



Baltic
Country
Holidays

countryholidays.lv



HERITAGE AGRITOURISM

PRODUCT MANUAL





Legend • Zeichenerklärung • Условные знаки

- | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| | Motorway • European road number
Autobahn • Europas Straßennummer
Автомостраль • Номер дороги | | Other roads
Andere Strassen
Прочие дороги | | Airport • Bus terminal
Flughafen • Busbahnhof
Аэропорт • Автобусная станция |
| | Trunk road
Fernverkehrsstraße
Магистральная дорога | | Ferry
Fähre
Паром | | National boundary
Staatsgrenze
Граница государства |
| | Main road
Hauptstrasse
Главная дорога | | Railway • Station
Eisenbahn • Bahnhof
Железная дорога • Станция | | National capital
Hauptstadt eines Staates
Столица государства |

0 35 km

Riga

HOW TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM LATVIA AND LITHUANIA

It is very easy to visit both Latvia and Lithuania in one trip for a variety of reasons: the travelling distances between and within the countries are relatively short due to their relatively small size, there are no border formalities between them since they both belong to the European Union and they share the same time zone, currency, and climate.



AIR

International airports are located in Rīga and Vilnius. Some international airlines fly to regional airports in Kaunas and Palanga, Lithuania. There are also flights between Rīga, Vilnius and Kaunas.

AIRPORTS

LATVIA

Rīga www.Riga-airport.com

LITHUANIA

Vilnius www.vilnius-airport.lt

Kaunas www.kaunas-airport.lt

Palanga www.palanga-airport.lt

AirLINES

airBaltic

The national Latvian airline offering flights to over 50 destinations in Europe and beyond from Rīga, Vilnius and Tallinn.

www.airbaltic.com



COACHES

Lux Express: www.luxexpress.eu

Ecolines: www.ecolines.eu

Euroline: www.eurolines.eu

A coach trip between Vilnius and Rīga takes approximately 3.5 hours.



LOCAL BUSES

Latvia: www.autoosta.lv

Enquiry service, including public transport: www.1188.lv

Lithuania: www.autobusustotis.lt



TRAINS

Latvia: www.pv.lv

Enquiry service, including public transport: www.1188.lv

Lithuania: www.litrail.lt



FERRIES

Several ferry ports connect the Baltics with Germany and Sweden.

They are: Rīga, Ventspils and Liepāja in Latvia and Klaipeda in Lithuania.

FERRY LINES

Tallink Silja Line

The leading provider of high quality mini-cruise and passenger transport services in the northern Baltic Sea region.

Routes: Helsinki – Tallinn, Helsinki – Stockholm, Rīga – Stockholm, Tallinn – Stockholm.

www.tallinksilja.com

Stena Line

One of the largest ferry operators in the world.

Passenger and freight transport services in the Baltic Sea region. Ferries between Latvia and Sweden and between Latvia and Germany.

Ventspils – Nynäshamn

Liepāja – Travemünde

www.stenaline.com

DFDS Seaways

European cruises and ferry crossings. Passenger and freight transport services in the Baltic Sea region.

Ferries between Lithuania and Sweden

and between Lithuania and Germany.

Klaipeda – Karlshamn

Klaipeda – Kiel

www.dfdsseaways.com

Local ferries in Lithuania

Local ferries operate between

the Curonian Spit and Klaipeda.

www.keltas.lt



CAR RENTAL

Avis, Budget, Sixt and Hertz are international car rental companies with a worldwide network and a standardised level of service.

www.avis.com

www.sixt.com

www.hertz.com



ABOUT THE AGRI-HERITAGE PRODUCT

This manual presents themed heritage agritourism farm visits and routes for groups and individual travellers in Latvia and Lithuania. The topic introduces the tradition of agriculture and its continuation in modern farming in both countries. Tour visits demonstrate, in an attractive way, the country living of today – innovative small farms and craft businesses that are based on traditional occupations and that have successfully adapted to modern needs by producing competitive products and finding their market niche. Some of the large industrial farms have also developed visitor programmes. They demonstrate today's farming technologies and products and show the history of the development of their farms. Respecting their heritage, some farms expose collections of working tools, farm machinery, vintage cars and other attractive exhibits. The farms also offer specialised study visits for farming professionals.

We define heritage agritourism as follows:



The offer of heritage agritourism involves farms that are open to visitors, interactive museums, private collections and other places where people can learn about life in the countryside and the historical heritage that is linked to agriculture. Visitors will learn about manufacturing processes from start to finish. This can involve modern farms, which offer visitors a look at their work and their history. The aspect of historical heritage also includes the effects of all kinds of eras and cultures – those that have left an imprint on the present-day lives of those continuing the tradition of agricultural work in the countryside.

INFO:

www.celotajs.lv

www.atostogoskaime.lt

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF FARMING IN LATVIA AND LITHUANIA

FARMING

The oldest crop in our territory is barley and the oldest vegetables are turnips and cabbages. Tomatoes were the last crop to be planted and they only became important for trading in the early 20th century. During the 14th and 15th centuries, noble estates began to produce foodstuffs for the market and the selection of types of crops began in the 19th century. Then, agrarian reforms were implemented in Latvia and Lithuania in the early 20th century, with new farms being established. After the Soviet occupation, collective farms were established.

LIVESTOCK BREEDING

Beginning in the 13th century, livestock breeding became the second most important activity after farming. The aim was to provide people with food (beef, mutton, pork, milk, butter), to ensure pulling power (horses and bulls), to obtain wool for clothing and to raise horses for military needs. Beekeeping was an important secondary sector.

FISHING

Traditions and stories about fishing in the sea, lakes and largest rivers are still popular. During the age of noblemen, fishermen paid fees by providing sprats and herring. During the 19th century, fishermen established co-operatives and invented new fishing equipment so that more fish could be caught.

FRUIT ORCHARDS

This is an area which began its rapid development in the 19th century. Baronial estates were schools for Latvian and Lithuanian farmers and gardeners, the gardens of which were used to produce apples, cherries, plums, pears, red currants, gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries and even grapes, peaches and apricots.

CRAFTSMANSHIP

Until the 9th century, farmers made tools for household life and work themselves. During the 19th century, small industrial factories were established at estates and in cities. The flourishing of the industry in the 20th century led to a decline in craftsmanship, but handmade items and ancient skills are once again respected today.

For more info on heritage aspects of Agriculture in Latvia and Lithuania:

www.celotajs.lv/agriheritage

www.atostogoskaime.lt/en/agriculture-today/



OPEN FARMS

The farms described below represent different themes of agri-heritage and the hosts are well experienced in hosting visitors. For most of these farms their main business is agricultural and food production. Some are specialised demonstration farms. The farms selected here are conveniently located to main roads and are easy to reach.

GROUP SIZE:

the minimum and maximum group size is indicated in each farm description. It is also mentioned whether or not individual visitors are accepted.

LANGUAGES:

interpreter services might be necessary. Excursion languages are shown in each farm description.

PROGRAMME:

generally, programmes consist of the following: an introduction/presentation of the hosts and the farm, an excursion, themed interactive elements, e.g., making your own loaf of bread, and product tasting. The average programme duration is 1.5 – 2 hours. Programmes can be modified according to customer interests and needs. Master classes can also be organised.

ARRANGEMENTS:

visits can be organised by contacting the hosts directly by phone or e-mail. Contact details are shown in the farm description.

For arranging tour services please contact:

- **Baltic Country Holidays** at lauku@celotajs.lv
- **Lithuanian Countryside Tourism Association** at administracija@atostogaskaime.lt



Some of the farms in Latvia presented here bear the label “**Latvian eco-product**”. This trade mark belongs to the “**Association of Latvian Organic Agriculture**” (www.lbla.lv), an NGO for organic farmers in Latvia, and the farms are certified by accredited national certification organisations.

LATVIA

CAUNĪTES

COUNTRY HOUSE, BREAD BAKING WORKSHOP

SEASON: January – December

FOR WHOM: individuals (min. 2 pers.) or groups (min. 8 – max. 15)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 2.5 hours

LANGUAGES: LV, EN

WEBSITE: www.caunites.lv

Bread baking is one of the most honoured traditional skills in Latvia. The host bakes bread from rye, wheat, buckwheat and barley. Both finely ground flour and wholemeal flour is used. Today, there is great interest in old recipes, bread baking methods and the use of organic ingredients as many families are opting for a healthy lifestyle. Caunītes country house keeps Latvian traditions alive and demonstrates them to visitors. The house is designed and decorated in the traditional Latvian style and exudes an authentic ambience while having modern facilities. Under the guidance of the hostess, visitors will bake their own loaf of sweet and sour bread in a wood-fired bread oven.

PROGRAMME:

- Meet the hostess, introduction to Caunītes country house.
- Bread baking workshop. Making bread loaves from a previously prepared dough. When the loaves are ready, the hostess will put them in the oven.
- Lunch while the bread is baking – a traditional meal of soup and bread.
- Taking the bread out of the oven. Guests will get their own loaves to take with them.

ADDRESS:
“Caunītes”, Cenu pag.,
Ozolnieku nov., LV – 3018, Latvia

DISTANCE FROM RĪGA: 40 km



LATVIA

TURAIIDAS

CERTIFIED ORGANIC FARM: HERBAL TEAS, HONEY



SEASON: January – December

FOR WHOM: groups – max 25 persons

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 2 hours

LANGUAGES: LV, RU, LT

WEBSITE: www.manteja.lv

Turaidas is one of the smallest organic farms in Latvia, with 2.4 ha of land. The farm produces herbal teas using lemon balm, raspberry, tansy, alchemilla, Plantago major, linden and other. The farm also has beehives to produce honey. The farm products are sold on site. The lady of the house also makes woven fences and she can offer a master class as an optional program.

PROGRAMME:

- Meet the hosts, general introduction to Turaidas farm.
- Presentation – the hostess explains about the herbs that are collected in a large basket while guests are seated around the room and tasting the herbal teas.
- Tea production facility, explanation of the processes.
- Tasting fresh water from the well in the yard.
- A tour of the apiary with a demonstration of the beekeeper's work.
- Tasting of different sorts of honey.

ADDRESS:
"Turaidas" Dunalka, Dunalkas pag.,
Durbes nov., LV – 3452, Latvia

DISTANCE FROM RĪGA: 199 km



LATVIA

JURI

CERTIFIED ORGANIC DAIRY FARM,
CHEESE PRODUCTION



SEASON: January – December

FOR WHOM: individuals (min. 1 pers.) or groups
(min. 10 – max. 40)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 1 – 1.5 hours

LANGUAGES: LV, RU, EN

WEBSITE: http://www.celotajs.lv/lv/e/zs_juri

The farm dates back to the 1920's. The main building is a traditional wooden house with a decorative trim and window shutters. The present owners inherited it from their grandfather and left the city life in the 1990's to take over the farm. The owners use the milk from their own herd of approximately 10 cows to produce cheeses based on both old and modern recipes. Cow milk cheeses from the farm include "Juri" cheese, which is a white cheese, "Jurjānu" cheese, which is a cheese with caraway seeds, "Martnella", which is a version of Mozzarella, "Rušona" cheese, which is made from fresh milk, and "Pakša" cheese, which is traditional dried Latgalian cheese made from cottage cheese. The cheese is sold to restaurants, in farmers markets, and in shops in the nearest towns and in Riga. Visitors can buy the cheese directly from the farm.

PROGRAMME:

- Meet the hosts, general introduction to the Juri farm history and the origins of the local cheese making traditions.
- See the dairy cows in outdoor enclosures.
- See the cheese production process.
- Presentation and tasting of the 5 types of cheese produced on the farm.

ADDRESS:
"Juri", Lubāni, Rušonas pag.,
Riebiņu nov., LV – 5329, Latvia

DISTANCE FROM RĪGA: 222 km



LATVIA

KOLNASĀTA

BEER PRODUCER

SEASON: May – October

FOR WHOM: groups – max. 50 persons

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 1 – 1.5 hours

LANGUAGES: LV, RU

WEBSITE:

http://www.celotajs.lv/en/e/latgales_alus_kolnasata

This farm brews traditional Latgalian beer. This beer has a distinguishable smoky taste that comes from the malt which is made from the grain grown on the farm and dried in the bath house. The beer is brewed in wooden barrels and only natural ingredients are used. The owner also offers country goodies as snacks, which are based on Latgalian traditions. Beer is sold on site if pre-ordered.

PROGRAMME:

- Meet the hosts, general introduction to the Kolnasāta farmstead and the Latgalian traditional beer culture.
- Tour of the brewery, demonstration of the beer making process.
- Tastings.

ADDRESS:

Stacijas iela 4, Bērzpils, Bērzpils pag., Balvu nov., LV – 4576, Latvia

DISTANCE FROM RĪGA: 222 km



LATVIA

UNTUMI

HORSE FARM

SEASON: April – November

FOR WHOM: groups (min. 4 – max. 30)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: up to 3 hours

LANGUAGES: LV, RU, EN, Latgalian

WEBSITE: www.untumi.lv

This farm is conveniently located 4 km from Rēzekne, within easy reach from the main road. The farm maintains a herd of horses and purchases horses that satisfy historical requirements related to species of horses in Latvia. Visitors can learn to ride a horse in the company of a certified instructor. Experienced riders can enjoy rides through the beautiful landscape. The horses are also used for weddings and other ceremonies. Equine-assisted therapy is offered by a certified riding therapy instructor and well-trained therapy horses. Gymnastics on horseback is another training programme aimed at improving balance, coordination and agility. The hostess also offers a master class “How to harness a horse”. There are 3 optional programmes for visitors.

