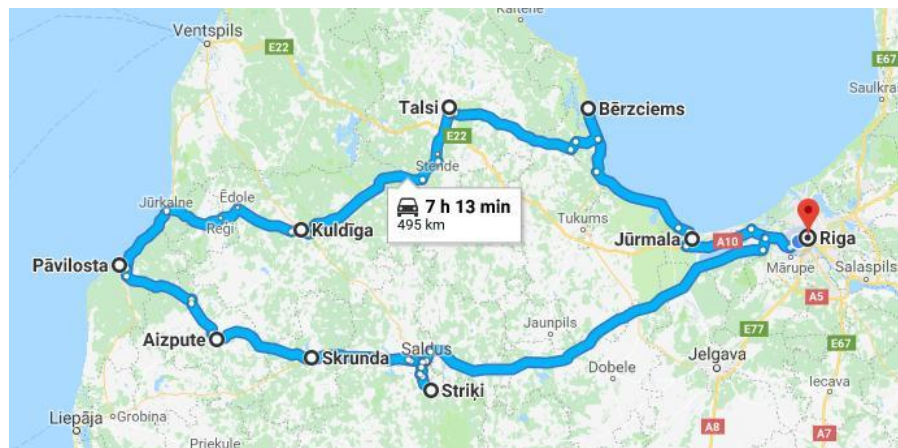




Kurzeme: farming heritage in today's life

This trip will allow you to visit a farm in Kurzeme and to experience the diversity of its output. Tasty and interesting! From Rīga, the road will lead you along the Gulf of Riga and through fishing villages which are full of the aroma of smoked fish. On the way to Talsi, you will visit an orchard and farm that produces apple chips. Talsi is known not just as the town on nine hills, but also as the home of the tasty "Talsi Wheel" brand of cheese. Also here is the Latvian Agriculture Museum with an exhibition about farming from the late 19th century to the present day. The symbol of Kuldīga is a red brick bridge across the Venta River, as well as the charming Old Town. Next you will visit the seashore to learn about fishing, fish smoking and bread baking traditions. Visit the unique steep shores of Jūrkalne. On the way back you will visit a winemaking facility and a farm where shiitake mushrooms are grown. You will also learn about the path of milk from a cow to finished dairy products and visit a farm at which people will tell you about the story of their family which dates back to the age of noblemen and baronial estate.



Duration: 3 days

Length: ~464 km

Rīga-Jūrmala-Engure-Talsi-Kuldīga-Jūrkalne-Pāvilosta-Aizpute-Skrunda-Rīga

First day

Rīga-Jūrmala-Engure-Talsi-Kuldīga (~ 190 km)

Dienīšas is a fisherman's farm where men have gone fishing for the past three generations. Visitors can purchase smoked local fish, and groups of tourists can take part in an active leisure

and cultural event at which nutritious fish dishes can be tasted.

The Kurzemnieki farm grows and processes apples into dried apples, apple chips and apple juice. You can take an informative tour and taste and buy the products. The farm is in a lovely place -- the Hillocks of Talsi Nature Park.

Talsi is said to have been built on nine hills and has unusual buildings and landscapes thanks to nine hillocks -- Pilskalns, Ķēniņkalns, Leču kalns, Tiguļu kalns, Sauleskalns, Baznīckalns, Krievragkalns, Vilcumuižas kalns and Dzirnāvkalns. After touring the city drop by the shop of the Talsi Dairy to buy its best known product -- Talsi Wheel cheese.

The Latvian Agriculture Museum in Talsi offers a look to residents and guests about Latvia's countryside, the development of various agricultural sectors, as well as tangible and intangible evidence of farming and life in Latvia's countryside from the late 19th century to the present day.

Dining along the way:

- Tupenškrogs
- Bermudas seafood restaurant
- Cope Ridelos café
- Martinelli restaurant in Talsi
- Bangert's restaurant in Kuldīga

Accommodations in Kuldīga:

- Sauleskalni guesthouse
- Metropole Hotel

Second day

Kuldīga-Jūrkalne-Pāvilosta-Aizpute-Sieksāte-Skrunda (~ 125 km)

Be sure to visit Kuldīga, its bridge across the Venta River and the famous Venta waterfall.

Bake bread at the Bērziņi homestead, where fantastically tasty wheat and rye bread is baked on the basis of ancient family recipes. The taste and aroma of the bread are helped by a special bread baking oven that is more than 70 years old. You can order bread in advance. Contact the homestead in advance if you wish to bake your own loaf.

Visit the steep shores of the Baltic Sea at Jūrkalne.

Visit Dzintars Zamarītis to learn how to smoke fish.

Ekovīni in Aizpute offers the cellar of a former baronial estate at which you can listen to stories about the art of winemaking at home. You will taste rhubarb, black currant and strawberry wine together with local country goodies such as cheese. The wine is made from produce that is provided by local farmers.

Dining along the way:

- Spēlmaņu saloon
- Pilsberģi saloon
- Zaķi saloon
- Rozes Dairy Estate saloon

Accommodations near Skrunda:

- Garīkas farm
- Skrunda Estate
- Milk Estate or Berghof

Third day

Skrunda-Saldus-Rīga (150 km)

Garīkas was the first farm to grow shiitake mushrooms. Take a tour to get some advice about the process. You will have a tasty meal of Emperor mushroom sauces or soups.

The Milk Museum has been in the granary and cheese house of the former Sieksāte (Berghof) Estate since 1985, offering an exhibition to track the path of milk from the cow to finished dairy products. You can try your hand at milking a cow and churning butter, after which you will be able to taste the results. A garden of deer is also there.

The Puteņi farm features fowl and pets that are typical of Latvia. There is an organised trail down the "trail of Baron von Behr." The lady of the house offers experiences related to annual rituals, as well as the secrets of making caraway seed cheese and other Latvian dishes.

Dining along the way:

- Skrunda Estate restaurant
- Dzirnaviņas café
- Eglieni saloon
- Café at Lāči bakery