

Riga in winter



RECREATION TIPS

EVENT CALENDAR

EXHIBITIONS

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The "Welcome to Riga!" Office
at Riga international airport

Tourist Information Center
in Rātslaukums 6

www.LiveRiga.com

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RIGA TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

At the Riga Tourist Information Centre (Rātslaukums 6), you can receive more information, as well as tickets to most of the events mentioned.

Rātslaukums 6

+371 67037900

Kaļķu iela 16

+371 67227444

Working hours

10:00–18:00

info@rigatic.lv

www.LiveRiga.com

This information has been prepared on 04.12.2019. The Riga Tourism Development Bureau is not responsible for any changes made by event organisers. Sights and objects included and recommended in this brochure are the personal view of the independent author. On national holidays (01.01.2019.), certain locations may be closed or have shortened working hours.

How to fall in love with Riga in winter

It's not going to be a love at first sight. Instead, like in many great love stories, the affection will grow slowly. There will be some gloomy days, but they will be eked out with a plethora of magical moments, like walking in snow-covered stillness in one of the city's parks, taking a window seat at a café and huddling over a hot drink while it's snowing outside and revelling in all the fun outdoor activities the winter weather has to offer.



Christmas market

Get into the holiday mood

There's no better place to experience the holiday mood than the city's central **Christmas market** (November 30 – January 8). Taking place at the **Dome Square**, the market gathers merry stallholders of all kinds. Here you can sample such traditional gifts as hand-knitted socks, candles, wooden homeware, linen and leather goods from the craftsmen themselves. As for toothsome buys, there's such international classics as gingerbreads, roasted almonds and mulled wine sitting next to local staples like sauteed sauerkraut and grey peas with bacon. There's also a number of street food vendors doling out khachapuri, churros, bao buns, you name it! The mood is enhanced by frequent concerts, the fairytale backdrop and occasional snowing.

A night at the Opera



Opera Traviata

Spend the dark long winter evenings under the majestic chandelier of the Opera hall. **The Latvian National Opera and Ballet** presents an exciting repertoire including such holiday classics as The Nutcracker as well as cutting-edge productions like the ballet Hamlet. Tell Me (No) Tales. Each year **The Latvian National Opera and Ballet** also host the New Year Gala concerts at the Latvian National Opera gathering world-renowned Latvian opera stars.



Hedonic SPA

Spoil yourself

During the cold months taking extra care for your well-being is mandatory. Luckily Riga has a handful of urban sanctuaries to unwind and recharge. For a dose of luxury head to **Hedonic SPA** housed in Grand Poet Hotel, for something more homey check day spa **Taka Spa**. As for serious pampering, there's no better place than the five star **ESPA Riga**, spread across six floors on the rights side of Radisson Blu Hotel Latvija.

Relish the hearty Latvian cuisine

Meat-centred, full of root vegetables and salubrious, fermented goods – the hearty and warming local cuisine is perfect for winter. Latvian cuisine inspired meals doesn't come much better than at **Valtera restaurant** where the chef Valters Zirdziņš has refreshed traditional Latvian dishes with modern touches. Each ingredient is chosen by its seasonality, provenance and top-quality. The picture is similar in **Valmiermuiža Beer Kitchen** where the dishes are inspired by the Latvian nature bounty and accompanied by Valmiermuiža beer.



Valmiermuiža Beer Kitchen

Admire the Christmas trees



Christmas Trees festival

While Estonia and Latvia still bicker over the question where the first Christmas tree was decorated, Riga ratifies its title with an annual spectacle The way through the Christmas Trees festival. From December 6 till January 12 for the 10th time, the Kronvalda park and Old Town will be filled with artistic interpretations of Christmas tree made by acknowledged artists as well as students from Art Academy of Latvia.



Warm up with a hot Latvian tippie

Balzāmbārs

Red nose and feet as cold as the water in Daugava river? Skip the mulled wine and instead opt for a hot mug of Riga Black Balsam Currant. This herbal bitter enriched with blackcurrant juice will instantly give you a warm kick and a treat for the taste buds. Get it mixed with black currant juice and some bits of fruit – favored by the locals, this cocktail spreads from laid back hangouts to fine dining venues. Even if it's not on the menu, just ask it – they'll make it!

Sharpen your blades

Practice your jumps and twirls and go show them off at one of the well-appointed ice rinks set up around the city. Welcoming skating fans of every age, here you can also rent a pair of skates. The most central ice rink is located in front of Riga Congress Centre and is free of charge.



Skating rink by Congress Building. Photo: Zane Bitere

Porridge for breakfast



Porridge. Pizzeria Zaļais Maksis

Do as the locals do and kick-off a cold winter day with a steaming bowl of porridge. The breakfast staple is available in a raft of cafés and comes in all kinds of varieties, such as savoury buckwheat with some cheese and veggies, or sweet oatmeal with jam and fresh berries. Unlike grab-and-go sandwiches and pastries, porridge is something that forces you to sit down and enjoy the first meal of the day unhurriedly.

Put on skis

While Latvia's landscape is as flat as a pancake, in winter there's usually a considerable blanket of snow, which makes it fit for cross-country skiing. And you don't even need to go to the countryside as there are several skiing tracks within Riga and most of them – free of charge. The most central one, located on the left side of Daugava river, in Victory Park (Uzvaras parks) is easily accessible with tram No 1, 2 and 5. Don't have your own equipment? Rent it on site.



Cross-country ski track at Uzvaras Park

Event calendar

January

Old Town Christmas Fair

01., 02., 5.-08.01. 10:00-20:00
03.-04.01. 10:00-22:00

📍 Dome Square

Christmas is approaching, and one of the signs testifying to this is the Old Town Christmas Fair with sweet-smelling mulled wine, roasted almonds, glittering glazed gingerbread and local handcraft. Visitors will have a chance to find their Christmas miracle here every day. Various concerts and workshops are on the programme, with Santa Claus entertaining kids and adults alike.

Park of Light at Dzintari Forest Park

01.-31.01. 16:00-22:00

📍 Dzintari Forest Park and panoramic tower

During winter evenings, Dzintari Forest Park transforms into a true fairy tale, with light decorations lit from thousands of lamps: a milky way with stars, bridges and arcs, baby animals, elves, and many other light objects.

