



LATVIA  LITHUANIA

1914–2025

MILITARY HERITAGE

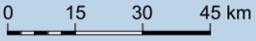
TRAVEL GUIDE

SOUTHERN PART

-  113 sites
-  10 touring routes
-  travel map of the Baltic States



1: 1 500 000



BALTIC

LITHUANIA LATVIA ESTONIA

1914-2025





MILITARY
HERITAGE

Strong yesterday - free today!

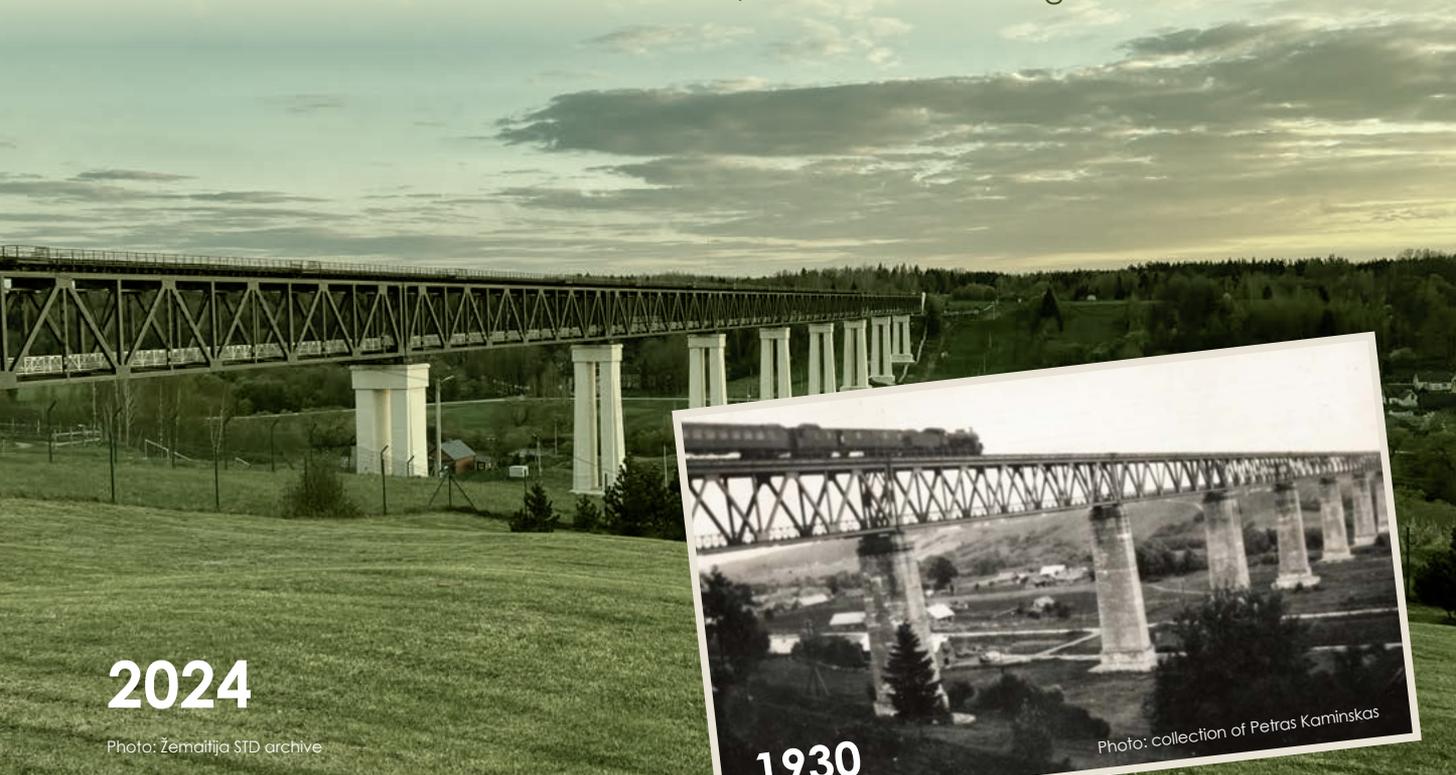
Discover in this Guide:

When travelling in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, you are invited to visit military heritage sites that trace the period from the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, the founding of the independent states of Latvia and Estonia and the restoration of independence in Lithuania after the end of the First World War in 1918, to the present day.

Military heritage sites included in this guide: museums, fortresses, military equipment, trails, bunkers, battle sites, military towns, infrastructure, and memorial sites.

The offer includes not only sightseeing but also guided tours, hikes to the sites of military events, meals, and other experiences. Multiple-day routes for visiting military heritage sites are recommended.

The guide is accompanied by an overview map, where 242 military heritage sites in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are indicated, including descriptions of 113 sites in Lithuania and southern Latvia, as well as 10 touring routes.



2024

Photo: Žemaitija STD archive

1930

Photo: collection of Petras Kaminskas

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

Latvia – Lithuania

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LEGEND



Military heritage site

- Route 1
- Route 2
- Route 3
- Route 4
- Route 5
- Route 6
- Route 7
- Route 8
- Route 9
- Route 10

Main roads

Dual carriageways

Other roads

Railway

Ferry lines

National parks

Airport • Airfield

C O N T E N T

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HISTORICAL PERIODS

Each military heritage site that is included in this guide is linked to one or more of the historical periods indicated next to the site description.

1. PERIOD

World War I 1914–1918



Latvian Riflemen in gas masks on the Riga front, 1916.
Photo: Christmas Battle Museum. 

Even before the establishment of the Estonian and Latvian states and the restoration of Lithuanian independence, Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian soldiers fought in the First World War as part of the Imperial Russian Army against the Imperial German Army. In 1915, Latvian Riflemen Battalions were formed for the defence of their country and in the hope of gaining greater autonomy within the Russian Empire. When the Bolshevik Revolution occurred in Russia in 1917 and the First World War came to an armistice, Estonians had already begun to form national army units. Lithuania established its national army in November 1918. At the end of the First World War, the three Baltic states declared their independence.



World War I Exposition in Turmantas 

2. PERIOD

Wars of Independence 1918–1920



2nd Company of the 6th Infantry Regiment in battles against the Bermontians and Bolsheviks, 1919–1921.
Photo: Kėdainiai Regional Museum 

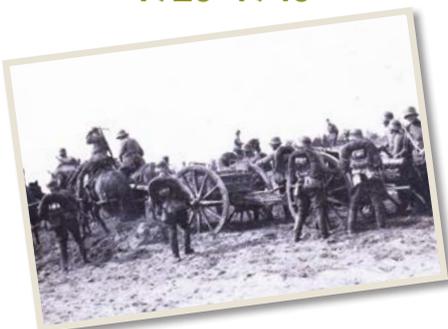


The Baltic states defended their independence in battles against several military forces and political ambitions – German claims to the territories of Latvia and Estonia, Baltic German attempts to create a Baltic state, Soviet Russian objectives to annex the Baltic territories to the Soviet Union, and the efforts of former Imperial Russian Army officers to defeat the Bolsheviks and regain the Baltic provinces for Russia. In the meantime, the Lithuanian Army was fighting against Soviet Russia, voluntary Russian-German military formations and the Polish Armed Forces.

Bauska Freedom Monument 

3. PERIOD

Independence of the Baltic States 1920–1940



6th Battery of the Latgale Artillery Regiment at the training range, 1930s.
Photo: Collection of Jēkabpils History Museum 

After the end of hostilities, the Baltic states began to recover from the devastation of war and build new state institutions and identities. War refugees were returning, agrarian reform was carried out, and industry, infrastructure and exports were rebuilt and developed. Free and democratic elections were held, and new constitutions and legislation were drafted on the model of European democracies. Education, literature and culture flourished. National armies and paramilitary forces developed. Although non-democratic regimes came to power in all three countries in the mid-1930s, most civil liberties remained.



The main exhibition of the Treasure House of the Free State of Latvia contains the second and third class Order of Lāčplēšis, and its miniature; in the image – the recipient of the Order of Lāčplēšis, General Janis Balodis 

4. PERIOD

World War II 1939–1945



Three prisoners of the Stalag 347 POW camp in Rēzekne. 1. - R. Asjakajevs, 2. - A. Spiridonovs, 3. - A. Arakčejevs. Photo: Archives of Latgale Culture and History Museum.

At the outbreak of World War II, the Baltic states declared neutrality. The Soviet Union and Nazi Germany mutually agreed on the spheres of influence of the two totalitarian regimes, and soon after that, the Soviet Union occupied the Baltic states. In 1941, the Nazis expelled Soviet troops, but they returned in 1944. Many Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian men were forced to fight on both sides.



"Memel-Nord" Coastal Artillery Battery

5. PERIOD

National Partisan Movement – Forest Brothers 1944–~1957



Jonas Žemaitis (Vytautas) with partisans, 1950s.
Photo: Vytautas the Great War Museum

When the Soviet occupation began, many men refused to cooperate with the occupying regime, went into the forest and continued to resist, hoping that the Western countries would not permit a second occupation and that the Soviet era would soon come to an end. Some, who served in the German or Finnish armed forces, had to hide for fear of repressions. Armed clashes continued throughout the 1950s.



National partisan headquarters in the nature reserve "Stompaki Swamp"

6. PERIOD

Soviet Occupation and the Cold War 1945–1991



Military barge M5CC-136150 in the Port of Liepāja, 1961.
Photo: Lithuanian Special Archives

For decades during the Cold War, the Baltic states were on the border between opposite sides. Large Soviet armies, airports, military ports, and nuclear bases were stationed in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. The Iron Curtain separated people from the rest of the world. Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia regained their independence in 1990 and 1991, hastening the collapse of the Soviet Union.



Cold War Exposition

7. PERIOD

Restored Independence from 1991

The withdrawal of the occupying army had been achieved by 1995. Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia overcame the consequences of occupation, rebuilt suspended state institutions, and created new ones. All three countries have become members of the EU and NATO.



M52 "Sūduvis" mine countermeasures ship – museum



Military parade in Riga

SYMBOLS

4

You can find each military heritage site on the map by the **number** assigned to it.

Each military heritage site contains a description and contact information. The description section indicates the location, historical context, brief information on what visitors will see and what additional services are available (e.g. guided tours, meals, overnight stays, etc.). The contact information section contains the address of the site, GPS coordinates, web address and phone number.

For many sites that can be seen in the countryside, such as battle and memorial sites, former military buildings, the telephone number does not exist and therefore cannot be listed. At some military heritage sites, external information stands may be viewable at any time. We recommend that you contact each venue in advance to learn about its opening hours and the services that they provide.

-  62 Distance from the capital city
-  Information in Latvian
-  Information in Lithuanian
-  Information in Russian
-  Information in English
-  Information in German
-  Road sign leading to site available
-  Site can be visited individually
-  Site can be visited in organized groups
-  Accommodation available
-  Catering available
-  Limited visiting hours
-  Book visit in advance
-  Parking available
-  Resting place available
-  WiFi available
-  Hard to find site
-  Toilet
-  Guide available
-  Souvenirs available
-  Entrance fee
-  Activities available
-  Special borderland pass required
-  Only accessible by ferry
-  Undeveloped tourist site

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MILITARY HERITAGE SITES IN THE NORTHERN PART – ESTONIA



The sites of the northern part can be found at
www.militaryheritagetourism.info



Nr.	Site
1	Hara Harbor and Submarine base
2	Aegna Island
3	Naissaar
4	Estonian War Museum - General Laidoner Museum
5	Estonia's Victims of Communism Memorial
6	Seaplane Harbour
7	Patarei Naval Fortress
8	KGB Prison Cells
9	War of Independence Victory Column
10	Vabamu Museum of Occupations and Freedom
11	Defence Forces Cemetery
12	Vaivara Sinimägede Museum and Battlefield Memorial
13	Paldiski - Former Closed Soviet town
14	Klooga Concentration Camp and Holocaust Memorial
15	Osmussaar
16	Kadila and Rohu Missile Bases
17	Tahkuna Coastal Batteries and Lighthouse
18	Hiiumaa Military Museum
19	Memorial to the People of Hiiumaa Who Fell During World War II
20	Vormsi War of Independence Monument
21	Memorial to People Deported from Western Estonia
22	Memorial to the Avinurme Battle
23	Railway and Communications Museum in Haapsalu
24	Coastal Battery No 42, Radar Station and Lighthouse at Ristna
25	Orjaku Military Harbour
26	Põrgupõhja Forest Brothers' Bunker
27	Memorial for the Great Escape in Puise
28	Jõgewa Military Museum
29	130-mm Coastal Battery No 44 at Tohvri (Hindu)
30	120-mm Coastal Battery No 34 at Hindu (Sõru)
31	WWI Defense Ditches at Väike Väin Strait
32	An Exhibition-Installation about the Landing That Did Not Take Place
33	Panga Military Trail
34	Military Equipment Museum of Saaremaa
35	Museum-room of the Finnish Boys
36	Estonian Museum Railway in Lavassaare
37	Undva Naval Radio Communication Center
38	Raadi Military Airfield
39	Monument to Proclaiming the Independence of the Republic of Estonia
40	War of Independence Monument in Pärnu
41	Museum of the Estonian Military Academy
42	KGB Cells Museum
43	Museum of Viljandi
44	Monument of General Johan Laidoner
45	Tartu Anti-Tank Line – Jalaka Line
46	Place of Birth of General Johan Laidoner
47	Estonian Aviation Museum
48	Saaremaa Museum
49	Lõpe-Kaimri Anti-Tank Line
50	War of Independence Monument for Petserimaa
51	Väraska Visitor Centre and Northern Camp
52	Maantee Military Base
53	Stebel Coastal Battery No 315, Command Post
54	Coastal Battery No 43 at Sõrve Säär
55	Sõrve Military Museum
56	Saatse Museum
57	Defence Line "Walk"
58	Vana-Võromaa Museum
59	Monument of Paju Battlefield
60	Ruhnu Lighthouse
61	Valga Military Museum-Theme Park
62	Memorial for Forest Brothers at Vastseliina
63	Metsavenna Farm in Võrumaa

MILITARY HERITAGE SITES IN THE NORTHERN PART – LATVIA

The sites of the northern part can be found at
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Nr.	Site
64	Monument "Tālavas taurētājs" ("The Bugler of Tālava")
65	Underground Military Bunkers in Valka
66	Exhibition "Valka - the Cradle of Latvia's Independence"
67	Ventspils International Radio Astronomy Centre
68	Collection of Soviet Military Vehicles
69	Memorial Sites of the Battles of Cēsis (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H)
69A	A: In Cēsis - Victory Monument to Latvians and Estonians Fallen in the Battles of Cēsis;
69B	B: In Cēsis - Monument to the Soldiers of the Student Company Fallen in the Battles of Cēsis;
69C	C: In the vicinity of Cēsis - Recreation Place "Meža kaujas", the Main Venues of the Cēsis Battles near the Amata Bridge;
69D	D: In Liepa - Monument to the Soldiers Fallen in the Battles of Cēsis;
69E	E: In Skangaļi - Memorial Stone to the Participants of the Battles of Cēsis and Kalevaste Malev Battalion Fighters;
69F	F: In Priekulji Parish - Memorial Stone to the Soldiers Fallen in the Battles of Cēsis at the Railway Bridge Across the River Rauna;
69G	G: In Plācis - Monument to the Liberators of Northern Latvia and the Fallen in the Battles of Cēsis;
69H	H: In Limbaži - Memorial Site for the Fallen Soldiers and First Lieutenant Vilis Gelbe
70	Monument to the Soldiers of the 7th Sigulda Infantry Regiment
71	Mazbānītis Railway, Ventspils Seaside Open-Air Museum
72	Fire Control Tower of the Ventspils 46th Coastal Defence Battery
73	Missile Base of the Soviet Army in Zeltiņi
74	Historic Exhibition "Burning Conscience"
75	Exhibitions of the Cēsis History and Art Museum in the New Castle
76	Rubenis Battalion Museum
77	Rubenis Battalion Bunker and Combat Sites
78	Secret Soviet Bunker in Līgatne
79	Bicycle Museum in Saulkrasti
80	"Mežabrāji" - National Partisan Bunker
82	Gulbene Railway Station
83	Latvian Army Summer Camp Site in Litene
86	Mežgarciems - Open-Air Exhibition of Soviet Military Town
87	Museum of Battles in More
88	Mangaļsala Fortifications
89	Museum of the National Resistance Movement in Renda
90	Daugavgrīva Fortress
91	Piebalga Local History Exhibition in Ineši
92	Latvian War of Independence Memorial at Bumbu Hill
93	Brothers' Cemetery in Riga
94	Spilve Airport
95	Monument to the Battle against Bermont's Army at Sudrabkalniņš
96	"Corner House" - former USSR KGB Building
97	Žanis Lipke Memorial
98	Freedom Monument in Riga
99	Latvian War Museum
100	1991 Barricades Museum
101	Museum of the Occupation of Latvia
102	Aviation Museum "Sky-Zoo"
103	Riga Ghetto and Latvian Holocaust Museum
104	Riga Aviation Museum
105	Bronislava Martuževa Museum
106	Latvian Riflemen's Dugouts and Trenches in Tīreļi
107	Salaspils Memorial
108	Cultural Heritage Centre "Tīnūži Manor"
110	Museum of the Courland Pocket in Zante
111	Death Island
113	Memorial to Colonel O. Kalpaks at Visagala Cemetery
114	Olaine Museum of History and Art
115	Colonel O. Kalpaks Museum at his Birthplace "Liepsalas"
117	Lestene Brothers' Cemetery
119	Memorial Wagon of Soviet Deportations at Skrunda Train Station
120	Colonel O. Kalpaks Museum and Memorial Site "Airītes"
127	German War Cemetery at Saldus
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150	Ezere Cultural History and Local Research Repository "Customs House"

