LATVIA’S TOP EVENTS GUIDE

2015

annual events included
BALTTOUR 2015. 22nd international travel trade fair
06.02.-08.02. Riga, Kipsala International Exhibition Hall
The largest travel trade fair in the Baltics annually opens the new tourist season. The fair includes the broadest range of the new season’s tourism products for travellers, and traditionally gathers together the best professionals in their field. Visitors can become involved and get to know the latest tourism offers in Latvia, the Baltics, and around the world. Balttour 2015’s partner country is Egypt.
www.balttour.lv

The Rally Liepāja European Rally Championship Round
06.02.-08.02. Liepāja, Kuldīga
The Rally Liepāja winter round of the FIA European Rally Championship will take place will be the only one of ten rounds in this year’s championship in which cars will be equipped with tyres with long sports studs. For the third year in a row, both local and foreign drivers will show off their high speed driving skills on the snowy and icy roads of Liepāja and Kuldīga. Competitors will have to cover a distance of 220 km over three days.
www.lvrally.lv

XVII International Ice Sculpture Festival
06.02.-08.02. Jelgava, Pasta sala
In 2015, the Ice Sculpture Festival will be the opening event at the city of Jelgava’s 750th birthday festivities which will continue throughout the year. During the festival it will be possible to visit the ice sculpture park which has the largest exhibition of ice sculptures in the Baltics, and where musical shows, demonstrations of ice sculpture creation, and various activities for children will be organised. With the fall of the night, visitors will be able to enjoy synchronised ice sculpture, music and light performances.
www.festivali.jelgava.lv

Saxophonia Festival
12.02.-22.02. Riga
Saxophonia is the largest saxophone music festival in Europe – it gathers all the stars of saxophone music and is among the most popular and loved music festivals in Latvia. For the audience, this is a chance to listen to jazz, popular and classical music, everything brand new and world music performed perfectly. Concerts take place at the Riga concert halls and jazz clubs. Courtney Pine, James Carter, Joshua Redman, Nicolas Prost, Mario Marzi, Jean-Yves Fourmeau and many other have been among the guests in the past.
www.saxophonia.lv

Disclaimer
Information prepared in December 2014. Riga Tourism Development Bureau, Latvian Tourism Development Agency, Latvian Institute and Latvian Ministry of Culture are not responsible for any changes made by the event organisers. You can receive more information on the events at Tourism Information Centres in Riga and other Latvian cities or on the websites of events listed.
45th FIL Luge World Championships
14.02.-15.02. Sigulda, Luge and Bobsleigh Track in Sigulda

Luge world stars in Sigulda. In February 2015, at the Luge and Bobsleigh Track in Sigulda in Latvia, the 45th FIL Luge World Championships will take place. The world’s best luge sportsmen will come together in Sigulda and compete not only in the men's and women's singles, and in the doubles disciplines, but will also take part in the relay that has gained popularity amongst viewers. Supporters will not only be able to follow the competition on the track but will also be able to enjoy a diverse culture programme. Within the framework of the championship, opening parade, evening concerts in the city, events for children and other entertainment activities will take place.

Manon Lescaut
20.02.-21.02. Riga, Latvian National Opera

Friends had tried to dissuade Giacomo Puccini from the idea of writing an opera about the tragedy of wayward beauty Manon Lescaut, as the story by Abbé Prévost had already inspired an opera by composer Julles Massenet. However, Puccini dismissed all objections: “Manon is a heroine [that] I believe in and therefore she cannot fail to win the hearts of the public. Why shouldn’t there be two operas about Manon? A woman like Manon can have more than one lover.” He added: “Massenet feels it as a Frenchman, with powder and minuets. I shall feel it as an Italian, with a desperate passion.” Manon Lescaut was his third opera and his first major success. In the LNO production, the ancient story comes alive in present day Rome. Inspiration was drawn from the atmosphere presented in the film, La Grande Bellezza.

Prismatic. The Katy Perry tour
15.03. Arena Riga

American singer Katy Perry will be performing live. Her Prismatic World Tour has received very good reviews.

International Piano Stars festival
18.03.-21.03. Liepāja

The festival brings together a variety of high class musicians from Latvia and abroad. The charming city of Liepāja in conjunction with the charismatic soloists an the city's symphony orchestra attract thousands of listeners each year.

WINDSTREAM 2015 spring festival
21.03.-15.04. Riga

For the sixth year in a row, the RIGA Professional Symphonic Band is organising the WINDSTREAM spring festival with the motto: “Wake up and remember, hear and enjoy”. The festival will offer a pleasant and varied programme for 2015.

RAYMONDA
27.03.-28.03. Riga, Latvian National Opera

This is the genius Marius Petipa's rebirth in the twilight of his life. This master of his art created Raymonda at the age of 80 as a quintessence of his rich life. The plot involves a knight who leaves for a crusade, and his bride is just roughly outlined. Dances by Raymonda and her friends appear as an accolade to woman's beauty and the multicoloured gamut of her feelings, while the entrance of Sheikh Abdu-Rakhman and his suite creates an oriental inebriation and passion within the ballet, stirring for a moment the admirable harmony of Raymonda's world. The LNO production transports the audience into the wondrous atmosphere of the Middle Ages.

