



Discover! Explore! Experience!

GREAT MERITS, PLACES AND PERSONALITIES





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4



3



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36

Discover, explore and experience great merits, places and personalities in Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus!

The route provides the opportunity to learn about the lives of outstanding personalities, important places and events in Zemgale Region, Nereta Municipality, Jēkabpils City (LV), Vilnius and Rokiškis District (LT), Polotsk and its surroundings (BLR). Arriving at the memorial sites of the great spirits, visitors will learn about the contributions of outstanding personalities – writers, poets, painters, composers, doctors, Latvia’s first statesman, the “father” of Latvian theatre, as well as the forefathers of Lithuanian art and the Belarusian language. The route also includes museums, churches, parks and other interesting sightseeing places that will allow visitors to discover the heritage that fills locals with pride.

For example, the Struve Geodetic Arc, which crosses 10 countries, has global historical value; it is a unique XIX century geodetic survey system for determining the size and shape of the Earth, and is considered to be one of the most ambitious land surveying campaigns in the history of mankind. In 2005, the Struve Geodetic Arc was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List, which includes a total of 34 points on this geodetic arc. Four of them will be visited on the route – one in Latvia, in Jēkabpils, and three more in the Vilnius and Rokiškis districts of Lithuania. Visitors will also see two European geographical centres – one in Vilnius District and the other in Polotsk, Belarus.

Experience great merits, places and personalities that have left indelible traces in the history of neighbouring nations!

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Symbols

-  Prior registration required for visits!
-  Prior registration required for group visits!
-  Prior registration required for participation in programmes and workshops!
-  Tourist Information Centre/Point/Provider nearest to each object.

ZEMGALE REGION



LATVIA

1

Rainis Museum "Tadenava"

Surrounded by preserved Latvian nature, Tadenava is a place where one of the brightest Latvian personalities of the XX c., the future Latvian poet, playwright, politician, and translator Jānis Pliekšāns, better-known by his pen-name Rainis (1865-1929), drew his childhood inspirations. Rainis is the author of many famous works, such as "The Golden Horse", "Blow, the Wind!", a collection of poems "The Golden Sieve" and others works which are known to every Latvian. In addition, Rainis was a passionate supporter and promoter of the idea of Latvia as an independent state. Rainis was also an active politician; he served in the Constitutional Assembly, the Saeima and even ran for the Presidency. The sun, shining all day long, will be the guide for the museum visitor all through the house of Rainis' father. The early years of Rainis' life and literary heritage can be explored here with playfulness and childish ease. The exposition, without digital elements, allows one to forget the daily rush and indulge in the charm of the surrounding nature and light feeling of childhood.

📍 Tadenava, Dunava Parish, Jēkabpils Municipality, Latvia
56.176500, 26.114000

🌐 www.aspazijarainis.lv/tadenava
+371 29250484

📄 www.jekabpilsnovads.lv
www.muzejsseija.lv

2

Park of Aleksandrs Grīns

It is the place of birth and childhood of the writer, publicist and officer of the Latvian Army Aleksandrs Grīns (1895-1941), the author of the novels "Ring of Namejs" and "The Earth Restorers". The author also wrote the epic novel "Blizzard of Souls" based on



what he saw and experienced himself – a vivid reflection of the decisive events of the First World War and the fighting spirit of the selfless Latvian Riflemen. In addition, in 2019, marking the centenary of the fight for freedom, the novel was adapted into an art film. The park exhibits large-format environmental objects dedicated to the writer's works – riflemen's silhouettes, triangles with Latvian signs, a garden arch, a bear with a paw print and others. In the "Doktorāts" building, there is a memorial room with extensive information about the writer's life.

📍 "Doktorāts", Kalns Parish, Jēkabpils Municipality, Latvia
56.351035, 25.819854

🌐 www.jekabpilsnovads.lv
+371 29939759

3

Pauls Stradiņš School

Pauls Stradiņš School is a department of the Viesīte Museum "Sēlija", which introduces two important families of Latvia – the Stradiņš and Stenders families. Professor Pauls Stradiņš (1896-1958), an outstanding Latvian doctor and surgeon, was born in Viesīte. He dedicated his life to the development of state medicine, thus making his name well known in Latvia and abroad. The Old Stenders (1714-1765), a Latvian-German writer, linguist, pastor and enlightenment figure, is considered to be the founder of Latvian secular literature traditions. The "Bildu ābice" he created became the first illustrated alphabet in the

Viewing of Zemgale region objects will continue in page 7.