PROGRAMME:

- Farm excursion: meet the hosts, learn about the farm history and operations today, as well as how many and what breeds of horses are kept. Upon prior arrangement, guests can take a horseback

ride or a cart ride. There are 5–6 horses available for a visitor group.

- Master class “How to harness a horse”: meet the hosts, introduction about the farm, explanation of the equipment and demonstration of

ADDRESS:

“Untumi”, Spundžāni, Ozolmuižas pag., Rēzeknes nov., LV – 4601, Latvia

DISTANCE FROM RĪGA: 235 km



harnessing a horse. Programme duration ~1 hour. Extra option – upon prior arrangement guests can try their hand at harnessing a horse.

- Wedding programme: a ride in a horse driven cart, a photo session, quiz games.



LATVIA

AUSEKĻU DZIRNAVAS

FARM MUSEUM

SEASON: May – September

FOR WHOM: individuals (min. 1 pers.) or groups (up to 50)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 1.5 – 2 hours

LANGUAGES: LV, RU

WEBSITE: www.ausekludzirnavas.lv

Opened in the autumn of 2009, a Latvian traditional farm with a collection of cars, machinery, and household items has been created and is being further developed up to this day. The venue also features campgrounds, a tent area, playgrounds for children, swimming spots and other amenities.

In the historic mill, which is now an ethnographic museum, two traditional festivities are held – in the spring “Spring work in a country farm” (the 2nd Saturday of May) and in the autumn “Harvest Festival” (the 2nd Saturday of September). The events show tools and mechanisms in action, including a steam powered threshing machine, and visitors are invited to take part in the activities.

The yard holds an exhibit of decorative wheels and old millstones. The main attributes of a peasant’s home, including farm horse tools e.g. ploughs, cultivators, and all the horse-drawn accessories are arranged in one place, while the traditional Latvian women’s world can be found in the so-called “grandmother’s room”. There is also a blacksmith’s forge including a workplace with an anvil, a blacksmith’s fan, and a wheel shed with claw machines and other tools. The museum offers guided tours for groups. Traditional Latgalian meal.

PROGRAMME:

- Meet the guide, introduction.
- A tour of the museum buildings and exhibitions: the windmill,

ADDRESS:

“Ausekļu dzirnavas”, Bārbeles pag., Vecumnieku nov., LV – 3905, Latvia

DISTANCE FROM RĪGA: 70 km



the farm machinery, the smithy, collections of shoe making, carpentry, ironing, photography equipment, radios, coins and paper money, childrens’ toys, etc.

- During the excursion visitors can try out milling flour in the windmill.



LATVIA

LATGOLYS ŠMAKOVKA

DISTILLERY

SEASON: January – December

FOR WHOM: groups (min. 4 – max. 120)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 1 hour

LANGUAGES: LV, RU, EN, DE, PL

WEBSITE: www.latgalessmakovka.lv

Malnava Estate has been producing *šmakovka* – the Latgalian traditional home-distilled product since 1827. It is made from natural ingredients only, using grain to brew beer and distilling it to produce *šmakovka*. Another recipe uses jam as Latgalians make berry and fruit jams for winter supplies, and they clean out their storage when spring comes. The distillery owner will explain about the distilling, ingredients used and traditions of the *šmakovka*. Visitors can pre-order the produce with a personalised label. The visit can be combined with enjoying a traditional Latgalian meal before or after excursions. The meal will be served in *Dzīles* bakery that is also located on the Malnava Estate grounds.

Malnava Estate is also famous as the only place in the Baltic countries that was visited by Adolf Hitler. On July 21, 1941 Hitler made a one day visit to Malnava, where the General Staff of the Eastern front was located. The bunker of the staff was not demolished and can be seen in the estate’s park.

PROGRAMME:

- Meet the host – the distillery master. Introduction of the estate’s history, a walk around the park and estate buildings and Hitler’s bunker.
- Guided tour of the distillery and explanation of the distilling equipment and process.
- Tasting of the product.
- Traditional Latgalian meal.

ADDRESS:

Kļavu iela 11, Malnava, Kārsavas nov., LV – 5750, Latvia

DISTANCE FROM RĪGA: 275 km



GULBJI

TRADITIONAL SELONIAN HOMESTEAD

SEASON: April – October

FOR WHOM: groups (min. 4 – max. 50)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: options: 1.5/2.5/3 hours

LANGUAGES: LV, RU

WEBSITE: http://www.celotajs.lv/en/e/selu_setu_gulbji

The *Gulbji* Selonian homestead stands in the site of a medieval village (10th – 12th cent.). Six generations of the same family have been living here since 1815. Visitors can see a farm and buildings typical of the historical region of Selonian. There is an exposition of old household objects and tools that have belonged to the family. The people at *Gulbji* have a natural farm, which nurtures and maintains the traditions of the historical region. They also know about the ancient rituals and energies of nature. Selonian specialties: crêpes, barley soup, thick potato soup, sautéed beans in a special sauce, semolina with fruit, bread soup with whipped cream, tortes, herbal teas and a special dish of the area known as zeppelin.

PROGRAMME:

- Introduction – the story of the Selonian people, traditional songs in the Selonian dialect.
- Demonstration of tools and work in the threshing barn.
- Smoke sauna – the story of the process, energising and healing powers, songs.
- *Sudrabavots*, the “silver spring” – an energetic place with clear and tasty spring water. Rare plants and birds like wild orchids and the kingfisher can be observed here.
- A barefoot trail through a garden collection of decorative

ADDRESS:

“Gulbji”, Rubeņi, Rubenes pag.,
Jēkabpils nov., LV-5229, Latvia

DISTANCE FROM RĪGA: 140 km



and medicinal plants.

- Lunch.
- Optional: a theatre sketch in the Selonian dialect with the participation of the Gulbji hostess who is an improvisation theatre actress. While watching, visitors can enjoy the *Gulbji* home-made wine.



AIVARS UŠPELIS

POTTER

SEASON: May – October

FOR WHOM: groups (min. 4 – max. 40)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 1 – 1.5 hours

LANGUAGES: LV, RU, Latgalian

WEBSITE: https://www.celotajs.lv/lv/e/aivars_uspelis

The attractive potter is a member of the “*Pūdņiku skūla*” (the pottery school) – a group of Latvian ceramists and followers of the popular master of ceramics Ēvalds Vasīļevskis. The pottery school members exchange experience and skills between themselves to maintain the tradition of Latgale pottery. The ceramics workshop “*Malny Wylyky*” (the black wolves) offers a look at traditional pottery work, including a foot-powered potter’s wheel and a firing pit that uses firewood and the smoke technique. Visitors can try their hand at pottery themselves. The workshop also has a collection of antique irons and farm objects that have come from the nearby area. There is also an exhibition of paintings by Vēsma Ušpele, the ceramist’s wife. Ceramic works and paintings can be purchased.

PROGRAMME:

- Demonstration of making a clay pot on the potter’s wheel.
- Explanation of the firing pit and the firing process.
- Seeing the collection of ceramics and paintings.

ADDRESS:

“Dzyndrys”, Garkalni, Maltas pag.,
Rēzeknes nov., LV – 4630, Latvia

DISTANCE FROM RĪGA: 240 km



LITHUANIA

PANEKELPIAI VILLAGE

OPEN FARM

SEASON: May-September

FOR WHOM: individuals and groups (school groups)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 1.5-2 hours

LANGUAGES: LT, EN

WEBSITE: www.panekelpiai.lt

Panekelpiai village (Panekelpių kaimas) is a farmstead belonging to a family farm. It provides educational activities about crops produced in the farm: rape, barley, wheat, beans, peas, mustard, sugar beets. The farm has spaces for events, recreation and provides accommodation services. The size of the farm is 1 900 ha.

PROGRAMME:

The educational programme presents the grain growing process, the day-to-day life of a modern farmer, interactive workshops in which participants can press rapeseed oil, take a look around the farm, learn to distinguish cereals and try their hand at using agricultural machinery.

ADDRESS:

Panekelpiai Village 1, Skėmiai Eldership, Radviliškis District LT-82300, Lithuania

DISTANCE FROM VILNIUS: 155 km



LITHUANIA

ČINSKIAI

SHEEP FARM

SEASON: May-October

FOR WHOM: groups (10-20)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 1-1.5 hours

LANGUAGES: LT, EN, DE, RU

WEBSITE: <https://www.facebook.com/CinskiuUkis/?fref=ts>

Činskiai farm has been engaged in sheep production for over a decade, in a close cooperation with partners from Lithuania and Germany. The farm participates in various projects and willingly shares its practices. The farm of about one thousand sheep not only boasts a unique location and picturesque landscape, but also offers catering, with lamb dishes, dairy products, mutton, and lamb products for sale. In Činskiai farm you will experience the true spirit of life on a farm.

PROGRAMME:

Educational cognitive workshops are organised for groups, introducing them to breeds of sheep in the farm and farming peculiarities. Upon request, lamb tastings can be organised.

ADDRESS:

Vabalai st. 1, Vabalai Village, Telšiai District, Lithuania

DISTANCE FROM VILNIUS: 280 km



LITHUANIA

JUSIAI

CATTLE AND SHEEP FARM

SEASON: January-December

FOR WHOM: groups (10 – 22)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 2-2.5 hours

LANGUAGES: LT, EN, DE, RU

WEBSITE: <https://www.facebook.com/JusiuEkoUkis/>

It is a small organic family-owned farm with a 50 ha size, that raises cattle and sheep. The farm has a small restaurant, open upon request. The beautiful surroundings and the owners' affection for good and genuine food inspired them to create a place for holistic retreats. The farm also offers beef and lamb for sale.

PROGRAMME:

The educational programme for groups presents the life of farm residents and their chores, with a farmer's lunch offered at the end of the tour, if requested.

ADDRESS:

Žarėnų st. 1, Lopaičiai Village,
Rietavas District, Lithuania

DISTANCE FROM VILNIUS: 275 km



LITHUANIA

ŠLYNINKA WATERMILL

SEASON: January-December

FOR WHOM: groups (min. 10)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 1.5-3 hours

LANGUAGES: LT, RU

WEBSITE: <http://www.slyninkosmalunas.lt>

Šlyninka watermill is a unique construction of machinery heritage with authentic equipment from three centuries that has been preserved. Various educational activities are offered in the mill. Visitors can buy eight types of four and three types of bread on site. All products have national heritage certificates. Catering services are always provided and visitors can try Smetona pancakes which also hold a national heritage certificate.

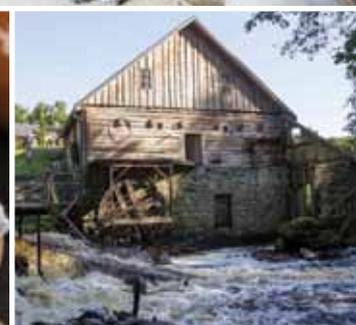
PROGRAMME:

The crafts house in Šlyninka watermill organises an educational programme of bread journey with a feast and mill viewing and the watermill educational programme with product tastings. An educational programme about mask production is held before the Lent.

ADDRESS:

Šlyninka Village, Zarasai District,
Lithuania

DISTANCE FROM VILNIUS: 145 km



LITHUANIA

ARŪNAS RUTKAUSKAS, LIMOUSIN FARM CATTLE FARM

SEASON: January-December

FOR WHOM: groups (max. 17)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 1.5 hours

LANGUAGES: LT, RU, EN

The farm of 70 ha was established in 2013 and has 60 Limousin cattle raised for further breeding, i.e. to be sold to other farmers. The farm regularly organises tours and educational programmes, during which visitors are offered a chance to feed and touch the animals and to take pictures with them. Upon request, meat tastings can also be organised at the farm.

PROGRAMME:

During the educational programme called 'Friendly beef cattle – the joy of communication', visitors have a possibility to learn more about beef cattle and the peculiarities and benefits of their producing and breeding. During the educational programme 'Safe behaviour with animals', visitors learn about the habits and communication peculiarities of beef cattle and safe behaviour with the animals.

ADDRESS:
Žirnainių st. 16, Stulgiai Village,
Kelmė District, Lithuania

DISTANCE FROM VILNIUS: 206 km



LITHUANIA

SODELIŠKIAI MANOR

SEASON: January - December

FOR WHOM: groups (min. 10)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 2.5 hours

LANGUAGES: LT, RU, LV

WEBSITE: www.sodeliskiudvaras.lt

The authentic farmstead building of the early 20th century displays ancient domestic appliances and agricultural implements. Sodeliškiai manor has the only windmill dating back to 1924 that is still operating. There is also an exposition of old cars and visitors can view animals kept at the farm, including deer, fallow deer, mouflons, alpacas, donkeys, sheep, goats, rabbits, and domestic birds. The farmstead has spaces for events, recreation (pool with sauna) and provides accommodation services.

