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Vasals, ka namaloj Latvola!

With the passport on the Eastern track!



This is the eastern border of Latvia and also of the European Union. Since ancient times, these territories have been at the very centre of the movement of different peoples, trade, and the exchange of ideas. For many centuries this has been the site of battles over borders. Neighbours from both near and far have ended up settling here. As a result, a unique cultural space has evolved here; one characterized by hospitable and tough people with a strong sense of their own particular way of life and their traditional crafts, culture and customs all stemming from a variety of different religions, languages and customs. Beautiful as a painting, this is a green land rich with a fascinating history, to which dozens of peoples may be able to trace their roots.

There is no doubt that most visitors feel a strong curiosity to discover more of the mysterious and magical mystery of the Latgalian charm, which has the power to enchant and speak directly to the soul. The friendly residents of this borderland are waiting to welcome all those who wish to uncover the secrets of this enchanting region on Latvia's eastern boundary. We welcome you on your Latgalian adventure!

Just don't forget to bring along your passport, as proof of your identity... and also as evidence of the fact that each of us is special and unique!

<p>Ludza tourist information centre</p> <p>Baznicas str. 42, Ludza, ludza county Ph. +371 65707203, +371 29467925, Fax. +371 65707202, tic@ludza.lv, ligakondrate@inbox.lv, http://turisms.ludza.lv GPS: 56.547569, 27.725286</p>	<p>Cibla County tourism organizer - ĒriksPavlov</p> <p>Zvarguli, Lidumnieki, Lidumnieki parish, Cibla county, Ph. +371 28317569, eriks.pavlovs@inbox.lv, www.ciblasnovads.lv GPS: 56.5923890, 27.9929536</p>	<p>Zilupe County tourism organizer - Ilgalvanova</p> <p>Raina Street 13, Zilupe, Zilupe county, Ph. +371 28656530, ilgaivanova@inbox.lv, www.zilupe.lv GPS: 56.3889235, 28.1263058</p>	<p>Dagda tourist information centre</p> <p>Skolas str. 6, Dagda, Dagda county Ph. +371 65681420, +371 26244209 Fax. +371 65681421 dagdas.fenikss@inbox.lv, www.dagda.lv GPS: 56.0955429, 27.5398364</p>	<p>Tourism Information center of Rezekne City, Rezekne and Vilani Municipalities</p> <p>Krasta str. 31, Rezekne, Rezekne county Ph. +371 26337449, +371 64622222, tic@rezekne.lv, www.rezeknesnovads.lv GPS: 56.5027620, 27.3341528</p>
<p>Aluksne tourist information centre</p> <p>Pils str. 25A, Bible museum building, Aluksne, Aluksne county Ph. +371 29130280, +371 64322804 tic@aluksne.lv, www.aluksne.lv GPS: 57.424320, 27.048899</p>	<p>Balvi tourist information centre</p> <p>Brivibas str. 46, Balvi, Balvi county Ph. +371 64522597, +371 29272948 turisms@balvi.lv, www.balvi.lv GPS: 57.131210, 27.275620</p>	<p>Rugaji tourist information centre</p> <p>Kurmenes str. 36, Rugaji, Rugaji county Ph. +371 64546674, +371 26355954 marite.ormina@rugaji.lv, www.rugaji.lv GPS: 57.0015548, 27.1298440</p>	<p>Karsava tourist information point</p> <p>Vienibas str. 53, Karsava, Karsava county Ph. +371 29327265 turisms@karsava.lv, www.karsava.lv GPS: 56.7870125, 27.6751690</p>	



1 Former USSR army nuclear rocket base near Zeltīni. Former USSR nuclear base was destroyed in 1989. Here you can see war twon, rocket louching, reserves and one of the fiew Lennin monuments that are still preserved in Latvia. Stone curved monument of Lennin used to be located in Alūksnes center. There are asphalted and concrete roads going through the army base. In the forest you can find camouflaged objects and other interesting objects of former soviet union. *Visit must be booked in advance.*
Ph. +371 29499352, Zeltīnu parish, Aluksne county,
GPS: 57.348723252167, 26.748512997889

