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Latvia

RIGA





Latvia

Positioned on the Baltic Sea between Lithuania and Estonia, Latvia is an impressive mix of art nouveau architecture and pristine nature.

The northeastern European destination is known as the "Land of Blue Lakes".



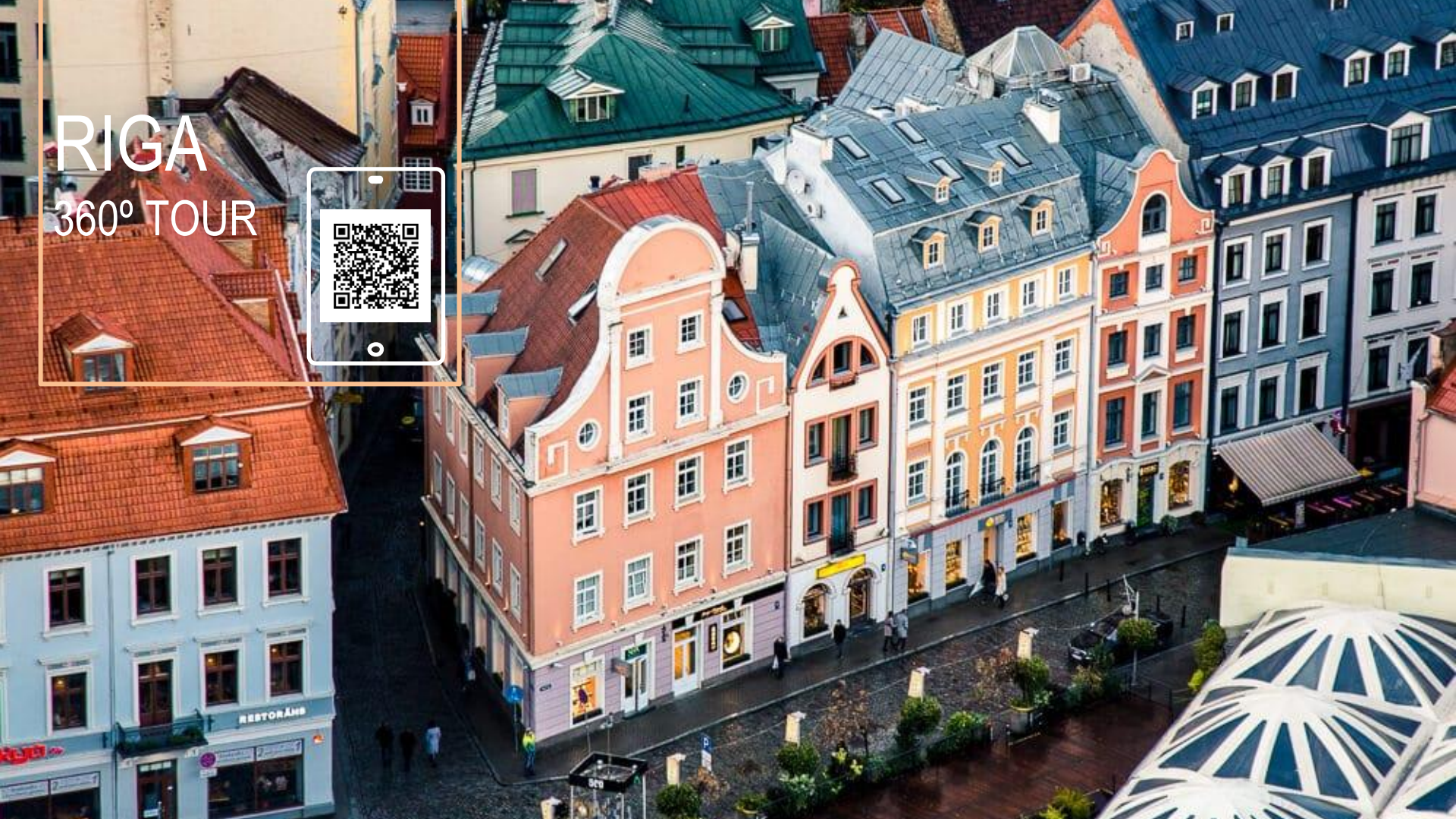
Riga

Positioned on Riga, founded in 1201, has always been the political, economic, and cultural centre. Nowadays, around one third of Latvia's population lives and works there. The Historical Centre of Riga is listed by UNESCO as one of the world's most important cultural and architectural sites.

