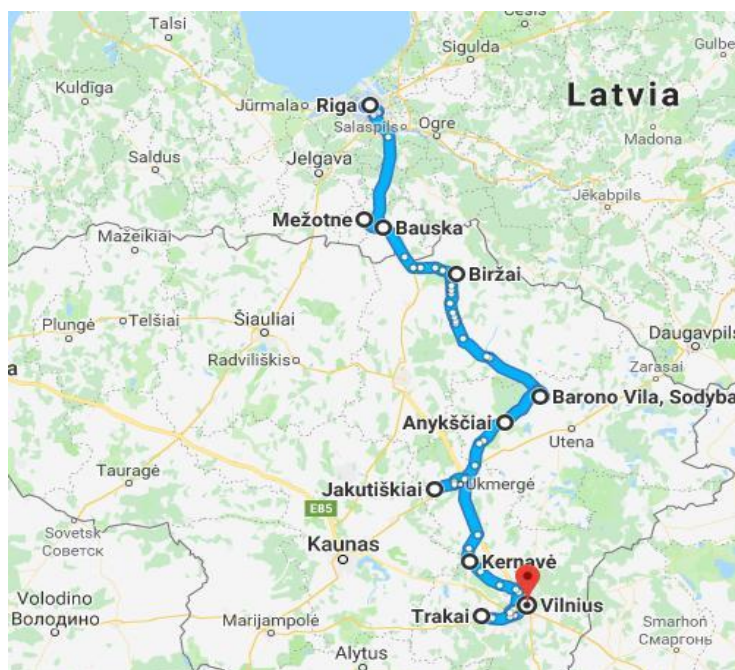




Historical Heritage at Agritourism Farms in Latvia and Lithuania

Zemgale – Aukštaitija: where wholesome food comes from (By car)

This tour offers a look at modern farms that based their work on ancient jobs and skills. Everything that is grown and processed in Latvia's countryside is found at the Central Market in Rīga, where this tour begins. It is one of the largest and oldest markets in Europe. From there you will travel to several farms to taste candy made of natural juices, cheese, grain foods, yogurt and ice cream. You will visit a traditional farm with a technology museum. Each farm will offer a brief introductory tour. Along the way, you will visit the Rundāle Castle and its park and rose garden, which were designed by the 18th century architect Rastrelli and are a true jewel of Baroque and Rococo architecture. In Bauska you will visit City Hall to see a collection of old measuring items, the Bauska Castle and the Bauska brewery. In Lithuania you will visit farms that grow lavender, medicinal plants and hemp. They will be happy to sell their products to you. The town of Anykščiai offers a trail above the trees, and the Krenave archaeological complex is on the UNESCO heritage list. At the conclusion of the tour, you will visit the Trakai lake castle that was built in the 14th and 15th centuries, as well as Vilnius.



Duration: 8 days

Length: ~ 608 km

Rīga-Iecava-Bauska-Rundāle-Mežotne-Biržai-Rokiškis-Anykščiai-Ukmergė-Kernavė-Vilnius

First day

Arrival in Rīga

Popular destinations in Rīga include Old Rīga, St Peter's Church, the Dome Cathedral, the Freedom Monument and a neighbourhood that is full of art Nouveau architecture. Visit the Rīga Central Market, which is one of the largest markets in Europe and offers products grown in Latvia. Outside the city is the popular Latvian Ethnographic Open-Air Museum. You will spend the night in Rīga.

Second day

Rīga-Iecava-Bauska-Rundāle-Mežotne (~ 105 km)

The Konfelāde factory offers sweets made of fruit juices and real sugar without E-substances or preservatives. The candy is made of pure juice with no water, and that ensure vivid and pure colours and a different taste. The company only uses fruit that is grown in Latvia.

The Bērziņš family grain farm, Labirinti, grows grain and rapeseed and offers informational seminars, as well as tours for children and adults. The farm has a collection of ancient farm equipment and dairy processing equipment.

The Celmi farm makes cheese from milk that is produced by its cows, and you can taste and buy the cheese.

The Rundāle Castle is Latvia's best known Baroque and Rococo building, and it is certainly the most important historical monument in the country that applies to these two styles. The castle was once the summer residence of Ernst Johann Byron (1690-1772), and it was designed by Italian architect Francesco Rastrelli. The castle currently is a museum, and the restored French Baroque garden is the largest garden of this type in the Baltic States.