2 Ernst Glück's Bible Museum. It introduces you with the "Bible path" – from the very first bible, translated by Ernst Glück, up to modern editions. The exposition includes bibles in 35 world languages, and various editions of sermons and song books.
Ph. +371 64323164, +371 25627589, Pils str. 25a, Aluksne, Aluksne county,
GPS: 57.424320, 27.048899

3 In Versukalna museum you can try bread making with your caring hostess, Anna. The museum has an important role in preserving cultural heritage by organising exhibitions, evening programmes, folkloric and traditional events etc, also services for newly-weds.
Ph. +371 29243878, Svīlpova, Susāju parish, Vilaka county,
GPS: 57.172737, 27.594910

4 Museum of Vilaka county and excursion in Vilaka town "The History of Vilaka throughout the Ages", "Memorial Room of Bishop Kazimirs Dulbinskis", "Tools and Household Items of Vilaka Municipality", "Maps of Livonia and Marienhauzena (Vilaka) Municipality". Excursions to Vilaka provincial town to see the local sights (*book in advance!*). Working hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (from May to October). At other times by arrangement.
Ph. +371 64563302, , Balvu street 13, Vilaka, vilaksmuzejs@inbox.lv, www.vilaka.lv,
GPS: 57.1842526, 27.6693683



5 Living in the smallest county in Latvia doesn't stop the people of Baltinava radiating Latgalian vitality and warmth of heart that can make you forget the daily rush and enjoy a feast for your soul.
Baltinava Theatre – Home of the most famous modern Latvian plays, "Latgola.lv". Visitors have the chance to meet the author of the play, Danskovite, and watch one of the eight parts of the play, "Ontans un Anne". *Visit must be booked in advance.*
Ph. +371 28395837, Baltinava, Baltinava county, GPS: 56.944546, 27.640572

6 Museum of Baltinava county, Craftsman center and Weaving workshop. Get acquainted with the smallest Latvian County! Visit Baltinava and take an excursion through the sights of Baltinava County, such as Baltinava Estate Park, Baltinava catholic and orthodox churches. A weaving workshop can be organised for you in the Craftsman centre. You also will be given a chance to get acquainted with the author of the popular show of Latgola.lv Danskovīti and to see one of the 8 parts of the show "Ontans un Anne". Book your visit in advance.
Ph. +371 29341738, Tilzas street 7, Baltinava, Baltinava county,
GPS: 56.944546, 27.640572

7 Malnava Rosary of Our Lady Roman Catholic church and St. Euphrosyne The Pure-hearted, Russian Orthodox church are outstanding objects of architecture - delights for the eye and sacred songs for the soul. Karsava is the only place in Latvia with two Roman



Catholic churches next to each other – the old wooden church (built in 1762) is right next to the beautiful new, white church (built in 2003), with an interior decorated by students from the Riga School of Arts and Crafts. Nearby is a gorgeous, wooden Russian Orthodox Church, where believers can be heard by well-known priest Father Viktors.
Guide Ph.+37129327265 (Inga), Malnava catholic churches, Baznīcas str. 1, Karsava, Karsava county, bazneica.lv,
Karsava orthodox church, Stacijas str. 36, Karsava, Karsavas county,
GPS: 56.786289, 27.672281

8 Bakery "Dziles". Aina Barsukova is your host at Bakery "Dziles" and bakes bread and cakes for every day and different celebrations. Tourists, groups and families can bake pies, cakes, and natural rural bread.
Ph. +371 26538016, Dziles, Malnava, Malnava parish, Karsava county, dziles@dziles.lv,
www.dziles.lv, GPS 56.773359 27.721474