Riga's cityscape represents the multi-layered history of Latvia from the Middle Ages until today. Art Nouveau and wooden buildings of the 19th century are trademarks of Riga, although the architecture is a mix of everything – from medieval houses to apartment blocks of Soviet times, and the contemporary architecture that makes Riga so special.

RIGA

360° TOUR





THE OLD TOWN

The Old Town is the oldest section of Riga as well as the center of the city. It is the city's most popular area with tourists. In 1997, Riga's historic center was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.



The Old Town has highly diverse architecture, and the majority of buildings have the status of a cultural monument. The city's architecture represents various periods - Romanesque, Gothic, Baroque, Classicism, and Modernism. After the restoration of the independence of Latvia, many buildings in the Old Town were reconstructed or rebuilt to restore the historic look of the area.

THE OLD TOWN



The most impressive buildings in the Old Town are the Riga Cathedral and St. Peter's Church, offering a wonderful panoramic view on the city of Riga from a 72 meter observational tower.


The Old Town's streets and squares have numerous restaurants and cafes for all tastes.

Riga Cathedral



St. Peter's Church

HOUSE OF THE BLACKHEADS



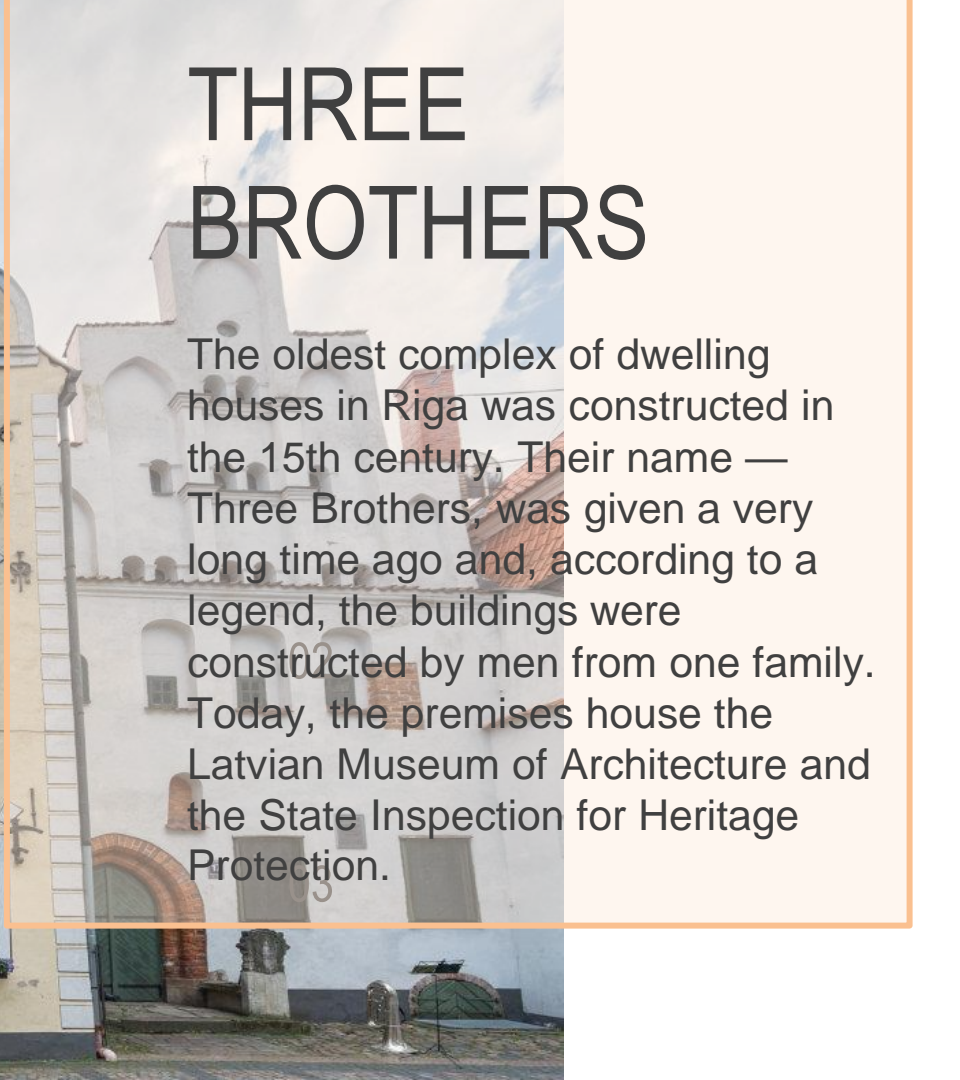
The House of the Blackheads is located in the very heart of Old Riga. Wonderful, surprising, royal – the house deserves to be complimented and is a must-see for each and every visitor to the city.

