



# Tour Information



# Art Nouveau in Riga





## Travel

### Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left on it) and has at least 6 months validity remaining from the date of travel. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel.

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

### Visas

If you're a tourist, you do not need a visa for short trips to most EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. You'll be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

Different rules apply to Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania. If you visit these countries, visits to other EU countries do not count towards the 90-day total.

#### Latvian Embassy:

45 Nottingham Place, London W1U 5LY.

Tel: (020) 7312 0041. Fax: (020) 7312 0042.

E-mail: [consulate.uk@mfa.gov.lv](mailto:consulate.uk@mfa.gov.lv)

Website: <http://www.am.gov.lv/en/london/>

Opening hours (visa section): Mon-Fri 1000-1600.



### Tickets and Flight Times

Included with your itinerary is an e-ticket which shows your flight reference number for the AirBaltic flight. You must quote/show this at the check-in desk along with your passport and you will be issued with your boarding pass.

Please note that due to current security restrictions please allow extra time to check-in, we recommend a minimum of two hours.

### Seats and Flight

Some airlines have the facility to allow you to pre-book your seat prior to arriving at the airport either by telephone, or online. Please speak to us for further information. Please note that no meals are

served on these flights so you may wish to make arrangements to eat prior to boarding.



### Baggage Allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With Air Baltic your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 20kg plus **one** cabin bag no bigger than 55 x 40 x 23 cm and weighing less than 8kg. Please note that personal bags (such as handbag or computer case) must be stored within your single piece of hand luggage.

Please contact the airline for further information

<https://www.airbaltic.com/en/baggage>

### Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

### Departure Tax

The departure tax is included in the price of your flight tickets.

### Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

### Transfers

On arrival in Riga, transfer to your hotel for your three-night stay (approx. 30-minute journey).

### Border Control

You may have to show your return ticket and money.

At border control, you may need to:

- show a return or onward ticket.
- show you have enough money for your stay.
- use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queueing.



## Accommodation

### Monika Hotel

The 4\* Hotel Monika is located in the cultural and historical centre of Riga and is circled by one of Europe's most eminent block of Art Nouveau buildings, close to the Old Town of Riga. The hotel's restaurant 'Sokrats' creates a pleasant atmosphere with excellent cuisine. Bedrooms are comfortable with en-suite bathrooms, Wi-Fi, air-conditioning, minibar, TV, safe, hairdryer and telephone.

For more information visit their website:

<http://www.monika.centrumhotels.com/>



### Food

Pork, sauerkraut, potatoes, sour cream (skabs krejums), dark rye-bread, and seasonal, locally grown vegetables are the main ingredients for everyday Latvian cuisine. In the coastal regions, seafood is plentiful – smoked fish (salmon and trout) and herring are the most common.

Delicious, warming soups are favourites – the cabbage skabu kapostu zupa, the meat-ball Frikadelu zupa, and sorrel soup with boiled pork, onions, potatoes and barley. Other local specialities include kotletes (meat patties), piragi (pastry filled with bacon and onions), and Sklandu Rausi (vegetable tarts).

Typical desserts include Alexander Torte (raspberry- or cranberry-filled pastry strips), Debessmanna (berry mousse), Apple pie, and Rupjmaizes Kartojuums (layered rye bread dessert with whipped cream and cranberry jam).



### Drink

Local Latvian beers include Aldaris, Līvu, Senču, and you will find plenty of beers produced in the great number of small microbreweries. Another local drink is Riga's Black Balsam, a thick, black alcoholic herbal drink which has been produced since 1700. Quite a strong drink on its own, it is often mixed in a cocktail, or a few spoons are added to coffee.

For a non-alcoholic drink, try the fresh fruit juices, made from local wild berries.

### Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

**Breakfast** – daily

**Dinner** is included on two nights, one at the hotel and one at a local restaurant:

### Taking food and drink into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries.



## Destination

Rīga is the largest, liveliest and most cosmopolitan of the Baltic capitals, with a wide variety of world cuisine. This UNESCO World Heritage listed town is a heady mixture of the medieval and the contemporary, the city has much to offer architecture and history enthusiasts in the narrow cobbled streets of Old Rīga and the wide boulevards of the New Town, where beautiful examples of Jugendstil Art Nouveau architecture – “music in stone” – line Strēlnieku iela and Alberta iela. Riga, is in the middle of a renaissance, the restoration of its many magnificent old buildings and fairy-tale skyline of turrets and steeples making it one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Riga’s population is roughly 50% Latvian and 50% Russian, the cultures mixing harmoniously to make a delightful and cosmopolitan city.