Accommodations in Mežotne or Bauska

- Mazmežotne Estate
- Miķelis leisure complex and hotel
- Rožmalas Hotel

Third Day

Spend the day in and near Bauska (~ 50 km)

The Bauska Castle is on the banks of the Mūsa and Mēmele rivers, featuring a viewing tower. The new Bauska City Hall has a collection of old measuring equipment. You can try your hand at using ancient weights and receive a certificate to show that you did so.

The Vaidelotes farm popularises Latvian lifestyle, traditional rituals and tasty foods such as dumplings, pierogi, grain and flour pastries and other products made of things grown at the farm itself.

The Bauska brewery will tell you all about how beer is made. Tastings are available.

The Miķelis leisure complex is on the banks of the Mūsa River, offering a look at a topical farm from the 19th and 20th century, as well as a motor museum. You will enjoy Latvian culinary heritage there.

Accommodations in Mežotne or Bauska

- Mazmežotne Estate
- Miķelis leisure complex and hotel
- Rožmalas Hotel

Fourth day

Bauska-Grenctāle-Biržai-Ankyšćiai District (~ 140 km)

Rožmalas offers a fine restaurant and bakery in an old windmill. Tour the windmill, which features an exhibition about how farming has developed during the course of the centuries from antiquity to modern technologies.

The Krišjāni farm farms grain and is a dairy operation with more than 200 cows that provide milk for yogurt, cheese and ice cream.

In Biržai, visit the local castle.

The Lavandu farm offers tours and sells lavender plants, fresh and dried lavender bouquets and other products. (Dvaro Street 10, Mockūnai, Vabalninkas, Biržai District, Panevežys Region)

Accommodations in the Anykšćiai District

- Barono vila guesthouse (order meals in advance)
- Pušu takas guesthouse (order meals in advance)

Fifth day

Spend the day in and around Anykšćiai (~ 40-70 km).

Visit the treetop trail Medžių Laju takas and the Labyrinth Park (during the summer), and take a ride on the Siaurukas narrow-gauge railroad.

Ramūnas is an expert in grasses and offers educational programmes for children and adults about various grasses that grow in the Anykščiai District. He offers tastings of acorn coffee and old mixtures of grasses and teas. The programmes are organised by R. Daugelavičius at Vilniaus Street 22, Anykščiai.

Educational programmes are also offered at the Barono vila farm, which features deer and Gotland sheep. It bakes bread in a traditional oven, serves the rice dish known as plov and offers art therapy lessons.

- Barono vila guesthouse
- Sodyba geras guesthouse
- Trap liepu guesthouse (order meals in advance)

Sixth day

Ankščiai-Ukmerge-Kernave-Vilnius (~ 185 km)

A hemp farm offers tastings of 100% natural and organic hemp products that are prepared there.

Visit archaeological locations and the local museum. Kernave Culture Reserve offers thematic tours.

Then you will drive to Vilnius and visit its most important destinations before spending the night in the city.

Seventh day

Vilnius-Trakai-Vilnius (~ 58 km)

Tour the most important destinations in Vilnius, as well as the Trakai lake castle, which is the only castle of its type in Eastern Europe that is built on a small lake island. Presumably work on the castle began in the late 14th century. After a battle in 1410, when the Polish and Lithuanian military under King Jagailis defeated a force from the German Order, the castle lost its strategic military importance. Today, the Trakai lake castle is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Lithuania. It features a museum with information about the history of the region. You will spend the night in Vilnius.

Eight day

Departure. You can merge this tour with another one that ends in Rīga.

Historical Heritage at Agriculture Farms in Latvia and Lithuania Tour for gourmands

Many farms in Latvia and Lithuania grow their own produce, offer culinary masterpieces and develop traditional recipes to the best degree. Because of limited output, these delicacies seldom are found in supermarkets, and that is why we have organised this gourmand tour for those who enjoy new tastes.

You will start your tour in Vilnius and then travel to Trakai, where the local ethnographic museum will offer local dishes from the Karaites ethnic minority. A look at Lithuanian farm life from the 18th to the 20th century will be available at the Rumšiškės Ethnographic Museum. After travelling through Kaunas, you will visit a honey farm that offers honey and wax candles, as well as tastings of honey beer. The Pakruojis Dvaras estate is a place where you will feel like a nobleman from the 19th century and enjoy a real banquet at the estate's restaurant. Further along, you will visit Cross Hill, which has countless crosses that have been planted there by people who express their Christian fervour in that way. Next you will visit an alpaca farm where you will be able to pet, feed and take photographs with these unusual animals. The day will end at a farm that will serve traditional Lithuanian foods for dinner. When you arrive in Latvia, the first destination will be a farm that produces seven kinds of cheeses. Along the way you will find the Tērvete Ancient History Museum and the Tērvete Nature Park. After the tour, you will enjoy a fine meal at a countryside saloon. A bakery near Svēte offers tasty cookies and pastries. After a stroll through the town of Jelgava, you will visit the Caunītes farm, where you will learn how to bake bread and bake your own loaf to take along. Along the way to Rīga, visit "Garlic World." Latvian garlic has a particularly strong aroma and taste, and the lady of the house prepares many unusual dishes with garlic.

