

Liepāja



Liepāja will always greet you.
Just venture a look.

Liepāja will greet you with a smile. Reciprocate.

Take the smile with you, there is
always more.

Come to the Latvian capital of creativity
and find out for yourself.

Feeling...

Wind

Seashore

Us



2

Wave height is the greatest in December – 0.9 metres, and the lowest in April and May – 0.5 metres.

The wind is strongest in January – 4.8 m/s on average, and most tranquil in May – 3.3 m/s.

Discover Liepāja – a city of wind – it describes both the city and her people. The wind and the storms leave vivid marks on the city offering a fresh outlook day after day. The wind teaches, moulds and makes us stronger.

Liepāja beach is 50-80 metres wide and 8 kilometres long. The sign of an exquisitely clean swimming place – The Blue Flag – is a self-evident evaluation of the coast. The sand on the beach is particularly fine and white.

Liepāja beach is the first place in Latvia to accommodate swimmers with vision and mobility impairments – featuring special audio buoys, aquatic wheelchairs, access to the sea over wide and easy to use boardwalks.

Liepāja and amber – these two words go together as organically as sky and land. After storms the beach is a place to hunt for these famous gems of the North.

Liepāja is protected by three breakwaters – the Northern, the Southern, and the Dividing breakwaters.

3

Letting go...

Park
City
Bustle

Liepāja has 7 parks – a city of parks.



The three-kilometre-long Liepāja Seaside park with an area of 50 ha is currently one of the largest planted parks in Latvia where around 140 local and foreign tree species grow. The park is a place for both sports and for children to play, in summer it is brimming with an abundance of events, concerts and lots of fun.

A bicycle path traverses the length of the park, beyond which it meanders for 40 km through the whole city.

Another favourite is Jānis Čakste Square, named after Latvia's first president. This is the place for celebrating national holidays, holding concerts, and strengthening the nation's patriotic spirit.



Every Sunday at noon, from June to September, kids can enjoy a puppet theatre or circus performance at the end of Jūrmalas street.

Looking in...

Centre

Outskirts

Everywhere

Liepāja is a world on a narrow piece of land between a sea and a lake – a very special world.

Everything can be found in Liepāja – a unique central area, a charming old-town, a fresh breath of the seashore, sounds from the port, the smell of pine trees, old and new separately and together.

Liepāja is the third largest city in Latvia.

The port of Liepāja covers 1182 ha, it has 80 berths with modern equipment and storage facilities. Regular ferry traffic connects Liepāja with Travemünde, Germany, but ships from around the world moor at the port of Liepāja.