For nearly 700 years the House of the Blackheads has delighted and enchanted locals and visitors. It is among the most splendor buildings in Riga, home to the unique history of the legendary Brotherhood of the Blackheads and the city of Riga.



THREE BROTHERS

The oldest complex of dwelling houses in Riga was constructed in the 15th century. Their name — Three Brothers, was given a very long time ago and, according to a legend, the buildings were constructed by men from one family. Today, the premises house the Latvian Museum of Architecture and the State Inspection for Heritage Protection.



RIGA'S CENTRAL MARKET

A nighttime photograph of Riga's Central Market building. The building features three large, arched glass facades that are illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. The building is situated on a raised platform with a stone wall and stairs leading down to a canal. The canal's surface is dark, reflecting the lights from the building and the streetlights. The sky is a deep, dark blue, indicating twilight. The overall scene is a blend of modern architecture and traditional urban setting.

In 1997, UNESCO honored the Market (as an integral part of Old Town) with a slot on the "World Heritage" List.



The Central Market has a magnificent aura, with its eye-catching pavilions and huge area. The grandiose pavilions can be looked upon as the framework that forms the shape and order of the Market. Of course, without the vendor-customer correlation, there would be no Market. As long as this correlation briskly exists, marketing remains as easy as pie and no winds, no rain or cold can hamper it.

The most colorful sight in town – the Central Market!



The best of the Market:
fresh and ecological products from Latvian farms;
widest variety of products in Latvia;
affordable prices;
bargaining option;
assortment of souvenirs.



RIGA'S NATIVITY OF CHRIST CATHEDRAL

Riga's Nativity of Christ Cathedral is the biggest Orthodox church in the city. Having served as a planetarium and a restaurant during the Soviet Era, the building has been completely restored as a church and holds regular Orthodox services.



RIGA ART NOUVEAU MECCA

The central location for Art Nouveau style buildings is the downtown quarter known as the "quiet centre" - just a 10-minute stroll from Old Town.

RIGA ART NOVEAU MECCA



It is a vibrant feature in Riga's history, with Albert Street truly the main gem. Each edifice there is a unique masterpiece of design and construction. The style's active period was relatively short - from 1901 to 1908. Eight of the Albert Street buildings have been officially designated architectural landmarks.



ARCHITECTURE

Architecture is the most accurate witness to the multifaceted face of Riga. Eclectic and amazing in its diversity, where every era and its current has left its mark. From Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Classicism to mannered Art Nouveau, modernism and wooden architecture.





NATIONAL ART MUSEUM'S

Latvian National Museum of Art is the most significant depository in the nation for works of art. Reopened in May 2016, the building itself has been upgraded, modernized but its majestic beauty from a long-gone era - preserved.

