

SURVIVAL GUIDE

**ENTER THE BEST:
PATH OF THE NEW
DIMENSION**

Summer Course 2019

WELCOME TO LATVIA

Latvia is a country in Northern Europe, one of the three Baltic states. In 2004 it joined a NATO and EU and is actively developing its special role in a rapidly changing, increasingly globalized world community. For travelers, the best thing about Latvia is that it is so compact. Its 500 km of sandy beaches are easily reached from historical towns. With such a variety, Latvia is best enjoyed slowly.

SOME FACTS

Full name:	Republic of Latvia
Founded:	November 18, 1918
Area:	64,589 sq. km
Population:	1,97 million
Language:	Latvian
Government:	Parliamentary democracy
Currency:	EUR
International code:	LV
Time:	GMT +2
International telephone code:	+371
Emergency phone numbers:	112

WELCOME TO RIGA

Riga is the capital and the largest city of Latvia. It is also the largest city of the Baltic states and home to one third of Latvia's population. The city lies on the Gulf of Riga, at the mouth of the Daugava. The climate of Riga is humid continental. The coldest months are January and February.

The summers in Riga are warm and humid with the average temperature of 18 °C , while the temperature on the hottest days can exceed 30 °C. As a city situated by a river, Riga also has several bridges.

SOME FACTS



Next time you put on a pair of jeans, thank Latvian-born tailor Jacob Davis. In 1871 in Reno, Nevada, he invented denim as a tough material for trousers, then made a fortune in partnership with fabric merchant Levi Strauss

Over half its territory covered by forest, so Latvia is a very green place. Locals love to pick mushrooms and berries, and at Midsummer young couples duck into the woods to look for the mythical flowering fern. No such plant exists, but the search goes on...



Latvia is the paradise of WiFi. It has the world's fourth fastest internet connections, and with over 800 free connection points in Riga, you don't even need to pay for it.



Latvians are a people to look up to. Latvia has the world's tallest women, with the average lady coming in at an impressive 170 cm. The men are no midgets either, holding fourth place.



With over 500 km of coast, Latvia has tons of beaches. There's space for everyone, whether you want fun in the sun or miles of sand to yourself, and best of all it's all open to the public.



HOW TO GET TO RIGA

We will meet you at the bus station or the airport
Let us know as soon as possible the exact date and time of your arrival to Riga.
Or we can meet up at students dormitory, address:
Azenes iela 8

BY PLANE

Riga International Airport (Starptautiska Lidosta Riga in Latvian) (RIX) is located 10 km southwest of Riga.

BY FERRY

Tallink operates a daily ferry service between Stockholm and Riga. Prices start at €28.

BY BUS

There are international bus connections to anywhere in Europe:

- Ecolines
- Simple Express
- Eurolines Lux Express
- Flybus – Service between Riga and Kaunas and Vilnius

BY TRAIN

Latvian Railways operates service to many cities in Latvia as well as a few cities in Russia, Belarus and Estonia.

USEFUL WORDS & PHRASES

Čau! Hey, hello!
Paldies! Thank you!
Lūdzu! Welcome/please!
Atvainojiet! Excuse me!
Piedod! Sorry!
Jā/ Nē Yes/ No
Mani sauc My name is...
Veikals Shop
Labu apetīti! Bon appetite!
Ūdens Water
Alus Beer

Arlabunakti! Good night!
Priekā! Cheers!
Inženieris Engineer
Veiksmi! Good luck!
Kartupelis Potatoe
Palīga! Help!
Tev skaistas acis! You have beautiful eyes!
Buča Kiss
Mmm, man patīk! Mmm, I like it
Smukas kurpes Nice shoes

WHAT YOU NEED TO SURVIVE

A collection of travel items including a backpack, clothing, shoes, and a camera, arranged on a wooden surface. The items are laid out in a way that suggests a packing list or a travel kit. The background is a wooden plank surface with a green nebula at the top and a red nebula at the bottom.