Latvian language, which is a way of learning the ABCs with a creative approach – adding an illustration and a rhyme to each letter. The museum has preserved the Stradiņš family living room and the office of Professor Pauls Stradiņš, exhibiting rural objects that were in use at a rural medical station. In the office of Stenders, visitors can see a unique copy of an XVIII c. device – the washing machine that was made by Edvīns Guršpons, a master of sports sledge construction, from the publications of the drawing of Stenders.

📍 2 Peldu St, Viesīte, Viesīte Municipality, Latvia
56.348319, 25.552511

🌐 www.muzejsseija.lv
+ 371 29116334

JĒKABPILS CITY



LATVIA

4

Jēkabpils History Museum

The museum is located in Krustpils Castle, which is one of oldest in Latvia. The castle was built in 1237 by Archbishop Nicolai de Magdeburg of Riga as a fortification on the way from Riga to Daugavpils. During the museum tour, accompanied by a guide, it is possible to get acquainted with the history of the castle, the permanent exhibition, to see the details of the castle interior restored within the renovation, to learn about the interesting personalities and events in Jēkabpils, as well as one can also view the new exhibition of the history of Jēkabpils

individually. The museum offers various educational programmes, as well as an interactive multimedia "Talking Bench", in which the ghost of the castle – the Brown Lady, will tell of the events taking place in the castle at different times. Using the opportunities provided by virtual reality, visitors will have the chance to feel the late XIX c. castle atmosphere and capture a memorial photo of themselves.

📍 216B Rīgas St, Jēkabpils, Latvia
56.512001, 25.857500

🌐 www.jekabpilsmuzejs.lv
+371 27008136

5

Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit and Men's Monastery

The monastery was built in the second half of the XIX c. in the Byzantine style. Since 2008, a copy of the icon of Virgin Mary of Jacobstadt has returned to the church, providing healing to the sick for hundreds of years and gathering a large number of pilgrims every year. The church and the monastery is the largest Orthodox monastery building in Latvia, which one can also view from the inside for a donation. The Church of St. Nicholas the Miracle-Worker is also located in the monastery yard, which is unique due to its miniature size: 17x19.5 m. St. Nicholas was a legendary Christian saint, Bishop of Mira at the beginning of the IV c. The complex includes an impressive masonry fence that is not characteristic to the XVII c. urban environment of Latvia.

- 📍 200 Brīvības St, Jēkabpils, Latvia
56.500198, 25.860500
- 🌐 www.jekabpils.lv
+371 65231486



📍 www.jekabpils.lv



6

The Struve Geodetic Arc Point "Jēkabpils"

In 2005, the Struve Geodetic Arc was included on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites as a unique, longest and most accurate system of geodetic surveys of the time used to determine the size and shape of the Earth, and is an excellent statement of the scientific history and technical developments of its time. 16 geodetic arc points have been measured in the territory of Latvia, two of which – located in Jēkabpils and Sestukalns – are included on the list of UNESCO World

Zemgale Region

7 8

Memorial Room and Gazebo of Pēteris Barisons

The talented Latvian composer and conductor Pēteris Barisons (1904-1947) has made a great and lasting contribution to the development of Latvian music – he has conducted choirs and served as a conductor of the National Opera. One of his best-known works is the opening song of the Latvian Song and Dance Festival – "Today is a Great Day for a Song". The composer's personal belongings, musical instruments, documents and other objects can be seen at his birthplace in "Skudras".

In the gazebo in the park of Vīgante Manor, information is provided about the composer, his work and the Song Festival traditions, and the most significant natural objects of Vīgante Park (Cliff of Staburags, Liepavots) – which, following

Heritage Sites. In Struve Park one can see the measurement point of the geodetic arc surveyed in 1826 by the Academician, Professor of the University of Tartu, Astronomer and Geodesist, the first Director of Pulkovo Observatory, Friedrich Georg Wilhelm von Struve (1793-1864), as well as a memorial stone is available for viewing there.

- 📍 Strūves St, Jēkabpils, Latvia
56.501301, 25.856160
- 🌐 www.jekabpils.lv
+371 25905256



the construction of Plavinas HES in 1965 and the rise of the water level in the river, is now at the bottom of the River Daugava together with the Song Festival stage. In this gazebo one can also select and enjoy listening to one of the composer's pieces.

