



Turaida castle seen from the air, or the opposite bank of the river Gauja in Sigulda, Turaida castle rises above the trees like mighty ship built of red brick. The forepart of this imaginative ship is formed by the northern forecastle's gate tower. Building of the castle



was started in 1214, upon directions given by Albert, Archbishop of Riga to his Livonian Brothers of the Sword (soon to merge with the Teutonic Order) at the place where previously had stood the wooden castle of Līvis. The castle was constructed largely in the classic red-brick construction of the Baltic crusading orders. At the beginning of the 15th century, when fire arms were invented, the semi rounded western tower was built. After a fire in 1776 it was abandoned and gradually became ruinous. By the beginning of the 20th century, only separate fragments of the defensive wall and some buildings – the main tower, semi-rounded tower and the western section, were left. From the viewing place of the main tower, you can see the unique landscape of picturesque Gauja Gauja valley and the territory of Turaida Museum Reserve.

THE LEGEND ABOUT MAIJA - THE ROSE OF TURAJDA

In 1601 Swedish troops captured Turaida castle. After the battle a clerk of the castle Mr Greif found among the dead a small girl. He undertook to bring up the orphan and named her Maija.

The years passed by and Maija grew up so beautiful, that people named her the Rose of Turaida. Gardener Victor Heil, the fiancé of Maija, lived in Sigulda castle. In the evenings they met each other at Gūtmanis cave. Proposal to Maija was made also by Adam Jakubovsky, who then was in service in Turaida castle. Maija rejected him and Jakubovsky decided to get her by deceit. He wrote a note, as it were from Victor, and invited her to meet at Gūtmanis cave. When Maija arrived, she understood that she was deceived. The girl decided better to die and remain faithful to her fiancé. She had a red silk scarf around her neck and she told Jakubovsky, that it would protect from the sword cut and asked to try. Jakubovsky tried and Maija lifeless fell down at his feet.



Victor Heil found the murdered girl and he rushed in despair to Turaida for help. At the cave there was found gardener's axe, lost in a hurry, therefore suspicion about Maija's murder fell on Victor. He was arrested and tried. The course of events changed, when arrived Skudritz, a comrade-in-arms of Jakubovsky, who arrived in the court and told the truth. Victor was justified, but Maija was buried at the edge of Turaida groveyard, where Victor planted a linden tree on her grave.

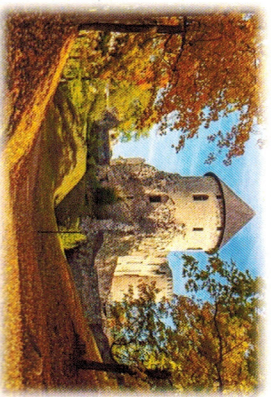


Day 6. Friday 18th

Sigulda. Excursion around the town.

Turaida castle. Workshops -

Visiting the Chief Judge of Turaida.



Give a mark for the day from 1 to 10 (where 10 is the best): 10

Write your name using Ancient Latvian letters:

RRPDRR

What will I tell my family about the day?

Inside Turaida castle the deer get stuck and we couldn't get out. It was great.