MILITARY HERITAGE SITES IN THE SOUTHERN PART – LATVIA



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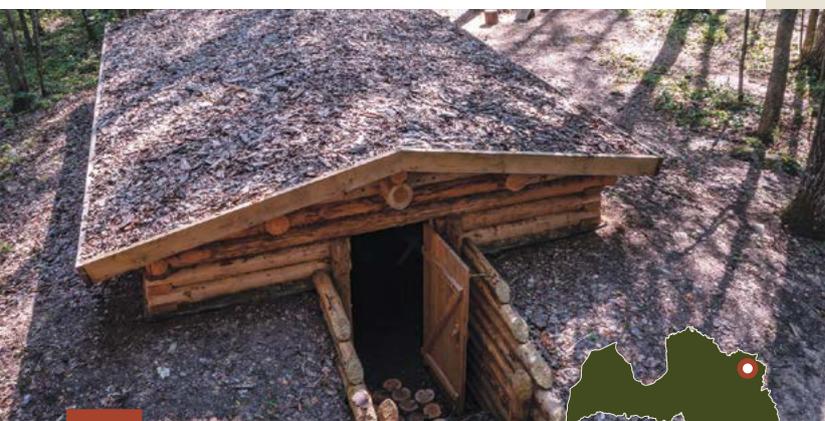
The Private exhibition "Abrene Rooms" is located in the town of Viļaka, in a building with a diverse history. Initially, the building was located on the old Marienhausen market square, later it housed apartments, offices and various shops, and during World War II, it was the Latvian self-defence headquarters, the Gestapo and also the Cheka. Several exhibitions reveal diverse events and historical periods in the town of Viļaka and its nearest vicinity covering the time period from 1920 to 1960 when Viļaka was part of Jaunlatgale, later Abrene, district. The exhibit features items from the national partisan camp in Stompaki Swamp, which are related to the national partisan movement in the Latgale region. Documents and photos associated with the War of Independence are also on display. The latest exhibition is dedicated to the once-famous motocross track "Baltais briedis".



81 Private Exhibition "Abrene Rooms"

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Balvu nov., Latvija
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T. + 371 26446147
Retro73@inbox.lv
latgale.travel/listing/privatkolekcija-abrenes-istabas/



84 National partisan headquarters in the nature reserve "Stompaki Swamp"

Stompaku purvs, Susāju pag.,
Balvu nov., Latvija
GPS: 57.14338, 27.52029

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vilakamuzejs@balvi.lv
latgale.travel/listing/stompaku-purvi



During World War II, one of the largest national partisan camps in the Baltic states was situated in Stompaki Swamp. Today, the territory is included in the nature reserve "Stompaki swamp". The settlement sites located on the islands in the swamp can be reached via a marked footpath.

In early 1945, about 350 to 360 people, including 40 to 50 women, lived at the camp of National Partisans in Stompaki Swamp. The camp consisted of 24 residential bunkers – buildings that were half-immersed into the ground and could accommodate 3–8 people. There was a bakery, a church bunker and three above-ground rails for horses. Partisans from the camp carried out attacks against officials of the occupation regime.

On 2–3 March 1945, the Battle of Stompaki took place here – the largest battle in the history of Latvian national partisans. The 350–360 partisans in the camp were attacked by the 143rd Rifle Regiment of NKVD and local fighters of the so-called 'istrebiteľ' (eliminators) battalion – 483 men in total. The battle lasted for the entire duration of the day on 2 March. On the night of 3 March, the partisans managed to break out of the camp and retreat to their previous base camps. The battle resulted in 28 casualties among partisans, while the NKVD force lost 32 fighters.

Today, the site of the Stompaki camp is home to three restored bunkers – a church, a headquarters and a residential bunker – as well as 21 sites of former bunkers. Information boards about the camp and the battle have been installed at the site. Guided tours can be booked.

The museum is located in the territory of the Balvi Manor complex, in the building of the former manor barn.

The exhibition allows you to look into the history of the Latvian War of Independence from the point of view of Northern Latgale, tracing the history of the formation and activities of the Latgale Partisan Regiment. There are photographs and copies of documents that are not available elsewhere, including the order of 5 July 1919 on the formation of the regiment. The internal orders of the regiment are unique – they were written in Russian between July and October 1919. This reflects the peculiarities of the formation and composition of the regiment as a local unit, where Latvians, Latgalians, Russians, and Jews fought together. The regiment only switched to Latvian in its internal orders after it was fully integrated into the Latvian Army system when it was supplemented by mobilised soldiers from other regions of Latvia.

The exhibition also reflects the liberation operation of Northern Latgale, during which the Latgale Division of the Latvian Army liberated the surroundings of Viļaka, Jaunlatgale and Kārsava in battles that lasted from 9 to 15 January 1920. Evidence of both the operation as a whole and the combat activities of the Latgale Partisan Regiment during the liberation of Kārsava are on display in the exhibition.



85 Exhibition "Northern Latgale in the Fight for Freedom" at the Balvi Regional Museum

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Balvi, Latvija
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muzejs.balvi.lv



Ložmetējkalns is located in Valgunde Rural Territory, Jelgava Municipality, close to the A9 motorway. It is the site of a World War I battle and the only cultural heritage conservation site of national importance in Latvia. Ložmetējkalns is located on Garā Kāpa Dune, which is a part of the Nordeķi-Kalnciems dune ridge. The name originated at a time when it was the site of impregnable fortifications of the German Army, which was defended by heavy machine-gun fire.

The Christmas Battles are one of the best-known and most dramatic events of World War I in the history of Latvia. In 1917, the units of Latvian Riflemen and Siberian riflemen of the Russian Army attacked and took Ložmetējkalns, capturing at least 600 enemy troops and valuable trophies. The riflemen believed that they were the ones who deserved the honour of captors of the highlands.

The area around Ložmetējkalns Hill is home to commemorative marks and other evidence of the battles that took place here. Every year, in January, memorial events are held in the surroundings of Ložmetējkalns to remember the Christmas Battles. Nowadays, Ložmetējkalns has become a symbol and a memorial site dedicated to the heroism of Latvian Riflemen. A 27-metre-high observation tower offers panoramic views of the site of Christmas Battles.

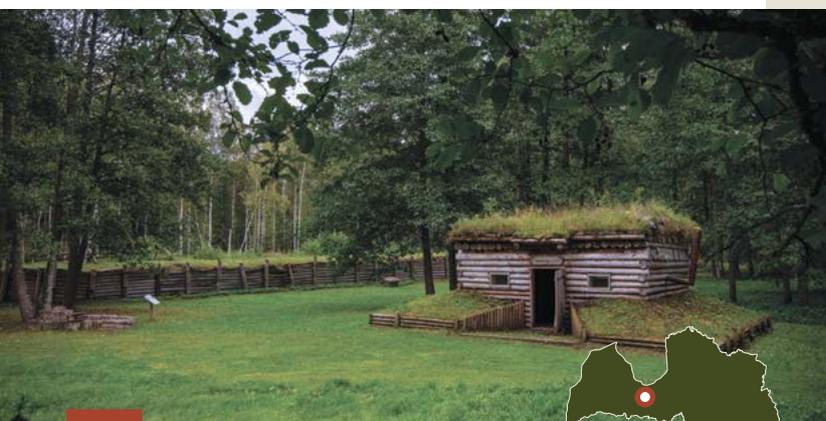


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Ložmetējkalns (Machine Gun Hill) in Tīrelpurvs Bog

Ložmetējkalna ceļš,
Valgundes pag.,
Jelgavas nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.86620, 23.66050

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visit.jelgava.lv/lv/piedzivot/kultura-un-tradicijas/vestures-pieminekli-un-pieminas-vietas/item/160-lozmetejkalns-tirelpurva



112

Christmas Battle Museum

„Mangali”, Valgundes pag.,
Jelgavas nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.83013, 23.70188

T. +371 28349259
mangali@karamuzejs.lv
www.karamuzejs.lv/zm



The museum is located in “Mangali” house, Valgunde Rural Territory, Jelgava Municipality, and it is a branch of the Latvian War Museum. It was unveiled in 2005 at the site of the Christmas Battles that occurred during World War I. Unique World War I fortifications still remain at the battle sites. The open-air exhibition of the Christmas Battle Museum reconstructs a section of the fortification system – the trench shelter and part of the first line of German defence – the “German rampart”, which is the only object of this kind in the Baltic states.

The Christmas Battles are one of the best known and most dramatic events of World War I in Latvia. They are an event of special importance in Latvian military and cultural history. Intense fighting took place for six days, leading to heavy casualties. The battles are mainly associated with the attack of Latvian Riflemen against the German Army units, which took place in particularly severe and unfavourable winter conditions. This is an unprecedented case of a major combat operation launched without artillery support.

Today, the museum artefacts found at the sites of the battle are on display. The indoor exhibition is open at certain times, while the exhibition of outdoor fortifications is open every day. Tourist routes and nature trails have been created in the surrounding area.

Hitler's visit to the Headquarters of the German Army Group North in Malnava and the air defence bunker are mentioned as related sites. However, apart from the location – Malnava Manor, there is no other link between them.

From 12 to 28 July 1941, the headquarters of the German Army Group North, which was waging an attack against Leningrad, was located in Malnava Manor. The reason for the choice of location was practical: Malnava Agricultural School, which was located in a former manor house, had modern facilities: electric lighting, centralised water supply, showers, and sewerage. The headquarters of Group North was located in one of the side blocks of the manor, while the rest of the building continued to operate as an agricultural school. Hitler's visit to the Group North headquarters in Malnava took place on 21 July 1941. Hitler and his entourage arrived in two Junkers aircraft, accompanied by nine Messerschmitt fighters. The visit only lasted for a few hours and is immortalised both in German military newsreels from the front and in the memories of the pupils of Malnava.

The air defence bunker, located about 70 metres from the manor house, was built at the beginning of 1944 when Soviet aviation began to dominate the airspace in the second half of the war. At that time, the retreat process of German troops was in progress. In 1944, the Headquarters of the German Army Group North stayed in Malnava from February to mid-July.



116

World War II Bunkers in Malnava and Hitler's Visit to the Headquarters of the German Army Group North

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Ludzas nov., Latvija
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The Veseta Partisan Dugout and the "White Cross" memorial site are located in the Veseta floodplain swamp.

After the Second World War, the so-called Pārups Group was operating in Vietalva. Rihards Pārups (1914–1946) was the leader of the group. During the Second World War, he was a sergeant of the 15th Latvian Division of the German Army. He participated in national partisan operations in the vicinity of Jēkabpils and Madona. During its short existence, Pārups Group took part in more than 20 armed clashes with the units of the Ministry of the Interior of the time.

The Colonel Kotov of Cheka, in his report to his superiors in Riga, indicated that, as a result of the activities of the group, the Soviet authorities in the Jēkabpils and Madona districts were paralysed. National partisans led by Pārups found and destroyed several deportation lists, thus saving the lives of multiple people. Unable to destroy the national partisan unit in open combat, the leadership of the Soviet Security Committee infiltrated four members of the Cheka special force into the group. On the night of 2 July 1946, these agents shot ten partisans of the unit, including Rihards Pārups. The burial place of the fallen is unknown, but a commemorative plaque has been erected at the Brothers' Cemetery in Riga to commemorate them. The "White Cross" memorial site is situated next to Veseta Partisans Dugout. It is a 3-metre-high white cross with a plaque inscribed with the names of partisans who fell on 2 July 1946.



118

Partisan Dugout Shelter of Veseta and "White Cross" Memorial Site

Vesetas palienes purvs, Vietalva, Aizkraukles nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.70279, 25.81259

T. +371 22000981
turisms@aizkraukle.lv
visit.aizkraukle.lv/vietas-pastaigam/vesetas-palienes-purvs



121

The Tower of Jelgava Holy Trinity Church

Akadēmijas iela 1,
Jelgava, Latvija
GPS: 56.65243, 23.72888

T. +371 63005447
tic@tornis.jelgava.lv
visit.jelgava.lv/lv/sv-trisvienibas-tornis



The Tower of Jelgava Holy Trinity Church is located in the centre of the city of Jelgava.

The history of the tower spans more than four centuries, becoming an important witness to the development of the city, as well as tragic events. The church was built in 1574 on the orders of the Duke of Courland and Semigallia, Gotthard Kettler, and its tower, completed in 1688 under the lead of the construction master Martin Knoch, became one of the most prominent structures of the city.

During the Second World War, Jelgava was severely destroyed and, in 1944, the church burnt down after a Soviet air raid. After the war, the Soviet authorities blew up the altar part of the church and demolished the walls. Only the tower was preserved as a strategic object, as it was the highest point in the city. During and after the war, the tower was used for military purposes. Enemy positions were observed and the surroundings were controlled from the tower.

During the post-war years, the tower also served as a strategic point for resistance activities. It became a secret meeting place and a base for the transfer of information that was essential for the fight against the Soviet regime. The tower, while retaining its historical significance, has been reborn today as a cultural and educational centre.

Jelgava History and Art Museum of Ģ. Eliass is located in a building that is called Academia Petrina (Peter's Academy). It was built in 1775 as the first university in Latvia and is one of the few public buildings in Jelgava to survive and be restored after World War II. In the summer of 1944, Jelgava lost almost everything – a large part of its population and historic buildings, which were hardly restored after World War II. The predecessor of the current museum – the Kurzeme Provincial Museum – was founded in 1818. It was the second oldest museum in Latvia and the first one established outside Riga. The museum has been housed in the Academia Petrina building since 1952. Today, the museum features permanent exhibitions on the renowned Latvian artist Ģederts Eliass (1887–1975), the prehistory and Middle Ages of the Zemgale region, Jelgava during the era of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia (1561–1795), the Courland Governorate (1795–1918), and the period of Latvia's independence (1918–1940).

The museum exhibition "Life Continues Under Foreign Rule" explores life in Latvia during the German and Soviet occupations.

The virtual exhibition "Wars and a Soldier Through the Ages of Jelgava" offers insight into the various wars that have affected Jelgava, including historical events from the First and Second World Wars.



122

Jelgava History and Art Museum of Ģ. Eliass

Akadēmijas iela 10,
Jelgava, Latvija
GPS: 56.64989, 23.72876

T. +371 63023383
muzejs@muzejs.jelgava.lv
jvmm.lv/jvmm



The Monument to the Liberators of Jelgava "Lāčplēšis" is located in Jelgava, at Station Park, opposite the Railway Station building. It was opened on 22 June 1932, with the participation of the President of Latvia A. Kviesis, and was built to commemorate the liberation of Jelgava on 21 November 1919, during the Latvian War of Independence.

In 1940, during the first period of Soviet occupation, the monument was not affected by changes. In 1941, when the Soviet occupiers were replaced by the German occupation forces, the head of the German occupation administration, von Medem, who had returned to Jelgava (his ancestors were the original builders of Jelgava Palace), did not like the unequivocal symbolism of the monument. On 31 October 1942, the German occupation authorities ordered the author of the monument, Kārlis Jansons, to remove the image of a German knight from the monument.

In 1950, the Soviet occupation authorities gave the order for the monument to be destroyed. With the help of a tractor, Lāčplēšis was torn off its pedestal, smashed, and an attempt was made to destroy it in a stone crusher. However, Lāčplēšis proved to be so hard that the crusher broke. The unbroken middle part of the monument was secretly buried in the grounds of a kindergarten. In 1988, a fragment of the monument was found and is now located in front of the Jelgava History and Art Museum of Ģederts Eliass. The monument was restored and inaugurated on 21 November 1992. It was created by sculptor Andrejs Jansons, who restored the monument created by his father, K. Jansons.