- 📍 "Skudras", Staburags Parish, Jaunjelgava Municipality, Latvia
56.554573, 25.571753
- 🌐 www.jaunjelgava.lv
+371 22381401
- 📍 "Vīgante", Staburags Parish, Jaunjelgava Municipality, Latvia
56.5741969, 25.4955651
- 🌐 www.jaunjelgava.lv
+371 29892925

📍 www.jaunjelgava.lv

9 

Memorial House of the Sculptor Voldemārs Jākobsons

Today, the wooden barn built for the needs of Vecbebru Manor has become the only memorial house in Latvia for an artist who chose his own path in Latvian sculpture. "My barn – my paradise" is what the sculptor Voldemārs Jākobsons (1899-1974), a teacher, boxing champion and European traveller, a kind of loner and ascetic, said about his place of life and work. Chisels, hammers, skis, straw shoes, mighty ski boots, books and sculptures live out their lives in the "Galdiņi" shed. The sculptor's works are united by an agriculturally monolithic perception of nature and life, that is truly Latvian and harshly Nordic. Bronze, cast iron, granite, dolomite, cement, plaster and clay have been lovingly sculpted by the artist's chisel. One must simply open the barn door as a gate and start reading: "Kukažiņa", "Hostess", "Maiden" and more than 50 images brought to life alongside many drawings and graphics.

 "Galdiņi", Bebri Parish, Koknese Municipality, Latvia
56.723549, 25.489342
 www.visitkoknese.lv
+371 27294969

10 

Memorial House – Museum of the writer A. Upīts

The museum introduces the personality of the writer Andrejs Upīts (1887-1970) and his creative activity, as well as the continuation of the writer's creative heritage and established traditions nowadays. The writer has created works that are read by people of different generations – "Boys of the Moss Village", "The Green Land", "At the Turn of

the Century", which allow one to understand not only the economic, but also the cultural and historical environment of Latvia. In the museum, it is possible to put together the statements made by A. Upīts one by one, in pairs or in groups, or go on a tree recognition expedition. The places mentioned in the novel "The Green Land" in Skrīveri can also be explored both through the museum exposition and the surrounding nature trails.

 58 Daugavas St, Skrīveri, Skrīveri Municipality, Latvia
56.641551, 25.115776
 <https://visit.skriveri.lv>
+371 29496725

11   

Christmas Battle Museum "Mangalji"

The museum displays an exposition dedicated to the legendary Latvian Riflemen's Christmas Battles during the First World War. The museum has preserved unique elements of First World War fortifications – a section of the fortification system reconstructed at an authentic location, a dugout and part of the first line



of German defence – the "German rampart", which is the only object of its kind in the Baltic states. The exhibition "Christmas Battles of the Latvian Riflemen" can be seen inside the museum – more than 200 photographs, battle schemes, objects found in the surroundings of Tīrelpurvs, as well as the largest model of battlefields in Latvia. Accompanied by a guide, visitors will be able to walk around the museum and take part in educational classes, discovering the events of wartime and the daily lives of soldiers.

 "Mangalji", Valgunde Parish, Jelgava Municipality, Latvia
56.829899, 23.701973
 www.karamuzejs.lv
+371 67228147



 www.visitkoknese.lv
<https://visit.skriveri.lv>
www.visit.jelgava.lv

12

Memorial Museum "Pikšas" of Kārlis Ulmanis

Kārlis Ulmanis (1877-1942) is one of the founders of the State of Latvia, the first Prime Minister, and later – the President. The museum was established on the site of his family home, although during the Soviet years all buildings were demolished and the farmstead destroyed. During the

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Third National Awakening, the buildings were reconstructed at the initiative of the people. At "Pikšas", visitors will be able to discover an exposition dedicated to the life of this seminal statesman, his ideas and contributions to strengthening Latvian statehood. In the spacious "Pikšas" yard visitors can behold the architecture of a 1930s Zemgale homestead, as well as obtain comprehensive information about the agricultural tools and household items of the time.

- 📍 "Pikšas", Bērze Parish, Dobele Municipality, Latvia
56.659542, 23.482973
- 🌐 www.pikšas.lv
+371 26670812

13

Horticultural Museum of Pēteris Upītis

The museum presents a strong personality, one of the most outstanding selectionists of independent Latvia – Pēteris Upītis (1896-1976), while also giving one an idea of the beginnings of professional gardening in Dobele and the legacy of this outstanding gardener today. The museum offers a tour of its large garden, presents research activities, the gene pool of Latvian fruit trees and the collection of traditional vegetables, as well as other educational tours. The museum and garden represent an important Latvian cultural space, where synergy between science and art has long been shaped; therefore, even nowadays, during the flowering of the largest lilac collection in Europe, it is possible to experience a diverse range of cultural events for different audiences.