Organ music concert at Riga Dome

01.01., 02.01., 03.01., 04.01., 05.01.,
06.01., 10.01., 17.01., 24.01., 31.01.
19:00

📍 Riga Dome Cathedral

Experienced Latvian organ players, as well as guests from many other countries participate in concerts of organ music. This offers an opportunity to enjoy one of the most splendid and valuable historic organs in the outstanding acoustics of the Riga Dome Cathedral. The Riga Dome Cathedral organ belongs to the highest achievements of organ building of the late Romanticism period and is an excellent monument to the history of music.

Concerto Piccolo – enjoy the unique sound of the Riga Dome organ in 20 minutes

02.01., 03.01., 04.01., 06.01., 07.01.,
08.01., 11.01., 13.01., 15.01., 18.01.,
20.01., 22.01., 25.01., 27.01., 29.01.,
01.02. 12:00-12:20

📍 Riga Dome Cathedral

Concerto Piccolo gives the opportunity to relish one of the world's most splendid and valuable historical organs in the outstanding acoustics of Riga Dome Cathedral. The organ of the Riga Dome Cathedral is one of the greatest achievements of the art of organ building in the late Romantic Period, making it also an outstanding monument of musical history.



Ballet The Nutcracker

New Year Gala at the Opera

02.01. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

The New Year Gala concerts at the Latvian National Opera sparkle like Champaign. Let's celebrate together with the most enchanting opera melodies and musical stars!

Christmas concert "Ave Maria"

02.01. 19:00

📍 St.John's Church in Riga

The concert will feature popular classical music and traditional Christmas melodies. Program – J.S. Bach, W.A. Mozart, F. Gruber, F. Schubert, C. Franck, P. Mascagni. Performers: Olga Pyatigorskaya, soprano, Jolanta Barinska, organ.



Fair at Kalnciema Quarter

Ballet The Nutcracker

03.01., 05.01. 12:00, 18:00
12.02., 13.02. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

The setting of the ballet is Riga in the late nineteenth century. The atmosphere of the day is conjured up by the city's ancient streets, Art Nouveau interiors, plant motifs, and effective contrasts: it's winter outside, but inside, flowers are blooming. Christmas-tree decorations and toys come to life, and Maria's dreams begin to come true. Everything happens exactly as befits Christmas Eve, though the tone is set by the rules and forms of classical ballet.

Fair at Kalnciema Quarter

04.01., 11.01., 18.01., 25.01., 01.02.,
08.02., 15.02., 22.02., 29.02. 10:00-
16:00

📍 Kalnciema Quarter

Every Saturday, Latvian farmers offer local goods at the Kalnciema Quarter Fair, and craftsmen come to sell unique pieces of handiwork. Children are invited to participate in creative workshops, free of charge, and to ride a colorful merry-go-round. The theme of the fair changes to reflect seasonal festivals, during which there also are concerts, exhibitions, open-air plays, and other activities taking place at the fair.

Opera Don Pasquale

04.01. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

Don Pasquale, the comic opera of the bel canto genius Gaetano Donizetti, tells a story of an elderly bachelor, who is befooled by his doctor, doctor's sister – a young and beautiful widow, and the bachelor's lovesick nephew who marries the widow in the end. In the tradition of opera buffa, the opera makes reference to the stock characters of the commedia dell'arte: Pasquale is recognizable as blustery Pantalone, Ernesto as the lovesick Pierrot, Malatesta as the scheming Scapino, and Norina as a wily Columбина.

Christmas Festival. Latvian Radio Choir. Orthodox Prayers and Chants.

07.01. 19:30

📍 Dzintari Concert Hall

The Latvian Radio Choir, conducted by Sigvards Klāva, invites on Orthodox Christmas to a concert featuring Pyotr Tchaikovsky's Evening Prayers.

Ballet "Three Musketeers"

08.01. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

The creative team of the neoclassical ballet "Three Musketeers" – Czech composer Jan Kučera and Canadian choreographer Paul Chalmer – invite you to experience all the intrigue, the torrid love affairs and deep loathing of the court of French King Louis XIII.

Opera Carmen

09.01. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

At the same time celebrated and hated by her own sex, desired and punished by the opposite one, Carmen changes the world around her. The hatred she causes comes from the desire she arises...

Ballet Scheherazade and her Tales

10.01. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

Shahriyar, the Sultan of ancient Persia, is left bitter after being betrayed by an unfaithful wife. For this reason, each night he marries an innocent virgin, only to have her beheaded the following morning. This pattern continues until he meets his vizier's oldest daughter, Scheherazade, who is able to conquer and soften the sultan's hardened heart with her stories and myths...

Opera La Bohème

11.01. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

"La Bohème" protagonists are typical Parisians of the end of the 19th century: Rodolfo, a poet; Schaunard, a musician; Colline, a philosopher; Marcello, a painter, and Mimi, a seamstress, who walks into their poverty-stricken, but youthfully mischievous lives. However, the girl's fate has been sealed. Only her beloved one and friends can give meaning to her life.

Ball at the Small Guild

11.01., 08.02. 19:00

📍 Small Guild

Ballroom dancing – these are dances for people who like to and want to dance. It is a beautiful and cultured way of relaxing, of enjoying your leisure time. On the second Saturday of each month, the Small Guild hosts themed balls, with a dance orchestra playing with a special guest.

Andrea Bocelli in concert

12.01. 19:00

📍 Arena Riga

Andrea Bocelli's unique vocal quality, gently melancholic and at the same powerful, is incomparable. The Riga concert will include famous arias from Italian and international operas, as well as Maestro Bocelli's most popular hits.

Raimonds Pauls, Daumants Kalniņš and the Latvian Radio Big Band

12.01. 19:00

📍 Dzintari Concert Hall

On January 12, which is also Raimonds Pauls' birthday, the maestro will perform together with his beloved Latvian Radio Big Band and talented singer Daumants Kalniņš, and will feature the premier of the Southern Watercolors program.

Opera "La Traviata"

15.01., 26.02. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

Opera in 3 acts by Giuseppe Verdi. In Italian with surtitles in Latvian and in English.