### Places of interest included in your tour:

#### Dome Cathedral

Founded in 1211 as the seat of the Rīga diocese, this enormous (once Catholic, now Evangelical Lutheran) cathedral is the largest medieval church in the Baltic. The architecture is an amalgam of styles from the 13th to the 18th centuries: the eastern end, the oldest portion, has Romanesque features; the tower is 18th-century baroque; and much of the rest dates from a 15th-century Gothic rebuilding. During Soviet times services were strictly forbidden and much of the cathedral’s ornate interior decor was stripped away. Surviving highlights include the pulpit (dating from 1641), the huge 6768-pipe organ (completed in 1884) and some beautiful stained-glass windows.

For more information about the cathedral, please visit: <http://www.doms.lv/index/?lang=eng>

#### The Swedish Gate

Built into the city’s medieval walls in 1698 while the Swedes were in power, this is the only remaining gate to Old Rīga, set in the largest surviving section of the town walls. It leads into Trokšņu iela, Old Rīga’s narrowest and most atmospheric street.

#### The Small and Big Guild Houses

The 19th-century Gothic exterior of the Great Guild encloses a sumptuous merchants’ meeting hall, built during the height of German power in

the 1330s. Today, the Great Guild houses the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra. The fairy-tale castle next door is the Small Guild, founded in the 14th century as the meeting place for local artisans.

For more information about the Guild Houses, please visit:

[http://www.viewat.org/?i=en&id\\_aut=2751&id\\_pn=17437&pag=1&sec=pn](http://www.viewat.org/?i=en&id_aut=2751&id_pn=17437&pag=1&sec=pn)

#### St Peter’s Church

Forming the centrepiece of Rīga’s skyline, this Gothic church is thought to be around 800 years old, making it one of the oldest medieval buildings in the Baltic. Its soaring red-brick interior is relatively unadorned, except for heraldic shields mounted on the columns. A colourful contrast is provided by the art exhibitions staged in the side aisles. At the rear of the church, a lift whisks visitors to a viewing platform 72m up the steeple.

For more information about the church, please visit:

<http://peterbaznica.riga.lv/en/about-us/>

#### The House of Blackheads

Built in 1344 as a veritable fraternity house for the Blackheads guild of unmarried German merchants, the original house was bombed in 1941 and demolished by the Soviets seven years later. Somehow the original blueprints survived, and an exact replica was completed in 2001 for Rīga’s 800th birthday.

#### Town Hall Square

The Town Hall Square in Riga has been completely re-built, since during World War II the square and its historic buildings were destroyed. A statue of St Roland, the city’s patron, takes pride of place on the square in front of it. It, too, is a replica of the original, erected in 1897, which now stands in St Peter’s.

For more information about the Town Hall Square, please visit:

<https://www.liveriga.com/en/3232-town-hall-square/>

#### Museum of Decorative Art and Design

The Museum of Decorative Art and Design (MDAD) has been open to the public since 6 July 1989. The museum has seven collections: textile art, ceramics, metal, leather, decorative wood and glass art as well as a design collection. The permanent display introduces visitors to the work of Latvia’s leading artists in decorative art and



design. It tells about the dominant styles and movements in the period from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. Alongside the permanent display, the museum regularly offers a broad range of exhibitions. Every year there are on average five exhibitions in the museum's Great Hall. Special thematic shows associated with the permanent display are held in the vestibules on the museum's upper floors.

For more information about the museum, please visit:  
<http://www.lnmm.lv/en/mdad>

## Riga Art Museum

Once the home of Konstantīns Pēkšēns (a local architect responsible for over 250 of the city's buildings), the interiors have been completely restored to resemble a middle-class apartment from the 1920s. Note the spectacular staircase, geometric stencils, rounded furniture, original stained glass in the dining room and the still-functioning stove in the kitchen. There's also a free 10-minute video detailing the city's distinct decor.

For more information about the museum, please visit:  
<http://www.jugendstils.riga.lv/eng>

## Riga Art Nouveau Museum

Originally built in 1903 as a private house of the famous Latvian architect Konstantīns Pēkšēns who designed it together with Eižens Laube. The façade of the monumental building boasts ornamental reliefs with stylised motifs of plants and animals occurring in Latvia. They have also been used in the interior design. The impressive spiral staircase is one of the most magnificent masterpieces not only in Riga, but also in Europe.

