

The ALA *Hello, Latvia! / Sveika, Dzīmtene* travel program offers two unique heritage tours for adults and families that offer an opportunity to connect to cultural identity, history and, traditions.

The tours are a perfect introduction for family and friends to a vibrant 21st C. European country renowned for its beautiful shoreline, majestic forests, historic castles, and Art Nouveau architecture.



Independence Celebration in Riga

November 14 - 19

Experience Riga like never before on this exclusive 5-day tour culminating in a full day of Independence Day celebrations on November 18!

Relax in the luxury 5-star *Riga Grand Poet Hotel*, centrally located with world-class amenities, spa access, and breakfast included daily.

Enjoy expertly guided tours and excursions, savor traditional as well as modern Latvian cuisine and celebrate this most joyous holiday. The tour culminates with a full day of events celebrating Independence Day and a delicious meal and Latvian music.

Tour accommodates those who do not speak Latvian.

- Duration: 4 Days / 5 Nights

Participants should plan to arrive in Riga no later than November 14 to check into the hotel and meet the group for dinner that evening. Return flights should be on the November 19.

- Price: \$1,400.00 per person double occupancy
*Price does not include flight.

Includes: 5-star accommodation, all tours, admission fees, and festive Independence Day dinner.

Reserve private room for an additional fee (See registration form.)

Additional nights and transportation to/from airport can be arranged for additional fee.

Register no later than August 14.
www.alausa.org

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November 14

18:00 - welcome dinner

Ala Folkclub pagrabs. A traditional pub located in a medieval wine cellar in the heart of Old Town Riga.
(Guests cover their own meal and beverage costs.)



November 15

9:00 – 12:00 walking tour of Riga

Marvel over the spectacular Jugendstil (Art Nouveau) architecture. Enjoy the view of Old Town Riga from the spire of *St. Peter's* church, and lay flowers at the *Freedom Monument*

12:00 – 13:00 - tasting

Black Magic Balsam Bar. 18th C. Alchemist and pharmacist Abraham Kunce created *Riga Black Balsam* – an infusion of 24 herbs, as a miracle healing potion. Black balsam is still enjoyed by Latvians today!

13:00 – 14:00 lunch

Lido. Latvia's favorite chain of restaurants, well-known for its self-service buffet featuring traditional Latvian, cuisine made from natural ingredients, and its unique, traditional decor.

(Guests cover their own meal and beverage costs.)

14:00 -16:00 - tour

Museum of the Occupation of Latvia. The museum documents the 51-year period in the 20th century when Latvia was occupied by the USSR in 1940, then by Nazi Germany in 1941, and then again by the USSR in 1944.

16:30 – free time

Enjoy a free evening to relax or explore.
Dinner is on your own at a restaurant of your choice.



November 16

9:00 – 11:00 – visit

Brothers Cemetery & Memorial. The most significant memorial ensemble in Latvia dedicated to the fallen Latvian soldiers of WWI and the Battle for Independence.



11:00 – 13:00 – visit

Latvian Song and Dance Festival Museum exhibition *SongSpace* and the *Grand Mežaparks Bandstand* which celebrates 153 years since the first festival in 1873. The culture of singing is an integral part of Latvian identity and heritage.

14:00 – 15:00 – lunch

Agenskalns Market. The oldest marketplace on the left bank of the Daugava River. The Market's building is one of the best examples of 20th-century rational Art Nouveau.

(Guests cover their own meal and beverage costs.)

15:00 – 17:00 – tour

Latvian National Library. Designed by American Latvian architect Gunars Birkerts, the building houses over 4 million items and opened in 2014.

17:30 – 19:00 free time

Enjoy exploring the shops and sights of Riga.

19:00 – dinner

Your host will choose a restaurant, and those interested are welcome to join!

(Guests cover their own meal and beverage costs.)



November 17 – Day trip to Jurmala

9:00 – 10:00 – Drive to Jurmala

10:00 – 11:00 –

Aspazija Museum in Dubulti. Travel back in time to the 1930's in the traditional wooden two-story house where one of the most outstanding women in the history of Latvia lived - the poetess and playwright Aspazija (1865-1943). The poetess-rebel stood for the woman of the new age - fiery, proud, independent, faithful to herself and her voice. Together with her husband - poet and public figure Rainis, Aspazija advocated the idea of an independent Latvia and was a deputy in the Latvian Constitutional Congress.



November 17, cont.

12:00 – 13:00 – tour

Ragaciems Sedums Ethnographic Open-Air Museum.
Restored traditional fisherman huts show local fishing culture and history by the sea. The *sedumi* (huts) are still used by local fisherman. A picturesque spot for walks, photos, and experiencing Latvian coastal life



13:00 – 14:00 – tasting

Ragaciems fish market. Enjoy tasting a variety of locally caught fresh and smoked seafood.

14:00 – 15:00 – drive to Marupe

15:00 – 16:00 - tasting

Laci Bakery. The bakery is famous in Latvia for its rye bread baked using centuries old traditions. Enjoy this very Latvian staple!



16:00 – 17:00 - return to Riga

19:00 – Dinner

Your host will choose a restaurant, and those interested are welcome to join!
(Guests cover their own meal and beverage costs.)

November 18

07:00 – 10:00 - service (optional)

St. Gertrude Church.

Attend service at the 15th C. Latvian Lutheran parish church.



10:00 – Independence Day celebration

Attend the Military parade and other events celebrating the 18th of November by the *Latvian Freedom Monument.*

20:00 - dinner

Enjoy a curated celebratory Independence Day and group farewell dinner at *Forest* including a performance of the traditional Latvian instrument the *kokle*.

Meal included in tour fee.

*If you would like to invite family or friends each additional person is 60.00 EUR.