9 Ludza, the oldest town in Latvia, has a rich cultural and historical heritage. As shown by excavations in Odukalns, there has been a well-developed town here since ancient times. Ludza was important for both defence and trade - the city's symbols have always been the sword and the key – and was first mentioned in the Chronicles of Kiev's Ipaty in 1177. Over the next 700 years the town was seized by Germans, Russians, Swedes and Poles. The old-town is under state protection as a fine example of urban construction and is a wonderful place for photos. Since the 19th century, the foothills around the castle have been full of wooden and brick buildings with closed yards forming picturesque narrow streets. According to architect Peteris Blums, Ludza is the undiscovered pearl of Latvia and everyone should see its unique beauty. More information and tour guides are available in Ludza county's Tourist Information centre (TIC)*.
Ph. +371 65707203, 29467925, Ludza TIC, Baznīcas str. 42, Ludza, Ludza county, tic@ludza.lv, ligakondrate@inbox.lv, turisms.ludza.lv, www.ludza.lv,
GPS: 56.547569, 27.725286

10 Discover Ludza! The excursion begins from the one near the Ludza Local History Museum – Kulneva Street 2. After visiting the museum, the guide will acquaint you with the history and values of the ancient town (an excursion on the raft on the MazaisLudzaslake). At the end of the route there is a chance for sightseeing and visiting the Ludza Center of Craftsmen.
Ph. +371 65707203, +371 29467925, Baznīcas str. 42, Ludza, tic@ludza.lv, ligakondrate@inbox.lv, http://turisms.ludza.lv, GPS: 56.547569, 27.725286

11 Cultural-historical and nature path of Eversmūiža. The path curls along picturesque banks of the river Ilža (Ludza), through the old park of Eversmūiža, past St. Andrew's Catholic Church of Eversmūiža and estate buildings to the Felicianova estate and mill. *Working hours: on request.*
Ph. +371 29230204 (guide), Cibla, Cibla county, www.ciblasnovads.lv,
GPS: 56.551537, 27.884674

12 Lidumnieki exhibition of the 2nd World War is a relic collection gathered by enthusiasts. Some of the exhibitions reveal the history and people of the Lidumnieki area. The

museum is located in the border area with the Russian Federation.*
Ph. +371 26536409, +371 28625187, Lidumnieki, Lidumnieku parish, Cibla county,
GPS: 56.536774, 27.982178

13 Pasiene Roman Catholic Church was built in 1761 with the support of Count J.Borch in the style of Polish baroque.The church was initially built as a church of a Dominican monastery after the first wooden church had burnt down.The church has not been changed a lot, it still has the splendid rococo style interior created by the local and foreign craftsmen of the 18th century.Pasiene Church has several art monuments - the central altar, side altars and the pulpit.Every year Pasiene Church invites visitors to the festival of sacred music and Polish days.After the restoration of the facade and the interior the church was reopened to the religious and tourists at the end of 2008.
Ph. +371 28656530 (guide), Pasiene, Pasienes parish, Zīlupe county,
GPS: 56.2899205, 28.1601683

14 In the furthest Eastern region of Latvia – you'll find **Austra's tree**, a titanium sculpture by V. Titans (member of the sculpture group "Latvia in the sign of Sun"). This is the meeting point of 3 national borders - the frontier posts of Russia, Belorussia and Latvia. In 1959, in honour of the 3 nations friendship during battles, a **"Barrow of Friendship"** was created. This is a hillock where an oak tree is planted and alleys of linden, maple and birch lead to Latvia, Russia and Belorussia. . When visiting here, passport and permit issued by Pasiena Border inspection point are mandatory!
Ph. +37128656530 - Ilga Ivanova, Meiksani, Pasiene parish, Zīlupe county,
GPS: 56.174858, 28.094370

