

Latvia in Brief

International country abbreviation: LV

National symbols:

Foundation: 18 November 1918

red-white-red flag



coat of arms



Location: Latvia is located in the north-western part of Europe by the Baltic Sea

Territory: 64 589 km²

National anthem: Dievs, svētī Latviju!
(God, Bless Latvia!)

Population and Territory

Official language: Latvian

Population: 2 274 700 (as of 07.2007)

Capital: Rīga (population –723 931)

Cultural-historical division: 4 regions – Vidzeme, Latgale, Kurzeme and Zemgale

Largest cities: Rīga, Daugavpils,

Jelgava, Jūrmala, Liepāja, Rezekne, Ventspils

Biggest port cities: Ventspils, Rīga, Liepāja



The white wagtail (*Motacilla alba*, Latvian: baltā cielava) is Latvia's national bird.



The national flower of Latvia is a *daisy*



Rīga

Rīga is the gem of the Baltics. It is situated at the mouth of the Daugava, on the shores of the Gulf of Rīga on the Baltic. Rīga has an ancient history and rich cultural heritage. As Rīga has always been located at a juncture of trading routes, it is a multicultural city which means there are things to see here: a weekend in Rīga is a great way to gather new impressions and to relax.



Rēzekne

Rēzekne (Latvian: Rēzekne; Latgalian Rēzne or Rēzekne; German: Rositten; Polish: Rzeżyca) is a city in the Latgalia region of eastern Latvia in Rēzekne River valley, also known by the nickname Latgales sirds (Latgalian Latgolys sirds) meaning The Heart of Latgalia. Built on seven hills, Rēzekne is situated 242 kilometres east of Riga, and 63 kilometres west of the Latvian-Russian border. It has a population of 35,883 (2008), making it the 7th largest city in Latvia .



Rēzekne Castle Ruins



Kaunata



Kaunata is a village in Rezekne District Kaunatas rural Center. Resting on the lake and Kaunatas Partov River near the motorway P55 28 km from the county center in Rezekne and 274 km from Riga. The municipality is rich with lakes and forests. Picturesque hills interspersed with depressions.

Rural Municipality area has 32 lakes, the largest of which are Partovi, Idzepoles, Dzerkals, Kaunatas, Vaišļu, Dubuļu, Marguču lakes. Rāzna popular tourist lake, which is the second largest lake in Latvian. The largest swamps are blue and Izotu swamp. Rural Municipality area is one of the highest hills in Latvian:

Lielais Liepu kalns - located 3 km from the village Dubuļu Kaunatas rural municipality. The third highest peak in Latvian (289 m above sea level) and Dzerkals kalns.



Mākoņkalns

Mākoņkalns (English- Cloud Mountain) is 247,4 m high hill Latgale Upland Burzava hills, Rezekne Municipality

Hills height is ~ 50 m and is located 2.1 miles southeast of Lake Rāzna.



Andrupenes honor of the Virgin Mary built stone church was built in the 1849th on the landlord Ignatius Shadurski resources.



Andrupene Farmstead

This farmstead is an Ethnographic Museum, situated in Andrupene village in Latgale. Grownups and children will find something of interest here. The museum is a complex of buildings constructed at the beginning of the 20th century, consisting of six buildings – the dwelling house, the barn, the cattle shed, the bathhouse, and the smithy.



Aglona Basilica

Aglona Basilica was built in the late baroque style and it is decorated with two 60 metre high towers. Every year on the 15th of August, pilgrims congregate in Aglona to mark the day of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven. This is one of the best known sacred sites in the world; groins vaults, arches and columns richly decorated in rococo style can be found inside.



Aglona Bread Museum



An invitation to a discussion about bread, the process of baking bread; tasting fresh bread, herb teas, an opportunity to purchase the Aglona bread and pastry.