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- 📍 1 Graudu St, Ceriņi, Krimūnu Parish, Dobele Municipality, Latvia
56.610852, 23.297054
- 🌐 www.darzkopibasinstituts.lv
+371 26408655

14

Anna Brigadere Museum "Sprīdiši"

"Sprīdiši" is the place of work and rest of the famous Latvian writer Anna Brigadere (1861-1933). Many outstanding works were produced here, including the trilogy of memories "God. Nature. Work.", which describes the childhood places of the author that one can also discover nearby. The writer's works are known and loved



by every Latvian; they give an idea of the rhythm of Latvian life and are included in school textbooks; the most popular images of the works can be found in the nearby nature park in Tērvete. Particularly popular are the fairy-tale plays created by the writer, which have been staged many times in Latvian theatres, both in her time and today, introducing audiences to an understanding of the main values of life. Visitors to the museum can get acquainted with the life and work of Anna Brigadere, visit several living rooms and view the collection of books.

- 📍 "Sprīdiši", Tērvete Parish, Tērvete Municipality, Latvia
56.483378, 23.376374
- 🌐 www.spridisi.lv
+371 26532691

- 📍 www.dobe.lv
www.tervetesnovads.lv



14



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Family House of Ģederts Eliass – “Zilēni”

Ģederts Eliass (1887–1975) is one of the most outstanding Latvian painters – a master of realism, a researcher of art history and a lecturer. The artist was born in “Zilēni”, which is located in a picturesque place on the bank of the River Platone. Near the house grows the largest ash tree in the Baltic states. The small exposition of “Zilēni” introduces the Eliass family – brothers Kristaps, Ģederts and Juris, and their sister Maija, all of whom were creative and socially important personalities. Visitors have the opportunity to view a series of reproductions of the artist’s paintings and learn more about the family’s history. Cultural and artistic activities also take place here.

- 📍 “Zilēni”, Poķi, Platone Parish, Jelgava Municipality, Latvia
56.503083, 23.670339
- 🌐 www.visit.jelgava.lv
+371 26547117

16

Memorial Museum of Ādolfs Alunāns

Ādolfs Alunāns (1848-1912) is the founder of Latvian theatre, the first professional actor, director, playwright, organiser of theatre, educator of actors and populariser of arts of theatre. For these merits, the Latvian people have honoured him forever as the “father of theatre”. Jelgava is the hometown of Alunāns; his childhood and school years were spent here, and it was in the German theatre that little Ādolfs met and fell in



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love with theatre. The museum is the place where he lived out the final two years of his life, and his family stayed here until 1926. His creative heritage and furniture, library and household items, reminiscent of the romance of the early XX c., are preserved here, keeping the spirit of the father of Latvian theatre alive.

- 📍 3 Filozofu St, Jelgava, Latvia
56.644300, 23.710347
- 🌐 www.alunans.lv
+371 63021180



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Jelgava History and Art Museum of Ģederts Eliass

The museum building is known by its historical name, *Academia Petrina*, built in 1775 and initiated by the last Duke of Courland and Zemgale Pēteris Bīrons on the site of the former palace of the ducal city. It housed the first higher education institution in the territory of Latvia, where the first few presidents of Lithuania and Latvia – Antanas Smetona, Jānis Čakste and Alberts Kviesis – once studied. Nowadays, a museum has been set up in the building; the exhibitions introduce visitors to its history in an interactive way with the help of 3D glasses, and tell of significant historical events in Jelgava and the surrounding region from the earliest times

to the present day. The greatest value of the museum’s collection is the selection of works of the Latvian artist; a representative of realistic painting and outstanding Latvian painter – Ģederts Eliass (1887-1975).

- 📍 10 Akadēmijas St, Jelgava, Latvia
56.649892, 23.728888
- 🌐 www.jvmm.lv
+371 63023383

18

Jelgava Holy Trinity Church Tower

The current bell tower of the Jelgava Holy Trinity Church was originally part of the church, which was built in 1574 by order of Gothards Ketlers – the Duke of Courland and Zemgale. It was the first newly built Lutheran stone church in Europe and the largest in Zemgale. After the church was destroyed in 1944, it was not rebuilt, although the bell tower remained. In 2010, after extensive reconstruction works, the tower was rebuilt in a new form and now has nine floors with three contemporary art and interactive history exhibits. One of them is “Zemgale – the cradle of Latvian presidents”, which tells of the first four presidents of Latvia – Jānis Čakste, Gustavs Zemgals, Alberts Kviesis and Kārlis Ulmanis, who are closely connected with Jelgava and Zemgale.

Near the tower there is a monument in honour of the first President of Latvia, Jānis Čakste, who was born in the neighbourhood of Jelgava as well as studied and worked here.

