On 18 September 1944, the day after the Germans began their retreat, Prime Minister Jüri Uluots, serving as the head of state, swore in the new Government of the Republic of Estonia. The Government adopted a resolution on the restoration of the independence of Estonia and on remaining neutral in the war. The inauguration of the government meant that the Red Army did not 'liberate' Estonia from the German occupying forces, but rather occupied an independent nation. The cabinet of Otto Tief held their last meeting at the Põgari Baptist house of prayer on 22 September 1944. This historic meeting is commemorated by a memorial tablet there, unveiled by Prime Minister Mart Laar in 1999. Tief's cabinet members were waiting at the house of prayer for the promised motorboat to be evacuated to Sweden. However, the boat was delayed, arriving on 29 September, and only State Secretary Helmut Maandi fled, carrying a copy of Riigi Teataja confirming the continuity of the Republic of Estonia.

The monument is situated on the water's edge on Cape Puisse. In 1944, around 80,000 people fled westward from the advancing Red Army, many of them by sea. This monument, commemorating that mass flight, was designed by Aivar Simson. The idea originated from Heidi Ivask, who, held in her mother's arms, was one of many who waited for a boat on the beach in Puisse. Construction of the monument was led by the Estonian Memento Union.



33

Monument to those who fled across the sea to Sweden in 1944 ●

Puisse küla, Haapsalu, Estonia, Läänemaa,
GPS: 58.7717,23.4577



The military hiking trail is situated on the north coast of Saaremaa, 1.5 km north-west of the village of Panga. The most convenient access to Panga is via Võhma. The trail is situated along Panga Bank, which is the highest bank of exposed bedrock anywhere in Western Estonia and on the islands. Its length and openness to the sea are what make the bank special in terms of terrain and attractive to tourists. It is situated in Panga Nature Park, surrounded by the Baltic Sea to the north and north-east, by the mouth of Küdema Bay (an important bird site) to the west and by forests to the south and east.

Panga Bank did not see any active combat. The area was used for defence purposes, as it was a restricted access zone on the border of the Soviet Union. Since the landscape was open with great views of the sea, staff headquarters were built here, coordinating border defence, training and coastal fortification. Panga Bank was the site of emplacements for coastal artillery, a missile launcher and an ammunition dump, which was destroyed by retreating German forces during World War I. The sundial marks the place where a searchlight once stood, guarding the national border. Today the 2 km long military hiking trail passes by the ruins of a variety of military facilities.



34

Military trail in Panga ●

Panga küla, Saaremaa vald,
Estonia, Saaremaa,
GPS: 58.5699,22.2904

+372 5050434
pangapank.ee
dolomii@kaalitrahter.ee



35

Naval Communication Station in Undva ●●

Undva küla, Saaremaa vald,
Estonia, Saaremaa,
GPS: 58.5027,21.9886



Undva is situated in the north-eastern part of Tagamõisa Peninsula in north-western Saaremaa. In August 1940, Soviet forces and locals recruited for construction began building the 32nd Military Base in Undva. After World War II, the Soviets built two 127-mm artillery batteries here, one near Suuriku Bank and the other on Cape Undva. The latter was later replaced with a more modern coastal defence battery, which preceded the construction of a radar station in the 1960s. The four concrete barbets, concrete hangars and the remaining complex are in good condition.

The seaplane harbour is situated on Papissaare Peninsula, to which an historic cobbled road leads from the small borough of Kihelkonna.

Papissaare Seaplane Base, which formed part of Peter the Great's Naval Fortress, was established between 1912 and 1914. It comprised two aircraft hangars, equipment and ammunition warehouses, a fuel tank, an electric generator, barracks, a canteen, a bread factory and a bathhouse. In August 1914, nine aircraft were brought here from Liepāja. On 12 October 1917 German forces captured the base and destroyed most of the buildings. During the interwar era the complex was the site of Julius Teär's Shipyard.

On 24 October 1939, Soviet forces acquired the complex under the Mutual Assistance Pact and restored it as a seaplane harbour. The MBR-2 seaplanes of the 15th Aviation Squadron stationed here fought in the Finnish Winter War. In late summer 1941, German bombers obliterated the seaplanes. The Soviet squadron abandoned the base, setting it on fire as they did so. From 1940-1960 the whole peninsula was a restricted military zone. Later, the complex was used by the local fishing collective. Today the remaining buildings are in use as workshops and warehouses. This historic seaplane harbour has become an important tourism port, providing passage to the unique island of Vilsandi.



36

Papissaare Seaplane Base ●

Rootsiküla küla, Saaremaa vald,
Estonia, Saaremaa,
GPS: 58.3603,21.9870



The anniversary of Saaremaa Museum, which is housed in the fortress of Kuressaare, is celebrated on 17 February: the date in 1865 when the Society for Research of Saaremaa (Verain zur Kunde Oesels) was founded. The museum relocated to the castle in 1897. Its exhibition showcases the nature and history of Saaremaa. The largest and most noteworthy exhibit at the museum is the castle itself, which is a fine example of the development of military fortifications between the 14th and the 19th centuries. Kuressaare Castle is one of the most authentic fortifications anywhere in Northern Europe.



37

Saaremaa Museum ●●

Lossihoovi 1, Kuressaare,
Saaremaa vald, Estonia,
Saaremaa,
GPS: 58.2471,22.4794

3724554463
www.saaremaamuuseum.ee
muuseum@saaremaamuuseum.ee

FI DE



38

Monument to the night battle of Tehumardi ●

Tehumardi küla, Saaremaa vald, Estonia, Saaremaa,
GPS: 58.1771,22.2534



At 8 o'clock on the evening of 8 October 1944 during World War II, the Red Army clashed with retreating German troops in the village of Tehumardi in Sõrve. The battle took place at the 18 km mark on the Kuressaare-Sääre road.

A monument was unveiled nearby in 1966, when a Red Army cemetery was also opened in memory of the confrontation. The 21-metre monument depicts a concrete sword, its cross-guard adorned with the faces of soldiers. The cross-guard bears an inscription reading: "1941-1945. To the Soviet soldiers and defenders and liberators of Saaremaa" in Estonian and Russian. The cemetery in Tehumardi features 90 dolomite tablets engraved with the names of the Red Army soldiers who fell.

A couple of hundred metres from the cemetery along the road towards Sõrve, a large granite monument appears on the right-hand side of the road. It was unveiled on 15 July 2012 and placed at the approximate site of the battle. The monument bears a tablet reading: "Here, on 8 October 1944, the Night Battle of Tehumardi broke out."

On 16 September 1941, Soviet forces launched the construction of the Lõpe-Kaimri anti tank line to halt the German advance. It runs from west to east in the southern part of the isthmus of Sõrve Peninsula, which is just 3.2 km wide at this point. Comprising two rows of concrete pyramids stretching 900 metres from Lõu Bay to the village of Teesu, the anti tank line is in good condition. It is made up of two rows of pyramids standing 0.8 metres high and spaced one metre apart. Parts of the fairly well preserved anti tank line have gaps in them, indicating points at which the enemy broke through. The site is easily accessible and can be clearly seen from the road running down the western side of the isthmus. The line is the site of a monument unveiled in 1969, depicting a tall concrete pyramid, which reads: "Lõpe-Kaimri anti tank line, built in 1941".



39

Lõpe-Kaimri Anti Tank Line ●●

Lõu küla, Saaremaa vald,
Estonia, Saaremaa,
GPS: 58.0701,22.1737



The military base in the village of Maantee is situated on the island of Saaremaa, on both sides of the old highway a couple of kilometres from Sõrve Military Museum. Construction of the barracks here began in April 1940 after the signing of the Mutual Assistance Pact. The base was constructed by a local company, A. ja M. Edenberg. It comprised two barracks accommodating 350 soldiers, a canteen, a bread factory, a bathhouse, an officers' mess, a clinic and an ice house. The base housed the detachments of the 315th coastal defence battery. Existing farm houses were demolished to make way for the new facilities, forcing many to move. After the war, the detachments manning the coastal defence batteries in the vicinity were stationed here. The barracks were put back into use during the Cold War, this time by missile troops. In July 1960 the 74907th Division equipped with S-75 missiles arrived here. They began building the Granit missile depot near the barracks. The other barracks housed a single radio-technical company. In 1972, three air defence missiles fitted with nuclear warheads were stored at the Granite depot. The missile unit was disbanded in January 1991. The radio-technical company left the village of Maantee the following year. Today the buildings are dilapidated to the point of posing a danger. The metal doors of the missile depot have been removed. Nevertheless, the complex remains a popular tourist attraction, albeit one at which visitors must be cautious of the potential hazards.



40

Maantee military base ●

Maantee küla, Saaremaa vald, Estonia, Saaremaa,
GPS: 57.9354,22.0692



41

Coastal Battery No 315 (Stebel) command post ●

Sääre küla, Saaremaa vald, Estonia, Saaremaa
GPS: 57.9313,22.0202



Sõrve Museum, which opened in 2004 as a history room, is situated in the buildings of the former Soviet naval outpost in the village of Sääre on the tip of Sõrve Peninsula on the island of Saaremaa. Sõrve lighthouse, one of the most popular tourist attractions on the island, can be seen one kilometre from the museum.

The coastline of Saaremaa was once peppered with outposts, each manned by 20 naval infantry and officers throughout the Cold War. Their goal was to monitor marine traffic in the Irbe Strait, since the coast of Saaremaa was the maritime border of the Soviet Union. The military exhibition is displayed in barracks built in 1955 and is divided into rooms. It provides an overview of the events of World War I and II in Sõrve, of the Soviet era and of current NATO military equipment. Older items have been collected from locals and from the nearby battle sites. In addition to the military-themed exhibition, other buildings in the complex now house maritime- and history-themed displays and Sõrve Nature Museum, entry to which is free with your military museum ticket. Near the museum are located World War I coastal battery no.43. The concrete artillery barbettes with their rounded bolts, defensive walls of two of the artillery positions and the mound of sand on which the command center once stood are all that remain today.



42

Sõrve Museum, 43rd Coastal Defence Battery in Sääre ●●●

Sääre küla, Saaremaa vald,
Estonia, Saaremaa,
GPS: 57.9176,22.0581

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mati.martinson@gmail.com



The Military Equipment Museum on Saaremaa was established in 2007. Its collection comprises the private items (approximately 12,000 of them) of its founding members. The museum organises themed hikes and reenactments of historical battles showcasing the military history of the 20th century. Covering 650 m², the museum comprises five exhibition halls open to visitors, including an outdoor exhibition (of larger military equipment). The centrepiece of the War of Independence Hall is the machine gun wagon of the 3rd Armoured Train. The exhibition displays original uniforms, weapons and other personal equipment from the War of Independence (1918-1920). The Hall of Historical Uniforms displays the original uniforms of the Estonian Defence Forces and Defence League from the interwar era (1925-1940) and original uniforms from World War II, along with other equipment. The Hall of Weapons displays European firearms and sidearms from 1450-1970. The Hall of World War II Personal Equipment and Kitchenware provides an overview of soldiers' everyday items. The Hall of Technical Equipment displays communication devices, cannons, mortars, bicycles, motor-cycles and cars.



43

Saaremaa Military Equipment Museum ● ● ● ●

Põripõllu küla, Saaremaa vald, Estonia, Saaremaa, GPS: 58.5424,23.0729

+372 56493493
sojavaramuuseum.ee
info@sojavaramuuseum.ee



44

World War I trenches by Väike Strait

Linnuse küla, Muhu saar, Estonia, Saaremaa, GPS: 58.5815,23.1650

+372 5011566
muhumuuseum.ee
muuseum@muhumuuseum.ee



The clearly visible segment of World War I trenches by the Väike Strait is situated next to the Kuivastu-Kuressaare road near the popular tourist attraction of Eemu Windmill on the island of Muhu. These trenches make up a small part of a larger area of defensive fortifications and facilities covering many kilometres. They were dug from 1915-1917 as a defensive measure against the advancing German army and were used during both world wars. The renovated site is a great example of the military history of Muhu. This zigzagging trench is clearly visible. It is easily accessed by visitors, as it is situated right by a main road with a car park next to it. Historic wire fencing only adds to the scenery. This example of military history complements the historic Eemu windmill, an industrial heritage site nearby, which survived World War I but was destroyed in World War II, before being restored in 1980.

Former missile base is situated on state forest land in Piiri on the island of Muhu. It was completed in 1963, with a similar base being established in Liiva in 1966. The air defence missile division was designed to defend the western border of the Soviet Union. The division comprised around 16 officers and 60 conscripts. The base had an electric generator, a bunker, a command center and hangars for S-75 missiles, which were the first missiles that could target moving objects. There was also a separate hangar, presumably for a nuclear warhead missile (probably an OTR-21 Tochka) or S-200 missiles. The missile hangars, the garages, the bunkers and the ruins of the command center and a pillbox with firing holes are what remain of the base today.



45

Piiri missile base ●

Piiri küla, Muhu saar, Estonia, Saaremaa, GPS: 58.6074,23.1782

+372 5280387
muhuseikleja.ee/muhu-loodus-ja-opperada
info@muhuseikleja.ee



The Estonian Museum Railway is situated on the old peat industry site in Lavassaare, 17 km north-east of Pärnu. The museum is the only narrow-gauge railway museum in the country, displaying, among other exhibits, a functioning steam locomotive. It has in its collection over 80 railroad cars, including five locomotives and a variety of technical apparatus, most of it on display outdoors. The peat workers' residential building on the museum premises houses an indoor exhibition displaying over 700 historical photos, items and documents related to narrow-gauge railways in Estonia.

The narrow-gauge network in the Governorates of Estonia and Livonia was established during the 19th and 20th centuries for the development of regional industry.



46

Estonian Railway Museum in Lavassaare ●

Ülejõe 1, Lavassaare,
Pärnu, Estonia, Pärnumaa,
GPS: 58.5209,24.3505

+372 5272 584
museumrailway.ee
museumrail@suhtlus.ee



47

Estonian Soldiers Memorial Church and Monument to the War of Independence in Tori ●

Pärnu maantee 1, Tori,
Estonia, Pärnumaa,
GPS: 58.4829,24.8143

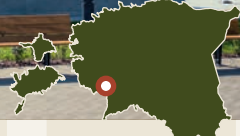
+372 5396 0574
Facebook: Eesti Sõjameeste Mälestuskirik Toris,
tori@eelk.ee

Tori Church in Pärnu County was built in 1854 and has a complicated past. The German Army burned the church down in 1944 when retreating from the Red Army. Trees were already growing in the church hall when its restoration began in 1990. The church was consecrated in 2001 as a memorial to all victims of World War II and is now known as the Estonian Soldiers Memorial Church. The church is also used as a concert venue. The monument to the War of Independence in Tori was designed by Anton Starkopf. It was unveiled in 1923 and was blown up in 1945. The restored monument was unveiled anew on 30 September 1989. It is engraved with the names of 73 fallen: 21 more than on the original.



The monument is situated on Independence Square in the centre of Pärnu. Made from granite and designed by Kaarel Eelma, Marj Aas and Mikk Mutso, it was unveiled in 2008 near the former site of the Endla Theatre.

On 23 February 1918 the Manifesto to the Peoples of Estonia was publicly declared for the first time from the balcony of Endla theatre. The manifesto was published and the Republic of Estonia declared in the capital Tallinn on 24 February, transferring all authority to the Estonian Salvation Committee, later followed by the Provisional Government. 24 February 1918 is celebrated to this day as the anniversary of the Republic of Estonia. Theatre was badly damaged in World War II and later demolished. The monument depicts the balcony of the historical theatre in its original size. It displays the text from the manifesto in both the original blackletter typeface and Antiqua, as well as in Braille.



48

Monument to the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Estonia ●

Aia 2, Pärnu, Estonia,
Pärnumaa,
GPS: 58.3851,24.5053

+372 5595 8038
info@parnutours.com



This monument in Pärnu was designed by Amandus Adamson. It was unveiled in Alevi cemetery on 16 July 1922. Its designer was buried next to it in 1929. On 15 April 1945 the monument was blown to pieces, which were then buried. The statue of a boy with a garland was buried by local high school girls 175 metres from the monument. Luckily the graves of the soldiers were left untouched. The garrison cemetery was renovated in 1987 and the parts of the monument (incl. statue of the boy with the garland) were dug up in 1988. On 24 February 1989 the upper part of the monument, which was found buried in its original location, was unveiled with a granite tablet reading: "1918 1920 / Here was unveiled, on 16 July 1922 the monument to those fallen in the War of Independence / Sculptor Amandus Adamson / Destroyed in 1945 / 24.II 1989 P.M.S." The full restoration of the monument and cemetery was completed in stages. The monument was unveiled anew on 17 July 1993.



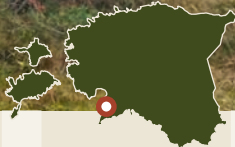
49

Monument to the War of Independence in Pärnu ●

Alevi kalmistu, Pärnu,
Estonia, Pärnumaa,
GPS: 58.3756,24.5377



132



50

Timmkanali battle site ●

Timmkanali küla, Häädemeeste vald,
Estonia, Pärnumaa
58.12829, 24.5096



162

This lighthouse is situated at the highest point on the island, atop Häubjärre (Haubjerre) Hill. In 1875, components of the metal lighthouse were commissioned from Forges et chantiers de la Méditerranée, based in Le Havre in France, and a second-grade dioptric beacon with a continuous light was ordered from Sautter, Lemonnier & Co. The components arrived in 1876 and the fully assembled lighthouse went into operation in 1877. The 40-metre structure consists of a cylindrical pipe supported by buttresses on its sides. The pipe contains a spiral staircase, which leads to the upper service space beneath the lantern room. The beacon was lit by a four-wick petroleum lamp, its light towering 66 metres above sea level. On 1 May 1915 the Germans blew up the lantern room during combat. Temporary service space was built in 1921. The service space and lantern room were restored in an altered state in 1936 and 1937 according to the designs of engineer Ants Niilre. The auxiliary buildings erected near the lighthouse in the late 19th century are still standing. Visitors can view the lighthouse, the keeper's residence and other buildings under state protection as a heritage site.



51

Ruhnu Lighthouse ●

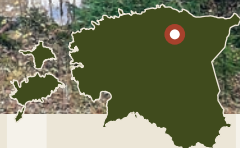
Ruhnu saar, Estonia,
Saaremaa,
GPS: 57.8014,23.2601

www.ruhnuring.ee



235

This missile base is situated in Lääne-Viru County, around 10 km from the small borough of Väike-Maarja. It formed part of the nuclear missile base established in Rakvere during the Soviet era. The base was operated from Rakvere during the 1960s and 1970s. It was closed in 1978, having been depreciated. What remains today is mostly in ruins. Some of the missile, maintenance and storage hangars and landing fields are still intact.



52

Kadila and Rohu missile base ●

Raeküla/Avispea küla, Vinni vald, Estonia, Lääne-Virumaa, GPS: 59.1878,26.3463

+372 53405718
heili.tammus@gmail.com

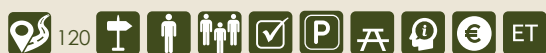


53

Forest brothers bunker in Lebavere ●

Eipri village, Väike-Maarja municipality, Lääne-Virumaa, Estonia, Lääne-Virumaa, GPS: 59.1649,26.4165

+372 53405718
heili.tammus@gmail.com



In 2020, a forest brother bunker was reopened in Lebavere forest. The bunker was created in 1944–1954 on the model of one of the bunkers of the forest brother Martin Tamme, who hid in the forest, based on the memories of his brother Kaljo Tamme. Martin Tamm lived in such a bunker for the last six years in the forest. In 2001, Väike-Maarja Parish built a bunker for visitors to visit, which was now out of date. Under the leadership of the Väike-Maarja Museum Friends Society, the same bunker and memorial plaque were restored in the forest. For information and to visit the forest brother's bunker, contact the Väike-Maarja Museum Friends Society with the tour guide.

The memorial is situated close to the church and graveyard in the small borough of Avinurme. The battle took place in 1944 and forced Estonians to fight one another: the battalions of the 27th and 921st Estonian Rifle Regiments on the Soviet side, and the Estonian Waffen Grenadier Division of the SS and units of the 300th Special Infantry Division on the German side. In 1964, a monument was placed in front of the church in Avinurme reading: "Glory to the heroes who fell in Avinurme for the liberation of our homeland. 20. September 1944".



54

Memorial to the Battle of Avinurme ●

Avinurme kalmistu, Avinurme, Mustvee vald, Estonia, Jõgevamaa, GPS: 58.9793,26.8629

info@mustvee.ee



The statue of the Mourning Maiden, which marks a mass grave of people killed in World War II, is located in the town of Mustvee by Lake Peipsi. In 1944, Red Army soldiers killed in Mustvee and the surrounding woods were buried here, in the abandoned Old Believers' cemetery. Soviet Army sources state that 264 Soviet soldiers killed in World War II are buried in the mass grave. On 8 May 1973, a bronze statue sculpted by Elmar Rebane entitled 'Mourning Maiden' was placed here, along with a tombstone marking the mass grave.



55

Sculpture of the Mourning Maiden. Mass grave of people killed in World War II ●

Pihkva 29, Mustvee, Estonia, Jõgevamaa, | info@mustvee.ee
GPS: 58.8425,26.9482



56

Jõgewa Military Museum ● ●

Tallinna maantee 17b, Jõgeva, | www.pommiauk.ee/muuseum.php
Estonia, Jõgevamaa, | mtupommiauk@gmail.com
GPS: 58.7411,26.3629

RU



The museum is situated by the Tartu-Jõgeva-Aravete road in Jõgeva. It grew out of an exhibition entitled '1900-1945' showcasing exhibits gathered and curated by military history enthusiasts. The museum opened in 2012. It displays local archaeological findings, military and civilian memorabilia, significant cultural exhibits and a wide range of weaponry. It also presents the history of military conflicts from the Stone Age through to the modern era. The museum has a study room for educational programs, such as "Don't touch bombs, children!" for schools. The museum reserves a special place for an exact copy of an Arsenal-Crossley armoured car from 1927, which was researched and built by museum staff in 2018 for the centennial celebrations of the Republic of Estonia.

The museum room is situated in Saadjärve Nature Center in the small borough of Äksi. It was opened in 2002 on behalf and with the support of the Finnish Boys Association, Tartu Municipal Government and the Finnish state. It provides an overview of the battles in Finland and Estonia in which the Finnish Boys participated during World War II. Here you will see a scale model depicting the battles fought in Jõgeva and Tartu counties and the uniforms, equipment, armaments, military decorations, personal belongings and photos of the Finnish Boys. The bunker is also open to visitors.



57

Museum room of the Finnish boys next to the Ice Age center ●

Saadjärve 22, Äksi, Tartu vald, | +372 735 3138; www.puhkaestis.ee/et/
Estonia, Tartumaa, | soomepoiste-tuba-muuseum,
GPS: 58.5257,26.6763 | aksirk@tartuvv.ee



The monument was unveiled in Suure-Jaani cemetery on 24 June 1926, designed by Amandus Adamson. It depicts the ancient Estonian chief Lembitu, wounded, but still holding his sword aloft. The monument was demolished in 1941 and again in 1950. It was restored and unveiled on 23 June 1990. Following the first demolition, the bronze statue of Lembitu was placed in a shed belonging to the local executive committee and returned to its original place during the German occupation. After the second demolition of the monument in 1950, the damaged bronze sculpture, now missing one of its hands, was given to the Viljandi Museum. A new bronze sculpture was cast for the restoration of the monument in 1990.



58

Monument to the War of Independence in Suure-Jaani ●

Suure-Jaani, Põhja-Sakala vald,
Estonia, Viljandimaa
GPS: 58.5328,25.4671



59

Viljandi museum ● ● ● ●

Johan Laidoneri plats 10,
Viljandi, Estonia, Viljandimaa,
GPS: 58.3634,25.5996

+372 433 3664, +372 433 3316
muuseum.viljandimaa.ee
info@muuseum.viljandimaa.ee



The museum is situated in the old pharmacy in the center of Viljandi. The main exhibition on both floors showcases the history of Viljandi County over the centuries. The museum also hosts unique temporary exhibitions. Part of the main exhibition is dedicated to the military history of the region: World War I, the War of Independence, the declaration of the independence of the Republic of Estonia and World War II. The museum displays its military collections, including those of Lieutenant Colonel Martin-Friedrich Bergmann, Lieutenant Colonel Artur Tenno and Colonel Johannes-August Vellerind, consisting of their personal belongings, arms, documents, medals and decorations.

Also on display is the collection of medals uncovered during the museum's renovations in 1999 belonging to the Sakala regional unit of the Defence League. The propaganda material and military equipment of both the Germans and the Soviets from 1940-1944 illustrate the World War II years and the dismantling of the Republic of Estonia. Part of the exhibition is dedicated to the mass deportations that took place and to the resistance movement of the Forest Brothers. The museum also screens films outlining the exhibitions.

The equestrian statue of General Johan Laidoner is situated near the castle hills in Viljandi. This monument, designed by sculptor Terje Ojaver, was unveiled in 2004. Dedicated to Commander-in-Chief General Johan Laidoner, it was the first and to date remains the only equestrian statue in Estonia. The prominent military man and politician, who was born in the county, was the first honorary citizen of Viljandi.



60

Equestrian statue of General Johan Laidoner ●

Viljandi lauluväljak, Viljandi,
Estonia, Viljandimaa,
GPS: 58.3619,25.5943



The farmhouse on Raba Farm in the village of Vardja, where General Laidoner was born, has not survived. It is thought to have been destroyed before World War II, as a monument was erected in its place in 1937. The monument was demolished in 1940 and restored in 1990. In recent years people have been regularly placing candles at the old farmstead on the general's birthday, 12 February.



61

Birthplace of General Johan Laidoner in Viljandi ●

Vardja küla, Viljandi vald,
Estonia, Viljandimaa,
GPS: 58.3458,25.6262



62

Monument to the War of Independence in Tarvastu ●

Jaani park, Mustla, Viljandi vald, Estonia, Viljandimaa,
GPS: 58.2348,25.8625



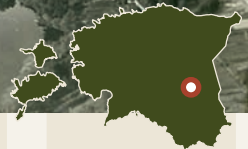
The monument was unveiled on 23 June 1937 in the small borough of Mustla. It was demolished on 18 June 1941 during the Soviet occupation before being unveiled anew on 12 July 1942 during the German occupation. In 1948 it was demolished again, and in 1990 the restored variant was unveiled. The monument was restored as per the original, with only some minor alterations.

The centrepiece of the monument is its bronze soldier, who holds a flag in one hand and a shield depicting three leopards in the other. He stands on a granite plinth, which in turn rests on a two-stepped footing. The helmet being worn by the soldier is worth mentioning: it was modelled after the famous German Stahlhelm, reflecting the 'colourful' supply situation during the War of Independence.

The airfield is a former air base on the north-eastern outskirts of Tartu. On 14 April 1912 Russian pilot Sergei Utochkin made history by completing the first motorised flight in Estonia, in a Farman biplane above Raadi Manor.

Baron Liphart, the lord of the manor, had his farmland converted into a runway in summer 1914. During the interwar period of Estonian independence, the 2nd Squadron of the Aviation Regiment was stationed in Raadi. During the 1950s and 1960s the airfield was refashioned into one of the largest air bases in Eastern Europe, at which strategic long-range bombers were stationed. The last landing in Raadi is believed to have taken place in 1996. Plans for renovating the airfield were abandoned in 1999. The airfield has since been decommissioned.

It is situated next to Raadi Manor. In 1922 the Estonian National Museum was established in the manor, which had been expropriated from the Lipharts in 1919. Aerial bombings in August 1944 set fire to the manor, and it burnt down. In 2016 the new building of the Estonian National Museum was opened in Raadi, located at the end of a former runway. The building, which is 350 metres long and rises from the ground, gives the impression of being an extension of the runway.



63

Former Raadi military airfield ● ●

Raadi, Tartu, Estonia,
Tartumaa
GPS: 58.4003,26.7666



The museum is situated on the corner of Riia and Pepleri streets in Tartu. It is a branch of the Tartu City Museum. The museum is located in the infamous "grey building" on Riiamägi Hill that the KGB used as their base of operations in Tartu during the 1940s and 1950s. The basement here was used as a pre-trial detention center for political detainees. Now, many years later, it is open to visitors. Some of the cells (including those used for solitary confinement) and part of the corridor have been restored to their original appearance.

The exhibition in its former jail cells provides an overview of World War II, the post-war anti-Soviet resistance in Estonia, the crimes committed by the communist regime and the conditions in the detention center. The idea of opening the museum came from members of a former underground student resistance group in Tartu called Blue-Black-White, who discovered upon visiting their former cells that the basement had been abandoned and that it would not be very difficult to restore the former look of the jail. The museum was officially opened on 12 October 2001.



64

KGB Cells Museum in Tartu ●

Riia 15b, Tartu, Estonia,
Tartumaa,
GPS: 58.3733,26.7200

+372 746 1914
linnamuseum.tartu.ee/kgb-kongide-muuseum,
martin.jaigma@muuseum.tartu.ee



65

Jalaka anti-tank line in Tartu ●

Räni, Kambja vald, Estonia,
Tartumaa,
GPS: 58.3458,26.6630



The Jalaka Line (named after the Chairman of the Executive Committee of Tartu, Kristjan Jalak) was an anti-tank trench dug alongside the Riga road near the village of Räni four kilometres outside of Tartu in summer 1941 as a countermeasure against the German offensive. Part of the line is situated in Lemmatsi, another village outside of Tartu by the E264 towards Valga. The other part was established on the right bank of the Emajõgi River stretching from Kärevere to Praaga. Citizens of Tartu aged 16-55, men and women alike, were forced by the Soviet regime to construct the fortifications for the Jalaka Line. The German regime used the trenches in 1941 and 1942 to execute those in its Tartu concentration camp who had been sentenced to death. During the Soviet era a monument was erected, designed by Elmar Rebase and Väino Tamm, in memory of the victims of terror.

The museum is situated in the village of Lange and covers 10 hectares. It was officially opened in 2002. Its goal is to preserve aviation history related to Estonia and to showcase and promote aviation. Its main partners are the Estonian Aviation Academy, the Estonian Air Force, the Border Guard Aviation Group and the Estonian War Museum.

The exhibition displays five helicopters and 33 planes, including anti-aircraft missiles. Most of these rare exhibits date from the Cold War era. The museum has a fine collection of aircraft and missiles, with over 600 exhibits. The Aviation Museum holds an annual aviation-themed event on the second weekend in June.



66

Estonian Aviation Museum ●

Lange, Kastre vald,
Estonia, Tartumaa,
GPS: 58.2889,26.7646

+372 5026712
www.lennundusmuuseum.ee
info@lennundusmuuseum.ee



The monument is situated in front of the historic Kõvera tavern (built somewhere between 1807 and 1830) in the small borough of Rõngu. Designed by sculptor Aleksander Eller, the monument was unveiled on 30 September 1934.

