

Holocaust Memorial Places and Holocaust-related Museums in Riga

Riga Ghetto and Latvian Holocaust Museum

Inaugurated on September 21, 2010, by the “Shamir” Association and Rabbi Dr. Menachem Barkahan, the Riga Ghetto Museum became the first institution dedicated to the Jewish ghettos of WWII across post-Soviet space. Its heart features a solemn memorial wall listing 70,000 Latvian Jews lost in the Holocaust, complemented by another remembering 25,000 German Jews sent to the Riga Ghetto. The museum’s ambition expanded over time, delving deeper into Latvia’s Jewish culture, historical daily life, prewar Zionist organisations, migration and pre-war diplomatic crises, as well as local assistance to Jews. Currently housing diverse displays, plans are underway for a significant renovation to ensure the museum’s enduring future.



Lastādijas ielā 14A
t.+371 67443950
www.rgm.lv

Sun. - Thu. 10:00 – 18:00
Fri. 10:00 – changes seasonally
Sat. Closed

Great Choral Synagogue Memorial

The Riga Choral Synagogue, once located at Gogola Street 25 (now Emīlijas Benjamiņas Street), was the city’s largest synagogue, established in 1871. On 4 July 1941, three days after Nazi German troops entered Riga, the local auxiliary police unit under the command of Viktors Arājs, subjected to the German Security Police and Security Service, burned the synagogue, which might have caused deaths of people inside. After WWII, Soviet authorities demolished its remains, replacing them with a park. The first commemorative stone to mark the site was placed in 1988. Five years later, a memorial was erected in the shape of ruins of the synagogue, designed by Sergejs Rižs. A new monument was unveiled in 2007, designed by Elīna Lazdiņa. Dedicated to Žanis Lipke and other Latvians who saved Jews, it features a symbolic wall supported by pillars that carry the names of rescuers. The 4 July is now Latvia’s official Holocaust Remembrance Day.



Dzirnavu iela 124

Nr. 15
till stop “Emīlijas Benjamiņas iela”

Rumbula Forest Memorial

Rumbula is one of the largest Jewish mass murder sites in Europe. On 30 November and 8 December 1941, elderly people, women and children of the Riga Ghetto were forced to march to the Rumbula forest, where they were shot. During these actions, over 25,000 local Jews, as well as more than 1,000 Jews deported from Germany, were brought to Rumbula and murdered. Some murders happened in the forest as late as 1944. Efforts to commemorate the victims began in the late 1960s, and the activists were allowed to erect a memorial stone with inscriptions in Latvian, Russian, and Yiddish. In 2002, a memorial, designed by architect Sergejs Rižs, was inaugurated. Funded by various international institutions and individuals, it features a seven-branched menorah surrounded by engraved stones bearing the names of some of the victims. Concrete rectangles mark the mass graves.



Latgales iela 471

Nr. 18 till stop “Rumbula”
Nr. 18 till stop “Rumbula”

Jungfernhof Concentration Camp

Jungfernhof (Jumpravmuiža) Concentration Camp, located near the Šķirotava Railway Station, 8 km from Riga city centre, operated between December 1941 and March 1942. Established as an overflow for the Riga Ghetto, it housed Jews from Germany and Austria. The first Berlin transport arrived on 30 November 1941; the majority were executed at Rumbula Forest, with 50 survivors sent to Jungfernhof. Spanning 200 hectares, the camp’s infrastructure was inadequate for the thousands it housed. Overseen by German commandant Rudolf Seck, with Latvian auxiliary police patrols, the conditions led to nearly 800 deaths in winter 1941-42. By March 1942, 1,600 - 1,700 inmates were falsely promised relocation but were executed in Bikernieki forest. Of the approximate 4,000 inmates, only 148 survived.



In between Rumbas iela and Daugava river

Nr. 31, 45 till stop “Ikšķiles iela”
Nr. 7, 14 till stop “Ikšķiles iela”

Peitav Synagogue

Built in 1905 on Peitavas Street to serve the growing Jewish community in the Old Town, the Peitavas Synagogue is a unique piece of the Art Nouveau style in a religious setting, with exotic Babylonian Egyptian stylings and floral motifs inside. During the inter-war period, it emerged as one of the four choral synagogues of Riga. While all other synagogues were razed during the pogrom of July 4th 1941, the Peitavas Synagogue was spared – some say due to fears of fire spreading to adjacent buildings; others credit the pastor of the nearby Reformed Church. During Nazi occupation, the synagogue could have served as a storage facility or even stables. During the Soviet era, it was one of the few functioning synagogues in the Soviet Union and one of the very few with a choir.

Renovated in 2009, it stands today as the only functioning pre-war synagogue in Riga and the city’s primary Jewish religious center.