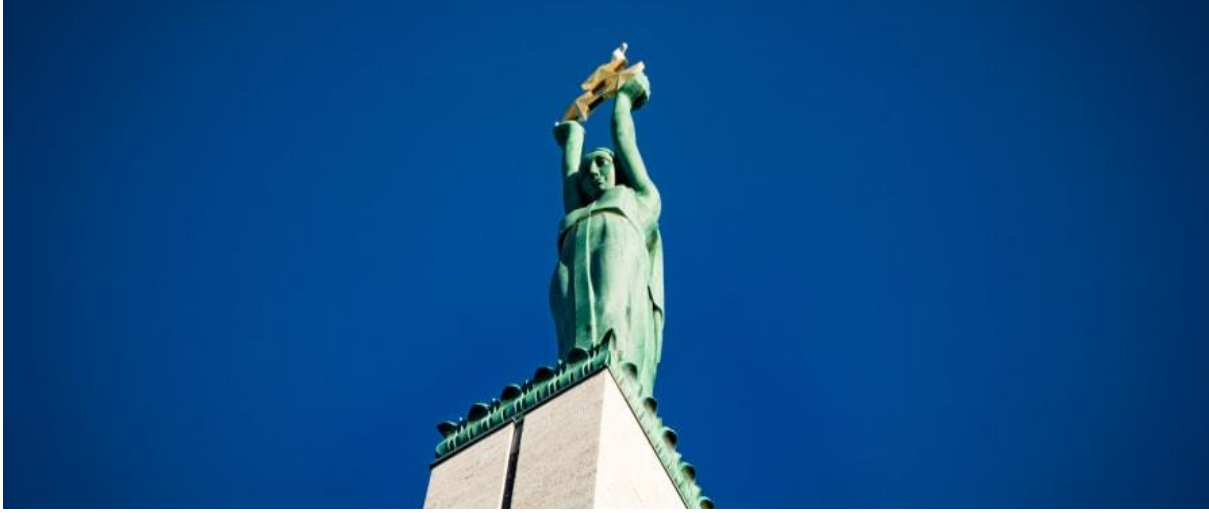


FREEDOM MONUMENT

The Freedom Monument has been Riga's central landmark for almost a century.

02

03



This 42.7 m tall granite and copper work of art is a symbol of the Latvian nation's striving for freedom and independence. The woman on top of the monument is holding up three golden stars, which represent Latvia's historical regions of Kurzeme, Vidzeme, and Latgale. The motto "For the Fatherland and Freedom" is inscribed upon the base. It was unveiled on 18 November 1935 and financed entirely from public donations.



MUSEUM OF THE RIGA GHETTO AND HOLOCAUST

The Riga Ghetto Museum opened its doors in 2010. It is located close to the border of the former Jewish Ghetto, in Maskavas Forštate (Moscow suburb), a historical city quarter.

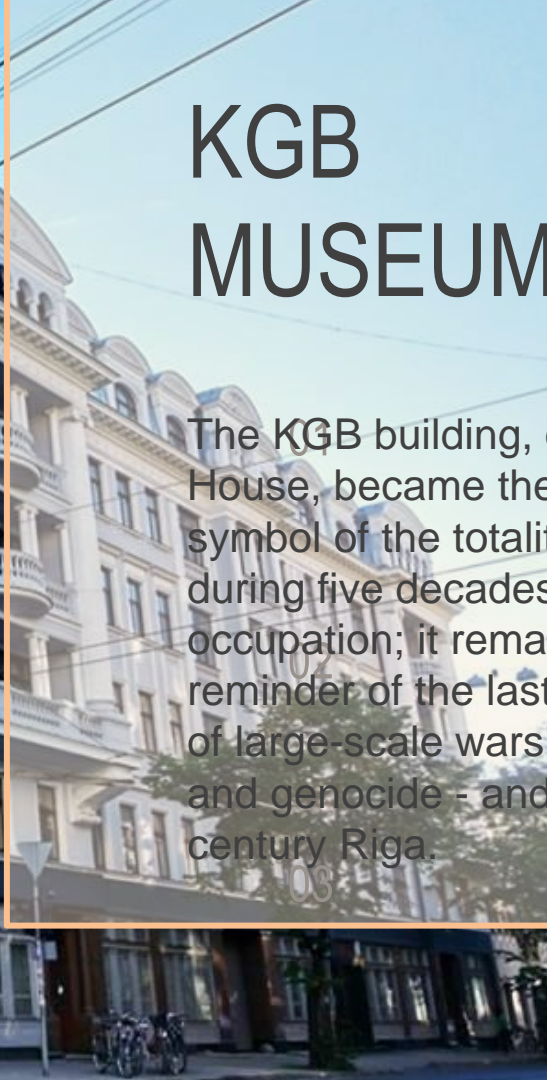


The Museum of the Riga Ghetto and Holocaust in Latvia was established by the Shamir religious community with the assistance of the Riga City Council. This place is conceived not only as a reminder of terrible events that should never happen again but also as an educational and cultural centre, a source of tolerance and mutual respect. This is not a museum of death. This is a museum of life.



KGB MUSEUM

The KGB building, or the Corner House, became the most vivid symbol of the totalitarian regime during five decades of Latvian occupation; it remains a potent reminder of the last century - a time of large-scale wars, mass repression and genocide - and a relict in 21st-century Riga.



The Corner House, a project by the Occupation Museum, provides the opportunity for the wider public to gain insight into the former KGB, or 'Cheka', headquarters in Riga by preparing an exhibition on the institution's operation in Latvia and a tour of the building.