The bronze sculpture mounted on its granite base depicts the Estonian epic hero Kalevipoeg defending his mother Linda, symbolising the Estonian nation, with a sword. The sculpture was destroyed in October 1940, but then restored during the German occupation and unveiled anew on 12 October 1941. The monument was fully demolished in 1948. The current monument, slightly altered by Villu Jaanisoo, was unveiled on 21 May 1995. It differs from the original by having the statue of Linda at the top and the statue of Kalevipoeg, resting on his sword, placed in front of the monument.



67

Monument to the War of Independence in Rõngu ●

Rõngu, Elva vald, Estonia,
Tartumaa,
GPS: 58.1423,26.2469



68

Monument to the Battle of Paju ●

Paju küla, Valga vald,
Estonia, Valgamaa,
GPS: 57.8274,26.1136



The monument was unveiled in this cemetery in Valga on 11 October 1925. It is found on one of the largest burial sites of the fallen in the War of Independence and is the final resting place for over 300 men. Alas, not all those buried were identified, so the monument bears just 154 names. The monument nevertheless mentions the 152 who were unable to be identified.

The monument was knocked down in September 1940 but returned to its upright position in July 1941. After World War II the monument was toppled again and then buried. It was unveiled anew in the same location on 27 November 1988, restored from its original parts. The monument is modest in design. It comprises a stepped base surmounted by an obelisk. The material used is grey granite.



69

Monument to the War of Independence in Priimetsa cemetery ●

Priimetsa kalmistu, Valga,
Estonia, Valgamaa,
GPS: 57.7835,26.0480



The Museum and theme park showcases the internal security and military history of Valga and Estonia. The place is perfect for organising summer camps with field activities and a field trip to a World War II battle site near the Väike-Emajõgi River. The program includes learning to cook pea soup (a popular dish in the military), using camouflage face paints and orienteering in the woods. The exhibition at the theme park includes military equipment, artillery, an Mi-8 helicopter, a fire engine and various types of machine gun pillbox and naval mine. The tour ends at a Forest Brothers' bunker, where, on prior request, an alcoholic beverage drunk by the Forest Brothers and smoked lard sandwiches with onion are served. For more serious enthusiasts, the museum displays the largest collection of weapons in Estonia. The Estonian Defence Forces, Police and Border Guard Board, Defence League and Internal Security Service organise demonstrations at the museum of the duties they carry out. They are joined in doing so by the Latvian Police, Border Guard and Fire and Rescue Services. As part of the program it is possible to visit the "Walk" defensive line area near Valga, where on the river Väike-Emajõgi the trenches and pillboxes have been restored in the former German fortified positions.



70

Military theme park in Valga, Defence Line "Walk" near Valga



Pikk 16a, Valga, Estonia, Valgamaa, GPS: 57.7816,26.0542

+372 76 71 127
www.isamaalinemuuseum.ee/kontakt-ii
valga@isamaalinemuuseum.ee



71

Monument to the War of Independence in Valga

Julius Kuperjanovi 65, Valga, Estonia, Valgamaa, GPS: 57.7804,26.0510



The monument, in remembrance of freedom fighters from Southern Estonia, depicts a statue of an unknown soldier, his sword sheathed, holding a flag in one hand and the other outstretched, standing on top of a tall plinth. The original monument was unveiled on the 31st birthday of Lieutenant Julius Kuperjanov on 11 October 1925, but was demolished by the Soviet regime on the night of 21 September 1940. It was unveiled at its original location on Kuperjanovi Street in Valga on 16 August 2013. The original monument was designed in 1925 by Amandus Adamson, who also oversaw the bronze sculpture's casting in Italy. It was restored to its full size by sculptor Jaak Soans. The restoration was organised by the non-profit organisation VIKP (Permanent Exhibition of Patriotic Education in Valga), the town and county government of Valga and the Estonian War Museum.

The main building of Valga railway station (Leningrad Transport Planning Office, architect: Viktor Tsjipulin) was completed in 1949. It is an elongated two-storey structure with an avant-corps and a hipped roof, its architectural showpiece being its seven-storey square tower. It is one of the best and most remarkable examples of Stalinist architecture in Estonia. Its original state having been so well preserved further elevates its significance. The railway station was built shortly after World War II in place of a building from the imperial era that Soviet bombing had razed to the ground. Since German prisoners of war were detained in Valga, it is plausible that they were used to construct it.



72

Valga railway station built by German prisoners of war

Jaama 18, Valga, Estonia, Valgamaa, GPS: 57.7748,26.0529

+372 766 1699
valga@visitestonia.ee



This museum is situated in the city center of Võru. The exhibition showcases the history of Võru County from the prehistoric era to the mid-20th century. It also provides an overview of the birth of the Estonian Republic and the events of the War of Independence in the county. Moreover, the museum boasts one of the most detailed displays on the Forest Brothers in Estonia, including a replica of the interior of a Forest Brother bunker. Exhibitions on a variety of subjects are regularly displayed in the exhibition hall, where history-themed museum courses can be attended.



73

Vana-Võromaa Museum and Art Gallery ●●●

Katariina allee 11, Võru,
Estonia, Võrumaa,
GPS: 57.8463,26.9921

+372 78 244 79, +372 78 219 39
vorumuuseum.ee
info@vorumuuseum.ee



74

Museum room on the Forest Brothers in Nursi Village Centre (with a memorial and a replica of a bunker nearby) ●

Nursi raamatukogu, Nursi küla, Rõuge vald, Estonia, Võrumaa, GPS: 57.7807,26.8869

+372 787 9331, +372 5331 3107
rouge.kovtp.ee/raamatukogud#Nursi,
nursirk@rauge.ee

The museum room is open during the library's opening hours. The bunker is situated in an unrestricted part of the Defence Forces training area in Nursipalu. During training, gunfire can be heard in the vicinity. The last section of the road leading there may prove more demanding for drivers, but it is passable most of the time. The ground around the bunker can be wet.

The Battle of Lükka (Nursi) Bunker took place on 28 December 1945. Nine Forest Brothers were killed in the skirmish, and the above ground bunker burnt down. Three men managed to escape. The battle site was discovered after years of searching in 2008. A year later, a memorial to the battle was unveiled by the Võru-Valga road.

The first excavations at the bunker site were carried out in 2010 and the museum room dedicated to the battle was opened that same year in the former schoolhouse in Nursi. The typewriter used by the Forest Brothers is currently on display at Võru County Museum.



This monument in Värskä was constructed in accordance with the designs and photos of sculptor Roman Haavamäe in 1938 and is unique among the restored War of Independence monuments in Estonia. Originally the monument was to be unveiled in Freedom Park in Petseri, but the Soviet occupation prevented this twice, in 1940 and 1944. It was completed 80 years later and unveiled in a new location in Värskä, the new administrative center of the Setomaa region. It is adorned with the coat of arms of the town of Petseri, as the monument was originally funded by the townspeople. It is dedicated to the many who were killed – some estimates suggest around 350 died in the battles fought in Petseri County. The monument stands five metres high and is crowned with a statue of a man wielding a sword and a shield depicting three leopards.



75

Monument to the War of Independence in Petseri County ●

Värskä küla, Setomaa vald, Estonia, Võrumaa, GPS: 57.9573,27.6326

+372 5682 1268
www.visitsetomaa.ee
turism@setomaa.ee



The restored Art Nouveau summer home of General Nikolai Reek is situated on the shore of Lake Õrsava in Värskas, surrounded by scenic nature. Värskas Visitor Center opened here in 2020, showcasing the unique heritage of the region. The exhibition provides an overview of the Northern Camp of Petseri established here in the 1920s, the events of the War of Independence and the use of therapeutic mud and mineral water at local resorts.



76

Värskas Visitor Centre – Reek House (Reegi maja) ●

Pikk 29, Värskas, Setomaa vald, Estonia, Võrumaa, GPS: 57.9483,27.6448

+372 58 878 676
www.setomuuseum.ee
reegimaja@setomuuseum.ee



77

Northern Camp ●

Värskas, Setomaa vald, Estonia, Võrumaa, GPS: 57.9435,27.6464

+372 505 4673
www.setomuuseum.ee
info@setomuuseum.ee



The Northern Camp is situated on the shores of Lake Õrsava south of Värskas in Põlva County. Officially the Estonian Defence Forces' Northern Camp of Petseri (2nd Division staff headquarters), it was established in the mid-1920s as a summer training center for cavalry and artillery. The complex comprised barracks, stables, officers' housing, a canteen and an impressive mess. The camp also had sports grounds and courts and swimming facilities by the lake. There were separate swimming areas for officers, soldiers and horses. In the middle of the camp were muster and parade grounds. The artillery camp was situated on the other side of the lake, including a lumber mill. Most of the buildings have since been destroyed, but the barracks and some of the living quarters have survived. The site can be viewed from the outside. Upon request, Värskas Farm Museum can provide a thematic program focusing on the Northern Camp.

The Saatse Seto Museum is located in a remote corner of South-Eastern Estonia, near the border control line between Estonia and the Russian Federation. The new permanent exhibition "Everything has a border (s)" introduces the development of cultures in border areas against the background of political and military history, so that the visitor is inspired to think further about the topic "borders around and inside us". The exhibition focuses on the peculiarities of the Saatse region with aspects of the unique ethnic and cultural heritage of Setomaa.



78

Saatse Seto Museum ● ● ●

Samarina küla, Setomaa vald, Estonia, Võrumaa, GPS: 57.8859,27.8043

+372 5342 1428
www.setomuuseum.ee/et/saatse-muuseum
saatse@setomuuseum.ee



Plans for this Forest Brothers memorial were hatched in early 2013, when the Internal Security Service identified the bodies found in a mass grave in Reedopalo near Võru. With the cooperation of Vastseliina municipality, the Võru regional unit of the Estonian Defense League and the Ministry of Defense, the location in the cemetery was decided upon and the necessary preparations were carried out. The reinterment of the 13 Forest Brothers took place on 21 September 2013. A year later, memorial sculptures designed by Mati Karmin were unveiled here, depicting small spruce trees carved out of stone. On 1 November 2015 a further four Forest Brothers whose bodies had been recovered from the secret mass grave in Reedopalo were reinterred here and more memorial spruces were unveiled in remembrance of those fallen in three different battles. Their actual graves remain unknown to this day.



79

Memorial to the forest brothers at Vastseliina ●

Vastseliina kalmistu, Vastseliina, Võru vald, Estonia, Võrumaa, GPS: 57.7350,27.2831



80

Forest Brother (Metsavenna) Farm ●

Vastse-Roosa küla, Rõuge vald, Estonia, Võrumaa, GPS: 57.5701,26.6608

+372 5230850
www.metsavennatalu.ee
metsavennainfo@gmail.com

RU LV



Metsavenna Talu (Forest Brother Farm) is close to the Latvian border in the village of Vastse-Roosa. The bunker tourism attraction was opened in 1999, offering visitors a chance to experience the Forest Brothers' way of life as a chapter in Estonian history. The program includes searching for Forest Brothers in the hideout, visiting the bunker, learning about real-life events, singing Forest Brother songs with the host and sampling a Forest Brother meal or feast. The main attraction is the bunker, which is lined with narrow pine logs and embedded in the hillside. The bunker is furnished with bunk beds and a small table. These types of bunkers were used during the late 1940s and early 1950s by hundreds of brave men in the resistance, burdened by the need to hide from the authorities.

www.militaryheritagetourism.info

MILITARY HERITAGE TOURISM OBJECTS



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The Soviet border defence post was located in the building that used to be a maritime school, and next to it is a well-preserved Soviet border guard watchtower. The second watchtower is located right on the shore next to a parking lot. These watchtowers are a reminder of the Soviet occupation and the times when Mazirbe was a closed border area and civilians were allowed on the shore only in specially designated places and only during the daytime. This border guard watchtower is one of the best-preserved objects of its type on the coast of Latvia. However, it is dangerous to climb it.



81 Mazirbe border guard tower ●

Mazirbe (next to free parking at the beach), Kolka pag., Talsu nov., Latvia, GPS: 57.6925,22.3265

www.celotajs.lv/lv/e/mazirberobezsardze



82 Rebuilt German army dugouts in Melsnīls Campsite ●

Melsnīls, Rojas pag., Talsu nov., Latvia, GPS: 57.6528,22.5733

+371 28605606
www.melsnils.lv
info@melsnils.lv



Campsite Melsnīls is located next to the sea 10 km from Kolka. Here German Army type dugouts have been built that can be used as lodging for the night. This is a nod to the history of this region when during World War II the German Army had a border guard post and a camp site here and soldiers built dugouts for themselves using materials that could be found nearby. Trenches can still be found in the dunes along the coast.

'Bunker Nr. 13' is the largest of the two dugouts, with three bunk beds. The 'Small Bunker' is smaller and has two bunk beds. Campsite 'Melsnīls' is a great choice for active recreation and sporting events for up to 300 people. It is located near the Slītere National Park, coastal bluffs and forest hiking trails. There are marked cycling trails that wind through the natural surroundings in the area. There are designated places for tents and campfires by the sea, as well as barrel-type guest houses for two or four people. A bathhouse with different types of whisks is also available.

Edgars Kārklevāls owns a guest house called Pūpoli in the Dundaga region, and for more than 15 years he has been taking people on historical and educational trips around northern Kurzeme (including to former military areas) with his own renovated Soviet Army truck GAZ-66 (up to 24 persons) and UAZ-3151 (up to 6 persons). Soviet Army trucks and other equipment are showcased in an area around the guest house.



83 Collection of Soviet military trucks ●

"Pūpoli", Dundaga, Dundagas pag., Talsu nov., Latvia, GPS: 57.5168,22.3587

+371 29197900
www.celotajs.lv/lv/e/pupoligaz66
pupoli9@inbox.lv



Oviši Lighthouse is located in the Tārgale parish in a village called Oviši on the coast of Kurzeme. It was built in 1814 and it is the oldest lighthouse in Latvia. The height of Oviši Lighthouse tower is 37 m. The lighthouse has a double-cylinder design: its diameter is 11.5 m, but within the stone wall there is a second tower with a diameter of 3.5 m. Such double-cylinder lighthouses were used also as defensive structures in 18th-19th century Europe in case of enemy attacks. The Oviši Lighthouse Museum is considered to have the largest collection of lighthouse equipment and maritime navigation items among all Latvian lighthouse museums. When the weather is right the Irbe Lighthouse can be seen from Oviši Lighthouse.

At the end of World War II, the headquarters of the Beminger Battalion of the German Army was located near the Oviši Lighthouse along with the 4th Battery of the 530th Naval Artillery Division with several anti-aircraft guns. It is said that there was a radio direction finder and an infrared ray detection station Donau Gerät located at the foot of the lighthouse. A Soviet border guard post was once located near the lighthouse, but none of the Soviet-era buildings have survived. The Oviši station building is still located in the territory of the lighthouse.



84

Oviši Lighthouse and Soviet border guard ●

Oviši, Tārgales pag.,
Ventspils nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.5687,21.7159

+371 26264616
www.portofventsps.lv/lv/brivosta-sabiedribai/bakas
info@vbp.lv



85

Ventspils International Radio Astronomy Centre ●

Irbene, Ances pag.,
Ventspils nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.5598,21.8614

+371 29230818
www.virac.eu
virac@venta.lv



Ventspils International Radio Astronomy Centre, also known as the Irbene Radio Telescope, is located in the former Soviet Army town of Irbene. The Space Intelligence Station 'Zvaigznīte' (Little Star) was once the army unit No. 51429. The total area of the object was 200 ha, but information about the object became publicly available only in 1993. Initially there were three antennas here, which the army used to intercept and listen-in on phone calls of the "hostile West".

The radio astronomy centre in Irbene is currently the eighth largest in the world. It has a 32 m rotating parabolic antenna RT-32, which is the largest in Northern Europe and the eighth largest in the world, as well as a second 16 m antenna RTs-16. The centre studies space signals, and it has received a signal from as far as the Cygnus constellation. The tour includes a walk around the territory of the former army town of Irbene and a visit to an underground tunnel and the memorial place of the rocket designer Friedrich Zander in the building called 'Kristāls' (Cristal).

In the Seaside Open-Air Museum in Ventspils you can take a ride on two narrow-gauge railway lines with the train 'Mazbānītis'. The Circle line is 1.4 km and the Mountain line is 3 km. 'Mazbānītis' is the locomotive that transported passengers and cargo on 600 mm narrow-gauge railway tracks between 1916 and 1963. It is a legacy of military history from World War I that once played an important role in the cultural and economic development of northern Kurzeme by connecting settlements and providing new jobs.

Construction of a large 600 mm narrow-gauge railway network is largely associated with World War I, when the German Army in 1916 started the construction of several so-called military field railways (*Heeresfeldbahn* in German) in the occupied territory of Latvia. These railways could be quickly constructed, deconstructed and moved to another front line. The Latvian narrow-gauge railway network was used also during World War II. For almost 60 years the narrow-gauge railway was the only safe way of transporting passengers, various agricultural products and timber to cities in both winter and summer.



86

Narrow gauge railway train "Mazbānītis" in Ventspils Seaside Open-air museum ● ●

Riņķa iela 2, Ventspils,
Latvia,
GPS: 57.3864,21.5345

+371 63624467, +371 22466099,
muzejs.ventsps.lv/piejuras-brivdabas-muzejs/
mazbanitis/vesture, brivdaba@ventsps.lv



The restored fire control tower of the 46th Coast Guard Battery in Ventspils is located on Saulrieta street and is available to visitors in the form of an observation tower. There are four artillery gun positions near the tower and it is the only World War II coastal defence battery in Latvia in such good condition. Visitors can take the tower stairs to an outdoor viewing platform overlooking the sea. An information stand with a QR code is available next to the tower. You can use the QR to watch an animation about historical events. There is a new street leading to the tower, a large parking lot and a wooden footbridge that crosses the protected nature area next to the tower. This military complex was built in 1939, marking the start of construction of USSR military bases in Latvia. The 46th Coast Guard Battery had four positions for the gun type 5-13. This battery had its first military engagement on 24 June 1941, when Ventspils harbour was attacked by German torpedo boats that were driven away from the shores of the Baltic Sea by battery fire. On June 28 the Soviet Army blew up the guns.



87

Fire correction tower of the Ventspils 46th Coastal Defence Battery ●●

Saulrieta iela, Ventspils, Latvia,
GPS: 57.3779,21.5266

+371 63624467, www.visitventspils.com/lv/ko-darit-ventspili/1360/?group=10&brivdaba@ventspils.lv



88

Užava Lighthouse ●●

Užava, Užavas pag., Ventspils nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.2091,21.4127

+371 63630573, +371 28341836
www.portofventspils.lv/lv/brivosta-sabied-ribai/bakas_info@vbp.lv



The Užava Lighthouse can be found in an uninhabited location 3 km from the village of Užava on a 28 m high dune. The lighthouse was built in 1879. In 1910 the front of the lighthouse was reinforced with a 7-8 cm thick board corrugated wall and a layer of stone, because due to the flat beach, the sea was starting to erode the foot of the dune. During World War I the Užava Lighthouse was badly damaged – the upper cylindrical part of the lighthouse tower was ruined and the auxiliary buildings were destroyed by artillery fire. Only the octagonal base of the tower remained intact, and in 1925 the new Užava Lighthouse tower was built on top of it. Design of the new tower was identical to that of the previous lighthouse tower. And for as long as the lighthouse has stood there, binding and strengthening works of the adjacent coastal slope have continued. The height of tower is 19 m, height above sea level is 44 m, and the signal light can be seen from a distance of 15 nautical miles.

During World War II at the end of 1944, headquarters of the 113th German Security Regiment and several coastal defence batteries were located in the vicinity of the Užava Lighthouse. An artillery forward observer post with spotlights was located right next to the lighthouse. At the end of World War II only the 7th Battery of the 530th Naval Artillery Division with five anti-aircraft guns remained in the vicinity of the Užava Lighthouse.

Rubenis' Battalion Museum is located in Ugāle. It is dedicated to the Battalion of R. Rubenis, who served and fought under General J. Kurelis in Kurzeme in 1944, the activities of the *Kurelians* and the national resistance movement. Museum has an exhibit on the activities of the Latvian Central Council (LCC) and its Ventspils group, as well as the LCC Memorandum with 188 signatures and photographs of signatories that is included in the Latvian National Register of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme. The LCC was a joint centre of Latvia's highest political leadership with an underground government that operated during the occupation of Latvia from 1943 to 1994. It was formed with the aim of coordinating the activities of various Latvian resistance movements in order to restore Latvia's national independence. The museum also offers a trip to places significant to the history of the battalion (settlement with a reconstructed bunker in the Usma parish, battlefields in Renda and Zlēkas parishes, etc.).



89

Rubenis' battalion museum ●●

"Silmači", Ugāle, Ugāles pag., Ventspils nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.2646,22.0478

+371 26559172
rezistence.lv
rubena.fonds@inbox.lv



The restored dugout of the 2nd Company of the Rubenis Battalion is located in a forest by lake Ilziķi in the Usma parish. The dugout can be viewed from the outside for free at any time. However, tours inside the dugout must be booked in advance.

The Battalion of Lieutenant Robert Rubenis was part of a military unit formed by General Jānis Kurelis, and it is known for not surrendering to the German troops and showing heavy resistance. From November 14 to December 9 in 1944 fierce battles were fought in Ugāle, Usma, Renda and Zlēkas parishes between forces of the 16th German Army, SD and SS units under the command of the Police General Friedrich Jeckeln, and the battalion of the *Kurelian* unit commanded by Lieutenant Roberts Rubenis. The men under Rubenis' command were well armed and organised and did not associate themselves with any of the two hostile occupying powers. Their actions are considered to be the most wide-spread and longest in the history of the Latvian national resistance movement. In battles near Renda and Zlēkas about 250 German soldiers fell, while only 50 casualties were suffered by Rubenis' men. The events of those days are represented by the restored dugout in the forest (soil-covered, log cabin dug in the ground) where the men of the Rubenis Battalion once stayed.



90

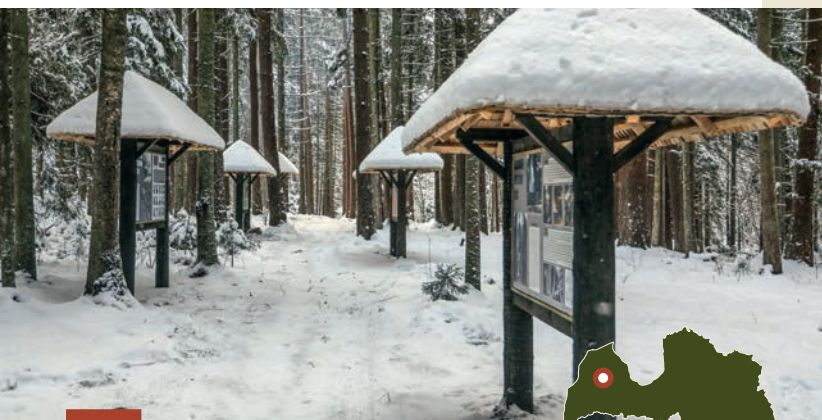
Rubenis' battalion bunker and battlefields ● ●

Ugāles pag., Ventspils nov.,
Latvia,
GPS: 57.2634,22.1819

+371 26559172, www.visitventspils.com/lv/ko-darit-ventspili/655/?category=117
rubena.fonds@inbox.lv



145



91

Museum of the National Resistance Movement in Renda ● ●

"Viesturi", Rendas pag.,
Kuldīgas nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.0496,22.3005

+371 26559172
rezistence.lv
rubena.fonds@inbox.lv



137

The Pelči Manor is located in Pelči parish, Kuldīga municipality. Tours of the manor house must be booked in advance. The Pelči Manor was built between 1903 and 1904, and this work by architect Wilhelm Neumann is one of the most outstanding manors of the early 20th century in Latvia. Its architectural language involves compositional principles and elements from Renaissance, Baroque and Art Nouveau. Between the late 19th century and 1920, the manor was owned by the Fürst von Lieven family.

From 1944 to 1945, the Pelči Manor was used as headquarters of the German Army Group 'North' (known as Army Group 'Kurzeme' as of 25 January 1945).

The headquarters of the Army Group 'North' moved from Sigulda to the Pelči Manor on 23 September 1944 in view of the planned retreat of the 18th army force from Estonia. The headquarters remained there approximately until mid-May 1945 when, after the capitulation of Army Group 'Kurzeme', information and documents were handed over to Red Army officers.



92

Pelči Manor ●

Pelči, Pelču pag.,
Kuldīgas nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.9189,21.9682

+37126354396, +371 28219210
pelci.lv, +371 29334403,
tourinfo@kuldiga.lv, visitkuldiga.com



161

The Soviet border guard observation tower is located near the South Pier in Pāvilosta. The former Soviet border guard observation tower, which had been out of use since the early 1990s, now serves as a viewing platform with a 360-degree rotating land telescope. It offers beautiful views of the sea and ships and can be used for bird watching. Ascending the tower is only allowed during daylight hours in the summer season. As the stairs in the tower are quite steep, visitors should evaluate their abilities, health and associated risks. The observation tower and the surrounding area has video surveillance. The tower is closed to visitors during the winter season.



93

Former Soviet border guard observation tower in Pāvilosta ●

Ostmalas 2, Pāvilosta,
Dienvidkurzemes nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.8898,21.16829

+371 63498229, +371 29121894
www.pavilosta.lv/lv/turisms/apskatesobjekti/pavilosta_tic@pavilosta.lv



94

Pāvilosta local history museum exposition ● ●

Dzintaru iela 1, Pāvilosta,
Dienvidkurzemes nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.8895,21.1722

+371 63498276, +371 29226273,
www.visitpavilosta.lv/iepazisti-un-izbaudi/category/apskates-objekti
irina.kurcanova@pavilosta.lv



Named 'Pāvilosta, a Closed Area', the exhibit in the Pāvilosta Local History Museum is about everyday life in the town of Pāvilosta during the Soviet occupation; specifically, about the executive branch, border area, fishermen's collective farm, and the cultural and social activities. In addition to the permanent exhibit, there is an interactive and emotionally rich digital exhibit in two languages and an audio-visual installation offering a film about Pāvilosta.

The museum also features a new exhibit named 'The Golden Sand Grains of Pāvilosta'. The digital installation showcases old events, how Pāvilosta was founded and the most important developments from 1918 to the present day. Military heritage is a point of focus in the War of Independence section, which tells a story about the freedom fighters of Latvia and the time of the Soviet occupation.

The Akmeņrags Lighthouse is located in Saka parish, 10 kilometres southwest of Pāvilosta. The top of the lighthouse can be reached by a spiral staircase and it offers views of the sea and the surrounding forests. Standing at 37 metres high, the current lighthouse tower was built in 1921, while the previous lighthouse was destroyed during World War I.

The Akmeņrags Lighthouse stands out among other lighthouses in Latvia, as it is located in one of the most dangerous places for sailing in the entire Baltic Sea coast. The signal beam of the lighthouse marks a rocky bank, which extends approximately two nautical miles or 3.7 kilometres into the sea in a north-western direction. The depth of the bank is just over two metres. The location of the lighthouse has remained unchanged, but the coastline has been receding over the years. Although a navigation light has been here since 1879, Akmeņrags has seen several shipwrecks. The most notable occurred in September 1923 when a Latvian steamer named Saratow struck the ground. In 1919, Saratow briefly served as the seat of the Latvian Provisional Government. Akmeņrags used to be home to a border guard post, and buildings of the Soviet Army are can be viewed here.



95

Akmeņrags Lighthouse ●

Sakas pag.,
Dienvidkurzemes nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.8319,21.0580

+371 28350899
www.portofventspils.lv/lv/brivosta-sa-biedribai/bakas_info@vbp.lv



The largest memorial to Holocaust victims in Latvia is located in Liepāja, in the Šķēde dunes. The memorial is dedicated to the memory of more than 3,000 Liepāja Jews killed during World War II. It is in the form of the Israeli national symbol, a seven-branched candelabra known as the menorah. The contours of the memorial, which are clearly visible from a bird's eye view, are made of split boulders and granite blocks. The 'lights' of the menorah are made of granite pillars with inscriptions of verses from the Lamentations of Jeremiah in Hebrew, English, Latvian and Russian.



96

Memorial to the victims of holocaust in Liepāja ●●●

Lībiešu iela, Šķēdes kāpas,
Medzes pag., Dienvidkurzemes
nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.5997,21.0218

+371 63 480 808, +371 29 402 111
liepaja.travel/darit-un-redzet/memorials-holo-
kausta-upuriem, info@liepaja.travel



97

Liepāja Northern Fort in Karosta ●●●●

Jātnieku iela 25, Liepāja,
Latvia,
GPS: 56.5912,21.0148

+371 26369470
liepaja.travel/darit-un-redzet/ziemelu-forti
info@karostascietums.lv



The Northern Forts are the best known and visually most impressive part of the Liepāja Fortress. Built by the Russian tsarist army in the late 19th century, their historical name is Fortress Battery No 1.

In November 1908, less than 10 years after its construction, the Liepāja Fortress ceased to operate, because its construction was acknowledged as a strategic mistake. Some of the cannons were dismantled and taken to the Kaunas Fortress in Lithuania, while others were remelted. Fortification structures were detonated twice in an attempt to destroy the fortifications. Elements surviving to the present day include artillery batteries not fully destroyed in the explosions and underground structures. Just like the Karosta, the Northern Forts were a closed military territory during the Soviet occupation. Visitors to the Northern Forts should be very careful. As in other places on the Latvian coast, the steep shore of the Baltic Sea in the Karosta is dangerous due to potential coastal landslides. Therefore, it is not allowed to walk under the ruins of the forts.

Karosta is the largest historical military territory in the Baltics and occupies almost one third of the entire territory of Liepāja. The Karosta is a unique compound of military and fortification buildings on the shores of the Baltic Sea with a special meaning in the history and architecture of Latvia and the world. Karosta features such military heritage sites as the North Pier and forts, the Redan, Karosta Prison, Karosta Water Tower, St. Nicholas Orthodox Maritime Cathedral, Oskars Kalpaks Bridge and others.



98

Karosta, the Military port of Liepāja ●●●

Karosta, Liepāja, Latvia,
GPS: 56.5786,21.0411

+371 26369470
liepaja.travel/darit-redzet/karosta
info@karostascietums.lv



39

The Karosta Prison in Liepāja is the only military prison in Europe open to tourists. Constructed around 1900 for the needs of a hospital, the building was never used for its original purpose. The structure was repurposed as a place for serving temporary disciplinary punishment and was used as such up until 1997.

Powers changed but the purpose of the institution remained the same, namely, to house prisoners, including revolutionaries, sailors and non-commissioned officers of the Russian tsarist army, German deserters, enemies of the people of the Stalin era, as well as soldiers of the Soviet and Latvian armies. The Karosta Prison is currently open to visitors and guided tours are available. The tours show the prison and visitors can learn about its history, have a look at the prison and punishment cells and hear interesting and even ghostly tales about life at the prison. Braver souls have the opportunity to play the 'Behind the Bars' reality game or try to get out of closed rooms. And those who know no fear can spend the night in a prison cell. The Karosta Prison has a Karosta Visitor Centre, a Soviet-era buffet and a souvenir shop. The services of a guide are available throughout the whole of Karosta.