- 📍 1 Akadēmijas St, Jelgava, Latvia
56.652443, 23.728838
- 🌐 www.visit.jelgava.lv
+371 63005445

🌐 www.visit.jelgava.lv



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19 ⓘ

House of Jānis Čakste

On the bank of the River Lielupe is the family house “Auči” of the first President of Latvia, Jānis Čakste (1859-1927). It was built in the 1930s, and since 1995 it is once again owned and inhabited by the Čakste family. An exposition can be viewed in the renovated servants’ house – in a modern and contemporary format, it tells of the fates of the first President of Latvia and his family members in the context of the history of Latvia and the development of democracy. The mission of the “House of Jānis Čakste” is to give everyone the opportunity to discover the personality of the first President of Latvia and his path to the presidency, and to encourage the desire to follow his vision for a free, independent and democratic Latvia.

📍 “Auči”, Salgale Parish, Ozolnieki Municipality, Latvia
56.594676, 23.957577

🌐 www.visit.jelgava.lv
+371 26392154



19

20 ⓘ

Memorial House of Edvards Virza and Elza Stērste – “Billītes”

Latvian poet, writer and translator Edvards Virza (1883-1940) and his wife, poet and teacher, Elza Stērste (1885-1976) lived in “Billītes” for many years. Many poems have been written here and the poem “Straumēni” of E. Virza, written in 1933, is the most powerful depiction of the lives of Latvian farmers ever written. Nowadays, a memorial museum has been set up in

“Billītes”, telling of the life of poets and their most famous works – “Straumēni” and the poetry collection of E. Stērste “Knotted Threads”.

📍 “Billītes”, Salgale Parish, Ozolnieki Municipality, Latvia
56.575028, 24.109230

🌐 www.visit.jelgava.lv
+371 29299790



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21 ⓘ

Museum of Vilis Plūdonis

Vilis Plūdonis (1874-1940) was an outstanding Latvian poet and teacher, and significant for Latvia with his literary heritage. In Latvia, both children and adults know “Rabbit Sauna”, which creates a unique story of childhood memories. An exposition dedicated to the poet’s life and work is available to visitors in the museum’s residential building, renovated barns and farm buildings. At the nearby “Rabbit Sauna”, guests are greeted by the rabbit family, a set of wooden sculptures. It offers youth pedagogical programmes for schools to get to know the poet’s personality and

learn more about his literary heritage. The museum also has creative workshops, where one can make straw mobiles and suns, as well as greeting cards with Latvian folk signs.

📍 “Lejenieki”, Ceraukste Parish, Bauska Municipality, Latvia
56.410972, 24.293848

🌐 www.bauskasmuzejs.lv
+371 26184631

22 ⓘ

Museum of Actors Amtmaņi

In the building where the museum is currently located, once lived actor-director Alfrēds Amtmanis-Briedītis (1885-1966) and his brother, Teodors Amtmanis (1883-1938) – also an actor-director – outstanding and talented masters of Latvian theatre from a small rural parish and a simple family. The Amtmaņi brothers were among the first developers of realistic psychological portrayals in Latvian theatre. The permanent exhibition at the museum introduces the families of these two greats, their lifetimes and accomplishments in the development of theatrical art.

📍 “Zvanēju Bukas”, Valle Parish, Vecumnieki Municipality, Latvia
56.506689, 24.716086

🌐 www.vecumnieki.lv
+371 26608478



22

🌐 www.visit.jelgava.lv
www.visit.bauska.lv

NERETA COUNTY



LATVIA

23

Museum of Jānis Jaunsudrabiņš "Riekstiņi"

Jānis Jaunsudrabiņš (1877-1962) – painter, poet, writer. His "White Book" is one of the most highly acclaimed and most popular books in Latvian literature that is included in the Latvian Culture Canon and compulsory literature list of schools. The museum of the writer is located in "Mūsmājas", the childhood home depicted in his "White Book". An authentic environment is preserved there – the house, barns, hundred-year-old trees and the landscape. In the museum, one can see books, photos, paintings, personal items, and interesting programmes are also offered; for example, "The bread did not make itself", which is meant for various age groups.

- 📍 "Riekstiņi", Nereta Parish, Nereta County, Latvia
56.196972, 25.379686
- 📞 www.neretasnovads.lv
+371 65176467



www.neretasnovads.lv



ROKIŠKIS DISTRICT



24

Rokiškis Regional Museum

The visitors of the manor house will be introduced to the heritage of counts Tyzenhauz and Przewdziecki, and huge cultural and historical treasures. It is the only place where one can see the unique exposition of the works of the Lithuanian woodcarver of the XX c., Lionginas Šepka (1907-1985), and the only collection of cribs in Lithuania. The spirit of the past may be felt by participating in various educational events – "The Cheese Road", "Candle Dipping", "Band Weaving", "Making of the Selonian Brass Jewellery" and more.