PROGRAMME:

During the cognitive educational tour 'Grain journey', bread is baked, the ethnographic museum is visited, tastings of homemade beer and reindeer meat dishes are held. During the tour, visitors also learn about the customs, lifestyle of that time and links with neighbouring Latvians.

ADDRESS:
Sodeliškių st. 1A, Sodeliškiai Village,
Biržai District, Lithuania

DISTANCE FROM VILNIUS: 220 km



LITHUANIA

ARTISTIC VILLAGE

TRADITIONAL ARTS CENTRE

SEASON: January - December

FOR WHOM: groups (max. 20)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 2 hours

LANGUAGES: LT, EN

WEBSITE: www.meniskaskaimas.lt

The traditional crafts centre 'Artistic village' was founded in 2008. To preserve and popularise traditional black ceramics, yearly seminars of black ceramics are organised. Developing cultural and educational activities, the crafts centre organises creative camps for children, educational programmes, and ceramics exhibitions.

PROGRAMME:

- During the clay modelling programme, visitors can take a look at three different traditional wood-fired kilns: a black kiln, a starter ceramics kiln and a furnace, and make themselves a traditional jar.
- During the candle-making programme, participants can learn about beekeeping, the function of a candle in our ancestors' times and nowadays, and make themselves a candle from genuine beeswax.
- During the sash-weaving programme, the meaning of a sash is revealed, participants can weave excellent bookmarks themselves, following the example of an authentic Lithuanian sash characteristic to the Aukštaitija Region (Highlands of Lithuania).
- Participants of the wool felting programme learn about Lithuanian sheep breeds, types of wool, and felt products and they are invited to felt, rinse, shape and bring home an original warm picture.

ADDRESS:

Žvejų st. 2, Bebrusai Village, Luokė Eldership, Molėtai District, Lithuania

DISTANCE FROM VILNIUS: 65 km



LITHUANIA

ŠUŠVĖ FARMSTEAD

BEEKEEPER'S FARM

SEASON: January - December

FOR WHOM: individuals (min. 2 pers.) or groups (min. 10 – max. 15)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 2 hours

LANGUAGES: LT, EN, PL, RU

WEBSITE: www.sodybasusve.lt

Šušvė farmstead is situated on the bank of the River Šušvė, in the Pašušvys landscape reserve. The master of the farmstead is a beekeeper and producer of the old Lithuanian noble beverage – mead. Cognitive mead and honey tastings are organised. Visitors can also buy various bee products, natural wax candles, and several types of mead.

PROGRAMME:

- The educational tasting programme 'Mead was running in the river...' presents the history of the oldest Lithuanian alcoholic beverage, its consumption traditions, and peculiarities of its production.
- The educational programme 'Hard work of a bee' is held during the season only. Participants of this programme visit the apiary, learn about the life of bees, beekeeping implements, and the beehive. Visitors are given a lesson on honey extraction and invited to taste it.

ADDRESS:

Plinkaigalis Village, Krakės Eldership, Kėdainiai District, Lithuania

DISTANCE FROM VILNIUS: 167 km



LITHUANIA

PAKRUOJIS MANOR

SEASON: January - December

FOR WHOM: individuals or groups (min. 10 – max. 40)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 2 hours

LANGUAGES: LT, EN, RU

WEBSITE: <http://pakruojis-dvaras.lt>

Pakruojis manor is one of the largest surviving manor ensembles in Lithuania. The oldest buildings of the manor, which are the inn, distillery and brewery, date back to the end of the 18th century to the beginning of the 19th century. The Pakruojis manor programme 'Live museum' offers visitors an opportunity to transform themselves into real noblemen and to see the life of a manor, from manor chores, to the daily routine of manor workers and sovereigns, including a horse show, the world of smells of the perfumist Jacque, hearing the brewer's stories and of course, tasting his products.

Educative programmes of the manor are not only interesting for history lovers but also for those who want to have a good time.

PROGRAMME:

Visitors of Pakruojis manor farm can learn about the farm chores:

- Sheep shearing and wool felting. You will witness sheep shearing using old shears, followed by sheared wool washing, cleaning, drying, combing, felting, and then see how various clothes, ornaments, toys, footwear, etc. are created.
- You can try your hand at the blacksmith's craft and forge a manor coin and a nail of luck.
- The manor beekeeper will tell how bee products are made, show you ancient beehives and a beehive with a glass frame. Visitors can make their own candles from wax and taste honey, pollen and bee propolis.

ADDRESS:

Karčiamos st. 9, Pakruojis Village, Pakruojis District, Lithuania

DISTANCE FROM VILNIUS: 184 km



LITHUANIA

JADVYGA BALVOČIŪTĖ

HERB FARM

SEASON: April - September

FOR WHOM: groups (min. 10 – max. 40)

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME: 2 hours

LANGUAGES: LT, FR, RU

WEBSITE: www.jadvyga.lt

Various medicinal and culinary herbs for making teas and spices are grown in the farm. This small farm in Žemaitija (Samogitia) supplies products to the market from plants grown in Lithuania, presenting natural assets of the country. Jadvyga's herbal teas offer an excellent opportunity to get practical knowledge of a rich world of Lithuanian plants, to feel their impact on the body and soul. At the farm, visitors can buy organic plants, special herbal teas, herbal mixtures made according to Jadvyga's recipes and also book an excursion.

PROGRAMME:

In the outdoor exposition, during the plant vegetation period, visitors can view, taste, and smell various herbs, as well as see rare endangered local and decorative plants. The educational programme is held here, where visitors are provided with an opportunity to learn about various aromatic and culinary herbs and their application.

ADDRESS: Virvytės st. 27, Gyvoliai Village, Vieکشniai Eldership, Mažeikiai District, Lithuania

DISTANCE FROM VILNIUS: 286 km





AGRI-HERITAGE FARM STAYS

A true country romance can be enjoyed when staying at agricultural farms or modern rural hotels designed in a rustic style, or even in cosy guesthouses and campsites. Farm stays also offer special interest programs for guests. Some may have agricultural and household tools on display together with stories about the farm's history. Others show their collections of vintage farming machinery, cars and motorcycles. Breakfast is usually included in the overnight price and other meals can be ordered.

Self-catering options are available in places with kitchen facilities.

ACCOMMODATION:

there are SGL, TWIN and DBL rooms for guests, usually with en suite WC and shower facilities.

MEAL SERVICES:

Breakfast is usually included in the overnight price and other meals can be ordered. Self-catering options are available in places with kitchen facilities.

FACILITIES:

there is a variety of extra facilities and services for guests that are available for a separate charge, such as bathhouses or saunas, horseback riding, etc.

ARRANGEMENTS:

more information and contact details for bookings can be found through the web sites of the farms. For arrangements of tour services please contact Baltic Country Holidays at info@celotajs.lv or Lithuanian Countryside Tourism Association at administracija@atostogoskaime.lt

LATVIA

MIĶELIS HOTEL&RESTAURANT

DISTANCE: Rīga 80 km

SEASON: January – December

WEBSITE: www.mikelis.lv

ADDRESS:

“Miķelis”, Uzvara, Gailīšu pag.,
Bauskas nov., LV – 3931, Latvia



Standing on the bank of the Mūsa river, Miķelis is a place where the ancient and ethnic is intermingled with the contemporary and creative. Guests can see the largest private collection of exclusive automobiles and farm tractors in the Baltics, and an authentic farmstead from the turn of 19th–20th centuries.

ACCOMMODATION:

18 family and DBL rooms – bright, comfortable, and with picturesque views over the surrounding fields.

MEAL SERVICES:

the restaurant “Miķelis” offers traditional and modern Latvian cuisine.

FACILITIES:

- a coffee-house with a summer terrace, a small fireplace room for gatherings of up to 20 people and a banquet hall for up to 60 people. Seminars, presentations, parties and weddings can be organised here;
- a campsite;
- boats for river rides and a well-appointed place for swimming;
- a bathhouse with an outdoor terrace by the river;
- on the top floor of the bathhouse there is a DBL room. Extra beds can be arranged;
- a spacious outdoor playground for kids in good visibility from the terrace of the coffee-house, with a swing, slides, a merry-go-round and a sand pit, and children’s bicycles.



LATVIA

PIENA MUIŽA / MILK ESTATE BERGHOF COUNTRY ESTATE HOTEL

DISTANCE: Rīga 156 km

SEASON: January – December

WEBSITE: www.pienamuiza.lv

ADDRESS:

Sieksāte, Rudbāržu pag.,
Skrundas nov., LV – 3325, Latvia



The Milk Estate Berghof (*Piena Muiža*) is a restored historical estate now comprising of a guest house, the Rose Tavern restaurant, the Milk Spa salon, a sauna, a black sauna, a weekend cottage, banquet halls, a well-appointed area for trailers, and a set of tennis courts. The estate was once the summer residence of Baron von Medem and it has retained close links to the environment in which aristocrats used to enjoy their leisure. There is a Milk Museum on the estate which offers a unique exhibition with all sorts of information about milk, including where we get it from and how butter, cottage cheese, cheese and other products are made.

MEAL SERVICES:

The Rose Tavern restaurant uses meal ingredients from the estate’s garden.

ACCOMMODATION:

23 SGL, DBL and TWIN rooms in the guest house.

FACILITIES:

- Milk Spa: milk bath massages, spa rituals;
- sauna traditional and sauna with professional sauna practitioners;
- active leisure: 2 tennis courts and a field complex for tennis, minifootball, volleyball, basketball, handball, badminton and floorball.



LATVIA

KLAJUMI COTTAGE

DISTANCE: Rīga 275 km

SEASON: January – December

WEBSITE: www.klajumi.lv

ADDRESS:

Kaplavas pag., Krāslavas nov.,
LV – 5668, Latvia



The Klajumi horse farm is situated among the picturesque surroundings of the Daugavas Loki Nature Park. The property is located 2 km from Kaplava village and 5 km from the Latvian – Belarusian border. The town of Krāslava is 10 km away. Horseback riding and marked hiking routes in the nature park, relaxing exercises on horseback, and riding therapy are all offered, as are horseback riding and sleigh rides during the winter, complete with a campfire. Weekend facilities and saunas are also available.

ACCOMMODATION:

1. Klajumi holiday cottage. On the first floor, there is a kitchen with a fireplace, dishes and other tools necessary for cooking and eating, herbal tea and

instant coffee, a fridge, radio and CD player, and a shower and sauna. On the second floor and in the attic there are bedrooms. Next to the cottage there is a dry toilet.

2. Klajumu Ķemeri cottage. A log house with a very nice interior, a kitchen, a bedroom, WC and shower.

3. Klajumu Ganiņi cottage. Two rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom. The cottage has amenities for people with disabilities.

FACILITIES:

- cart or carriage rides
- wedding carriage and decorated horses
- a sleigh ride and a picnic in winter
- riding lessons
- riding arena

MEAL SERVICES:

self-catering / a menu of Latgale region culinary heritage meals



LATVIA

LAUMU DABAS PARKS GUEST HOUSE

DISTANCE: Rīga 130 KM

SEASON: January – December

WEBSITE: www.laumas.lv

ADDRESS:

“Laumas”, Īves pag., Talsu nov.,
LV – 3261, Latvia



Situated 20 km from Talsi town, surrounded by a forest. Guided excursions for adults, children and school groups on themed nature trails are offered. The hosts also offer you a chance to be a beekeeper, watching the lives of bees in hives (while wearing a beekeeper's suit), touring a bee trail and climbing a tree with the help of a truss. Visitors can make wax candles and purchase beekeeping products such as honey, bee pollen, etc. A café is open during the summer and there are designated areas for picnics.

ACCOMMODATION:

12 rooms: DBL, TWIN, 4 – bed. Some rooms have kitchen facilities. A shared kitchenette is available.

FACILITIES:

- a well equipped room for seminars and presentations;
- a country sauna and sauna practitioner services;
- themed nature trails: the Forest Trail, the Flora Trail, the Miniature Golf Trail, the Bird Trail, the Sports Trail with Obstacles, the Bee trail with real bees.

MEAL SERVICES:

Latvian cuisine: Bean and dumpling soup, pancakes with jam, homemade lemonade, herbal teas. House specialty: Porridge a la Fairies.



BĒRZIŅI / LABIRINTI FARM

DISTANCE: Rīga 50 km

SEASON: April – October

WEBSITE: www.labirinti.lv

ADDRESS:

“Bērziņi”, Zorģi, Iecavas nov.,
LV – 3913, Latvia



The farm is located 18 km from Bauska, near the A7 road, which makes it convenient for those touring the Baltic countries. The farm grows grains and rapeseeds, organises informational seminars on agriculture and tours for children and adults. The owners have collected a set of old tools and milk processing equipment and will be happy to talk about how these were used in the past. An attraction park is available to one and all with more than 20 attractions.