Robbie Williams. Let Me Entertain You Tour
06.04. Arena Riga

March 2015 will see Robbie Williams embark on his brand new Let Me Entertain You Tour, a journey through Robbie's extensive catalogue of hits featuring all the classic favourites.

Music Festival of Kārlis Amenda
09.04. Talsi

The Music Festival of Kārlis Amenda is a time when we reminisce about the tail of Talsi pastor who became acquainted with one of the world music legends, Ludwig van Beethoven, and their short, but genuine and sincere friendship. Our own Kārlis Ferdinands Amenda was the first to whom Ludwig van Beethoven, who was very private, but at this heart truly lonely, in a letter confessed his biggest life tragedy – worsening in hearing.
Liepāja Jazz Days
11.04.-18.04. Liepāja
For the tenth time, Liepāja will organise a series of concerts for jazz lovers.
www.liepajaskultura.lv

XIV International Jazz Festival JAZZ JOY SPRING 2015
22.04.-24.04. Daugavpils
In April 2015, Daugavpils will be the epicentre of jazz, with jazz soloists and various jazz bands (orchestras, Dixieland, etc.) from Latvia and abroad will be inviting their listeners to the XIV International Jazz Festival, JAZZ JOY SPRING 2015. The festival takes place once every two years, and both young and well-known artists demonstrate their skills of improvisation, while visitors have the chance of discovering the unique sound of jazz at the festival’s concerts and jam-sessions.
www.kultura.daugavpils.lv

Latgale Potters Days
23.04.-25.04. Rēzekne city and Rēzekne Municipality, Latgale potters’ workshops, Latgale History and Art Museum
The open days at the Latgale potters’ workshops involve demonstrations by and meetings with craftsmen, plus stoking and the opening of pottery kilns, the chance of buying pottery straight from the kiln, an exhibition, and lectures on the theory of applied arts.

Lido zīvis Festival in Kuldīga
25.04. Kuldīga
For the eleventh time, Kuldīga presents the highly entertaining spring melt water festival, Lido zīvis, which takes places in Kuldīga itself.
www.kuldiga.lv

The Strong Race
04.05. Cinema Town Cinevilla
The Strong Race is the only mass race with a variety of extreme challenges to take place in the Baltics, where participants have to overcome a large number of barriers and learn to overcome their weaknesses, test their abilities and physical condition, and understand that participation in the event is a great motivation for self-development.

Karl Jenkins – A Mass for Peace
08.05. Riga, St. John’s Church
RIGA Professional Symphonic Band and State Choir “Latvija” with conductor Mārtiņš Ozoliņš will play Karl Jenkins’ composition “The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace”.
www.music.lv/rga

Le Villi. Gianni Schicchi
08.05.-09.05. Riga, Latvian National Opera
The first opera of Giacomo Puccini Le Villi is a dance-strewn tale of spirits and broken hearts. Anna and Roberto were tied by a promise of marriage, but the fiancé was captivated by a siren. Anna dies. The revenge of the spirits of abandoned women – the villi – is ruthless… This production will be the first staging of Le Villi in Riga, whereas, Gianni Schicchi, outstandingly directed by Viesturs Kairišs, has already been hailed as a comic opera favoured by the public in Riga and critics alike. Initially conceived to spring from the plot of The Divine Comedy by Dante, it reveals human greed and avarice with ironic touch. Against the background of squabbles and intricate plots of deception, weaved by good old family over parts of inheritance, a love couple manages to stumble into their sweet share of happiness.
www.opera.lv

Liepāja 5th Tweed Ride
09.05. Liepāja
The first Tweed ride in Liepāja in 2010 was organised by the Latvian Vintage Bicycle Club and gathered together sixty members of the Club and its supporters. As the years have gone by, the Liepājas Tweed Ride has become a welcome and highly popular event, and the number of participants has already grown to several hundred people - both from Liepāja and from elsewhere around the world - all dressed up in twenties and thirties styles.
www.liepaja.travel

Rally of Champions in Talsi
16.05.-17.05. Talsi
Talsi Rally, the golden standard, is well known with its traditional and popular speed runs. But every year the organizers are trying to surprise the viewers with something new. For the last few years one of the speed runs has been set in the centre of Talsi, making this a very exciting sporting event. It’s a challenge and load of positive emotions both for athletes and viewers, as well as rally supporters.
Lattelecom marathon
17.05.ˌ Riga
If you have never been to Riga then a marathon or half-marathon is a good reason to visit one of the most beautiful cities on the Baltic Sea coast. Marathon running has a long history in Riga. The first Riga marathon organized by Riga City Council took place in 1991. Since 2007, the Riga Marathon Course is officially in line with AIMS standard and since then, the marathon has gained international recognition. The 2014 edition gathered 23,193 runners from 61 countries.
www.lattelecomrigasmaratons.lv

Museum Night
16.05.ˌ Latvia
Until late at night museums, theatres, concert halls, libraries, universities, churches and other venues in Latvia await visitors celebrating the Night at the Museum.