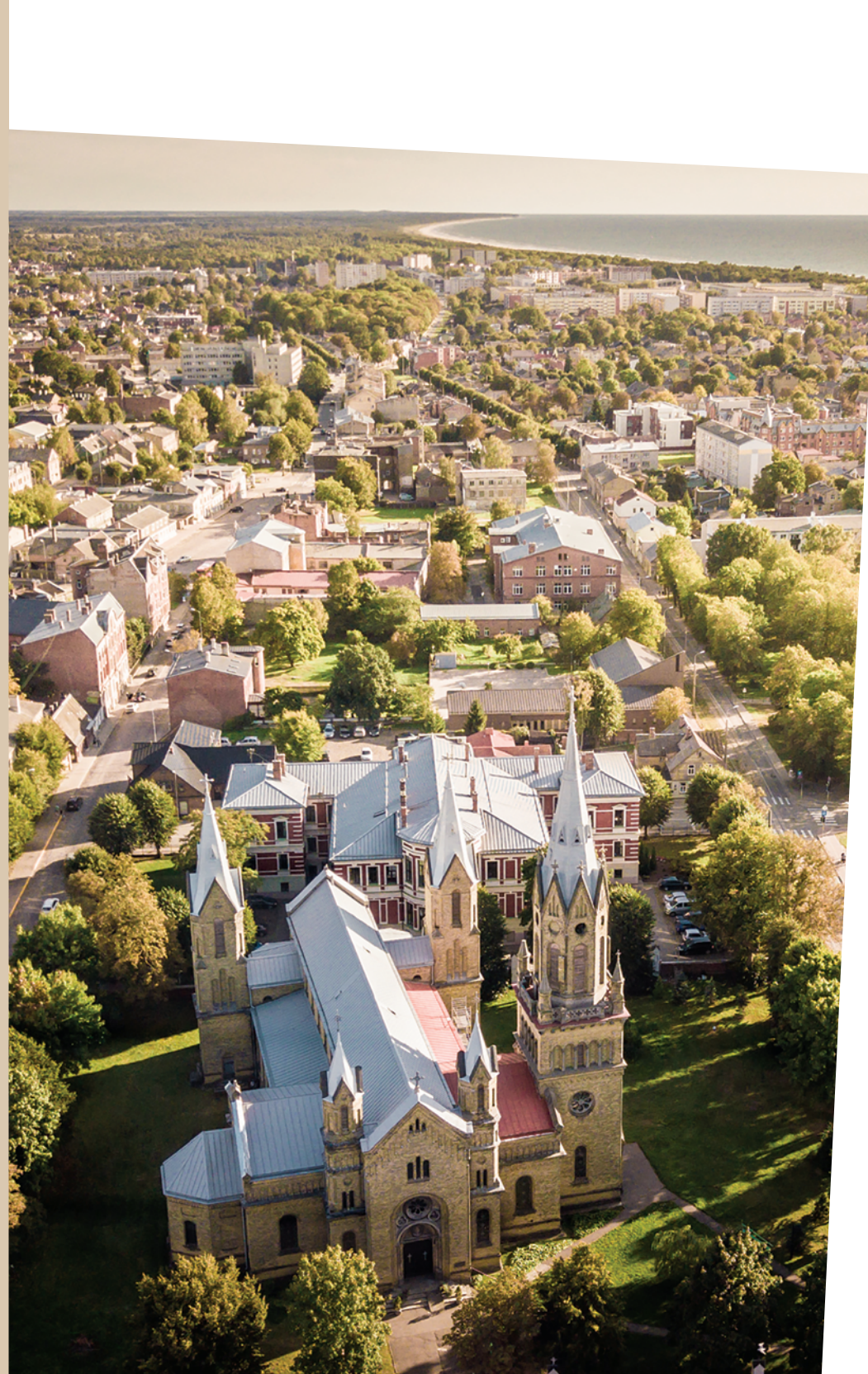
At the very heart of the city, the Trade Canal boasts a modern Yacht marina with floating docks and all amenities for sailors: just disembark and you'll be right in the middle of all the action.

Liepāja airport allows you to fly to destinations all over the world. It is also the location of the main *AirBaltic* training centre – the Pilot Academy.

The oldest building in the city is at 6 Kungu street, dating back to the 17th century.

The first cobblestone street in Liepāja was laid in 1735.

The city plan of Liepāja had 40 streets in 1797. Today there are 400.



Admiring...

Buildings

Wood and brick

Roses



8

The view from the Cathedral tower lets you see all of the city – check it out!

Liepāja has always wanted to look proud and great – the romantic wooden structures of this historical resort town, unique and stately Art Nouveau masonry buildings signifying the wealth and simple modesty of the city.

A special time was that of Liepāja's head architect Paul Max Bertschy – he created the face of the city. Bertschy's buildings are vivid examples of Eclecticism, inspired by Gothicism, Renaissance, and Classicism.

The heart of the city is the Rose Square. Roses have been planted here for over 100 years, all throughout the different twists and turns brought on by history. It is one of Liepāja's unchanging values.

Peter's Market is Liepāja's largest and Latvia's second largest market – an exquisite Art Nouveau building and one of the most beautiful market pavilions in Europe. It was built in 1910 and had a very innovative design for its time featuring a glass roof and lighting.

Port city Promenade – providing beautiful views of ships! A place for tranquil walks during the day and a bustling nightlife in the evening.

Rose Square is Liepāja's main meeting place.

The company "Lauma Fabrics" manufacturing building is among the largest in the world by area.

9

Touching...

Hotel
Warmth
Safety

You can experience the hospitality of Liepāja in a five-star hotel by the Promenade or in a modern art hotel, as well as in classic business style accommodations with a particular design.

Guest houses, youth houses and camping grounds – make your reservations early! Especially for one of the many weekends featuring large events.