123

Monument to the Liberators of Jelgava "Lāčplēšis"

tic@tornis.jelgava.lv

Stacijas parks, Jelgava, Latvija
GPS: 56.64139, 23.73103

visit.jelgava.lv/lv/piedzivot/kultura-un-tradicijas/vestures-pieminekli-un-pieminas-vietas/item/96-piemineklis-jelgavas-atbrivotajiem-lacplesis



124

A Memorial Dedicated to Siberian Mothers in the "Garden of Destiny"

Draugu aleja, Kokneses pag.,
Aizkraukles nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.63447, 25.43776

T. +371 25495544; info@koknesesfonds.lv
liktdarzs@koknesesfonds.lv
liktdarzs.lv/apmeklet/objekti/pieminas-vietas/



The Garden of Destiny is located on an island of the River Daugava, near the ruins of Koknese Castle. It is designed as a landscape architectural ensemble and is dedicated to the memory of the Latvian people that Latvia lost in the 20th century – those who fell in wars, were repressed, were forced into exile or otherwise suffered due to their political opinions. Like the Freedom Monument in Riga, the Garden of Destiny was created thanks to donations.

In cooperation with the Latvian Association of Politically Repressed Persons, a memorial ensemble for women deported to Siberia – mothers of Siberian children – has been created in the centre of the virtual House of Silence. Two boulders engraved with the words "Mother, you gave me life twice. When I was born and when I did not starve to death. A child of Siberia." remind one of the selflessness and great sacrifice of mothers.

World War I trenches have been preserved on the grounds of the Garden of Destiny. A memorial to the Latvian Riflemen has been created there, which was inaugurated on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Riflemen Regiments. The composition of the site consists of two parts: The group of Latvian boulders symbolises those who stayed at home, while the row of boulders in the trenches of the First World War symbolises the Latvian Riflemen. The boulders were selected and artistically arranged by sculptor Ojārs Feldbergs.

The exhibition dedicated to the creation of the Latvian Army is located in Pļaviņas. The building that houses the exhibition has a long history. With the establishment of the Stukmaņi (now Pļaviņas) railway station, the construction of houses began in the area, and one of them, built in 1900, was the house of the merchant Hugo Appelfoft. The building was built as a merchants' house, but later, it became the birthplace of the Latvian Army.

In July 1919, during the War of Independence, the building was used as the headquarters of the Latvian Eastern Front. On 17 June 1934, to commemorate this event, a memorial plaque was unveiled at the building with the inscription: "In 1919, this house was the headquarters of the commander of the Eastern Front, and here, General Janis Balodis assumed command of the Latvian National Army." The plaque was restored on 16 June 1990. On 10 June 2019, a memorial statue dedicated to the recipients of the Order of Lāčplēšis born in Pļaviņas region was erected in front of the former headquarters building.

The exhibition displays information stands with historical photographs, maps and information about the establishment of the Latvian Eastern Front Headquarters.



125

Exhibition "Latvian Army in Pļaviņas in the 20th Century"

Odzianas iela 2A, Pļaviņas,
Aizkraukles nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.61746, 25.72064

T. +371 28442692
turisms@aizkraukle.lv
visitaizkraukle.lv/militarais_mantojums/
ekspozicija-latvijas-armija-plavinas-20-gadsimta



In November 2018, to celebrate the centenary of Latvia, the "Soviet Years" exhibition was opened at Aizkraukle Museum of History and Art – the largest exhibition in the Baltic states dedicated to the cultural and historical heritage of the 1950s–1980s. The exhibition is spread over three floors in an area of 1,060 m². It reflects Soviet life in its multiple facets: everyday life, work and leisure, education and culture. Soviet-era cars are on display on the ground floor. A separate library – the Red Corner has been set up. A wide-ranging exhibition invites visitors to explore everyday life and apartment interiors during the Soviet era – furniture and household items, tableware, textiles and electrical appliances.

Other exhibition spaces are dedicated to emigration, Soviet repressions, everyday life, medicine, state structures, tourism and sport, childhood and education. Soviet military paraphernalia and uniforms are also on display among various exhibits.



126

"Soviet Years" Exhibition at Aizkraukle Museum of History and Art ●●

Kalna iela 20, Aizkraukles pag., Aizkraukles nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.61500, 25.22470

T. +371 65123351
aizkrauklesmuzejs@inbox.lv
www.aizkrauklesmuzejs.lv/padomju-gadi/



128

Repository of Historical Evidence in Līdumnieki ●●

Tautas iela 2, Līdumnieki, Līdumnieku pag., Ludzas nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.59363, 27.99014

T. +371 22009819
latgale.travel/listing/biedriba-darba-un-kulturas-centrs-lidumnieki/



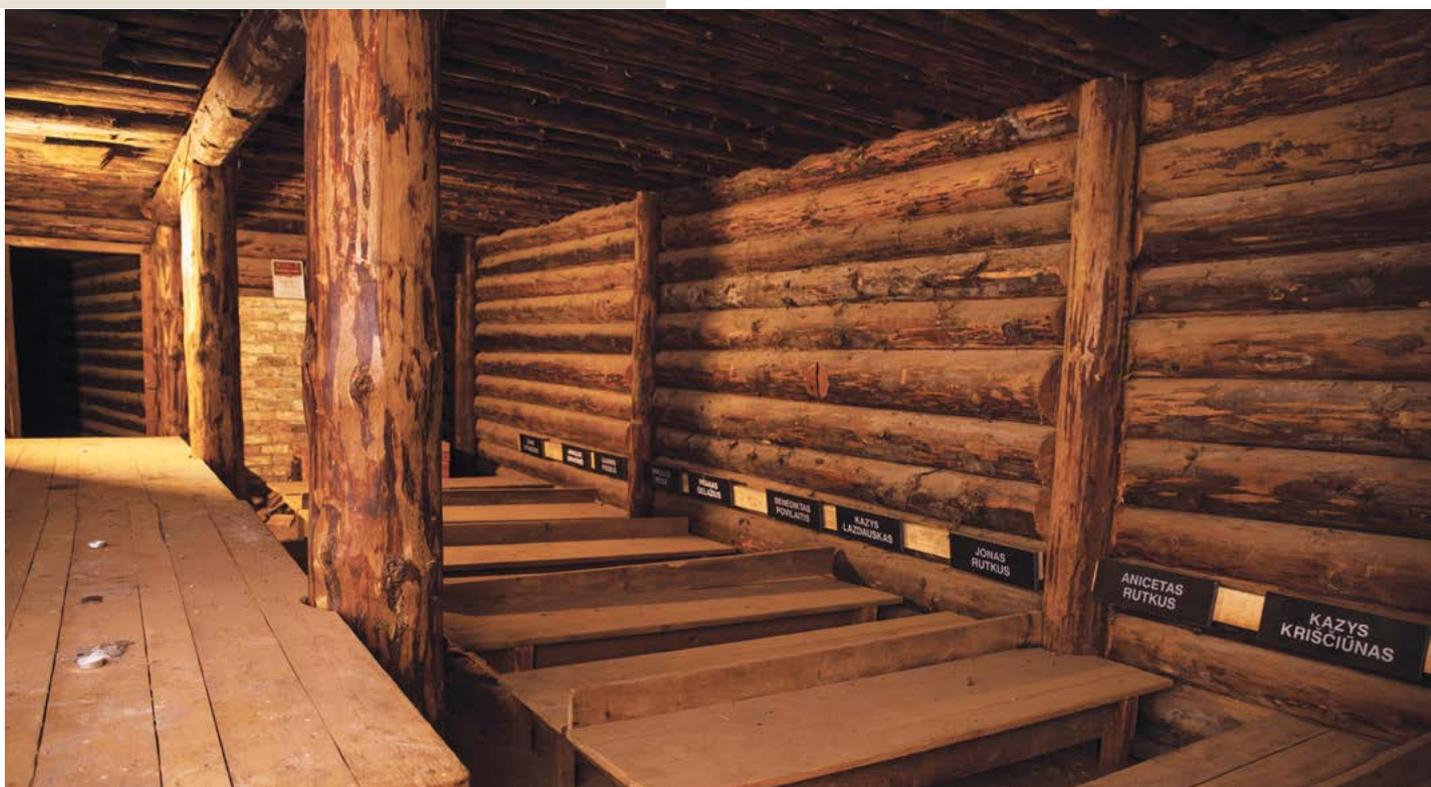
The Līdumnieki War Exhibition, or the Municipal Repository of Historical Evidence in Līdumnieki, is located in the former kolkhoz council building in Zabalotjes Manor Park, which is situated in the centre of the village of Līdumnieki (Zabalotjes/Aizpūre) of Līdumnieki Rural Territory.

The exhibition was created thanks to the local enthusiasts – patriots of the village, who have placed their personal collections and relics donated by local people in the historical building.

The exhibition consists of three parts. The largest part of the exhibition, which is also the central space, is dedicated to World War II. It features details of tanks, cannons, aircraft, models of equipment and weapons of soldiers of different armies, as well as everyday and warfare items of soldiers: flasks, dixies, helmets, uniforms, insignia, ammunition boxes, and models of mines.

The second part of the exhibition features evidence dating back to 1941. The exhibition includes household objects, various original documents, textbooks, notebooks, letters, newspapers, magazines, and similar materials of Ludza County residents.

The third part of the exhibition gives an insight into the life, aims and activities of the "Līdumnieki" collective farm.



The Freedom Monument in Iecava, carved in stone by Pēteris Banders in 1936, is located in Iecava Park on the bank of the River Iecava valley.

The idea of the monument was initiated by Jānis Lūsis, pastor of Iecava-Lambārte Parish, and a participant of the Latvian War of Independence. The monument is dedicated to the soldiers of the 4th Valmiera Infantry Regiment who fell in the vicinity of Iecava, and to the Latvian soldiers who lost their lives in the Latvian War of Independence. During the Soviet occupation, the monument was blown up, however, it was not destroyed and was eventually restored in 1988. In 2018, the monument was included on the List of State Protected Cultural Monuments.

On 11 November 2018, a commemorative plaque for five recipients of the Order of Lāčplēšis who were born in the former Iecava Region, was unveiled in Iecava Park. General Werners Tepfers, Lieutenant Colonel Jēkabs Jurševskis, Captains Nikolajs Pļavnieks and Herberts Tepfers, and Corporal Jēkabs Klausis were honoured. The granite statue was created as part of the project "Atceries Lāčplēšus" (Remember the Bearlayers) to commemorate the soldiers who fell in the Latvian War of Independence.



129

Freedom Monument in Iecava ●

Iecavas parks, Iecava,
Bauskas nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.59318, 24.19989,

T. +371 27746484
tic@bauskasnovads.lv
visit.bauska.lv/lv/objekti/redzet-darit/apskates-
vietas/vieta/brivibas-piemineklis-iecava/



130 Monument to the Defenders of Jelgava ●

Vilces iela 6, Svēte, Svētes pag.,
Jelgavas nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.59230, 23.67837

tic@tornis.jelgava.lv
visit.jelgava.lv/lv/piedzivot/kultura-un-tradicijas/
vestures-pieminekli-un-pieminas-vietas/item/162-
piemineklis-jelgavas-atbrivotajiem



The Monument to the Defenders of Jelgava – the Daugavgrīva Home Guards who stopped the German Army from attacking Jelgava at the end of April 1915, was unveiled in 1991 next to Svēte School in Jelgava Municipality. At the beginning of May 1915, a large demonstration was held in Jelgava to commemorate this important event. The fact that the Latvian Home Guards managed to stop the German attack was used by Jānis Čakste and his associates to justify the idea of establishing Latvian Rifleman units during World War I.

The author of the monument is sculptor Alīna Veibaha (1923–2011).

The bunker is located in the Īle forestry of Zebrene Rural Territory, at the turn-off from the P104 Bīksti-Auce Road.

The Kārlis Krauja Group of Īle National Partisans was formed in 1947. V. Z. Brizga (alias K. Krauja) was appointed the commander of the group. In October 1948, the Krauja Group merged with a group of Lithuanian national partisans. Krauja Group operated in Jelgava District and consisted of 27 national partisans.

In October 1948, Krauja Group built an underground bunker in Lieauce Parish, Jelgava County, not far from the Īle Forestry, 300 metres to the north of the "Priedaišu" house. Its total length, including battle passages, was 45 metres. 70 remote-controlled mines were planted around the bunker. The bunker was equipped with a furnace, a well, a toilet, and a storage room.

On 17 March 1949, the 24 partisans who were in the bunker at the time fought their last battle against the 760-strong troops of the Ministry of National Security or Cheka. After the battle, 9 members of the group were arrested, while 15 fell in the battle, with eight of them being Latvian and seven being Lithuanian.

In 1992, the Home Guards, together with the Daugavas Vanagi (Hawks of the Daugava), unearthed the bunker that had been blown up. A White Cross, a memorial stone and a granite statue were erected at the site.

Inside the bunker, you can see a stove, a table, and narrow benches on which the partisans slept. Information boards and memorial stones with the names of the partisans have been installed at the bunker.



132

Īle National Partisan Bunker ●

Zebrenes pag.,
Dobeles nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.57885, 22.92473

T. +371 28675118
turisms@dobeleva.lv
visitdobeleva.lv/pieminekli-pieminas-vietas/iles-
nacionalo-partizanu-bunkurs-un-pieminas-vieta



The private collection "Family Barn" is located at the family estate "Ābeļu Putniņi". Created in 2007, it reveals the history of one family through stories, objects and a reconstructed trench shelter.

Visitors are offered an insight into the history of World War I, the Latvian Army, World War II, the Brothers' Cemetery in Riga and the Christmas Battles. The old barn displays embroidered tablecloths, homemade folk costumes, a cupboard with tableware, skis and a chariot wheel donated by Baron Korf. In 2011, the equipping of the restored birch wood trench shelter was commenced. In it, a furnace, a sleeping area, and stands displaying objects related to the First World War – broken tableware, photographs and rusted weapon parts are on display there.

The exhibition allows visitors to experience the scenes of the First World War as described in the *Blizzard of Souls*, a novel by Aleksandrs Grīns. Special attention is paid to the Vidzeme 4th Riflemen Regiment and the Christmas Battles. The following soldiers are mentioned: Robert Soks, who is buried at the Brothers' Cemetery in Riga, as well as writers Aleksandrs Grīns, Jānis Akurāters, composer Arvīds Žilinskis and others.

The exhibition grounds feature bomb pits from World War I and a spring from which the soldiers drew drinking water.

A tour of the site lasts for 1.5–2 hours and is available in Latvian and Russian.



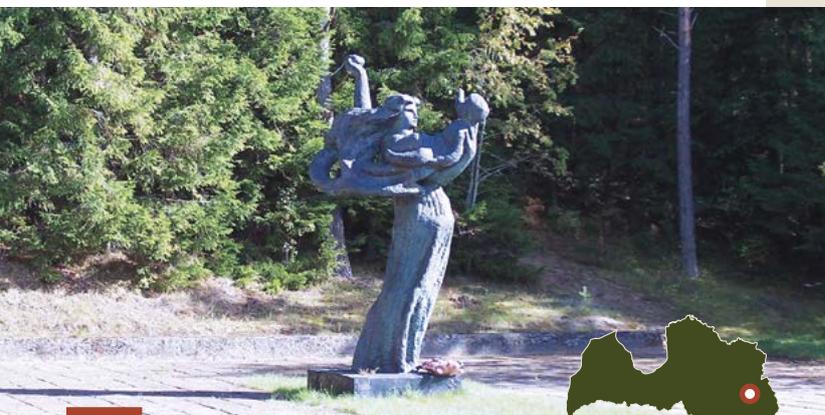
139

Private Collection "Family Barn"



Ābeļu Putniņi, Sēlpils pag.,
Jēkabpils nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.54311, 25.68110

T. + 371 27879107
abpabp@inbox.lv
visit.jekabpils.lv/lv/objekti/privatkolekcija-
dzimtas-klets-/



140

Ančupāni Memorial to the Victims of the Second World War

Vērēmu pag., Rēzeknes nov.,
Latvija
GPS: 56.53963, 27.31211

T. +371 26337449, +371 28686863
tic@rezeknesnovads.lv
rezeknesnovads.lv/viesiem/kulturvesturiskie-
pieminekli-un-pieminas-vietas/ancupanu-
memorials-ii-pasaules-kara-upuru-pieminai/



The memorial is located in Ančupāni, in the vicinity of Rēzekne. It was created to commemorate the tragedy of Audriņi – the extermination of civilians during the Nazi German occupation, which took place in 1942 in the village of Audriņi, Makašāni Parish, Rēzekne County.

From the autumn of 1941, several Red Army prisoners of war who had escaped, hid in Audriņi. On 18 December 1941, their whereabouts were discovered and four auxiliary police troops were killed in clashes. On 24 December, 203 residents of Audriņi were arrested and imprisoned in Rēzekne Prison. On 3 January 1942, most of the arrested were shot near the Ančupāni Hills, about 5 km from Rēzekne, and on 4 January, 30 men, arrested in the village of Audriņi, were publicly shot in the market square of Rēzekne, and the village itself was burnt down.