15 Environmental Education Center and exhibition hall of the Jaundome manor. Opportunities include: exhibition visitation - aquatic flora and fauna, aquatic life, stimulating learning activities in the environment classroom - practical environmental activities and theme nights, rooms for seminars and conferences, practical skills in outdoor classes, equipment rental for water exploration and bird watching in the nearest neighbourhood. There is also food tasting of the "bounties of local lakes" available by prior arrangement, plus digital programmes and interactive visual materials related to "Ezezers", as well as guided tours.
Ph. +371 25960309 (Armands), Novomisli, Ezernieki parish, Dagda County, pudniksarmands@inbox.lv, GPS: 56.1435335, 27.5938560



16 Andrupene country farm is an open-air museum of Latgalian household and holiday traditions. An authentic Latgalian country farm complex of the 20th century where visitors can get to know the history of Latgalian life, traditions, household items and tools. By prior arrangement, it is also possible to taste some traditional food of Latgale, watch the performance of a local folklore group, and welcome guests in an authentic Latgalian atmosphere. It is the right place to refresh the soul, to feel the Latgalian spirit and power of song, to experience a Latgalian farm's rhythm of life.
Ph. +371 26458876, Andrupene, Andrupene parish, Dagda county, laukuseta@inbox.lv,
GPS: 56.184296, 27.392864



17 Hill Lielais Liepu kalns (The Great Lime Tree Hill). This is the third highest point of Latvia is 289,3 m above sea level: Lielais Liepu kalns (the Great Linden Hill-ENG). There is a hilltop observation tower, which is the highest wooden structure (34 m) in Latvia. The observation platform offers a wonderful view to the beautiful landscape of Lake Rāzna and other lakes.
Dzerkai, Kaunatas pagasts, parish, Rezekne county www.rezeknesnovads.lv,
GPS: 56.2693975, 27.6560941

18 Visit the **music instrument workshop of Gunars Igaunis** in Gaigalava - see an exhibition of ancient musical instruments and watch music AND musical instruments being made. Visitors can try "to draw out" musical sounds from the instruments. The workshop is a bright and attractive example of traditional Latgalian culture and life.*
Ph. +371 28728790, Bikava 2a, Gaigalava parish, Rezekne county, gunarsigaunis@inbox.lv, www.baltharmonia.lv,www.rezeknesnovads.lv,
GPS: 56.735401, 27.104645

19 Beer brewer Dainis Rakstins will get you acquainted with the process of brewing genuine Latgalian beer and you can taste the product! Book your visit in advance.
Ph. +371 26452844, Stacijas street 4, Berzpiļs, Berzpiļs parish, Balvi county,
GPS: 56.8542165, 27.0855603

20 Saipetnieki collection of antiques – an open-air private collection of ancient tools, household appliances and machinery with over 5000 cultural and historical items in 2 hectares of landscaped gardens. There are magnificent flower compositions, fountains, an oriental meditation bridge, ponds, pergola and little arbors. It is located 1 km from Lazdukalns.
Ph. +371 26519360, Lazdukalns, Rugaji county, GPS: 56.916500, 27.100525

21 Children will enjoy the **deer in the garden "Mezsetas"**. There are also fish ponds, catfish, sturgeon, tench, crayfish fishing and you can buy canned deer meat.
Ph. +371 29104212, Mezsetas, Rugaju county, road Rugaji – Lubana left side,
GPS: 57.0405140, 26.8838545

22 Balvi Manor, manor park and Lacis' Garden (Bear's Garden). In the Manor House (built in 1769) visitors get a great sense of ancient times. There are exhibition halls and a cafeteria where you can even try an authentic noble's meal (order in advance). Balvi Chamber music festival is held here every summer. Lacis' Garden is a former fruit garden, surrounded by hazelnut trees, with a small pond and tiny island and a unique rock garden with 49 types of stones. The restored Manor's barn is now Balvi County Museum and Tourism Information centre, where you'll find lots of useful information and excursions can also be arranged.
Ph. +371 64521430, +371 28352770, Balvi county museum, Brīvības str. 46, Balvi muzejs@balvi.lv, www.balvi.lv, GPS: 57.131210, 27.275620

PHOTO by A.Tolopilo and TIC archives