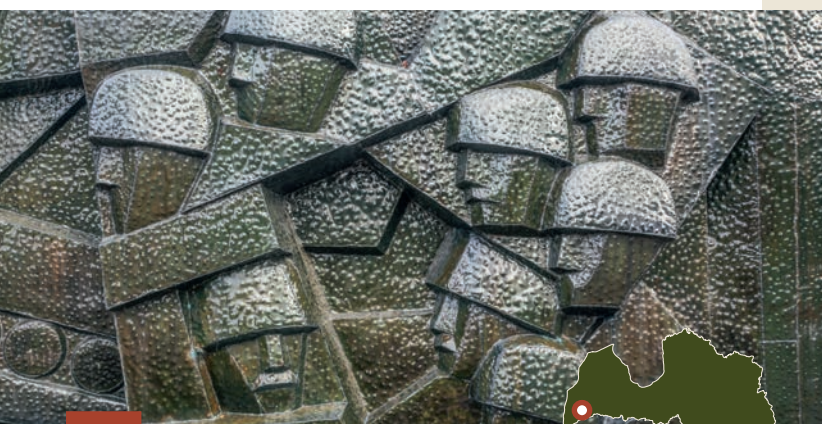
99

Karosta Military Prison ● ● ●

Invalīdu iela 4, Liepāja,
Latvia,
GPS: 56.5465,21.0213

+371 26369470
karostascietums.lv
info@karostascietums.lv

EN DE



100

Guided excursion in Priekule "Along the Footsteps of World War II in the 'Courland Pocket'" ●

Priekule, Dienvidkurzemes
nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.4391,21.5812

+371 26132442, 634 97950
leismalite.lv/marsruts-pa-2-pasaules-karapadam-kurzemes-katla,
turisms@priekulesnovads.lv



EN RU

The Priekule Memorial Ensemble of Warrior's Cemetery is on the Liepāja-Priekule-Skoda road and is the largest burial site of Soviet soldiers of World War II in the Baltics. More than 23,000 Soviet soldiers are buried here. Operation Priekule was one of the fiercest battles in Kurzeme Fortress that took place from October 1944 to 21 February 1945. The Battle of Priekule in February 1945 lasted seven days and nights without interruption and had a lot of casualties on both sides. Until Priekule Warrior's Cemetery was transformed into a memorial, the last monument of the outstanding Latvian sculptor K. Zāle (1888-1942) was located here to commemorate the independence battles in Aloja. Between 1974 and 1984, the 8 ha Priekule Warrior's Cemetery was transformed into a memorial ensemble dedicated to those who fell in World War II. It was designed by the sculptor P. Zaļkalne, architects A. Zoltners and E. Salguss, and the dendrologist A. Lasis.

The centre of the memorial holds a 12 m tall statue called the 'Motherland', and names of the fallen are engraved on granite slabs. Until Latvia regained its independence, the Victory Day was widely celebrated every year on May 9.



101

Priekule Memorial Ensemble of Warrior's Cemetery ●

P14 ceļa malā, Priekule,
Dienvidkurzemes nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.4317,21.5988

+371 26132442, 63497950
leismalite.lv/priekules-bralu-kapu-memoria-lais-ansamblis, turisms@priekulesnovads.lv



Vaiņode airfield still has 16 Soviet-era aircraft hangars and an 1800 m section of the once 2500 m long runway. The airfield can only be visited with a previous booking. Vaiņode airfield was established during the Latvian independence as one of the cradles of Latvian aviation and was later one of the largest military airfields in the Baltic States. In 1916, two hangars for German Army airships were built. Airships were used to gather intelligence and bomb the positions of the Russian Army. Later the city of Riga bought the airship hangars and used their roof structures to build the pavilions of the Riga Central Market. In May 1940, the 31st Fast Bomber Aviation Regiment of the Red Army moved to Vaiņode, and the construction of a standardized concrete slab runway began. At the end of the summer of 1944 the partially completed airfield was used by various German aviation units, however, at the end of World War II, the same airfield was used by the Red Army aviation units fighting the German Army group called 'Kurzeme'. After World War II the Soviet Air Forces were stationed in Vaiņode until 1992.



102

Vaiņode air base ●●●

Vaiņodes pag.,
 Dienvidkurzemes nov., Latvia,
 GPS: 56.4083,21.8889

+371 29229743
 leismalite.lv/vainodes-lidlauks
 inara.avotina@inbox.lv



103

Cattle waggon used for deportations – museum at Skrunda train station ●●

Stacijas iela 2, Skrunda,
 Latvia,
 GPS: 56.6801,22.0123

+371 29334403
 www.skrunda.lv/turisms/apskates-objekti/
 skrunda-un-pagasts-/deportaciju-pieminas-
 vagon-muzejs
 tourinfo@kuldiga.lv

To commemorate the deportations of June 1941 and March 1949, a memorial stone and a four-axle waggon, which also serves as the museum dedicated to deportations, was erected at the Skrunda railway station. This is the first waggon-type museum in Latvia that holds a permanent exhibit of photos, letters, memoirs, documents and various items made by the people deported from the Skrunda station. Skrunda station was a location where deportees were gathered, and one of the three stations in the region to which people from the Skrunda and the Kuldīga area were brought. In 1941, the family of the first President of the restored Republic of Latvia, Guntis Ulmanis, was deported from here to Krasnoyarsk Krai in Siberia.

With the help of deportations, the Soviets dealt with supporters of the national partisans' and at the same time intimidated the remaining rural population, forcing them to join the collective farms.



Skrunda manor has an exhibit about the Skrunda radar (Skrunda radio location station) and the activities of the Latvian Popular Front in Skrunda. The Skrunda radio location station nicknamed 'Kombināts' (The Plant) was a USSR missile early warning system in the western sector. Location 'Skrunda-2' was a special town (Б/Ч 18951) created 5 km from Skrunda in the direction of Kuldīga for the needs of the USSR military. The radar station Dņepr operated from here and a new, more modern station Darjal was being built. Construction was stopped and the radar station Darjal was blown up on 4 May 1995. In compliance with an international agreement, the radar station Dnieper was shut down on 31 August 1998.



104

Skrunda Manor and exposition of Skrunda locator ●

Pils iela 2, Skrunda, Latvia,
 GPS: 56.6706,22.0235

+371 22113355
 www.skrundasmuiza.lv
 edgars.vizulis@skrundasmuiza.lv



EN

41

The Oskars Kalpaks Museum and Memorial Site Airītes is located between Saldus and Skrunda near the A9 highway. The exhibit has extensive information about Colonel Oskars Kalpaks and his battalion, and shows the history of the Latvian National Army and the memorial site Airītes. The exhibit reveals Colonel Oskars Kalpaks as a personality, as a soldier and as a fighter for Latvia's independence. Audio logs in Latvian, English and German are also available as part of the exhibit. They emphasise the importance of the historic events of 1918/1919 in protecting the statehood of Latvia. The museum building has been restored. Entry is free; guided tour – for a fee. The complex has a recreation area, a park, an obstacle course, it is possible to take various classes, and there is a seminar hall for up to 30 people.



105

Oskars Kalpaks Museum and Memorial Site "Airītes" ●

"Airītes", Zirņu pag.,
Saldus nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.6784,22.1553

+371 22017465
www.karamuzejs.lv/ok
airites@karamuzejs.lv



106

Ezere local history repository "Muitas Nams" ("Customs House") ●●

"Ezeres Muitas punkts",
Ezere, Ezeres pag.,
Saldus nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.4027,22.3695

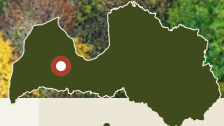
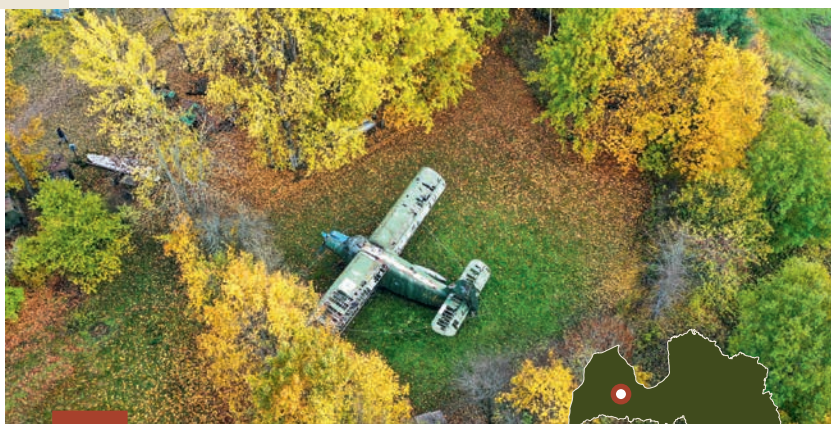
+371 29475438, 63842152
turisms.saldus.lv/kur-doties/ko-skatit/
militarais-mantojums-un-objekti
antra.ozoli@gmail.com



The Ezere Customs House is located in Ezere near the Saldus-Mažeikiai highway at the Latvian-Lithuanian border. The act of surrender of the German Army units 'Kurzeme' (Kurland) surrounded in the so-called 'Courland Pocket' was signed in this building on 8 May 1945. It is believed that World War II actually ended in Ezere. The customs house has an exhibit covering the events of the end of World War II and exhibits detailing the history of Ezere parish from ancient to modern days. In the morning of 7 May 1945, the commander of the Leningrad Front, Marshal L. Govorov, sent an ultimatum to the command of the army group 'Kurzeme' to lay down arms. The act of surrender was signed by the involved parties on May 8 and it detailed the procedure of surrender, weapons collection points, documents and information to be submitted and other practical measures.

Kurzeme Fortress Museum is a large private collection dedicated to the events of World War II in Kurzeme. The museum is located in the village of Zante, Kandava municipality, which is part of the military history of the Kurzeme Fortress. Exhibit includes items of military history, military machines, restored trenches and bunkers.

The Kurzeme Fortress and Courland Pocket – these are the terms that are most commonly used to describe battles between the German and Red Army in Kurzeme from 1944 to 1945. These engagements or "Grand Battles of Kurzeme" were notable, because the German Army, which was located in a partially isolated territory, managed to withstand multiple large-scale attacks by the Red Army at a time when Berlin had fallen to the Allied Army and Germany had already surrendered. Units of the Latvian Legion were one of the best combat units in Kurzeme. Latvian Legionnaires believed that their fight would help thousands of Latvians to escape the Red Army's crimes against civilians. Even long after the war had ended the land of Kurzeme was riddled with reminders of the battles fought – military cemeteries, destroyed equipment, armaments and trenches.



107

Kurzeme Fortress Museum in Zante ●

Skolas iela 8a, Zantes pag.,
Tukuma nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.8357,22.7352

+371 29442311
www.kurzemescietoksnis.viss.lv
ilgvars48@inbox.lv



During the ride with the recreational boat "Zezer" along Lake Ciecere near Brocēni you can listen to the audio guide and captain's stories about Lake Ciecere and the city of Brocēni on its shores, World War II events near Lake Ciecere, trenches on both sides of the lake and the Oak Island, as well as the tank route running along an observation tower and the tank that is said to be sunk in the lake. The audio guide is available in Latvian, Lithuanian, English, and Russian languages. The ride takes 1 hour 15 min.

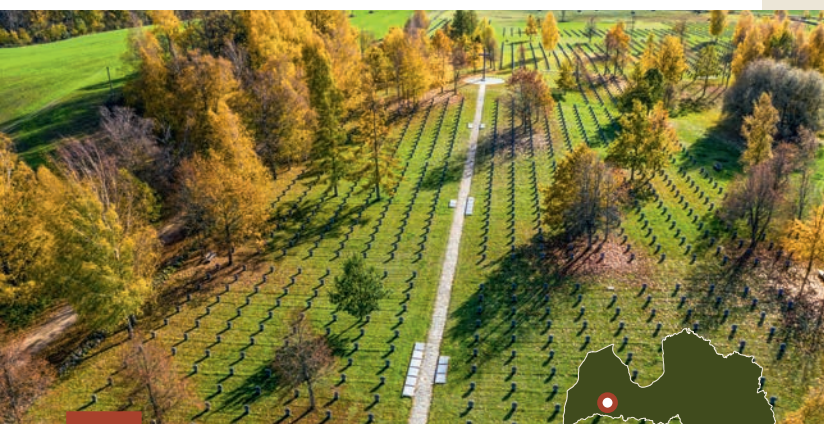


108

Boat trip in Ciecere lake by the boat "Zezer" ●●

Brocēni, Saldus nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.6869,22.5612

+371 26858777
www.facebook.com/kugitiszezer
kugiszezer@gmail.com



109

Saldus German Soldiers' Cemetery ●

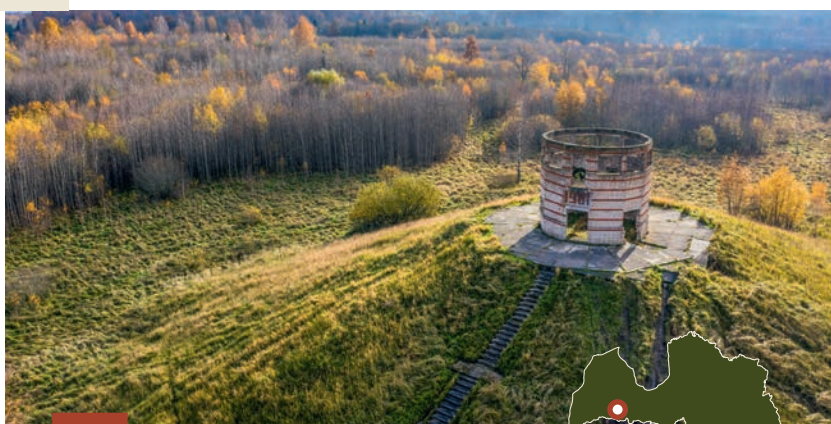
"Tērplī", Novadnieku pag.,
Saldus nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.6127,22.4595

+371 63807443, turisms.saldus.lv/kur-doties/ko-skatit/pieminas-vietas,
tiks@saldus.lv



Saldus German Soldiers' Cemetery is located near the Saldus-Ezere highway. More than 27,000 German soldiers have been reburied here. From May 1 to October 1 an exhibit about the six grand battles of the Kurzeme Fortress will be available in the memorial room. Tours can be booked on Saturdays and Sundays. Registers of soldiers buried in the Saldus German Soldiers' Cemetery and German soldiers who have fallen throughout Latvia are also available. The exhibit has photographs, items and memorabilia donated to the museum by relatives of the fallen soldiers. Military burial site research and reburial of soldiers has been conducted since 1997. Work is still ongoing and all soldier burial sites have not yet been explored. The names of the reburied soldiers suggest that along with Germans and Austrians also Latvians, Estonians, Lithuanians, Norwegians, Danes and soldiers of other nationalities had been drafted into the German Army.

Zvārde air force firing ground is located in Zvārde parish, Saldus municipality. It is a former USSR aviation firing ground of more than 24,000 hectares. Several objects can be visited in the territory of the former firing ground: Officers' kurgan (embankment with a control building), Zvārde and Ķērklīņi church ruins, Rīteļi cemetery, former army base 'Lapsas' and others. Until World War II a farmstead named 'Vairogi' was located on the site of the observation tower. During the construction of the firing ground, everything that was left of the farm – walls, the remains of an orchard and also a part of the Veczvārde manor ruins – was moved to one place, forming a hill on which an observation tower was built on. It was used as a control point to coordinate training manoeuvres. This place is known by the name 'Kurgāns'. The hill offers a view of the former firing ground and the large tracts of forest of the Zvārde Nature Park and nature protection area. This is a place suitable for bird watching. There are no facilities or specifically made infrastructure in the area of the kurgan.



110

Soviet air force target firing ground in Zvārde ●●●

Zvārdes pag., Saldus nov.,
Latvia,
GPS: 56.5644,22.6255

+371 63807443
turisms.saldus.lv/kur-doties/ko-skatit/militarais-mantojums-un-objekti
tiks@saldus.lv; tic@saldus.lv



Īle National Partisans' Bunker is located in Īle forests, Zebrene parish. The bunker was built by partisans so that they would have a place to spend the winter of 1948/49. The 9x6 m bunker had enough space for 30 people, food supplies, weapons and ammunition. On 17 March 1949, the 24 partisans that were in the bunker at the time fought their last fight against the Homeland Security forces commonly known as Cheka. The national partisans were attacked by a Homeland Security unit of 760 men, consisting of soldiers and officers of the 261st, 36th and 32nd Regiment of the 5th Homeland Security Division stationed in Latvia, with 600 of the soldiers forming a blockade group, 120 in the intelligence group and 40 in the reserve group. As a result of the battle 15 partisans were killed and 9 were captured and deported to Siberia along with their supporters. To commemorate this historical event the Īle bunker has been restored and is available to visitors.



111 Īle National Partisans' Bunker ●

Zebrenes pag.,
Dobeles nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.5788,22.9249

+371 28675118, 26136682, www.dobele.lv/lv/tourism/pieminekli-un-pieminas-vietas/iles-nacionalo-partizanu-bunkurs-un-pieminas-vieta,
turisms@dobele.lv



112 Mērsrags lighthouse and former border guard ●

Bākas iela 60, Mērsrags,
Mērsraga pag., Talsu nov., Latvia, +37163237704
GPS: 57.3659,23.1199 infocentrs@mersrags.lv



Mērsrags Lighthouse is located in the Mērsrags village, about 1 km north of the village centre. The lighthouse was put into commission in 1875. It is an 18.5 m tall freestanding, cylindrical, riveted iron tower, the lower part of which has been fortified with reinforced concrete counterforts. The height of the signal light is 21.3 m. At the top all around the tower there is an iron balcony supported by consoles. The lighthouse tower was made by Sotera, Lemonier & Co in Paris, so this lighthouse is commonly known as the 'Frenchie'. At the end of 1944, the 1003rd Artillery Division Battery of the German Army with 60 cm spotlights was located right next to the lighthouse. In May 1945, the Nazi Germany high command planned to move the 15th Latvian SS Grenadier Division to the area, but these plans failed, because Latvian soldiers surrendered to the Western Allies. Near the Mērsrags Lighthouse there are still remains of a building where during the USSR times Soviet border guards had a large, extendable spotlight for illuminating the sea. There is a bird-watching tower next to the lighthouse. Tours need to be booked beforehand by contacting the Mērsrags Tourism Information Centre.

Pēteris Čavers National Partisans' Bunker is located in Lauciene parish about 4 km from the Talsi-Upesgrīva highway. A wood chip trail leads to the bunker. The restored 31 m² bunker is made of a concrete frame with a log finish to create an authentic feeling. Captain Čavers' group built the bunker in the forest near Vandzene at the end of October 1949. They planned to stay there for the 1949/50 winter. On 3 February 1950, a local forest keeper gave away their position and the bunker was attacked by a Cheka unit of more than 300 men. There were 19 people in the bunker at that time – 17 men and 2 women. Six partisans fell in this uneven battle, but the others managed to fight their way through two rings of the Chekist blockade. During the winter the partisans then took refuge in the surrounding houses with their supporters to reunite once again in the spring. However, the group was captured and eliminated in November of 1950. After the attack of the Cheka unit the bunker was blown up, and before it was restored, only a water filled hole in the ground remained.



113 Pēteris Čavers national partizan bunker ● ●

Laucienes pag., Talsu nov.,
Latvia, +371 26 469 057
GPS: 57.3087,22.9143 visittalsi.lv

visittalsi.lv
tic@talsi.lv



The World War II Brethren Cemetery Memorial in Tukums is one of the largest Soviet-era memorials in Latvia. It is located in the Hill Cemetery and is visible from the Revolūcijas street. The memorial was unveiled during the Soviet occupation in 1985 to mark the Red Army's victory over Germany. It is dedicated to those who at various times fell in the name of Soviet rule. 'Mother – Homeland' was one of the most common images used in the creation of many memorials. The monument was used to communicate communist ideology and propaganda, symbolically strengthening the presence of the occupation regime in Latvia. After the surrender of Germany, the Red Army treated Kurzeme as a territory that had been taken from the enemy and not a liberated part of the USSR. The repressive authorities and the army began the "cleansing of Kurzeme". Men aged 16-60 were detained, registered and screened. In terms of threat the men of Kurzeme were seen as just as dangerous as the military personnel of the former German Army. This was the start of the Red Army's crime wave that brought with it murder, rape, theft, arrests and "mysterious disappearances of people". Only national partisan groups showed armed resistance. The Soviet authorities set up Destruction Battalions (including in Tukums) to eliminate any resistance. The wave of violence and terror culminated in 1949, when deportations took place throughout Latvia.



114

Soviet memorial "Mother – Homeland" in Tukums ●●

Kalna kapi, Tukums,
Tukuma nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.9659,23.1362

+371 28311557
www.visittukums.lv
tic@tukums.lv



115

Aviation Museum "Sky Zoo" ●

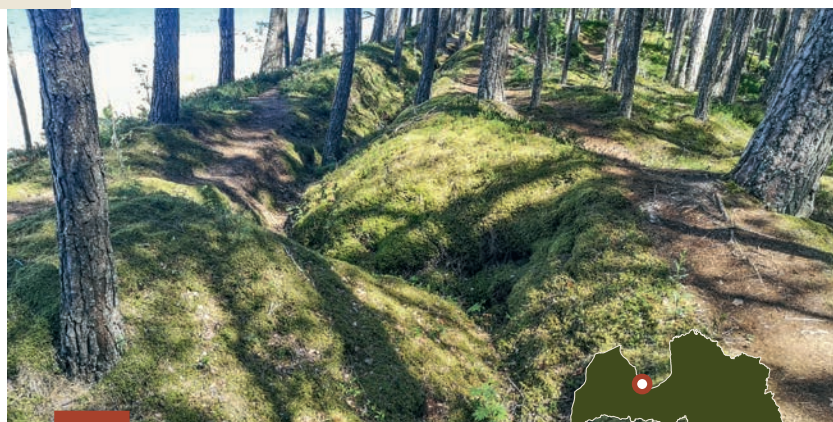
„Jūrmala Airport”, Smārdes
pag., Tukuma nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.9427,23.2198

+371 20202165
www.jurmalaairport.com
info@jurmalaairport.com



The Aviation Museum "Sky Zoo" is located in Smārde parish, Tukums municipality, in the territory of Jūrmala Airport that was once the Tukums Military Airfield. The exhibit includes aircrafts YAK-40, AN-2, SU22M4, PZL TS-11 Iskra and a helicopter MI-24. Tour of the airfield includes hangars, caponiers and engineering equipment. The airfield was used by both the German and Soviet armies. During the Soviet occupation it was one of the most important military airfields in the territory of Latvia. The fighters stationed there were intended to attack enemy ships and bomb coastal fortifications. On the night of 9 November 1975, a battle alarm was received at the Tukums airfield – there was enemy warship in the territorial waters of the Soviet Union (in the Gulf of Riga), and it had to be destroyed. Several planes took off from Tukums. However, it turned out that it was the Soviet naval warship 'Storozhevoi' (Guardian) on which an armed mutiny against the existing Soviet regime took place. When the planes reached the warship, the battle was still ongoing. Later the rebel leader Valery Sablin, a Soviet naval officer, was wounded and the mutiny ended. He was sentenced to death for treason. This was one of the most dramatic events showing the discontent with the regime and marking the approach of its collapse.

The memorial site is located in Tukums municipality near the Sloka-Talsi highway between Ragaciems and Klapkalnciems in the coastal dunes of the Gulf of Riga. The memorial was unveiled in 1997 on the site where the Finnish Jägers were stationed during World War I. The Finnish Jägers were a German Army unit formed during World War I, consisting mainly of nationalist Finnish volunteers who had left the territory of Finland occupied by the Russian Empire. The unit was formed in secret as the 27th Royal Prussian Reserve Battalion of the German Army. In the German Army Jägers made up traditional and elite combat units. Their training focused on unit mobility, combat capabilities and refined and versatile skills. The overall goal of these soldiers was to gain Finland's independence from Russia. The unit was made of almost 2,000 men who were involved in military operations in the territory of Latvia. The Finnish Jägers did a lot in forming the Finnish state and army. Today in this place you can see trenches in a beautiful seaside forest overlooking the sea. The memorial is located next to the trenches. It is made of granite – a type of stone that was used in the fortifications of the Mannerheim Line of Defence in Finland during the Winter War (1939-1940).



116

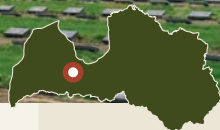
Memorial to Finnish Jaegers in Klapkalnciems ●

Sloka-Talsi highway, between Ragaciems and
Klapkalnciems, Engures pag., Tukuma nov.,
Latvia, GPS: 57.0402,23.3937

+371 67509545
pasts@daba.gov.lv



Lestene Brothers' Cemetery is located in Tukums municipality, Lestene, next to the Lestene church. The construction of the Brothers' Cemetery in Lestene began in 1998. It is the second largest military cemetery in Latvia, and more than 1,300 Latvian legionnaires are buried here. Only after regaining the independence, it was possible to rebury Latvian soldiers who fell during World War II. The Latvian Legion was a combat unit of the German Army, formed mainly from illegally drafted Latvians. The soldiers thought of their presence in the legion as something that had to be done to be able to restore Latvia's independence, despite the fact that they were in the ranks of the German armed forces and that Germany had occupied Latvia. Latvian legionnaires fought against the Red Army, which had destroyed Latvia's independence and its army and committed crimes against civilians. Between 110,000 and 115,000 soldiers fought in the ranks of the German Army and about 30,000–50,000 of them never left the battlefield. Next door is the Lestene Church, which once housed the infirmary of the injured legionnaires. Across the road an exhibit dedicated to the history of the Latvian Legion has been created in a former pub. Right next to it the men of the Latvian Officers Association, under the leadership of Captain Jānis Slaidiņš, have built an underground bunker to show how soldiers and officers lived on the front lines.



117

Lestene Brothers' Cemetery, Memorial Exposition and bunker ●

"Pienotava", Lestene, Lestenes pag., Tukuma nov., Latvia. GPS: 56.7729,23.1370

+371 26247095, 26522079
www.visittukums.lv



118

"Tīreļi Distillery", horse riding with type of horses used in World War I ●

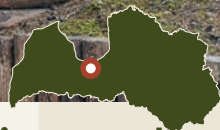
"Šinšilas", Tīreļi, Valgundes pag., Jelgavas nov., Latvia, GPS: 56.8345,23.5982

+371 29461166, 26544243
tireludzituve.mozello.lv
lvdestilati@gmail.com



Tīreļi Distillery is a small, private farm and strong alcoholic drink brewery near the Christmas Battle Museum and Tīreļi swamp at the Kalnciems bridge over Lielupe. It also offers horseback rides to places significant to World War I. Horseback rides take place on the route Jaunmārupe-Tīreļi and Tīreļi-Jaunbērze. During this ride you'll get the chance to see the surroundings, memorial sites, trenches, Ložmetējkalns and other historical places. Horses are of the same breed that was used during World War I. You can also take a tour of the brewery and see the farm animals. Places for rest, picnics and camping are also available.

Latvian Riflemen dugouts and trenches in Tīreļi are located in Babīte parish, Mārupe municipality, in the vicinity of the Antīņi Latvian Riflemen Cemetery and the former medicine warehouse. During World War I this was the defensive position of Latvian Riflemen of the Russian Imperial Army. A complex of trenches and surface dugouts was built in the sandy hills. Trench or positional warfare is the best way to accurately describe World War I and emphasise the importance of fortifications. They were based on the research of military engineers and adapted to the environment and the development of new weapons. The everyday life of a soldier is a continuous improvement of defensive fortifications. Sometimes soldiers would give the dugouts names that reminded them of their homes and would help to forget about the reality of the war. Trench lines were complex defensive systems that were hard for the enemy to take. With the development of weapons these defences became even more sophisticated. The roofs of dugouts were reinforced to withstand artillery shells. Trenches were made in changing patterns and directions so that explosions would cause as little damage as possible. Movement passages had pockets that were used as short-term hiding spots during artillery fire, because they protected soldiers from shrapnel and rubble. Today part of the fortification has been restored and you can visit 3 restored dugouts and a 100 m long section of the trenches.



119

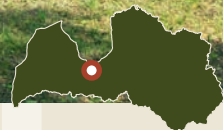
Latvian riflemen positions and trenches in Tīreļi ●

Tīreļi 1, Trenči, Babītes pag., Mārupes nov., Latvia, GPS: 56.8805,23.7446

+371 29128731
rigasmezi@riga.lv



The Christmas Battle Memorial Park and Museum is located in Jelgava municipality, Valgunde parish, in the Mangaļi homestead. This museum is a branch of the Latvian War Museum. It was opened in 2005 and is located in the area where Christmas Battles took place. Unique World War I fortifications still remain in locations where battles took place. The indoor exhibit contains objects found in the battlefield. The open-air exposition has reconstructed fortifications. There are tourist routes and informative trails in the vicinity of the museum. The open-air exposition of World War I fortifications and indoor exhibits are available to visitors every day. Unique evidence of World War I fortifications can still be found in the vicinity of Ložmetējkalns. There is a 27 m tall observation tower that provides a panoramic view of the area where the Christmas Battle took place. The Christmas Battle is probably the best known and most dramatic event of World War I in Latvia. It has a special place in Latvia's military and cultural history. This engagement is mainly associated with the attack of Latvian Riflemen on the German Army units in extremely harsh and unfavourable conditions. And it was also a unique situation where a large-scale combat operation was started without artillery support.

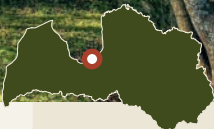


120

The Christmas Battle museum and outdoor exhibition ●

Mangaļi, Valgundes pag.,
Jelgavas nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.8300,23.7019

+371 28349259, +371 67228147
www.karamuzejs.lv/zm
mangali@karamuzejs.lv



121

Daugavgrīva Fortress ● ● ●

Birzes iela 2, Rīga, Latvia,
GPS: 57.0436,24.0422

+371 28204051
www.facebook.com/daugavgrivas.cietoksnis



Daugavgrīva Fortress (entry from Birzes street) is located on the Daugavgrīva Island where Bullupe river joins the Daugava river. The fortress was built in the 17th century to defend from enemies moving in the direction of Riga, which was an important administrative, trade and production centre. Later it became the main fortification of the Latvian Army coastal defence with several support points. This defensive fortification system is one of the most valuable objects of Latvia's military heritage. This fortress has witnessed Latvian military history. For example, during the Crimean War (1853-1856) Latvian and Estonian gunboat crews were trained here. The main objective of these units was to protect local ports and the coast from attacks by the British navy. During World War I Daugavgrīva militia companies were formed here. These were the first Latvian combat units, which came even before the Latvian Riflemen. Nowadays it is possible to see the territory of the fortress. 'Komēfforts' and the Seaside Nature Park are located nearby and Mangaļsala fortifications are on the other side of the Daugava river.