The memorial was unveiled on 27 July 1974. It was designed by landscape architect Alfons Kiškis (1910–1994). The evergreen spruce trees on the right side of the road symbolise people lined up to be shot, while the stone wall on the opposite side of the road represents the shooters. In the lowest part – the Valley of Suffering – a boulder-strewn path leads past the mass graves of the people who were shot, ending at a concrete wall with the inscription: "They died so that you might live." Then, the stairs leading to the Square of Life follow, with the central sculpture "Mother Apple Tree" by sculptor Rasa Kalniņa-Grīnberga (1936) in the square.

A monument dedicated to the first battle of Oskar Kalpak's battalion is situated next to the ruins of Lielauce Lutheran Church. It was erected at the site of the battle of Kalpak's battalion, which took place on the night of 15 to 16 January 1919. In the battle, two companies of Kalpak's battalion repelled an attack by an entire Bolshevik battalion and a squadron of cavalry. It was the first important battle of Kalpak's battalion. As the Landeswehr lost the battle in Auce, the decision was made to retreat and hold the front at a natural obstacle – the River Venta.

The monument was unveiled on 19 August 1934 in the presence of the former fighter of the battalion, Minister of Agriculture, J. Kauliņš. The monument was designed by an architect P. Dreimanis and manufactured by J. Sierīņš. The monument is made of grey granite blocks, with a black granite plaque at the front with the following inscription: "The battle of Colonel Kalpak's battalion took place here on the night from 15 to 16 January 1919." Four soldiers were killed in action.

The monument was destroyed in the early 1950s and the plaque was smashed. It was restored in 1991 by using the original plaque, which had been split in two. In the restored monument, the plaque no longer faces the church, but the centre of Lielauce.



141

A Monument Dedicated to the First Battle of Oskar Kalpak's Battalion in Lielauce

Lielauce, Lielauces pag.,
Dobele nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.51386, 22.87586

T. +371 27823375
turisms@dobeleva.lv
visitdobeleva.lv/pieminekli-pieminas-vietas/
oskara-kalpaka-bataljona-pirmajai-kaujai-veltits-
piemineklis



Jēkabpils History Museum is located in Krustpils Castle in the city of Jēkabpils.

In November 1921, Krustpils Castle was handed over to the Latvian Ministry of Defence, and the Latgale Artillery Regiment was stationed there. The Artillery Regiment played an important role in the life of the citizens of Krustpils, especially in cultural and musical activities, as the regiment had an orchestra, a men's choir, an operetta band, a symphony orchestra and a double quartet of instructors. The Latgale Artillery Regiment was stationed at Krustpils Castle until World War II. During World War II, a German infirmary was situated in the castle, and, after August 1944 – a Red Army military hospital. After the war, Krustpils Castle and the adjacent manor buildings were occupied by Soviet Army warehouses. Nowadays, Jēkabpils History Museum is operating at Krustpils Castle, where the exhibition "Battles for Freedom in the 20th Century" is on display.

Here, you can listen to excerpts from the book "Bij tādi laiki" by Ilmārs Kņāģis from Jēkabpils, while seated in a club chair. On one of the walls of the room, a list of the townspeople who were deported to Siberia, scrolls by dispassionately, like the credits of a film. An amateur video of the dismantling of the monument of Lenin in Jēkabpils can be watched on a TV set from the last century as well. Visitors are not only interested in the content but also in the technical options of how this film can be shown on a TV set from the last century.



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Jēkabpils History Museum

Rīgas iela 216B,
Jēkabpils, Latvija
GPS: 56.51127, 25.85900

T. +371 27008136
info@jekabpilsmuzejs.lv
www.jekabpilsmuzejs.lv/lv/galerija/jekabpils-pilsetas-vestures-ekspozicija-krustpils-pili/



143

Latgale Culture and History Museum

Atbrīvošanas Aleja 102,
Rēzekne, Latvija
GPS: 56.50781, 27.33276

T. +371 64622464
muzejs@rezekne.lv
latgale.travel/listing/latgales-kulturvestures-muzejs/



Three permanent exhibitions are on display at the Latgale Culture and History Museum in Rēzekne. One of them – "Rēzekne laikmetu griežos" (Rēzekne through Ages) – tells the story of the history of the city over seven centuries. A significant part of it is devoted to the events, wars and changes of the 20th century: World War I, the War of Independence, World War II, the destruction of Rēzekne in 1944 by the Soviet bombers, as well as the prisoner-of-war camp Stalag 347. The exhibition includes a photo booth about the fates of the soldiers from Rēzekne during the war. During the period of the free state of Latvia, the soldiers of the 9th Rēzekne Infantry Regiment of the Latvian Army stationed in Rēzekne were an integral part of the public life of the city and sporting events, especially during the celebrations of the 11th and 18th of November.

The Monument "Vienoti Latvijai" ("United for Latvia") or Māra of Latgale is located in Rēzekne. Its central image of a woman holding a cross in her hand symbolises the Latgale region of Latvia, which was liberated from Bolshevik rule in 1920, and its spirit of Christian civilisation.

The monument was initiated by public figures of Latgale in the 1920s. The foundation stone was laid and consecrated on 8 June 1930. In June 1934, a competition for the design of the monument was announced, and the design by Kārlis Jansons won the competition. The monument was unveiled on 8 September 1939, and the consecration service was held by Bishop Jāzeps Rancāns. After the Soviet occupation in November 1940, the monument was pulled down. The bronze sculptures were not destroyed due to a shortage of time and the monument was restored on 22 August 1943, during the German occupation. When the Soviet occupation returned, the cross was initially sawn off, while, in 1950, the monument was completely destroyed.

During the Soviet occupation, a Lenin monument was erected instead, which was removed immediately after Latvia regained its independence in 1991.

During the Awakening in 1989, the idea of restoring the historical United for Latvia monument was born. The monument was re-created by the sculptor Andrejs Jansons, the son of Kārlis Jansons, in collaboration with Inta Folkmane, based on his father's materials and photographs. The restored monument was unveiled on 13 August 1992, during the First World Gathering of Latgaliens.



144

Monument "Vienoti Latvijai" ("United for Latvia") or Māra of Latgale

Atbrīvošanas Aleja 93,
Rēzekne, Latvija
GPS: 56.50665, 27.33079

T. +371 26332249
tic@rezekne.lv
latgale.travel/listing/pieminekulis-vienoti-latvijai/



The Treasure House of the Free State is located next to the Rēzekne Castle ruins.

The unique exhibition includes hundreds of different historical testimonies from Latvian and foreign private collections, covering the period from 1918 to 1940, revealing the events in the history of Latgale and Rēzekne. It presents the history of military and civilian awards of the First Free State of Latvia, as well as various organisations related to the activities of state and civic organisations in the period from the Latvian War of Independence to World War II. The collection of military and civilian awards and insignia of the Latvian Free State on display here is the largest one in Latvia.

The Changing Exhibition Hall is situated on the second floor, where a new exhibition is held at least once per year. To date, visitors have had the opportunity to see a unique collection of porcelain objects, luxury clocks from France and paintings depicting various landscapes of Latgale.



145

Treasure House of the Free State

Krasta iela 35,
Rēzekne, Latvija
GPS: 56.50213, 27.33374

T. +371 25575555
bdnrezekne@gmail.com
latgale.travel/listing/brivvalsts-dargumu-nams/



146

Border Guard Museum

Zavoloko iela 8,
Rēzekne, Latvija
GPS: 56.48691, 27.34133

T. +371 64603679
vrk@rs.gov.lv
latgale.travel/listing/valsts-robezsardzes-koledza/



The museum is located in the premises of the State Border Guard College of Latvia in Rēzekne.

The museum houses an exhibition of the Border Guard History Research Unit, which reflects the chronological development of the Latvian Border Guard from 1919 to the present day. The collected objects and photographs tell the story of the service and everyday life of Latvian border guards in the period from 1919 to 1940, and also about the tragic fate of the border guards after the occupation of the country in 1940. At that time, border guards, along with their relatives, were among the first to be repressed. The museum displays evidence of the service of the restored Border Guard after the restoration of the independence of Latvia – uniforms, equipment, awards and insignia, which have been undergoing continuous development and change even nowadays.

A visit to the Cynology Centre, where you can watch demonstrations by service dogs, is an integral part of the tour. Appointments must be made in advance.

The memorial is located in the city centre, not far from the Bauska Municipality Tourist Information Centre and Town Hall Square.

It was created thanks to the initiative and donations of the descendants of Bauska Jews living in Israel, the USA and Great Britain, as well as the support of the Bauska Municipality Council and Latvian Jewish congregations and communities.

The memorial was designed by sculptor Ģirts Burvis. It is the same size as the former Bauska Great Synagogue, and the stone images symbolise Jews coming out of the place of worship after the service. A symbolic bimah is situated in the centre of the memorial; it is a raised platform or table used in Jewish religious rituals in the synagogue. An inscription on it reads: "A tribute to the Jews of Bauska, who lived here for centuries and built this city, and who were killed by the Nazis and their local helpers in 1941. Honouring the memory of the Jewish people – the descendants of the Jews of Bauska and the people of Bauska."

In 1935, almost 800 Jews lived in Bauska. After the Nazi occupation, in July 1941, many Jews were arrested and deported, and around 700 Jews were shot. Bauska Great Synagogue was destroyed during World War II.



147

Memorial "Synagogue Garden"

Rīgas iela 35, Bauska,
Bauskas nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.41088, 24.18626

T. +371 27746484
tic@bauskasnovads.lv
www.visit.bauska.lv/lv/objekti/redzet-darit/
apskates-vietas/vieta/vides-objekts-sinagogas-darzs-/



The museum is located in the former railway station building of Eleja Village.

The War Museum in Eleja was established by the association "Zemgales strēlnieks" (Zemgale Rifleman). The representatives of the association are active in public education, putting on exhibitions, displays and educational programmes.

The exhibition of the museum is mainly dedicated to World War II. It displays uniforms, equipment, armaments, and photographs of the historical period. The museum offers the opportunity to take photos in military uniforms of different historical periods and armies. The small two-storey building houses several hundreds of exhibits of military heritage. In addition, there are exhibits related to the town and surroundings of Eleja, the history of the region and its notable persons.



148

War Museum in Eleja

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eduards117@inbox.lv

visit.jelgava.lv/lv/piedzivot/kultura-un-tradicijas/muzeji-un-ekspozicijas/item/5344-jaunums-vesturiskais-elejas-kara-muzejs

Dzelzceļa ēka, Elejas pag.,
Jelgavas nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.40895, 23.67782



149

Bauska Freedom Monument

Brīvības bulvāris,
Bauska, Latvija
GPS: 56.40441, 24.17872

T. +371 27746484
tic@bauskasnovads.lv
visit.bauska.lv/lv/objekti/bauskas-brivibas-piemineklis/



The monument is located near Bauska Castle, on the banks of the River Mēmele. It is dedicated to the memory of all Latvian soldiers who died in the Latvian War of Independence, and it was built using donations by Bauska residents and organisations.

The inscription on the monument reads: "Par Latvijas brīvību kritušiem 1915–1920" (For the Ones Fallen for the Freedom of Latvia 1915–1920), with the lines by the poet Vilis Plūdons engraved in the monument: "Tik tas ir liels, kas spēj priekš citiem mirt. Kam ausis dzirdēt, tas lai dzird!" (Only he is great, who can die for others. Who has the ears to hear, let them hear!)

The monument was unveiled in 1929, with a church service at Bauska Church of the Holy Spirit, an address by the President of Latvia Gustavs Zemgals, and a parade by the home guards, schoolchildren and other organisations.

Viesīte Freedom Monument is a symbol of freedom, independence and remembrance, dedicated to the battles of the defenders of Viesīte against the Bermontians in 1919. On 14 October 1919, soldiers of the Third Jelgava Infantry Regiment, together with a unit of Viesīte-Sauka-Varenbroka home guards, stopped the attack of the Bermontians at Viesīte Vale Hill. As a result of this victory, the advance of Bermontian units into Upper Kurzeme and Latgale was stopped. Viesīte Freedom Monument depicts a freedom fighter, who is greeting the sun with the flag of Latvia in his hands. The words "Brīvība – tautas dzīvība" (Freedom is the life of the people) are engraved on the monument. Sculptor Voldemārs Jākobsons is the author of the design of the monument, and stonemason Voldemārs Treijs carved the monument in Finnish granite. The monument was unveiled on 11 August 1935. Every year, on Lāčplēšis Day, a torchlight procession takes place through Viesīte to the Freedom Monument, honouring the freedom fighters of Latvia who gave their lives and fell for their fatherland.



151

Viesīte Freedom Monument

Brīvības iela 31-29, Viesīte,
Jēkabpils nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.34650, 25.54869

tic@jekabpils.lv
visit.jekabpils.lv/lv/objekti/iepazisti/apskates-vietas/vieta/-viesites-brivibas-piemineklis/



"Sēlija" museum in Viesīte contains several parts: Sēlija House (Sēlija cultural history exhibition) and Tourist Information Point (located in the former railway office building), the former Locomotive Repair Workshop of Viesīte Depot, Crafts Centre and Sēlija narrow-gauge railway history exhibition (located in the Locomotive Repair Workshop building). The most recognisable part of the Museum in Viesīte is the Little Train Park, which is located on the grounds of the former Viesīte Depot.

The narrow-gauge railway was originally built by the German Army from 1915–1916 to transport military cargo, but, after World War I, it was adapted for passenger transport. The museum displays a steam locomotive manufactured by the Schwarzkopff company in 1918, as well as a service cart built in 1916, a freight cart, a timber transport platform, a horsecar, a trolley, and an exhibition on the Sēlija railway. The museum also manages seven historical buildings of the station. The "Mazā Bāniša Parks" (Little Train Park) is friendly for visitors with children.

Not far from the Little Train Park – in the historical Viesīte Station Square – visitors can see the only narrow-gauge railway section in Latvia with a water pump that has been preserved. Several historic buildings are located near the station square: a railway freight warehouse, a cultural centre, a passenger station building and a dispensary.

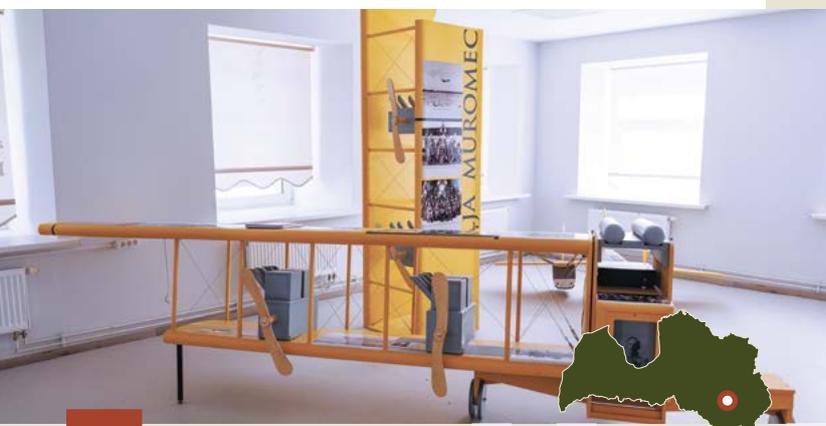


152

"Sēlija" Museum in Viesīte

A. Brodeles iela 7, Viesīte,
Jēkabpils nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.34238, 25.55522

T. +371 29116334
info@muzejsseija.lv
muzejsseija.lv/maza-banisa-parks/



153

"Jāzeps Baško – Gaisa Fūrmanis" ("Jāzeps Baško – Air Cabman") Exhibition of Preiļi Museum of History and Applied Arts

Raiņa bulvāris 28,
Preiļi, Latvija
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T. +371 6532273; muzejs@preili.lv
latgale.travel/listing/preilu-vestures-un-lietiskas-makslas-muzejs/



The "Jāzeps Baško – Gaisa Fūrmanis" ("Jāzeps Baško – Air Cabman") exhibition is dedicated to the 125th birthday of General Jāzeps Baško, the commander of the "Iļja Muromec" squadron and the organiser of the Latvian Air Force, and to the 100th anniversary of World War I.

The exhibition of the museum collection resembles a design object – a model of the Ilya Muromets aircraft that has been reduced in size 6 times, with information in the form of texts and images provided on the model. The exhibition is enriched by exhibits from the collections of the Latvian War Museum and newly acquired information from the Latvian State Historical Archive, the Spilve Aviation Museum and private archives of individuals. Jāzeps Baško is rightly one of the most awarded Latvians and pioneers of global aviation. He set 4 global aviation records flying Ilya Muromets aircraft. His name is inscribed in the Louis Blériot Golden Book in Paris, i.e., the Golden Book of the world's best aviators.

Jāzeps Baško was awarded all orders of the Russian Empire of his time, in Latvia – the Order of the Three Stars, 3rd Class, the Order of Viesturs, 2nd Class, the Home Guard Cross of Merit, as well as the highest awards of Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Finland, and Poland.

He served in the army of the Russian Empire, the Bolshevik Red Army, and, in 1921, he joined the Latvian Army. He retired from service after the occupation of Latvia.