MEAL SERVICES:

self-catering

ACCOMMODATION:

campsite for 32 caravans. Electric connection – 220 V. Showers – warm/cold water, WC, kitchen, washing machine;

FACILITIES:

- campfire place, grill
- playground for kids
- boats
- ball games



ROŽMALAS HOTEL

DISTANCE: Rīga 76 km

SEASON: January – December

WEBSITE: www.rozmalas.lv

ADDRESS:

Nameju iela 2, Ceraukste, Ceraukstes pag., Bauskas nov., LV – 3908, Latvia



Rožmalas is a spacious leisure centre in the Zemgale region, on the Via Baltica road, 7 km from Bauska in the direction of Vilnius. There is a hotel, a restaurant and the restored windmill “*Ribbes dzirnavas*” (anno 1867) with an exhibition showing the developments and processes of agriculture, from the treatment of the land to the harvesting and processing of the crops. Visitors can take a guided “The Path of the Grain” tour which includes the baking of traditional *piragi* buns and tasting them with herbal tea.

ACCOMMODATION:

The hotel rooms are located in several buildings. All rooms have satellite TV, WiFi Internet, a bathroom with a shower, a bath or jacuzzi, a WC and hair dryer.

MEAL SERVICES:

The restaurant offers an international menu, a wide variety of drinks, freshly baked biscuits, truffles, cakes and seeded breads from our own bakery. A children’s menu is also available.

1. Two-storey suites in the Leisure centre. A bedroom on the top floor and a sitting room on the first floor. Wood and linen have been used in the interior design, the rooms have a view over the natural, romantic countryside landscape, an apple garden and the windmill.
2. Thirteen SGL, DBL and family suites in the *Kungu* house building.
3. Next to the Windmill is the *Zellu* house with two DBL suites and two budget class suites.

FACILITIES:

- sauna
- summer garden terrace
- childrens playground
- tenting and picnic sites
- seminar rooms
- a room for parties



ROJA HOTEL

DISTANCE: Rīga 120 km

SEASON: January – December

WEBSITE: www.rojahotel.lv

ADDRESS:

Jūras iela 6, Rojas pag.,
Rojas nov., LV 3264, Latvia

The hotel is located 200 m from the sea and the Roja River. For staying and visiting groups, the hotel offers a programme “Feast at a Fisherman’s Farm” telling the traditional lives of fishermen with singing, dancing, games, and feasting on freshly smoked fish, fish soup and beer.

ACCOMMODATION:

SGL and DBL rooms in the hotel main building and in cottages.

FACILITIES:

- sauna
- summer garden terrace

MEAL SERVICES:

hotel restaurant



SENOSIOS GEGUŽINĖS ŪKIS HOMESTEAD

DISTANCE: 84 km from Vilnius

SEASON: January – December

WEBSITE: www.senojigeguzine.lt

ADDRESS:

Beržės St. 4, Gegužinė Village,
Palomenė Eldership, Kaišiadorys
District, Lithuania



Homestead Senosios Gegužinės ūkis is one of the homesteads in the Gegužinė Village that has been mentioned in written sources since the 15th century. The homestead was built using archival material, preserving the forms and details that are typical of Western Aukštaitija while also fully equipping the building with modern materials and engineering systems. The homestead hosts various cultural events dedicated to fostering and promoting the national identity and promulgating professional art. Guests can stay in cosy rooms and become acquainted with farm life and the animals living there.

MEAL SERVICES:

There is a spacious kitchen with a traditional bread oven; the homestead hosts arrange meals by request.

ACCOMMODATION:

The homestead has double, triple and quadruple rooms, in total can sleep 30 people.

FACILITIES:

- Fully equipped for seminars;
- Aukštaitija’s sauna;
- Kayaking trips on the Neris, Širvinta and Musė;
- Hiking routes in the Gegužinė pine forest;
- On-site exhibition, cultural events and architectural/ethnographic workshops run by the hosts;
- Guests can see traditional Lithuanian breeds of horses and sheep.



BARONO VILA HOMESTEAD

DISTANCE: 115 km from Vilnius

SEASON: January – December

WEBSITE: www.baronovila.lt

ADDRESS:

Elnio St. 12, Butėnai Village,
Svėdasai Eldership, Anykščiai
District, Lithuania



The homestead has a large, deep, stocked pond, and The Red Deer, Fallow Deer and sheep grazing in nearby pens. The area is surrounded by forests full of mushrooms and berries, and the bends of the Šventoji River are a favourite among tourists. The complex consists of five buildings that are used for accommodation and events.

ACCOMMODATION:

The homestead can accommodate a total of 50 guests in its three villas and 10 cosy double rooms. The villas feature double, triple and quadruple bedrooms.

MEAL SERVICES:

Catering must be ordered in advance from the chef's menu. At the restaurant, guests can taste gourmet wild game dishes, Lithuanian oven-baked rye bread, and the homestead's signature open-fire pilaf.

FACILITIES:

- Sauna, outdoor hot tub, fishing in the pond, various sports (basketball, volleyball, trampoline, table football);
- A hall that can accommodate 40–80 people for events, conferences and camps;
- The homestead hosts educational programmes: a tour of the farm and The Red Deer, Fallow Deer and Gotland sheep; home-made bread baking in a traditional oven; The Baron's Pilaf tasting; art therapy.



KARPYNĖ HOMESTEAD

DISTANCE: 174 km from Vilnius

SEASON: January – December

WEBSITE: www.karpyne.lt

ADDRESS:

Gabšiai Village, Raseiniai Eldership,
Raseiniai District, Lithuania



Fishermen are always welcome at Karpynė. After all, even the name, which is derived from the word "carp", shows that fish are given special attention here. This homestead has its own fishery and holds various competitions. If it's your lucky day, you might find yourself reeling in a fish of up to 18 kg. Guests are invited to fish in the ponds, which are stocked with brown trout, common carp, crucian carp, pike, bream, perch and other fish. Catches can be prepared in the restaurant or smoked in the nearby smokehouse.

MEAL SERVICES:

Homestead "Karpynė" has a restaurant that is always open. The restaurant offers a large selection of fish dishes, but the chef can make whatever you want.

ACCOMMODATION:

20 rooms that can sleep 70 people. There is a choice of double, triple and quadruple bedrooms.

FACILITIES:

- In-house brewery;
- Different size halls for conferences and seminars;
- Extremely wide range of leisure choices: gym, swimming pool, hot tubs, steam bath, sauna, bowling, tennis, basketball and beach volleyball.



LITHUANIA

ANGELŲ MALŪNAS HOMESTEAD

DISTANCE: 272 km from Vilnius

SEASON: January – December

WEBSITE: www.angelumalunas.lt

ADDRESS:

Kūlio Dauba Village, Luokė Eldership,
Telšiai District, Lithuania



This is a unique place where you can try out a traditional sauna with a professional sauna master. The owner of the homestead has studied the art of the sauna with experts from Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, the Ural and the Far East. The homestead also offers a tour of the water mill that was built in 1851. During the tour, guests are taught about the 19th century milling process and treated to a cup of natural herbal tea.

ACCOMMODATION:

The homestead has double and triple rooms that can accommodate up to 29 guests.

FACILITIES:

- Various educational sauna programmes;
- Educational cooking programmes;
- Kayaking;
- Tours of the mill and presentations on the milling process;
- Fully equipped banquet and conference hall.

MEAL SERVICES:

Guests are invited to enjoy a dinner featuring real Samogitian cuisine. The dishes are made according to culinary heritage recipes: *Cibulynė* cold soup; hot boiled potatoes with the skin-on; *kastinys* whipped up by hand; *spirgynė*, a blend of can-nabis and spices; and home-made kvass.



LITHUANIA

GIRELĖ HOMESTEAD

DISTANCE: 240 km from Vilnius

SEASON: January – December

WEBSITE: www.sodybagirele.lt

ADDRESS:

Domantai Village 1A, Meškuičiai
Eldership, Šiauliai District, Lithuania



Homestead “Girelė” has a tavern that is always ready to offer guests delicious fresh dishes. The complex consists of four separate buildings – the tavern, the granary, the sauna, and the traditional double-ended farmhouse. The homestead’s pride and joy are its fallow deer and sheep. These majestic animals delight both the hosts and their guests. The complex is located near the Hill of Crosses.

ACCOMMODATION:

The homestead has double, triple and quadruple rooms that can accommodate up to 34 guests.

FACILITIES:

- Hot tub, sauna;
- Tennis courts;
- Fully equipped conference centre that can accommodate 60 people;
- Opportunity to learn about the animals raised on the homestead.

MEAL SERVICES:

The tavern offers guests European cuisine.





AGRI-HERITAGE TOURING ROUTES

The touring routes are designed for small groups and individual independent travellers. The routes suggest touring the Latvian and Lithuanian countryside focussing on agricultural heritage as the leading theme to reveal the countries' lives beyond traditional tourist destinations.

Full tour descriptions and maps are found here:

<https://www.celotajs.lv/en/c/brand/agriheritage/tours>

FARM VISITS:

programme arrangements for 1-2 hours depending on the tour Schedule;

MEALS:

meals can be pre-ordered and are available on farms or in restaurants en route;

ACCOMMODATION:

for each tour there is a choice of guesthouses and country hotels en route. Some farms also run guesthouses. Tour itineraries can be adapted depending on the group size to ensure convenient accommodation;

TRANSPORT:

tourist bus services for groups and car rental for individuals can be arranged.

TOUR LEADER/GUIDE/INTERPRETER:

services can be arranged in LV, LT, EN, DE, RU and other languages upon request.

INFO:

www.countryholidays.lv

www.atostogoskaime.lt

ZEMGALE:

THE HERITAGE STORY OF DAILY BREAD AND MILK

DURATION: 2 days

TOTAL DISTANCE: 310 km

ROUTE: Rīga – Džūkste – Cena – Jelgava – Iecava – Bauska – Bārbele – Vecumnieki – Rīga

The Zemgale region is a fertile flatland. There are many modern farms, some of which take visitors to show them the heritage of agricultural history and what life is like in the countryside. You will start your trip by taking the “Milky Way” route to a dairy farm. Next, you will visit Jelgava, the former capital of the Duchy of Courland from the 16th to the 18th century. The history of the town can be discovered via an interactive exhibition in the steeple of the St Trinity Church in Jelgava, from which you can also get a good view of the city from the viewing platform on the 9th floor. Then, you will visit a farm where you will learn about Latvian traditions and bake bread together with the lady of the house. From there, the route will lead to a grain farm, where you will find a collection of dairy processing equipment and a playground for children. You can spend the night in a design hotel in a field of grain. There is also a traditional farm and a collection of restored old automobiles. Along the way, you will stop in Bauska to see its City Hall and it’s collection of ancient measuring equipment. Grain traditions will really be appreciated at a farm that uses it’s own grain and roughly ground flour to produce a wide range of traditional foods. Finally, you will visit a collection of tools, farm equipment and household items that are all typical of Latvia’s countryside.



DAY 1 Rīga – Džūkste – Jelgava – Cena – Iecava – Bauska – Uzvara
Driving distance: **195 km**

DAY 2 Bauska – Bārbele – Vecumnieki – Rīga
Driving distance: **115 km**



TOURING ROUTES

AUKŠTAITIJA:

THE TASTY HERITAGE

DURATION: 2 days

TOTAL DISTANCE: 185 km

ROUTE: Anykščiai – Ginučiai – Ignalina – Šlyninka – Dusetos

Aukštaitija is the largest and one of the most ancient Lithuanian regions, known since the 15th century as “the true Lithuania”. This trip will allow visitors to enjoy the country goodies that the region offers today. In the Anykščiai District you will visit a farm where medicinal plants are grown, enjoy some oak acorn coffee and herbal teas, and then head off for the fishing village Ginučiai, where a special fish soup recipe dates back to the 17th century. In the area of Ignalina, you will visit a watermill and a beekeeping museum. A restaurant that is part of the European culinary heritage offers traditional dishes and a chance to learn how to make the traditional Lithuanian sweet, šakotis. After a stroll along the beautiful banks of Lake Zarasai, you will visit a windmill to learn how to bake bread and pancakes with rye flour. A nice end to the tour will be a visit to a brewery where unfiltered and living beer is brewed. There is also a collection of antique brewery tools.



DAY 1 Anykščiai – Ginučiai
Driving distance: **80 km**

DAY 2 Ignalina – Šlyninka – Dusetos
Driving distance: **105 km**



ŽEMAITIJA:

BASED ON HERITAGE

DURATION: 3 days

TOTAL DISTANCE: 115 km

ROUTE: Visvainiai – Beržoras – Pokščiai – Likšai – Beržoras – Telšiai – Kūlio Dauba

The name of the Žemaitija region means “lowland”. You will visit traditional and unusual farms to learn about gardening traditions and enjoy teas and herbs from a biodynamic farm. The lady of the house will teach you about traditional local foods. Next, you will visit a place to discover the secrets of medicinal plants. An impressive exhibition about military history will be found at the Cold War Museum, which is on the territory of a former missile base. Then you will visit the Energy Labyrinth to enjoy some peace and quiet while learning about how various geometric forms influence human emotions. Next, you will visit a traditional farm with characteristic foods, beverages and songs. Along the way you will visit Telšiai, which is the informal capital of Žemaitija. Finally, you will visit a farm where traditional pastries are baked on a campfire, and a true Lithuanian sauna is offered.