LNSO. Bernstein, Gershwin, Ellington, Björk and Linda Leen

16.01. 19:00

📍 Hanzas Perons

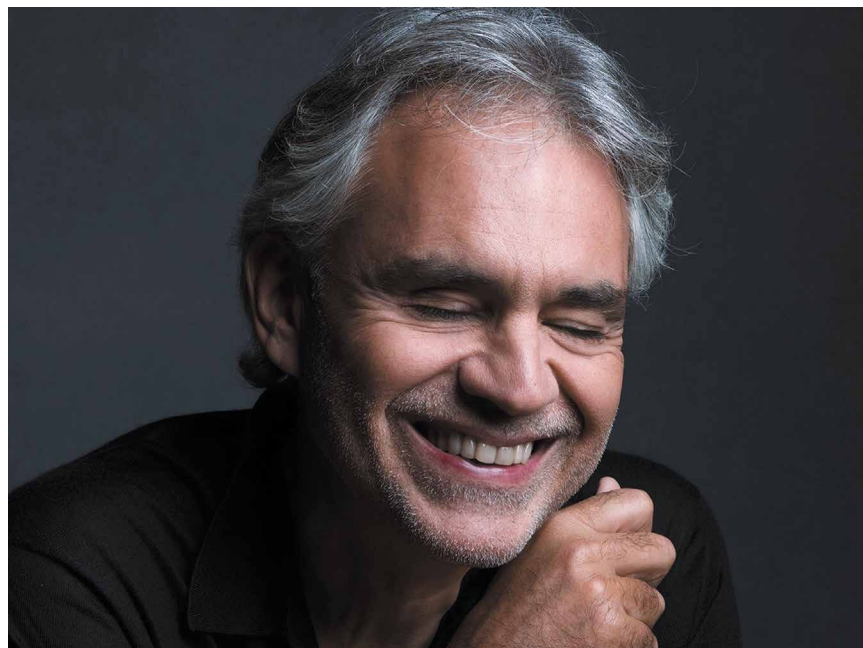
Linda Leen is the owner of a rich voice – the charismatic singer dazzles like a dusky, enchanting star. Gints Pabērzs' flexible virtuosity is fascinating and awe-inspiring, and his unique sound can be identified already from the first note. Meanwhile, the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra (LNSO) and Latvian Radio Big Band make a team of astonishing potency.

Ballet Three Comrades

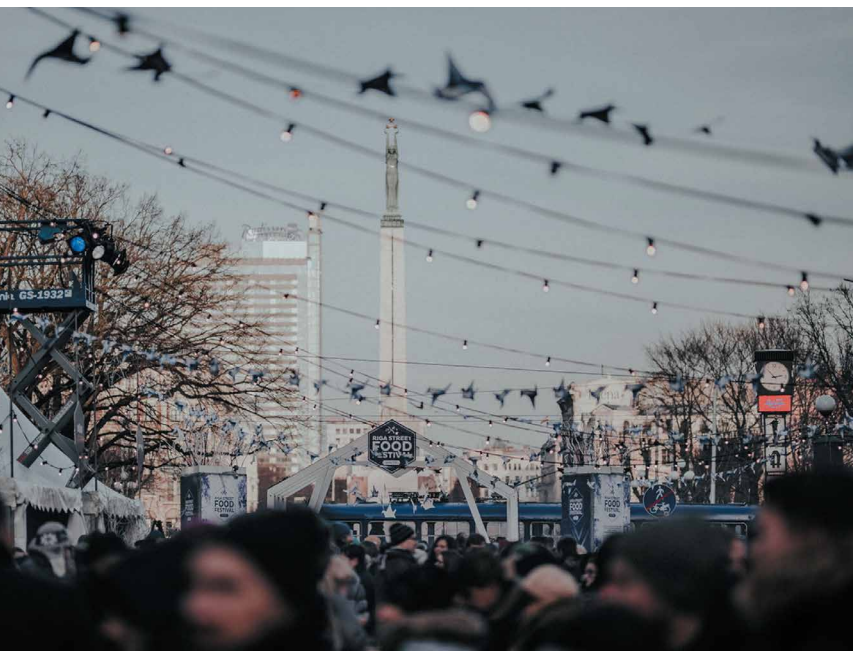
16.01., 21.02. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

This will be the world premier of the ballet Three Comrades created by composer Pavel Akimkin and director/choreographer Sergey Zemlyansky, which is based on the novel by Erich Maria Remarque and retains his motto: as long as a person has not given up, he is more than fate.



Andrea Bocelli. © Mark Seliger, Decca Records



Riga Street Food Festival. Photo: Roberts Āboltiņš

The Lion in Winter

16.01. 19:00

📍 Daile Theatre

Henry II, the king of England, has created a powerful kingdom. He has to know that it will last. He has to decide which of his sons will inherit his country. His sons and his wife Eleanor have already turned against him once. Play in Latvian language with English surtitles.

Opera Le Nozze di Figaro

17.01. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

The production of "Le Nozze di Figaro" will offer the inhabitants of the city, and probably also its visitors, to get to know with the famous Argentinean director and artistic director of Teatro Colon, Marcelo Lombardero, whose productions have been highly appraised by audiences and critics in South America and Europe. The production of Mozart's opera in the Latvian National Opera has been produced in the 1980s Latin American soap opera style, by creating an atmosphere full of exotic, social and erotic tension.

Riga Street Food Festival

18.01. 12:00-20:00

📍 On the corner of Kaļķu and Valņu iela

The Riga Street Food Festival, together with the best chefs of Riga, will take to the streets of the Latvian capital for the third time. As the temperatures become colder, the chefs will help warm up visitors with creative and unusual Latvian tastes. Tastes which are bolder than the ones on restaurant menus, just like Latvian winters – unpredictable.

Ballet – Hamlet. Tell Me (No) Tales.

18.01. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

Inspired by subtexts from Shakespeare's tragedy Hamlet, Antons Freimanis, in his first full-length ballet, deals with the relationship with death, the past and the future, and challenges the generations to a dialogue. Meanwhile, the musical score of the production was created as a conversation between the old master Sergei Rachmaninoff and the contemporary composer Linda Leimane. Already in her school years Elza Leimane had a fascination for Imants Ziedonis' Colorful Tales and its painting paradox and touching absurdity. Leimane is inspired by these tales to tell the colorful history of ballet in the production Tell Me (No) Tales.