- Your passport / ID card;
- ISIC card / student ID;
- MEDICAL AND TRAVEL INSURANCE;
- medication (if you need anything special);
- if you're on a special diet or vegetarian, you should let us know;
- water-proof jacket – sometimes it may be raining;

- some comfortable shoes to walk;
- summer hat and sunscreen;
- extra money – always useful;
- for International Evening: typical food & alcohol of your country;
- swimsuit;
- sleeping bag;
- Your positive and cheerful spirit;
- Oxygen.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

We suggest to choose a Yellow e-ticket: for a certain number of trips; it can be bought in ticket vending machines, trade outlets of "Rīgas satiksme"; it is convenient for passengers who do not use Riga public transport on a regular basis, including Riga guests; tickets are to be used within 12 months upon the moment of purchase. Other opportunity: Paper ticket sold in public transport and in night transport only; valid for the trip only – during which it has been bought; Price 2,- EUR per 1 trip.



HOW TO USE E-TICKET?

When entering public transport – bus, trolleybus or tram, a passenger has to apply a yellow or a blue e-ticket to an electronic validator. Thus the trip is registered and the passenger pays for the trip. Electronic validators are located in public transport vehicles – buses, trolleybuses and trams and register passengers paying for the trip. When entering public transport, a passenger has to apply an e-ticket to an electronic validator. If you decide to take the risk and drive without ticket, you should know that the penalty is 20,- EUR. Price 1 trip 1.15 , EUR

CURRENCY AND PRICES

Combo Meal at McDonalds or Similar
Cappuccino (regular)
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)
Water (0.33 liter bottle)
Apples (1kg)
Potatoes (1kg)
Bottle of Wine (Mid-Range)
Domestic Beer (0.5 liter bottle)
Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)
Pack of Cigarettes (Marlboro)
Chocolate LAIMA
Condoms

€ 4.98
€ 1.76
€ 0.86
€ 0.67
€ 0.91
€ 0.42
€ 5.4
€ 0.88
€ 1.21
€ 3.80
From € 0.30
€ 3.00

OUR CORE TEAM



- **Margarita our Main Organiser**

Meet our MO Margarita. It's her 3rd year in BEST, so she decided to take this opportunity and rule organisation of the summer course! Even if she likes to sleep a lot, during the summer course in Riga, she will try to stay awake all the time to make this event successful and socialize. Crazy and responsible person at the same time? Yes that's totally her!



- **Karlis our Academic Responsible**

On the first sight you wouldn't think that Karlis could be responsible for academics, but believe us, he is doing a great job! This guy is always busy, but he always finds a way how to relax in the evenings after everything is done.



- **Kristiana our Participant Responsible**

Kristiana feels super motivated for the summer course, and she is very excited to meet all participants! She promised, that she will take care of everyone who will come to Riga for the course. Are you excited to meet her?



- **Elmars our Logistic Responsible**

And our logistic-hero is Elmars! He will take care that everyone from participants has nice, cozy bed and delightful food. Who knows, maybe he will manage to bring Gordon Ramsey here to Riga, because for Elmars everything is possible!



- **Veronika our HR Responsible**

Veronika is our new member of BEST, so it means she is a part of our BEST family too. Why she is responsible for human relations on the course? Because she is super friendly and makes best muffins in Riga, and as we all know, food brings all people together. <3



- **Indra our Social Responsible and Fundraiser**

Indra is perhaps the most awesome person you will ever meet. Being able to balance both the crazy party and social stuff at night and the serious work and activities during the day. If you ever wondered what a female version of Creed Bratton from the TV-show "The Office" is like, Indra is your girl.



- **Martins our PR Responsible**

Even if Martins is far, he is always with us. During all year he spent all the time in Georgia. What he is doing there? We don't know, but you can find it out on summer course. Ah, and by the way he is making great designs for this summer course!



- **Lucija our Coordinator**

And last, but not least is Lucija. She is coordinating everything, and checking are we doing a great job (of course we do). Also she is PR in our local BEST group, isn't that cool?