Cycling festival and cycling night in Kuldīga
23.05.ˌ Kuldīga
The largest non-commercial event in Latvia will take place in Kuldīga for the eighth time. Various routes at different distances are available. The traditional night ride will also take place.
www.velokuldiga.lv

Līva's Village Celebration
23.05.-24.05.ˌ Liepāja
One of the largest traditional culture events in Latvia combining folk and ethno music with traditional culture, art and craft, as well as food tastings – in the huge trade show many of participating craftsmen also show their craftsmanship skills to the visitors. Large culture programme, including many other creative genres – folk dances and music, painting, modelling and others, showing the Latvian heritage and history through old and contemporary ways of expression. Open-air festival takes place in Promenade of Liepāja and every year there are thousands of visitors.
www.liepajaskc.lv

Classical music concert at Dobele Lilac Garden
23.05.ˌ Dobele, Garden of the Latvia State Institute of Fruit-Growing
This classical music concert has, for more than ten years, been taking place in the gardens of the Latvia State Institute for Fruit-Growing during the lilac bloom season, and has gained a wide level of popularity. Every year it is visited by approximately five thousand people from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Music performed by the best Latvian musicians and soloists from the opera house together with the scent of blooming lilacs offers an unforgettable event. The Dobele Lilac Garden is one of the largest lilac gardens in Europe.
www.lvai.lv

9th Summer Signs International Sand Sculpture Festival
23.05.-24.05.ˌ Jelgava, Pasta sala
The oldest and largest sand sculpture festival in the Baltics. More than twenty recognised sculptors from all over the world will be creating sand sculptures from 14,000 tonnes of sand. As part of the festival, the ‘Large-Scale Ceramic Sculpture Symposium’, concerts starring various artists who are recognised in Latvia and across the Baltics, and sand workshops for children will take place. It will also be possible to watch the process of sculpture creation. When darkness falls, the sculptures will be specially lit, providing light and shadow performances.
www.festivali.jelgava.lv

Jelgava City Festival – 750
28.05.-31.05.ˌ Jelgava
2015 will be the years of the city’s 750th anniversary. One of the most traditional and awaited events is the festival’s parade which this year will be particularly theatrical. The Crafts Day has also become a tradition, as have concerts with performances by the Jelgava choirs, dancers and musicians, and all of these will also be organised for the anniversary celebrations. A special theatre play, dance performances, a concert on the banks of the River Lielupe, a classical music concert, the opening of the 750th anniversary sculpture, and many other interesting and unforgettable events are planned for the festival.
www.jelgava.lv
III SEVEN HILLS International Art and Music Festival  
29.05.-31.05. ⧫ Rēzekne, Festival’s park

This festival involves expressions of various types of art - music, dance, visual, spatial, stage, street and improvisational art. A show of live sculptures, modern dance groups, and music bands from different countries, external installations, alternative music concerts, electronic dance music and art performances - all take place during the festival. The IX Domas lidojums International Artists workshop will also take place as part of the festival.

www.rezekne.lv

Riga Festival  
30.05.-20.06. ⧫ Riga

The Riga Festival is organised every year in June providing comprehensive program of events that is expanded year by year. The Festival offers various theatre plays, art exhibitions, multimedia and open-air events, as well as activities for children. Usually also the street cafes and restaurants of the Old Riga involve in organisation of various cultural events.

www.rigasfestivals.lv

Festival for Family  
30.05.-31.05. ⧫ Liepāja

One of the biggest Children and Family Festivals in Latvia. It started as a singing event of Liepāja school-students in 2006 to mark the International Children’s Day and the end of the school-year but now has become a multidisciplinary event including the Day of Songs, the Day of Dance, the Day of Puppets, concerts, master-classes, performances of puppet theatres and circus etc.

www.liepajaskultura.lv

Daugavpils City Festival  
01.06.-07.06. ⧫ Daugavpils

Every year in June, Daugavpils organises one of the city’s main cultural events, the Daugavpils City Festival. During the festival, the city’s birthday is celebrated with an extensive programme of festivities. For a whole week, in various locations around the city, cultural, sporting, and recreational events take place, as do markets and activities for children. During these days, the city becomes a meeting place for several thousands of people from Latvia and abroad. In 2015, Daugavpils’ 740th anniversary will also be celebrated.

www.kultura.daugavpils.lv

Liepāja Summer  
01.06.-30.08. ⧫ Liepāja

Liepāja Summer is a culture programme for the whole of the summer. The city’s residents and visitors will be offered a variety of cultural events.

www.liepaja.travel

Riga Opera Festival 2015  
05.06.-18.06. ⧫ Riga, Latvian National Opera

In 18 years, Riga Opera festival has become a tradition awaited by culture aficionados in Latvia and abroad. The 2015 edition will be the first dedicated to one single composer – Giacomo Puccini, musical genius and master of Italian verismo. The festival will see flamboyant new productions - the tragic story of Manon Lescaut, and Le Villi – a choreographic tale of broken hearts and spirits. The LNO curtain will rise for the humorous Gianni Schicchi, heart-felt La Bohème, oriental Madama Butterfly and dramatically intense Tosca. And, of course, the most beautiful of Puccini’s opera arias will be heard in the Gala Concert. Among the soloists of ROF 2015 are Maija Kovaļevska, Liene Kinča, Egils Siliņš, Hiromi Oumura, Dmitry Popov, Murat Karahan, Eric Fennell and others. Tickets at LNO and Biļešu paradīze box offices from January 15, 2015.

www.opera.lv

Festival of World Music at the Tiguļi Hill in Talsi  
06.06. ⧫ Talsi

The foundation World Music and Art welcomes to the open-air concert World Music at the Tiguļi Hill in Talsi. National and foreign folk music will be performed at this concert on the highest hill in Talsi. The composer and performer Raimonds Tiguls is the artistic director and the author of his open-air concert. In his hometown, Talsi, on the highest hill between the oaks he has found a place where the music from different nations comes together in a united sound and ambience.