The memorial stone is located near the Jersika railway station. It is engraved with the inscription: "LTS(p)A – Latvijas Tēvzemes sargu (partizānu) apvienības cīnītājiem" (For the Fighters of the Latvian Union of the Guardians of the Fatherland (Partisans)). The Union of Partisans united national partisans of six Latvian districts in the struggle against the communist occupation regime in 1945–1955. The memorial stone is the first stop on the hike "Jersika-Vanagi. Nacionālo partizānu leģendām pa pēdām." (Jersika-Vanagi. On the Trail of the National Partisan Legends.) The route starts at Jersika station and offers an insight into the history of the national partisan movement, its most prominent figures and their activities. Further on the trail: the site of the national partisan bunker hidden in the forest; the place of the founding of the Fatherland Guards (Partisans) Association as mentioned in the testimonies; and the memorial place "Avotņica" (in Latgalian "Olūtneica") in the forest, where a bonfire has been set up. The destination of the hike is Vanagi Church, where the priest Antons Juhņevičs served. The film "Segvārds Vientulis" (Alias Hermit) was made here (producer Normunds Pucis). The film tells the story of a priest, who was involved in the national partisan struggle in post-war Latgale. The route also bears evidence of former farmsteads: stately oaks and ruins of buildings.

It passes through forests, swamps, fens, meadows, and country roads. The total length of the hike is approximately 22 km and it can be completed in 6 hours.



154

Monument to National Partisans in Jersika

Jersikas pag.,
Līvānu nov., Latvija
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tic@livani.lv
www.visitlivani.lv/lv/ko-darit/turisma-marsruti/pargajiens-jersika-vanagi-/



Arendole Manor was first mentioned in historical sources in the 16th century. Over the course of time, the owners of the manor have changed several times. The manor has belonged to the Grappenbruck, Lydinghausen-Wulf and Plater-Zyberk families. The manor house received its current look during the reconstruction between 1895 and 1901. On 14 January 1921, on the basis of the agrarian reform law, the manor was expropriated and put at the disposal of the Kalupe Parish Board. The landlord house building of the manor was renovated and, in 1925, a primary school and an orphanage were founded there, while the home for the disabled of the war was established in the building of the servants' house. The school and the home for the disabled were operating until 1975.

In 1995, the building of the Arendole Manor landlords was purchased by private owners and its restoration began. Since 2002, the association "Es Latgalei" (I am for Latgale) has been operating at the manor, which is taking care of its preservation and development.

The visitors to the manor have the opportunity to see the renovated premises and get acquainted with the largest collection of ancient objects in Latgale, as well as to learn about the historical events of the 20th century in Latgale. A special exhibition is dedicated to Jānis Babris, the former policeman of Kalupe Parish (1904–1982), who, on 14 June 1941, resisted a deportation task force, shot a militia operative, Slics, and wounded Communist Party plenipotentiary, Jozāns.

Arendole Manor offers overnight stays and rental space for various events.



155

Arendole Manor ●●●●●●

Arendoles muiža, Arendole,
Preiļu nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.15148, 26.61119

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arendolemanor@gmail.com
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156

WW2 – World War II Exhibition ●

Daugavpils iela 40, Aglona,
Aglonas pag., Preiļu nov., Latvija
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latgale.travel/listing/ww2-2-pasaules-
kara-ekspozicija/



WW2 – World War II exhibition in Aglona or the War Museum was established in 2008 and is one of the most extensive and interesting expositions of this kind in Latvia. The collection has been continuously supplemented with new acquisitions and stories of war participants and people of the wartime generation.

The core of the museum consists of weapons, equipment, ammunition, and uniforms used during World War II. In addition, there are household objects, fragments of aircraft wrecks and other exhibits. One of the most precious and unique exhibits is the Feldpost (field post) correspondence between Oberleutnant August and his lover Martha, which created a dialogue between two loving people with a happy ending during the period of the five years of war. Wartime chronicles are displayed in the background of the exhibition.

The exhibition is not politicised and reflects both sides of the war equally, allowing viewers to perceive it without making judgements of good or bad, which makes the exhibition easy to understand.

The museum is located next to the hotel "Sventes Muiža" (Svente Manor).

The exhibition of the museum is unique since the objects in the collection were found on former battlefields. Soviet military equipment has been skilfully restored – some exhibits can even be started up and used for demonstrations. The tanks on display are believed to be rare exhibits on a European scale.

The museum displays:

- Soviet tanks – the T-34 medium tank and the IS-2 and IS-2M heavy tanks, which are named after Stalin;
- BRDM-2 and BRDM-1 armoured airborne reconnaissance vehicles;
- military vehicles Jeep Willys and GAZ-67;
- self-propelled guns;
- cannons and other pieces of equipment.



157

The Museum of Military Vehicles in Svente ●

Alejas iela 7, Svente, Sventes pag.,
Augšdaugavas nov., Latvija
GPS: 55.90372, 26.37540

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muzejs/



Daugavpils Fortress is an architectural, cultural and historical heritage monument of national importance. It is the last bastion-type fortress built in the world and the only surviving example of a fortress from the first half of the 19th century in Central Europe, which has been preserved without significant changes.

Its construction began in 1810, as Tsarist Russia prepared for Napoleonic invasion, and continued until 1878. In 1812, Russian and French troops fought at the unfinished fortress. After the Napoleonic Wars, the construction of the fortress continued, however, already during its construction, it began to lose its military importance.

During World War I (1915–1918), the fortress served as a support and logistics base for the Russian Army. In February 1918, it was occupied by German troops, and in December – by Bolshevik forces. In January 1920, the fortress was recaptured by Polish troops, who helped the Latvian Army to liberate Latgale from the Bolsheviks. From 1920 to 1940, the 4th Zemgale Division of the Latvian Army was stationed in the fortress.

After the occupation of Latvia in 1940, Red Army units were stationed at the fortress, and during the German occupation, it became the site of the prisoner-of-war camp for Red Army POWs "Stalags-340". After the second Soviet occupation in 1944, Soviet troops were again stationed in the fortress. Latvia regained the fortress in 1993 after the Russian Army had left.

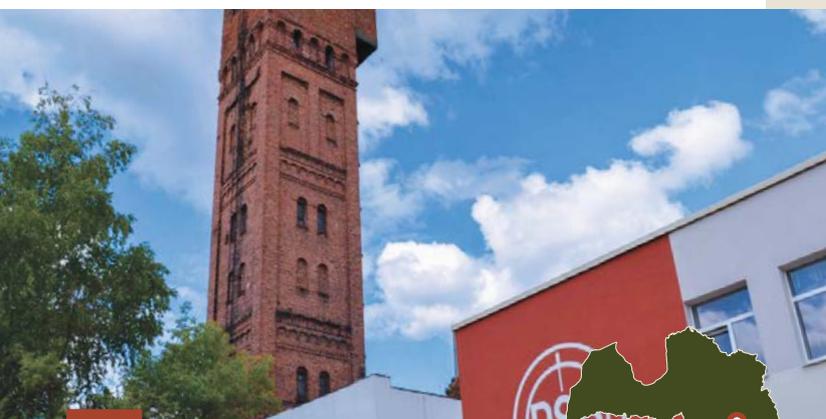


158

Daugavpils Fortress

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159

Daugavpils Lead Shot Factory

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Daugavpils, Latvija
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T. +371 27766655
visit@dsr.lv
www.dsr.lv

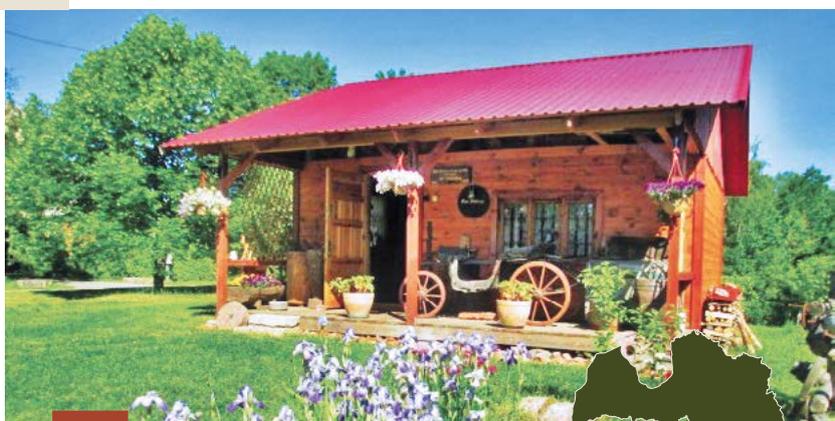


The Daugavpils Lead Shot Factory, founded in 1885, is the oldest ammunition factory in Northern Europe, the only factory of its kind in the Baltic states, and one of the oldest industrial heritage sites in Latvia. It is home to Europe's only operational lead shot tower.

Over the centuries, the factory has been producing high-quality hunting shots and continues to do so today. The factory preserves equipment and structures from the 19th century, which have been supplemented before and after the World Wars. Modern equipment is used to produce ammunition.

Visitors can see the historical exhibition and the shot casting workshop, as well as climb the unique 31.5-metre-high tower of the plant, beneath which a 13.5-metre-deep cooling well is situated. This factory is a popular tourist destination that attracts both local and foreign visitors, enabling them to discover the industrial heritage of the 19th century and see the old machinery in action. After the factory tour, visitors can test the products made at the shooting range of the factory.

The Stikāni family are engaged in collecting historical artefacts. The collected historical evidence of Medumi Parish and the surrounding area is accumulated in the small, purpose-built building. An extensive collection of World War I and World War II artefacts is on display at the museum.



160

Private Collection of World War I Heritage and Local History

Jaunatnes iela 4, Medumi,
Medumu pag.,
Augšdaugavas nov., Latvija
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stikans752@inbox.lv
visitdaugavpils.lv/turisma-objekts/pirma-pasaules-
kara-mantojuma-un-vietejas-novadpetniecibas-
privatkolekcija/



The fiercest battles of the First World War in Latvia took place near Daugavpils in August and October 1915, in the highlands of Ilūkste and Medumi. The Germans tried to break through to Daugavpils, but the Russians – to push them back. Both sides were unsuccessful and began to build trenches, creating in-depth defence positions consisting of three lines.

The First World War Museum in Medumi is dedicated to these battles. The first part of the exhibition presents the history of the vicinity of Medumi, providing testimonies that bear evidence that Medumi was a well-populated and developed area before the war. Part 2 focuses on the events of the First World War in Europe and Latvia. Here, you can learn about the lives of soldiers and the innovations that emerged during the war, as well as examine the weapons used by the German and Russian armies. In the third hall of the exhibition, visitors can put themselves in the shoes of a soldier by experiencing bunker life. In this hall, a replica of a Russian bunker has been created – a fragment of a trench with a small shelter, elements of a battlefield and dummies of soldiers. Since the wooden bunkers of the Russian Army did not survive, they have been reconstructed at the museum, while the concrete bunkers of the German Army can be seen by visiting the International route of WWI Bunkers. The hall, with the imitation of a shelter, audio and video equipment, creates an authentic atmosphere of the battlefield.



161

First World War Museum ●

Alejas iela 20, Medumi,
Medumu pag.,
Augšdaugavas nov., Latvija
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T. +371 29431360, +371 26274123
turisms@augšdaugavasnovads.lv
latgale.travel/listing/pirma-pasaules-karamuzejs-medumos/



234

“Segvārds Vientulis”, along the Memorial Trails of the Latgale National Partisan Leader – Priest Antons Juhņevičs ●

Vanagi, Upmalas pag.,
Preiļu nov., Latvija
GPS: 56.28865, 26.37260

T. +371 29100689
tic@preili.lv



The former primary school, parish house and church of the village of Vanagi provide evidence of one of the most heroic pages in the history of Vanagi Parish. In the autumn of 1944, after the return of the Soviet occupation to Latvia, the resistance of the people of Latgale to Soviet rule began. At this time, Antons Juhņevičs (1905–1947), a bright personality with a sharp mind, patriotism and a deep faith in God, served as a priest in Vanagi Parish. During his church services, he called for resistance to Soviet rule, and gave refuge to those fleeing repressions in his church. On 28 January 1945, an armed battle took place in the vicinity of Vanagi Church between national partisans and Soviet security officers – Chekists. After these events, A. Juhņevičs also joined the national partisans and, under the nickname “Vientulis”, became one of the leaders of the Latvian Fatherland Partisan Union.

Visitors can see the church and the parish house, and walk the partisan trails in the nearby forest near the church. By making a prior booking, you can enjoy a partisan meal – porridge made on a bonfire – next to the parish house. The staged documentary Segvārds Vientulis (Alias Hermit) by director Normunds Pučs, produced in 2014, can be watched at the former Primary School of Vanagi, currently IAC Vanagi (Information and Support Centre Vanagi). A large-format photo exhibition about the making of the film is on display in the hallways of the school.

Vīļaka Museum operates in two buildings – the Catholic parish house, built in 1913, which is an important cultural heritage object of the town, and the other building of the museum – a former monastery of Capuchin monks, whose cellars are closely related to the national partisan movement in Stompaki and the Soviet Cheka. According to the memories of the locals, people were held and tortured in these cellars. The old museum building houses several exhibitions, with one of the exhibitions dedicated to the 1920 freedom battles in Northern Latgale, and the second – to the events of the Second World War – the Jewish Holocaust in Vīļaka and information about the families who were shot. More information about each family is available based on their street address. The exhibition is supplemented by information about the national partisan movement in Stompaki – various testimonies, photographs and objects. Visitors can learn about the military heritage sites in and around Vīļaka, such as the Freedom Fighters Monument in Jaškova, which was demolished during the Soviet era and restored in 1990, and the stele dedicated to the recipients of the Order of Lāčplēšis. The sound of World War II aircraft is incorporated into the exhibition of the museum, as the German Luftwaffe airfield was located near Vīļaka. The museum offers an opportunity to see some memories of the Second World War events in Vīļaka, as well as to receive information about the German prisoner-of-war camp in Rači.



235

Vīļaka Museum ● ●

Balvu iela 13, Vīļaka,
Balvu nov., Latvija
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MILITARY HERITAGE SITES IN THE SOUTHERN PART – LITHUANIA



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In Kurmaičiai (near Mažeikiai), a railway bridge is located over the River Venta. This metal bridge with two masonry watchtowers has been abandoned for many years. The traffic is organised on the new bridge built next to the old one. The first wooden bridge over the River Venta was built in 1871–1873 to carry important cargo for Tsarist Russia. In 1904–1905, the bridge was replaced by a stronger wooden bridge, which was blown up in 1915 (during the First World War). In 1918, the bridge was rebuilt as a metal structure. The new bridge became one of the longest and widest single-track bridges of its time, measuring 70 m in length. Because of its strategic importance, the bridge was heavily guarded during World War II. Stone watchtowers with bullet marks stand on both sides of the river, bearing evidence of shelling that once took place. In 1941, German soldiers are said to have shot approximately 4,000 people in the vicinity of the bridge. The bridge was also carefully guarded during the second Soviet occupation. The bridge that is in use today was built over the rubble of the first bridge that was blown up. Now you can see bridge structures from as many as three different periods in one place.



162

A Set of Railway Bridge Structures in Kurmaičiai

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GPS: 56.33905, 22.23857

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visit.mazeikiai.lt/lankytinos-vietos/gelezinkelio-tilto-per-venta-statiniu-kompleksas/



163 Museum of Ancient Technique at Sodeliškiai Manor Homestead

Lauko g. 2, Sodeliškių k., Pačeriaukštės sen., Biržų r., Lietuva
GPS: 56.28865, 24.64443

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Sodeliškiai Manor Homestead, which houses the Museum of Ancient Technique, is situated 13 km from Biržai. It was opened in 2018 pursuant to the initiative of the farmers Dalius and Neringa Linkevičiai. The museum displays a variety of historic vehicles, from bicycles to aeroplanes, as well as old agricultural machinery and everyday life objects from the Soviet era.

There is also a rich collection of military equipment. The most interesting exhibits include the LuAZ-967M amphibious vehicle, army motorcycles, and the GAZ-51 special military task vehicle, which was used during the war to disinfect the linen and clothing of patients in the wartime field hospitals. A separate section of the exhibition is dedicated to the vehicles and paraphernalia of the Soviet militia. The museum has a large toy collection, with a large proportion of the collection allocated for military toys.

The memorial sign is located north of Škilinпамūšis, on the Via Baltica motorway (E67, A10), next to the Latvian border, on the right side of the motorway.

On 23 August 1989, the three Baltic nations – Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians – united in a historic event called the Baltic Way. On this day, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and its secret protocol, a spectacular non-violent resistance event was organised. Approximately two million people joined hands to form a human chain that stretched for 650 kilometres from Vilnius through Riga to Tallinn. The Baltic Way has become not only a symbol of solidarity but also a powerful message to the world about the determination of the Baltic states to regain their independence.

One of the most important monuments commemorating the event is the memorial sign on the Lithuanian-Latvian border, which was erected in 2014 based on the initiative of the members of the Lithuanian reform movement "Sąjūdis" and the organisers of the 1989 Baltic Way.