- 📍 5 Tyzenhauzų St, Rokiškis, Lithuania
55.965382, 25.600904
- 📞 www.muzejusrokiskyje.lt
+370 61544586

25

Rokiškis Church of Saint Matthew the Apostle Evangelist

It is one of the most prominent buildings in the Neogothic style of the Historicism period in Lithuania. Construction works were started in 1868. It is probably the only interior of the XIX c. in Lithuania, designed



and performed completely by foreign architects, painters and craftsmen of high qualification. Visitors may see the beautiful crypt, where the church's founders, the counts Tyzenhauz, are buried. Rokiškis panorama may be enjoyed from the church's tower, and a museum of church values located in the lodge of the counts may be visited.

- 📍 1 Nepriklausomybės Sq., Rokiškis, Lithuania
55.964477, 25.585005
- 🌐 www.rokiskioaparapija.lt
+370 68758342

26

Sculpture Park of Lionginas Šepka in Rokiškis Town

To commemorate the most famous Lithuanian woodcarver of the XX c., Lionginas Šepka (1907-1985), the sculpture park was founded in Rokiškis Town. The sculptures have been created for the

🌐 www.rokiskiotic.lt

park since 2001. The famous Lithuanian woodcarvers have created more than 70 sculptures and sculpture compositions for the park already and Latvian and Belarusian sculptors have also contributed. The artists were improvising under the topics of the life and work of Šepka and at the same time tried to manifest their own creative individuality, as well.

- 📍 Taikos St, Rokiškis, Lithuania
55.953937, 25.584035
- 🌐 www.rokiskiotic.lt
+370 68758342

27

Gireišiai Point of the Struve Geodetic Arc

Object of the UNESCO World Heritage List – the point of the Struve Geodetic Arc – the triangulation chain was formed in 1816–1852, in attempt to explore and determine the Earth's size and form. It is one of three geodetic points in the Lithuanian territory that are included on the UNESCO World Heritage List as a part of the



Struve Geodetic Arc. This point is in Gireišiai Village, by road 122 Daugavpils–Kupiškis–Panevėžys. The observation point and the information stand were made for visitors.

- 📍 Gireišiai Village, Panemunėlis Eldership, Rokiškis District, Lithuania
55.902493, 25.436630
- 🌐 www.rokiskiotic.lt
+370 45851044

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Memorial Museum of Painter Justinas Vienožinskis in Dačiūnai

One of the most important Lithuanian painters, the art classic, Justinas Vienožinskis (1886–1960), spent his childhood and youth in Dačiūnai Village, close to Obeliai Village, where the major part of the painter's creative heritage was painted later (landscapes of his homeland and surrounding districts, portraits of his

parents and relatives). The painter laid the foundations for a professional national art school in Lithuania. The memorial exposition dedicated to the painter was opened in his native homestead. The authentic architecture of the house built in the XIX c. and the homestead environment have been preserved.

- 📍 28A Justino Vienožinskio St, Audronys I, Obeliai Eldership, Rokiškis District, Lithuania
55.942075, 25.746271
- 🌐 www.rokiskiotic.lt
+370 60648033



VILNIUS DISTRICT



LITHUANIA

29 34

The Struve Geodetic Arc Points in Meškonys and Paliepiukai

The Struve Geodetic Arc is 2820 kilometres long and illustrates unique achievements in the field of Earth Sciences. This spectacular project took place at the beginning of the XIX c. and was aimed at studying and determining the size and shape of the planet Earth as accurately as possible! In 2005, the Struve Geodetic Arc was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List of the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Convention. Three of the 34

Struve Geodetic Arc Points on the list are located in Lithuania and one can visit 2 of them here – there are info signs and an informative pillar devoted to the Struve Geodetic Arc.

- 📍 Meškonys Village, Nemenčinės Eldership, Vilnius District
54.930959, 25.316731
- Paliepiukų Village, Nemėžio Eldership, Vilnius District
54.634440, 25.429183
- 🌐 www.vrtic.lt
+370 52436402

30

Geographical Centre of Europe

In 1989, a geographical centre was revealed. Researchers at the French National Geographic Institute determined that the true geographic centre of Europe is located in Lithuania between the villages of Purnuškės and Bernotai.



The geographical centre of Europe is marked by a commemorative stone, the flags of the European Union member states and the column of white granite, surmounted by a crown of stars. The Bernotai mound, which is one of the oldest in the country and the European Centre Golf Club, are located not far away.