Vox Angelica. 8th International Organ Music Festival  
07.06.-30.08. ⧫ Jurmala, Dubulti Ev. Luth. Church

One of the aims of the festival is to highlight the organ as a universal musical instrument by working not only with a renowned organ soloist, but also singers and other musicians. Vox angelica (Angelic Voice), the name of the festival, comes from the Dubulti Church’s organ register. This is the name of the softest register on the instrument. Concerts take place every Sunday at 18:00.

www.dubultudraudze.lv
Sowing and Harvest festival at Open Air Museum Ausekļi Mill
09.06./05.09. • Vecumnieki region
Each autumn and spring Open Air Museum Ausekļi Mill holds harvest and sowing festivals, with an idea to show the stakeholders tools and mechanisms of action and involve the guests to participate. It offers activities for everyone who wishes to join in or just watch: grinding grain by a hand mill; threshing corn with horse drawn and steam-powered machines, ploughing with ancient ploughs; crafts – basketry, carving wood, metalwork, making brooms, weaving, spinning, knitting, rope making, making roofing shakes, etc.; housework – churning butter, laundering, pounding laundry with a bat on a battling block, making sauerkraut, etc.
www.ausekludzirnavas.lv

Lilium Vindaviensis 2015 Knight Tournament
13.06.-14.06. • Ventspils, Livonian Order Castle
For two days in June, the Livonian Order castle yard will gather together romantics who favour the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, participants of re-enactment groups - who will be fighting, winning and celebrating. Everything will be for real!

“Ligo!” market in Old Town Riga's Dome Square
19.06. • Riga
Celebration of the Latvian pagan holiday Ligo, the year’s shortest night, is the most Latvian tradition, and its key features are beer, caraway cheese, dances and Ligo songs by the bonfire until dawn. A special Midsummer Fair will be held on Dome Square to properly prepare for the year’s greatest celebration. Impressive flower bunches and garlands, delicious smoked meat and fish, home made cheese from all Latvian regions - all that along with cheerful singing, strolling and shopping all day long at the Fair!
www.kultura.riga.lv, www.avesol.riga.lv

The Big Latgale Market
20.06. • Ludza
Craftsmen, farmers and singers from Latgale and other counties around the country will gather at the Ludza Castle Mound to celebrate the Big Latgale Market and the summer solstice. Visitors will be able to enjoy demonstrations of old crafts, learn craft secrets from master craftsmen and buy their products for use or enjoyment, participate in ancient Latgalian battles and games, and sing or dance together with the participating Latgalian folk-ensembles. When the sun sets, we will turn together to celebrate the summer solstice, sing songs about the sun, and celebrate Midsummer festival Ligo according to the old traditions.

Ligo festivities at 11.novembra krastmala and at Dzegužkalns
23.06. • Riga
In Riga, the Ligo festivities usually take place at the 11 Novembra krastmala (11 November Embankment) where the Līgosim Krastmalā! event offers everyone the chance to enjoy a cultural programme that is replete with folk singers, dancers, Latvian actors, artists, bands and DJs. The entertainment goes on into the wee hours and visitors can enjoy festive foods and bonfires in the heart of the city. Dzegužkalns Park is another setting for traditional all-night Jāņi celebrations. All Rigans and visitors to the city are invited to make their own Jani wreath and take part in the bonfire lighting ritual. Ligo festivities are free of charge.
www.kultura.riga.lv

International Military Orchestra Music Festival
25.06.-28.06. Daugavpils
The best military orchestras and artists from various countries will gather in Daugavpils to perform in several concerts and shows.
www.visitdaugavpils.lv

Garden Festival
27.06.-27.06. • Rundale Palace garden
It takes place when the rose bloom reaches its peak and gathers together thousands of interested visitors not only from Latvia but also from other countries. Every year the festival’s theme has concerned various fruit trees and bushes, flowering bulbs, roses, and historic partners. This year is devoted to the tenth anniversary of the rose garden. It has already been a decade since the rose garden was first laid out and planted.
www.rundale.net
Rīgas Ritmi 2015 Festival
01.07.-05.07. Various concert venues in Riga
The Rīgas Ritmi Music Festival is one of the most popular music festivals in Latvia, one that gathers together a large number of recognised artists. The year 2015 will be the festival's fifteenth anniversary. Performing at various venues in Riga are world renowned artists, as well as up-and-coming young stars.
www.rigasritmi.lv

Valmiera City Festival
02.07.-04.07. Valmiera
Valmiera City Festival is an annual, colourful celebration of the city’s birthday which lasts the entire weekend. Visitors are offered a varied concert, events and activities programme.
www.valmiera.lv

Talsi City Festival
02.07.-05.07. Talsi
As every year for four days in the middle of Talsi hills the colourful Talsi City Festival is celebrated with music, songs, dances, fun, surprises, sun, water and stars. Don’t miss the chance to enjoy the Talsi City in the full bloom of summer, to discover new and already known local and guest talents, to feel and hear the symphony music in the concert at the City Square, to find your special pearl at the Crafts Fair to sing and dance with the best local dancers, soloists and musicians, and to participate in the cheerful parade.

