

LIEPĀJA



Walking routes "Follow the notes!" 3,7 km and 5,8 km



Rožu (Rose) Square. In the 18th century, "The New Market" was located here. However, it was relocated to its present place in 1910, after the municipality decided to establish an open air rose garden here. After reconstruction in 2000, the emblems of Liepāja's twin towns are placed on the sides of the rose-bed. There are several well-known local buildings located around the square: the buildings with towers used to be the butchery; 19th century Roma Hotel nearby, designed by Liepāja's most famous architect Paul Max Bertschy. Now the building is a Business Centre "Romas dārzs". In 1934, the President of Latvia Kārlis Ulmanis laid the cornerstone of Liepāja Latvian Society house, located at the same place, and the car parking square next to it used to be the Lenin monument site during the Soviet occupation.



Latvian Musicians Walk-of-Fame with 39 bronze plaques of hand prints dedicated to musicians and 12 plaques as a tribute to current and former groups. On the other side of Kungu Street, there is a city **Public library**, which is the tallest building of the Zivju Street. It used to be the School for girls.



Creative quarter on the Kungu Street is a building complex, which includes both unique 17th century wooden buildings and fully renovated **Youth House**. Former hotel of Madame Hoyer, popularly dubbed as **the House of P Peter I** (on Kungu Street 24) is one of the oldest residential building examples in Liepāja. In 1697, the Russian Tsar Peter I stayed here incognito. The building located nearby is a 17th century wooden carcass construction, built on a low stone plinth, with a gabled slate roof. It belongs to the oldest type of buildings in Liepāja. Here reside the **folklore center "Namins"** and **studio "Latva"**. On the opposite side of the street (Bāriņu Street 33) is located one of the oldest stone buildings in Liepāja – the house of burgomaster Joachim Schröder. The building is a typical example of residential house in Liepāja at the turn of 18th century. It is also when the King Carl XII of Sweden repeatedly stayed in this house during his endeavors in this part of the country. Nearby at Dārza Street 4/8 is the **Quarter of Craftsmen** – a complex of Craftsmen House and Applied Art Centre "Dārza iela", where you will find all sorts of handicrafts and can look at its creation process. This is also the site of the display of the longest amber necklace in Latvia – 123 meters long and 19,5 kg heavy.



Kuršu Square. Since the 16th century, this area was a market. Later on, the Church of St. Anna was built here as well with the adjacent cemetery until 1784, surrounded by one-storeyed houses, inns and gardens. The town's new pavilion type **Peter's Market**, relocated to this square in 1910, had changed the visual appearance and daily buzz atmosphere. **St. Anne's Church** is the oldest church in Liepāja – first mentioned in documents in 1508, but dedicated to God in this place in 1587. Last public death sentence was executed in front of the church in 1792. Last major reconstruction of the church did happen at the end of 19th century. The impressive 5,8 m wide and 9,7 m high Baroque period altar was built by wood-carving master Nicolas Safrens in 1697. The organ of St. Anne's Church is constructed after the draft of Alfreds Kalniņš and is the 3rd largest in Latvia.



On the left, you can see the former Kurzeme Regional Courthouse – the current home of the **Liepāja City Council**. Walking the direction to the right you will reach the entrance of **St. Joseph's Catholic Cathedral**. It used to be a very small church, but in the 19th century, it was reconstructed and enlarged to its present form. The side chapel to the left used to be the central altar, and today is the only one that is remaining unchanged from the 18th century. Right above it, fixed to the ceiling you can see a model of a sailing ship. It was a tradition back at that time for the ship crews to present a ship to a church. Some did it before the departure in order to ask for God's favor. Others did it after successful return as a sign of gratitude for surviving the harsh storms.

From this point, there are two walk options to choose:

First is to proceed along Tirgoņu Street, then Lielā Street to reach the next stop SOL at Graudu Street. In Graudu Street you can have a look at some of the most beautiful buildings of Art Nouveau style in Liepāja.

Tirgoņu Street. This street is famous for its interesting history. At the beginning of the 1990-ies, Liepāja had a good musical tradition - the festival "We are for Liepāja". The money raised from the incomes of the festival every year was donated to fund special projects. Tirgoņu Street's reconstruction was the first implementation of this tradition. It became the first pedestrian street in Liepāja, after reconstruction was finished and all traffic, including tram was diverted in other directions.



Graudu Street is well known of its name, old cobblestone and houses built in the early 20th century, some with embedded styles of romanticism, eclectic and Art Nouveau. At the head of this street, there are two impressive buildings from the Soviet era – Liepāja University, which was originally built for the needs of Regional Council Headquarters and building at Graudu Street 50 – former Communist Party Committee house.