DAY 1 Visvainiai – Beržoras
Driving distance: **12 km**

DAY 2 Beržoras – Pokščiai – Likšai – Beržoras
Driving distance: **27 km**

DAY 3 Beržoras – Telšiai – Kūlio Dauba.
Driving distance: **65 km**



KURZEME:

FARMING HERITAGE IN TODAY'S LIFE

DURATION: 3 days

TOTAL DISTANCE: 464 km

ROUTE: Rīga – Jūrmala – Engure – Talsi – Kuldīga – Jūrkalne – Pāvilosta – Aizpute – Skrunda – Rīga

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 Rīga and through fishing villages that 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 not just known as the town on nine hills, but also as the home of the tasty "Talsi Wheel" brand of cheese. The Latvian Agriculture Museum with an exhibition about farming from the late 19th century to the present day can also be found here. 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 and 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 their baronial estate.



DAY 1 Rīga – Jūrmala – Engure – Talsi – Kuldīga
Driving distance: **190 km**

DAY 2 Kuldīga – Jūrkalne – Pāvilosta – Aizpute –
Siekšāte – Skrunda
Driving distance: **125 km**

DAY 3 Skrunda – Saldus – Rīga
Driving distance: **150 km**



TOURING ROUTES

AUKŠTAIJIJA – ZEMGALE:

GOURMET JOURNEY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

DURATION: 6 days

TOTAL DISTANCE: 485 km

ROUTE: Vilnius – Trakai – Kaunas – Šiauliai – Pakruojis – Jelgava – Rīga

Many farms in Latvia and Lithuania grow their own produce, offer culinary masterpieces and develop traditional recipes to an exceptional standard. Because of limited output, these delicacies are seldom 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 traditional dishes from the Karaite 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 Pakruojo 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 expressing their Christian fervour. 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 tavern. 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 away. Along the way to Rīga, you will visit "Garlic World" where you will discover that Latvian garlic has a particularly strong aroma and taste, and the lady of the house prepares many unusual dishes with garlic.



- DAY 1** Arrival in Vilnius
- DAY 2** Vilnius – Trakai – Rumšiškės – Kaunas
Driving distance: **117 km**
- DAY 3** Kaunas – Kedainiai District – Pakruojis
Driving distance: **160 km**
- DAY 4** Pakruojis – Šiauliai – Eleja – Tērvete
Driving distance: **125 km**
- DAY 5** Tērvete – Jelgava – Rīga
Driving distance: **80 km**
- DAY 6** Departure



TOURING ROUTES

ZEMGALE – AUKŠTAITĪJA:

WHERE WHOLESOME FOOD COMES FROM

DURATION: 8 days

TOTAL DISTANCE: ~608 km

ROUTE: Rīga – Iecava – Bauska – Rundāle – Mežotne – Biržai – Rokiškis – Anykščiai – Ukmerge – Kernave – Vilnius

This tour offers a look at modern farms that base 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 museum of technology. 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 the 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 Kernave 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.



- DAY 1** Arrival in Riga
- DAY 2** Rīga – Iecava – Bauska – Rundāle – Mežotne
Driving distance: **105 km**
- DAY 3** Spend the day in and near Bauska
Driving distance: **~50 km**
- DAY 4** Bauska – Grenctāle – Biržai – Anykščiai District. Driving distance: **140 km**
- DAY 5** Spend the day in and around Anykščiai
Driving distance: **~ 40 – 70 km**
- DAY 6** Anykščiai – Ukmerge – Kernave – Vilnius
Driving distance: **185 km**
- Day 7** Vilnius – Trakai – Vilnius
Driving distance: **58 km**
- Day 8** Departure



KURZEME – ŽEMAITIJA:

FISHING AND FISH FOOD HERITAGE BY THE BALTIC SEA

DURATION: 8 days

TOTAL DISTANCE: 785 km

ROUTE: Rīga – Jūrmala – Ķemeri – Roja – Kolka – Ventspils – Jūrkalne – Pāvilosta – Liepāja – Pape – Palanga – Klaipēda – Šilute – Rusne – Klaipēda – Nida – Klaipēda

Seaside landscapes, facts about the ancient process of fishing, and traditional seafood dishes. Your first stop after leaving Rīga will be Ragaciems, where you will find a popular fish market that always offers a wide range of smoked fish from the sea. On the shores of the sea, you can look at a restored fishing boat pier and huts for nets. Further along, groups of 15 people or more can enjoy the “Fisherman’s Feast” programme in Roja. There you will hear stories about the lives, songs, dances and games of fishermen and, of course, enjoy a feast. Next, you will visit Cape Kolka and the Slītere National Park, where men still go fishing in the sea. The aroma of smokehouses will be evident and travellers can purchase freshly smoked fish there. Along the way to Ventspils, it is worth stopping at the Irbene radio telescope, which has a military history, but is nowadays used for scientific purposes. Next, you will drive toward Liepāja and stop at the charming town of Pāvilosta, which is popular among surfers, as well as the steep shores of Jūrkalne, where you will be able to taste freshly baked bread that has been kneaded by hand at a farm. Then you will get to Liepāja, which is the birthplace of Kristaps Porziņģis, a basketball player who plays for the New York Knicks in the NBA. A special treat in Liepāja is smoked cod with potatoes and sweet cream. You can visit a windmill that was built in 1885 and is still operational, as well as the Pape Nature Park and the ethnographic Ķoņi village. Once you get to Lithuania, you will spend a day at the popular seaside town Palanga, and then continue the route to Cape Vente and the Rusne Island, both of which are famous for their fishing and fish smoking traditions. After this you will visit the village of Miniija, which is known as the “Venice of Lithuania”. Finally, visit the Kurši dunes, the Sea Museum and dolphinarium, as well as the port city of Klaipēda.



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|--------------|---|
| DAY 1 | Arrival in Rīga |
| DAY 2 | Rīga – Jūrmala – Ķemeri – Roja – Kolka
Driving distance: 170 km |
| DAY 3 | Kolka – Ventspils – Jūrkalne – Pāvilosta – Liepāja. Driving distance: 205 km |
| DAY 4 | Liepāja – Pape – Palanga – Klaipēda
Driving distance: 120 km |
| DAY 5 | Klaipēda – Miniija – Vente – Šilute – Rusne
Driving distance: 90 km |
| DAY 6 | Rusne – Šyša – Virkytai – Agluonenai – Šiūpariai – Klaipēda. Driving distance: 90 km |
| Day 7 | Klaipēda – Smiltyne – Nida – Klaipēda
Driving distance: 110 km |
| Day 8 | Departure |



TOURING ROUTES

LATGALE – AUKŠTAITIJA:

CRAFT FOODS AND ARTISANS

DURATION: 10 days

TOTAL DISTANCE: 1020 km

ROUTE: Rīga – Koknese – Rēzekne – Ludza – Rēzekne – Aglona – Daugavpils – Zarasai – Rokiškis – Anykščiai – Moletai – Vilnius

During this trip, you will visit the workshops of craftspeople, farms that breed horses, and various destinations where you can enjoy country goodies. Ancient skills are now a modern application. First you will stop at Ikšķile, and at the very beginning of the trip, you will visit a cellar that stores birch juice wine where you will taste sparkling wine. In Skrīveri, you will be surprised by the transformation of milk. A cosy café on the main street of the small town offers outstanding homemade ice cream featuring strawberry, anchovy and horseradish flavours. In Koknese, you can supplement your wardrobe with a new leather belt, bag or stylish leather jewellery. A farm that grows hemp will offer a small tour, as well as hemp delicacies. The work of masters of black ceramics in Latgale fits into modern interiors. The Aglona Bread Museum offers a chance for visitors to bake their own loaf of bread. The visit to the next farm will allow you to add some tasty cheese, made from the milk of Latvian brown cows, to your bread. The last stop in Latvia will be Daugavpils, which features an art centre featuring the work of the globally known abstractionist Mark Rothko, as well as the Daugavpils fortress, that was built in the 19th century and is an impressive military building. From there you will travel to Lithuania, where you will visit several traditional farms. The Ilzenbergo Dvaras estate has a biodynamic farm, where you will taste Lithuania's national sweets which are called šakotis. You will visit the town of Anykščiai, which offers a hike along a trail that is raised above the trees. A horse museum offers a look at old farm equipment. Next, you will visit farms that will inform you about traditional Lithuanian cuisine and the work of potters, and the Dubingiu horse farm, which offers horseback rides. At the conclusion of the tour you will visit the unique Trakai lake castle (14th and 15th century), as well as Vilnius.



- DAY 1** Arrival in Rīga
- DAY 2** Rīga – Ikšķile – Skrīveri – Koknese
Driving distance: **110 km**
- DAY 3** Koknese – Pļaviņas – Rēzekne – Ludza – Rēzekne. Driving distance: **195 km**
- DAY 4** Rēzekne – Kaunata – Malta – Aglona – Daugavpils. Driving distance: **150 km**
- DAY 5** Daugavpils – Zarasai – Rokiškis District – Juodonys. Driving distance: **110 km**
- DAY 6** Juodonys – Rokiškis – Kupreliškis – Mickūnai
Driving distance: **180 km**
- Day 7** Mickūnai – Anykščiai District – Niuronys – Anykščiai District. Driving distance: **60 km**
- Day 8** Anykščiai District – Daubariškai – Moletai – Bebrusai – Dubingiai – Marguoliai.
Driving distance: **100 km**
- Day 9** Moletai District – Vilnius – Trakai – Vilnius
Driving distance: **115 km**
- Day 10** Departure



ŽEMAITIJA – KURZEME:

ECO, BIO AND ETHNO FARMS INVITE YOU

DURATION: 10 days

TOTAL DISTANCE: 1020 km

ROUTE: Vilnius – Maišiagala – Kernave – Kaišiadoriai District – Kaunas – Raudone – Jurbarkas – Klaipeda District – Courlandian Dunes – Palanga – Liepāja – Durbe – Aizpute – Kuldīga – Renda – Sable – Talsi – Engure – Jūrmala – Rīga

This tour will surprise you with the diversity and unusual products of its 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 from 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. Enjoy a picnic at a farm with acorn coffee, pancakes 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 Curonian Spit, the Sea Museum and the Dolphinarium as well as 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 then onto the ethnographic Koņi village, which 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 a clean environment. Along the way you will enjoy the landscape of the ancient Abava River Valley and visit the Sable 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.



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|---------------|--|
| DAY 1 | Arrival in Vilnius |
| DAY 2 | Vilnius – Maišiagala – Kernave – Kaišiadoriai District. Driving distance: 170 km |
| DAY 3 | Kaišiadoriai District – Kaunas
Driving distance: 65 km |
| DAY 4 | Kaunas – Raudone – Jurbarkas
Driving distance: 90 km |
| DAY 5 | Jurbarkas – Klaipeda District – Curonian Spit
Driving distance: 220 km |
| DAY 6 | Curonian Spit – Palanga – Liepāja
Driving distance: 170 km |
| Day 7 | Liepāja – Durbe – Aizpute – Kuldīga
Driving distance: 100 km |
| Day 8 | Kuldīga – Renda – Sable – Talsi – Engure – Jūrmala – Rīga
Driving distance: 205 km |
| Day 9 | Rīga |
| Day 10 | Rīga |



TOURING ROUTES

LATGALE – AUKŠTAITIJA:

VISITING OPEN FARMS IN THE BORDERLAND OF EU

DURATION: 12 days

TOTAL DISTANCE: 470 km

ROUTE: Rīga – Rēzekne – Lipuški – Aglona – Krāslava – Kaplava – Daugavpils – Zarasai – Dūkštas – Ignalina – Aukštaitija National Park – Moletai – Pabrade – Vilnius



CYCLING TOUR

This route includes some of the most authentic experiences that can be found in the regions of the blue lakes in eastern Latvia and Lithuania. Not many tourists can be found here and local residents are sincere and hospitable. You will find traditional villages, many religious objects, and farms that represent agricultural heritage. You will ride through the Rāzna National Park, which is alongside the lovely Lake Rāzna. You will visit traditional farms and ancient castles, as well as the Aglona Basilica, which has been a destination for pilgrims for many years. There is also a bread museum in Aglona. From there you will ride through Daugavpils, which has an impressive 19th century fortress that includes the Mark Rothko Art Centre. Along the way, you will find potteries where traditional ceramics are offered. You will learn more about breeding horses and cows, as well as about how traditional cheeses are made and herbal teas are prepared. Next, you will ride through the Aukštaitija National Park that is on the border between Latvia and Lithuania. You will see ethnographic villages with wooden castles, as well as many lakes. It is worth visiting the Stripikiai Beekeeping Museum, the local open-air art museum, as well as the European Centre. To be sure, you will enjoy local Latgalian beer, as well as zeppelins, which are a traditional dish in Lithuania.