The Žanis Lipke memorial is located in Ķīpsala, Rīga. The Žanis Lipke Museum is probably one of the most hidden museums in Riga. The obscure location of the memorial is not a coincidence and it has a symbolic meaning. It has been set up in the location of a former underground hideout that was created to save people during the German occupation of World War II. Here Žanis Lipke and his family rescued 55 Jews. Nowadays a memorial has been built next to the Žanis Lipke family house. The memorial 'Black Shed' is a symbolic building where shelter was provided and received. The design of the building has been taken from the historical tarred huts of Ķīpsala fishermen and sailors. These huts were built using materials from barges; hence they had a very distinct colour and tar smell. But not only the story of this historic place is unique. The way the museum communicates its message is also quite notable. The overall design has similarities with the Noah's Ark described in the Bible, and it also resembles a boat that has been pulled ashore and overturned – a boat that has fulfilled its task. The concept of this memorial draws from the historic accuracy of this place and story and the testimonies associated with it. It is a story of a desire for freedom, unbelievable escape and trust. On your way to the museum, you'll also be able to see the historic buildings of Pārdaugava.



122

Žanis Lipke Memorial ●

Mazais Balasta dambis 9,
Rīga, Latvia,
GPS: 56.9540,24.0845

+371 67202539
www.lipke.lv
info@lipke.lv



The Riga Air Museum is located in Skulte village, Marupe municipality, in the territory of Riga Airport, next to the aircraft observation area. It is a privately made tourist attraction that opened in 1997. It has taken more than 50 years to create this collection. Aviation equipment has been gathered from Latvia, Russia, Poland, Ukraine, the Czech Republic and the USA. It is one of the largest and most valuable collections in Europe. The idea of a Latvian Aviation Museum was conceived at least 80 years ago. The history of Latvian aviation dates back to the time when the world's first aircraft were being developed. Latvian pilots were among those who participated in achieving many world records. After World War I and the Latvian War of Independence the Latvian Army started to form an air force, and there was a need to preserve historical evidence. In the 1930s, there was an opportunity to start work on creating a museum. It already had acquired some particularly valuable historical items in its collection. World War II thwarted this project and the collection was lost. Nowadays there are about 40 aircraft objects, mainly manufactured in the Soviet Union. And the exposition gives an insight into the history of Soviet aviation.

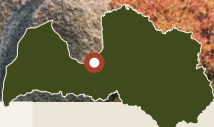


123

Riga Air Museum ●

Skulte, Mārupes pag.,
Mārupes nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.9191,23.9611

+371 26862707
www.airmuseum.lv
muzej@inbox.lv



124 Victims of Communist Terror Memorial in Torņakalns ●

Vilkaines iela near Torņakalns railway station, Riga, Latvia,
GPS: 56.9321,24.0898

+371 67181692
www.rigaspieminekli.lv
rpa@riga.lv



The memorial site is located in the Torņakalns railway station in Riga. It is dedicated to those deported in June 1941. Initially it was planned to create a memorial in Eslanāde park, but later it was decided to place it at the Torņakalns station. The memorial consists of five torn stone sculptures symbolising the ruined families and three generations of deportees. The sculptor of this memorial is Pauls Jaunzems and the architect is Juris Poga. It was unveiled on 14 June 2001 by the then President of Latvia, Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga. Next to the station there is a freight wagon and a commemorative stone dedicated to the deported Latvians. The commemorative stone with the inscription "1941" is a 1.2 m high crude boulder. The author of the memorial stand is the sculptor Ojārs Feldbergs.

The expositions of the Olaine History and Art Museum tell on the factors influencing the development of Olaine and its surroundings and its role in the history of Latvia. A World War I exploration route with restored elements of the fortifications has been created in the territory of the museum (Jelgavas iela 5). On the site, where the World War I Russian Army defence line once was, a Russian soldier-type dugout has been built and a fragment of a shooting tower can be viewed by visitors. A World War I reinforced concrete fortification can be seen in Jaunolaine, at the intersection to Plakanciems. During World War I, active battles were fought between the Russian and German armies in this area. Latvian Riflemen units were involved in intelligence and various other operations. Marshy lands made it difficult to defend, but this was a very important area in Latvian military history. Olaine was formed due to the convenient location between Jelgava and Riga, where Jaunolaine is currently located. The Olaine manor was nearby. The modern day Olaine was built during the Soviet occupation, when industrial companies began their operations there.



125

Olaine History and Art Museum with the World War I Historical Exploration Route and dugout ●●

Jelgavas iela 9-37, Olaine,
Olaines nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.7904,23.9368

+371 22057669
www.olainesmuzejs.lv
muzejs@olaine.lv



Coastal fortifications are located in Riga, Mangaļsala, at the mouth of the Daugava across from Daugavgrīva. Fortifications built by different armies (Russian, Latvian, German and Soviet) can be seen here. The fortifications of Mangaļsala were built to defend the city of Riga from hostile navies. This area was strategically important for a long period of time. After World War I the Latvian Army did not yet have a strong navy. The maritime border was long and coastal defence was becoming an increasingly difficult task. The Latvian Army took over the fortifications built by the Russian Empire in the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century and expanded the defence system. The artillery of Daugavgrīva and Mangaļsala would open fire on enemy ships trying to enter the mouth of Daugava, while support points at the mouth of Lielupe (Jūrmala) and mouth of Gauja (Carnikava) would stop enemy landing parties. There was also a specially equipped armoured coastal defence train that could provide artillery fire and support in the direction of Saulkrasti or Jūrmala. The aim of fortifying strategic sites was to maximise the use of weapons through special constructions and terrain advantages. Coastal defence fortifications were spread out over a large area to counter enemy efforts in the event of war.



126

Mangaļsala fortifications ●●●

Mangaļsalas iela, Rīga,
Latvia,
GPS: 57.0668,24.0628

+371 26980327
www.pargajieni.lv
janis@pargajieni.lv



127

Soviet army town in Mežgarciems ●

Mežgarciems, Carnikavas
pag., Ādažu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.1032,24.2351

+371 29326285
www.tourism.carnikava.lv
tic@carnikava.lv



The former Soviet Army town is located in Mežgarciems, Ādaži municipality, near the P1 highway. It was a small town inhabited by the air defence units of the Soviet Army and used as a military training base. Informative stands have been placed near the town. The former army base area is available to visitors. Mežgarciems did not exist on the maps during the Soviet occupation. And there was nothing to suggest that there was a small town built for the Soviet military with air defence capabilities. Wide-spread construction of Soviet Army stations was rapidly started in the territory of Latvia after World War II. And these army bases were like separate states within the country. There were military units almost in every location in Latvia. An especially privileged part of the society was the retired USSR military personnel and their families, who were entitled to living space as a matter of priority. Many chose Latvian cities, because the standard of living here was higher than elsewhere in the Soviet Union. The presence of the Soviet Army in Latvia was characterised by criminal behaviour, imperialistic attitude and impunity, demonstrating the regime's indifferent attitude towards Latvia and its people. And the carefully maintained myth of the happy life in Soviet Latvia and the Soviet Army as the liberator was actually like living on a powder keg.

The Bicycle Museum is located in Saulkrasti not far from the A1 highway and the railway station Pabaži, near the White Dune. Museum's collection is made up of technically the most interesting examples of bicycle development history in Latvia. It is the largest bicycle collection in the Baltics with about 60 bicycles made and used in Latvia, including army-type bicycles. In the beginning of the 20th century many armies started to widely utilise the availability and benefits of bicycles. Special bicycle units were formed because of their mobility. Bicycle units were able to gather intelligence and launch unexpected attacks more easily, and were more mobile than regular infantry when it came to operations over a wide area. After World War I the Latvian Army also had bicycle units who used Latvian-made army bicycles. Any soldier who was in such a bicycle unit had to meet strict requirements. Good stamina, eyesight and hearing, as well as a healthy heart and lungs were a must. They could not weigh less than 80 kg and their height had to be 165-180 cm. The standard in the Latvian Army was that a well-trained cyclist should be able to cover 80-100 km in day, and up to 150 km in forced conditions. In winter, when bicycles could not be used, skis were used. A soldier from a bicycle unit had to be able to ski 50-60 km per day. Many soldiers from bicycle units would later become professional athletes.



128

Exposition of military bikes in the Bicycle museum in Saulkrasti ●●●

Rīgas iela 44a, Saulkrasti,
Saulkrastu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.2419,24.4011

+371 28883160, +371 29276832
www.velomuseum.lv
info@velomuseum.lv



The exhibit of Ādaži garrison history is located in the territory of the National Training Centre in Ādaži, Kadaga. In this exhibit visitors can get acquainted with military equipment and learn more about the everyday life of a soldier. The largest firing ground in the Baltic States and a unique training area is located in the vicinity of Ādaži. The history of the firing ground dates back to the 20th century. At the end of the 1920s it was set up near Riga in the vicinity of Lilaste. After World War I and the Latvian War of Independence the Latvian Army was formed in a war-torn country. Latvian people had lived through war and seen the indifferent attitude of foreign armies. In a relatively short period of time the army became a large force with extensive reserves. Firing grounds and summer camps were made to resemble war conditions thus allowing the soldiers to improve their skills and knowledge. The Riga-Saulkrasti railway line, built in the early 1930s, became an important factor in the development of the Lilaste (also known as Gauja) firing ground, because it allowed easy transportation of ammunition and equipment, and it could also be used for coastal defence operations. During the Soviet occupation the firing ground was significantly expanded symbolising the military might of the Soviet Army. Garrison – a group of military units that have been indefinitely or temporarily stationed in a certain administrative territory. Firing ground – a place for testing equipment and training troops.



129

Exposition of Ādaži garrison history ●●●

Ādaži National Training Centre, (Ādažu nacionālais mācību centrs), Kadaga, Ādažu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.1010,24.3645



130

Brothers' Cemetery in Riga ●●●●

Aizsaules iela 1B, Rīga,
Latvia,
GPS: 56.9854,24.1474

+371 67181692
www.rigasbralukapi.lv
rpa@riga.lv



Riga Brothers' Cemetery is located in the northern district of Riga. The cemetery extends over an area of 9 ha and is the most outstanding and significant memorial ensemble in Latvia dedicated to the fallen Latvian soldiers. About 3,000 soldiers are buried here. The Brothers' Cemetery was created during World War I after the first three Latvian Rifleman, who fell in Tīrelpurvs in the battle against the German Army, were buried here. Later Latvian soldiers who had died in other battles and wars would also be buried in the Brothers' Cemetery. The memorial is based on the design of the sculptor Kārlis Zāle, and is the first memorial ensemble in Europe with such landscape, architecture and sculptural value. It uses elements typical to the Latvian landscape, traditional farmsteads, Latvian folklore and history that praise the characteristics of soldiers and tell the story of the way of the soldier. The memorial was unveiled in 1936 and it has three parts: 'The Road of Thought' which is a 250 m long alley, 'Terrace of Heroes' with the Altar of the Sacred Flame and ensemble the Sacred Oak Grove, and the burial ground with the Latvian wall and a memorial of a mother with her fallen sons.

The former USSR State Security Committee (commonly known as Cheka) building is open for visitors. Here chekists imprisoned, interrogated and murdered Latvian citizens who were considered opponents by the occupation regime. There is also an exhibit from the Latvian Occupation Museum on the activities of Cheka in Latvia. Guided tours of the prison cells, corridors, basement and courtyard are available. The house was built in 1911 and it is one of the most beautiful buildings in Riga. Called the 'Corner House' by the people, it was the scariest symbol of the Soviet occupation regime in Latvia, and also one of the pillars of power of the USSR. Cheka operated from the Corner House during the occupation from 1940 to 1941 and then again from 1945 to 1991. Tens of thousands of Latvians were affected by direct political persecution. The fight against enemies of Soviet rule continued also after World War II. Cheka's approach towards its operation slightly changed after Stalin's death. Physical torture was replaced by psychological terror. The majority of Cheka agents were Latvians (52%). Russians were the second largest group – 23.7%. 60.3% of the agents were not members of the Communist Party. 26.9% of the agents had higher education. The system was designed in a way to involve local people and thus have greater control over the society. Staff documents and service records are located in Russia. And these materials have not been made available to Latvian authorities and researchers.



131

Exhibition in the KGB Building "History of KGB Operations in Latvia" ●●●

Brīvības iela 61, Rīga, Latvia,
GPS: 56.9582,24.1244

+371 66154276, +371 27875692
www.okupacijasmuzejs.lv
kgb@omf.lv



The museum exhibits the history of Latvia from 1940 to 1991, under the occupation of Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. 'House of the Future' is a reconstruction and expansion project of the Occupation Museum designed by the well-known American Latvian architect Gunārs Birkerts as well as the new exhibit of the museum. The exhibit 'History of Cheka in Latvia' was created by the Occupation Museum and it is located in the 'Corner House', which is the former USSR State Security Committee (KGB) building. Latvian Occupation Museum was founded in 1993. It tells the long-hidden story of the fate of the Latvian state, nation and land under the occupation of two foreign totalitarian powers from 1940 to 1991. At the end of 2020 the museum had more than 70,000 different historical items (documents, photographs, written, oral and material evidence, objects and memorabilia). Museum specialists have recorded more than 2,400 video testimonials, making it one of the largest collections on occupation in Europe. The events that unfolded in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia clearly show us what the nations had to endure under the two totalitarian regimes.

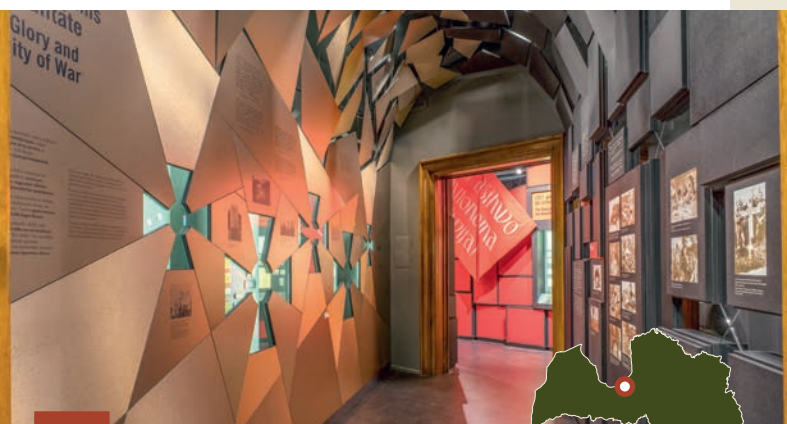


132

Museum of the Occupation of Latvia ● ●

Latviešu Strēlnieku
laukums 1, Rīga, Latvia,
GPS: 56.9468, 24.1066

+371 67211030, +371 67212715
www.okupacijasmuzejs.lv
omf@latnet.lv



133

Latvian War Museum ● ● ● ●

Smilšu iela 20, Rīga, Latvia,
GPS: 56.9513, 24.1086

+371 67223743
www.karamuzejs.lv
administracija@karamuzejs.lv



The Latvian War Museum is located in the Old Town not far from the Freedom Monument in a historic defence building called the 'Powder Tower'. There are 11 exhibits in the museum. There are various weapons, documents, uniforms, awards, badges and other items detailing the everyday life of a soldier in war. The Latvian War Museum is one of the oldest museums in Latvia. Its origins can be found in World War I. Museum's collection was made up mainly of personal items of soldiers or items found on battlefields. After Latvia gained its independence the main goal of the museum became to create an exposition on the military history of Latvia and the active role of the population in protecting their land. In 1937 the museum was expanded and was technically one of the most modern museums in Europe at that time. The Powder Tower was one of the fortification towers of Riga. Some evidence dates back to 1330 where it has been mentioned as the 'Sand Tower'. The tower was destroyed in 1621 when Riga was besieged by the Swedish Army. But in 1650 a new tower for storing gunpowder and weapons was built. After the city's fortifications were taken down, the Powder Tower remains as one of the most important pieces of evidence of the Riga defence system.

The museum is located in Old Riga near the Riga Cathedral. It was founded in 2001 to preserve historical evidence of the events of 1991 in Latvia. A virtual tour of the museum is also available. In January 1991, in Lithuania the Soviet Army opened fire on people who had gathered at the Vilnius TV tower and drove into the crowd with tanks. In response to these events a demonstration of about 500,000 people was organised in Riga to show support to Lithuanians and the readiness of the Latvian people to continue their struggles towards Latvia's independence. In order to prevent similar events from happening in Latvia, residents began to build barricades in the narrow streets of Old Riga in order to prevent possible attacks of the Soviet Army on the defenders of the barricades. These barricades were also created at various strategic objects not only in Riga, but throughout all of Latvia. Around 50,000 people from all over Latvia participated in defending the barricades. Barricades was a popular movement that helped to regain Latvia's independence. This is a great example of non-violent resistance in the history of the whole world.



134

1991 Barricade Museum ●

Krāmu iela 3, Rīga,
Latvia,
GPS: 56.9486, 24.1060

+371 67213525
www.barikades.lv
info@barikades.lv



The Riga Ghetto and the Latvian Holocaust Museum is located in Riga close to the Riga Central Market and the Riga Central Station. The museum was opened in 2010 on the site where the city's warehouses once were. It is located in the historical part of the city, next to the border of the former Jewish ghetto. The territory of the ghetto is unique, because in terms of architecture it has not changed since World War II. It is a memorial dedicated to the tragedy suffered by the Jewish people. The German policy regarding the Jewish population in Latvia until the end of 1939 was for the German diplomats and politicians to try and pressure the Latvian government to take action against the Jews by restricting their freedom. After the emigration of the Baltic Germans in 1939, the German embassy no longer had as good an access to information on the mood of the population and the events happening in Latvia as before. When the Red Army occupied Latvia, they manipulated the society to gain some support of the Jewish population for the new occupying power. However, after the regime started a crack-down on the society as a whole, the support fell rapidly. As a result of all this, a deep divide had formed between the people. And later on, the next regime – Germany – tried to exploit it. They hoped that the local population would harass and attack the Jews, but that did not happen. So, Germany adjusted their approach and devised a new plan to initially establish a Jewish ghetto and later destroy its inhabitants.



135

Riga Ghetto and Latvian Holocaust Museum ●

Maskavas iela 14A, Rīga,
Latvia,
GPS: 56.9414,24.1173

+371 67791784
www.rgm.lv
rgm@rgm.lv



136

Salaspils Memorial Ensemble ●

Salaspils, Salaspils nov.,
Latvia,
GPS: 56.8729,24.3026

+371 67216367
www.salaspilsmemorials.lv
salaspils.memorials@gmail.com



Salaspils Memorial and historical exhibit is located in Salaspils municipality, 1.2 km from the Riga-Daugavpils A6 highway. The Salaspils Memorial was unveiled in 1967 on the site where during World War II the Salaspils Camp was once located. It is a place that was used for Soviet propaganda and is shrouded in myths and half-truths. It is a good representation of the Nazi crimes and Communist ideology that was carried out during each of the occupations. This repressive camp was a part of the German penitentiary system. It had similarities with concentration camps, but it was not the same thing. It was created so that there would not be a disproportionate number of prisoners in Riga prisons. This camp was an "extension of the police prison". And a variety of people were imprisoned here – Jews, the Red Army prisoners of war, absentees, political prisoners, criminals, prostitutes, members of the Latvian resistance movement, Baltic soldiers in the German Army or police, and others. The camp could hold up to 2,200 prisoners. The main cause of death (~2000) was malnutrition, working conditions, corporal punishment and illness.

The group of islands is located in Daugava on the southern side of the Riga HPP reservoir near Daugmale. The Death Island is one of the scariest and most legendary battlefields of World War I. When the Russian Army withdrew from Kurzeme and Zemgale in 1915 some units remained on the left bank of Daugava, where they took positions to fight the German Army. The banks of the river were connected by a bridge. One of the largest chemical weapons usage cases in the territory of Latvia took place here. Latvian soldiers called the place 'Death Island', but soldiers of other nationalities called it 'Hell'. The position of Death Island was of strategic and symbolic importance. For Latvian soldiers it was part of Kurzeme occupied by Germany. Fights took place on the banks of Daugava near Ikšķile, and in some way they were associated with the fights of the ancestors during the Crusades. Nowadays this location is accessible by boat. Territory of the Riga HPP reservoir that was not flooded can be seen. The monument designed by E. Laube still remains. Defensive position elements have been reconstructed in some places. There is an information stand on the bank of Daugava near the Ikšķile Kābeļu hill. Death Island became a group of islands after the construction of the Riga HPP reservoir was finished.



137

Death Island ●

Daugmales pag., Kekavas nov.,
Latvia,
GPS: 56.8346,24.4421

+371 25412566
www.kekava.travel/lv/apskates-vietas/item/50
turisms@kekava.lv



The Cultural Heritage Centre 'Tīnūži Manor' is located in Ogre municipality, Tīnūži village, 7 km from the cities of Ogre and Ikšķile. The first written evidence about the manor dates back to the 16th century. Until the mid-18th century it was considered an economic production unit with small and insignificant buildings. But over time it grew into a large farm. During World War I, battles between the Russian and German armies took place here, and the Latvian Riflemen were also involved. During the War of Independence Tīnūži manor was used as the headquarters and armoured car park of the 1st Valmiera Infantry Regiment of the Latvian Army. In 1932, the manor was given to the Union of the Latvian War Invalids, which provided accommodation and care for war veterans. During World War II (in 1943) the German Army unit FAT 212 was transferred from Estonia to Tīnūži manor. It was a saboteur unit that prepared soldiers to fight the Red Army. Latvian soldiers were also trained in the arts of intelligence gathering, guerrilla warfare tactics and sabotage. The lord house of Tīnūži manor was destroyed when the Red Army was moving towards Riga. Nowadays it is a place with a beautiful landscape and historical buildings on the banks of the Little Jugla River. Exhibits dedicated to historical events, including the ones concerning the Latvian Riflemen, can be seen at the Cultural Heritage Centre 'Tīnūži manor'.



138

Cultural Heritage Centre "Tīnūži Manor" ●

"Kraujas", Tīnūžu pag.,
Ogres nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.8683,24.5700

+371 26669452
www.facebook.com/Tinuzumuiza
kaspars.spelis@gmail.com



139

Cafe "Dakota" and exposition of military vehicles and equipment ●

Priežu iela 1, Ciemupe, Ogresgala
pag., Ogres nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.7817,24.6495

+371 25985923
www.visitogre.lv



Cafe Dakota is located in Ogre municipality, Ciemupe, on the A6 highway. The exhibit on military heritage allows its owner to combine his hobby and interest in military history with his business of running a cafe. Here you can enjoy a meal and see military equipment, weapons, soldier equipment and aircraft from the end of the 20th century. The exhibit is available to cafe visitors during working hours. Tours are available only in Russian and prior registration is required.

The exhibit is located in the former culture house of Aizkraukle parish. It reflects the everyday social, recreational, professional, educational and cultural life in Soviet times, as well as the history of how Aizkraukle (during Soviet times – Stučka) and the Pļaviņu HPP came to be. Visitors can view the 'Red Corner' with its historical propaganda materials, the office of a party functionary and a typical Soviet apartment with a living room, kitchen, bathroom and toilet and their corresponding attributes. Some rooms are dedicated to Soviet medicine, tourism and sports as well as repression tactics. There is a spacious hall in the centre of the exhibit for Soviet-made vehicles. This was started in 2016 by the Aizkraukle History and Art Museum by setting up the exhibit on three floors. Nowadays it is the largest exhibit in the Baltics dedicated to this period of Soviet occupation.



140

Aizkraukle museum of History and Art, exposition "Soviet years" ●

Kalna iela 20, Aizkraukle,
Aizkraukles nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.6150,25.2247

+371 65123351, +371 64901022
www.aizkrauklesmuzejs.lv



The Valka bunkers are located in the centre of the city of Valka, on the left side of Ausekļa street, next to the Ādams Tērauds School. Visitors can only view the bunkers from the outside. The Soviet Army bunkers in Valka were among the most secret places in Soviet Latvia only accessible to people with special permits. From 1953 to 1989, they were home to the Soviet Army's strategic missile communications reserve. Large 16 wheelers were used to deliver massive reinforced concrete blocks for building the bunkers. Once completed, all three bunkers were covered with gravel for additional reinforcement and insulation. The bunkers housed a strategic missile communications reserve subordinated to the Leningrad Communications Centre. Silos with army missiles were controlled from these bunkers. There were 20 such silos in the Valka and Valga area. In October 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, these missiles were combat-ready and aimed at Florida. Legend has it that they were a couple of hours shy from actually being launched. Right next to the Ādams Tērauds School and the underground bunkers is the Swedish (Sheremetyevo) Fortification. The artificial wall of earth was built at the beginning of the Great Northern War, around 1702, to protect Valka against the Swedes. The steepest wall of the fortification faces the village of Ērgeme, while the other side faces Ausekļa street.



141

Underground Military bunkers in Valka ●

Tālavas iela 23, Valka,
Valkas nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.7758,26.0164

+37164725522
<http://visit.valka.lv>
tib@valka.lv



142

Valka train station ● ● ●

Poruka iela 4, Valka,
Valkas nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.7743,26.0027

+37164725522
<http://visit.valka.lv>
tib@valka.lv



The Valka Railway Station is located at the end of Poruka street, next to a set of train tracks that are out of use. The station building can only be viewed from the outside where information stands of the importance of the railway in Valka and Valga are in place. Near the station building is a memorial stone devoted to the people deported to Siberia on 14 June 1941. The station building was constructed around 1896-1897. Narrow-gauge railway lines in the Valka-Rūjiena-Pärnu section were put in place here initially. During World War I, the railway was severely damaged. After establishing the state border, the Valka Railway Station (Valka II) became a border station. In late September 1920, the special Railway Board Commission arrived in Valka. The commission was authorised to negotiate and conclude an agreement with Estonia on the transfer of passengers from the station of one state to the other. The tracks between the triangularly placed Lugaži, Valka and Valga stations were strategically important, as they allowed armoured trains to turn around and move in the opposite direction. During the Soviet period, the USSR Army used this station to deliver ballistic missiles to Valka. A mass deportation of the Latvian people to the inland areas of the USSR took place on the night of 13-14 June 1941. More than 90 people from Valka and the surrounding areas were put in cattle waggons to be deported from the Valka Railway Station without any court judgement, prior warning or explanations. In September 1944, the station was destroyed by the retreating German Army.

The Valka Local History Museum is located in Valka, on the right side of Rīgas street, in the historical building of the Vidzeme Parish School Teacher Training Seminary. From 1853 to 1890, the building was home to the Vidzeme Parish School Teacher Training Seminary. Until 1881, it was led by Jānis Cimze, a teacher and founder of Latvian choir culture. After the School Teacher Training Seminary was closed, the building served various educational, cultural and household needs for 80 years. The building has been home to the Valka Local History Museum since 1970. The museum's permanent exhibit – 'Valka, the Cradle of Latvia's Independence' – has been set up as a story about social and political events in Valka from 1914 to 1920 when Latvia became an independent state. The exhibit reflects the preparation leading up to the establishment of the Latvian state and the formation of the North Latvian Brigade in Valka. Through four senses, namely, the Road, the Council, the Headquarters and the Home, the exhibit focuses on topics related to the city of Valka, refugees, the founding of the Latvian Farmers' Union (1917), the Latvian Provisional National Council (1917), the Latvian Provisional National Theatre (1918), the Provisional Government of Soviet Latvia known as the Iskolat, the North Latvian Brigade (1919) and General Pēteris Radziņš. In addition to the traditional ways of showcasing collections, the exhibit makes use of interactive multimedia solutions.



143

Exhibition "Valka – the cradle of Latvia's independence" ●

Rīgas ielā 64, Valka,
Valkas nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.7683,26.0058

+37164722198
<http://muzejs.valka.lv>
muzejs@valka.lv



The town of Seda was originally built as a workers' village, together with the construction of a peat factory in 1953. The peat factory was declared part of the All-Union Komsomol Shock Construction Project, with young people from all over the Soviet Union coming here. This defined the character and face of the village. In 1954, Seda was granted workers' village rights. In 1961, the workers' village was named a township. On 14 November 1991, the township with a rural area acquired the status of the town of Seda with a rural area. An exhibit of cultural and historical heritage is on display at the Seda Culture House. The panels in the exhibition hall showcase the history of development of the Seda area, starting from the historical period when the Salānieši farm property extended across the territory of the town of Seda to the construction of the town. The exhibit features stories about the reasons for and process of the creation of the town, the history of the Seda Peat Factory and other documentary evidence. In terms of core content, the exhibit mainly includes historical archive materials: protocols, decisions and orders. To help visitors gain a better sense of this period of history, the exhibit includes a 'manager's office' featuring items from that time. The exhibit is also visually enhanced by Soviet-era household items that are on display in addition to different documentary evidence.



144

Seda cultural heritage (1953-1990) exposition and Stalinist architecture ●

Parka iela 21, Seda, Valmieras nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.6505,25.7543

+371 28323986
www.visit.valmiera.lv



145

Memorial to the soldiers fallen in World War II ●

Lucas iela 2A, Valmiera,
Valmieras nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.5400,25.4330

www.visit.valmiera.lv



The memorial ensemble in Valmiera was unveiled in 1985. World War II Soviet soldiers who fell in the vicinity of Valmiera and victims of Nazi terror have been reburied in the Brothers' Cemetery. The authors of the memorial ensemble are sculptors Zigrīda Rapa and Juris Rapa, architects Ēvalds Fogelis, Jānis Lejnīeks, Jānis Rutkis and Andris Vītols, and Design Engineer Ivars Veldrums. Limestone from the village of Allaži was used to decorate the memorial ensemble. Its main image is the split linden tree of the Coat of Arms of Valmiera city. Two sculptures on each side of the ensemble symbolise the rhythm of life and death. The figures facing the Gauja river form a semi-circular space, marking the boundary between the past and the present. The main image facing the city is part of an intense arch-shaped form. The figure of a soldier faces the visitors approaching from the side of the bridge, with the diagonal shape formed by the soldier's hand supporting his deceased companion. On the burial terrace, soldiers have been laid down in rows for those who fought shoulder to shoulder in battle to lie under the same turf. A composition named the Golden Apple Tree lies separately on the lower terrace of the memorial. A granite plaque commemorates the Jews reburied here. Some of the elements, including bronze apples with the ensemble's message encrypted by the authors, which had been placed under the growing apple tree, disappeared in the 1990s. A QR code next to the memorial gives visitors access to an audio guide with the information available in Latvian, Russian, English, Estonian and German.

The monument to the soldiers of the Viljandi Students' Company who fell near Stalbe is located by the intersection of the Riga-Limbaži road, after making a turn onto the Stalbe-Stūrīši road, which leads to the Pārgauja Municipal Council (to the right). Latvian and Estonian inscriptions on the granite memorial read: 'On 19-21 June 1919, during the Battles of Stalbe, the 6th Regiment Viljandi Students' Company repelled the attack of the Germans'. The monument was unveiled on 19 June 2009. Based on the idea conceived by Mareks Niklass, the monument was created by stonemason Voldemārs Koltovs. The 6th Estonian Regiment fought the Baltic Landeswehr and the Iron Division during the Battles of Cēsis near Stalbe. The Germans tried to break the front line in the area of the Stalbe Manor but were forced to retreat after two days of failed attempts. Every year, Lāčplēšis Day celebrations in Stalbe begin with a torchlight procession to the monument devoted to the soldiers of the Viljandi Students' Company.



