

Atbalsta materiāls ekskursijai pa Vecrīgu

Vecrīga

- Old Riga is the historical and geographical centre of Riga on the right bank of the Daugava.
- Old Riga covers a relatively small inner area of the 13th-18th century fortifications where unique monuments of medieval architecture which, surprisingly, have survived two world wars are concentrated.



Old Riga City – Points of Interest

Domes square

Freedom Monument

Opera

Tourist Info
Blackheads House

Rīgas Doms Riga Cathedral

- **Riga Cathedral** (*Rīgas Doms*) is the Evangelical Lutheran cathedral . It is the seat of the Archbishop of Riga. The Latvian word *doms*, an archaic term for cathedral (similar to Italian *duomo*)
- Built near the River Daugava in 1211 by Livonian Bishop Albert of Riga it is considered the largest medieval church in the Baltic states.
- It unites in itself features of the Romanic, Early Gothic, Baroque and Art Nouveau. At present, the Riga Dome Cathedral actively serves the Dome parish and the Lutheran Church in Latvia and is the main place of ecumenical services in Latvia, as well as one of the centres of Riga's musical life which preserves historical, architectural, artistic and cultural values from different centuries.
- Composer Lūcija Garūta playing the organ for a cantata during World War II captured the sound of battle outside Riga Dom



Sv. Jēkaba katedrāle St Jacob's Cathedral

- St. Jacob's Cathedral is one of the most central architectonic features of Rīga historical centre that has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- St. Jacob's Cathedral is the Roman Catholic Church Archbishop's Cathedral and one of the Church's spiritual centres in Rīga.
- The construction of Riga St. Jacob's Cathedral, initially designed in early Gothic style, started in 1225 and was finished around 1330.



Parliament - Saeima

- The building now occupied by the Saeima was constructed in 1863-1867 for the needs of the Vidzeme Knighthood
- Both the building and its interior have been designed in the style known as Eclecticism (Features of Gothic, Renaissance etc.)
- In 1990 after the restoration of Latvia's independence the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia and at present parliament - the 11th Saeima is working in it.



St. Peter's church

- The building was first mentioned in written documents in 1209
- During World War II the church was demolished – the steeple and the roof were burnt down and the entire church interior was destroyed.
- The steeple is 123,25m high. Visitors can take the elevator up to the second passage of 72m. The elevator can be reached via ferroconcrete stairs installed into the side chapels. The church restoration was completed in 1973
- In July 1975 the renovated tower clock was revived, which in line with an old tradition has only one clock-hand. The bell-tune rang out for the first time in 1976 - it plays a well-known melody of the Latvian folksong "Rīga dimd" five times a day while the bell rings every full hour.
- The spacious church hall is used for concerts, art exhibitions, and exhibitions of architecture contests



House of Blackheads

- Is located near the Town Hall Square (Rātslaukums)
- The original building was erected during the first third of the 14th century for the Brotherhood of Blackheads, a guild for unmarried German merchants in Riga.
- The Blackheads was characteristically a common union of young, unmarried merchants and ship captains in the Hansa cities, which chose St. Maurice to be their patron. St. Mauritius was an imaginary African black moor (from this the name of the brotherhood “the Blackheads” comes). Due to their exceptional status the Blackheads played an important role in the society life and traditions; many VIPs of that time (including Russian tsars) took part in events organized by the Blackheads. As a German merchant club the Brotherhood of Blackheads existed in Riga until 1939.
- The structure was bombed to a ruin by the Germans at 1941 and the remains demolished by the Soviets in 1948. The current reconstruction was erected from 1995 to 1999
- Due to Chancery of the President of Latvia moving to the premises of the Blackheads House, since August 2012 the Blackheads House will be closed to visitors.



Town Hall square

Town Hall building

- The Town Hall Square in Riga has been completely re-built, since during the World War II the square and its historic buildings were destroyed
- The Town Hall Square is surrounded by several interesting buildings — museums and public buildings, for instance, Riga City Council, which is located in the reconstructed Town Hall building, the House of the Blackheads, which has also become a museum and hosts various concerts, and the Riga Tourism Information Centre right next to it.
- Roland Statue stands in the middle of the Town Hall Square. Roland was nephew of Charlemagne and a Frankish military leader. The land he had occupied was governed stringently but justly; thus he gradually became the symbol of justice in Northern Germany. Now several towns have Roland statues.
- The bells in the Town Hall foreground were originally cast in the 13th century, but were remounted on the terrace of the Riga City Council (Town Hall) building in 2006. The bells chime every hour on the hour.