Bauska Country Music festival
03.07.-04.07. Bauska
This is one of the four regular international festivals of this kind in Europe gathering leading country music artists of Latvia, Europe and also guests from USA. The festival has become a major leisure event for families. During the festival, visitors have the opportunity to live in a tent town, enjoy the picturesque surroundings of Bauska, as well as visit Bauska Castle and participate in various amusement and recreational activities.
www.countrybauska.lv

8th Garden Festival and 15th International Bach Music Festival at the Jaunmoku Castle
05.07. Jaunmoku Castle
The traditional Garden Festival and the International Bach Music Festival summer concert. During the day there will be a concert in the park, the chance to meet representatives of the creative professions, art exhibitions, and environmentally-friendly activities for grown ups and children; the evening sees the Bach music concert at the Column Hall.
www.jaunmokupils.lv

International Early Music Festival
07.07.-11.07. Riga, Rundale Palace
This festival is the most charming, posh and smartest cultural event in Latvia. The concerts are hosted by medieval Riga churches and concert halls, as well as by the Rundale Palace – the most outstanding Baroque palace in Latvia. The festival is reviving the masterpieces by Percel, Vivaldi, Telemann, Gluck, Handel and other Baroque masters. There are gorgeous garments, authentic instruments, all performed among Baroque architecture and interiors. The closing concert at the Rundale Palace Park has always been attended by thousands, among the fragrance of blooming roses.
www.smf.lv

LMT Summer Sound 2015
10.07.-11.07. Liepāja
LMT Summer Sound is one of a few festivals to be held on the beach where the main stage is just a few metres away from the sea. The festival’s location on Liepāja’s beach has been praised both by the artists themselves and by visitors to the festival. Every year this festival gathers together thousands of lovers of good music, diverse arts, and quality entertainment, and during the two festival days the air is filled with great music, fun and laughter. More than fifty bands, DJs and artists perform on the festival’s stages, delivering a variety of music styles that will cater to any taste. In previous years, LMT Summer Sound has been proud to present the Pet Shop Boys, MIKA, Aloe Blacc, Calvin Harris, The Big Pink, Toploader, Guano Apes, and top local artists such as Prāta Vētra, Instrumenti, Gacho, Dons, Dzelzs Vilks, and others. LMT Summer Sound - Your Summer Adventure!
www.summersound.lv
Jomas ielas svētki (Jomas iela festival)
11.07.-12.07. □ Jurmala, Majori
With every passing year, the festival is becoming better and better known amongst the residents of Jurmala and its visitors. Jomas iela, one of the oldest and busiest streets in Jurmala, will be crowded with visitors who will be offered a wide range of entertainment.
www.jurmala.lv

Sea Festival in Roja
11.07.-12.07. □ Roja beach
The capital of sea festivals - Roja - invites you to take part in a great festival and the largest beach party on the Northern Kurzeme coast. Ships, mermaids, traditional visit by the Sea King, exciting fishermen games, rather serious sporting activities, a children's beach, various entertainments, fish soup, and a market - all as it should be when celebrating any event. The festival's concerts take place on the beach and fireworks will light the evening sky over the sea.
www.jurassvetki.lv

Sea Festival in Ventspils
11.07.-12.07. □ Ventspils, Ventspils Osta Street promenade
In Ventspils, the Sea Festival is taken seriously, which is just as it should be for a city by the sea. This is a festival for people who appreciate the true meaning of the salty sea, the wind in the sails, and returning home from a long voyage. This is a time at which relatives, friends and colleagues who are sailing across other seas are remembered. Various events in the Sea Festival will take place on the Osta Street promenade, and at the “Jūras vārti” Theatre, the Livonian Order castle yard, and on the square by the Pārventa Library, and will conclude with a concert and a joyous party in the Reņka Garden.

Dzīres Kuldigā (Kuldīga Celebration)
15.07.-19.07. □ Kuldīga
This year, Dzīres Kuldigā will be a very special event thanks to this being the festival’s twentieth anniversary. Various events will take place both indoors and outdoors. There will be things to see both for children and grown-ups. Come and celebrate together with Kuldiga!
www.kuldiga.lv

Saulkrasti Festival
17.07.-19.07. □ Saulkrasti
Saulkrasti County Celebration. Saturday morning will begin with wake-up activities and a lively festival market. During the day, Sun Square will welcome all visitors with enjoyable activities and a concert for children. The applied arts and paintings exhibition will be open and sports activities will take place. In the evening, all visitors will be welcome to participate in the parade which will proceed to the Saulkrasti open-air stage. Sunday morning will begin with the traditional competition, the national dog ‘multiathlon’, and “Koklē vēju vanadziņš”, the 5th Saulkrasti Kokle Players’ Festival.
www.visitsaulkrasti.lv

Positivus 2015 Festival
17.07.-19.07. □ Salacgrīva, Fishermen’s Park
The Positivus Festival is the largest and most important music and art festival in the Baltics. Every year it offers a modern, high quality music programme, a friendly atmosphere, and a good time for all throughout the entire festival weekend. The location of the festival - the beautiful coastline in Salacgrīva - provides a very special atmosphere that allows everyone to fully enjoy the precious summer moments, something that is appreciated not only by visitors, but also by the participating musicians themselves.
www.positivusfestival.com