Ballet Romeo and Juliet

22.01. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

Ballet of Sergey Prokofiev, born from themes of immortal tragedy of William Shakespeare, no doubt, is one of the most popular examples of its genre in the XX century.

Opera Dialogues of the Carmelites

23.01. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

French director Vincent Boussard describes the production: "Dialogues des Carmélites is a piece which requires the viewer to read between the lines. It is a long and, at times, pitiless meditation on death which moves from fear to liberation, from suicide to martyrdom, and so on." Under his direction this historically significant opera will come to life on the Latvian National Opera's stage for the first time.

Ballet for the whole family "Coppélia"

24.01. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

Léo Delibes's Coppélia, which is once again returning to the LNO's stage, is a classic reading of the E.T.A.Hoffmann's story The Sandman. The revival of the production – where our troupe's best soloists will perform the story of the young heartbreaker Franz and his beloved, Svanilde – will be comical, colorful, and full of life. The characters enter a whirlwind of misunderstandings when Svanilde's beauty is overshadowed by the magic of the mysterious Doctor Coppélius's daughter, Coppélia.

Ballet Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

25.01. 12:00, 23.02. 12:00, 18:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" is a fairytale-like rock ballet for parents and children alike. It is a joint project by the Riga Choreography School, the Emils Darzins' Music School and the Latvian National Opera.

Grand Concert of Latvian Symphonic Music

25.01. 19:00

📍 Great Guild

A great opportunity to get to know the symphonic music of Latvian composers. Every year the most famous works, as well as premieres of Latvian composers, are performed at the concert by highly professional orchestras. This year: the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra (conductor Guntis Kuzma), the Liepāja Symphony Orchestra (conductor Atvars Lakstīgala), the Latvian National Opera Orchestra (conductor Mārtiņš Ozoliņš), the State Chamber Orchestra Sinfonietta Rīga (conductor Normunds Šnē), soloists – Reinis Zariņš, piano: Vestards Šimkus, piano; Aigars Raumanis, saxophone.

Opera "Turandot"

29.01. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

This production of Puccini's last opera, staged at the Latvian National Opera in 1973, has been renewed several times. The magnificent set and costumes by Edgars Vārdaunis take audiences to a mythical journey to the legendary times of China, while the wonderful music melts even the coldest hearts.

Ballet Raymonda

30.01. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

This work by genius Marius Petipa represents the artist's re-birth in the twilight of his life. The Master created "Raymonda" at the age of 80 as the quintessence of his rich life.



International tourism fair Balttour 2020

International tourism fair Balttour 2020

31.01. 13:00-18:00; 01.02. 10:00-18:00; 02.02. 10:00-17:00

📍 Ķīpsala International Exposition Centre

Balttour is the largest tourism fair in the Baltic states organized annually for industry professionals and potential travelers at the beginning of the new tourism season in the region.

LNSO. Mahler's Songs and Beethoven's Eroica.

31.01. 19:00

📍 Great Guild

Two Viennese masters meet in this Latvian National Symphony Orchestra (LNSO) program – Beethoven and Mahler. Legend has it, Mahler used to hope that his works would be performed as frequently as Beethoven's. Who knows whether anyone keeps a tally, but, without doubt, both composers have penned expressive music that enjoys equal popularity.



Opera – Playing, Dancing

Opera – Playing, Dancing

31.01., 28.02. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

Latvian writer Rainis' *Playing, Dancing* tells a story about flaming energy, which is awoken and triumphing against evil leads to lightness. This opera by Imants Ziedonis and Imants Kalniņš was once a source of energy back in the day, and now the main character Tots is back to spark a light of change into today's society. Apathy and idleness is something which destroys with slow smoldering.

February

Fair at Kalnciema Quarter

01.02., 08.02., 15.02., 22.02., 29.02. 10:00-16:00

📍 Kalnciema Quarter

Every Saturday, Latvian farmers offer local goods at the Kalnciema Quarter Fair, and craftsmen come to sell unique pieces of handiwork. Children are invited to participate in creative workshops, free of charge, and to ride a colorful merry-go-round. The theme of the fair changes to reflect seasonal festivals, during which there also are concerts, exhibitions, open-air plays, and other activities taking place at the fair.

International tourism fair Balttour 2020

01.02. 10:00-18:00; 02.02. 10:00-17:00

📍 Kipsala International Exposition Centre

Balttour is the largest tourism fair in the Baltic states organized annually for industry professionals and potential travelers at the beginning of the new tourism season in the region.

Ballet *The Sleeping Beauty*

01.02. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

Princes and princesses, fairies and other heroes from fairy tales come together at Tchaikovsky's ballet featuring wonderful music and memorable story about love that overcomes all difficulties.

Opera *Nabucco*

02.02. 15:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

"I can say with a certainty that this opera marked the beginning of my career" as a composer –said Giuseppe Verdi. In 1840, after the death of both children and his wife, Giuseppe Verdi is stricken by a deep depression. Only after two years – in 1842, the composer overcomes his crises, settles down to work and writes *Nabucco*. The resounding triumph after the performance of *Nabucco* opened the era of glory for Giuseppe Verdi's operas.

Ballet *Peer Gynt*

05.02. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

Henrik Ibsen's world famous dramatic poem (1867) is the basis for this full-length ballet. The plot centers on the adventurous Peer Gynt, having gone off into the world in search of , finally returns home a mature man where his beloved Solweig has waited for him. Will this courtship be Peer's last adventure? The illustrious Slovenian choreographer Edward Klug has modernized the proceedings and chooses elements of irony, absurdism and surrealism as his main tools of expression, all set to Edvard Grieg's liting melodies.

Opera *Madama Butterfly*

06.02. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

This revival of *Madama Butterfly* offers the unique opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the LNO's original 1925 production: the original set and costume design, as well as the basic structure of the direction, have been preserved.

LNSO. Vineta Sareika, Mendelssohn and Vasks.

06.02. 19:00

📍 Great Guild

"Iron fist in a velvet glove" – prestigious Belgian magazine Le Soir extols Vineta Sareika's performance and charm on stage. It is no wonder that the outstanding violinist garners plenty of praise, both as a solo performer and as first violin in the refined Artemis Quartet.