- DAY 1** Arrival in Rīga
- DAY 2** Rīga – Rēzekne. Cycling distance: **10 km**
- DAY 3** Rēzekne – Kaunata – Lipuški
Cycling distance: **60 km**
- DAY 4** Lipuški – Malta – Aglona
Cycling distance: **50 km**
- DAY 5** Aglona – Krāslava – Kaplava
Cycling distance: **40 km**
- DAY 6** Kaplava – Krāslava – Slutiški – Daugavpils
Cycling distance: **65 km**
- DAY 7** Daugavpils – Tilze – Zarasai
Cycling distance: **30 km**
- DAY 8** Zarasai – Dūkštas – Ignalina
Cycling distance: **55 km**
- DAY 9** Ignalina – Paluse – Ginuciai – Stripeikiai – Kirdeikiai – Antalksne – Kaltanenai – Ignalina
Cycling distance: **65 km**
- DAY 10** Ignalina – Moletai. Cycling distance: **55 km**
- DAY 11** Moletai – Pabrade. Cycling distance: **40 km**
- DAY 12** Vilnius, departure



TRADITIONAL LITHUANIAN GARDENS AND PLANTS

DURATION: 3 days

TOTAL DISTANCE: 520 km

ROUTE: Kaunas – Babtai – Kėdainiai – Radviliškis – Šiauliai – Naisiai – Anykščiai – Traupis – Taurėnai – Užulėnis – Kaunas

The tour starts and ends in Kaunas, Lithuania's second largest city, which was the capital of the country from 1920 until 1939. At Tadas Ivanauskas Homestead in Obelynė Park, you will see a collection of 300 species and forms of plants, including some of the oldest trees on the planet – the ginkgo biloba and the dawn redwood. In Kaunas you will see the Oldest Apple Tree in Lithuania, which is almost 360-years-old and 8 metres tall, with a girth of 285 centimetres at a height of 1.3 metres. The Kaunas Botanical Garden of Vytautas Magnus University exhibits Lithuanian Heritage flower garden plants according to their botanical classification. The Lithuanian Institute of Horticulture carries out both scientific and experimental/production activities. You can also buy seedlings and seasonal fruit and vegetables. Home produced "Happy Foods" can be bought from Garsi Tyla homestead, and you can have a walk in their 100-year-old orchard and see the culinary herb garden. Burbiškis Manor and its beautiful landscape and sculpture park is home to the annual tulip festival. Authentic homesteads representing the Aukštaitija region can be seen at Kleboniškių Rural Household Museum. The Botanical Garden of Šiauliai University demonstrates heritage rural plant gardens arranged according to the traditions of pre-war, inter-war and post-war periods. There are about 30 different species and varieties of plants growing on the grounds of the Baltic Plant Museum. The Liudvika and Stanislovas Didžiulis Homestead Museum garden features traditional Lithuanian apple tree cultivars, flowers and herbs. The A. Baranauskas and A. Vienuolis-Žukauskas Memorial Museum presents the culture, literature, history, agrarian culture, and technical history of the Anykščiai region. A traditional Lithuanian flower garden can also be seen at the Bronė Buivydaitė Memorial Museum. In Anykščiai, you can enjoy the Treetop Walkway and Labyrinth Park, and take a train ride on Aukštaitija's narrow-gauge railway. In the Traupis Botanical Garden you will find everything from the perennial flower collections and rock garden to a flower clock and decorative pool with



- DAY 1** Kaunas – Babtai – Kėdainiai – Pakalniškiai – Šiauliai. Driving distance: **170 km**
- DAY 2** Šiauliai or Radviliškis – Anykščiai. Driving distance: **154 km**
- DAY 3** Anykščiai – Traupis – Taurėnai – Užulėnis – Rumšiškės – Kaunas. Driving distance: **185 km**

aquatic plants. The interior of the Taurėnai Manor house is decorated extensively with the Radziwiłł family's portraits, sculptures, hunting trophies, and antique weapons. Visit President Antanas Smetona's Užgiris Manor in the Ukmergė District, which now houses a memorial museum in his honour. At the end of tour, you will visit the Open-Air Museum of Lithuania, one of the largest (194 ha) and most abundant (91,420 exhibits) open-air ethnographic museums in Europe.



MANOR GARDENS AND PARKS

DURATION: 3 days

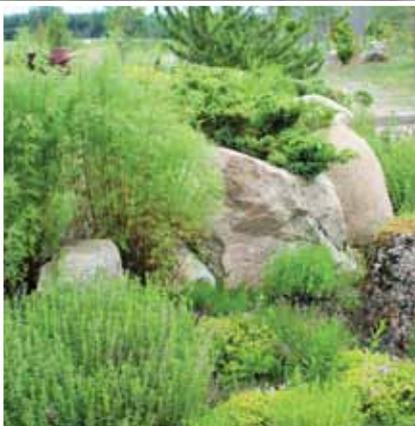
TOTAL DISTANCE: 460 km

ROUTE: Klaipėda – Kretinga – Palanga – Mažučiai – Rucava – Nica – Liepāja – Grobiņa – Durbe – Priekule – Kalnėnai – Beržoras – Plunge – Darius – Švėkšna – Šilutė – Klaipėda

The tour starts and ends in Klaipėda, the most popular seaside resort town in Lithuania. The Klaipėda University Botanical Garden has a coastal ethnographic garden with flower arrangements characteristic of this area. Kretinga Manor Park is one of the oldest surviving 16th–18th century manor parks in Lithuania. Palanga Manor, which houses the Amber Museum and Birutė Park, is one of the best-preserved manor complexes in Lithuania. The largest Japanese garden in Europe (16 ha) is home to a collection of traditional aromatic plants and vegetables. Rucava arboretum displays a collection of magnolias. In the village of Nica, seven decorative gardens maintaining the local gardening traditions are open for visitors. Historical cultivars are carefully selected to renew the orchard and romantic landscape park at the 18th century Tāšu (Telsen) estate in the Grobiņa region in Latvia. The Izidorius Navidanskas Park has over 120 species of trees and shrubs. Visit an outdoor plant exhibition at Jadvyga Balvočiūtė Farm, which grows medicinal herbs and spices and sells organic sprouts, single herb teas and herbal mixtures. Beržoras Homestead in Žemaitija National Park also grows a variety of medicinal and culinary herbs, garden plants and aromatic herbs. Plungė Manor, called the “Versailles of Samogitia”, is one of the most famous surviving ensembles of its kind in Lithuania. The Steponas Darius Birthplace Museum features a unique orchard of impressive size and scope. The Švėkšna Manor Complex features a sculpture park, scenic views, trails, gates, and a Chinese-Japanese maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) which stands 18 metres tall and 70 centimetres in diameter. Šilutė Manor has two parks – an English landscape park with walking paths and the forest park known as *Varnamiškis*, or “Crows’ Forest”.



- DAY 1** Klaipėda – Kretinga – Palanga – Mažučiai – Rucava – Nica – Liepāja.
Driving distance: end in Nica **104 km**
end in Liepāja **125 km**
- DAY 2** Liepāja – Priekule – Seda – Kalnėnai – Beržoras
Driving distance: **174 km**
- DAY 3** Beržoras – Plunge – Darius – Švėkšna – Šilutė – Klaipėda
Driving distance: **162 km**



FLOWER GARDENS AND PARKS

DURATION: 4 days

TOTAL DISTANCE: 544 km

ROUTE: Rīga - Jūrmala – Kandava – Lauciene – Talsi – Dundaga – Pope – Ugāle – Renda – Kuldīga – Maras – Kazdanga – Sieksāte – Liepāja – Nīca – Rucava – Mažučiai – Palanga – Kretinga – Klaipēda – Šilutė – Rusne

The route leads through the beautiful flower gardens of Kurzeme and Žemaitija. The largest collection of Dwarf Bearded Iris in Latvia is in Kandava. Mierkalni is the largest daylily garden in Eastern Europe, with more than 1000 varieties. The owner also produces fruit and berry wines. In the Talsi Hillocks Nature Park you can find Kurzemnieki, where apples are grown and processed into dried apples, apple chips, and juices. They also grow Roman snails. The Upmaļi environmental and health farm produces teas, herbs, plant oils, special balms, cosmetics, plant-based soaps, etc., under the brand name Anna Bermans. Latvia's oldest magnolia, 50 years old, is found at the Sauleskalni arboretum. Over 100 varieties of peony are grown in the Ziedoņi peony garden. The owners of Maras Manor offer stories of historical German manors in the area. The Berghof Milk Estate houses a milk museum. Exotic flowers and tree cultivars can be found in the Māra Lindes dendrological gardens. Turaidas farm produces herbal teas and sacks thereof as souvenirs or gifts, using lemon balm, raspberry, tansy, alchemilla, Plantago major and linden. In the village of Nīca, seven decorative gardens maintaining the local gardening traditions are open for visitors. Rucava arboretum displays a collection of magnolias. The largest Japanese garden in Europe (16 ha) is home to a collection of traditional aromatic plants and vegetables. Palanga Manor, which houses the Amber Museum and Birutė Park, is one of the best-preserved manor complexes in Lithuania. Kretinga Manor Park is one of the oldest surviving 16th–18th century manor parks in Lithuania. The Klaipēda University Botanical Garden has a coastal ethnographic garden with flower arrangements that are characteristic of this area. Klaipēda is the most popular seaside resort town in Lithuania and the Sea Museum and Dolphinarium are among the most famous attractions there. Šilutė Manor has two parks – an English



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| DAY 1 | Rīga - Jūrmala – Kandava – Lauciene – Talsi
Driving distance: 134 km |
| DAY 2 | Talsi – Kuldīga – Piena muiža
Driving distance: 131 km |
| DAY 3 | Peļči – Aizpute – Liepāja – Rucava
Driving distance: 137 km |
| DAY 4 | Rucava – Mažučiai – Palanga – Kretinga –
Klaipēda – Šilutė – Rusnė
Driving distance: 142 km |

landscape park with walking paths and the forest park known as *Varnamiškis*, or “Crows’ Forest”. Pakalnė is a unique traditional fisherman’s homestead with garden plants typical of the Lithuania Minor region.



RĪGA – KAUNAS:

GARDENS – BEAUTIFUL AND PRACTICAL

DURATION: 3 days

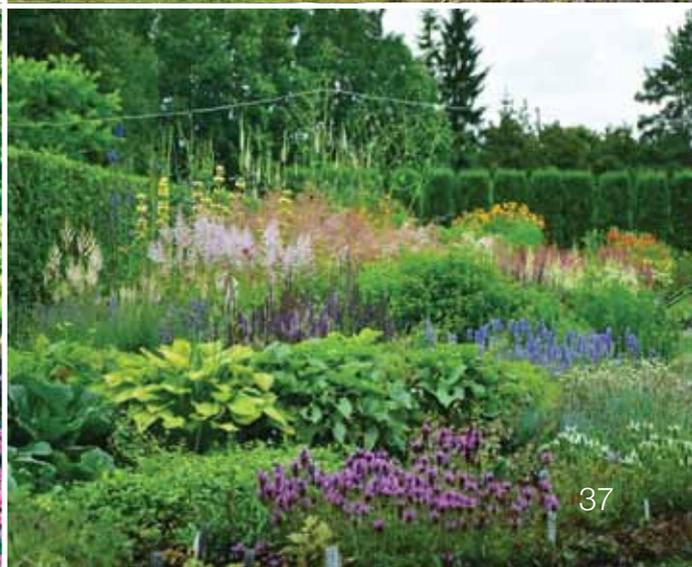
TOTAL DISTANCE: 420 km

ROUTE: Rīga – Dobeļe – Ziedkalni – Vilce – Blankenfelde – Jonišķis – Naisiai – Šiauliai – Pakalnišķiai – Baisogala – Pasandravys – Kėdainiai – Babtai – Kaunas

The route leads from Riga, the capital of Latvia through beautiful countryside areas to Kaunas, the second largest city of Lithuania. The Klūgu landscape garden and park is famous for its begonias. The institute of horticulture in Dobeļe owns a collection of over 200 types and forms of lilac plants. The “Beautiful&Practical” garden is proud of its collection of conifers and the hosts offer tastings of herbal spice powders, dried berries and fruit. “Rūķišu tea” is one of the largest farms for medicinal plants in Latvia (purple coneflowers, marigolds, chamomile, etc). Enjoy the beauty of peony in the garden made by Andris Berkins. The Viestardi tulip garden also grows and processes buckthorn. The next stop is at the vegetable and herb farm “Healthy” which produces herbal ointments. Visiting the Mint House you will taste mint tea, biscuits, honey with peppermint and peppermint syrups. At Blankenfelde manor you will see a collection of bells and will enjoy natural juices, syrups and pickles produced in-house. In Jonišķis, you can visit the White and Red Jonišķis Synagogues, the Jonišķis Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, and the Jonišķis Museum of History and Culture. Jakišķiai Manor has not been renovated and authentic elements like ovens, shutters, stairs, and doors are on show for its guests. There are about 30 different species and varieties of plants growing on the grounds of the Baltic Plant Museum. The Šiauliai University Botanical Garden demonstrates heritage rural plant gardens arranged according to the traditions of the pre-war, inter-war and post-war periods. Burbišķis Manor and its beautiful landscape and sculpture park is home to the annual tulip festival. Authentic homesteads representing the Aukštaitija region can be seen at Klebonišķiai Rural Household Museum. Baisogala Manor is called royal, since it once belonged to a Lithuanian Grand Duke and its 12-hectare park is one of the most beautiful in Lithuania. There are two beautiful heritage gardens surrounding the museum of Mačiulis-Maironis, a famous Lithuanian poet. Home produced “Happy Foods” can be bought from the Garsi Tyla homestead, and you can have a walk in their 100-year-old orchard and see the culinary herb garden. The Lithuanian Institute of Horticulture carries out both scientific and experimental/production activities. You can also buy seedlings and seasonal fruit and vegetables. At Tadas Ivanauskas Homestead in Obelynė Park you will see a collection of 300 species and forms of plants, including some of the oldest trees on the planet – the ginkgo biloba and the dawn redwood. In Kaunas, you will see the Oldest Apple Tree in Lithuania, which is almost 360 years old and 8 metres tall, with a girth of 285 centimetres at a height of 1.3 metres. The Kaunas Botanical Garden of Vytautas Magnus University exhibits Lithuanian Heritage flower garden plants according to their botanical classification. The tour ends in Kaunas, which was the capital of the country from 1920 until 1939.