Kurland Bike Meet 2015
17.07.-19.07. □ Ventspils
This is already the 12th International Meet of Baltic Sea Region Bikers, known as Kurland Bike Meet 2015. Every year, the Motorcycle Club Association of Latvia invites participants of motorcycle sports in Latvia, the youth and children's mini moto sports federations, stunt men and moto clubs from Lithuania, Estonia, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Belarus, England, Norway, Denmark and Latvia to participate in this event. Every year, more than 2,000 bikers from Latvia and abroad gather for the event, forming an impressive parade of motorcycles through the streets of Ventspils. During the event, onlookers can take photos with the bikers and watch presentations by the moto teams. The event’s evening programme will involve the participation of various artists and takes place on the Coastal Camping grounds, lasting into the small hours.
Cēsis 2015 Art Festival
23.07.-24.08. Cēsis, Cēsis city, Vidzeme Concert Hall "Cēsis", parks, exhibition premises, etc.
With this festival already taking place for the ninth time, its organisers have always tried to offer a music, cinematic, theatrical, and visual art events programme that promotes an understanding of the processes behind contemporary culture across the world. The festival is unique, thanks to its experimental trends and the effort that is taken to offer to a wide range of viewers creative expressions by excellent and highly-recognised artists. This festival is a celebration of art in the city throughout the whole month, which reaches its culmination in the open-air opera performances that take place at Pils Parks (Castle Park). Thanks to its being so recognisable, the festival is visited not only by Latvians but also by art lovers from all around the world.
www.cesufestivals.lv

Sabile Wine Festival
23.07.-26.07. Sabile
This festival is not only one of the main events in Talsi County, but has established itself as an important event in all Kurzeme bringing visitors from all Latvia. Sabile Wine Festival has its unique quality, as the Sabile city and its people. The locals are full with original and unordinary ideas. Altogether it creates at the festival a wonderful an unique atmosphere. The festivals slogan is: The tipsiness will go away, but not the craziness. It proves every year that the fun and humour of every visitors what makes this festival happen.
www.sabile.lv

Cēsis City Festival
24.07.-26.07. Cēsis Old Town, parks, squares
The annual City Festival lasts for three days and offers an extensive programme of events and activities that will cater for various tastes. On Friday, academic and classical music performances are offered by well-known artists. On Saturday, the city is divided into six zones and each of them has a different theme, and the day is concluded with fireworks and an open-air party with performances by recognised local and foreign artists. Sunday is devoted to various sporting activities.
www.cessis.lv

Electronic music festival SHINE FEST 2015
24.07.-26.07. Liepāja
One of the most popular electronic music festivals in Latvia this year shall again offer its guests to enjoy the sound of such music styles as house, techno, drum’n’bass, dubstep and ambient.
www.shinecafe.lv

Ventspils City Festival – 725
31.07.-02.08. Ventspils
In the first week of August, Ventspils invites everyone to take part in the city’s 725th birthday. The festivities will include the traditional Baltic Flower Carpet Festival and a parade. Various musical performances throughout the day will take place on the Osta Street promenade, and at Rātslaukums and on Dzirnavu Square, and various sporting activities and a party will be arranged in the Renka Garden.

Rēzekne City Festival
31.07.-02.08. Rēzekne, Festival's park
Within the framework of the festival, day and night concerts will be organised, additionally there will be a medieval atmosphere on the Rēzekne Castle Mound thanks to the participation of historic reconstruction clubs, workshop of accordionists and sporting competitions will also be available. A parade of Rēzekne’s institutions and organisations will take place, along with a parade of prams and toy prams, plus creative workshops, and activities for grown-ups and children.
www.rezekne.lv

XXIII Sigulda Opera Festival
31.07.-02.08. Sigulda
For the 23rd time, the picturesque Sigulda Castle will become a luxurious framework for the traditional Sigulda Opera Music Festival. Each year, the festival brings many famous opera artists from Europe and all around the world to Latvia. Its highlight is a unique outdoor opera production, specifically adapted to Sigulda Castle ruins.
www.tourism.sigulda.lv
Medieval Day at Cēsis Castle
06.08.-08.08. □ Cēsis

In the framework of Medieval Day, ancient art, music, skills, fashion events and competitions take place in Cēsis and at Cēsis Castle. During the festivities, a special emphasis is placed on how life was during the Middle Ages, as well as on knighthood, involving competitions, field battles, and demonstrations of combat. During the events, performances are given by medieval music ensembles. The festivities also cannot be imagined without their markets, food halls, demonstrations of craftsmanship, and other thematic activities that will depend on their subject.

www.cesupils.lv

Riga City Festival
14.08.-16.08. □ Riga

Riga City Festival - involving countless concerts in Riga’s concert halls, gardens and parks, games, entertainment and sporting activities for grown-ups and children. The Riga City Festival is also a great opportunity to enjoy Riga and its wonderful architecture, as well as to get to know the suburbs. Traditionally, the Riga Retro international antique car convention takes place annually. Events are also on at Vērmanes Dārzs, Doma Laukums, 11.Novembra krastmala, the Spiķeri Quarter, and in other locations. All of Riga’s residents and visitors are welcome to participate.

www.rigassvetki.lv

Fontaine Festival
14.08.-16.08. □ Liepāja

Music festival will take place for the 10th time. Domestic and foreign bands - rock, blues, jazz, folk - will perform on five stages.

www.fontaine.lv

Dižmāra Fair in Talsi
15.08. □ Talsi

In this day Talsi welcomes shoppers, sellers, theatre masters, singers, dancers and just observers from all around to be together at the main event in Talsi, the Dižmāra Fair. At the end of every summer in the most scenic place in Talsi, between two lakes and hills, people from all around come to the year’s most colourful event. Already at the beginning of 20th century Dižmāra Fair was a time when all the work in Talsi sopped, people dressed up and took all of their saved money to go the fair.