Ballet La Bayadère

07.02. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

For the first time, Latvian National Opera will stage the ballet La Bayadère by French choreographer Marius Petipa to the music of Ludwig Minkus.

Opera – The Flying Dutchman

08.02. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

Fleeing the difficulties of his time in Riga, sailing off on a risky sea voyage gave the young composer Richard Wagner a vision of a new production that was to mark the beginnings of his original style.

Ball at the Small Guild

08.02. 19:00

📍 Small Guild

Ballroom dancing – these are dances for people who like to and want to dance. It is a beautiful and cultured way of relaxing, of enjoying your leisure time. On the second Saturday of each month, the Small Guild hosts themed balls, with a dance orchestra playing with a special guest.

Metenis

09.02. 12:00-16:00

📍 Latvian Ethnographic Open-air Museum

The Metenis festival is when the Latvians of old celebrated the arrival of spring and the beginning of a new year. This is one of the merriest holidays of the year when the Kekatas take place – according to ancient traditions, people visit each other dressed in various costumes and masks depicting forest animals to bring blessings and fertility to their neighbors. Metenis is also a time for fortune telling, foretelling the weather and the burning of straw dolls. Also, a hearty feast is put on the table before the great fasting.

Ballet – At the Blue Danube

09.02. 12:00, 18:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

The beautiful music of "waltz king" Johann Strauss inspired a romantic ballet about the choice between love and the stage, dreams and reality. An der schönen blauen Donau was first performed in Riga in 1957; in the 60 years since, it has been revived numerous times and has become one of the cornerstones of the Latvian Ballet. This new production is in celebration of yet another anniversary. April 2017 marks the 110th birthday of Helēna Tangjjeva-Birzniece – legendary ballerina, ballet master, instructor and producer of this ballet.

Riga International Short Film Festival 2ANNAS

10.-16.02.

📍 Splendid Palace

The 2ANNAS festival will screen films that widen cinema's technical and artistic borders, as well as talk about current subjects locally and around the world. The festival's organizers will present an unprecedented film experience both in content and in form, emphasizing the experimental nature of cinema and delving into new pursuits.



Riga International Short Film Festival 2ANNAS



Plant-based food festival AUGam

Ballet The Nutcracker

12., 13.02. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

The setting of the ballet is Riga in the late nineteenth century. The atmosphere of the day is conjured up by the city's ancient streets, Art Nouveau interiors, plant motifs, and effective contrasts: it's winter outside, but inside, flowers are blooming. Christmas-tree decorations and toys come to life, and Maria's dreams begin to come true. Everything happens exactly as befits Christmas Eve, though the tone is set by the rules and forms of classical ballet.

LNSO. Mozart, Bruckner and Maestro Sinaisky

13.02. 19:00

📍 Great Guild

The Latvian National Symphony Orchestra's (LNSO) honorary conductor Emeritus Sinaisky is a frequent guest in Riga, and this time he will conduct Bruckner's Eighth. After its premiere, the symphony was pronounced the epitome of late 19th century music, a work whose intellectual scope and magnitude surpasses the rest of Bruckner's symphonies.

Concert – Hollywood Love Stories

14.02. 19:00

📍 VEF Culture Palace

On Valentine's Day eve, the Riga Orchestra has invited several soloists to perform in a special concert – the charming Aija Vītolīna, the young and charismatic Katrīna Paula Felsberga and the beloved Daumants Kalniņš will sing well-known Hollywood love songs and duets from such classic movies as the Sound of Music, My Fair Lady and many others.

Plant-based food festival AUGam

16.02. 12:00-20:00

📍 Tallinn Street Quarter

To introduce Riga and city guests to environmentally and animal-friendly food, AUGam is organizing a vegetarian food festival that will bring together around 15 companies to serve a wide variety of vegan meals throughout the day in accordance with the current season. Find out how diverse and rich the vegetarian cuisine is! Delicious burgers, all sorts of sweets and drinks, spicy Asian cuisine, proper "homemade food", gluten-free and raw-food options – everything you want to taste in one place at the AUGam plant-based food festival. The food festival is organized four times per year – emphasizing the variety of seasonal food that is available at that certain time of the year.

Opera – The Queen of Spades

20.02., 22.02. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

What is the deciding factor in a man's fate – love, which liberates from obsession, or the magnetic thrill of a game, which subjects the will with an iron fist? Noted Russian poet Alexander Pushkin's story Pikovaya dama (The Queen of Spades, 1836) drew accolades as soon as it was published – readers were intrigued by its fantastical subject matter and precisely captured zeitgeist. Thanks to Pyotr Tchaikovsky's outstanding talent, the love triangle between Herman, Liza and the Countess captivates with the depth of its psychological representation.

LNSO chamber music. Brahms and the LNSO Piano Trio.

20.02. 19:00

📍 Great Guild

The LNSO Piano Trio (Indulis Cintiņš, Dace Zālīte-Zilberte, Mārtiņš Zilberts) has reached its five-year anniversary, and they continue to interpret monumental classics as well as lesser-known contemporary works. This concert program includes Brahms's shortest and the least frequently performed piano trio, rife with unrest and challenges, emotional turbulence and flare-ups.

Ballet Three Comrades

21.02. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

This will be the world premier of the ballet Three Comrades created by composer Pavel Akimkin and director/choreographer Sergey Zemlyansky, which is based on the novel by Erich Maria Remarque and retains his motto: as long as a person has not given up, he is more than fate.

Exhibition-Festival "Erots 2020"

21.02. 20:00-03:00
22.02. 19:00-03:00

📍 Kipsala International Exposition Centre

The most important Erotica Festival in the Baltic States offers its visitors surprising show programmes, women and men strip shows performed by Latvian and foreign artists.

Chamber music concert at Riga Dome Cathedral

22.02. 18:00

📍 Riga Dome Cathedral

The active concert life at Riga Dome Cathedral continues with a program of various chamber music concerts.

Ballet Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

23.02. 12:00, 18:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" is a fairytale-like rock ballet for parents and children alike. It is a joint project by the Riga Choreography School, the Emils Darzins' Music School and the Latvian National Opera.