- DAY 1** Rīga – Dobeļe – Ziedkalni – Vilce – Blankenfelde. Driving distance: **120 km**
- DAY 2** Blankenfelde – Vilce – Jonišķis – Jakišķiai – Naisiai – Šiauliai. Driving distance: **90 km**
- DAY 3** Šiauliai – Pakalnišķiai – Baisogala – Pasandravys – Kėdainiai – Babtai – Kaunas. Driving distance: **210 km**



RĪGA – KAUNAS:

VARIETY OF GARDEN WORLD

DURATION: 4 days

TOTAL DISTANCE: 620 km

ROUTE: Rīga – Iecava – Bauska – Brukna – Nereta – Vārnavā – Kaldabruņa – Dviete – Daugavpils – Subate – Rokiškis – Anykščiai – Traupis – Taujēnai – Ukmergē – Jonava – Kaunas

Poems are dedicated to the trees in the garden surrounding the memorial house of Edvarts Virza, a Latvian poet and writer who wrote a legendary novel about the lives of Latvian farmers. The beautiful 18th century Mazmežotne castle was renovated by a grain farmer's family. The Rundāle castle is known as Latvia's true jewel of Baroque and Rococo architecture and also features a rose garden with over 2200 varieties of roses. At Brukna manor, you will see a vegetable garden that is arranged as a Renaissance park, as well as a rose garden and a vineyard. Pick your own blackcurrant berries at Bāniši berry farm. A beautiful landscape garden is open for visitors at Gundegas house. Two hundred year old oaks adorn the Vārkavas Park. Riekstiņi is an authentic single-family Selonian farm with a specific spirit and ambience. At Kaldabruņa, you will visit an art gallery housed in a hay-shed together with a hay museum. Grape selection and cultivation was the great passion of Pauls Sukatnieks, and his memorial garden is worth visiting during the harvesting time. Dvietes Manor is proud of its 19th century landscape park and stone bridge. Daugavpils, the 2nd largest city of Latvia, is famous for the renovated 19th century Daugavpils Fortress, which houses museums. The Sēlija tree nursery offers a tour of their apple orchard, apple storage and production facilities. Enjoy a glass of apple juice and stories of winemakers. Berķenele is the memorial house of Rainis, the distinguished Latvian author and social activist. The Rokiškis Regional Museum and Manor is one of the most important cultural centres of the Aukštaitija region. The Liudvika and Stanislovas Didžiulis Homestead Museum garden features traditional Lithuanian apple tree cultivars, flowers and herbs. The A. Baranauskas and A. Vienuolis-Žukauskas Memorial Museum presents the culture, literature, history, agrarian culture, and technical history of the Anykščiai region. A traditional Lithuanian flower garden can also be seen at the Bronė Buivydaitė Memorial Museum. In Anykščiai, you can enjoy the Treetop Walkway and Labyrinth Park, and take a train ride on Aukštaitija's narrow-gauge railway. In the Traupis Botanical Garden you will find everything from its perennial flower collections and rock garden to a flower clock and decorative pool with aquatic plants. The interior of the Taujėnai Manor house was decorated extensively with the Radziwiłł family's portraits, sculptures, hunting trophies, and antique weapons. Take a walk around the Ukmergė Old Town and enjoy the view from the old fire tower. The Survilai Homestead offers a barefoot trail which involves walking on a variety of different surfaces such as pine cones, swamp, peat, clay, gravel, polished glass, pine-tree needles, and straw. The Kaunas Botanical Garden of Vytautas Magnus University exhibits Lithuanian Heritage flower garden plants according to their botanical classification. At Tadas Ivanauskas Homestead in Obelynė Park, you will see a collection of 300 species and forms of plants, including some of the oldest trees on the planet – the ginkgo biloba and the dawn redwood. In Kaunas, you will see the Oldest Apple Tree in Lithuania, which is almost 360-years-old and 8 metres tall, with a girth of 285 cm at a height of 1.3 m. The tour ends in Kaunas, Lithuania's 2nd largest city, which was the capital of the country from 1920 until 1939.



- DAY 1** Rīga – Iecava – Bauska – Brukna
Driving distance: **133 km**
- DAY 2** Brukna – Nereta – Daugavpils
Driving distance: **200 km**
- DAY 3** Daugavpils – Rokiškis – Anykščiai
Driving distance: **144 km**
- DAY 4** Rokiškis / Anykščiai – Traupis – Taujėnai – Ukmergė – Jonava – Kaunas
Driving distance: **143 km**





AGRICULTURE TODAY

LATVIA

Latvia, in comparison to the rest of Europe, is a high quality and ecologically pure territory that is not overpopulated, with a moderate climate and a lot of environmental diversity.

Agriculture is an important component of the Latvian economy that is rich with traditions. Agricultural output provides 2.1% of the gross domestic product. The sector includes crop, vegetable, fruit and livestock farming, starting with the traditional production of grains and milk and ending with innovative products such as bush blackberries, sea buckthorn, snails, etc.

Latvia's average vegetation period is 180 – 190 days a year. July is the hottest month, with the average air temperature reaching +17°C. The coldest months are January and February, with an average air temperature of 4.7°C. Of particular importance for agriculture in Latvia is the fact that the average precipitation exceeds the average evaporation by 250 mm each year. To ensure normal conditions, land reclamation systems are needed to drain unnecessary water.

Latvia is small, but there are different weather conditions, soil conditions and terrains in the country's various regions. This means that there are also differences in the dominant agricultural output sectors in those regions.

Latvia's main resources include a clean environment, an appropriate climate, and people who are open to new ideas, which form the foundation for the sustainable development of Latvia's countryside and make it possible to add value to our products and to strengthen our competitiveness at the global level.



CROP FARMING

More than 23,000 farms of various sizes engage in crop farming in Latvia, mostly producing wheat, rapeseed, rye, barley, tritcale, oats and groats. In 2016, there were 716,000 hectares of sown crops, which is the largest use of land since 1990. The total grain output in 2016 was 2.7 mln. tonnes (37.8 cnt / ha) – the second largest amount produced in the territory of Latvia after 2015's record-breaking harvest.

Of great importance in the sector are farm co-operatives, which make it possible to buy manufacturing resources, as well as to store and sell output. There is a malt-house to process barley from Latvia, which is the only facility of its kind in the country at the time.

In the olden days, Latvian cuisine largely consisted of grain-based foods and vegetables. Rye bread, which is very nutritious and healthy, has been traditional for a long time and is currently a high-quality export product at this time. Latvia exports grains and rapeseed to many countries in the world.





VEGETABLE FARMING

In 2016, the vegetable industry in Latvia occupied 8135 ha of open land and 57.9 ha of covered areas. The most common vegetables to be produced include cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, onions, beets, pumpkins, courgettes, radishes, rutabagas and turnips. There are 38 ha of covered hothouses (glass or plastic) producing a total of 13,600 tonnes of vegetables (cucumbers and tomatoes). Potatoes are grown on 27,700 ha of land, with a total output in 2016 of 491,600 tonnes.



FRUIT FARMING

Fruits and berries in Latvia have a special and specific taste that is typical of this climactic zone. The fruit tree and berry bush plantation area (including strawberries) in 2016 made up 7614 ha. Apples are grown on 3950 ha of land, ribes and blackcurrants (944 ha), sea buckthorns (811 ha), strawberries (515 ha), high blueberry (299 ha), quince (275 ha), raspberries (230 ha), pear trees (180 ha) and cherries (160 ha), plums (113 ha), aronia (94 ha) and gooseberries (43 ha).



LIVESTOCK FARMING

Major sectors in livestock farming in Latvia include cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, fowl, rabbits and horses. Latvia has good conditions for dairy farming and meat production. In 2016, farms involved in the dairy sector with 139,095 dairy cows made an output of 6182 kg milk. Latvia has small and traditional family farms, as well as major operations with 100 or more dairy cows. Meat production has been developing during the past five to seven years. The main breeds of cattle that are bred in Latvia are Charolais, Hereford, Limousin and Angus, also the Simmental and Highland breeds are becoming more popular. The meat production sector has developed in a stable way, with a separate herd book for beef cattle and a special oversight system. There are 982 herds of animals that are part of the system.

Many farms in Latvia are successfully multi-sectoral, producing milk, meat, grain and other products. Dairy products are among Latvia's most important export products. Dairy farms join together in co-operatives to produce milk and high-quality dairy products that are offered both in Latvia and abroad.



FISH FARMING

In the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Rīga 60,433 tonnes of fish (European sprat, Atlantic herring, cod, founder, etc.) were caught in 2016. In the high seas, 12 ships were fishing – catching a total of 54,221.7 tonnes of fish and snow crabs. 245 tonnes of fish (lamprey, bream, esox, tench, zander, etc.) were caught in inland waters in 2016, the volume of grown aquaculture production was 1416 tonnes and 732 tonnes were sold. In Latvia there are 156 recognised aquaculture enterprises (85 of which are economically active), that had the right to engage in fish farming for their consumption in food and the cultivation of juvenile fish for the reproduction of resources. In these aquaculture plants, 816 ponds with a total area of 4957 ha, 1245 swimming pools with a capacity of 15 228 m³ and 35 recirculation systems with a volume of 5765 m³, were used for production. The main fish species raised and marketed in both fresh and processed form were carp and crucian carp, trout, wels catfish, Atlantic sturgeon, etc.



AGRICULTURE TODAY

LITHUANIA

Agriculture is one of the oldest businesses in Lithuania and occupies the bulk of the territory in rural areas.

Lithuania is historically an agricultural country. The agricultural sector carries out very important economic, social, environmental and ethno-cultural functions and is considered a priority sector of the national economy. It is the second largest sector in the Lithuanian economy and played a significant economic and social role in all of the periods of the country's history.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing made up 3.3 per cent of the gross value added in 2016, and exports of agricultural and food products accounted for 19.4 per cent of Lithuania's total export.

Even though Lithuania only covers an area of 65,300 km², the agro-climatic conditions vary in different parts of the country. Lithuania has a cool climate with warm summers and cold winters. The average temperature in July is about 17°C, while in winter it is about -5°C.

An interesting feature of the Lithuanian climate is that the winters are mild and there is little snow. Autumn is warm and rainy, spring is relatively cold, and summer is warm. The weather is quite humid with a relatively high amount of precipitation over the year. There is high cloud cover year-round, which significantly reduces the amount of heat the sun transmits to the Earth. Even in summer, the actual duration of sunshine in Lithuania does not exceed 60 per cent of the

potential sunlight for this latitude.

Crop capacity is the main factor limiting the cultivation of heat-loving plants in Lithuania on a large scale, as it is very unstable both year by year and during the course of the year. During the hottest summers when tropical air masses come to Lithuania, the air temperature can get as high as 33–35°C, but in other years the temperature in July can drop to 6–7°C at night.

The average annual precipitation in Lithuania is 670 mm, but its distribution throughout the country is uneven, ranging from 500 to 900 mm. Such large fluctuations are caused by changes in large relief forms, plains and altitudes. Some 60–65 per cent of the annual precipitation occurs during the warm season (April–October). In summer, there is very heavy rainfall every year where 30 mm or more can come down during a single day and fog is common.

In summing up Lithuania's agricultural situation, one could say that Lithuania has a better balance of biological resources than most of the other European Union countries. Therefore, in increasing production volumes and implementing intensive technologies, measures must also be applied that encourage farms to protect the natural balance and use biological resources in a sustainable and responsible manner. After all, farmers are the first link in the food production chain, and they are not limited to growing food products. Farmers often produce and process products as well and even sell them directly to consumers.



CROP FARMING

The favourable natural conditions in Lithuania and the good quantity of high quality agricultural land for cultivating crops together with the long-standing experience in their cultivating have resulted in an increase in cereal crop yield over a few years. This was influenced by an increase in crop areas and the introduction of more advanced technologies in crop production. Our country's farmers have reached the level of Western Europe. A continuously growing grain yield is becoming the dominant trend.

In Lithuania, more than 32,000 farms of various sizes grow cereal, oil and leguminous crops. Grain plants form a significant part of the crop structure. In 2016, the total crop area was 2.1 million hectares. The relative share of cereals and legumes in the crop structure particularly increased: cereal crops accounted for 65 per cent, and leguminous crops accounted for 11 per cent. The total production of cereals grown in Lithuania accounts for 34.3 per cent of all agricultural production.