Liepāja's hospitality principle – get warm and cosy so you are ready to go out into the wind.



Enjoying...

Kitchen Party Style

Fish in a coastal town? Definitely – it will be hard to say no to the exquisite fish cuisine.

Liepāja is a city of restaurants and cafés offering great taste and ambiance. You will also find sophisticated gastropubs, enjoy dinner at a beer brewery, get a bite to eat at a bistro or lazily enjoy the warmth of a summer terrace.

Find what suits your taste not only in the city, but also on the beach, both day and night, for food connoisseurs and for having a good time, for celebrating life.



Getting involved...

Heart
Mind
Energy

Liepāja hosts around 2000 different events every year or 160 every month. The city calendar is never empty.

Outdoor cinema on warm summer evenings, great music festivals on the seashore, grand celebrations on national holidays.

Exhibitions, concerts, performances, lectures, shows, installations – a unique selection of activities in one place: the Liepāja Contemporary Art Forum which has already become a tradition. It is known for the highest standards in art. A place for enjoying and exploring the creative process.

Look for the Sea festival and the Līva Village Festival's lavish market in the calendar!



Liepāja Lake Music has become a summertime tradition: concertgoers get on a boat, paddleboat or raft and head to a floating stage just before sunset.

The locals of Liepāja love to celebrate together – join us on New Year's Eve and for the Proclamation Day of the Republic of Latvia on the evening of the 18th of November. Be sure to head over to the concert hall "Great Amber". On Lāčplēsis Day we take part in a torchlight procession from Jānis Čakste square all the way to the Northern Cemetery.

Artists from around 70 countries perform in cultural events throughout the year.

16



17

The Summer Sound music festival has turned into the largest music and art festival in Latvia and is one of the most significant summer outdoor events in the Baltics. Tens of thousands of visitors come to Liepāja's beach for this awe-inspiring festival.

Choosing...

Concert
Performance
Travel in time

The concert hall Great Amber has become the most recent symbol of Liepāja. Besides the unique shape it also boasts outstanding acoustics. The eight stories of this modern building contain three different-sized auditoriums. Symphony, jazz, the best choirs and quality pop music can be heard here. It is home to Liepāja Symphony Orchestra and Emilis Melngailis Music school.

*Feel a piece of amber,
the Great Amber, from the inside.*



Liepāja theatre is the oldest professional theatre in Latvia – a superb troupe of actors; quality, award-winning performances for viewers of any age. Many claim it to be the most beautiful theatre in Latvia!

Book a tour of Liepāja theatre's backstage!



A building designed by the architect Paul Max Bertschy houses Liepāja Museum – regular and always excellent exhibitions of local and foreign works can be found next to the permanent city history exhibit. Also located in Liepāja Museum is the Kurzeme folk costume information centre.



A special treasure of the 18th century Trinity cathedral is its organ – the largest and oldest unreconstructed mechanical organ in the world, created by one of Europe's greatest craftsmen H. A. Contius. The organ has over 7000 pipes.

Liepāja has 6 libraries the services of which are used by about 20% of residents.

Liepāja Symphony Orchestra is the oldest orchestra in the Baltic countries.

Excitement...

Woven

Carved

Loved



22

The Craftsmen Quarters is the warmest place in Liepāja – watch the weaving of unique blankets and tablecloths, the creation of clay tableware and jewellery. As well as scarves, belts, skirts, mittens and socks. A place with much to be overwhelmed by.

Visitors to the House of Craftsmen are welcome every day – 16 excellent craftsmen have their workshops here.

The House of Peter I is the centre of the creative quarter. Currently one of the oldest wooden residential buildings in Liepāja, Madame Hoyer's hotel was once visited by the Russian Tsar Peter I.

Do you know how to paint on silk, how to create a tapestry, how to make soap? Find out here!

The longest amber necklace – 123 meters long – is also on display at the House of Craftsmen.



23

Taking part...

Higher
Farther
Better

There are 8 kids sports' schools in Liepāja, 5 outdoor stadiums, 3 top level outdoor basketball courts, an Olympic centre Tennis hall, Manege, Pool and SPA, an Ice hall, as well as over 80 different sports clubs and societies.

Participants from Liepāja take part in at least 50 World and European level sports competitions every year.