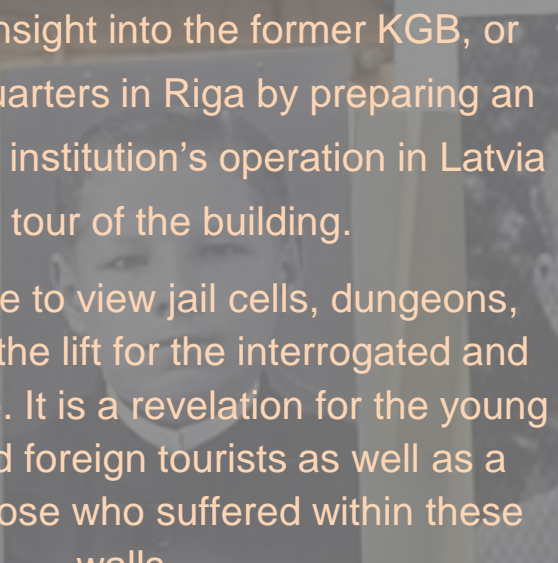
Visitors are able to view jail cells, dungeons, strolling areas, the lift for the interrogated and office workspace. It is a revelation for the young generation and foreign tourists as well as a memorial for those who suffered within these walls.



Ailīda Hermānis Balins (1928)
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Krišjānis Freidenfelds (1917)
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Adolfs Flemingis (1914)
Adolfs Flemingis (1914)
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Adolfs Flemingis (1914)



Valfrīds Bruks (1910)
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PARKS AND GARDENS

In total, the city has almost twenty parks and gardens of different sizes - each with its own character and personality.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Riga's parks were not called parks, but resorts - a place to relax and regain health.

BASTION HILL

Bastion Hill is one of the most romantic places in central Riga, as it features narrow paths, alleys of trees, stone garden, water cascade... The park right next to the Freedom Monument has been a delight to an eye and soul for more than a century.

HILLVERMANS GARDEN PARK

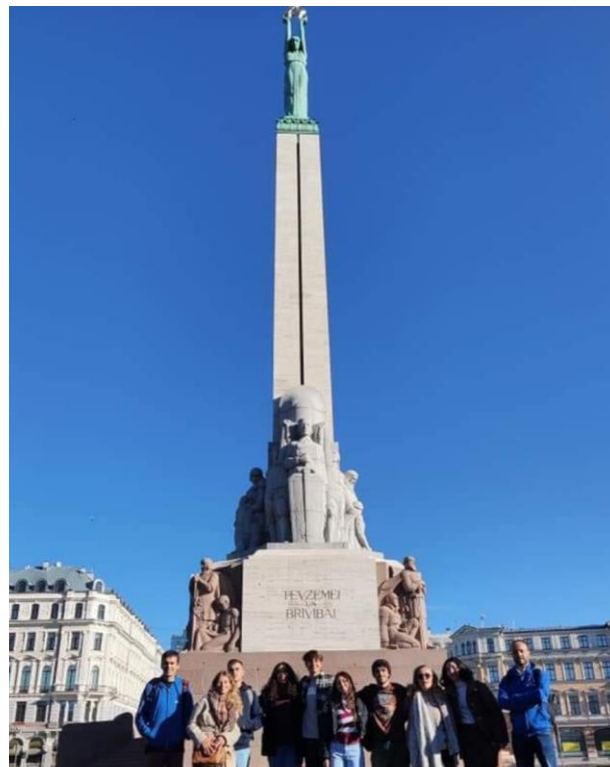
A large, ornate bronze fountain is the central focus of the image. The fountain has a tiered base with water cascading down. At the top, two figures are depicted: one appears to be holding a staff or a similar object. The fountain is surrounded by a low stone wall. In the background, there are many lush green trees, suggesting a park setting. Several people are visible in the distance, some walking and some standing. The overall atmosphere is bright and sunny.

Vērmānes Garden Park is Riga's second oldest public park; the numerous benches are always occupied by Rigans and visitors to the city, the historic open-air stage features various concerts, and children have fun on the park's playground.



KRONVALDA PARK

Kronvalda Park (originally Strēlnieku Garden) is 11.92 hectares in area, with the city canal running through it. Bordering Elizabetes, Kr. Valdemāra streets, Kronvalda and Kalpaka boulevards.



Latvia RIGA

Álvaro Castro
November, 2021