XV General Latvian Milk, Bread and Honey Festival and XIII Milk Carton Boat Regatta
29.08. □ Jelgava

Every year this festival gathers together more than 150 craftsmen, farmers and entrepreneurs who offer products and goods that have been made in Latvia. During the event, various activities will organised, such as cooking, milking cows, and eating competitions, tournaments and creative workshops for children. As part of the festival, the only Milk Carton Boat Regatta in Europe takes place in Lielupe. The boats participating in this regatta are made of 40,000 air-filled milk cartons.

www.festivali.jelgava.lv

Liepāja International Organ Music Festival
01.09.-20.09. □ Liepāja

The festival of organ music in Liepāja offers the performances of great organ players in the stunning St.Trinity church in Liepāja. The festival serves as adulation to the biggest unaltered mechanical organ in the world, which is housed in the church.

www.liepajaskultura.lv

White Night forum of contemporary culture
05.09. □ Riga

Within this one night, art, music, theatre, circus, dance, philosophy, anthropology and cookery are combined to produce a single message about the time and space in which we live. The White Night forum supplies a new meaning to the public space: places that have been abandoned or which are usually closed to the public, isolated areas of the city, places that are part of our city’s history and that are re-discovered by artists in a new and decidedly unusual way.

www.baltanakts.lv

EuroBasket 2015
05.09.-20.09. □ Riga, Arena Riga

This will be the 39th edition of the EuroBasket championship that is organised by FIBA Europe The Group Phase will be organised in Riga.

www.fibaeurope.com
25th Latvian Cycling Unity Ride
06.09. ◄ Sigulda
This ‘Unity Ride’ for Latvian cyclists first took place as far back as in 1936. Today it has become one of the most important sporting events in Latvia. During the independence years before the Soviet period, the unity ride gathered together more than 6,000 cyclists. In 1995, after a break of many years, the ride was re-established. The idea behind the ride has not changed over the time, it still envisages a strengthening of the feeling of the unity and health of the nation and preserving the environment. Every year, participants are offered three routes - sports, mountain, and folk (the folk route is the most popular in terms of the number of participants who take part every year).

Bauska Old Town Courtyard Festival
12.09. ◄ Bauska, Bauska Old Town
Bauska Old Town is an urban architectural monument that is of national importance and which dates back to sixteenth to nineteenth centuries. The historic buildings with their courtyards characterise the peculiar architecture of Bauska's Old Town. During the festival, visitors can take a look at more than twenty courtyards in the Old Town, with creative and sporting activities for children and grown-ups, markets, musical performances, and the chance to learn historic facts about Bauska as the former capital of the duchy of Kurzeme-Zemgale. Through visiting the courtyards and collecting stamps on their events map, visitors can take part into the festival's closing lottery in which they have a chance of winning prizes that have been provided by the entrepreneurs who support the festival. In parallel with this event, the Porridge Eating Festival and the Big Murza Garage Sale also take place.
www.bauskasvecpilseta.lv

Autumn Chamber Music Festival
20.09.-18.10. ◄ Riga
The most notable and longest held chamber music festival in Latvia seeks to implement the best Vienna and Salzburg traditions, and the keyword is ‘refinement’. The motto of the festival is tête-à-tête – ‘a private conversation’ in French, emphasizing the uniquely intimate chamber musicianship atmosphere and the very special dialogue that takes place between the audience and musicians. The festival provides stylistically diverse programmes ranging from the classics to jazz, including innovative multimedia projects and unconventional performances.
www.latvijaskoncerti.lv

Painter Mark Rothko's birthday in Daugavpils
25.09. ◄ Daugavpils
Daugavpils, the birthplace of Mark Rothko, the founder of abstract expressionism, invites visitors to take part in a full day of art events, performances, and other activities to celebrate the painter's birthday. The Mark Rothko 2015 annual art residency exhibition will be opened as part of the celebration.
www.rotkocentrs.lv

Mikeldiena Fair in Old Riga
26.09. ◄ Riga
The autumn harvest’s Mikeldiena Fair, which is held on Doma Square, traditionally offers various farmers’ products such as apples, pumpkins, cranberries, herbal teas, honey, bread and bacon. One can also find the best basket for mushroom picking, pottery products, mittens, woollen socks, and many other beautiful and practical works by Latvian craftsmen. Throughout the whole day, Riga's singers and dancers will entertain visitors with performances on the large stage.
www.avesol.riga.lv