Opera "La Traviata"

26.02. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

Opera in 3 acts by Giuseppe Verdi. In Italian with surtitles in Latvian and in English.



Ballet Three Comrades

Gregorian

26.02. 19:30

📍 Arena Riga

Gregorian religious chants originated more than a thousand years ago, but during the last 20 years this music has gained new meaning – the style is used by the band led by Frank Peterson to perform songs by Metallica, the Beatles, Queen, Rammstein, Pink Floyd, U2, Hurts, Celine Dion, Phil Collins, etc.

International education fair – Skola 2020

28.02., 29.02. 10:00-18:00
01.03. 10:00-17:00

📍 Kipsala International Exposition Centre

The education fair will provide anyone wishing to study and gain new knowledge with comprehensive information about the available study programs, language classes, distance learning and e-learning opportunities in Latvia and abroad, and will help to find the education establishment best suited to one's needs.



Gregorian

Latvian Book Fair 2020, an international book and publishing fair

28.02., 29.02. 10:00-18:00
01.03. 10:00-17:00

📍 Kipsala International Exposition Centre

Latvian Book Fair is the key event of the publishing industry in Latvia that brings together Latvian and foreign book publishers, book sellers and companies doing business related to the book industry.

In addition to books, the exhibition also includes intellectual games, in particular those that help develop reading skills, development and educational aids, as well as products for creative hobbies.

Opera – Playing, Dancing

28.02. 19:00

📍 Latvian National Opera and Ballet

Latvian writer Rainis' Playing, Dancing tells a story about flaming energy, which is awoken and triumphing against evil leads to lightness. This opera by Imants Ziedonis and Imants Kalniņš was once a source of energy back in the day, and now the main character Tots is back to spark a light of change into today's society. Apathy and idleness is something which destroys with slow smoldering.

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Exhibitions

The way through the Christmas Trees 2019

01.-12.01. 17:00-23:00

📍 Kronvalda Park

It was in Riga, just over 500 years ago, where the first ever Christmas tree was set-up and decorated in market square. In honor of this event, each year Riga becomes the Christmas tree capital of the world – where many different and creative art objects are set-up throughout Kronvalda Park and Old Town. These modern-day Christmas tree surprises with their originality, as well as the variety of materials used, from light installations, to wood, glass, bricks and the use of warmth. The exposition includes the best works by artists, students of the Art Academy as well as other creative professionals.

Sculpting exhibition – Formula of Happiness Latgale. V.I.V.A.

01.01. 12:00-15:00
02.-12.01. 10:00-17:00 (II-VI), 12:00-17:00 (VII)

📍 St. Peter's Church

The exhibition will feature paintings from the V.I.V.A. collective of artists from Latgale – Vēsma Ušpele, Ilze Griezāne, Vija Stupāne, Agra Ritiņa, who were recognized at the annual Jānis Pigoznis Award in Latvian Landscape Painting 2019. The exhibition will also feature works made by potters in Latgale's Rezekne Region.

Park of Light at Dzintari Forest Park

01.-31.01. 16:00-22:00

📍 Dzintari Forest Park and panoramic tower

During winter evenings, Dzintari Forest Park transforms into a true fairy tale, with light decorations lit from thousands of lamps: a milky way with stars, bridges and arcs, baby animals, elves, and many other light objects.

Ivan Aivazovsky painting exhibition – Metaphysics of Light

02.-05.01. 10:00-18:00 (II-IV,VI,VII)
10:00-20:00 (V)

📍 Art Museum Riga Bourse

Artist of Armenian descent Ivan Aivazovsky (1817-1900) is a world renowned sea landscape master, who already during his lifetime was admired by his contemporaries. The exhibition will show artist's works from various periods, where light and illumination are the main components of the composition. There will be around 30 works in various genres at the exhibition: marines, historical compositions and landscapes.



Joint museum exhibition – Latvia's Century

Joint museum exhibition – Latvia's Century

02.01.-30.12. 10:00-17:00 (II-VII)

📍 National History Museum of Latvia

The exhibition Latvia's Century is a joint contribution of Latvian museums to reveal 100 years of Latvia. A total of 68 museum from all over the country are participating, with the central question of the exhibition – what is Latvia?

International Exhibition of Contemporary and Conceptual Jewelry – Star Luster in Your Window

02.01.-11.02. 10:00-18:00 (I-V),
11:00-17:00 (VI)

📍 Putti Art Gallery

The winter exhibition will feature artists' dreams, wishes, thoughts and reflections on the interaction between a man and nature. It is a story of a small star in the vast sky, which, when seen, converts a thought into a jewel. The winter starry sky, with its beauty, mystery and delightful depth, has served as a powerful source of inspiration for the exhibition's artists.



Edīte Pauls-Vīgnere. *Harmony*, 1989. Wool, linen, tapestry. From collection of Museum of Decorative Arts and Design. Publicity photo.

Exhibition – Aleksandra Beļcova. Paintings. Graphics. Baltars Porcelain.

02.-12.01. 10:00-18:00 (II, III, IV), 10:00-20:00 (V), 10:00-17:00 (VI,VII)

📍 Latvian National Museum of Art

Aleksandra Beļcova (1892-1981) arrived in Riga in 1919 and is one of the first modernist artists in Latvia. She was not only a painter, but also an illustrator as well as a graphic and porcelain artist. In the 1920s she worked mainly in watercolor technique, but in the 1930s – pastel technique. In her work, Beļcova preferred the portrait genre, depicting loved ones, friends and acquaintances. In her paintings, the artist often chose motifs from the folklore of different nations or created geometric abstract compositions, focusing on religious themes.

Exhibition – Used in Riga. Second half of 19th century to 1918.

02.01.-30.12. 10:00 -17:00 (III-III)

📍 Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation

This exhibition is dedicated to innovations introduced in Riga from the second half of the 19th century until 1918, ones that impacted the daily lives of residents. The exhibition will feature items used in the home produced in Riga, as well as elsewhere in Europe, Russia and the United States and were sold in shops in Riga at the time.