Peitavas iela 6/8
t. +371 67 214 507

Sun. - Fri. 10:00 – 17:00
Sat. closed

Žanis Lipke Memorial

The Žanis Lipke Memorial in Kipsala district of Riga preserves the memory of Žanis Lipke and his wife Johanna Lipke, who saved the lives of over 50 Jews during the Holocaust. Žanis was a Latvian dockworker, who risked his life to hide Jews in an array of locations, including an improvised underground shelter beneath the house from 1941 to 1944. The modern memorial, established in 2012, stands next to former house of Žanis Lipke. It is a well-maintained memorial that attracts visitors from around the world. It offers educational programs and guided tours to provide insight into Lipkes’ actions and the historical context of the Holocaust in Latvia.



Mazais Balasta dambis 9,
t.+ 371 67 202 539
www.lipke.lv

Mon. Closed
Tue., Wed., Fri., Sun. 12:00 – 18:00
Thy. 12:00 – 20:00
Sat. 10:00 – 16:00

The Riga Ghetto

Established on July 27, shortly after a month of occupation, the Riga Ghetto was designed as a confinement for Riga’s Jewish population. Bounded by Lāčplēša, Latgales, Lauvas, Kalna, and Jēkabpils streets, this temporary measure quickly turned permanent. By October, barbed wire surrounded it, and soon it began receiving German Jews. To accommodate the influx, most Latvian Jews were massacred in Rumbula in late November and early December 1941. The Ghetto, later split into the Latvian and German sections, persisted until July 1943 before the remaining inhabitants were moved to the Kaiserwald concentration camp. While not being a camp, Ghetto saw many deaths, from deplorable conditions, assaults, raids, or the outright execution. Many were buried in the Old Jewish Cemetery, which now hosts one of the few monuments to the Holocaust victims.



Bounded by Lāčplēša, Latgales, Lauvas, Kalna and Jēkabpils streets

Nr. 15 till stop “Mazā Kalna iela”
Nr. 7, 14 till stop “Katoļu iela”

Bikernieki Forest Memorial

Bikernieku Forest is the largest Nazi mass murder site in Latvia. Between 1941 and 1944, tens of thousands of people, predominantly Jews from Latvia, Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia, were killed here. The number of victims is usually estimated to be around 35,000 but it could have been even higher. Since the 1960s, the site has had a commemorative plaque. In 2001, a memorial designed by architect Sergejs Rižs was unveiled, sponsored by a number of European institutions. The memorial captures the tragedy through symbolic structures such as a black granite cube carrying a verse from the Book of Job. Surrounding granite stones evoke a traditional Jewish cemetery. Next to the stones, plaques bearing the names of the home towns of the Jewish victims can be seen. Concrete pillars with three different symbols, representing different groups of victims, are placed throughout the memorial grounds.



Bikernieku iela 70

Nr. 16, 31, 45
till stop “Bikernieku memoriāls”

Strasdenhof Concentration Camp

Strasdenhof was a labour camp constructed near the banks of the Jugla lake at the historic site of an old German manor of Strazdumuiža. It emerged before the dissolution of the “small ghetto”, hosting prisoners from Latvia, Germany, Hungary and Lithuania. Strasdenhof bore witness to two brutal acts of extermination, with the latter claiming the lives of two-thirds of the camp’s inhabitants, sparing no one between the ages of 18 and 30. Merely 700 individuals out of the labour camp’s population endured until the transfer to Stutthof, present-day Poland. Today, the former manor complex is a state-protected historical site. However, the location features no memorials or interpretive signage acknowledging the mass killings that took place here.



Braila iela 5

Nr. 45 till stop “Jugla”
Nr. 34 till stop “Pāles iela”
Nr. 1 till stop “Jugla”

Jews in Latvia Museum

The Jews in Latvia Museum, established in 1989 by Holocaust survivors, serves as a repository of historical and cultural artefacts related to the 450-year Jewish history in Latvia. Located on the third floor of the Riga Jewish Community building, the museum strives to preserve and promote the heritage of the Latvian Jewish community, as well as provide research and educational grounds. The museum’s collection, of some 14,000 pieces, including documents, photographs, books, and physical objects, serves as the basis for its exhibition and scientific activities.



Skolas iela 6
t.+371 67 283 484
www.ebrejumuzejs.lv

Sun. - Thu. 11:00 – 17:00
Fri. Closed; 11:00 – 17:00
(May - September);
Sat. Closed

Museum of the Occupation of Latvia

The Museum of the Occupation of Latvia, established in 1993, serves as a memorial to the events that took place during the occupations of Latvia by the Soviet Union (1940-1941, 1944-1991) and Nazi Germany (1941-1944). The museum explores political, social, and cultural aspects of occupations, highlights mass deportations, forced labour, political repressions, and resistance movements. The museum continues to actively collect, research, and present its material in the reconstructed building, offering guided tours, educational programs, and temporary exhibitions, in order to contribute to the preservation of Latvia’s historical memory.