- 📍 Girijas Village, Nemenčinė Eldership, Vilnius District, Lithuania
54.906635, 25.319145
- 🌐 www.vrtic.lt
+370 52001646

31

Monsignor Juzef Obrebski Museum

Monsignor Juzef Obrebski (1906-2011) was called the Patriarch of Vilnius District as he was one of the oldest Catholic priests in Lithuania and Europe. He lived a long 105 years! Throughout his life J. Obrebski not only took care of parishioners' spiritual life, but also supported priests who were taking refuge from the Bolsheviks or who were returning from exile in Siberia. During

the Nazi occupation, he even saved several villages from total destruction. The last wish of Monsignor Obrebski was to establish a place of memory to commemorate all the priests and nuns who were persecuted and who even sacrificed their lives for their belief. Anyone who comes to visit the museum will be wonderfully introduced to the great man's life, as well as get more information about prominent figures of the Catholic Church. Children are invited to explore the museum by playing different games and solving tasks.

- 📍 5 Šv. Antano St, Maišiagala Village, Vilnius District, Lithuania
54.869240, 25.065837
- 🌐 www.vrtic.lt
+370 60184102



32

The Blessed Michael Sopočko Church

The church, consecrated with the title of Blessed Michael Sopočko (1888 – 1975) is the first and, so far, the only church in the world to have been named after this saint.

Fr. Michael Sopočko belongs to a circle of prominent personalities related to the history of Vilnius. He is also among those beatified and canonised by the Church, who left their distinctive marks on the city. He was a priest of the Archdiocese of Vilnius, professor of the then Steponas Batoras University, chaplain of the army, confessor for Sister Maria Faustyn Kowalska, who was canonised (declared as a saint) in 2000 and a tireless apostle of God's grace. Visitors can freely attend the church or visit the cemetery where the nuns of the congregation of Grey Ursulines are buried.

- 📍 25 Šv. Uršulės St, Juodšilių Village, Vilnius District, Lithuania
54.582873, 25.259611
- 🌐 www.vrtic.lt
+370 52436402



33

Museum of Vladislavas Sirokomlė

In the small village of Bareikiškės there is a XIX c. wooden building, where a famous poet – Vladislavas Sirokomlė (1823-1862) lived and worked in 1853-1861. This building has been transformed into a tourist information centre and a museum. V. Sirokomlė was one of the most popular poets in Lithuania. Publishers competed for his new works and payed him 2 zlots, and sometimes even half a rouble for his poems, which was pretty good money in those times.

There is an opportunity to check out the exhibits, which allows one to see the poet's furniture, portraits, books and other personal belongings. There is also the chance to take part in educational activities.

- 📍 5 Sirokomlės St, Bareikiškės Village, Vilnius District, Lithuania
54.616530, 25.463377
- 🌐 www.vrtic.lt
+370 52436402

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St. Ignatius Chapel of Pričiūnai

The chapel dates back to 1837 and is famous for its yearly celebrations at the end of July to mark the feast day of St. Ignatius, which is attended by crowds of believers. Two memorial boards over the entrance to the chapel remind us of important historical facts. One of them mentions Vanda Bonishevskia, a nun of the congregation of the Sisters of Angels, who lived in Pričiūnai for nearly 20 years and was highly respected among the parishioners due to her tireless apostolic activity, her support for the persecuted and her stigmata. Another nun, sister Helen Mayevska, experienced what was probably the most significant revelation of her life, i.e., the visitation of Jesus. Soon she turned to the blessed Michael Sopočko, who was a devoted preacher of the message of God's Grace. They cooperated in the establishment of a new congregation of the Sisters of Merciful Jesus.

- 📍 Pričiūnų Village, Buivydių Eldership, Vilnius District, Lithuania
54.842315, 25.642564
- 🌐 www.vrtic.lt
+370 52436402

🌐 www.vrtic.lt

CITY AND DISTRICT OF POLOTSK



36

Megalithic monument Belarusian Stonehenge

Belarusian Stonehenge on Lake Janava is a unique monument of megalithic culture. It is also called an ancient observatory, as its stones are placed so as to indicate the points of the sunset on the days of winter



and summer solstices, as well as spring and autumn equinoxes. Visitors can attend the site all year round, either on their own or after booking a guided tour. The guide will tell visitors how the ancestors of modern Belarusians calculated the seasons and days of the year. One can also try to decipher an ancient calendar. Visitors can get to "Belarusian Stonehenge" by land all year round or by kayak in summer.