146

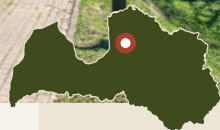
Monument for students of the Viljandi Regiment ●

Stalbes pag., Cēsu nov.,
Latvia,
GPS: 57.3751,25.0310

+371 26620422
www.turisms.cesis.lv



The Lielstraupe Castle is located in the centre of the town of Straupe. The castle is open to visitors and offers a journey through the centuries along with an orienteering exercise in the labyrinths of the castle. During the Battles of Cēsis, the Lielstraupe Castle housed the command post of Paul Ludwig Ewald von Kleist's Battle Group of the Iron Division (German: *Eiserne Division*). During the battles, the castle was visited by Major Josef Bischoff, Captain Heinz Guderian and others. The castle was used for the coordination of an attack in the direction of Stalbe on 21-22 June. The Iron Division was a military force of German mercenaries during the Latvian War of Independence, which was formed from soldiers of the 8th Army of the demobilised German Empire and volunteer mercenaries. It was the best-known part of the German Free Corps and among the best trained and most combat-ready military forces in the Baltics in 1919. During the Soviet period, from 1949 to 1959, the administration of the Lielstraupe Machine-tractor Station operated out of Manor Castle. During this time, the castle was also equipped with training rooms and dormitories for tractor drivers, while the former stable of the manor housed workshops. From 1963 to 2018, the castle was managed by medical institutions, and it was said of the Straupe Narcological Hospital in Latvia that it 'even treats the walls'.



147

Lielstraupe Castle ●

Lielstraupes pils, Straupe,
Straupes pag., Cēsu nov.,
Latvia, GPS: 57.3474,24.9476

www.tourism.straupe.lv



148

Memorial at Skangaļi Manor ●

Skangaļu muiža, Liepas pag.,
Cēsu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.3994,25.4950

+371 29362837
<http://visit.priekuli.lv>
info@priekuli.lv



The memorial to the victory of the combined Latvian and Estonian troops in the battle for the Skangaļi Manor is located about 20 kilometres from Cēsis. Devoted to the participants of the Battles of Cēsis and the fighters of the Estonian Kalevlaste Maleva Battalion, the memorial stone was unveiled on 22 June 2019. The victory of the combined Latvian and Estonian troops in the battle for the Skangaļi Manor, which took place here, was a turning point in the Battles of Cēsis, as a result of which the troops of Niedra's government initiated a general retreat. The government of Andrievs Niedra was a provisional pro-German government of Latvia, which existed from 10 May to 26 June 1919. The attack on the Landeswehr unit began in the early morning of 22 June 1919 when the 3rd Kalev company used an armoured train to break into the Skangaļi Manor where they seized 2 cannons, however, the enemy still went on a counterattack. The troops repeated the attack slightly later, in the middle of the day, and the Landeswehr unit was forced out of the Skangaļi Manor following fierce close combat. The trophies from the battle include machine guns, large quantities of ammunition and other combat equipment. Two hours later, the Estonians captured an important road junction at the Starti pub. 58 Kalev soldiers were injured or lost their lives in the battle to capture the Skangaļi Manor. Estonia provided significant support in establishing the memorial site.

The monument to the Estonian and Latvian soldiers who died in the Battles of Cēsis is located in Priekulī municipality, Liepā, about 1 kilometre south of the Lode Railway Station, on the side of Rūpnīcas street. The first stone of the monument was laid on 22 September 1929, and the monument was unveiled on 11 August 1935. Based on a sketch by Sculptor Augusts Julla who lived in Jullas, Liepa parish, and made of limestone from the village of Allaži, the monument is a high-relief depiction of a peasant soldier leaning on a plough with one hand and a raised sword in the other. The death mask of the sculptor's father Jānis Julla was used to create the face of the sculpture. According to Aivars Vilnis, a researcher of the history of Liepa parish, a bird's eye view of the monument reveals that the base of and the path and stairs leading to the monument form the shape of an arrow facing Liepa Manor (*Lindenhoff*) in the direction of German positions during the Battles of Cēsis. There is doubt, of course, as to whether this was truly the author's intention at the time; however, it certainly enriches our interpretation of the monument today. Next to the monument are the only natural sandstone arches in Latvia known as 'Lielā Elīte' ('Liepas Elīte' or the Devil's Kiln).



149

Monument to the soldiers fallen in the battles of Cēsis ●

Near Lode station, on the side of Rūpnīcas iela,
Liepa, Priekuļu pag., Cēsu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.3842,25.4267

<http://visit.priekuli.lv>



The railway bridge over the River Rauna is located near the P20 highway, in Priekule parish. It can be viewed from the right side of the Cēsis-Valmiera highway. The railway bridge is not intended for pedestrians and is watched over by security guards. Built in 1889, the masonry bridge on the Riga-Valka railway line is the highest railway structure of its kind in the Baltics. It is 24 metres high and 78.9 metres long. Trains, especially heavy freight trains, must maintain a speed of 80 km/h. Higher speeds are not allowed on the bridge. However, at lower speeds, the train is unable to deal with the slight incline on both sides of the bridge and may start to slide backwards. In June 1919, during the Estonian and Latvian Wars of Independence, reinforcements to the Estonian Army, which also included the Northern Latvian Brigade, were sent by rail across the bridge from Valka, which was at the back of the front. When the 2nd Cēsis Infantry Regiment was forced to retreat from Cēsis, its units strengthened their positions on the banks of the River Rauna. The railway bridge became part of the fortification and ensured the movement of Estonian armoured trains during the battles. During World War II, on 4 July 1941, the bridge was blown up by the fleeing Red Army when the Soviet occupation of Latvia was replaced by the German occupation. German Army sappers restored the bridge within a week. After World War II, during the Soviet occupation, the bridge over Rauna was of military strategic importance and was heavily guarded.



150

Railway bridge across the Rauna river ●●●

P20, Priekule pag.,
Cēsu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.3603,25.3733

+371 29362837
<http://visit.priekuli.lv>
info@priekuli.lv



151

Monument for students in Cēsis Regiment ●

On the corner of Palasta iela and
Bērzaines iela, Cēsis, Cēsu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.3118,25.2661

<https://turisms.cesis.lv>



The Cēsis History and Art Museum is located in the very centre of the Old Town of Cēsis, in the New Castle. The museum holds a permanent exhibit of history and interiors named 'Cēsis, a Symbol of Latvian History', with two thematic sections: the exhibit 'Red-White-Red Flag in the History of Cēsis and Latvia' explains the history of the Latvian national flag from the 13th to 20th centuries, the approved national symbol, the flags of Latvian rifle battalions and the traditions of using national colours during the Latvian War of Independence. The exhibit 'Cēsis and the Latvian War of Independence' focuses on the founding of the Cēsis Company in December 1918, the joint battle efforts of Estonians and Latvians in the 1919 Battles of Cēsis, the time when, during the Bermondt Affair, Cēsis served as the temporary capital of Latvia for a short time, as well as the history of the Cēsis Victory Monument. In an escape room named 'Legends of the Battles of Cēsis', the participants have one hour to find their way out by solving puzzles, making connections and finding hidden objects. The Cēsis Company, one of the first units of the Latvian Armed Forces, was established on 8 December 1918 in Cēsis Castle by Senior Lieutenant Artūrs Jansons. The museum's exhibit features a memorial plaque dedicated to the Cēsis Company, unveiled on 8 December 1933 at the Cēsis New Castle, which, at the time, served as the headquarters of the 8th Daugavpils Infantry Regiment and the garrison officers' club.



152

Cēsis history and art museum in the New Castle of Cēsis ●

Pils laukums 9, Cēsis,
Cēsu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.3133,25.2692

+371 64121815
www.cesupils.lv
pils@cesis.lv



The historical exhibit 'Fire of Conscience' is located in Cēsis, near the Cēsis Castle Square. Established in a Soviet-era temporary detention facility, it tells about the occupation of Latvia and reveals surprising and heroic stories of resistance from individuals. The yard features a memorial wall with the names of 643 residents of the former Cēsis district who died in Soviet repressions, including national partisans deported in 1941 and 1949 and those shot and sentenced to death. The exhibit's timeline encourages visitors to study the course of the occupation of Latvia from 1939 to 1957. Arranged by topics, quotes from local newspapers offer a comparison of the political propaganda of the two occupation regimes. The six cells for temporary detention have survived to the present day in their original form from 1940 to 1941 and the post-war years. Here, the residents of Cēsis district, detained for various anti-Soviet activities, including national partisans, their supporters, young people who distributed anti-Soviet leaflets and other 'traitors of the motherland', were held for several days during the initial investigation and interrogation before being sent to the main KGB Building in Riga. Everything here is real: cells with iron doors, built-in 'kormushkas' (small openings for providing food), plank beds, a latrine for detainees, a small kitchen with an oven, as well as typical Soviet-era oil paint on the walls. In 2019, the exhibit was ranked third in the national design competition, the Latvian Design of the Year Award.



153

Historical Exposition "The Burning Conscience" ●●●

Pils iela 12, Cēsis, Cēsu nov.,
Latvia,
GPS: 57.3135,25.2726

+371 25445433
www.sirdsapzinasugunskurs.lv
ugunskurs@cesis.lv



154

Monument of Victory in Cēsis ●

Vienības laukums, Cēsis,
Cēsu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.3132,25.2749

<https://turisms.cesis.lv>



The Victory Monument to Latvians and Estonians killed in the Battles of Cēsis is located in the city of Cēsis, on Vienības Square. In honour of the participants of the 1919 Battles of Cēsis, on 22 June 1924, the first stone was laid for the Victory Monument as sketched by architect Pauls Kundziņš, using funds donated by the people. During the Soviet occupation regime, on the night of 25 March 1951, the monument was blown up and taken down completely. A monument to Lenin, created by sculptor Kārlis Jansons, stood on the former Victory (Unity) Square from 1959 to 1990. In 1997, Māris Niklass, chairperson of the Cēsis District Council, managed to involve Estonian state institutions in the restoration of the monument. The material needed for the construction of the monument, Saaremaa dolomite, was received from Estonia as a gift. On 22 June 1998, during the celebrations of the 79th anniversary of the Battles of Cēsis, the first stone of the monument to be restored was laid on Vienības Square. A ceremony to unveil the restored Victory Monument took place in Cēsis on 15 November 1998 (author: architect Imants Tīmermanis). Information about the Victory Monument is available in the 'Cēsis and the Latvian War of Independence' exhibit of the Cēsis History and Art Museum, in the New Castle.

Located in Līgatne parish, Cēsis municipality, the Soviet Secret Bunker lies 9 metres below the Līgatne Rehabilitation Centre building and its adjacent territory. The bunker is open to visitors and offers guided tours, meals in the bunker canteen, Soviet-style parties and the reality game Object X. The purpose of the bunker was to provide the minimum necessary conditions for long-term work for the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR, the leadership of the Communist Council of the LSSR and the management of the LSSR state planning committee in the event of a nuclear war threat. The 2,000-square-metre underground bunker was the strongest autonomous structure with all the required and most state-of-the-art equipment of the time, and also one of the most strategically important sites in Soviet-era Latvia in the event of a nuclear war. The site has a protected underground workspace (shelter), a sanatorium-type sleeping block for 250 people, security facilities and a 24-apartment residential house for service staff. All of the authentic underground equipment and plans have been preserved to this day. Highlights include an autonomous power plant with diesel generators and fuel storage, conditioning equipment for air purification with oxygen reserves, water supply and sewerage equipment operating on the submarine principle, a telecommunications unit capable of providing direct contact with the Kremlin in Moscow and autonomous communications with all major services in the country, a unique map with historical names of collective farms, an authentic canteen with typical Soviet-era meals, as well as various Soviet-era attributes and household items.



155

Secret Soviet Bunker in Līgatne ●

"Skaļupes", Līgatnes pag.,
Cēsu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.2556,25.0691

+371 26467747
www.bunkurs.lv
ligatne.info@gmail.com



58

The Forest Brothers' Bunker is located by the Riga-Pskov (A2) highway 76 kilometres from Riga and 11 kilometres from Cēsis. The Latvian national partisans or Forest Brothers were small, armed groups of local residents who fought their independent battles against the occupation regime of the USSR in the territory of Latvia from 1944 to 1956. Forced to hide in the forests, these were people who could not or did not want to live in the Soviet Union. A total of around 20,193 Forest Brothers operated in Latvia. The bunker was formed based on the stories and memories of former Forest Brothers about life in the forests, hiding and fighting for the independent state of Latvia after 1945. The bunker showcases armaments and household items. The personal belongings, weapons and photos of partisans are on display. The guide's narration is enriched by a video from interviews with Forest Brothers. There is a place for picnic campfires by the bunker. It is possible to pre-order a soup prepared on the fire or enjoy an evening of outdoor cinema by the fire.



156

Bunker of national partisans – Forest Brothers ●

"Amadas" Drabešu pag.,
Cēsu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.2224,25.2253

+37129350059
www.mezabrāli.wordpress.com
nod.brunis@gmail.com

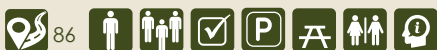


157

Rest area "Forest battles" and railway bridge across the Amata river ●

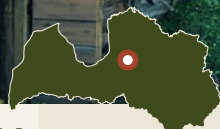
"Amatas", Drabešu pag.,
Cēsu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.2126,25.2535

+371 26593677
mezakaujas@gmail.com



Named Forest Battles, the rest area is situated in the main location of the Battles of Cēsis near the Amata bridge. Visitors can listen to stories about the Battles of Cēsis and can take part in various activities, including hikes and trips around the most important venues of the Battles of Cēsis, and team battles. At the end, the visitors can enjoy an invigorating wartime soup. The railway bridge over Amata played a very important role throughout the War of Independence, as the first clashes of the Estonian Army with the Landeswehr took place here. On 5 June 1919, the first battle of the Estonian Army's armoured trains with the Baltic Landeswehr units took place by the railway bridge over Amata. The Landeswehr, knowing that an armoured train was approaching, planted mines on the railway bridge and secured positions at the homestead Amatas on the riverbank in preparation for a possible battle. The bridge over Amata marked the border between Estonian forces and the Germans. On the night of 23 June 1919, during the Battles of Cēsis, the Landeswehr left Cēsis and retreated to the Amata river line. When retreating, the Germans burned down the Cēsis Latvian Society House and blew up the bridge over Amata.

The Melānija Vanaga Museum is located in the Amata village school in Cēsis municipality. The museum showcases materials about the life, literary activity, family and destiny of writer and cultural historian Melānija Vanaga: video content about Siberia and the deported Latvians living there and a Siberian dugout taking its visitors on a trip to the writer's place of deportation in Tyukhtetsky district, Krasnoyarsk region. The appearance and layout of the dugout form a realistic idea of life away from home. The dugout features unique historical objects brought there from the Tyukhtet Museum: a birch-bark dish known as 'tuyesok', a clay mug known as 'krynka' and a kerosene lamp. The museum features video interviews with politically repressed people from the municipality and 18 characters from Melānija Vanaga's book Sudden, a Criminal: Sixteen Years in Siberia. The museum's virtual exhibition 'BE YOURSELF!' (<http://esipats.lv>) shows the experiences of five deported children and their parents who were wrongly accused by the Soviet authorities of 'betrayal of the motherland'.



158

Museum of Melānija Vanaga and Siberian dugout ●

Doles 2, Amatas pag.,
Cēsu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.1673,25.2780

+37129445480
www.melanijavanaga.lv



The museum is located in More, on the side of the V319 motorway. It is dedicated to the Battles of More between the Red Army and the Latvian Legion of the German Army in the autumn of 1944. The exhibit includes a mock-up of the battlefield, weapons, awards, soldiers' uniforms and military equipment. The Battles of More Museum and Memorial Park was established by former soldiers of the Latvian Legion who participated in the Battles of More. The memorial park features trenches, dugouts and battlefields. The battles in the More area were only part of a large-scale operation of the Red Army Baltic Offensive involving a total of 900,000 soldiers and large numbers of military equipment units. A part of the German Army fortification system where Latvian legionnaires prevented the Red Army's attempt to break out to Riga was located in the vicinity of More. This allowed the German Army to withdraw its forces from Estonia and avoid defeat. Red Army leaders expected the enemy's resistance near More to be short-lived and stubbornly continued its unprepared and uncoordinated attacks, suffering heavy losses. Local advantages and the combat capabilities of the Latvian legionnaires played a significant role in the subsequent course of the war. More is home to the Latvian Legionnaires' Brothers' Cemetery and a Red Army Soldiers' Cemetery.



159

Museum of Battles in More ●●

"Kalna Kaņēni", Mores pag.,
Siguldas nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.0796,25.0616

+371 29446115
www.moresmuzejs.lv
info@moresmuzejs.lv

EN DE



160

Memorial site of national partisans in Sērmūkši ●

Sērmūkši, Skujenes pag.,
Cēsu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.1211,25.5092

+371 25669935
<http://amata.lv>



Sērmūkši is home to one of more than a hundred memorials to partisan battles in Latvia. There are more than six hundred partisan battle sites in Latvia. A Latvian national partisan dugout has been built based on historical evidence, and visitors can spend the night in near-authentic conditions with plank beds, lighting provided by kerosene lamps and a heating device similar to the ones used by partisans. Visits must be booked in advance. The fateful moment for the Sērmūkši National Partisan Group came on 29 November 1946 with the deaths of four fighters from the group: Jānis Zīrāks, Reinholds Pētersons, Jānis Pīlānds and Anna Zariņa. Alfrēds Suipe survived, endured deportation, returned to Latvia and saw the restoration of a free state. He initiated the idea to establish a memorial site for his fallen companions in Sērmūkši.

The local history exhibit is located in the wine cellar building of the Vecpiebalga Manor in Ineši. It covers a wide range of World War II events in the area. The exhibit located in the basement features ammunition, weapons, soldiers' household items, aircraft debris, badges and awards, battle maps and other items related to the war. The front line is marked on a unique map displayed on the ground floor. The map is well preserved despite being located in the swamp for many years. Interesting historical evidence of Voldemārs Ozols (1884–1949), an officer of six armies, is displayed on the first floor. The exhibit on Voldemārs Ozols is significantly enriched by the story told by Mārtiņš Frīdvalds who translated Manfrēds Šnepš-Šneppe's book "Pasaules „šaha spēles" un Voldemārs Ozols sešu armiju virsnieks" (Chess Games of the World and Voldemārs Ozols, an Officer of Six Armies) from Russian. The book is a popular study on General Voldemārs Ozols, a controversial but outstanding Latvian military figure. The story about him covers World War I, the Latvian War of Independence and World War II. Mārtiņš Frīdvalds also talks about the political, economic and cultural history of Piebalga and the manor. The duration of the tour is 1 to 1.5 hours. Also included in the exhibit are farmers' tools and household items, accounts from witnesses to historical events and the history of the Ineši Theatre. The exhibition is regularly supplemented with newly acquired items and new discoveries.



161

Piebalga local history exposition in Ineši ●

"Pils", Inešu pag., Cēsu nov.,
Latvia,
GPS: 57.0197,25.8302

+371 22407218
<https://vecpiebalga.lv/en/tourism>



The Alūksne Museum is located in an architectural monument of national significance: the neo-Gothic Alūksne New Castle built in the late 19th century. The museum features an exhibition named 'Memorial Room for Victims of the Totalitarian Regime', which tells about the fate of the inhabitants of Alūksne municipality in Siberia and the Far East, while the time periods from prehistory to the present meet in the Alūksne history exhibit 'Feast of the Ages'. It features a separate section devoted to the contribution of the 7th Sigulda Infantry Regiment to the military, culture and public life. The formation of the 7th Sigulda Infantry Regiment began on 20 June 1919 in the Naukšēni Manor. Initially, a battle group of 22 officers and 1,580 soldiers was formed from the reserve battalion of the Northern Latvian Brigade, and was named the Dankers Division. It was included in the 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Jelgava Regiment. On 23 August, following an increase in the number of companies, it became part of the 7th Sigulda Infantry Regiment. Having taken part in the battles against Bermondts, on 5 January 1920, the regiment was transferred to the Latgale front to fight the Bolsheviks. After the signing of the Peace Treaty with Soviet Russia, the regiment guarded Latvia's eastern border. The Latvian War of Independence saw the deaths of more than 200 soldiers of the regiment, while 85 were awarded the Lāčplēsis War Order. In 1921, the 7th Sigulda Infantry Regiment was stationed in Alūksne. The regiment's headquarters were set up in the Alūksne New Castle. After World War II, the castle was taken over by Soviet security institutions. As of the late 1950s, the castle housed various cultural institutions: the Culture and Cinematography Department of the Executive Committee, a pioneer house, a library, a cinema and a museum.



162

Alūksne Museum ●●

Pils iela 74, Alūksne,
Alūksnes nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.4229,27.0545

+371 25665538
www.aluksnespils.lv
muzejs@aluksne.lv



163

Soviet Army Missile base in Zeltiņi ●

"Medņukalni", Zeltiņu pag.,
Alūksnes nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.3476,26.7491

+37129492284
www.aluksne.lv
tn.zeltini@aluksne.lv



The former Soviet Army Missile Base is located in Medņukalni, Zeltiņi parish, Alūksne municipality. This nuclear missile base was a particularly secret military facility of the Soviet Army, and it operated in Zeltiņi, Alūksne municipality, from 1961 to 1989. The facility housed R-12 (8K63) and R12U (8K63U) surface-to-surface medium-range ballistic missiles with 4 launch pads. Their travel distance was 2,200 kilometres. During this period the army used barbed-wire to secure an area of about 300 ha less than a kilometre from the Sinole-Silakrogs P34 national regional highway. The living and top-secret areas have remained a legacy even today. Concrete roads lead to places hidden from the eye at that time: hangars, launch pads and bomb shelters. Various structures for the maintenance and servicing of nuclear missiles are located on an area of dozens of hectares. Facilities providing the area with the autonomous supply of power, water and heat were destroyed with the withdrawal of the army. After the army left, some of the equipment was handed over to the local municipality. Visitors currently have access to 20 ha of the former territory of the missile base, the south-western part of which is a tourist attraction. Tourists visiting the base can choose between the core exhibit about the history of the missile base, which is located in the Zeltiņi Museum, and a tourist route in the base area. Friends in a group of up to 12 people can enjoy a game of laser tag here.

The Gulbene Railway Station is located in the city of Gulbene. During World War I, in 1916 to 1917, the narrow-gauge railway line to Pļaviņas was reconstructed to 1,524 mm width to ensure that it can serve as a connection to the Rīga-Daugavpils line. In addition, a railway line to Ieriķi and to Sita was constructed, thereby establishing a connection with Pytalovo. As a result, Gulbene became a railway hub. The current station building by architect Pēteris Feders was constructed in 1926. During the War of Independence, on 31 May 1919, when Gulbene was liberated from the Bolsheviks, the 1st (4th) Valmiera Infantry Regiment collected a significant number of war trophies here. On 14 June 1941, both civilians and Latvian Army officers arrested in the Litene Summer Camp were deported from the Gulbene Railway Station. As a key hub, it was bombed in the spring of 1944. After the war, it was restored to its original form. An educational and interactive centre named 'Railway and Steam' was opened in 2018. Next to the Gulbene station is the company SIA Gulbenes – Alūksnes bānītis, which offers interactive lessons and tours. Visitors have access to the station building and platform, a memorial plaque and a monument to the repressed ones by sculptor Indulis Ranka.



164

Gulbene Railway Station ●●●

Dzelzceļa iela 8, Gulbene,
Gulbenes nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.1828,26.7664

+37125448661
www.visitgulbene.lv
tourists@gulbene.lv



The Latvian Army Summer Camp in Litene is located in the forest in Litene parish, near the Pededze River. The beginnings of the Litene Camp can be traced back to 1935 when the construction of a summer camp complex for the Latgale division of the Latvian Army was started. From May to autumn, several thousand soldiers learned combat tactics and shooting skills in Litene. In the summer of 1941, Latvian Army officers were arrested by Red Army and NKVD troops at an army summer camp in Litene. Several officers were shot on the spot, while others were deported to Siberia. On 14 June 1941, at least 430 officers were arrested and deported to Siberia in the Litene and Ostroviēši camps about 10 kilometres from Litene. The only historical building that has survived from the camp is a food storage facility. Only the foundations remain from the other buildings. There is a viewing platform with the Latvian flag, benches and a well-maintained place for a fire. A demilitarised cannon was installed with the support of the Ministry of Defence and the National Armed Forces. Information boards are in place. The Wall of Pain memorial in the Litene graveyard is also connected with the events at the Litene camp. The YouTube channel of the Latvian Army features a video named 'Litene, Katyn of the Latvian Army'.



165

Latvian Army Summer Camp in Litene ●●

Litenes pag., Gulbenes nov.,
Latvia,
GPS: 57.1658,27.0192

+371 29269823, +371 29204507
www.visitgulbene.lv
tourists@gulbene.lv



166

Trail and partisan memorial in Stompaki bog ●

Susājas pag., Balvu nov.,
Latvia,
GPS: 57.1434,27.5203

<http://www.visitvilaka.lv/>



The Stompaki Bog Area is a specially protected nature and NATURA 2000 territory located between the cities of Balvi and Viļaka. The eastern part of the bog features a marked 1.5-kilometre trail that crosses the forest and also a small part of the high bog (wooden footbridges), leading to five islands within the bog where the national partisans had built residential bunkers. Information stands along the edges of the trail tell about the local natural values and historical events. There is a rest area by the trail. Directions from the P35 road will help visitors find the trail. In early March 1945, one of the largest national partisan settlements in the Baltic States was established at the Stompaki Camp. About 350 to 360 people lived here, including 40 to 50 women. Starting from January 1945, national partisans carried out regular attacks on the military personnel of the occupation regime and their supporters. The camp had a bakery, a church bunker and 25 residential bunkers, immersed halfway into the ground, for accommodating 8 to 30 people. The bunker sites are still visible today. The Battle of Stompaki, the largest battle in the history of Latvian national partisan battles, took place here on 2-3 March 1945. The anti-partisan forces consisted of a total of about 483 soldiers, including subunits of the 2nd and 3rd Rifle Battalions of the 143rd Rifle Regiment of the NKVD 5th Rifle Division, the rifle platoon (armed with submachine guns), mortar company, reconnaissance and sapper platoons, as well as the so-called 'istrebitel' (destruction) fighters.

The exhibit 'Abrene Rooms' is located near the city centre of Viļaka. It covers the period from 1920 to 1960 when Viļaka was part of Jaunlatgale, Abrene district, and became the centre of Viļaka district and Abrene municipality. The exhibit is located in the building with the most interesting and diverse history in Viļaka. Initially located on the old Marienhausen Market Square, it later housed apartments, offices and various shops and, during World War II, the Latvian Self-Defence headquarters, the Gestapo and also the Cheka. The exhibit features items from the national partisan camp in the Stompaki Bog, which are related to the national partisan movement in the Latgale region, as well as documents and photos associated with the War of Independence. With a guided tour booked in advance, the owner, Dzintars Dvinskis, will present the testimonies available in the exhibit.



167

Exposition "Abrene Rooms" ●●●●

Tautas iela 1, Viļaka,
Balvu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 57.1838,27.6723

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Facebook "Abrenes istabas"
retro73@inbox.lv



The Bronislava Martuževa Museum is situated on the site of the poet's childhood home in Indrāni parish, Madona municipality. The museum's exhibit is located in a renovated barn featuring voice and video evidence from the National Resistance Movement and the work of the poet in publishing an underground magazine, as well as composing poetry and songs for national partisans. Bronislava Martuževa was involved with the resistance movement since its inception. Lazdiņas, Martuževa's home which has not survived, also served as a place of refuge for Pēteris Supe, Vilis Toms, Smilga Group, Laivenieks, Salns, Celmiņš, Bruno Dundurs and others), as well as writing songs and teaching them to partisans. Now, her songs are sung by the 'Baltie lāči' group (literally: 'White Bears'). In 1950, the 'Dzimtene' magazine (literally: 'Motherland') was published underground together with Vilis Toms. The poet transcribed 11 issues of the magazine, 10 copies each, by hand. The poet, her brother, sister, mother and Vilis Toms were arrested in 1951. Bronislava Martuževa returned from Siberia in 1956. Recognised locally and nationally, the poetry barn is visited by both local residents and guests of the municipality. Learning about the poet's life gives you the opportunity to discover the fate of Latvia.



168

Bronislava Martuževa poetry barn ●●

"Dārziņi 1", Indrānu pag.,
Madonas nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.9181,26.7285

+371 29337282
www.facebook.com/martuzeva
anna.egliena@gmail.com



169

Lubāna Municipality tourism and cultural heritage centre ●●

Oskara Kalpaka 4-2, Lubāna,
Madonas nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.9027,26.7194

+37126374962
www.visitmadona.lv/lv/lubana
ilze.kraukle@lubana.lv



The Lubāna Municipality Tourism and Cultural Heritage Centre is located in the very centre of the city of Lubāna. It features several exhibits, including permanent ones, on the history, culture and traditions of and events at the municipality. The permanent exhibits are dedicated to personalities that Lubāna is especially proud of. They introduce poet Bronislava Martuževa, member of the National Resistance Movement and political prisoner; politician Hugo Celmiņš, a participant of the War of Independence; Oskars Kalpaks, First Commander-in-Chief of the Latvian Army; photographer Alfreds Grāvers; opera singer Jānis Zābers; poet Jānis Gavars; artist Rūdolfs Pinnis, as well as folklorist and pastor Mārtiņš Celmiņš. A guide describes the lives of the Knights of the Lāčplēsis War Order and freedom fighters in Lubāna and its adjacent territory, as well as their resting places in Lubāna's old graveyard. Available languages: Latvian and Russian. Guided tours with a German and English translation can be booked in advance.

The Colonel Oskars Kalpaks family memorial in Liepsalas is located in the area between Madona and Lake Lubāns. Liepsalas is Kalpaks' childhood home. The memorial site was established here in 1997 based on the ideas and using the resources of the colonel's niece, Ārija Kalpaks-Grundmane (1922-2006). The site consists of various environmental objects and stone sculptures with a symbolic meaning, signifying Latvian ethical and patriotic values. The largest building houses an exhibit dedicated to the history of the Latvian War of Independence and the 22 years of Latvian freedom (1918-1940). Located in the Visagals graveyard, the monument to Oskars Kalpaks, created by Kārlis Zāle and Arnolds Dzirkals, was unveiled in 1927. The monument consists of a composition of three figures, in the centre of which is an ancient Latvian warrior holding a shield and a sword, with a falling soldier on each side. Placed obliquely on a granite base, a bronze plaque at the foot of the sculptural group contains engraved text, including a poem, dedicated to Kalpaks, by Edvards Virza. Oskars Kalpaks died on 6 March 1919 near Airītes, by the road from Skrunda to Saldus.



170

The birthplace of Colonel Oskars Kalpaks "Liepsalas" and the final resting place in Visagals cemetery ●●

"Liepsalas", Ošupes pag.,
Madonas nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.7877,26.6236

+371 26400999
www.visitmadona.lv
edite.zaube@inbox.lv



The museum is located in the Aglona village in Latgale. In terms of the variety of military exhibits and content, this is one of the richest private collections dedicated to World War II in Latvia (more than 1,000 different items). It showcases pistols, rifles, automatic firearms, machine guns, soldier uniforms, household objects, military equipment and other items. The museum was created by history enthusiast Valdis Tumovs. In the museum, you can take photos on a German war motorcycle, try on military uniforms, listen to stories about the museum's exhibits, find out how they were used and feel the atmosphere of the 1930s and 40s.