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Memorial Sign of the Lithuanian and Latvian Section of the Baltic Way

Prie Pasienio g. 10, Škilinпамūšio k., Saločių sen., Pasvalio r., Lietuva
GPS: 56.27228, 24.36761



Joniškis Museum of History and Culture was established in the centre of Joniškis in 1989. It features exhibitions reflecting the historical and archaeological treasures, ethnic culture and sacred art heritage of the region. Based on the initiative of historian Darius Vičas. The museum has an exhibition dedicated to the partisans of the Joniškis region. In a separate room, you are introduced to the personalities of partisans – fighters for Lithuanian freedom – and their struggle against the Soviet occupation. The exhibition features an authentic Olympia typewriter that served the last partisans of the Joniškis region, Kostas Liuberskis-Žvainys and Steponas Erstikis-Patašonas. It was used to print issues of the partisan periodical "Partizanų šūvių aidas" (Echo of Partisan Shots). The underground newspaper was published from 1952 to 1957 in the territory of the Juozapavičius homeland (on the outskirts of Akmene, Joniškis, Žagarė and Kuršėnai districts). It is the last periodical published by partisans. The typewriter has been modified for interactive access to information – by pressing its keys, visitors see photos and hear stories about the partisan resistance. The radio receiver in the display of the collection also plays partisan songs.



165

Joniškis Museum of History and Culture ●

Vilniaus g. 6, Joniškis, Lietuva
GPS: 56.23902, 23.61455

T. +370 65236945
joniskiomuziejus@gmail.com
joniskiomuziejus.lt/ekspozicija/joniskio-krasto-partizanai-1-ekspozicija/



166

Airfield Section of the Biržai-Pandėlys Road ●

Kelio Biržai-Pandėlys ruožas, Biržų r. sav., Lietuva
GPS: 56.12005, 24.93674



It is located near Papilys, on the Biržai-Pandėlys road (KK123), near the villages of Galintiškis and Miliškiai. According to the plans of the Soviet Army leadership, construction of the following four road airfields was scheduled in Lithuania to enable military aircraft to use these roads for take-off and landing: next to Biržai (on the Biržai-Pandėlys road), Kartena (on the Šiauliai-Palanga road), Kropiai (on the Naujoji Akmene-Kruopiai road) and Šakiai (on the Šakiai-Slavikai road). These sections of the road had to be widened and have asphalted areas at the ends to enable the aircraft to turn around. The Kartena and Šakiai sections were built in the 1970s and repaired (at least the Kartena section) in the 1990s. It is known that on 20 June 1983, the Kartena section was tested after repairs by landing a military fighter on it. The Biržai and Kropiai sections had to be built in the 1990s.

A 2-km-long and approximately 20-m-wide section of Biržai has been preserved. The road has been widened, has a more solid base and thicker asphalt surface, and there are still aircraft turning areas at the ends of the section.

The Cross Valley to Commemorate the Baltic Way memorial is located on the eastern outskirts of Pasvalys on the Via Baltica motorway (E67, A10).

On 23 August 1989, to commemorate the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the criminal Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and its secret protocol, based on the initiative of the Lithuanian reform movement "Sąjūdis", the Latvian People's Front and the Estonian People's Front, a live human chain linked the capitals of the three Baltic states – Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn. Holding hands, approximately two million people joined together in a living chain that was about 650 km long. This chain, known as the Baltic Way, is one of the most remarkable and memorable events on the road to independence of the countries occupied by the Soviets.

To commemorate this event, memorial signs have been erected along the Baltic Way route (Vilnius-Ukmergė-Panevėžys-Pasvalys-Saločiai). The Cross Valley to Commemorate the Baltic Way is one of the monuments dedicated to this memorial route. The history of Cross Valley began on the eve of the Baltic Way when the residents of Pasvalys started using boulders to build the Altar of Freedom. On 23 August, the crosses were installed in the valley by the participants of the Baltic Way from Pasvalys, Akmene, Joniškis, Kretinga, Mosėdis, and Pakruojis. Later, crosses were erected to commemorate important events and people of note, as well as crosses dedicated to the friendly Norwegian and Swedish people.



167

Cross Valley to Commemorate the Baltic Way ●

Pasvalio aplinkkelio ir Baltijos kelio sankirta, Maliupiai, Pasvalio r. sav., Lietuva
GPS: 56.06883, 24.43227



Partisan Bunker and Memorial Cross can be found by turning off the regional road 3604 (Rokiškis-Maineivos-Naujasodė) between Juodupė and Žiobiškis in the direction of Plunksnočiai Forest.

In 1947, the partisans of the Gediminas Company of the Kunigaikštis Mārgiris (King Mārgiris) Unit, led by Juozas Bulavas-Iksas, were located in the Plunksnočiai forest stand. Until 1948, they did not have a permanent wintering place, so they took refuge with people who supported them. After World War II, Plunksnočiai Forest was a swampy area with a small mound in the middle of the swamp. In 1949, the partisans set up a hiding place there. However, they were betrayed by an infiltrated Russian security agent, who knew the location of the bunker. On 14 November 1949, after the partisans had fallen asleep, he threw anti-tank grenades into the bunker. Seven partisans died.

The partisan bunker has been restored and a memorial cross with the names of those who died there has been erected. Today, the surrounding forest is green and walkable. A monument and information signs have been erected in a small square a few dozen metres from the bunker, pursuant to the initiative of the Young Riflemen of Rokiškis.



168

Partisan Bunker and Memorial Cross in Plunksnočiai Forest ●

Plunksnočių miškas, Rokiškio r., Lietuva
GPS: 56.06566, 25.45180



169

Litvak Memorial Garden ●

Žemaičių Kalvarijos g. 51,
Medsėdžiai, Plungės r., Lietuva
GPS: 56.06126, 21.82099

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visitplunge.lt/lankytinos-vietos/litvaku-
atminimo-sodas/



In 2014, the Jacob Bunka Charity and Support Foundation established the Litvak (Lithuanian Jew) Memorial Garden in Žemaitija National Park, approximately two kilometres from the centre of Plateliai, in the village of Medsėdžiai. It is a monument dedicated to the eliminated Jewish communities of Lithuania. The garden reproduces the contours of Lithuania, while the sites where Jewish communities were eliminated in 1941–1944 are marked with wrought-iron apple trees. The author of the carved apple trees is Artūras Platakis. The apples in the trees signify families that have lived in these communities. Litvaks from around the globe can participate in the development of the garden by ordering new apple trees and apples in memory of their ancestors. The garden also features pillars made of Karelian granite that individually celebrate the achievements of Litvaks worldwide.

In 2016, the initiative was extended to include the Litvaks, who lived throughout the territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and the rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust. A billboard at the entrance to the garden tells the story of former Jewish communities throughout Lithuania.

Currently, apple trees to commemorate the Jewish communities of Alytus, Alsėdžiai, Kalvarija, Mosėdis, Plateliai, Plungė, Telšiai, Vabalninkas, Viekiškiai, and others have "grown" at the garden.

The Orvidai Homestead-Museum is located near Salantai, on the right side of the road Salantai-Plungė (KK169) (there are information signs).

The site was started more than 40 years ago by a family of stone cutters – a father and son – Kazimieras and Vilius Orvidai (1905–1989; 1952–1992). During the land improvement works, they brought interesting-looking stones scheduled for crushing and centuries-old trees from the surrounding fields to their homestead and used them to create religious monuments. The works created by the Orvidai themselves at their farm homestead, as well as works by other artists displayed there did not conform to Soviet ideological and artistic canons: the works made of stone, wood, metal and old agricultural tools intertwined the symbolism of different religions (Catholic, Pagan, Buddhist). The homestead was also well known to those who did not fit into the reality of Soviet life. The place became a site of refuge and gathering for those who thought differently. The Soviet power repeatedly planned to destroy this environment, however, people managed to preserve it. The Orvidai homestead became very popular during the Lithuanian revival.

An IS-2 tank welcomes visitors at the Orvidai Homestead-Museum. This tank was developed by the Soviet Union during World War II as a response to the German Tiger I. The name IS is an acronym for the Soviet tyrant Joseph Stalin. This tank was formerly located in Salantai as part of the Memorial dedicated to the World War II Soviet burial. In 1991, it was relocated to the Orvidai homestead and became an exhibit.



170

Orvidai Homestead-Museum ●

Plungės g. 18, Gargždėlės k.,
Imbarės sen., Kretingos r., Lietuva
GPS: 56.05118, 21.61066

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info@orvidusodyba.lt
orvidusodyba.lt/muziejus/



In 1960, the Šateikiai Ground Missile Base was built in the forests adjacent to Šateikiai of Plungė district. It was one of four bases of its kind in Lithuania. Four launching pads for R-12 (SS-4 Sandal) medium-range ballistic missiles had been built at the base. Once the signal was received, the missiles could be fired at the European countries of the NATO bloc.

In 1962, during the Caribbean crisis, nuclear missiles were moved from the Šateikiai missile base to central Cuba. The highest level of alert at this base was declared in 1968 during the Prague Spring – the democratic change in Czechoslovakia. At the time, one of the missiles was aimed at the Federal Republic of Germany because the NATO bloc was likely to support the Czechoslovak rebels with its own weapons.

The Šateikiai base was closed in around 1978 because it was considered obsolete and its maintenance – irrational. The closure was also prompted by the fact that by the 1980s it was clear that US intelligence services had identified the locations of stationary missile launch bases.

The abandonment of the missile launch site caused structural damage to buildings. The remains of six reinforced concrete warehouses (hangars) are still present on the grounds of the base, as well as bush-covered surface launching pads for rockets.



171

Šateikiai Ground Missile Base

Šateikių Rūdaičiai, Plungės r., Lietuva
GPS: 56.03736, 21.69218

turizmas@plunge.lt
visitplunge.lt/lankytinios-vietos/
sateikiu-antzemine-raketine-baze/



172

Cold War Exposition

Šilinės g. 4, Plokščiai,
Plungės r., Lietuva
GPS: 56.03222, 21.90625

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In 1962, one of the first underground launch complexes for R-12 ballistic missiles in the Soviet Union, the Dvina, was put into operation in Plokštinė Forest (Plungė district).

A military camp was set up 0.5 km from the missile launch site. It occupied an area of 12 hectares, and approximately 30 buildings were built here for various purposes, including residential houses (barracks), officers' headquarters, two canteens, a boiler house, a power station, a medical post, a club, a pig farm, warehouses, garages, and other structures.

The Plokštinė underground missile launching complex was operational until 18 June 1978. The Soviet soldiers left the area, taking only their weapons with them. In 1979, the management of the former military complex was transferred to the Republican Association of Agricultural Recreation Facilities of Plungė District, and the Plateliai Pioneer Recreation Camp "Žuvėdra" was established at the military campus site. The site was reconstructed and adapted to the needs of the camp, which operated until 1990. After the restoration of Lithuanian independence, the Pioneer Camp was closed.

Since 1993, the site has been managed by the Žemaitija National Park Directorate. In 2017, many of the structures on the military campus were demolished due to their state of disrepair. Today, there are about ten buildings left at the site, and visitors may see them from the outside. Information boards about the former buildings and their functions have been installed.



173

Plokštinė Military Town

Šilinės g. 6, Plokščiai, Plungės r., Lietuva
GPS: 56.02628, 21.90789

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The area is accessible via a forest road, which is located by taking road No. 3111 past Rinkūnai and crossing the River Pyvesa.

After the War of Independence (1918–1940), northern Lithuania, especially Pasvalys and Joniškis districts, had a strong tradition of partisan fighting. The first partisan units were organised here. This tradition, although not very pronounced, continued after the Second World War, and, in 1944, separate partisan units began to form in the region.

From 1944–1946, Jonas Alenčikas-Dragūnas was the commander of the partisan unit operating in Žadeikiai Forest. In 1945, the partisans led by him set up a rather large bunker in Žadeikiai Forest – it was 30 metres long and 6 metres wide. Such type of bunker perfectly reflects the first phase of the Lithuanian partisan struggle, when the partisans operated in large units and lived in large bunkers or forest camps. The bunker was destroyed during a battle, but when Lithuania regained its independence, it was rebuilt by the Pasvalys Infantry Company. The bunker is currently maintained by the Pasvalys Museum of Local History. A partisan settlement has been restored next to the bunker, and a new memorial cross and information stand have been installed.



174

Partisan Bunker in Žadeikiai Forest

Pumpėnų sen., Pasvalio r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.99463, 24.44943



175

Samogitian Museum "Alka"

Muziejaus g. 31, Telšiai, Lietuva
GPS: 55.97527, 22.23572

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The museum is located in Telšiai, on the north-western shore of Lake Mastis. In 2024, the Samogitian Museum "Alka" opened its doors after reconstruction. The museum presents the history and culture of Žemaitija region – archaeological finds, rare and interesting historical objects, a collection of ethnographic treasures, works of inter-war and diaspora artists, as well as the heritage of the outstanding estates of Žemaitija. The museum also attracts visitors in terms of its collection of military heritage, with three interesting exhibitions dedicated to it.

One of them is the audiovisual installation "The Fracture of Eras", which is supplemented by a small exhibition of World War II artefacts. A special exhibition is divided into two parts – the Nazi German occupation and the Soviet occupation, which features authentic objects used by soldiers and video projections. In the "Lost Stories" part of the exhibition, the stories of different people and families reveal the period in the history of the nation, during which the terror of the Soviet occupation regime reigned against the local population. The exhibition "Partisan War in Žemaitija" is stylised, demonstrating the interior of a partisan hideout. The exhibition provides an insight into the structure of the Lithuanian partisans and displays authentic historical objects and samples of weapons, a fragment of a documentary film, and photographs of the partisans.

The Rainiai Chapel of Suffering is located in the village of Rainiai, at a distance of five kilometres from Telšiai, off road No. 160 Telšiai-Varniai-Laukuva.

On 25 and 26 June 1941, one of the most horrific massacres in the history of the Soviet occupation of Lithuania took place in Rainiai Forest. At night, the Red Army and the Soviet repressive authorities brutally tortured 75 political prisoners to death in Telšiai Prison. A few days later, a passer-by found the victims buried in a mass grave.

In 1943, a chapel was built in memory of the victims, which was built according to the sketch of the architect Jonas Virakas. In 1944, with the return of Soviet rule, the chapel was destroyed. Later, in 1990, after Lithuania regained its independence, the architect A. Žebrauskas started to build a new chapel based on the sketches by the same author. The chapel was consecrated on 23 June 1991 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Rainiai massacre.

The Rainiai Chapel of Suffering is dedicated not only to the martyrs of the Rainiai but also to the memory of all the victims of Soviet terror. A stone cross carved by sculptor R. Midvikas is erected in the forest near the chapel, where political prisoners were tortured. Three more wooden crosses painted in the colours of the national flag can be seen on the road.



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Rainiai Chapel of Suffering

Telšių g. 1, Rainiai, Telšių r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.96441, 22.29494

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muziejusalka.lt/rainiu-kancios-koplycia/



Monument and Partisan Dugout Shelter of the Narimantas company of the Kardas unit are located in the Kretinga district, after turning off road No. 2308 onto Mokyklos Street and approaching the forest near Žibininkai.

In western Lithuania, in Palanga Municipality of the time, a Narimantas (Pušis) company of the Lithuanian Freedom Movement of the Kardas unit of Žemaitija region, commanded by Major Jurgis Ožeraitis, operated from 1947, where men from the area fought. The partisans of Narimantas Company built a bunker in the forests of Alsedžiai, which, as a result of treason, was besieged by the soldiers of the 24th Riflemen Regiment of the Internal Troops of the KGB and the Palanga Parish Destroyer Unit on 7 February 1949. As the partisans tried to break the siege, five members of the company died.

On 18 September 2009, the doors of the restored partisan bunker were ceremoniously opened in Žibininkai Forest on Vilimas Hill. Here, on the initiative of Petras Gabrenas, the former chairman of the Palanga Association of Exiles and Political Prisoners, through the care of Rada Matulevičienė, the owner of the brewery "HBH Juozo", as well as with the support of the Kretinga Forestry, the former bunker of the Narimantas Company of the Kardas Partisan Unit was authentically restored and a monument was erected.



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Monument and Partisan Dugout Shelter of the Narimantas Company of the Kardas Unit ●

Žibininkų miškas, Kretingos r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.95649, 21.15118



178

Šiauliai History Museum ●●

Aušros al. 47, Šiauliai, Lietuva
GPS: 55.93907, 23.30594

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ausrosmuziejus.lt/istorijos-muziejus/



The Šiauliai History Museum is located on Aušros Avenue in central Šiauliai. After reconstruction, the museum opened its doors in 2022. It is housed in the historical Aušros Museum building, which was built in 1932 based on the design of a local architect, Vlad Bite. Originally it was a school building, while a part of the building was dedicated for the purposes of the museum in 1933. Today, the Šiauliai History Museum combines state-of-the-art technology with traditional exhibitions and a modern exhibition of museum funds. Here, visitors are introduced to the history of Šiauliai, from the earliest records about the area to the proclamation of the Republic of Lithuania in 1918.