Lamprey Day in Salacgrīva
10.10.-11.10. ◄ Salacgrīva, Salacgrīva lamprey weirs
Lamprey Day offers visitors an opportunity to visit all three lamprey weirs in Salaca, plus the chance to taste lamprey soup, fried lamprey, and fish soup, to see how a lamprey is caught, to listen to songs about the sea, rivers and fishermen, and to enjoy a dance or two.
www.salacgriva.lv

Daugavpils 2015 XIV International Accordion Music Festival
22.10.-24.10. ◄ Daugavpils
In October 2015, the stages of the main concert halls in Daugavpils will host both young and well-known performers and accordion players from Latvia and abroad playing jazz, classical music and tango and swing sounds. The Daugavpils 2015 IX Valērijs Hodukins International Young Accordionists Competition will also be part of the festival.
www.kultura.daugavpils.lv
**Lāčplēsis Day**
11.11. Ⓟ Latvia

On this day a military parade by the freedom monument, a lantern procession from the Brother’s cemetery to the banks of the river Daugava, laying of candles by the Riga castle, various concerts, film showings and other patriotic activities usually take place in the capital and other cities in Latvia.


**Light Festival "Staro Riga"**
14.11.-18.11. Ⓟ Riga

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

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

**Proclamation Day of the Republic of Latvia**
18.11. Ⓟ Latvia

18 November is the Independence Day of Latvia - even though there were no borders set, a group of dedicated nationalists proclaimed an independent Latvian state on this date in 1918. Several months after this courageous step had been made, military interventions still went on - the Russian Empire did not want to lose this important territory. Nevertheless, this day is still the most important national holiday for every Latvian. On 18 November, various events take place across the country throughout the day. In Riga the celebration begins on the first half of the day with a parade and laying of flowers at the Freedom Monument with participation of the President of Latvia and other important government officials.


**Christmas Tree Trail 2015**
04.12.-10.01.2015. Ⓟ Riga

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

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

**Jarmarka**
15.12.-31.12. Ⓟ Riga

The Jarmarka Exhibition, fair and charity campaign is one of the most important events of the year to be held at the Latvian Academy of Arts. This colourful exhibition offers its visitors thousands of unique creative work by the art students themselves, including paintings, graphics, textiles, pottery, jewellery, fashion, etc. Anyone interested in seeing this delightful items is welcome to come and feel the special atmosphere of an art fair and take a look at and purchase works by these new talents and thereby donate funds to the renovation of the academy’s historic premises.


**Festival European Christmas**
04.12.-30.12. Ⓟ Riga

The beautiful time of Advent, Christmas and New Year’s Eve goes so well with the most jovial heritage of Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Vivaldi and other classics, as well as Gregorian chant music, Christmas songs in vivacious jazz rhythms and the New Year’s Eve concerts – splendid as always. World-famous soloists and conductors perform here together with the Riga Dom Cathedral Boys Choir, the Latvian Radio Choir and the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra. European Christmas is ready to delight audiences all through December with splendid concerts at the concert halls and churches in Riga, as well as elsewhere in Latvia.

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

**Christmas markets in Riga**
29.11.-09.01.2015. Ⓟ Riga

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

[www.liveriga.com](http://www.liveriga.com)
Games of light in the winter twilight
26.12.-11.01.2015. Riga, Latvian Ethnographic Open-air Museum

In the middle of winter, the Open-Air Museum with its illuminated buildings turns into a enchanted land. When peering through a window, you can see how Latvians used to live and how they celebrated the festivities in winter. Moreover, this is a wonderful opportunity to be photographed on a sledge and to dress up for the Latvian winter solstice, Ķekatas.

www.brivdabasmuzejs.lv

Narrow gauge train “Mazbānītis” festival
27.12. Ventspils, Seaside Open-Air Museum

At the Ventspils Seaside Open-Air Museum, Christmastime has been a very special time for several years as it is the time at which the city’s favourite - the narrow gauge train “Mazbānītis” - is decorated with lights and every visitor to the festival gets a ride in “Mazbānītis” as a Christmas present. When the bright and colourful “Mazbānītis” appears through the dusk of the short wintery days, there can be no doubt that the festivities have started. And at the Seaside Open-Air Museum we really know how to celebrate - with fortune telling, gingerbread, pancakes, home-made candles, centuries-old solstice postcards, and enjoyable rides in sledges or on horseback.


Welcoming the New Year in Riga, with fireworks
31.12. Riga

On 31 December, all of Riga’s residents and visitors can welcome in the New Year at 11. Novembra krastmala where, starting from 22:00 and lasting until 02:00, everyone will be entertained by an interesting and dynamic concert programme by Latvian artists, while the obligatory fireworks display will kick off at midnight.

www.kultura.riga.lv

Riga Tourist Information Centres

Rātslaukums 6. Phone: +371 67037900
Kaļķu iela 16. Phone: +371 67227444
Riga International Coach terminal
Prāgas iela 1. Phone: +371 67220555

Working hours
October-April: 10:00-18:00
May-September: 9:00-19:00

www.LiveRiga.com

Latvia.travel online events calendar

Visit latvia.travel/en/page/whats-latvia for more information about events in Latvia!

Latvian Ministry of Culture online events calendar

Visit www.kultura.lv for more information about events in Latvia!

Latvian Institute: Welcome to Latvia!

Visit www.latvia.eu for news and general information about Latvia!