The Dom Museum – Temple for Science and Art

02.01.-30.12. 10:00 -17:00 (III-VII)

📍 Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation

The exhibition is dedicated to the history of the Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation. The origins of the museum go back to 1773; however, the exhibition focuses on the period of the Dom Museum (1890-1936), with a particular emphasis on the Baltic German contribution to the preservation of Latvia's cultural values and the fortunes of cultural treasures during the Second World War.

Edīte Pauls-Vīgnere solo exhibition – Coffee Cantata

02.01.-01.03. 11:00-17:00 (II,IV-VII), 11:00-19:00 (III)

📍 Museum of Decorative Arts and Design

Edīte Pauls-Vīgnere (1939) is one of the most talented and also popular textile artists in Latvia. The master's anniversary exhibition has been deliberately chosen as a retrospective. The purpose of the exhibition is to focus on the creative heritage of the artist, with whom she began to "enchant" viewers since her first major solo exhibition in Riga in 1978. Nearly 20 outstanding tapestries and ambitious textile ensembles will reveal to the visitor the sources and inspirations of the author.

Exhibition – Alien Species in the Natural Environment of Latvia

02.01.-08.03. 10:00-17:00 (III,V),
10:00-19:00 (IV), 11:00-17:00 (VI,VII)

📍 Latvian Museum of Natural History

This Latvian Museum of Natural History exhibition is a story about invasive plant and animal species, and their impact on local ecosystems in Latvia. Various plants and animals found in forests, the sea, rivers, and in other environments will be presented. Games and activities will supplement the educational content.

Exhibition – Unexpected Encounters

02.01.-23.02. 11:00-18:00 (II,III,V),
11:00-20:00 (IV), 12:00-17:00 (VI,VII)

📍 National Museum of Art exhibition space 'Arsenāls'

This exhibition organized by the Latvian Center of Contemporary will focus on the impact the sci-fi genre has on the art territory, combining historical research and works from contemporary artists. The exhibition will focus on the Baltic and Nordic region, as well as former socialist states.

Solo exhibition by Juris Dimeters – The Signs of My Time

02.-04.01. 11:00-19:00 (I-V), 11:00-17:00 (VI)

📍 MuseumLV

Juris Dimeters is a socially active artist who creates posters in response to current world events. As a true magician, he moves the viewer through time and space, becoming a theatrical stage designer. The artist does not lose the presence of irony in his paintings, however his works are very intricate and always surprise with a metaphysical mood. This time, by revealing the secret facets of his artistic personality, Dimeters' alter-ego, or avatar, speaks to us about his attitude to what is taking place in this world and the time we live in, using new means of expression.

13th International Small Form Porcelain Exhibition "Brain Fitness"

02.-19.01. 11:00-18:00 (II-VII)

📍 Riga Porcelain Museum

Since 2006, the Riga Porcelain Museum has been organizing the annual International Small Form Porcelain Exhibition, gathering artists from all over the world. The aim of the exhibition is to show the newest art pieces by Latvian and foreign artists which are at least 70% porcelain and do not exceed 15x15x15 cm in their dimensions. The diversity of the artists and the art pieces allow to demonstrate a mini cross-section of contemporary ceramics trends, as all of the pieces of art on display have been created within the past two years, and frequently especially for this exhibition.

Exhibition – The Crinoline Lady

02.01.-12.04. 11:00-18:00 (I-VII)

📍 Fashion Museum

Ladies' outfits never took as much space as during the 1950s and 60s, when crinoline came into fashion – something reminiscent of a bird cage, while dresses in bright aniline colors were showed off when travelling by train for example. The exhibition will feature colorful outfits, accessories, jewelry and interior design items from the collection of Alexandre Vassiliev.

Exhibition "I, Lūcija, Zamaič, and my words"

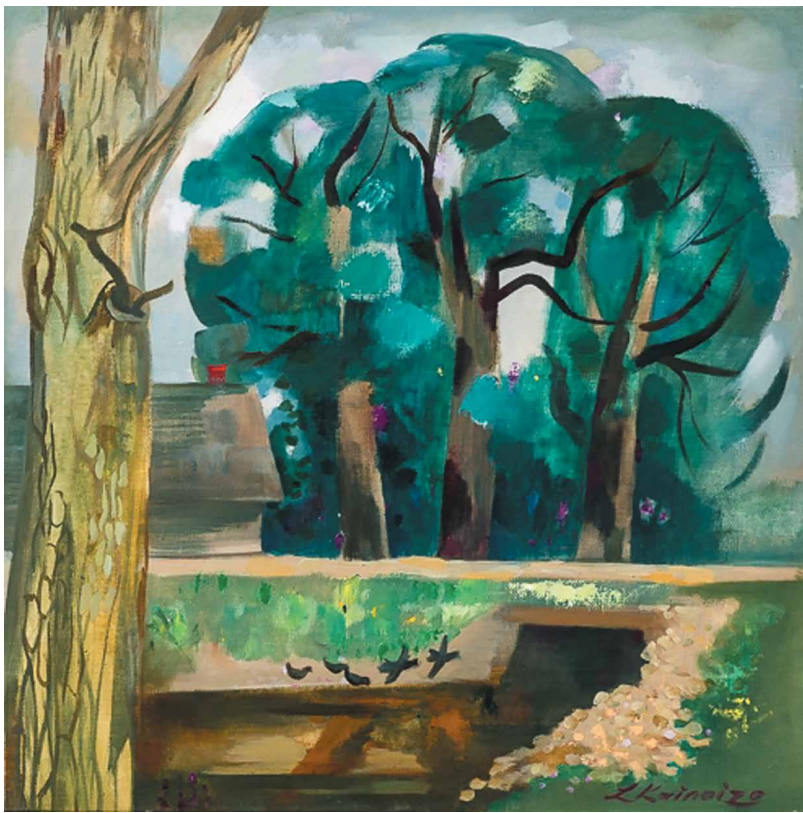
02.01.-25.04. 11:00-18:00 (III-VI),
11:00-19:00 (II)

📍 Romans Suta and Aleksandra Beļcova Museum

Lūcija Zamaiča (1893-1965) was an extraordinary Latvian author, poet, public figure, women's rights activist and a friend of Aleksandra Beļcova. Due to her creative work, in the 1920s-30s she has been repeatedly accused of destroying public morality. The exhibition will present Zamaiča's life story, episodes of her creative work, the brightest literary pieces, and, of course, Beļcova's works portraying Zamaiča.