171

World War II museum and exposition in Aglona ●●

Daugavpils iela 40, Aglona,
Aglonas pag., Preiļu nov., Latvia,
GPS: 56.1302,27.0057

+371 65321380, 22484848, 29294180,
www.vis.lv/?p=152926
ww1945@inbox.lv



172

Museum of military vehicles in Svente manor ●●

Alejas iela 7, Svente, Sventes
pag., Augšdaugavas nov., Latvia,
GPS: 55.9036,26.3754

+371 65427822
www.sventehotel.lv/lat/museum
info@sventehotel.lv



The collection of military equipment is located next to the Svente Manor hotel, around 20 kilometres from Daugavpils. The exhibits on display include Soviet Army tanks: a T-34 medium tank, as well as IS-2 and IS-2M heavy tanks named after Stalin, BRDM-2 and BRDM-1 armoured reconnaissance vehicles, Jeep Willys and GAZ-67 military vehicles, self-propelled machinery, cannons and other pieces of equipment. This is the largest collection of tanks in the Baltic States.

The Daugavpils Fortress is located on the right bank of Daugava, in the western part of the city of Daugavpils. This is the only fortress of the first half of the 19th century in Northern Europe, which has survived almost unchanged. Construction began in 1810, shortly after which it suffered in the war of 1812 and the floods of 1829. The fortress was a place of strategic importance, including in the fight against Napoleon's army. Consecrated in 1833, the fortress was completed almost half a century later, in 1878. The Daugavpils Fortress is divided into quarters, with the Parade Square located in the central part. Later the fortress lost its strategic importance and a warehouse was set up in it in 1897. Before World War I, Latvian Army officers, including General Jānis Balodis and Colonel Frīdrihs Briedis, served in the Daugavpils Garrison. In honour of the centenary of the war of 1812, a monument was unveiled in the fortress park in 1912. Army units were stationed here during the Soviet era, and the Daugavpils Higher Military Aviation Engineering School was established. The fortress features several tourist attractions, including the Daugavpils Fortress Culture and Information Centre (trips around the Daugavpils Fortress are available), World War I Museum, Daugavpils Mark Rothko Art Centre, the White Horse art gallery, a medical exhibit displaying contraceptives, the Housevintage antique shop, the Daugavpils Bat Centre and the 'Retrogaraž-D' exhibit of retro cars.



173

Daugavpils Fortress ●●

Nikolaja iela 5, Daugavpils,
Latvia,
GPS: 55.8865,26.4952

+371 65424043 (Cietokšņa kultūras un
informācijas centrs),
www.visitdaugavpils.lv/turisma-objekts/daugavpils-cietoksnis,
cietoksnis@daugavpils.lv



MILITARY HERITAGE TOURING ROUTES

There are routes leading to military heritage locations, and each one has a description of the type of travel, a division of the route day by day, as well as a choice of military heritage sites, accommodations and dining facilities.

Sites that can be visited during the tour have been indicated for each day. When planning a trip, visitors need to pick specific places to visit, taking into account the distances, time and their interests.

More information about the military heritage sites included in the tours can be found by using the number **171** and name of the site in this guide.

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- 5**
Saaremaa and Hiiumaa – Outpost of the Estonian Sea Border page 72
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Commemorating the War of Independence in Western Estonia page 74
- 7**
The Soviet Army in the occupied territory of Estonia page 76
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In the footsteps of Estonian Independence War page 77
- 9**
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- 10**
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Military heritage along the Iron Curtain Route by car from Tallinn to Liepāja page 84
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The grand cross border tour - military heritage of the 100 years of independence of Latvia and Estonia page 88

1

Along the battlefields of Kurzeme Pocket to Soviet Heritage adventure in Dundaga

Duration: **5 days**
 Region: Kurzeme, Latvia
 Route: Rīga – Lestene – Zante – Brocēni – Saldus – Ezere – Vaiņode – Priekule – Skrunda – Pelči – Kuldīga – Renda – Usma – Ugāle – Blāzma – Dundaga – Tukums – Rīga

Historical periods:

2 4



The tour features sites associated with the events of the end of World War II, from October 1944 to May 1945 when the German army retreated from Rīga to Kurzeme, where 6 major battles took place in different parts of the Kurzeme front. Because of the brutal battles, this period of the war is known as the Courland Cauldron, Curland Pocket or Kurzeme Fortress. The Red Army was unable to conquer Kurzeme until the capitulation of the German army.

What the tour includes: Exhibitions of history and relics of war, stories told by local guides, private collectors and local history aficionados, a boat trip on Lake Ciecere with stories about the events of the war and a trip in a Soviet army car.

DAY 1

DRIVE:

Rīga–Lestene–Zante–Brocēni–Saldus

SIGHTS:

117 Lestene Brothers' Cemetery, Memorial Exposition and bunker. A memorial to Latvian Legion soldiers who fell during World War II. Exposition about the events in Lestene during the war, a Legion soldiers' bunker.

Lestene Lutheran church. Nearly 300 year old Lestene church, there was one of the epicenters of the Battle of Kurzeme (1944–1945).

107 Kurzeme Fortress museum in Zante. Kurzeme Fortress or Courland Pocket is a siege of German troops on the Kurzeme Peninsula at the end of World War II by the Red Army. The exposition includes military airplanes, reconstructed trenches and bunkers.

108 Boat trip in Ciecere Lake by the boat "Zezer". Stories about World War II battles and a sunken tank in the lake.

ROUTE:

Saldus–Ezere–Vaiņode–Priekule–Skrunda

SIGHTS:

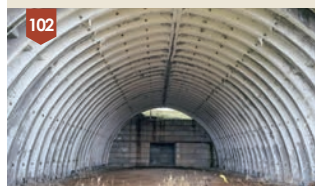
109 Saldus German Soldiers' Cemetery. The cemetery for fallen soldiers during World War II.

106 Ezere local history repository "Muitas Nams" ("Customs House"). On May 8, 1945, the capitulation act of Nazi German army units encircled in Courland Pocket was signed here.

102 Vaiņode air base. 16 Soviet-era aircraft hangars and a 1800m long section from the once 2500m long runway have survived at Vaiņode airfield.

100 Guided excursion in Priekule "Along the Footsteps of World War II in the "Courland Pocket""

101 Priekule Memorial Ensemble of Warrior's Cemetery, Priekule Manor and park, the Swedish gate.



PLACES TO EAT:

- Pub "Aitiņlauvas", the 22nd km on A9 road
- Jaunpils Castle restaurant in Jaunpils
- Pub "4 Vēji" near Lestene
- In Saldus turisms.saldus.lv/en/kur-doties/kur-paest/

PLACES TO STAY:

- Hotel "Demians" in Saldus
- Guesthouse "Radi" near Brocēni village
- Camping "Zvejnieki" near Brocēni village
- Smuku Manor near Remte village
- In Saldus turisms.saldus.lv/en/kur-doties/kur-naksnot/

PLACES TO EAT:

- Skrunda Manor Restaurant in Skrunda
- Bistro "Jumis" in Skrunda
- Restaurant "Piena Muīža" in Sieksāte village
- There are limited lunch and dining options in Vaiņode–Priekule region. Meals can be pre-booked leismalite.lv/paest/ or packed lunch should be prepared in advance.

PLACES TO STAY:

- Skrunda Manor in Skrunda
- "Piena Muīža" Manor in Sieksāte village
- Rural guest house "Gariķas" near Skrunda

DAY 3



DRIVE:

Skrunda–Pelči–Kuldīga–Renda–Usma



SIGHTS:

103 Cattle wagon used for deportations – museum at Skrunda train station. In 1941 and 1949, 2,916 civilians were deported from here by the Soviets to Siberia. The exhibition includes photos, letters, memories and other documents of deported people.

104 Skrunda manor and exposition of Skrunda locator. Exposition about the Soviet military town and radio location station – a major missile approach warning system that was located 5km from Skrunda. After the withdrawal of the Russian army in 1995, the building was blown up. The territory is closed and cannot be visited.

92 Pelči Manor. The headquarters of the German Army Group “Kurland” was located in Pelči in 1944-1945.

Kuldīga town, Medieval architecture, the Ventas Rumba waterfall, cosy cafes and restaurants.

91 Museum of the National Resistance Movement in Renda. In 1946, one of the largest national partisans' battles took place in the area. The museum offers a guided tour about resistance to the occupying powers, reconstructed bunkers and trenches.



DRIVE:

Usma–Ugāle–Blāzma–Dundaga



SIGHTS:

90 Rubenis' battalion bunker and battlefields. At the end of 1944 battles took place between German army units and Lieutenant Roberts Rubenis battalion – a national army foundation to liberate Latvia from both German and Soviet occupations.

89 Rubenis' battalion museum. Guided tours are available in the museum, bunker and battlefields.

83 Collection of Soviet military trucks. An exciting ride in a Russian army truck to the military sites and tank roads for groups up to 25 people. After the trip, a Soviet style dinner in “Pūpoli” guesthouse café is possible.

DAY 5



DRIVE:

Dundaga–Tukums–Rīga



SIGHTS:

114 Soviet memorial “Mother – Homeland” in Tukums. The World War II Brothers' Cemetery Memorial in Tukums is one of the largest memorials of the Soviet occupation in Latvia.

Tukums town

115 Aviation Museum “Sky Zoo”. Located in Airport Jūrmala near Tukums, in a former military airport, the aircraft exhibition includes the airplanes YAK 40, AN–2, a helicopter and others.

Jūrmala resort town.



PLACES TO EAT:

- Cafe “Usmas Meķi” near Renda
- Restaurant in Usma Spa hotel & Camping near Usma
- In Kuldīga visitkuldiga.com/edinasana/

PLACES TO STAY:

- Camping and holiday houses “Usmas Meķi” near Renda
- Usma Spa hotel & Camping near Usma

PLACES TO EAT:

- Bistro “Vecā Pirts” in Dundaga
- Guesthouse “Pūpoli” in Dundaga

PLACES TO STAY:

- Guesthouse “Pūpoli” in Dundaga
- Guesthouse “Jūras Sapņi” in Dundaga
- Holiday house “Pasaku Namiņš” near Dundaga
- Guesthouse “Ziedkalni” near Melnsils village

PLACES TO EAT:

- “Smārdes krogs”, the 49th km on A10 road, near Smārde village
- Šlokenbeka manor near Tukums
- Cafe “Cinevilla” near Slampe village
- In Tukums www.visittukums.lv/en/Where-to-eat/Restaurants

2

In the footsteps of the Battles of Cēsis



Duration: **2 days**
 Region: Vidzeme, Latvia
 Route: Rīga – Amata – Skangaļi – Priekuļi – Cēsis – Stalbe – Straupe – Limbaži – Rīga

Historical period: **1**

The tour explores the events of the Battles of Cēsis in 1919 when the armed forces of the Latvian Provisional Government, together with the Estonian army, defeated units of the German Landeswehr and the Iron Division. In Estonian war history, these battles are known as the Landeswehr War. The Battles of Cēsis are among the key events in the Latvian War of Independence and in protecting the independence of the newly established Latvian state proclaimed on 18 November 1918.

What the tour includes: Stories about the Battles of Cēsis at their historical sites, soldier's soup by the fire, an escape room named 'Legends of the Battles of Cēsis', the history of the Latvian flag, memorial sites and stories about freedom fighters: students, volunteers and battle-experienced army officers.

DAY 1

DRIVE:

Rīga–Amata–Skangaļi–Priekuļi–Cēsis

SIGHTS:

157 Rest area “Meža kaujas” and railway bridge across the Amata River, excursion to the Cēsis Battles sites and picnic with the “soldier’s soup” after the excursion.

150 The railway bridge over the Rauna River, which has a very important role in the battles of Cēsis.

148 Memorial at Skangaļi manor. The victory of the combined Latvian and Estonian troops in the battle for Skangaļi manor was the turning point of the battles of Cēsis.

149 Monument to the soldiers fallen in the battles of Cēsis, for Latvian and Estonian soldiers.

154 Monument of Victory in Cēsis in Vienības (Unity) Square of Cēsis. Cēsis (anno 1323) is one of the most attractive towns in Latvia with varied sightseeing options.

151 Monument for students in Cēsis Regiment.

DRIVE:

Cēsis–Stalbe–Straupe–Limbaži–Rīga

SIGHTS:

152 Cēsis history and art museum in the New Castle of Cēsis. The exhibitions are dedicated to the Latvian flag, the Cēsis Regiment and the battles of Cēsis and include the escape room “Cēsis battle legends”.

146 Monument for students of the Viljandi Regiment near Stalbe.

147 Lielstraupe Castle. During the battles of Cēsis, the command post of the battle group of Paul Ludwig Evaldis von Kleist of the Iron Division was located here.

Limbaži. Monument in memory of the fallen soldiers of the Latvian Liberation War.



PLACES TO EAT:

- “Āraiši Windmill” country kitchen near Cēsis, upon prior arrangement for groups www.facebook.com/AraisuVejdzimnavas
- In Cēsis turisms.cesis.lv/en/where-to-eat/

PLACES TO STAY AND EAT:

- Skangaļi manor near Rauna, site visit for groups with previous arrangement www.skangali.lv
- Camping “Apaļkalns” near Cēsis
- In Cēsis turisms.cesis.lv/en/where-to-stay/

PLACES TO EAT:

- Raiskuma Cafe at camping “Apaļkalns” in Raiskums village
- Ungurmuīza Restaurant near Stalbe village
- Cafe “Zem Ozola” in Straupe village
- Igate Castle Mill cafe in Igate village
- Bīriņi Castle Restaurant in Bīriņi village
- Pub “Raganas Ķēķis” in Ragana village
- In Limbaži <http://visitlimbaži.lv/>

3

Evidence of the World War I and Christmas Battles in Rīga region



Duration: **2 days**
 Region: Rīga region, Latvia
 Route: Rīga – Ciemupe - Ogre - Tīnūži – Ikšķīle – Olaine – Ložmetējkalns – Tīrelpurvs – Cinevilla – Tukums – Rīga

Historical periods:

① ④

The tour features sites related to the Christmas Battles: the attack of Latvian Riflemen on German army units in 1916 in especially harsh winter conditions. Christmas Battles are considered to be the most well-known and dramatic event in the history of Latvia in World War I.

What the tour includes: Exhibitions and stories about the events of the battles in their historical sites, the living conditions of soldiers in reconstructed blindages and dugouts and a filming area with set decorations for a film about the events of the Latvian War of Independence.

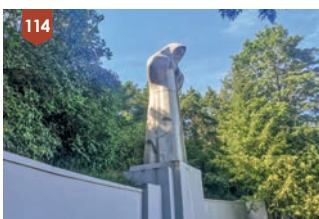
DAY 1

DRIVE:

Rīga–Ciemupe–Ogre–Tīnūži–Ikšķīle–Olaine–Ložmetējkalns–Tīrelpurvs

SIGHTS:

- 139** **Cafe “Dakota” and exposition of military vehicles and equipment.**
- 138** **Cultural Heritage Centre “Tīnūži Manor”.** Main exposition dedicated to the battles of Latvian riflemen by the Mazā Jugla River in 1917.
- 125** **Olaine History and Art Museum with the World War I Historical Exploration Route and dugout.** A World War I dugout of Russian soldiers has been reconstructed in place of the defensive line of the Russian Army, a part of the gunshot is exposed and World War II historical exploration route open to visitors. The museum also has an exposition about the Soviet occupation period in Olaine.
- 120** **The Christmas Battle museum and outdoor exhibition.** 1916 Christmas battlefield between Russian and German troops. The memorial park offers an authentic reconstruction of a bunker and part of the first line of German defense, museum and memorial to the Latvian riflemen at Ložmetējkalns hill, observation tower, marked route and guided tours.
- 118** **Excursion and tasting in “Tīreļi Distillery”, horse riding with type of horses used in World War I.**



PLACES TO EAT:

- Restaurant “Brandīns” in Ikšķīle
- Cafe “Dakota” in Ciemupe village
- Family restaurant “Hercogs” in Mārupe village
- Bread bakery and cafe “Lāči”, the 13th km on A9 road
- Pub “Aitiņlauvas”, the 22nd km on A9 road
- Pub “Eglieni”, the 39th km on A9 road

PLACES TO STAY AND EAT:

- Guesthouse “Pilsētnieki” in Slampe village
- Šlokenbeka manor near Tukums
- Motel “Sanders” near Tukums

DAY 2

DRIVE:

Cinevilla–Tukums– Rīga

SIGHTS:

Film Studio backlot “Cinevilla”. On this site the film “Rīgas Sargi” (a film about the freedom battles in 1919) was made. The setting shows the appearance of Rīga streets a hundred years ago.

Tukums town

- 114** **Soviet memorial “Mother – Homeland” in Tukums** on the Cemetery Hill in Tukums.
- 115** **Aviation Museum “Sky Zoo”.** An aircraft exhibition in the Airport Jūrmala near Tukums is located in a former Soviet military airport and includes the airplanes YAK 40, AN-2, a helicopter and others.

PLACES TO EAT:

- “Smārdes krogs”, the 49th km on A10 road, near Smārde village
- Cafe “Cinevilla” near Slampe village
- In Tukums www.visittukums.lv/en/Where-to-eat/Restaurants

4

Life in Estonia during the Soviet occupation



Duration: **3 days**
 Region: Tallinn, Harjumaa, Naissaar Island, Estonia
 Route: Tallinn – Naissaar Island – Tallinn – Klooga – Paldiski – Tallinn

Historical periods:

4

The tour features military heritage sites near the capital Tallinn and museums that introduce the history of wars at different times and the period of Soviet occupation across Estonia.

What the tour includes: museum exhibitions and stories told by guides, visits to formerly closed military areas, KGB activities in Estonia, elements of people's daily lives in Estonia during the Soviet occupation.

DAY 1

Tallinn



SIGHTS:

- 5 Memorial to the victims of communism.** The memorial is dedicated to all victims of the communism regime.
- 4 Estonian War Museum - General Laidoner museum.** The main exhibition of the museum showcases the military history of Estonia – the wars fought in Estonia and abroad in which Estonians have participated.
- 10 War of Independence Victory Column.** The monument is dedicated to all those persons, who have fought for the freedom and independence of Estonia.
- 8 KGB Prison cells in Tallinn.** The museum is located in the cellar of the former NKVD and KGB headquarters.
- 9 Hotel Viru and KGB museum.** The museum tells the story of more than just one hotel and the KGB.
- 11 Vabamu Museum of Occupations and Freedom.** Opened in 2003 this private museum showcases Estonian history during 1940–1991. The museum recalls stories from recent history highlighting both the value and fragility of freedom.

Old Town of Tallinn.



PLACES TO STAY AND EAT

In Tallinn www.visittallinn.ee



DAY 2



DRIVE:

Tallinn–Naissaar



SIGHTS:

3 Day trip to Naissaar Island – military truck ride, stunning lighthouse views, overgrown fortress ruins and secret underground tunnels. Although the fortifications on the island date back to Peter the Great's scheme to fortify Tallinn, the main fortifications are from the period of Russian rule before World War II. During Soviet time Naissaar was a military area and off-limits to the public.

Ferry to Naissaar Island from Tallinn and back ca 1 hour.



DAY 3



DRIVE:

Tallinn–Klooga–Paldiski–Tallinn



SIGHTS:

7 Patarei sea fortress. The complex was opened in 1840 and was decommissioned as a fortress. During the era of Estonia's independence and the German and Soviet occupations it was used as a prison.

6 Seaplane Harbour. The museum is based in the historic seaplane hangar and has around 200 original exhibits on display.

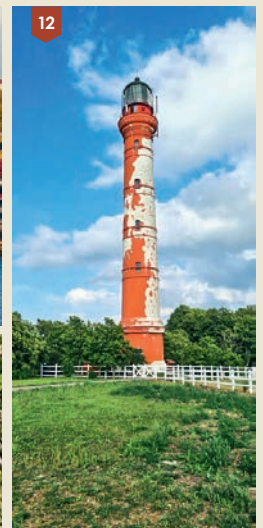
13 Klooga concentration camp and Holocaust memorial. The memorial is dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust.

12 Paldiski - Soviet-era closed city. The town of Paldiski has been an important port and military settlement since the Great Northern War.



PLACES TO EAT:

- Tavern "Peetri Toll" in Paldiski



5

Saaremaa and Hiiumaa – Outpost of the Estonian Sea Border



Duration: **3 days**
 Region: Saaremaa and Hiiumaa Islands, Estonia
 Route: Tallinn–Muhu Island–Kuressaare–Sõrve–Panga–ferry to Hiiumaa –Sõru–Orjaku–Ristna–Tahkuna–Lehtma–Kärdla–Partsi–Heltermaa–Tallinn

Historical periods:



Saaremaa and Hiiumaa are the two largest islands in Estonia and form the Estonian border in the west of the country. Efforts to construct and improve the coast protection infrastructure on the islands have been ongoing at all times. Battles between different troops took place during both World War I and World War II. National partisans remained active on the island of Hiiumaa even after the war.

What the tour includes: Exhibitions of relics of war and museums featuring stories told by local history aficionados; coastal artilleries, memorial sites for battles and warriors, military equipment, weapons, uniforms and household items.

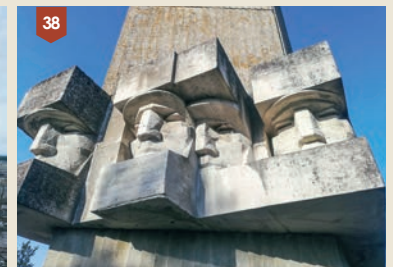
DAY 1

DRIVE:

Tallinn–Muhu Island–Kuressaare–Sõrve Ferry Virtsu – Kuivastu

SIGHTS:

- 45 Piiri Missile Base.** A former missile base located on the island of Muhu.
- 44 World War I trenches by Väike Strait.** The clearly visible segment of World War I trenches by the Väike Strait is situated next to the Kuivastu–Kuressaare road near the popular tourist attraction of Eemu Windmill on the island of Muhu.
- 43 Saaremaa Military Equipment Museum.** The private museum was established in 2007 and the collection comprises some 12 000 items from its founding members.
- 37 Saaremaa Museum.** The museum is located in Kuressaare episcopal castle. The permanent exhibition about the history of Saaremaa includes also the exhibition “Saaremaa 1939–1949”.
- 38 Monument to the Night Battle of Tehumardi.** The monument is dedicated to the soldiers who fell in the night battle of Tehumardi in October 1944.
- 42 Sõrve Museum, 43rd Coastal Defense Battery in Sääre.** The museum was opened in 2004 on the tip of the Sõrve peninsula. The exhibition provides an overview of the events of World War II in Sõrve, Soviet era and current NATO military equipment. World War I coastal defence battery comprised four 305–mm guns.
- 41 The Coastal Battery No 315 (Stebel) command post.** The World War II battery command centre is located in the village of Sääre.



PLACES TO EAT:

- Cafe “Lümanda Söögimaja” in Lümanda village
- Kaali Tavern in Kaali village (only summer season)
- Restaurant “Sääre Paargu” in Sääre village (only summer season)
- In Kuressaare www.visitsaaremaa.ee

PLACES TO STAY:

- Sõrve peninsula or West coast in Saaremaa www.visitsaaremaa.ee

DAY 2



DRIVE:

Sõrve–Panga–ferry to Hiiumaa–Sõru–Orjaku



SIGHTS:

36 Papissaare Seaplane Base. This historic seaplane harbour has become an important tourism port providing passage to the unique island of Vilsandi.

34 Military trail in Panga. The 2 km long military hiking trail along Panga bank passes by the remains of a variety of military facilities.

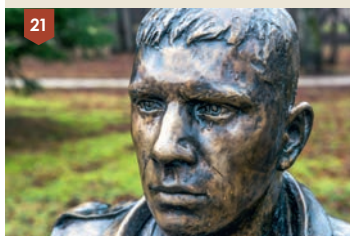
Ferry to Hiiumaa island from Triigi harbour (~1 hour).

25 The 120-mm Coastal Battery at Hindu (Sõru) No 34

24 The 130-mm Coastal Battery at Tohvri (Hindu) No 44

Emmaste Memorial to Forest Brothers. The memorial is dedicated to three forest brothers, who were killed near Emmaste in 1951.

23 Orjaku Military Harbour. The harbour was intended to be used as an Imperial Russian Navy base for torpedo boats.



PLACES TO EAT:

- Pub in Orjaku harbour in Orjaku village
- Restaurant „Lest ja Lammast“ in Kassari village
- Tavern “Vetsi Talli” in Kassari village
- In Hiiumaa www.hiiumaale.ee

PLACES TO STAY:

- Kassari Holiday Centre
- Dagen Haus Guesthouse in Orjaku village
- In Hiiumaa www.hiiumaale.ee

DAY 3



DRIVE:

Orjaku–Ristna–Tahkuna–Lehtma–Kärdla–Partsi–Heltermaa–Tallinn



SIGHTS:

22 Ristna coastal battery, radar station and lighthouse. The 130mm four–weapon armed battery was completed in 1940. The craters of two gun emplacements, the parapets and bolt circles are visible.

20 Hiiumaa Military Museum. The private museum was opened in 2007 by a team of enthusiasts. The exhibition focuses on 20th century military issues of Hiiumaa.

19 Coastal batteries in Tahkuna and Lehtma. The 12–inch coastal battery from World War I and 180–mm and 130–mm coastal batteries from World War II located in the Tahkuna area.

21 Monument to fallen World War II soldiers of Hiiumaa in Kärdla.

Kärdla, the capital of Hiiumaa.

Marked grave of two unknown soldiers from World War I in Partsi village. The resting place of two Russian soldiers who fell in October 1917.

The defence line with 21 Machine Gun Bunkers (Sarve–Lehtma). Concrete machine gun bunkers were built in 1941.

Ferry to the mainland from Heltermaa harbour and drive to Tallinn.

PLACES TO EAT:

- Restaurant “Roogruhu” near Kärdla airport
- Restaurant “Ungru Resto” in Suursadama (only summer season)
- Cafe “Kala ja Võrk” in Kärdla

6

Commemorating the War of Independence in Western Estonia

Duration: **3 days**
 Region: Pärnumaa–Läänemaa and Osmussaar Island, Estonia
 Route: Ikla–Treimani–Kabli–Häädemeeste–Pärnu–Lavassaare–Tiduvvere–Tiduvvere–Kullamaa–Haapsalu–Dirhami–Osmussaar Island–Dirhami

Historical periods:

① ②



The counties of Pärnu and Lääne are located on the west coast of Estonia. Osmussaar is a 4.8km² Estonian island situated in the mouth of the Gulf of Finland, which was used as a border outpost. A Soviet army unit was stationed on the island after World War II, and the island became a closed military zone.

What the tour includes: Exhibitions and stories told by guides on battle and coastal artillery sites, at certain times, a steam locomotive ride in the open-air railway museum, the possibility to spend the night in a Forest Brothers' bunker, a boat ride and a trip to Osmussaar Island.

DAY 1

DRIVE:

Ikla–Treimani–Kabli–Häädemeeste–Pärnu

SIGHTS:

50 Timmkanali battle site. A battle ensued in Tahkuranna between the advancing Germans and the destruction battalion leaving Rannametsa. Today the battle site is marked by a granite boulder with a tablet.

Fishing villages on coastline of Pärnu bay.

Pärnu, a holiday resort town by the sea

49 Monument to the War of Independence in Pärnu. One of the most impressive monuments of the War of Independence in Estonia located in Alevi cemetery in Pärnu was designed by Amandus Adamson.

48 Monument to the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Estonia. The monument is situated on Independence Square in the centre of Pärnu and is dedicated to the declaration of the Manifesto to the Peoples of Estonia, which was publicly declared here for the first time on February 23, 1918.



PLACES TO EAT:

- Lapanina hotel restaurant "Julia" in Kabli village (only summer season)
- Kosmonautika holiday centre in Penu village near Häädemeeste (individuals summer season, groups with pre-booking)
- In Pärnu visitparnu.com

DAY 2

 DRIVE:

Pärnu–Lavassaare–Tiduvvere–Kullamaa–Risti–Haapsalu

 SIGHTS:

46 Estonian Railway Museum in Lavassaare. The narrow-gauge railway museum has over 180 items, including five locomotives and a variety of technical apparatus. Most of the items are on outdoor display.

31 31 Põrgupõhja bunker. Fully reconstructed bunker showcases the everyday life of the forest brothers.

Vigala church and park.

30 Monument to the War of Independence in Kullamaa.

29 “Railway Tracks Remember” monument to those deported from West-Estonia. The monument is dedicated to all those people, who were deported from Risti in West-Estonia to Siberia.

Haapsalu, a charming small town with narrow streets, a miniature town hall and romantic wood-en dwelling houses.

28 Railway and Communication Museum in Haapsalu. The museum is located in a former train station and showcases the development of Estonian railways and other communications.



  PLACES TO EAT AND STAY

www.visithaapsalu.com

 PLACES TO EAT:

- Dirhami Fish Cafe in Dirhami village

DAY 3

 DRIVE:

Haapsalu–Dirhami–Osmussaar Island–Dirhami

 SIGHTS:

Driving to Dirhami, boat to Osmussaar.

14 Osmussaar Island. Osmussaar is situated off the north-west coast of Estonia. The fire control tower and coastal batteries are visible.

Dirhami harbour

15 Spitham radar station. In the military outpost two large radar mounds and remains of other facilities are visible.

7

The Soviet Army in the occupied territory of Estonia

Duration: **2 days**
 Region: Harjumaa-Virumaa, Estonia
 Route: Tallinn–Hara–Tapa–Veadla–Rakvere–Sillamäe–Vaivara–Narva–Jõesuu

Historical periods:

2 3 4



The tour features military heritage sites and formerly closed areas as visitors make their way through the Lahemaa National Park, the city of Rakvere in the northern part of the country and Narva, a Russian border city in the east.

What the tour includes: Stories told by guides on former military bases, battlefields and museums, the architecture of the Stalinist era, exhibitions featuring weapons, army uniforms, personal items of soldiers, photographs, as well as documentaries of war films.

DAY 1

DRIVE:

Tallinn–Hara–Tapa–Veadla–Rakvere

SIGHTS:

1 Hara harbour - historic Hara submarine base. A historic submarine base and degaussing station.

Lahemaa national park (Käsmu–Võsu–Haljala).

Rakvere town, well known for its medieval castle.

52 Kadila and Rohu missile base. The remains of the nuclear missile base built during the Soviet era.

53 Forest brothers bunker in Lebavere. Replica of the forest brothers' bunker and memorial tablet.



PLACES TO EAT AND STAY:

- Palmse manor in Lahemaa National park
- Sagadi manor in Lahemaa National park
- Vihula manor in Lahemaa National park
- In Rakvere rakvere.kovtp.ee/et/uldinfo

DAY 2

DRIVE:

Rakvere–Sillamäe–Vaivara–Narva–Jõesuu

SIGHTS:

Sillamäe – a former closed Soviet city

17 17 Sinimägede (Blue Hills) Museum in Vaivara. The exhibition of the museum showcases the Battle of the Narva River and the Blue Hills in 1944.