The sports infrastructure of Liepāja allows us to host international competitions and championships and serves as an excellent training base for professional athletes.

The city regularly hosts sports events that have already become a tradition – World and European basketball championships, European rally championship "Rally Liepāja", and an international windsurfing competition.

Liepāja is the first city to gain the title of European city of sport.

The only diving training school in the Baltics is located in Liepāja.

Anastasija Sevastova, one of the highest-ranking tennis players in the world, frequently visits Liepāja, her childhood home.

Liepāja is the home of NBA star "unicorn" Kristaps Porzingis (New York Knicks, Dallas Mavericks) – his gift to the city was three NBA-standard basketball courts.



Exploring...

Older
Later
Recently

The beginning of Liepāja can be traced back to the 13th century when a village by the name of Līva was created between a lake and the sea where the river Līva was running through.

On 18 March 1625 Liepāja gained her city rights. As the port continued to develop, Liepāja experienced economic growth.

The completion of the railroad to Romny (in modern-day Ukraine) in 1876 stimulated the development of industry – Liepāja was becoming an industrial centre.

After Latvia proclaimed independence, Liepāja was the capital city of Latvia for six months in 1919. The government of the new nation temporarily operated from the steamship "Saratow" in the Port of Liepāja.

Liepāja has received the titles of European City of the Year, European City of Sport, and the Latvian Capital of Youth. The city has also gained different design awards several years in a row.

We are 70 000 people; 800 new Liepāja locals are born every year. At their disposal are 24 kindergartens, 17 schools and a choice of universities – there are 8 to choose from.

Since Latvia regained independence, Liepāja quickly began to develop – new factories showed up in place of old technology, the port, which was closed during the Soviet era, was now opened. We now have smart manufacturing based on digital solutions. Liepāja is a city of exports – about 80% of goods manufactured in Liepāja find their way to foreign markets.

Five percent of Latvian industry originates from Liepāja and its share is increasing every year.

Liepāja is the first city in the Baltics, where in 1899 the most modern mode of transportation, the electric tram, began operation.



Listening...

War
Peace
Port

The highest dome structure in the Baltics is the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Naval cathedral.

28



Construction of the Russian Empire's military city and fort began in 1890. It was intended to be a completely autonomous community with its own infrastructure, electric power station and water supply, church and schools.

It was originally named in honour of its founder – the port of Emperor Alexander III. During the years of Latvian independence, it was named the War port or Karosta.

In the Soviet era, Karosta was a closed area not accessible to the civilians of Liepāja. The Soviet troops left Karosta in 1994.

The largest historical military garrison Karosta constitutes almost a third of Liepāja's territory today.

To get to Karosta, one must cross a unique monument of engineering – the O. Kalpaks metal swing bridge.

The most unusual and surprising hotel in the world is Karosta prison: the former detention centre for short term disciplinary action of navy sailors and non-commissioned officers.

29

Becoming one...

Lake Canal Forrest

The sea is separated from the lake by a 3 km stretch – take a ride on the canal with a boat or paddleboat!

A hedgehog by the porch or deer in the dunes by the beach are common occurrences in the lives of Liepāja locals – undisturbed nature is Liepāja's added value.

The unique lagoon type Lake Liepāja was formed when the Baltic Sea retreated – along with the nearby meadows it is included in the protected area "Natura 2000". It is an important nesting and migratory area for waterbirds.

The Trade canal connects Lake Liepāja with the sea. In the summertime the city part of the canal welcomes yachts, while in winter, it is illuminated with a romantic cloak of light.

The Beberlini recreational park in Karosta is a haven for long walks – occupying 43 ha, the dune forest is a protected habitat area. In honour of all who fought in the 1919 war of independence, a 9 km long hiking path has been created here.

When the European smelt come into the Trade canal, it becomes a paradise for ice fishers.

Two unique places to walk near the lake: Zirgu island from which a 1 km long footpath stretches into the lake, but, at the end of Lauku street, a wooden boardwalk takes you to a birdwatching tower.

The lake has 15 islands with a total area of 36 ha. The shoreline is 44.6 km long. The lakebed is mostly covered by a layer of mud. More than 15 species of fish live here.