Exhibition – The Crinoline Lady



Laine Kainaize. Oaks of Svitene. Canvas, oil. 81 x 81 cm, 2018. Photo: Rūdolfs Liepiņš.

Solo exhibition by Ilze Avotiņa – Color of the Mediterranean

02.-18.01. 12:00-18:00 (II-V), 12:00-17:00 (VI)

📍 Gallery Daugava

The color of the Mediterranean is like a state of the soul – a symbol of the lightness of the soul, as infinitely fresh and refreshing air. The exhibition will mainly feature works created by Ilze Avotiņa over the last three years. However, in the context of the exhibition's themes, the exhibition will also feature some of Avotiņa's earlier works, such as the Sand Castles (painted in 1981), which will testify to the presence of Mediterranean color throughout the artist's work.

Black Market

02.-12.01. 14:00-18:00 (III-V), 12:00-18:00 (VI,VII), 14:00-20:00 (II)

📍 Kim? Contemporary Art Centre

Closing the celebration of its first decade, Kim? Contemporary Art Centre is launching an unprecedented event. Black Market is a compilation of works by Kim? artists handpicked by curator Kaspars Groševs and displayed not only for seeing but also for buying. Parallel to Black Market (and as part of it) artist Maija Kurševa's exhibition Black Lines is also running at the center.

Exhibition by Alekseja Naumovs and Vilen Kūnnapu – Place. Image. Energy.

11.01.-22.02. 11:00-19:00 (I-V), 11:00-17:00 (VI)

📍 MuseumLV

Aleksejs Naumovs is a painter, while Vilen Kūnnapu – an architect. In this project, Naumovs and Kūnnapu express their interest in architecture as the embodiment of the place, and the painting as the story and the image. The artists take their energy from the environment and transform it through themselves.

Painting exhibition by Madara Neikena

22.01.-22.02. 12:00-18:00 (III-V), 12:00-17:00 (VI)

📍 Gallery Daugava

Madara Neikena's paintings are light and laconic. She works with the landscape – volatile, cluttered and stripped of unnecessary visual elements. This is the young artist's second solo exhibition at the gallery.

Laine Kainaize painting exhibition

31.01.-15.03. 10:00-17:00 (II-VI), 12:00-17:00 (VII)

📍 St. Peter's Church

Laine Kainaize is a follower of the Latvian school of realistic painting and a student of master painter B.Bērziņa. Far from photographic precision, Kainaize's landscape paintings show a pattern very distinct to her own style. The compositions consist of larger and smaller generalizing of color areas, whose monotony is disturbed by subtle tonal shades of color and is brought to life by sharper, contrasting touches of color.

Exhibition – Jūrmala 100

19.02.-29.03. 10:00-17:00 (III-VII)

📍 Jūrmala City Museum

The exhibition is dedicated to the 100th anniversary since the establishment of the city of Jūrmala. The exhibition is based on materials and historical testimonies from the collection of the Jūrmala City Museum, which tells about the establishment and life in the city of Jūrmala at the time and the atmosphere of that era. The exhibition will cover the years since Jūrmala was established as a city in 1920 until 1946, when the seaside resort city was incorporated into the city of Riga as the Jūrmala Region.

Krista Dzudzilo's exhibition "Through a Glass Darkly"

26.02.-27.03. 12:00-18:00 (II-V), 12:00-17:00 (VI)

📍 Gallery Daugava

The artist's first solo exhibition at the Daugava gallery features new works, created specially for this event. The exhibition, which mainly consists of paintings, also includes objects created by the artist. The title is a reference to Ingmar Bergman's 1961 film of the same title. The content of Krista Dzudzilo's exhibition, in turn, alludes to the themes explored in the film.

List of venue addresses

Arena Riga
Skanstes iela 21

Balzambārs
Torņa iela 4-1B

Daile Theatre
Brīvības iela 75

Museum of Decorative Arts
and Design
Skārņu iela 10

Dzintari Concert Hall
Turaidas iela 1, Jūrmala

Dzintari Forest Park and
panoramic tower
*Lazdonas iela, Dzintari,
Jūrmala*

ESPA Rīga
Baznīcas iela 4A

Gallery Daugava
Ausekļa iela 1

Hanzas Perons
Hanzas iela 16A

Hedonic SPA
Raiņa bulvāris 5/6

Jurmala City Museum
Tirgoņu iela 29, Jūrmala
Kalnciema Quarter
Kalnciema iela 35

Kim? Contemporary Art
Centre
Sporta iela 2, k-1

Latvian Museum of Natural
History
Krišjāņa Barona 4

Latvian Ethnographic
Open-air Museum
Brīvības gatve 440

National Museum of Art
exhibition space "Arsenāls"
Torņa iela 1

Latvian National Opera and
Ballet
Aspazijas bulvāris 3

Latvian National Museum
of Art
Jaņa Rozentāla laukums 1

National History Museum
of Latvia
Brīvības bulvāris 32

Great Guild
Amatu iela 6

Putti Art Gallery
Peitavas iela 5

Art Museum Riga Bourse
Doma laukums 6

Small Guild
Amatu iela 3

Fashion Museum
Grēcinieku iela 24

MuseumLV
Andreja Pumpura iela 2

Riga Dome Cathedral
Herdera laukums 6

Riga Congress Centre
Krišjāņa Valdemāra iela 5

Riga Porcelain Museum
Kalēju iela 9/1

St. John's Church in Riga
Jāņa iela 7

Museum of the History of
Riga and Navigation
Palasta iela 4

Romans Suta and
Aleksandra Beļcova
Museum
*Elizabetes iela 57a, ap. 26
(entrance through the
courtyard, 5th floor)*

Splendid Palace
Elizabetes iela 61

Ķīpsala International
Exposition Centre
Ķīpsalas iela 8

St. Peter's Church
Reformācijas laukums 1

Taka Spa
Kronvalda bulvāris 3A

Tallinn Street Quarter
Tallinas iela 10

Valmiermuiža's Beer
Embassy in Riga
A. Briāna iela 9A

Valter's restaurant
Miesnieku iela 8

VEF Culture Palace
Ropažu iela 2



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