

RIGA

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DAUGAVA

KĪPSALA

VEGRĪGA

ZAKUSALA

-  Riga Passenger terminal (within 10 min. walking distance). Terminal "Andrejosta" (within 20 min. walking distance)
-  Riga Central Market
-  Riga Airport
-  The most notable locations in Riga City

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1 The Riga Dome Cathedral
(Doma laukums 1)

The Cathedral has been built in the place of an ancient Liv settlement, which was situated there more than 800 years ago. The Dome cathedral is one of the largest cathedrals in the Baltic States. The cornerstone for the Dome Cathedral was laid down in 1211. The church has been reconstructed a number of times and reveals traces of all historical styles. The Gothic Cross gallery is an outstanding sample of Baltic medieval architecture. The Dome organ with more than 6700 pipes and 124 registers was once the biggest organ in the world.

2 St. Peter's Lutheran Church
(Skārņu iela 19)

This is the biggest church in Latvia and one of the most ancient examples of medieval churches in the Baltic region. St. Peter's was first mentioned in historical documents in 1209. Since then, it has gone through a number of renovations and reconstructions. A Baroque wooden steeple was installed in 1690 - the highest in the world at the time. The church was burned down during World War II and restored only in 1973. An elevator was built in the tower offering the possibility to see a panoramic view of Riga in the height of 56.9 and 71.3 m.

3 St. John's Lutheran Church
(Skārņu iela 24)

The church began its life as a chapel for a Dominican cloister that was established in 1234. It became a church in the late 13th century, and in 1582 it became the first Latvian church in Riga. The architecture of the church features a step-type pediment and magnificent arches inside. Major works of sacral art can be seen inside the church.

4 St. Jacob's Catholic Church
(Klostera iela 2)

The church was first mentioned in 1225 as a building outside the Riga City Wall. The Late Gothic period was the time when the attached St. Cross chapel was built. For a time it housed a lyceum - one of the first educational institutions of its kind in Riga. The steeple was installed in 1756. There is a clock in its base, and a bell to ring alarms was installed in the upper portion of the structure. Today St. Jacob's Church is the cathedral of the Arch-Bishop of the Latvian Catholic Church.



5 The Melngalvijs (Blackheads) house
(Rātslaukums 7)

The origins of this structure date back to the 14th century, when a building was put up for the needs of city officials and tradesmen. The so-called Blackheads Society, whose patron was St. Mauritius, took over the building in the 15th century, although the name "Blackheads House" dates back only to 1687. In 1713, the society won full ownership rights to the building. Only tradesmen who were not married could enter the fraternity. It once contained one of the world's richest collections of silver objects. The building was destroyed during World War II. The Blackheads' House was rebuilt again in 1999.



6 The Small Guild
(Amatu iela 6)

The craftsmen of Riga, as elsewhere in Europe, formed corporations to protect their interests. In the middle of the 14th century these corporations founded the Small Guild. The patron saint of the guild is John the Baptist. The present building was built between 1864 and 1866 on the basis of a design from the distinguished architect Johan Daniel

Felso. It is an example of the British Neo-Gothic style. The beautiful interiors of the Small Guild building were restored in 2000.

7 The Great Guild
(Amatu iela 5)

The Large Guild, for its part, was established in 1354 by the tradesmen in Riga, and the guild monopolised trade in the city until the 19th century. The patron saint of the guild is St. Mary. Fragments of the building's original, 14th-century interiors can still be seen in the form of an ancient column. The present-day structure was put up between 1854 and 1857. Today the building is the home of the Latvian Philharmonic Orchestra.

8 The Gunpowder Tower
(Smišņu iela 20)

One of the Riga fortification towers initially called the Sand Tower dating back to 1330. The tower underwent a number of reconstructions. It names go back to the 17th century when it was used for storing gunpowder. It houses the Latvian War museum since 1919.