16 Sinimägede (Blue Hills) battlefield memorial. Memorial to soldiers who died in the battles of 1944.

Narva city. The castle, bastions, museum and promenade.

Narva–Jõesuu resort and beach.



PLACES TO EAT AND STAY:

- Narva–Jõesuu Spa and Sanatorium In Narva–Jõesuu resort
- Meresuu Spa Hotel In Narva–Jõesuu resort
- Noorus Spa Hotel In Narva–Jõesuu resort
- In Narva visitnarva.ee

8

In the footsteps of Estonian Independence War

Duration: **3 days**
 Region: Western Estonia – Southern Estonia
 Route: Pärnu–Tori–Suure–Jaani–Viljandi–Mustla–Tõrva–Valga
 Historical periods: **1**



The tour features sites related to the events of the Estonian War of Independence from Pärnu in western Estonia to the Latvian border town of Valga. The Estonian War of Independence was fought from 1918 to 1920.

What the tour includes: Monuments and memorial sites, battlefields, military equipment and weapons, and authentically restored war trenches.

DAY 1



DRIVE:

Pärnu–Tori–Suure–Jaani–Viljandi



SIGHTS:

49 Monument to the War of Independence in Pärnu. One of the most impressive monuments of the War of Independence in Estonia located in Alevi cemetery in Pärnu was designed by Amandus Adamson.

48 Monument to the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Estonia. The monument is situated on Independence Square in the centre of Pärnu and is dedicated to declaration of the Manifesto to the Peoples of Estonia, which was publicly declared here for the first time on 23 of February 1918.

47 Estonian Soldiers Memorial Church and Monument to the War of Independence in Tori. The church was consecrated in 2001 as a memorial to all victims of the World War II and is now known as the Estonian Soldiers Memorial Church.

Soomaa National Park

58 Monument to the War of Independence in Suure-Jaani.



PLACES TO EAT:

- Bakery and Cafe "Pärmamäed" near Pärnu
- Restaurant "Eagle" near Pärnu
- Jõesuu Village Cafe in Soomaa national park
- In Pärnu www.visitparnu.com

PLACES TO EAT AND STAY

In Viljandi visitviljandi.ee/en/homepage



 DRIVE:

Viljandi–Mustla–Tõrva–Valga

 SIGHTS:

59 Viljandi Museum. The exhibition showcases the history of Viljandi County, including the military history of the region.

Viljandi Order Castle, Lake Viljandi.

60 Equestrian statue of General Johan Laidoner. The only equestrian statue in Estonia is dedicated to Commander-in-Chief General Johan Laidoner.

61 Birthplace of General Johan Laidoner in Viljandi. The monument designates the location of the farmstead, where Commander-in-Chief General Johan Laidoner was born.

62 Monument to the War of Independence in Tarvastu.

Pikasilla battlefield. Memorial tablet is dedicated to the battles along Väike–Emajõe River in 1944.

Monument to the War of Independence in Tõrva.

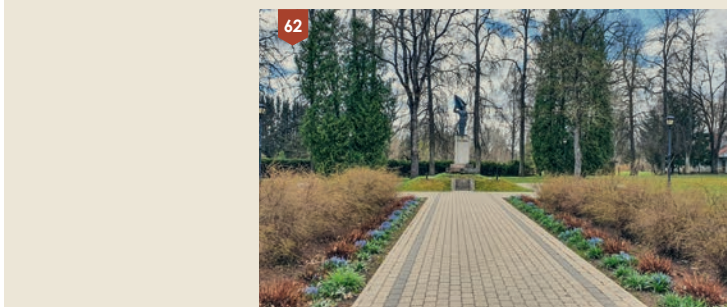
68 Monument to the Battle of Paju. The monument is dedicated to the Battle of Paju, which took place on 31 of January 1919 during the War of Independence.


 PLACES TO EAT:

- Cafe "Läti Saatkond" ("Latvian Embassy") in Tõrva village
- In Viljandi visitviljandi.ee/en/homepage

 PLACES TO STAY:

In Valga <https://visitvalgavalka.com/>



Valga

 SIGHTS:

70 Military theme park in Valga and Defence Line "Walk" near Valga. The museum exhibition covers Estonian military history and internal security. It includes military vehicles, a tank, and a forest brother's bunker. Guided tours and laser tag upon prior reservation.

Valga museum.

72 Valga railway station built by German prisoners of war. The train station was built by German war prisoners. One of the most remarkable examples of Stalinist architecture in Estonia.

71 Monument to the War of Independence in Valga.

69 Monument to the War of Independence in Priimetsa cemetery. The monument is one of the largest burial sites of the fallen in the War of Independence and is the final resting place for more than 300 men.

 PLACES TO EAT:

In Valga www.visitvalgavalka.com

9

The heritage of Soviet Occupation in North Vidzeme and South Estonia

Duration: 4 days
Region: Northern Vidzeme in Latvia and Southern Estonia
Route: Rīga – Aizkraukle – Sigulda – More – Līgatne – Skajupes – Gulbene – Alūksne – Hānija – Reuge – Veru – Tartu – Valga – Seda – Valmiera – Rīga

Historical periods:



KGB, the Committee for State Security (Russian: Комитет государственной безопасности, КГБ)



The tour explores the presence of the Soviet army and the KGB* during the 50 years of Soviet occupation in Latvia and Estonia. Army bases, secret military facilities and military airfields were constructed and operated during this time, and closed military territories were established. The loyalty of the country's population to the Soviet regime was tested by the KGB, and those who resisted were morally and physically destroyed. **What the tour includes:** Exploring former secret facilities – bunkers 9 metres underground and missile bases – stories about the deportation of local residents and their life in forced exile, KGB detention facilities, military equipment and weapons: armoured Soviet army vehicles, tanks, helicopters, planes and firearms.

DAY 1

DRIVE:

Rīga–Aizkraukle–Sigulda–More–Līgatne

SIGHTS:

131 Exhibition in the KGB Building “History of KGB Operations in Latvia”. The Museum offers guided tours of the basement prison cells and an exhibition about the history of KGB activities in Latvia during the Soviet occupation.

132 Museum of the Occupation of Latvia. History of Latvia from 1940 to 1991 throughout both the Nazi and Soviet occupations.

140 Aizkraukles History and Art museum exposition “Soviet years”. This exhibition, dedicated to the cultural and historical heritage of the period of 1950s to 1980s is the largest in the Baltics – on three floors, in the area of 1060 m.

Sigulda town, a popular town with many tourist attractions in Gauja National Park.

159 Museum of Battles in More. The battles between Soviet troops and the Latvian Legion of the German Army took place here in the autumn of 1944. The exposition includes the battlefield layout, weapons, awards, soldiers' uniforms and military equipment.

158 Museum of Melānija Vanaga and Siberian dugout, a writer and historian. Video materials about Siberia and the deported Latvians living there, a dugout showing the living conditions in Siberia.

PLACES TO EAT:

- Safari park “More” in More village
- Cafe “Vilhelmīne Mill” in Līgatne
- Hotel “Zeit” in Līgatne
- In Līgatne <http://www.visitligatne.lv/taste-it>
- In Sigulda <https://tourism.sigulda.lv/en/eat-and-drink/>

PLACES TO STAY:

- Hotel “Zeit” in Līgatne
- Guest house “Vilhelmīne apartments” in Līgatne
- Guesthouse “More” in More village
- Cottage “Jaunlīdumnieki” near Mālpils village
- In Līgatne visitligatne.lv/accommodation

DAY 2

DRIVE:

Līgatne–Skajupe–Gulbene–Alūksne

SIGHTS:

Līgatne historical paper mill town.

155 Secret Soviet Bunker in Līgatne and soviet style lunch in the Bunker canteen. Intended for long-term operation of Soviet Latvia's government personnel in a nuclear war situation. The bunker includes a 9m deep underground space of 2000 m², fully autonomous infrastructure, and all authentic equipment has been preserved.

163 Soviet Army Missile Base in Zeltiņi. Between 1961 and 1989 this was a particularly secret military object. On the route of the excursion there are hangars, rocket launch pads, and bomb shelters. An exhibition detailing the history of the missile base is in Zeltiņi Museum.

164 Gulbene Railway Station. In 1941, civilians and officers arrested in the Latvian army summer camp in Litene were deported from the Gulbene railway station. There is an interactive centre “Railway and Steam”. A narrow gauge railway train called “Bānītis” operates between Gulbene and Alūksne.

165 Latvian Army Summer Camp in Litene. Officers and soldiers of the Latvian Armed Forces were arrested and killed by Red Army and NKVD units here in 1941. Exhibits include a viewing platform, deactivated cannon and the nearby Litene cemetery memorial “Wall of Pain”.

162 Alūksne Museum. Exhibition dedicated to the victims of the Totalitarian regime.

PLACES TO EAT:

- Vecgulbene Manor in Gulbene
- In Gulbene www.visitgulbene.lv
- In Alūksne <https://visitaluksne.lv>

PLACES TO STAY AND EAT:

- Hotel “Benevilla” in Alūksne
- Hotel “Jolanta” in Alūksne
- Bahnhofshotel in Alūksne
- Holiday house “Duki” near Litene village
- Guest house “Bītiņš” near Mālupe village
- Guest house “Sapniņi” near Zeltiņi village
- Ziemeļi manor near Alūksne
- In Alūksne <https://visitaluksne.lv>

 DRIVE:

Alüksne–Haanja–Rõuge–Võru–Tartu

 SIGHTS:

Haanja Nature Park. The Baltic highest point, Suur Munamägi (317 m above sea level). An observation tower is open for visitors.

Rõuge town, walks in the scenic Rõuge Primeval Valley.

73 Vana-Võromaa Museum and Art Gallery. The exhibitions cover how the Republic of Estonia was established, the War of Independence and major events of both world wars in Võru County. It also shows a history of forest brothers in South-Estonia.

66 Estonian Aviation Museum. The collection includes 33 aeroplanes and 5 helicopters along with anti-aircraft guns and surface-to-air missiles which were located in Estonia during the Soviet period.

Arrive in Tartu.

64 KGB Cells Museum in Tartu. The building served as the headquarters of the NKVD/KGB. Nowadays some basement prison cells and lock-up rooms are restored and opened for visitors.

63 Former Raadi military airfield and Estonian National Museum. A walk in former Raadi Manor estates where in 1940 a Russian air base was established. In 2016 the Estonian National Museum opened a new building here. The building itself is also remarkable, as the museum becomes a continuation of the airfield – its roof lifting and expanding towards „infinite space“.


 PLACES TO EAT:

- Kubija Spa restaurant in Võru
- Cafe "Suur Muna" in Haanja village
- Restaurant "Andreas" in Rõuge village
- "Uue-Saaluse" winery near Haanja village
- Tavern "Hämsa" near Võru town
- In Tartu visittartu.com/eat-drink
- In Võru www.visitvoru.ee

 PLACES TO STAY:

In Tartu visittartu.com/stay

 DRIVE:

Tartu–Valga–Seda–Valmiera–Rīga

 SIGHTS:

70 Military theme park in Valga and Defence Line "Walk" near Valga. The museum exhibition covers Estonian military history and internal security. It includes military vehicles, a tank, and a forest brother's bunker. Guided tours and laser tag upon prior reservation.

72 Valga railway station built by German prisoners of war. The train station was built by German war prisoners. One of the most remarkable examples of Stalinist architecture in Estonia.

142 Valka train station. Built around 1896/97, during Soviet occupation it was used to deliver ballistic missiles to Valka.

141 Underground Military bunkers in Valka. Located in the centre of Valka town. In 1953–1989, a strategic missile communications reserve point was located here.

144 Seda cultural heritage (1953-1990) exposition and Stalinist architecture. The town of Seda is an example of Stalinist architecture with a central square and radially placed streets. There is an exhibition about the cultural and historical heritage in the House of Culture.

Valmiera city. The Valmiera Museum, St. Simon's Church, Walters Hill, walk in the Bachelor's park.

145 Memorial to the soldiers fallen in World War II in Valmiera. The memorial is dedicated to the soldiers fallen in World War II and the victims of the Nazi regime.

 PLACES TO EAT:

- Cafe "Sinel" in Valga Military Theme Park <https://visitvalgavalka.com/project/cafe-sinel/>
- In Valka / Valga <http://visit.valka.lv/en/taste/catering-in-valka>;
- <http://visit.valka.lv/en/taste/catering-in-valga>
- In Strenči www.visitstrenci.lv
- In Valmiera www.visit.valmiera.lv/en/catering/

10

In the footsteps of the Forest brothers in Latvia and Estonia

Duration: **6 days**
Region: Kurzeme, Vidzeme, Latvia-Tartu county, Estonia

Route: Rīga-Čevers Bunker (Vandzene woods)-Renda-Ugāle-Usma-Zlēkas-Kuldīga-Saldus-Īle-Rīga-Amata-Cēsis-Skujene-Vecpiebalga-Ineši-Madona-Lubāna-Vīļaka-Alūksne-Ape-Vastse-Roosa-Nursi-Võru-Puutli-Vastseliina-Saatse-Vārskā-Tartu

Historical period: **3**



During the Soviet occupation period in World War II and immediately after the war, many in Latvia and Estonia could not accept life under the occupation regime and wanted to restore the independence of their countries. They went into the woods, lived in dugouts that they built themselves and carried out attacks on Soviet repressive authorities. People hoped that Western nations would not tolerate the Soviet occupation and that Latvia and Estonia would soon be independent again. National partisans continued to fight battles until the end of the 1950s.

What the tour includes: Evidence of the resistance movement to the Soviet occupation regime, authentic reconstructed national partisan bunkers and settlements, battle and memorial sites, recordings of stories as remembered by national partisans, stories told by local history aficionados, the opportunity to spend the night in a partisan bunker.

DAY 1

DRIVE:

Rīga-Čevers bunker-Renda-Ugāle-Usma

SIGHTS:

113 Pēteris Čevers national partisan bunker. A reconstructed bunker of national partisans, led by Pēteris Čevers. The group was attacked on February 3, 1950 by KGB troops of more than 300 men.

91 Museum of the National Resistance Movement in Renda and memorial site of the partisan battle. The exposition tells the stories of more than 40 years of the national resistance of the Latvian nation both to Nazi's and Soviet's Occupations.

89 Rubenis' battalion museum. Guided tours are available in the museum, bunker and battlefields.

90 Rubenis' battalion bunker and battlefields. At the end of 1944, battles took place between German army units and Lieutenant Roberts Rubenis battalion – a national armed formation to liberate Latvia from German and Soviet occupations.



PLACES TO EAT:

- Cafe "Usmas Meķi" near Renda village
- Restaurant in Usma Spa hotel & Camping near Usma village
- In Kuldīga
visitkuldiga.com/edinasana/

PLACES TO STAY:

- Camping and holiday cottages "Usmas Meķi" near Renda village
- Usma Spa hotel & Camping near Usma village
- In Kuldīga
visitkuldiga.com/naktsmitnes/

DAY 2

DRIVE:

Usma-Zlēkas-Kuldīga-Saldus-Īle-Rīga

SIGHTS:

Memorial site at Zlēkas. Here, in December of 1944, German military police killed around 160 local civilians.

Kuldīga Old town, the Kuldīga history museum.

Memorial site to national partisans in Saldus.

111 Īle National Partisans' Bunker. On October 1948, partisans set up a bunker in the Īle forests, where they lived and carried out attacks on the Soviet regime. The restored bunker is open to visitors.



PLACES TO EAT:

- Cafe "Dzirnaviņas" in Biksti village
- Skrunđa Manor Restaurant in Skrunđa
- Cafe "Magdalēna" in Saldus
- Restaurant "Stikla Pērīšu spēle" in Saldus
- Beer Bar "Tērvete" in Dobele
- Pub "Aitiņlauvas", the 22nd km on A9 road
- Pub "4 Vēji" near Lestene
- In Saldus turisms.saldus.lv/en/kur-doties/kur-paest/

PLACES TO STAY:

in Riga www.liveriga.com

 DRIVE:

Rīga–Amata–Cēsis–Skujene–Vecpiebalga–Ineši–Madona

 SIGHTS:

156 Bunker of national partisans – Forest Brothers. Exhibition of national partisan weapons and household items with a guide's narration and forest brother's interviews in video recordings. A picnic by open fire.

153 Historical Exposition “The Burning Conscience”. Created in the Soviet-era temporary detention centre the exhibition tells about the occupation of Latvia and includes an authentic prison cell design.

160 Memorial site of national partisans in Sērmūkši. The bunker was reconstructed according to historical evidence and is available for overnight stays in conditions similar to the authentic ones such as wooden benches, kerosene lamp lighting.

161 Piebalga local history exposition in Ineši. The exhibition includes World War II soldier's household items, aircraft parts, awards, military maps.

Vecpiebalga town.


 PLACES TO EAT:

- Cafe “Senda” in Balvi
- Cafe “Lāča Ķepās” in Balvi
- In Balvi turisms.balvi.lv/en/catering
- Cafe “Pajumte” in Alūksne
- Tavern “Katrīnkrogs” in Alūksne
- In Alūksne visitaluksne.lv/en/where-to-eat/
- Cafe “Krodziņš” in Ape
- Restaurant “Andreas” in Rouge
- Kubija Spa restaurant in Vōru
- In Vōru www.visitvoru.ee

 PLACES TO STAY:

In Vōru www.visitvoru.ee


 PLACES TO EAT:

- Tavern “Pie Dzirnakeņa” in Ieriķi
- Cafe “Melturi” near Ieriķi
- Cafe “Ūdensroze” in Vecpiebalga
- Cafe “Stūrtis” and cafe “Šlāgeris” in Madona
- In Amata amata.lv/edinasana/
- In Vecpiebalga vecpiebalga.lv/en/where-to-eat/

 PLACES TO STAY:

- Guest house “Smeceres krogs” near Madona
- Guest house “Kučuru Dzirnavaš” near Madona
- Guest house “Ezernieki” near Lubāna
- Holiday house “Dzirnavaš” near Vecpiebalga
- Guest house “Abrienas” near Madona
- In Madona and surroundings <https://www.visitmadona.lv/en/lv/>

 DRIVE:

Madona–Lubāna–Viļaka–Alūksne–Ape–Vastse–Roosa–Nursi–Vōru

 SIGHTS:

Cesvaine Castle

168 Broņislava Maruževa poetry barn. An exhibition, audio and video recordings of the national resistance movement and the work of the poet, publishing an underground magazine, composing poetry and songs for national partisans.

169 Lubāna Municipality tourism and cultural heritage centre.

166 Trail and partisan memorial in Stompaki bog. The partisan settlement had 24 underground bunkers, a church and several buildings on the ground that housed about 400 people. On March 2, 1945, the Battle of Stompaku took place when the settlement was attacked by KGB troops.

167 Exposition “Abrene Rooms”. The exposition contains objects that came from Stompaki partisan settlement and are related to the national partisan movement in Latgale region.

80 Forest Brother (Metsavena) Farm. Metsavena (Forest Brother's) Farm is located about 1.5 km from the Estonian-Latvian border. It shows a forest brothers' bunker, offers a forest brother's tour and an insight into the armed resistance period following World War II.

74 Museum room on the Forest Brothers in Nursi Village Centre (with a memorial and a replica of a bunker nearby). Located in the centre of Nursi village, the museum room is dedicated to local national partisans during World War II.

DRIVE:

Võru-Puutli-Vastseliina-Saatse-Värskä

SIGHTS:

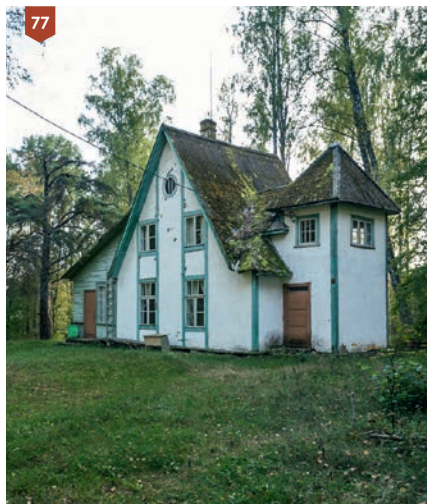
73 Vana-Võromaa Museum and Art Gallery. The exhibition showcases the military history of Võru County, including a replica of a forest brothers' bunker.

Monument to Forest Brothers in Puutli. Monument and bunker site in the village of Mutsu dedicated to the fallen forest brothers.

79 Memorial to the forest brothers at Vastseliina. Memorial in Vastseliina cemetery dedicated to the fallen forest brothers.

Vastseliina village

78 Saatse Seto Museum. The exhibition about the Estonian-Russian border will be open in 2022.



PLACES TO EAT:

- Vastseliina Castle Tavern In Vastseliina village
- Cafe "Seto Tsäimaja" in Värskä village
- "Näki Cafeteria" in Värskä Water Park in Värskä Village
- Home restaurant "Maagõkõnõ" (only by pre-reservation) in Saatse village near Estonian-Russian border

PLACES TO STAY:

- Värskä Sanatorium and Water Park

DRIVE:

Värskä-Tartu

SIGHTS:

Värskä village and Värskä Seto farm museum

76 Värskä Visitor Centre – Reek House. The exhibition in the visitor centre provides an overview of the Northern Camp and the events of the War of Independence.

77 Northern Camp

Former military training centre is situated on the shores of Lake Õrsava in Värskä.

75 Monument to the War of Independence in Petseri County. The newest monument of the War of Independence in Estonia was opened in 2020.

PLACES TO EAT:

- Cafe "Seto Tsäimaja" in Värskä village
- "Näki Cafeteria" in Värskä Water Park

11

Military heritage along the Iron Curtain Route by car from Tallinn to Liepāja

Duration: **9 days**

Region: Rīga, Latvia–Tallinn, Estonia

Route: Tallinn–Paldiski–Spithami–Haapsalu–Rohuküla–ferry to Vormsi–ferry back to Rohuküla–Puisse–Lihula–Lavassaare–Pärnu–Ainaži–Saulkrasti–Carnikava–Mežgarciems–Rīga–Engure–Roja–Kolka–Mazirbe–Irbene–Ovīši–Ventspils–Užava–Jūrmala–Pāvilosta–Akmeņrags–Liepāja–Rīga or Tallinn

Historical period:

4



The Baltic coast served as the country's western border during the Soviet period. The border between the USSR and the western countries was known as the Iron Curtain, as it functioned to isolate those living in the Soviet state from the rest of the world. Home to army bases, coast guard towers and batteries, most of the coastal area in both Latvia and Estonia was closed during the Soviet era. Local residents needed special permits for leaving and entering the area. Despite strict security measures, there were frequent attempts to cross the border and flee the USSR to the West. **What the tour includes:** Museum exhibitions and stories told by guides; coastal defence batteries, watchtowers and fortifications, formerly closed areas and army towns, stories about life on the border and attempts to cross the Iron Curtain.

DAY 1

DRIVE:

Tallinn–Paldiski–Spithami–Haapsalu

SIGHTS:

4 Estonian War Museum - General Laidoner museum. The main exhibition of the museum showcases the military history of Estonia – the wars fought in Estonia and abroad in which Estonians have participated.

6 Seaplane Harbour. The museum is based in the historic seaplane hangar and has around 200 original exhibits on display.

9 Hotel Viru and KGB museum. The museum tells the story of more than just one hotel and the KGB.

8 KGB Prison cells in Tallinn. The museum is located in the cellar of the former NKVD and KGB headquarters.

7 Patarei sea fortress. The complex was opened in 1840 and was decommissioned as a fortress. During the era of Estonia's independence and the German and Soviet occupations it was used as a prison.

11 Vabamu Museum of Occupations and Freedom. Opened in 2003 this private museum showcases Estonian history from 1940–1991. The museum recalls stories from recent history highlighting both the value and fragility of freedom.

12 Paldiski - Soviet-era closed city. The town of Paldiski has been an important port and military settlement since the Great Northern War.

15 Spitham radar station. In the military outpost two large radar mounds and remains of other facilities are visible.



PLACES TO EAT:

- Tavern "Peetri Toll" in Paldiski town

PLACES TO EAT AND STAY:

- In Haapsalu www.visithaapsalu.com



DAY 2

 DRIVE:

Haapsalu–Rohuküla–ferry to Vormsi

 SIGHTS:

Haapsalu. Charming small town with narrow streets, a miniature town hall and romantic wooden dwelling houses.

28 Railway and Communication Museum in Haapsalu. The museum is located in a former train station and showcases the development of Estonian railways and other communications.

Ferry to Vormsi Island 1 hour.

27 Hullo border outpost in Vormsi Island. A Soviet era outpost on the island of Vormsi.

26 Monument to the War of Independence in Vormsi. One of the few monuments to the War of Independence which survived Soviet occupation.

 PLACES TO EAT:

- In Haapsalu www.visithaapsalu.com

 PLACES TO EAT AND STAY:

- "Rumpo Mae" Farm on Vormsi island

DAY 3

 DRIVE:

Ferry back to Rohuküla –Puisse–Lihula–Lavassaare–Pärnu

 SIGHTS:

33 Monument to those who fled across the sea to Sweden in 1944. The monument commemorates the mass escape in autumn 1944, when around 80 000 people fled westward mainly by sea from the advancing Red Army.

32 Põgari House of Prayer. The historic last meeting of the Government of the Republic of Estonia from 22 of September 1944 is commemorated by a memorial tablet on the house of prayer.

46 Estonian Railway Museum in Lavassaare. The narrow-gauge railway museum has over 180 items, including five locomotives and a variety of technical apparatus. Most of the items are on outdoor display.

48 Monument to the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Estonia. The monument is situated on Independence Square in the centre of Pärnu and is dedicated to the declaration of the Manifesto to the Peoples of Estonia, which was publicly declared here for the first time on 23 of February 1918.

 PLACES TO EAT:

- Cafe "Sakste Maja" in Lihula village
- In Pärnu www.visitparnu.com



DAY 4

 DRIVE:

Pärnu–Ainaži–Saulkrasti–Carnikava–Mežgarciems–Rīga

 SIGHTS:

128 Exposition of military bikes in the Bicycle museum in Saulkrasti. The collection consists of the most technically and historically interesting examples of bicycle development found in Latvia. The exhibition also includes bicycles used by the military.

Carnikava, a town on the Vidzeme seacoast.

127 Soviet army town in Mežgarciems. A former settlement and base of the Soviet Air Defence Forces.

126 Mangaļsala fortifications. Extensive and unique system of fortifications for the defence of the capital city of Rīga.

 PLACES TO EAT:

- Restaurant "Pļavas" in Ainaži
- Restaurant "Meke", the 51st km on A1 road
- Tavern "Sidrabiņi" in Jelgavkrasti
- In Salacgrīva www.visitsalacgriva.lv/en/have-a-meal/
- In Saulkrasti visitsaulkrasti.lv/where-to-eat
- In Carnikava tourism.carnikava.lv/en/catering

 PLACES TO STAY:

- Camping "Leputrija" www.leputrija.com
- In Rīga www.liveriga.com

A day in Rīga

SIGHTS:

- 131 Exhibition in the KGB Building “History of KGB Operations in Latvia”.** The Museum offers guided tours of the basement prison cells and an exhibition about the history of KGB activities in Latvia during the Soviet occupation.
- 132 Museum of the Occupation of Latvia.** History of Latvia from 1940 to 1991 throughout both the Nazi and Soviet occupations.
- 133 Latvian War Museum.** The largest military history museum in Latvia with an extensive and impressive collection.
- 134 1991 Barricades Museum.** After attacks by the Soviet OMON on Rīga in early January 1991, the people from all over the country arrived in Rīga and erected barricades around strategic locations to defend them against Soviet forces.
- 124 Victims of Communist Terror Memorial in Torņakalns.** In memory of the people who were deported from Latvia to Siberia by the Soviets in June 1941.
- 135 Rīga Ghetto and Latvian Holocaust Museum.**
- 123 Rīga Air museum.**

DRIVE:

Rīga–Engure–Roja–Kolka

SIGHTS:

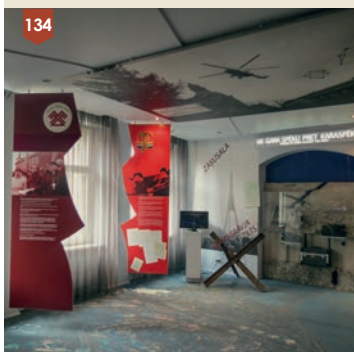
- Jūrmala**, a popular resort town by the sea in 30 minutes drive from Rīga
- 116 Memorial to Finnish Jaegers in Klāpkalnciems.** The memorial is in the site of the positions of Finnish Jaegers, a German army unit during World War I consisting of the Finnish volunteers.
- 112 Mēsrags lighthouse and former border guard.** A bird watching tower, a lighthouse and remains of a building that housed a large, extendable spotlight for sea lighting for Soviet border guards during the Soviet era.
- 82 Melnsils Camping - rebuilt German army dugouts.** On the site of a German army settlement during World War II, there is a holiday camping offering stay in cottages, in a guesthouse, and in two replicas of war-time dugouts.

PLACES TO EAT:

- Restaurant “Neptūns” near Jūrmala
- Fish restaurant “Bermudas” in Ragaciems village
- Restaurant “Kapsteinis & Grants” in Engure
- Cafe in camping “Stieres” in Upesgrīva village
- Restaurant “Otra Puse” in Roja
- Camping restaurant “Melnsils” in Melnsils village
- Cafe in the hotel “Zirīņi” in Kolka

PLACES TO STAY:

- Camping “Melnsils” in Melnsils village
- Guesthouse “Vīfoli” in Kolka
- Holiday house “Muini Ūši” and “Piedāgi Ūši” in Kolka
- Hotel “Zirīņi” in Kolka
- Camping and guesthouse “Strautmaļi” in Mazirbe village



PLACES TO EAT:

- In Rīga www.liveriga.com

DRIVE:

Kolka–Mazirbe–Irbene–Oviši–Ventspils

SIGHTS:

Kolka Cape. The most distinct cape in Latvia, with the waves of the Baltic Sea and the Bay of Rīga coming together. Kolka village was a restricted border area during the Soviet time, special passes were issued to local residents.

81 Mazirbe former border guard tower. A former border guard watchtower and remains of a coastal guard building.

85 Ventspils International Radio Astronomy Centre. A former secret Soviet military intelligence station. Guided tours to the radio telescope tower and an exhibition of the operations during the Soviet period.

84 Oviši Lighthouse and Soviet border guard. The oldest lighthouse in Latvia and its museum is one of the richest with items of naval techniques. In clear weather Irbene lighthouse is visible from here.

Ventspils, a harbour city in the northwest of Latvia

86 Narrow gauge railway train “Mazbānītis” in Ventspils Seaside Open-air museum. The train represents both industrial and military heritage, operated as passenger and cargo transport in 1916–1963.

87 Fire correction tower of the Ventspils 46 Coastal Defence Battery. During World War II the cannon fire was directed from the tower onto attacking German torpedo boats. The tower is accessible to visitors, there is an outdoor platform overlooking the sea. Guided tours available. It's possible to see an animated video about the history of the site through QR code.

