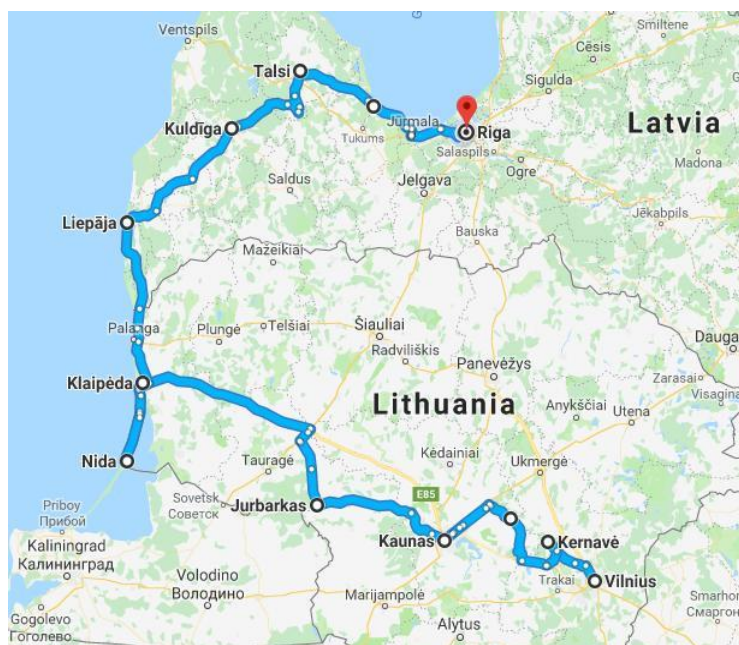




Historical Heritage at Agritourism Farms in Latvian and Lithuania Žemaitija – Kurzeme: eco, bio and ethno farms invite you

This tour will surprise you with the diversity and unusual products of farms. You will visit several farms that offer ecological produce that can be tasted and purchased. From Vilnius, you will travel to an ecological goat farm that offers 60 types of cheeses made of goat milk. Next you will visit an ethnographic Lithuanian farm that breeds horses and sheep. You will spend a day in Kaunas to visit the Nemuna River valley, as well as the Raudone and Panemune castles. A picnic at a farm with acorn coffee, pancake baked on a campfire and soup made of locally picked wild mushrooms. The ecological Buivydai farm breeds cattle and grows blackberries. Along the way you will visit the Courlandian Dune, the Sea Museum and Delphinarium and the most popular spa town in the dunes, Nida. From there you will drive to Latvia, where the Pape Nature Park offers a look at wild horses, and the ethnographic Ķoņi village is an old seashore fishermen's village. In Liepāja, it will be worth visiting the local market, which is more than 100 years old and offers seasonal vegetables, fruit, greens and flowers from local farms. Next you will visit an environmentally friendly farm that has 130 different types of apples and a wine operation that prepares wines from local fruits and berries. The farm uses biodynamic farming principles to grow beans and peas, as well as to breed livestock so as to produce tasty sausages. Next you will visit the lovely Medieval town of Kuldīga and its brick bridge across the Venta River. An environmental health farm will allow you to enjoy herbal teas and learn about various ecological cosmetics made of plants from the clean environment. Along the way you will enjoy the landscape of the ancient Abava River Valley and visit the Sabile wine hill where grapes are grown to produce local wines. Next you will visit the charming small town of Talsi, where you will find the Latvian Agriculture Museum. The tour will conclude at a farm which grows fruits and vegetables and offers syrups, jams and canned vegetables. You will complete your tour in Rīga.



Duration: 10 days

Length: ~ 1,020 km

Vilnius-Kernavė-Kaunas-Jurbarkas-Klaipėda-Nida-Palanga-Liepāja-Kuldīga-Talsi-Rīga

First day

You will arrive in Vilnius, tour its most attractive destinations and spend the night.

Second day

Vilnius-Maišiagala-Kernave-Kaišiadoriai District (~ 170 km)

The D. Emužyte ecological goat farm offers some 60 types of cheeses, some of which are part of Lithuania's cultural heritage. The cheeses can be used for salads or eaten with honey. Some are meant for desserts, while others have mould or hemp. Sweet milk cheese is also produced here (Širvintos, Jaunūnai, village of Griciūnai)

Visit the archaeological museum and take part in thematic tours in the Kernave Culture Reserve.

The Senoji Gegužine farm will inform you about horses and sheep. The architect, ethnographer and farmer Rolandas will tell you about the history of the village and his family. You will learn about ethnographic architecture and several art exhibitions. (Order meals in advance)

Accommodations in the Kaišiadoriai District:

- Senosios Gegužinės ukis guesthouse
- Guronys guesthouse

Third day

Kaišiadoriai District-Kaunas (~ 65 km)

Kaunas is Lithuania's second city and was the capital of the country from 1920 until 1939. It is worth visiting the Old Town, City Hall, the St Peter and St Paul Cathedral and Basilica, the Thunder building, Laisve alley, the Čiurlionis Art Museum and the Devil Museum.

For meals in Kaunas we recommend:

- Višta puode restaurant
- Talutti restaurant

Accommodations in Kaunas:

- Kaunas Hotel
- Hofhotel

Fourth day

Kaunas-Raudone-Jurbarkas (~ 90 km)

The Raudondvaris castle is a monument to Renaissance architecture in Lithuania. The castle was built in the 17th century. The territory has a 3.8 hectare park and has two buildings for servants, a pergola, a stable and an ice storage facility.

The Raudone castle is currently a school. Visitors can look at its tower (33.5 metres high).