Latviešu strēlnieku laukums 1
t. + 371 67 229 255
www.okupacijasmuzejs.lv

Working hours
10:00 – 18:00

Kaiserwald Concentration Camp

Kaiserwald (Mežaparks) concentration camp was constructed in July 1943, when the dissolution of all Eastern European ghettos was issued. By November 1943, the camp received the last inmates of Riga ghetto, along with Jews from dissolved ghettos in Liepāja and Daugavpils, later adding Jews from Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Germany, and Hungary. Primarily functioning as a “registration centre”, inmates were assigned to various satellite camps and work sites. Enclosed by barbed wire and guarded towers, the camp’s infrastructure included administrative buildings, barracks, and a kitchen. By March 1944, the camp held 11,878 prisoners. With the advancing Red Army, the inmates were transferred to Germany and the camp was dismantled. Today, the site features a monument by sculptor Solveiga Vasīļeva, commemorating its history.



Meža prospekts 11

Nr. 2, 11, 24
till stop “Meža prospekts”
Nr. 3
till stop “Sarkandaugavas stacija”

Dreiliņi Forest Memorial

Between spring 1942 and summer 1944, the Dreiliņi Forest became place of execution for around 13,000 Jews, including those from Western Europe relocated to Riga, and inmates from the Kaiserwald concentration camp, where Jews were sent after the Riga Ghetto Liquidation. Some of the final murders of Nazi Occupation happened here. A metal rail memorial with a modest veneer plaque was unveiled in the 1950s-60s, acknowledging the “brutal murder of approximately 5,000 Soviet citizens by fascists from 1941 to 1944” in both Russian and Latvian. The plaque deteriorated over time, and the site regrettably became an unauthorised landfill. In the early 1980s, a replacement plaque, providing a more accurate death toll, was vandalised and subsequently damaged. The most recent commemorative plaque was installed in 2010, with the number “13,000” being finally settled.



Dreiliņi forest

Nr. 13 till stop “Cesvaines ielai”
Nr. 31, 45 till stop “Tūkstes iela”
Nr. 52 till stop “Pļavnieku kapi”

Lenta Factory Labor Camp

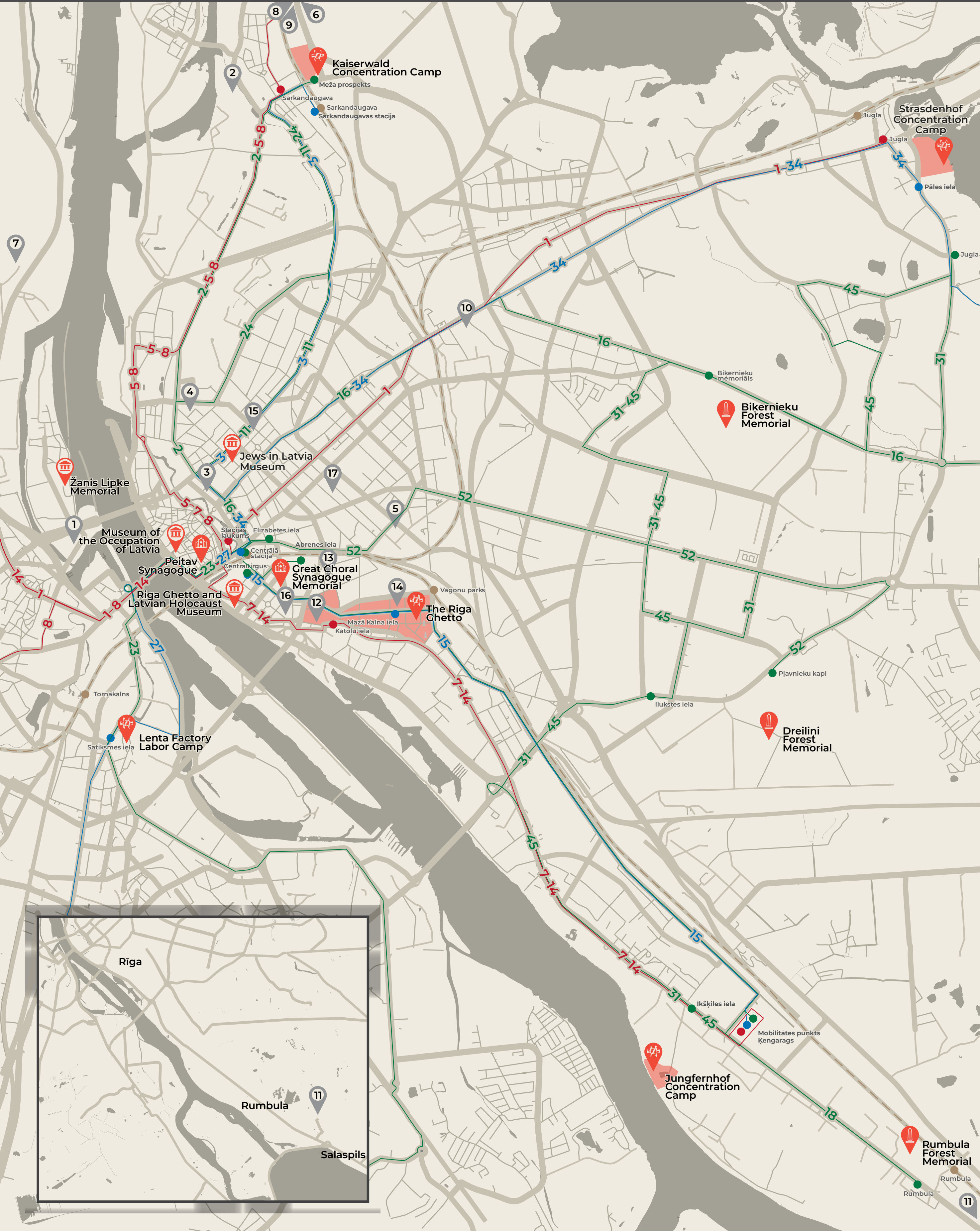
The Lenta was a textile factory established in 1880 in the historic Thorensberg (Tornakalns) district on the left bank of Daugava. During the Nazi occupation, this factory became the site of the forced labor camp, a subsidiary of the Kaiserwald camp. Between 600 and 1,000 people were held captive here at different times, working as mechanics and craftsmen at the military-run workshops. The owner, a clandestine Jew posing as a German, sheltered Jews who would have otherwise perished in camps or during extermination actions. The long-abandoned industrial area is now being transformed into a mixed-use residential and commercial neighbourhood, yet there is nothing to indicate or commemorate the events that occurred here during the Nazi occupation.