The museum features an authentic interior of an Art Nouveau apartment and a modern digital exposition.

A modern and interactive digital exposition tells about the magnificent Art Nouveau architecture, design and art of Riga and about everyday life of Rigans in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

For more information visit about the museum, please visit:

<http://www.jugendstils.riga.lv/eng/muzeum/>

## Latvian National Museum of Art

After recent reconstruction, the museum is entirely renovated, restored and enlarged. A modern and accessible infrastructure and environment for visitors is created with innovative services for public learning and recreation following the visitor's needs and interests.

The new permanent display Latvian art 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Century for the first time covers two centuries of the evolution of art in Latvia. The main objective was to create a visual, emotional story of Latvian art development and its social, geopolitical and historical context. In the display, the most important authors and art works from each period are selected.

For more information visit about the museum, please visit:

<http://www.lnmm.lv/en/lnma/visit>

## Your lecturer / guide

*Mike Hope* will be your guide for this tour.

Mike is an author, lecturer, curator and designer, who has spent more than 25 years at the following universities - Staffordshire, Portsmouth, Nottingham Trent and Plymouth, and almost 30 years delivering Summer School Programmes. He has lectured around the world and was the founder board member of The European Academy of Design. Alongside an extensive publication list, he has researched, designed and curated many exhibitions, and is specialist advisor on stained glass to the Diocese of Exeter. He specialises in art, architectural and design history, stained glass, churches and cathedrals; the English country house and garden.

### During your trip enjoy two evening lectures:

*'Art Nouveau in Riga – an essay in Latvian Independence'*

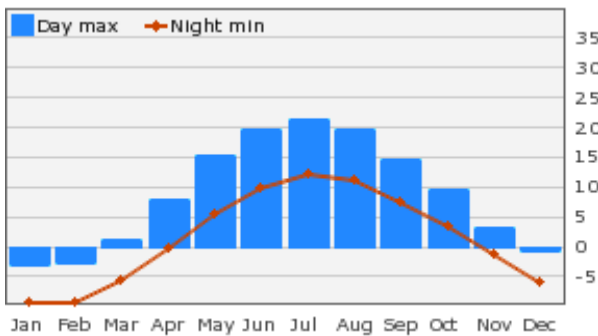
*'Art Nouveau as a tool of Cultural Change, Protest and Resistance in Central and Eastern Europe'*

## Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

## The Basics

**Climate** – The weather in Latvia at this time of year is likely to be pleasant. However, it can get chilly in the evenings, and there is always the chance of the odd shower, so our best advice is to be prepared.



**Time** – GMT +3 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 2 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

**Language** – Latvian

**Religion** – Lutheran and Catholic

**National holidays** – **Common to all three states:** New Year's Day (01 Jan); Labour Day (01 May); St John's Day (24 Jun); Christmas Day (25 Dec); Boxing Day (26 Dec). Good Friday; Easter Monday; Declaration of Independence Day (4 May); Ligo (Midsummer's eve) (23 Jun); Independence Day (18 Nov); New Year's Eve (31 Dec).

**Currency** –

Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

**Banks** – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

**Credit cards** – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

**Electricity** – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

**Drinking water** – Tap water is safe, although it has high mineral content and can be cloudy. Therefore, bottled water is safer and widely available.

**Shops and museums** – Shops and stores are generally open Mon-Fri 0900-2100. Many are also open at the weekend including Sundays. Please note that most museums are closed on Mondays.

**Clothes & Shoes** – You may like to bring medium weight clothing and a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

**Camera** – Bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

**Bath plugs** – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

**Telephones/mobiles** – The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges you might get from 1 January 2021. A new law means that you're protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you're abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

**Tipping** – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



## Health

### Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

**Keep receipts for insurance claims.**



### Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

**Keep receipts for insurance claims.**

### General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

### Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



## Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

### European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you're travelling to an EU country.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For further information about the GHIC please visit: <https://www.ehic.org.uk>



## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

00 44 20 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 0900-1700)

Outside office hours, please telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Embassy Riga

5, J.Alunana iela

Riga

LV 1010

Latvia

Email: [britishembassy.riga@fco.gov.uk](mailto:britishembassy.riga@fco.gov.uk)

Tel: +371 6777 4700

Fax: +371 6777 4707

Open Mon-Thu 0830-1300 and 1400-1700 and Fri 0830-1330.

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3 Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB

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