9 The "Three Brothers" dwelling houses
(Mazā Pils iela 19)

The "three brothers" are an example of medieval residential structures in Riga. The facades and interiors provide a textbook example of the development of architecture over the course of time. Mazā Pils iela 17 is the oldest stone residential building in Riga (late 15th, early 16th century), and its distinctive chimney has been preserved. One of the walls in the interior yard of the structure contains the oldest known city emblem of Riga, along with some ancient stone portals. The oldest building of the "Three Brothers" houses the Museum of Architecture.



10 The Riga Castle
(Pils laukums 3)

The castle was built in 1330 as a residence of the Master of the Livonian Order. The building was sacked in 1448, and in subsequent decades it was rebuilt a number of times. Eventually it lost its medieval appearance. Since 1995 the castle has been the residence of the president of Latvia. It houses the Historical Museum of Latvia, the Museum of Foreign Art and the Rainis' Literature and Art Museum.



11 The "Swedish Gate"
(Torņa iela 11)

The only gate remaining of the Riga City Wall. In 1698 a passage through a dwelling house was made to connect the structures adjacent to the City Wall to the inner city. Since 20-ies of the 20th century this building is home of the Architects' Association.

12 The "St. Jacob's Depot"
(Torņa iela 4)

It is the longest building in Old Riga. The building is unique since it is one of the latest 16th-19th century depots around Old Riga. Reconstruction took place in 1997. The building now houses shops, offices and cafes.



13 The Convent Courtyard ("Jāņa sēta")
(Between Skārņu and Kalēju iela)

This is the location of the first residence of Bishop Albert, the founder of Riga. A fragment of the Riga fortification wall shows how the medieval fortification may have looked. From the side of Kalēju Street over the entrance, there is the old emblem of Riga.

14 The Freedom Monument
(At the crossing of Brīvības bulvāris and Raiņa bulvāris)

The Freedom Monument is a symbol of Latvia's freedom and independence, erected by the architects Kārlis Zāle and Ernests Štālbergs. People donated money for the project, which was completed in 1935. On the front wall of the monument is the inscription "Tēvzemei un Brīvībai", or "For the Fatherland and Freedom" - an expression of the meaning of the monument.



15 Latvian Opera
(Aspazijas bulvāris 3)

The Opera House was the first building the Latvian government renovated after independence, which says something about its almost sacred place in Riga's cultural life. Rediscovered again, it has been called one of the finest opera houses in Europe.



16 Riga - Jugendstil Metropolis

Alberta iela Riga's Jugendstil buildings amaze everyone both in their quantity and their high quality of workmanship. Although Alberta and Elizabetes Streets are particularly well-known for Jugendstil architecture, these beautiful buildings can be seen in all parts of the city that were built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



17 Riga Central Market
(Turģeņeva iela 4)

Riga Central market was opened in 1930 and since then has become one of the oldest and largest outdoor markets both in Europe and world-wide. This immense market with the total area of almost 75 000 sqm consists of five pavilions that used to be huge zeppelin hangars. Nowadays under the high roofs of hangars, fresh home-grown vegetables, fruit, meat, fish and products can be found but around them everything from flowers to clothes is sold.



18 Latvian Open-Air Museum
(Brīvības gatve 440)

The Latvian Open-Air Museum, established in 1924, is one of the oldest open-air museums in Europe. Walk through traditional farmsteads, fishermen's dwellings, and craft workshops from all corners of Latvia. In addition, the museum has two wooden churches, a tavern, windmill, and other rural buildings. There are craft fairs, organ and folk music concerts in the museum during the summer. 18 master craftsmen and artisans work at the museum: weavers, blacksmiths, woodworkers, basket makers, potters, beekeepers and others.



19 Riga Zoo
(Meža prospekts 1)

Riga Zoo was opened in 1912 and is one of the oldest in Europe. With more than 475 animal species including brown bears, giraffes and rare Siberian tigers, Riga Zoo attracts not only children but also adults. 104 of animal species kept at the Zoo are included in the IUCN Red Data List.