Another option is to follow the notes passing by St. Joseph's Cathedral. This route will take you to the Seaside Park. There you will see a number of wooden buildings from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries when Liepāja was a popular health resort. Both routes will meet again in Kūrmājas Prospect at the stop PAUSE.



Largest drum set in Latvia – one of environmental design objects in Liepāja, reminding that Liepāja takes pride in being referred to as the music capital of Latvia. Going further along Peldu Street, you will reach 1964 built **open-air concert stage "Pūt, vējiņi!"** – Venue of many different music festival, and perhaps the most popular of them all, the famous rock music festival in the former Soviet Union "Liepājas dzintars". It took place here first time back in 1968. Close to entrance of the concert stage, you can see a memorial site "Ghost Tree", created as a tribute to the legendary Liepāja rock band "Livi". Continue your route following Liepu Street, observing the typical summerhouses of the 19th century.



Liepāja is proud of its **Seaside Park**. It was developed at the end of the 19th century after the initiative of the mayor Kārlis Ūlihs. The park is 3 km long with the total area of 50 ha and is one of the largest man-made parks in Latvia. There is only few meters to the sea through the park and Liepāja beach here is covered with the finest and whitest sand in the world. The beach owns the Blue Flag for its quality and services. After a stronger wind, you can also find some pieces of amber washed ashore.



The Swan Pond in the park is also the initiative of the mayor Kārlis Ūlihs. Through the maple tree alley to the left from the Swan Pond there is a roman villa style building designed by Paul Max Bertschy in 1902 – a **Bathhouse**. The structure was functioning up to 1978 as a health resort, offering applications of medical mud and sulphur and carbon dioxide baths.



At the very seashore, you can easily notice the **Monument to commemorate sailors lost at sea**, featuring a woman looking to the sea and waiting for her son, husband, beloved one... There is a wide street leading from the Seaside Park to the city center – **Kūrmājas Prospect**. Exquisite houses lining on both sides of Kūrmājas Prospect were constructed at the end of the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century and were owned by aristocrats and wealthy people. All along the length of Kūrmājas Prospect, you will see the bronze sculptures of a boatman, a crow, a tavern table, a telephone man and a crowd of people – the characters of **Liepāja anthem "Pilsēta, kurā piedzims vējš"** (The city where wind is born). **Liepāja Museum** is located at Kūrmājas Prospect 16/18.



Gorgeous Art Nouveau building of **Liepāja State Gymnasium No 1** at Ausekļa Street 9, former **Liepāja Navigation School** right next to it at Kūrmājas Prospect 3, former **Russian-East Asian Shipping Company** – now the Regional Courthouse on the opposite side of the street at Kūrmājas Prospect 2/6. On the edge of the 19th century tens of thousands of people emigrated to the "land of dreams", the United States of America and Canada through the port of Liepāja. In 1906, the direct ferry line between Liepāja and New York City was established. Each year approximately 40000 people passed through Liepāja to their new home over the ocean. Stunning Art Nouveau houses along the Prospect and the vision of past tramline, riding guests to the Bathhouse create the unique feeling while walking the street. **The bronze characters of Liepāja anthem "Pilsēta, kurā piedzims vējš" and Liepāja Museum** (you are welcome to visit it free of charge) are a part of the Kūrmājas Prospect as well. By the way, this is a perfect place to take a break during the exploration of Liepāja's landmarks and relax at the nearby-located cafes and restaurants.



Vecā Ostmala or the Old Embankment site was a closed territory for the majority of Liepāja's residents during the soviet era. **The Promenade** draws your attention to the docks, ships and yachts in the area. **The Amber Clock** symbolically counts unforgettable time spent in Liepāja.



Trade Canal. Liepāja's port was already known in the 14th century, and it has operated as a modern sea-going ship port since the end of the 17th century when the canal was erected. The import-export cargo port developed a bit later, at the end of 19th century. However, during the soviet times, the port did not operate in commercial terms and was a restricted area. The modern architecture building in the color of amber is the concert hall **Great Amber**. On the other side of Lielā Street, at the canal bank, is a fancy white building with pinnacles – this is a **Recreation Centre "Libava"** or, as locals call it, the Black Ball. It was once a Customs House but the black ball warned locals of the imminence of a storm at sea. Walking down the Lielā Street, check out the **Jāņa Street** – a romantic narrow street, one of the oldest streets in the city with historical storage buildings.



Lutheran Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. The church was built during 1742-1758 for a German congregation. The Cathedral is noteworthy for its organ, which is the **largest unreconstructed mechanical organ in the world**. The organ has 131 registers, 4 manuals and more than 7,000 pipes. The interior of the church is rich and lavish in its décor, which stands out from the rest of Lutheran churches. Use the opportunity to climb up to the top of the church tower and enjoy a wonderful city panorama!



Liepāja Region Tourism Information Office

Guide services, bicycle rent, transport tickets, souvenirs
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