Part of the exhibition is devoted to war themes. The first-floor hall features a restored short film that is based on historical documents about the Battle of the Sun that took place in the Šiauliai area; there are also exhibits (objects, documents, photos) related to World War I, which severely devastated the city, resulting in the loss of both inhabitants and infrastructure. The exhibition also displays evidence of the battles against the Bermontians, who invaded the town in 1919 and vandalised the houses. The content of the exhibitions of Šiauliai History Museum is expanded by knowledge rooms and an open-air exhibition. The museum also has an exhibition and event hall for multifunctional activities.

The Museum of the History of Freedom Fights is located on Vytauto Street, Obeliai (Obeliai-Zarasai road KK117) on the left side (a road sign is installed on the road).

Founded in 1998, the museum introduces the development of the Lithuanian state, the history of the Obeliai region and Lithuanian folk art. A large part of the exhibition is devoted to the theme of freedom fights.

The evidence of the freedom fights was collected and donated to the museum by a teacher and former partisan, Andriejus Dručkus (1928–2018).

In addition to the themes of Soviet repressions, deportations, the partisan war, the anti-Soviet resistance movement, and the rebirth of independence, which reflect the experiences of the Obeliai region, the museum also stands out due to its peculiar accents. The museum presents the history of the erection, destruction and restoration of the unique monument dedicated to the participants of the June 1941 uprising and the victims of Soviet terror. An overview of the Lithuanian defence system after 1990 is also provided, as well as uniforms of the Lithuanian Armed Forces and other services. The open-air exhibition of the museum has replicas of a Lithuanian partisan bunker and a Siberian barracks for deportees on display. The sites can be visited individually, and special educational programmes are also offered, which enable visitors to experience the everyday life of partisans and deportees to understand what it was like to live in a bunker or barracks.



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Museum of the History of Freedom Fights in Obeliai ●●●●

Vytauto g. 18, Obeliai, Rokiškio r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.93844, 25.79625

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obeliu-muziejus



The Hill of Rebels is a sandy hill in western Šiauliai, where both World Wars left their marks.

The site became notorious in the second half of the 19th century when the members of the 1863–1864 uprising were buried on the hill and sentenced to death for fighting against the oppression by the Tsarist Russian Empire. The site gave rise to terrifying legends and was abandoned and rarely visited; finally, it became known as the Hill of Rebels. During the First World War, soldiers of the German Empire were buried here.

In 1926, work on landscaping the hill started. Karolis Reisonas, a city engineer, offered to design an obelisk for the monument dedicated to the rebels. In 1928, the 10th anniversary of the independence of Lithuania was celebrated and Rebel Garden was opened on the Hill of Rebels, however, the construction of the monument was not completed until 1935. The monument, a 14-metre-high pink granite obelisk, was unveiled and consecrated, and the remains of the rebels were reburied.

During the Second World War, the soldiers of the Third Reich, who died in 1941–1944, were buried on the hill.

During the Soviet occupation, the gravestones were dismantled, but in 1955–1957, the obelisk of the Hill of Rebels was reconstructed – all national and religious symbols were removed from it. In 1988, to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the uprising, the authentic appearance of the monument was restored.



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The Hill of Rebels ●●

Vilniaus g. 263,
Šiauliai, Lietuva
GPS: 55.93627, 23.30515

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181

Venclauskiai House-Museum ●

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GPS: 55.92757, 23.31558

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The Venclauskiai House-Museum is an outstanding example of historical architecture from the inter-war period in Šiauliai. The building, also known as the White Castle, was built for the family of Kazimieras Venclauskas and Stanislava Venclauskienė in 1926 on the land of the former suburb of Šiauliai City. Kazimieras and Stanislava Venclauskiai – members of the Lithuanian national movement and the restoration of the Lithuanian state, are also famous as guardians of many orphans and abandoned children.

During the Second World War, Stanislava Venclauskienė and her daughters Danutė and Gražbylė became famous as rescuers of Jews. Ignoring the fact that, during the war, the German commandant's office was stationed in their house, they helped the Jews imprisoned in the Šiauliai ghetto by hiding them in the house. Danutė Venclauskaitė had a permit to enter the Šiauliai ghetto, so she secretly brought food and medicine with her when she visited. All three women have been awarded the honorary title "Righteous Among the Nations" and the Life Saving Cross.

In 1991, Gražbylė and Danutė Venclauskaitės donated their family house to the Aušros Museum in Šiauliai. The Venclauskiai House-Museum was opened in 2019 after the reconstruction of the building. The permanent exhibition of the museum tells the story of the Venclauskiai family, while the semi-basement rooms are dedicated to the Holocaust and the rescue of the Jews.

On 22 October 2021, the Square for the Righteous Among the Nations (monument) was inaugurated in Šiauliai, at the intersection of Ežero and Vilniaus streets. It is the first monument to the Righteous Among the Nations in Lithuania. The monument was created by the designer Adas Toleikis, a native of Šiauliai, and the idea of the monument was initiated by Sania Kerbelis, the chairman of the Jewish community of Šiauliai County.

The monument "Jungtis" is engraved with the surnames of the "Righteous Among the Nations" of Šiauliai County, thus commemorating 148 Jewish rescuers, while artistic accents mark the gates of the Šiauliai Ghetto. There were two ghettos in Šiauliai: in the so-called Kaukazo Quarter and in the Ežero-Trakų Street Quarter. Physically strong and able-bodied people were sent to the first one, and specialists (doctors, mechanics, etc.) to the second. The Šiauliai Ghetto was established in the summer of 1941 on the orders of the Šiauliai Commandant and liquidated in 1944 with the retreat of Nazi German troops. The remaining Jews were transferred to Stutthof and Dachau concentration camps. More than 5,950 Jews were imprisoned in the Ghettos. During the inter-war period, Šiauliai was home to about 6,500–8,000 Jews, some of whom left voluntarily into mainland Russia. After the Holocaust, there were only about 350–500 Jews left.



182

Square for the Righteous Among the Nations (Monument) ●

Ežero g. 18, Šiauliai, Lietuva
GPS: 55.92573, 23.32551

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visitsiauliai.lt/lankytinos-vietos/
pasaulio-tautu-teisuoliu-skveras-2/



In the village of Kaušėnai (Plungė district), a memorial to the victims of the Kaušėnai Holocaust has been established at the site of the murder of the Jews. The memorial is dedicated to the Jewish communities of Plungė and the surrounding villages that were destroyed during World War II.

The memorial was established based on the initiative of the last Jew of Plungė, Jakovas Bunka. The first monument to the victims of the Second World War was erected in 1952, and in 1986–1989, a memorial to commemorate the murdered Jews was created from oak monuments. 1,800 bricks of the demolished Plungė Synagogue were used to build the Memorial Wall in 2011, where each brick is dedicated to the memory of someone murdered, and plaques with the known names of 1,200 (out of 1,800) Jews are affixed to the wall. The Alleyway of the Rescuers is located near the memorial, and the names of those who rescued the condemned Jews in Plungė and its surroundings during the Nazi occupation are inscribed on the posts in the alleyway.

On 12 and 13 July 1941, about 1,800 Jews from the Plungė district were murdered on Kaušėnai Hill, having been held for two weeks in brutal conditions in the Plungė synagogue before that. On the day of the genocide, those who could were made to walk five kilometres to the place of execution, while the rest were transported in separate groups by lorry. The victims were ordered to dig their own graves and then they were shot.

The memorial is one of the ten most impressive memorials in Europe reflecting the tragedy of the Jewish people.



183

Memorial of the Holocaust Victims in Kaušėnai

Birutės g., Kaušėnai,
Plungės r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.92030, 21.78268

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visitplunge.lt/lankytinos-vietos/kausenu-holokausto-auku-memorialas/



184

Exile and Resistance Museum in Palanga

J. Basanavičiaus g. 21,
Palanga, Lietuva
GPS: 55.91765, 21.06096

T. +370 69995563
visit-palanga.lt/lankytinos-vietos/tremties-ir-rezistencijos-muziejus/



The museum is located in downtown Palanga, in one of the smallest wooden villas of the Palanga resort – Vaidilutė. It was established in 1993, based on the initiative of the Palanga branch of the Lithuanian Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees. The department continues to look after the museum today on a community basis. The volunteers have adapted the villa to the specific needs of the museum and lead the tours themselves.

The exhibition tells the story of the participation of Lithuanians in the resistance movement and the deportations that destroyed people's lives.

Lithuanian Officers' Club Villa "Ramovė" is located in downtown Palanga. It is a typical example of resort building architecture, perfectly fitting into the architectural design of Palanga of the time. It was purchased, renovated and rented by the officer community of the Lithuanian Army.

In 1934, the Club of the Lithuanian Army Officers and Military Officials bought a two-storey villa from the funds donated by club members and named it "Ramovė". The following year, based on the instructions from the Military Housing Unit, the renovation of the villa began. The roof of the villa was repaired, the visitor rooms were furnished, and new furniture was brought in. During the inter-war period, multiple famous officers of the Lithuanian Army and their families stayed in this villa, which was very popular in summer. In 1936, at a general meeting of the Club of Lithuanian Army Officers and Military Officials, the decision was made to prepare a design for a canteen and a new villa for 100 visitors. In 1939, a project for the major reconstruction of the villa was drawn up, which included nine entrances, a glazed hallway in the centre of the building, and a balcony on the second floor. These plans were not meant to become reality, and the renovations resulted in the villa being extended by just a few rooms. On 31 December 1940, the villa and the grounds of the villa were handed over to the Soviet Army.

Today, the villa hosts events and conferences of national defence industries and the events of the Lithuanian Armed Forces, and accommodates soldiers en route to military exercises.



185

Lithuanian Officers' Club Villa "Ramovė"

Birutės al. 46, Palanga, Lietuva
GPS: 55.91541, 21.05627



In around 1928, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the proclamation of the independence of the Republic of Lithuania, the construction of the Freedom Monument was started in Plungė, on Laisvės Avenue, with the monument built in accordance with the design by the artist Kleinauskas. The project was completed in 1931 and was recognised as the highest (18 m) Freedom Monument in Žemaitija.

The idea of the monument did not satisfy the Catholic community of the city, who felt that the main figure of the monument – a plaster sculpture of a winged angel holding a sword and a crown – looked too vulgar and bare. Therefore, the original idea of erecting the Freedom Monument in front of the church was rejected and it was installed on Laisvės Avenue. There is a story that the sculpture has been stoned by the townspeople. The city authorities did not like the monument either – Independence Day celebrations were held at the statue of St Florian, ignoring the Freedom Monument.

Finally, in around 1936, the ruined sculpture was dismantled, and in around 1950–1953, the Soviet occupation authorities blew up the remains of the monument in order to combat the expression of freedom ideas. In 1992, the monument was restored and consecrated. The new sculpture and coat of arms were cast in bronze. The author of the restored monument is sculptor Vilimas Ketvirtis. The sculpture of the angel was cast in St Petersburg, while the coats of arms of Plungė – in Kaunas.



186

Freedom Monument in Plungė

Laisvės al. 10,
Plungė, Lietuva
GPS: 55.91480, 21.84445

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turizmas@plunge.lt



187 Cognitive Nature Trail in the Forest of the God of Thrones with Partisan Bunker and Monuments

Dievo krėslas miškas, Vilkos, Telšiai r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.90041, 22.17552

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turizmocentras@telsiai.lt
visit.telsiai.lt/lankytinos-vietos/dievo-krėslas-miskas/



In 1947, partisans of the Žarėnai company of the Šatrija Unit, led by Edmundas Rekašius-Lakūnas, were stationed in the thicket of the Forest of the God of Thrones (Telšiai district). On 21 May 1949, during an operation by the KGB, a partisan camp was discovered, with 11 partisans in the camp at the time.

Seven partisans, including the commander of the Šatrija unit, Aloyzas Mažutis-Šarūnas, were killed in the exchange of fire. During the operation, four partisans were captured, and three of them – seriously wounded. Company commanders Edmundas Rekašius-Lakūnas and Steponas Rekašius-Darius managed to escape the siege. The burial places of the partisans killed in battle were determined by brothers Alfredas and Romualdas Jonušas, based on eyewitness testimonies and KGB documents. Nowadays, a cognitive trail has been developed at the Forest of the God of Thrones, where you can see the place where partisans died, the memorial cross, as well as the restored bunker where Zigmas Tomkus, the head of the operational division of the Šatrija Unit of Žemaitija County, lived and worked from 1947–1948, and where the partisans of the Šatrija Unit of Žemaitija County stayed in May 1949. While walking along the trail, you can see the restored partisan dugout of the Žarėnai Company, the place where a partisan, Irena Belazaraitė-Žibuoklė, died, where a chapel has been installed, a cross with the surnames of the fallen partisans, a monument to the partisans of Žemaitija, and other memorial items.

The monument to the Soldiers Killed for Lithuania's Freedom in 1919-1920, in the battles of freedom, is located in Kupiškis Cemetery and is part of the Lithuanian Volunteers Memorial. The monument was built based on the design of Antanas Aleksandravičius; funds were donated by the residents of Kupiškis and surrounding towns and villages, as well as members of the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union and the Spring Union. The monument is made of concrete, with steps at the base and a white rectangular obelisk that has white Gediminas columns and a cross at the top on a cubic grey pedestal. This was the basic symbol of the burial of volunteer soldiers, which was not demolished during the Soviet occupation, but the symbolism was covered with plaster at the time.

In 1989, on the initiative of the Sąjūdis of Kupiškis, the monument was reconstructed and consecrated.



188

Monument to the Soldiers Killed for Lithuania's Freedom in 1919-1920

Senosios Kupiškio kapinės, Kupiškis, Lietuva
GPS: 55.84108, 24.99524



In 1936, the largest barracks complex in inter-war Lithuania was completed in Kupiškis. The barracks town, built in the modernist architectural style of the time, consisted of 12 buildings. After the completion of the town, the 4th Infantry Regiment Battalion and the 2nd Battery of the 1st Artillery Regiment were redeployed to Kupiškis Barracks. Today, Kupiškis preserves not only the barracks buildings from the inter-war period, which are now adapted for civilian use, but also a fragment of the regimental firing range – a massive concrete wall. It is believed to be a shooting stand for bullets. At the stand, the regiment set up two rifle ramparts. A sculpture of a Lithuanian infantry soldier from the inter-war period is installed at the top of the concrete wall.



189

Fragment of the 4th Infantry Regiment Rifle Range Wall in Kupiškis ●

P. Mažylio g. 24, Kupiškis, Lietuva
GPS: 55.83535, 24.99090



190

Complex of 4th Infantry Regiment Barracks in Kupiškis ●

Gedimino g. 53 A - F, Kupiškis, Lietuva
GPS: 55.83386, 24.98132



In 1936, the largest complex of barracks in inter-war Lithuania was built in Kupiškis. At the same time, it was the largest building constructed in Kupiškis between the wars, and the inhabitants of the town were also involved in its construction. This is a testimony to the strategic importance of the town in the defence plans of Lithuania to hold off a Polish offensive in the event of war and, at the same time, to cover for the mobilisation effort inside the country. A battalion of the 4th Infantry Regiment and the 2nd Battery of the 1st Artillery Regiment were stationed at Kupiškis barracks, with a total of approximately 700 soldiers.

The barracks town of Kupiškis consisted of approximately 12 buildings, barracks, stables, an officer club, a shooting range, etc. Furthermore, they were modernist architectural style barracks with electricity, air ventilation, water supply, and sewerage systems, which radically changed the living conditions of officers and soldiers and maintained high hygiene standards.

Nowadays, the building at 53B Gedimino Street belongs to Kupiškis District Municipality and is in use. The ground floor of the building houses the sewing workshop of Lelija AS; half of the first floor is used by the association "Sveikatos taku" (On the health path), and Kupiškis Public Library operates the entire third floor of the building.

The museum is located 10 km from Panevėžys, on the left side of the Panevėžys-Pasvalys road (A10; section E67 of Via Baltica) (an informative road sign has been installed). The museum was established in 2016, inspired by the aviator and aviation enthusiast Virmantas Puidokas, and is located on the grounds of the Įstra airfield. The airfield dates back to 1984 when planes took off from the airfield to spread fertilisers or other chemicals on the agricultural fields. The museum has an open-air and indoor exhibition. The open-air exhibition features Soviet-era Su-15, MiG-21 and MiG-23 fighters, Mi-2 and Mi-8 helicopters, as well as L-29 military trainer aircraft built in Czechoslovakia (all aircraft were built in the 1960s and 1970s). Indoor exhibitions introduce the history of aviation in the world and in Lithuania, as well as military aviation equipment, devices and paraphernalia of World War I, World War II and the Cold War. A collection of military pilot equipment, rescue, communication, audio recording and other equipment from different countries is on display, as well as a collection of daggers from the parade uniforms of Air Force officers.