The Panemune castle is a Renaissance-style residential castle that is on the high shore of the Nemuna River. Nearby is an old park with five multi-level waterfalls. The park was partly destroyed when many linden trees and other trees were chopped down during the post-war period.

The Kukarske farm offers training in collecting medicinal plants that grow in and around the Paukščių ūkis farm. Teas are available for tasting, acorn coffee is prepared, heart-shaped pancakes are baked, eggs are baked on a campfire, mushrooms are collected, mushroom soup is cooked on a campfire, tortes are baked and tasted, wool is felted, decoupage is offered, flowers are arranged, and sauna swatches and masks are tied. There is also a sauna programme with a specialist.

For meals we recommend:

- The restaurant at the Raudondvaris castle
- The restaurant at the Panemune castle

Accommodations in Jurbarkas:

- The Kukarske guesthouse (order meals in advance)
- The Jurodis guesthouse (order meals in advance)
- The A. Ašmoniene guesthouse (order meals in advance)

Fifth day

Jurbarkas-Klaipeda District-Courlandian Dunes (~ 220 km)

The ecological Buivydzai cattle farm welcomes groups of guests. You will see Aubrakai-breed cattle that originated in the Aubrac region of France. The farm also grows oats, spelt and blackberries, and fresh beef can be purchased.

Visit the Sea Museum and Delphinarium, an ethnographic seashore fisherman's home, as well as an exhibition of the history of shipping and nature at the Nerija Fort. We recommend a tour of the Courlandian Dunes to see unique sand dunes and visit the historical spa town of Nida.

Accommodations in the Courlandian Dunes:

- The Ažuolynas Hotel
- The Jelita Hotel
- The Prie Mariu guesthouse

Sixth day

Courlandian Dunes-Palanga-Liepāja (~ 170 km)

The Pape Nature Park and Ķonuciems in Pape. The village is one of the few fishermen's villages that have preserved an authentic environment to the present day. The Latvian Ethnographic Outdoor Museum has a branch here, Vītolnieki. Wild horses graze in the park.

Among the most important destinations in Liepāja are the war port and prison. The northern part of the fort includes the so-called military port, which was opened to the public after the restoration of Latvia's independence. Interesting things to look at are the forts, the defensive walls, the St Nicholas Maritime Cathedral, the water tower, the sports hall, the port prison, the Oskars Kalpaks bridge etc.

The Pēteris Market in Liepāja offers fresh vegetables, fruits, berries, etc. It is one of the oldest markets in Latvia and is more than 100 years old. On Wednesdays, the Lauku sēta pilsētā (Country Farm in the City) herbal market offers local goodies.

For meals we recommend:

- The Jūrnieka ligzda restaurant
- The Pastnieka māja restaurant
- The Upe restaurant

Accommodations in and around Liepāja:

- The Ezera māja guesthouse
- The Poriņš guesthouse
- The Vērbeņieki guesthouse
- The Brakši weekend house

Seventh day

Liepāja-Durbe-Aizpute-Kuldīga (~ 97 km)

The Eko Vīns wine making facility is an outstanding place to see how wine is made. Taste rhubarb, black currant and strawberry wine together with local goodies such as cheese. Local farmers provide the ingredients for the wine.

The Kūdrāji farm grows peas, groats and beans and breeds cattle. Tours are available to learn more about biodynamic techniques.

The Jokas farm has some 70 heads of cattle, as well as five horses. It offers sausages and other meat products, as well as other services such as forestry and fishery.

Kuldīga is an enchanting small town with romantic wooden building and the Venta Waterfall, which is the widest waterfall in Latvia.

For meals we recommend:

- SS Beķereja bakery in Aizpute
- Bangert's restaurant in Kuldīga
- Pīlādzītis café in Kuldīga

Accommodations in and near Kuldīga:

- Kauši guesthouse
- Elzas māja weekend house
- Metropole Hotel

Eighth day

Kuldīga-Renda-Sabile-Talsi-Engure-Jūrmala-Rīga (205 km)

The Upmaļi farm (120 ha) grows and processes everything that is needed for nutrition and health, just has always been the case -- grain, hemp, cattle, fruits, vegetables and more than 60 medicinal plants that are turned into original products such as cosmetics, special balsams, plant-based soap, etc.

The beautiful Abava River Valley and the Sabile Wine Hill have been known since the ages of the Duchy of Courland as a place where grapes were grown to produce wine for the entire duchy.

The Abava ģimenes vīna darītava farm began operations in 2010 with 3,500 grapes. It also offers rhubarb, pumpkins and other fruits and vegetables. A tour is available to learn about how wine is made, and you can taste and buy the wines. The farm is in a lovely location along the upper stretches of the Abava River Valley.

Talsi is a small town built on nine hills. The Latvian Agriculture Museum offers a look at the countryside, the development of farming, and evidence about farming and life in Latvia's countryside from the late 19th century to the present day. Visitors can examine various kinds of land processing, farming, harvesting and processing equipment, as well as various kinds of tools.

At the Kangari farm, the lady of the house uses vegetables and fruits to produce tasty syrups, jams, marinades and dried fruit. You can taste and buy the products, tour a snail farm and taste a special dish that is made of escargots.

Along the way to Rīga, stop in the spa town of Jūrmala.

For meals we recommend:

- Abavas Pagrabiņš café
- Martinelli restaurant in Talsi
- Serpentīns café
- Neptūns restaurant
- Kūriņš restaurant

Spend the night in Rīga.

Ninth day

Visit interesting locations in Rīga and then spend the night there.

Tenth day

Departure