PLACES TO EAT:

- Cafe “Dižūra” in Mazirbe (only in summer)
- In Ventspils www.visitventspils.com/en/dining/

PLACES TO STAY:

- Hotel “Raibie Logi” in Ventspils
- Hotel “Kupfernams” in Ventspils
- Guesthouse “40 Saules” in Ventspils
- Guest House “Jūras Brīze” in Ventspils
- In Ventspils www.visitventspils.com/en/where-to-stay/



DRIVE:

Ventspils–Užava–Jūrkalne–Pāvilosta–Armenrags - Liepāja



SIGHTS:

88 Užava Lighthouse. Built on a 28m high dune. During World War II, the headquarters of the German Guard Regiment with several shore-protection batteries were located here.

Jūrkalne Seashore Bluffs are one of the most picturesque parts of Latvia's seashore, with a quiet beach untouched by civilization and bluffs of up to 20 metres high preserved so well because of the Iron Curtain.

93 Former Soviet border guard observation tower in Pāvilosta. A 360-degree rotating land telescope and 3 surveillance cameras are placed on the viewing platform. Closed in winter.

94 Pāvilosta local history museum exposition. Exposition "Pāvilosta under Iron Curtain".

95 Akmeņrags lighthouse. Remarkable representative of the Iron Curtain, its height is 37m and it marks one of the most dangerous places for sailing in the Baltic sea.

96 Memorial to the victims of holocaust in Liepāja. The memorial in the shape of a menorah is dedicated to more than 3000 Jewish people who were killed in holocaust in Liepāja.

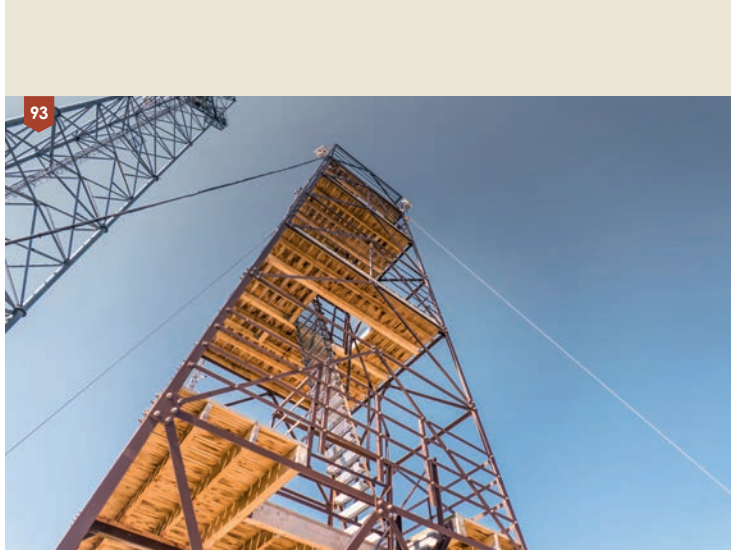
97 Liepāja Northern Fort in Karosta. The Northern Fort is the best known and most visually impressive part of Liepāja's fortress. Its historical name is Fortification battery No. 1.

PLACES TO EAT:

- Bar and restaurant "Zaķu krogs" in Jūrkalne
- Bar and restaurant "Pilsberģu krogs" in Jūrkalne
- Cafe "Āķagals" in Pāvilosta
- Cafe "Laiva" in Pāvilosta
- In Liepāja liepaja.travel/en/eat-drink/where-to-eat/

PLACES TO STAY:

- Liepāja Military Prison karostascietums.lv/en/nakts-cietuma/
- In Liepāja liepaja.travel/en/plan/accommodation/



DRIVE:

A day in Liepāja



SIGHTS:

98 Karosta, the Military port of Liepāja. Karosta is the largest historical military territory in the Baltics and occupies almost one-third of the territory of Liepāja. Military sights en route: The Northern breakwater and forts, The St Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral, Oskars Kalpaks Drawbridge, Water tower, Karosta Redan, 2 fire correction towers.

99 Karosta Military Prison. The only former military prison in Europe opened for visiting and staying overnight. The inhouse cafe offers Soviet Lunch – a unique experience to have an authentic soviet style lunch meal.



The grand cross border tour - military heritage of the 100 years of independence of Latvia and Estonia



Duration: **13 days**

Region: Latvia-Estonia

Route: Rīga-Tīreļi-Lestene-Kandava-Sabile-Renda-Stende-Dundaga-Irbene-Ovīši-Ventspils-Užava-Jūrkalne-Pāvilosta-Akmeņrags-Liepāja-Skrunda-Saldus-Zvārde-Jelgava-Olaine-Rīga-Mangalji-Carnikava-Pärnu -Virtsu-Kuivastu-Kuressaare-Panga-ferry to Hiiumaa-ferry to Haapsalu-Tallinn-Hara-Rakvere-Sillamäe-Vaivara-Narva-Avinurme-Mustvee-Jõgeva-Tartu-Valga/Valka-Valmiera-Cēsis-Līgatne-More-Salaspils-Rīga

Historical periods:



The tour introduces the military heritage of Latvia and Estonia, which dates back more than 100 years from World War I to the present day. The focus is on the emergence of both countries at the end of World War I, explaining how they protected their existence in the Wars of Independence, how both countries were destroyed during World War II, why national partisans resisted Soviet occupation more than ten years after the war and how independence was restored after decades of occupation.

What the tour includes: Museum exhibitions, battlefields, visits to formerly closed military areas, army bases, exhibitions of military equipment and weapons, bunkers of national partisans, stories of local history aficionados and guides, memories from the resistance to occupation regimes, memorial sites, elements of people's daily lives during various wars and occupations.

DAY 1

DRIVE:

Rīga-Tīreļi-Lestene-Kandava-Sabile-Renda-Stende-Dundaga

SIGHTS:

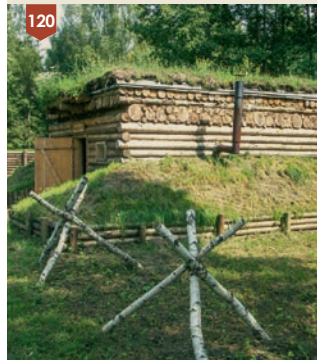
120 The Christmas Battle museum and outdoor exhibition. 1916 Christmas battlefield between Russian and German troops. The memorial park offers an authentic reconstruction of a bunker and part of the first line of German defence, museum, memorial to the Latvian riflemen in Ložmetējkalns, observation tower, marked route and guided tours.

117 Lestene Brothers' Cemetery, Memorial Exposition and bunker. A memorial to Latvian Legion soldiers who fell during World War II. Exposition about the events in Lestene during the war, a Legion soldiers' bunker.

Lestene Lutheran church. Nearly 300 year old Lestene church, there was one of the epicentres of the Battle of Kurzeme (1944-1945).

Sabile town in the scenic Abava river valley is well known for local wines and ciders.

91 Museum of the National Resistance Movement in Renda. In 1946, one of the largest national partisans' battles took place in the area. The museum offers a guided tour about resistance to the occupying powers, reconstructed bunkers, and trenches.



PLACES TO EAT:

- Pub "Aitiņlauvas", the 22nd km on A9 road
- Cafe "Plostkrogs" near Sabile
- Kalnmuīža manor near Sabile
- Cafe "Zviedru Cepure" near Sabile
- Cafe "Pagrabiņš" in Renda
- Guesthouse "Pūpoli" in Dundaga
- Bistro "Vecā Pirts" in Dundaga

PLACES TO STAY:

- Guesthouse "Pūpoli" in Dundaga



DAY 2

DRIVE:

Dundaga–Irbene–Oviši–Ventspils

SIGHTS:

83 Collection of Soviet military trucks. An exciting ride in a Russian army truck to the military sites and tank roads for groups up to 25 people. After the trip, a Soviet style dinner in “Pūpoli” guest house café is possible

85 Ventspils International Radio Astronomy Centre. A former secret Soviet military intelligence station. Guided tours to the radio telescope tower and exhibition on the operations during the Soviet period.

84 Oviši Lighthouse and Soviet border guard. The oldest lighthouse in Latvia and its museum is one of the richest with items of naval techniques. In clear weather Irbe lighthouse is visible from here.

Ventspils, a harbour city in the northwest of Latvia.

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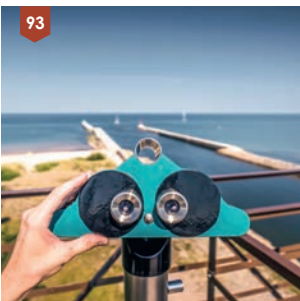
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- Hotel “Kupfernams” in Ventspils
- Guest house “40 Saules” in Ventspils
- Hotel “Jūras Brīze” in Ventspils
- In Ventspils www.visitventspils.com/en/where-to-stay/
- Camping and guesthouse “Strautmaļi” in Mazirbe



93



97

PLACES TO EAT:

- Bar and restaurant “Zaķu krogs” in Jūrkalne
- Bar and restaurant “Pilsberģu krogs” in Jūrkalne
- Cafe “Āķagals” in Pāvilosta
- Cafe “Laiva” in Pāvilosta
- In Liepāja liepaja.travel/en/eat-drink/where-to-eat/

PLACES TO STAY:

- In Liepāja liepaja.travel/en/plan/accommodation/
- Liepāja Military Prison karostascietums.lv/en/nakts-cietuma/



84



83



86

DAY 3

DRIVE:

Ventspils–Užava–Jūrkalne–Pāvilosta–Akmeņrags–Liepāja

SIGHTS:

88 Užava Lighthouse. Built on a 28m high dune. During World War II, the headquarters of the German Guard Regiment with several shore-protection batteries were located here.

Jūrkalne Seashore Bluffs are one of the most picturesque parts of Latvia's seashore, with a quiet beach untouched by civilisation and bluffs of up to 20 metres high preserved so well because of the Iron Curtain

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DRIVE:

Liepāja–Skrunda–Saldus–Zvārde–Jelgava–
Olaine–Rīga



SIGHTS:

103 Cattle waggon used for deportations – museum at Skrunda train station. In 1941 and 1949, 2,916 civilians were deported from here by the Soviets to Siberia. The exhibition includes photos, letters, memories and other documents of deported people.

104 Skrunda Manor and exposition of Skrunda locator and restaurant. Exposition about the Soviet military town and radio location station – a major missile approach warning system that was located 5km from Skrunda. After the withdrawal of the Russian army in 1995, the building was blown up. The territory is closed to visitors, but it can be viewed from the outside.

105 Oskars Kalpaks Museum and Memorial Site “Airītes”. The exhibition is dedicated to Oskars Kalpaks, the commander of the 1st Latvian Independent Battalion – the first independent armed unit of Latvia. Visitors can take a guided tour. There is also a military educational task track.

110 Soviet air force target polygons in Zvārde. The Soviet army used the area of 24,400 ha as a training ground for military aviation. Included in the sightseeing route are the former Soviet base “Officer’s Mound” – an observation tower, the ruins of a bombed-out church and cemetery.

125 Olaine History and Art Museum with the World War I Historical Exploration Route and dugout. A World War I dugout of Russian soldiers has been reconstructed in place of the defensive line of the Russian Army, a part of the gunshot is exposed and World War II historical exploration route open to visitors. The museum also has an exposition about the Soviet occupation period in Olaine.

PLACES TO EAT:

- Skrunda Manor Restaurant in Skrunda
- Cafe “Magdalēna” in Saldus
- Restaurant “Stikla Pērītšu spēle” in Saldus
- Cafe “Dzirnviņas” in Biksti village
- Beer Bar “Tērvete” in Dobele
- In Jelgava visit.jelgava.lv/en/tourism-services/catering



PLACES TO STAY:

- In Rīga www.liveriga.com



DRIVE:

Rīga – Mangaļi – Carnikava – Pärnu



SIGHTS:

126 Mangaļsala fortifications. Extensive and unique system of fortifications for the defence of the capital city of Rīga.

127 Soviet army town in Mežgarciems. A former settlement and base of the Soviet Air Defence Forces.

129 Exposition of Ādaži garrison history. The largest military training polygon in the Baltic states, its history starts after World War I.

128 Exposition of military bikes in the Bicycle museum in Saulkrasti. The collection consists of the most technically and historically interesting examples of bicycle development found in Latvia. The exhibition also includes bicycles used by the military.

49 Monument to the War of Independence in Pärnu. One of the most impressive monuments of the War of Independence in Estonia located in Alevi cemetery in Pärnu was designed by Amanudus Adamson.

48 Monument to the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Estonia. The monument is situated on Independence Square in the centre of Pärnu and is dedicated to declaration of the Manifesto to the Peoples of Estonia, which was publicly declared here for the first time on 23 of February 1918.



PLACES TO EAT:

- In Salacgrīva visitsalacgriva.lv/en/have-a-meal/
- In Saulkrasti visitsaulkrasti.lv/where-to-eat
- In Carnikava tourism.carnikava.lv/en/catering
- Tavern “Sidrabiņi” in Jelgavkrasti
- Restaurant “Meke”, the 51st km on A1 road
- Restaurant “Pļavas” in Ainaži
- In Pärnu visitparnu.com



PLACES TO STAY:

- In Pärnu visitparnu.com



DRIVE:

Pärnu–Virtsu–Kuivastu–Kuressaare

SIGHTS:

46 Estonian Railway Museum in Lavassaare. The narrow-gauge railway museum has over 180 items, including five locomotives and a variety of technical apparatus. Most of the items are on outdoor display.

Ferry from Virtsu to Kuivastu (the trip takes ~30 min)

44 World War I trenches by Väike Strait. The clearly visible segment of World War I trenches by the Väike Strait is situated next to the Kuivastu–Kuressaare road near the popular tourist attraction of Eemu Windmill on the island of Muhu.

43 Saaremaa Military Equipment Museum. The private museum was established in 2007 and the collection comprises some 12 000 items from its founding members.

37 Saaremaa Museum. The museum is located in Kuressaare episcopal castle. The permanent exhibition about the history of Saaremaa includes also the exhibition "Saaremaa 1939–1949".



DRIVE:

Kuressaare–Panga–Hiiumaa Island

SIGHTS:

40 Maantee military base. The construction of the military base started in 1940 to accommodate 350 soldiers. The complex includes several buildings.

42 Sõrve Museum, 43rd Coastal Defense Battery in Sääre. The museum was opened in 2004 and is located on the tip of Sõrve peninsula. The exhibition provides an overview of the events of World War II in Sõrve, Soviet era and current NATO military equipment.

Sõrve lighthouse

36 Papissaare Seaplane Base. This historic seaplane harbour has become an important tourism port providing passage to the unique island of Vilsandi.

35 Naval Communication Station in Undva. Concrete barbets, hangars and the remaining parts of the complex, which are in good condition.

34 Military trail in Panga. The 2 km long military hiking trail along Panga bank passes by the remains of a variety of military facilities.

Ferry to Hiiumaa island from Triigi harbour (~1 hour).

25 The 120-mm Coastal Battery at Hindu (Sõru) No 34

24 The 130-mm Coastal Battery at Tohvri (Hindu) No 44



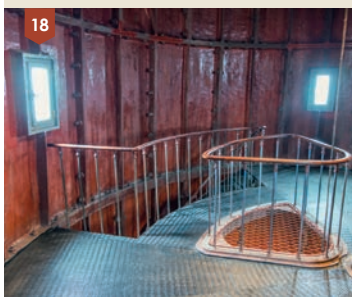
PLACES TO EAT:

- Restaurant "Sääre Paargu" restaurant in Sääre village
- Panga summer cafe in Panga village
- Restaurant "Lest ja Lammas" in Kassari village in Hiiumaa
- Vetsi Talli tavern in Kassari village in Hiiumaa
- In Hiiumaa www.hiiumaa.ee



PLACES TO STAY:

- "Kassari Puhkekeskus" in Kassari village, Hiiumaa
- "Dagen Haus" guesthouse in Orjaku village, Hiiumaa
- Hotel "Liilia" in Käina village, Hiiumaa
- Hotel "Löökes" in Käina village, Hiiumaa
- In Hiiumaa www.hiiumaa.ee/teenus/majutus/



PLACES TO EAT:

- Restaurant "Koost" on Muhu island
- Restaurant "Tuul" on Muhu island
- Muhu Winehouse (only summer season) on Muhu island
- Koguva harbour restaurant (only summer season) on Muhu island
- On Muhu Island www.muhu.info
- Cafe "Pritsukas" in Orissaare village
- Pub "Sadama Körts" in Orissaare village



PLACES TO STAY:

In Kuressaare visitsaaremaa.ee/en/



DRIVE:

Hiiumaa–ferry to Haapsalu–Tallinn

SIGHTS:

23 Orjaku Military Harbour. The harbour was intended to be used as an Imperial Russian Navy base for torpedo boats.

22 Ristna coastal battery, radar station and lighthouse. The 130mm four-weapon armed battery was completed in 1940. The craters of two gun emplacements, the parapets and bolt circles are visible.

18 Tahkuna Lighthouse. Tahkuna lighthouse is the tallest cast iron lighthouse on the coasts of Estonia. It is 42.7 metres high from sea level.

20 Hiiumaa Military Museum. The private museum was opened in 2007 by a team of enthusiasts. The exhibition focuses on 20th century military issues of Hiiumaa.

19 Coastal batteries in Tahkuna and Lehtma

Ferry back to mainland from Heltermaa to Rohuküla. **Haapsalu.** Charming small town with narrow streets, a miniature town hall and romantic wooden dwelling houses.



PLACES TO EAT:

- Restaurant "Roograhu" near Kärdla airport
- Restaurant "Ungru Resto" in Suursadama village (only summer season)
- Cafe "Kala ja Võrk" in Kärdla town
- Pub in Orjaku harbour
- In Hiiumaa www.hiiumaa.ee

DRIVE:

Haapsalu–Tallinn or full day in Tallinn

SIGHTS:

- 28 Railway and Communication Museum** in Haapsalu. The museum is located in the former train station and showcases the development of Estonian railways and other communications.
- 4 Estonian War Museum - General Laidoner museum.** The main exhibition of the museum showcases the military history of Estonia – the wars fought in Estonia and abroad in which Estonians have participated.
- 6 Seaplane Harbour.** The museum is based in the historic seaplane hangar and has around 200 original exhibits on display.
- 9 Hotel Viru and KGB museum.** The museum tells the story of more than just one hotel and the KGB.
- 8 KGB Prison cells in Tallinn.** The museum is located in the cellar of the former NKVD and KGB headquarters.
- 7 Patarei sea fortress.** The complex was opened in 1840 and was decommissioned as a fortress. During the era of Estonia's independence and the German and Soviet occupations it was used as a prison.
- 11 Vabamu Museum of Occupations and Freedom.** Opened in 2003 this private museum showcases Estonian history from 1940–1991. The museum recalls stories from recent history highlighting both the value and fragility of freedom.

DRIVE:

Tallinn–Hara–Rakvere–Sillamäe–Vaivara–Narva

SIGHTS:

- 1 Hara harbour - historic Hara submarine base.** A historic submarine base and degaussing station.
- Rakvere town,** well known for its mediaeval castle.
- Sillamäe** – a former closed soviet city.
- 16 Sinimägede (Blue Hills) battlefield memorial.** Memorial to soldiers who died in the battles of 1944.
- 17 Sinimägede (Blue Hills) Museum in Vaivara.** The exhibition of the museum showcases the Battle of the Narva River and the Blue Hills in 1944.
- Narva city.** The castle, bastions, museum and promenade.

PLACES TO EAT:

- In Rakvere rakvere.kovtp.ee/et/uldinfo

PLACES TO STAY:

- Narva–Jõesuu Spa and Sanatorium in Narva–Jõesuu resort
- Meresuu Spa Hotel in Narva–Jõesuu resort
- Noorus Spa Hotel in Narva–Jõesuu resort



PLACES TO EAT AND STAY

In Tallinn www.visittallinn.ee

ROUTE:

Narva–Avinurme–Mustvee–Jõgeva–Tartu

SIGHTS:

- 54 Memorial to the Battle of Avinurme.** Memorial to the battle, which took place in 1944 and forced Estonians to fight one another on the Soviet and German side.
- 55 Sculpture of the Mourning Maiden.** Mass grave of people killed in World War II. A memorial to the people killed in World War II, in Mustvee, on shores of Lake Peipsi.
- 56 Jõgeva Military Museum.** Local archaeological findings, military and civilian memorabilia, a wide range of weaponry; also an exact copy of an Arsenal–Crossley armoured car from 1927, which was researched and built by museum staff in 2018.
- 57 Museum room of the Finnish boys next to the Ice Age centre.** Dedicated to Estonian volunteers who fought in the Finnish armed forces during World War II. The museum is located in the Saadjärve Lake Nature Centre within Vooremaa Protected Landscape Area. The Ice Age Centre can be visited in Äksi.
- 64 KGB Cells Museum in Tartu.** The building served as the headquarters of the NKVD/KGB in Tartu. Now some basement prison cells and lock-up rooms are restored and opened for visitors.
- 63 Former Raadi military airfield.** A walk in the former Raadi Manor estates where in 1940 a Russian air base was established. In 2016 the Estonian National Museum opened a new building. The building itself is also remarkable, as the museum becomes a continuation of the airfield – its roof lifting and expanding towards „infinite space“.

PLACES TO EAT:

- Avinurme Wooden Handicrafts Center in Avinurme village
- Cafe "Peipsi Teemaja" (summer season) in Mustvee town
- Veski Guesthouse Cafe in Kantküla village, on the way from Mustvee to Jõgeva
- "Juulamõisa" Cafe in Juula village, on the way from Jõgeva to Tartu
- In Tartu visittartu.com

12

DRIVE:

Tartu-Valga / Valka-Valmiera

SIGHTS:

65 Jalaka anti-tank line in Tartu. An anti-tank trench dug alongside the Rīga road near Tartu in summer 1941 as a countermeasure against the German offensive.

67 Monument to the War of Independence in Rõngu. Situated in front of the historic Kövera tavern in the small village of Rõngu.

68 Monument to the Battle of Paju. A monument to the battle which resulted in the Estonians gaining control of town Valga during the War of Independence.

70 Military theme park in Valga and Defence Line "Walk" near Valga. The museum exhibition covers Estonian military history and internal security. It includes military vehicles, a tank, and a forest brother's bunker. Guided tours and laser tag upon prior reservation.

72 Valga railway station built by German prisoners of war. Built by German war prisoners. One of the most remarkable examples of Stalinist architecture in Estonia.

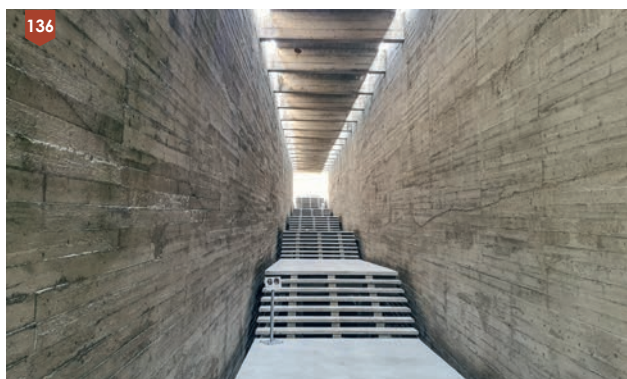
143 Exhibition "Valka – the cradle of Latvia's independence". The exhibition represents the story about social and political events in Valka from 1914 till 1920 leading to Latvia's independence.

PLACES TO EAT:

- In Elva [visitelva.com/eelista-kohalikku/](http://www.visitelva.com/eelista-kohalikku/)
- In Valka / Valga [visit.valka.lv/en/taste/catering-in-valka](http://www.visit.valka.lv/en/taste/catering-in-valka)
- In Valmiera www.visit.valmiera.lv/en/catering/

PLACES TO STAY:

- Places to stay in Valmiera and surroundings www.visit.valmiera.lv/en/accommodation/



PLACES TO EAT:

- Guest house "Vilhelmine Mill" in Līgatne
- Hotel "Zeit" in Līgatne
- Safari park "More" in More village
- In Cēsis [turisms.cesis.lv/en/where-to-eat/](http://www.turisms.cesis.lv/en/where-to-eat/)
- In Līgatne <http://www.visitligatne.lv/taste-it>

PLACES TO STAY:

- In Rīga www.liveriga.com
- Guesthouse "Ārpus laika" in Salaspils



DAY 13

DRIVE:

Valmiera-Cēsis-Līgatne-More-Salaspils-Rīga

SIGHTS:

Valmiera city. Valmiera Museum, St. Simon's Church, Walters Hill, walk in the Bachelor's park.

145 Memorial to the soldiers fallen in World War II. The memorial is dedicated to the soldiers fallen in World War II and the victims of the Nazi regime.

152 Cēsis history and art museum in the New Castle of Cēsis. The exhibitions are dedicated to the Latvian flag, the Cēsis Regiment and the battles of Cēsis and include the escape room "Cēsis battle legends".

155 Secret Soviet Bunker in Līgatne and soviet style lunch in the Bunker canteen. Intended for long-term operation of Soviet Latvia's government personnel in a nuclear war situation. The bunker includes a 9m deep underground space of 2000 m², fully autonomous infrastructure, and all authentic equipment has been preserved.

159 Museum of Battles in More. The battles between Soviet troops and the Latvian Legion of the German Army took place here in the autumn of 1944. The exposition includes the battlefield layout, weapons, awards, soldiers' uniforms and military equipment.

136 Salaspils Memorial Ensemble. The memorial stands on the former grounds of an extended police prison and labour camp of National Socialist Germany (1941 to 1945). There is a memorial exhibition at the gates of the monument.



ABOUT THE PROJECT “MILITARY HERITAGE”

Projekts EST-LAT156, 1.01.2020 - 31.12.2022

The Estonian-Latvian transborder partnership project “Military Heritage” offers a unified tourist offer related to the military heritage of the two countries. Military heritage locations in Latvia and Estonia have been renovated and opened to the public so that visitors can learn about how the two countries obtained and restored their independence during the period between the beginning of World War I in 1914 and the establishment of both countries' independence in 1918, till the period of restoration of independence in 1990/1991.

PROJECT PARTNERS:



*Latvian Country Tourism Association “Lauku ceļotājs”
Vidzeme Tourism Association
Kurzeme Planning Region
Saldus Municipality
Ventpils Museum
Rīga Planning Region
Olaine History and Art Museum
Ogre municipality
Mores muzejs NGO
Sky Port, Ltd.
Ādaži municipality
Medical Rehabilitation Centre
Līgatne, Ltd.
Cēsis municipality*



*Estonian Rural Tourism NGO
Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation
Foundation Haapsalu and Läänemaa Museums
Saaremaa Municipality
National Heritage Board of Estonia
Municipality of Lääne-Nigula
Military Equipment Museum of Saaremaa
Panga Areng NGO
Hiiumaa Military History Society NGO
Estonian War Museum - General Laidoner Museum
Setomaa Municipality*



Interreg
Estonia-Latvia
European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

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www.militaryheritagetourism.info

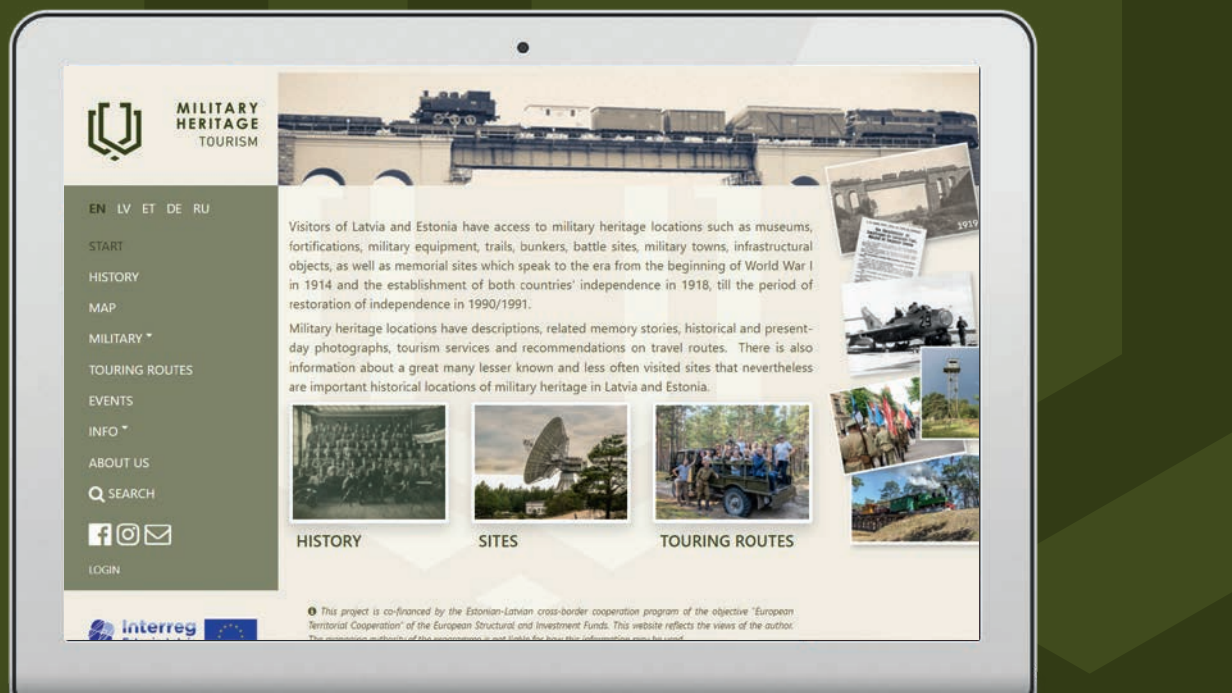
The website provides descriptions, photos, GPS coordinates and contact details for more than 596 military heritage sites in Latvia and Estonia. For more interest and understanding of the significance of each military heritage site and the events with which it is associated - additional information:

- Historical periods, themes, events and personalities
- Timeline of parallel military history events in Estonia and Latvia
- Memory stories of sites and events (>200)
- Historical and present-day photos

For easier travel planning:

- 12 touring routes for visiting military heritage sites
- Interactive map with information and links to military heritage sites, routes
- Search for military heritage sites and historical information by name or part of a name, historical period, country, etc.

The site is easy to use on mobile devices.



MILITARY HERITAGE TOURISM OBJECTS

MUSEUMS	private collections, public exhibitions, museums
FORTIFICATIONS	coastal batteries, fortresses, pillboxes, battle trenches
MILITARY EQUIPMENT	bombers, canons, planes, ships, tanks, trains, wagons, weapons, other military equipment
TRAILS	trails connecting military heritage sites
BUNKERS	partisan bunkers built for living in a forest
BATTLE SITES	local and larger scale battle territories, places of fights, areas of contention, hostile oppositions, front lines
MILITARY TOWNS	residential areas for officers and other army staff next to military bases
INFRASTRUCTURE	lighthouses, piers, railway stations, barracks, airfields, communication facilities, bridges, old hospitals, border points, water towers, fire control towers, observation towers
MEMORIAL SITES	cemeteries, monuments, graveyards, commemorative plates, sculptures, parks, memorial sites

www.militaryheritagetourism.info

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