Jelgavas iela 68

Nr. 23, 26
till stop “Satiksmes iela”
Nr. 27
till stop “Satiksmes iela”

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- Museums**
- Jews in Latvia Museum
 - Žanis Lipke Memorial
 - Riga Ghetto and Latvian Holocaust Museum
 - Museum of the Occupation of Latvia

- Holocaust Memorial Places**
- Great Choral Synagogue Memorial (Gogol-Shul), 1871 - 1941
 - Peitav Synagogue (Peitav-Shul), Peitavas iela 6/8, 1905 - now
 - Bikernieku Forest Memorial
 - The Riga Ghetto
 - Rumbula Forest Memorial
 - Jungfernhof Concentration Camp
 - Dreilini Forest Memorial
 - Kaiserwald Concentration Camp
 - Stradsdenhof Concentration Camp
 - Lenta Factory Labor Camp

- Jewish Forced Labor Camps**
1. Balasta Dambis Sorting Camp (Balastadamm), Balasta Dambis 3
 2. Provodnik Factory, Ganību Dambis 61
 3. Garages (Heereskraftfahrzeugpark), Reimersa iela 1
 4. Garages (Heereskraftfahrzeugpark), Ganu iela 1-7
 5. Garages (Heereskraftfahrzeugpark), Matīsa iela 88
 6. Mīlgrāvis Sorting Camp (Mühlgraben), Mīlgrāvis iela 16
 7. Spilve Airport (Spilve), Daugavgrīvas iela 140
 8. Troops' Equipment Workshop (Truppenwirtschaftslager), Ostas iela 1
 9. Ultramarin Factory (ABA/Armeebekleidungsamt), Carnikavas iela 1
 10. Kabelwerke AEG Labor Camp
 11. Salaspils Concentration Camp (KZ Kurtenhof, Stalag 350/Z), Rīga-Salaspils 18th km.

- Synagogues burnt on the 4th of July 1941**
12. Old-New Synagogue (Altneie-Shul), Latgales iela 57, 1843 - 1941
 13. Soldier's Synagogue (Talmud-Torah), Kraslavas iela 24, 1872 - 1941
 14. Old Synagogue (Alt-Shul), Ludzas iela 57, ? - 1941
 15. New Synagogue (Naie-Shul), Krišjāņa Valdemāra iela 40, ? - 1941
 16. Belarusian Synagogue (Raisishe-Shul), Elijas iela 15, 1885 - 1941
 17. Pillar Synagogue (Zeulen-Shul), Stabu iela 63, 1906 - 1941

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—18— - Bus —1— - Tram —3— - Trolley
— - Train ● Rumbula - Public transport stop