The favourable climatic conditions in Lithuania make it possible to cultivate rye, wheat, triticale, barley, buckwheat and other grain crops. We use grains to produce malt, four, various groats, flakes, pasta, breakfast cereals and crackers, starch, gluten and syrups, and feed makes up the largest part of production.

VEGETABLE FARMING

Lithuania has suitable climatic conditions and sufficient agricultural productivity for the development of vegetable farming. Preconditions for the development of outdoor vegetable farming are also created by traditions. In 2016, 10.7 thousand hectares were used for outdoor vegetable crops. Greenhouses for growing vegetables occupied 0.5 thousand hectares. In 2016, vegetable crops accounted for 3.4 per cent of the total agricultural production. The average yield of outdoor vegetables was 18.6 t/ha. The crop yield for outdoor vegetables was 196.2 thou. tonnes, and 18.4 thou. tonnes for greenhouse vegetables. Farmers grew 97.2 per cent of outdoor vegetables and 80 per cent of greenhouse vegetables, while agricultural companies produced 2.8 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

The biggest outdoor vegetable crop in 2016 was cabbage (21.5 per cent), followed by carrots (18.7 per cent), beetroot (16.8 per cent) and onions (15.9 per cent). The crop yield for cabbage was 65,300 tonnes, for carrots – 44,400 tonnes, beetroot – 40,300 tonnes, and onions – 26,500 tonnes.

The cultivation of potatoes is a traditional branch of agriculture in Lithuania, with about 70 per cent of farms growing them. In 2016, the total potato crop area was 21,3 thousands hectares, and their crop yield was 340,200 tonnes.





FRUIT FARMING

In 2016, there were 29,500 hectares of orchards and berry fields in Lithuania. The most common cultivar in Lithuanian fruit and berry farms is the apple tree. In 2016, 13,700 hectares of land were used for apple trees. Pears (1,700 ha), plums (1,100 ha), and sour and sweet cherries (1,300 ha) accounted for approximately four per cent of the total land used for orchards and berry fields in 2016. Berry crops have increased in recent years and accounted for 11,400 hectares in 2016. The bulk of which was used for black currants – 4,500 hectares.

Various products are produced from fruit and berries. Juice was the main product, with 9.7 million litres produced. The largest part (60 per cent) was made from apples. Other key products include frozen fruit and berries, as well as various jams, marmalades, jellies, purée and pastes. Various wines and cider are also produced.



DAIRY

The importance of dairy farming in Lithuanian agriculture remains significant. Milk production ranks in second place after grain production.

In 2016, 47,100 farms had dairy cattle. The most cows (21 per cent) were kept in farms with three to nine cows. In 2016, the milk yield was 1,756,000 tonnes, of which 80 per cent was bought for processing. In Lithuania, about 79 per cent of the milk is produced by farmers and family farms. The average cattle productivity in Lithuania in 2016 was 5,536 kg per cow.

Lithuania's main specialisation in the dairy processing industry is cheese. These products also predominate in the export structure.

MEAT

The livestock farming sector in Lithuania is an important and priority agricultural field, supplying the country's consumers with various livestock products and the agriculture industry itself with organic fertilisers. For the development of this sector, the country has favourable natural conditions, livestock breeding traditions, and a wealth of experience.

At the end of 2016, 57,500 farms were raising cattle. The average farm size is not large. One farm had an average of 12 cattle. In terms of pure-bred beef cattle, Limousin, Angus, Aubrac and Charolais are the most popular in Lithuania. However, cross-breeds are the most widespread.

At the end of 2016, there were 663,900 pigs in Lithuania, of which 48,800 were pure-bred sows. There were 163,600 sheep at 10,400 farms, for an average of 16 sheep per farm. At the end of 2016, there were 10,098,900 domesticated birds being bred in Lithuania, of which 98 per cent were chickens. Laying hens accounted for one third of the chickens. Geese, ducks, turkeys and other fowl were also bred.



FISHING

Lithuania's natural conditions are favourable for the development of fisheries. The fishing sector is important for the Baltic Sea coast region of Lithuania and is part of the national heritage. Fishing activities in Lithuania have deep historical traditions. Lithuania has a strong and relatively large fishing fleet.

In 2016, Lithuanian fishing companies caught 19,112 tonnes of various species of fish in the Baltic Sea (including the coastline). The bulk of the catch in the Baltic Sea consisted of 11,548 tonnes of Baltic sprat, 5,199 tonnes of Baltic herring, 1,669 tonnes of cod, and 303 tonnes of founder.

Inland fishing is strongly influenced by the country's geographical position. The largest part of the country's territory is in the northern part of a latitude climate. Inland waters include the Curonian Lagoon, Kaunas Reservoir, lakes, rivers, water tanks, various ponds, polders and aquaculture ponds. Inland waters cover a total of 2,600 km², i.e. four per cent of the country's territory.

Fish farming. Much attention is given to restoring the country's fish stocks. In 2016, a total of 23,632 million fish were released into bodies of waters. There is experience in Lithuania with breeding rainbow trout, a valuable species of salmonid.



AGRICULTURAL STUDY TOURS

Agricultural study tours for professionals in agriculture can be arranged with visits to production farms. The programmes are focussed on specific interests and can include meetings with sectoral experts, organisations, and regional and national authorities responsible for agriculture. Tour programs, their durations and services can be arranged upon request and specification.

INFO:

www.countryholidays.lv

www.atostogoskaime.lt

CROPS, CATTLE, SHEEP AND MULTI-SECTORAL AGRICULTURE ENTERPRISE

DURATION: 4 days

ROUTE: Vilnius – Kaunas – Vilnius – Trakai – Panevėžys – Rīga – Bauska - Rīga

Professional agricultural tour with visits to local farms typical of the region. We will meet and greet you in Vilnius and have a city sightseeing tour. Next day we go to Kaunas, for professional meetings and sightseeing of the city. On the way to Riga, we visit picturesque Trakai Castle situated on a lake. At Panevezys we have a visit to a professional apple grower. In Riga we have an Old Town sightseeing tour as well as a visit to the impressive Central Market. In Bauska we have a professional visit to a farm specializing in implementing innovative farming (grains, vegetables, potatoes).

DAY 1 Arrival in Vilnius

Meet with the tour leader.
Transfer to the hotel.
Vilnius city sightseeing.
Dinner and overnight in the hotel in Vilnius.

DAY 2 Vilnius - Kaunas - Vilnius

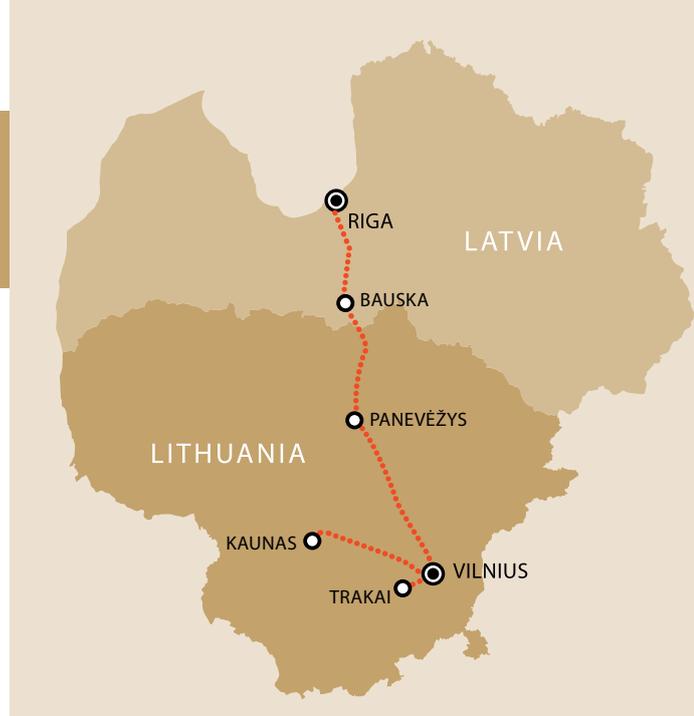
Breakfast at the hotel.
Transfer to Kaunas (~1 hour).
Kaunas city sightseeing.
Late afternoon transfer back to Vilnius.
Dinner and overnight in the hotel in Vilnius.

DAY 3 Vilnius - Riga

Breakfast at the hotel.
Transfer to Trakai (~25 km from Vilnius).
Trakai medieval castle sightseeing.
Afternoon professional visit: farm in Panevėžys district, 40 ha of apple trees.
Transfer to Riga (drive for ~4 hours).
Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Riga.

DAY 4 Riga - Bauska - Riga

Breakfast at the hotel.
Riga city sightseeing.
Afternoon professional visit: farm in Bauska district, implementation of innovations in the countryside, 150 ha grains, vegetables, potatoes.
Dinner and overnight in the hotel in Riga.



CROP FARMING TOUR

DURATION: 4 days

ROUTE: Rīga - Jelgava – Tērvete – Bauska - Rīga

Participants in this tour will learn about Latvia's most modern crop farms that are typical in Zemgale. During the first day, participants will meet with specialists from the Latvian Agriculture Ministry and agricultural NGOs. They will also tour Rīga, which is part of the UNESCO List of World Heritage, and the Rīga Central Market, which is one of the largest closed markets of its type in Europe. Participants will visit a health food store and have dinner to enjoy traditional Latvian foods and beers. The next day we will go to Jelgava, where the 18th-century castle of the Duchy of Courland and Zemgale will host a meeting with faculty members from the Latvian Agricultural University, which is housed in the palace. We will visit a biologic bakery, as well as a farm that engages in crop farming, livestock breeding and manufacturing of biogas. An artificial wetland is used to purify runoff water. Dinner will be served at a modern leisure complex. On the third day, we will visit one of the largest multi-sectoral farms in Zemgale. It specialises in plant farming, livestock breeding, horse breeding, biogas manufacturing and beer brewing. During the afternoon, we will visit the largest and technologically most modern grain farm in the region, after which we will tour the most outstanding castle in the Baltic States – the Rundāle Castle. Built as a summer residence for Duke Ernst Johann Bieron, the castle was designed by the distinguished Italian architect Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli. Dinner will be served at a venue that has an historical windmill and an exhibition related to grain farming. On the morning of the fourth day, we will visit a farm that grows grains for seed, and then a biological farm that produces wheat, barley, peas, beans, rapeseed, herbs and herbal teas. Lunch will be served at a farm that will offer dishes made of home-grown grains and rough-milled flour. Then we will return to Rīga.

DAY 1 Rīga

During the first day, participants will meet with specialists from the Latvian Agriculture Ministry and agricultural NGOs. They will also tour Rīga, which is part of the UNESCO List of World Heritage, and the Rīga Central Market, which is one of the largest closed markets of its type in Europe. Participants will visit a health food store and have dinner to enjoy traditional Latvian foods and beers.

DAY 2 Rīga – Jelgava district

The next day we will go to Jelgava, where the 18th-century castle of the Duchy of Courland and Zemgale will host a meeting with faculty members from the Latvian Agricultural University, which is housed in the palace. We will visit a biologic bakery, as well as a farm that engages in crop farming, livestock breeding and manufacturing of biogas. An artificial wetland is used to purify runoff water. Dinner will be served at a modern leisure complex.

DAY 3 Jelgava - Tērvete - Bauska

We will visit one of the largest multi-sectoral farms in Zemgale. It specialises in plant farming, livestock breeding, horse breeding, biogas manufacturing and beer brewing. During the afternoon, we will visit the largest and technologically most modern grain farm in the region, after which we will tour the most outstanding castle in the Baltic States – the Rundāle Castle. Built as a summer residence for Duke Ernst Johann Bieron, the castle was designed by the distinguished Italian architect Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli. Dinner will be served at a venue that has an historical windmill and an exhibition related to grain farming.

DAY 4 Bauska district

On the morning of the fourth day, we will visit a farm that grows grains for seed, and then a biological farm that produces wheat, barley, peas, beans, rapeseed, herbs and herbal teas. Lunch will be served at a farm that will offer dishes made of home-grown grains and rough-milled flour. Then we will return to Rīga.





ABOUT THE PROJECT

This tour manual is part of the project “Heritage based agritourism product development in Latvia – Lithuania” (AGRI- HERITAGE, LLI 65).

PROJECT GOALS

The goal of this project is to build and promote a sustainable cross-border heritage based agritourism product that is available throughout the programme territory in Latvia and Lithuania, thus preserving cultural heritage, developing and promoting products and services based on the heritage, and facilitating an increase of the numbers of tourists in the region. The cornerstone for the project is farms that maintain inherited farming, fishing, craftsmanship and food manufacturing and processing traditions.

The total budget of this project is 235 881 Eur, out of which the amount of funding from the European Regional Development Fund is 200 499 Eur.

PROJECT RESULTS

1. The heritage agritourism product with 50 farms in LV and 50 farms in LT linked in 10 tour itineraries.
2. Knowledge support to heritage agritourism farms (product criteria, a set of 3 handbooks, informative seminars, product accreditation).
3. A promotional and marketing campaign.

Programme webpage: www.latlit.eu
Official EU webpage: www.europa.eu
Project information: <http://www.celotajs.lv/lv/project/14>

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