The lake's protected area has two birdwatching towers.

Diving...

Under the roof

Bowling, laser tag, track-and-field manege, ball pools, and... tomorrow there will be more.

Nobody has ever been able to count all the places for adventure in Liepāja – new ones pop up every day, every week, and every year, more fun and with longer lasting memories.



Flying...

No roof



34

The nature in Liepāja not only moves you to connect with it – it awaits the active, the fearless, the adventurous and those who just want to lose their breath from both the activities themselves and the sheer amount available.

The excavation of sand in the northern part of Karosta for military construction resulted in the creation of Beberliņi reservoir – a footpath both in the air and on the ground, recreation on water: wakeboard, SUP boards and boats. The longest zip line, winter swimming and... awaiting a new and exciting day in the campground.

35

An orienteering ground has been created in this unique area of military objects in Beberliņi – the paths are suitable for athletes, for families with kids, as well as those who just want to try it out.

Liepāja beach is a cherished destination for windsurfing and kitesurfing enthusiasts.

Look at Liepāja from a paddleboat, boat or raft, rent a bicycle – you may just extend your holiday!

Drawing away...

Trails Swamps Vikings

A man with wings – the blacksmith Johanson is still mentioned in Priekule: He tried to fly with self-made wings. And he succeeded!

Leaving this magnetic city for just a moment, driving outside of the town, enjoying some special places in the surrounding area, nobody can remain indifferent – everyone can appreciate its peculiar surroundings. They vividly characterize the people of this area, in fact, all of us. More sea, beach, rivers and lakes. Even more stories.

36



The coast of Nature Park Bernāti with its primitive roughness and white sandy beach is a unique combination that will surprise anyone.

The highest dune in Latvia is the 37 m high Pūsēnu Hill.

The ancient inhabitants of Grobiņa have restored burned-down castles multiple times. Ruins, bastions and moats have remained since the Medieval Age. There used to be a Couronian Viking settlement on the banks of the Alande river – the secrets of the Vikings have been written into stone, the earth and water.

37

The Trail of Legends in Cīrava Park has sculptures made from wilted ash trees that have been left in their original location. The "Sound Trail" has five objects made of metal that you can make sounds with.

The 5.5 km long Dunika bog trail leads to the only beech pure stand in Latvia – the silence and pristine scenery is incredibly special here.

Pape's wild horse and aurochs park is a special treasure of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Wild horses create suitable growing conditions for rare species of meadow plants.

Pāvilosta has transformed from a typical fishing port into a paradise for surfers with modern recreation opportunities.

Returning...

Comfortable Quick
Exciting

Liepāja offers various types of rooms and services for corporate events, seminars and conferences, as well as private events and celebrations of any size.

Your teambuilding event needs in Liepāja and the surrounding area will be met with a suitable sports infrastructure, accommodations, and professional event organisers.

The concert hall Great Amber is perfect for attending a business conference and a concert. And Liepāja Theatre is only five minutes away. Besides a diverse sports infrastructure, Liepāja Olympic Centre offers a space for different business events.

Meetings can be held in the largest hotels in the city, guest houses, recreation centres and culture centres in Liepāja and the surrounding area.

Besides the capital, Riga, Liepāja is the only city in Latvia to provide transportation via air, land, and sea. A flight from Liepāja to Riga takes 27 minutes.

Liepāja is well suited for any business tourism related event – both sophisticated and robustly democratic.



Liepāja is a perfect source of encouragement to take with you when you leave and give to everyone you meet back home.

A global outlook with the comforts of a small town.



Tourism

It is not possible to pass by us – the Liepāja Tourism information office can be found right in the heart of the city: **Rose square 5/6**.

Suggestions, booklets, guides, souvenirs, transportation and a big smile, Liepāja's smile – we are always ready for a conversation.

www.liepaja.travel

You can purchase a Liepāja gift card – surprise your friends, family and acquaintances with the opportunity to visit Liepāja's most interesting places (please see the list at www.liepaja.travel).



Rīga–Liepāja, highway A9, distance 220 km

Ventspils–Liepāja, highway P111, distance 123 km

Kuldīga–Liepāja, highway P112, distance 89 km

Klaipēda–Liepāja, highway A11, distance 100 km