Duration: 6 days

Length: ~ 485 km

Vilnius-Trakai-Kaunas-Šiauliai-Pakruojis-Jelgava-Rīga

First day

Arrival in, examination of and accommodations in Vilnius.

Second day**Vilnius-Trakai-Rumšiškės-Kaunas (~ 117 km)**

The Trakai lake castle is the only castle of its type in Eastern Europe that is built on a small lake island. Presumably work on the castle began in the late 14th century. After a battle in 1410, when the Polish and Lithuanian military under King Jagailis defeated a force from the German Order, the castle lost its strategic military importance. Today, the Trakai lake castle is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Lithuania. It features a museum with information about the history of the region. You will spend the night in Vilnius.

The Karaites Ethnographic Museum is based on a small Turkish nation that emerged in the 8th century in Persia. The Karaites language is still spoken in Lithuania, and the museum focuses on Karaites in Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine. National dishes are served at various cafeterias and restaurants in Trakai.

The Rumšiškės Open-Air Folklore Museum is one of the largest museums of its type in Europe, covering 194 ha of territory and with 91,420 items in its exhibit.

Accommodations:

- Guronys guesthouse (order meals in advance)
- Pas pona guesthouse (order meals in advance)

Third day**Kaunas-Kedainiai District-Pakruojis (~ 160 km)**

Kaunas is the second largest city in Lithuania, and it was the capital city of the country from 1920 until 1939. It is worth visiting Old Kaunas, City Hall, the St Peter and Paul Cathedral and Basilica, the Thunder building, Laisvės Alley, the Čiurlionis Museum of Art and the Devil Museum.

Taste honey and honey beer at the Šušvės midus farm, where you can find a wide range of beekeeping products such as natural wax candles and several types of honey beer.

Pakruojis muižas is the largest ensemble of estate buildings in Lithuania. You will see how the estate operated and the everyday lives of the Byron family and its servants. The estate also has an excellent restaurant where you can have lunch.

Accommodations in Pakruojis

- Pakruojo dvaras

Fourth day**Pakruojis-Šiaulai-Eleja-Tērvete (~ 125 km)**

Kryžiu kalnas is a hillock on which people from all around the world have planted crosses for several centuries to demonstrate respect and trust for Christianity and Christ. This is an expression of religion and a symbol of faith, love and sacrifice, not death. The pope visited the hill to bless Lithuanian and Christian Europe.

The alpaca farm offers a small zoo for individuals and groups. Learn all about alpacas in terms of their origins, their appearance in Lithuania and the appearance of their wool. The farm features alpacas, llamas, camels, goats and rabbits that you can feed, pet and take photographs with.

The Girele guesthouse and restaurant offers tasty meals, leisure and an enjoyable environment. Traditional Lithuanian dishes are available.

The Blūdži farm offers tastings of cheese from the Mākalni family farm (contact the farm in advance for tastings). There are seven types of cheese, including smoked and matured cheeses, as well as bread that is baked at the farm.

The Tērvete Ancient History Museum and Wooden Castle offer the largest exhibition in the Baltic States about the culture of Semigallians during the Iron Age. There are many ornaments, weapons and tools, including the largest collection of swords in the Baltic States.

For meals we recommend:

- Pūtelkrogs café
- Mammadaba café
- Zoltners restaurant

Accommodations near Tērvete

- Pūtelkrogs guesthouse
- Ores weekend home

Fifth day**Tērvete-Jelgava-Rīga (~ 80 km)**

The Svēte bakery bakes bread in an oven that is fired with firewood. The bakery uses ancient recipes and local ingredients that are not genetically modified to bake bread, cookies and other baked goods. Small groups can take a tour, learn more about the bakery and taste and buy the goodies that it offers.

Tour the city of Jelgava, including the Jelgava Castle.

The Caunītes farm operates on the basis of Latvian traditions, offering an experience of true Latvian lifestyles. The owners have combined modern elements with an ancient atmosphere. The main building on the farm is a granary with a bread oven.

Garlic World offers marinated garlic blossoms, various mixtures of vegetables, garlic crackers. Etc.

Spend the night in Rīga.

Sixth day

Departure