- 📍 Bikulnici Village, Polotsk District, Viciebsk Region, The Republic of Belarus 55.273735, 28.782634
- 🏠 www.polotsk-turizm.com +375 214466949

37

Sign "The Geographical Centre of Europe"

Polotsk is not only one of the oldest East Slavonic cities, but also the geographical centre of Europe. There are a lot of places that claim this status, because it is difficult to pinpoint the geographical centre of Europe precisely, as this depends on the methodology. However, Polotsk is still the point of departure for travelling along European roads, just as it was centuries ago, and the Belarusian heart of Europe. A sign to confirm this has been placed on the city's main thoroughfare.

- 📍 Skaryna Ave., Polotsk, Viciebsk Region, The Republic of Belarus 55.484737, 28.776064
- 🏠 www.polotsk-turizm.com +375 214466949

38

Private Museum of Knighthood

On a tour "In the Old Castle" Prince Andrej, son of Alhierd, will share his secret knowledge of military armour of the IX to XIV c. He will speak about the political development of the last quarter of the XIV c., which changed the course of history for Polotsk, one of the most important cities in Eastern Europe

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"Polotsk Printing Shop" Creative Laboratory

that became part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Visitors to the museum will have a unique chance to encounter the Middle Ages: they will try on armour, shoot arrows from a bow and learn mediaeval dances.

- 📍 3 Engels St, Polotsk, Viciebsk Region, The Republic of Belarus 55.484299, 28.771851
- 🏠 www.polotsk-turizm.com +375 298345566



Francysk Skaryna was a unique personality in Belarusian history and culture. The native of Polotsk, who lived in the first half of the XVI c., in recognition of his outstanding achievements, his portrait has been placed in Sala dei Quaranta of Padua University alongside other pictures of its most renowned graduates. The Book Printer's workshop gives everyone a wonderful opportunity to gain first-hand experience of a printer's craft and look into the mysteries of book printing. Visitors will be able to typeset their own text, print their first page on a real Renaissance printing press, and create a woodcut of the Cathedral of St Sophia in Polotsk.

- 📍 3 Engels St, Polotsk, Viciebsk Region, The Republic of Belarus 55.484299, 28.771851
- 🏠 www.polotsk-turizm.com +375 297162670



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Cognitive Tour on a Dragon Ship

The Middle Ages were a particularly remarkable time in the history of Polotsk. The fame of its craftsmen, merchants and of course warriors travelled far and wide. An hour's tour on a dragon ship or long boat down the Dvina is a good opportunity for visitors of Polotsk to learn how the ancestors of today's Belarusians built these fastest vessels and to find out more about the Slavs and the Vikings, as well as the history of Polotsk. Feel how powerful the wind can be, admire the beauty of the banks of the Dvina, take a sword in the hands and imagine being a warrior on an ancient dragon ship!

📍 8 Skaryna Ave., Polotsk, Viciebsk Region, The Republic of Belarus
55.485158, 28.766435

🏠 www.polotsk-turizm.com
+375 214466949

41

Memorial Sign in Honour of Polotsk's History and Culture

Polotsk's grandeur and beauty at various stages of its history are cast in stone: one can see the meander of the River Palata, which gave Polotsk its name, the legendary island, which once had a monastery, and the "ship" of the Cathedral of St Sophia, which cannot be mistaken for anything else, in Vierchni Zamak. Visitors can have a glimpse of the old city's panorama and its history.

📍 Historical part of Polotsk, Central lane of Skaryna Ave, Polotsk, The Republic of Belarus
55.484998, 28.771420

🏠 www.polotsk-turizm.com
+375 214466949

📍 www.polotsk-turizm.com

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The Member States of the European Union have decided to intertwine their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development while maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

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Discover
and look for
other tourism
routes



Discover | Explore | Experience

CRAFT
SKILLS AND
TRADITIONS

Latvia | Lithuania | Belarus

ENG

Icons: location pin, magnifying glass, play button

This card features a top image of a colorful striped textile. Below the title, there are three smaller images: a dark ceramic jar, a woven basket, and a piece of fabric. The bottom right corner contains three small icons: a location pin, a magnifying glass, and a play button.

Discover | Explore | Experience

INTANGIBLE
CULTURAL
HERITAGE
VALUES

Latvia | Lithuania | Belarus

ENG

Icons: location pin, magnifying glass, play button

This card features a top image of a picnic setup with a thermos and a bottle. Below the title, there are two smaller images: a plate of food and a person standing in a field. The bottom right corner contains three small icons: a location pin, a magnifying glass, and a play button.



Latvia | Lithuania | Belarus