191

"Įstra" Aviation Museum ●●●

Jstro g. 4, Stanionių k., Pajstrio sen.,
Panevėžio r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.82853, 24.36041

T. +370 61839936
info@aviapark.lt
aviapark.lt



The site can be accessed from the town of Antazavė by forest roads.

At the end of 1944, the Lokio Unit of Lithuanian partisans was formed in the area of Antazavė in north-eastern Lithuania. It was led by a former Lithuanian Army officer, Captain Mykolas Kazanas. The unit established five dug-out shelters at Lake Vinčežeris, in the uplands of the dense spruce and pine forests of Antazavė.

On 26 December 1944 (27 December according to other sources), the Battle of Antazavė Forest took place here. It was one of the largest partisan battles in eastern Lithuania. The partisan camp was surrounded by Soviet Army units from Utena and Zarasai, as well as soldiers stationed in Antazavė Parish. After a day-long struggle, 85 partisans managed to break the siege and successfully retreated. One partisan died during the retreat.

Currently, two partisan dugouts have been built on the site of the partisan camp, and battle positions, a cross, a memorial plaque, and benches for visitors to the camp have been installed at the site. The partisans' dugouts are outstanding in terms of their size – they are relatively large and massive underground structures and differed significantly from partisan bunkers that were later built in the forests of Lithuania.



192

Antazavė Battle Site and Partisan Dugout Shelter at Lake Vinčežeris ●

Antazavės sen., Zarasų r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.81584, 25.89458



193

Soviet Army Military Base in the Green Forest / "Bunker" Park of Ideas ●

Vabalninko g. 73, Likpetrių k., Karsakiškis sen., Panevėžio r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.80846, 24.43068

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info@idejuparkasbunkeris.lt
idejuparkasbunkeris.lt



It is located near Paliūniškis, on the left side of the Paliūniškis-Vabalninkas road (KK191) (a signpost is installed), and it is accessible by a forest road.

Green Forest is the place where the participants of the 1863–1864 uprising, the murderers of the Jews of 1941, as well as the Soviet and Lithuanian partisans, have left their traces. It was also used by the Soviet Army. The forest was the site of a Soviet Air Force training ground, where bombing and shooting exercises took place. Locals have nicknamed the site "the bombardieria" because of the bomb pits that still persist. A Soviet military base was also stationed in the forest. Little is known about its purpose and history. It was probably built between 1961 and 1977 and is believed to have been a reserve base for military communications. The media, however, likes to refer to it as the Reserve Command Post of the Baltic Military District. A reinforced concrete panel fence, a bunker and ruins of ancillary buildings have been preserved.

In 2019, an amusement park – the "Bunker" Park of Ideas – was created here. The former bunker has Cold War-era military and civil defence equipment on display, and there is also a horror room in the bunker, with extensive use of military equipment and Soviet-era household items as decorations. The bunker is surrounded by a park of metal sculptures.

A restored deportation train carriage is located near Radviliškis railway station as a reminder of the tragic history of the mass deportations of the inhabitants of the Republic of Lithuania to remote areas of the Soviet Union by the Soviet occupation authorities from 1941–1952. More than 3,000 people were deported from Radviliškis alone.

In total, approximately 135,500 people were deported from Lithuania from 1941–1952. On 14 June 1941 – the first day of mass deportations in Lithuania – train carriages began to be "filled" with the inhabitants of Radviliškis and the surrounding area.

In 2012, the carriage was handed over to Radviliškis District Municipality by the Vytautas the Great Special Operations Jaeger Battalion of Lithuanian Armed Forces with the mediation of the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania. The authentic deportation train carriage was brought from Kaunas and carefully restored by the railwaymen, and now it houses a small exhibition.



194

Deportation Train Carriage ● ●

Laisvės al. 13, Radviliškis, Lietuva
GPS: 55.80499, 23.53783

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tic@inforadviliskis.lt
visitsiauliai.lt/lankytinos-vietos/
tremimu-traukinio-vagonas/



A bunker of the Molotov defence line is preserved next to the gravel road between Pikteikiai and Žalsėnai, in a place that is easily accessible by car.

The Molotov defence line was a hastily constructed Soviet fortification defence line built in 1940–1941 and stretching across the territory of Lithuania, Poland, Belarus, and Ukraine, occupied and annexed by the USSR in 1939–1940. The Molotov defence line in Lithuania was divided into the fortifications of Telšiai, Šiauliai, Kaunas, and Alytus; the entire length of the line was 328 km (from Palanga to Kalvarija). Construction of 101 concrete bunkers started in the Lithuanian section of the line, but none of them were completed and fully equipped by the outbreak of the German-Russian War in June 1941. Although the Molotov defence line was designed for defence against an attack by German troops, it did not fulfil its function during the German-Russian War.



195

Molotov Defence Line Bunker

Pikteikiai, Vėžaičių sen., Klaipėdos r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.79794, 21.43744



196

“Memel-Nord” Coastal Artillery Battery

Pasakos g. 2, Kukuliškių k.,
Kretingalės sen., Klaipėdos r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.77822, 21.07403

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memelnord@gmail.com



The “Memel-Nord” Coastal Artillery Battery is located in Giruliai, next to the “Olando kepurė” (Dutch hat) on the Baltic Sea coast.

The “Memel-Nord” Coastal Artillery Battery is a part of the coastal defence system of the German Navy, built in 1939 after the annexation of the Klaipėda region to Germany and the beginning of the fortification works of the city. “Memel-Nord” is an integral part of the fortifications of Klaipėda fortifications, consisting of two coastal artillery and six air defence batteries.

The fortifications of the coastal artillery battery were built in two phases: In April and May 1939, temporary fortifications were built for the coastal artillery battery, and at the end of 1939, a decision was made to extend them by developing a permanent position. For this purpose, the coastal artillery battery was equipped with four gun emplacements, equipped with 150 mm SKL-45 guns, fire control posts and an ammunition depot for 150 artillery shells. After the completion of the works, the battery was named “Brommy”.

The battery consists of three structures, with a concrete fire control point in the centre and two artillery blocks with ammunition depots next to it. Since 2002, an exhibition on the history of the Klaipėda region has been opened in one of the artillery blocks.

The “Nordmolle” (North pier) air defence battery was built in the northern part of Klaipėda – Melnragė, on the shore of the Baltic Sea.

The air defence battery is a part of the coastal and air defence system of the German Navy. The construction of the battery was started in 1939 after the annexation of the Klaipėda region to Germany and the beginning of the military fortification works of the city. The main function of the battery was the air defence of Klaipėda. From 1939–1944, the air defence battery was armed with four 88 mm SKC-30 guns; the fortifications of the battery consisted of gun positions, with underground passages that connected gun positions, and served as an ammunition depot.

The site was abandoned at the end of January 1945.



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“Nordmolle” Air Defence Battery

Melnragė, Klaipėda, Lietuva
GPS: 55.73461, 21.08647



The expositions are located in downtown Panevėžys. The Soviets confiscated the house, built at the end of the 19th century for the prominent Moigiai family of Panevėžys. From 1940–1941 it housed the headquarters of the Soviet military unit, the interrogation department of the NKGB (People's Commissariat for State Security) of Panevėžys District and the militia. From 1944 to 1953 it was the headquarters of the Panevėžys County NKGB-MOI-KGB. It is now the premises of the Panevėžys Local Lore Museum.

The Exposition "Okupacijų gniaužtuose" ("In the Squeeze of Occupations") presents the Nazi and Soviet occupations. It introduces the themes of the Jewish and Roma genocide, deportations and the themes of partisan war. The part of the exhibition devoted to the years 1953–1990 tells the story of everyday life in Khrushchevka, the efforts of the Soviet government to create a Soviet society, the resistance of people to this violence, and the activities of the underground. You can hear recordings of radio broadcasts from abroad, secretly listened to by the people of the time, with radio interference caused by the Soviet authorities.

The exhibition "Raudonasis teroras" ("Red Terror") is dedicated to the memory of the victims who were killed in the basement of this house, shot at the Panevėžys sugar factory, as well as the history of the crimes committed by the Soviet occupation regime. The hopes of free people and the destruction thereof under Soviet rule are allegorically depicted in time and space – the interior of the apartment of the merciful Sister Zinaida Kanis-Kanevičienė at the time of the independent Lithuania, who was tortured to death, and a replica of the interrogation room of the NKGB.



198

Expositions "Okupacijų gniaužtuose" ("In Squeeze of Occupations") and "Raudonasis teroras" ("Red Terror") at the Panevėžys Local Lore Museum



Vasario 16-osios g. 23, Panevėžys, Lietuva
GPS: 55.73008, 24.35836

T. +370 45596181
informacija@paneveziomuziejus.lt
paneveziomuziejus.lt/lt/ekspozicijos



199 Exposition on the Resistance to Soviet Occupation and Sąjūdis at the Panevėžys Local Lore Museum

Respublikos g. 17,
Panevėžys, Lietuva
GPS: 55.72951, 24.35955

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paneveziomuziejus.lt/lt/ekspozicijos



The exposition is located in an authentic place – the premises of the Panevėžys group of the Lithuanian reform movement "Sąjūdis". The Sąjūdis of Panevėžys has been operating here since October 1988.

In 2004, an exposition on the resistance to the Soviet occupation and an exhibition dedicated to the "Sąjūdis" were opened in the building. The exposition reveals the extent and forms of popular resistance starting from 15 June 1940 to 11 March 1990, and introduces the most important stages and events of the anti-Soviet movement, as well as Soviet repressions.

Although the complex of barracks in Klaipėda was a military facility, today the barracks have been converted by the University of Klaipėda for its own use, and the former military campus preserves multiple remnants of its military past.

The barracks were built in 1904–1907 under a contract between the Magistrate of Klaipėda and the Prussian Military Administration. The finished barracks complex (architect unknown) consisted of eight main (brick) buildings, six of which have survived to date, and a wooden auxiliary building. The two main buildings were intended for the accommodation of soldiers. Sub-lieutenants and lieutenants used to live in the buildings along what is now Herkaus Manto Street.

From 1907 to 1914, the barracks housed the 3rd Battalion of the 41st "von Boyen" infantry Regiment, which fought on the Eastern Front during World War I and, in 1916, at the famous Battle of Verdun. From 1919–1920, the barracks were used by the volunteer battalion of the 41st Infantry Regiment of the Prussian Volunteer Corps, which was being formed at the time, as well as one battalion of the 223rd Regiment and one battalion of the 103rd Regiment that were sent to Klaipėda. From 1920–1923, the barracks belonged to the 21st Infantry Riflemen Battalion of the French Army, from 1923–1934 – to the 7th Infantry Regiment of the Duke of Žemaitija Butigeidis of the Lithuanian Army, and from 1934–1939 – to the 6th Regiment of the Duke of Pilėnai Margiris. The former military town can only be seen from the outside.



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Complex of Barracks in Klaipėda (now Klaipėda University buildings)

Herkaus Manto g. 84, Klaipėda, Lietuva
GPS: 55.72382, 21.12405



"Escape bunker 1944" is located in the city centre of Klaipėda.

It is a German Army tunnel shelter built in 1944 to help the civilian population of Klaipėda survive the bombing and artillery shelling of World War II. This shelter is believed to have been built by the Railway Administration of the Reich. The bunker is made of one-metre-thick reinforced concrete walls with an earth embankment on top.

Since 2009, the shelter has been included in the Register of Immovable Cultural Property of the Republic of Lithuania, and the site has been marked with a military heritage label. Long neglected, it was restored in 2016 pursuant to a private initiative. It is now an escape room, a room for solving puzzles, which, consequently, prevents the shelter from deteriorating while creating entertainment for the residents.



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"Escape bunker 1944"

Priestočio g. 1 B,
Klaipėda, Lietuva
GPS: 55.72079, 21.13371

T. +370 62261289
escapebunker1944@gmail.com
escapebunker.lt



202 Exposition on Exile and Resistance Movement at the History Museum of Lithuania Minor

S. Nėries g. 4, Klaipėda, Lietuva
GPS: 55.71784, 21.13470

T. +370 46410527
info@mlimuziejus.lt
mlimuziejus.lt/lt/muziejus/tremties-ir-rezistencijos-ekspozicija/



The exposition is located in the central part of Klaipėda. After the Soviet occupation, the repressive structures (NKGB, KGB) in Klaipėda were located in the city buildings at 2 and 4 S. Nėries Street. People were imprisoned, interrogated and tortured here. Between 1945 and 1953, 8,268 people were imprisoned in the basement cells (the so-called inner prison) of the 4th house at S. Nėries Street. The KGB used these buildings until the mid-1990s when it moved to other premises. In 1992, the building at 4 S. Nėries Street housed the Klaipėda Territorial Customs Office, and in 2014, an Exposition on Exile and Resistance Movement was opened in the basement of the building. Visitors can see two authentic cells and a restored interrogation room. The exposition introduces the visitor to the Soviet repressive structures, the partisan war in Western Lithuania, the procedure of deportations carried out in Klaipėda region, and the stories of political prisoners. The peculiar history of the Klaipėda region (compared to other regions of Lithuania) determined the fact that the anti-Soviet movement also had its own peculiarities. In an improvised interrogation room, visitors are given the opportunity to experience the oppressive and terrifying environment that a person who'd fallen into the hands of repressive structures had to endure.

The park is located in Klaipėda between K. Donelaičio, Liepų, Trilapio and S. Daukanto streets.

Sculpture Park in Klaipėda is a multi-layered witness to the history of the city and of the world. A cemetery, a park, a memorial, a place for art – all this and more can be accommodated in one area.

In 1944–1945, the Soviet occupiers regained their positions in Lithuania, but Klaipėda was left without its old inhabitants. The once new, now old, city cemetery was left neglected. Finally, in 1977, it was disposed of, a Sculpture Park was built instead, and the installation of artworks began.

Today, the park is known as an open-air sculpture gallery of Lithuania's mature modernism. 116 works created during the Soviet period (1977–1989) are on display here. Alongside works of art and relics of the ancient cemetery, monuments are also displayed here:

- Memorial to the events of the 1923 Klaipėda Uprising (1925);
- Memorial to the Soviet soldiers of World War II (1949–1980), part of which was dismantled in 2022 after the outbreak of the war of Russia against Ukraine;
- a memorial stone to the old inhabitants of Klaipėda – the Memelenders (1992).

French prisoners of the Franco-Prussian War, German Imperial soldiers of the First World War, soldiers of Independent Lithuania, Belgian, Polish and French prisoners of the Second World War are also honoured with commemorative signs.



203

Sculpture Park in Klaipėda

Tarp K. Donelaičio, Liepų, Trilapio ir
S. Daukanto gatvių, Klaipėda, Lietuva
GPS: 55.71718, 21.14160

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skulpturu.parkas@mlimuziejus.lt
mlimuziejus.lt/park/



The Memel-Sud (English: Klaipėda-South) coastal artillery battery is located in Smiltynė – the Klaipėda part of Curonian Spit.

"Memel Sud" Coastal Artillery Battery is a part of the coastal and air defence system of the German Navy, the construction of which was started in 1939 after the annexation of the Klaipėda region to Germany and the beginning of the fortification works of the city.

The fortifications of the coastal artillery battery were built in two phases. In April and May 1939, temporary fortifications were built for the coastal artillery battery, and at the end of 1939, a decision was made to extend them by developing a permanent position; however, the planned works were not performed. The coastal artillery battery was equipped with four gun positions for 150 mm SKL-45 guns, and the battery was named "Jachmann".

Nowadays, there is a path leading to the sea next to the fortifications of the battery, as well as an information stand.



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"Memel Sud" Coastal Artillery Battery

Smiltynė, Klaipėda, Lietuva
GPS: 55.71140, 21.09905



205

M52 "Sūduvis" Mine Countermeasures Ship-Museum

Danės g. 5, Klaipėda, Lietuva
GPS: 55.70899, 21.12945

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info@muziejus.lt
muziejus.lt/lt/laivas-muziejus-m52-suduvis



The M52 "Sūduvis" mine countermeasures ship-museum is located on the Karališkoji Danės waterfront of Klaipėda, next to Castle Bridge.

It is a "Lindau" mine trawler class ship, built in 1956–1958 in West Germany. The mission of these ships is to detect and destroy sea mines. The hull was therefore made of Brazilian oak, the deck of teak, and the machinery, of non-magnetic metal.

From 1958 to 1999, the ship belonged to the German Navy and was named M1071 "Koblenz". From 1978–1979, it was converted from a mine trawler to a mine hunter.

In 1999, the ship was transferred to the Lithuanian Navy. Navy ships are traditionally named after historical regions of Lithuania, so the received ship was also named M52 "Sūduvis". The ship served Lithuania for 22 years, taking part in international and national exercises and operations. In 2021, the ship left the service of the Lithuanian Navy and was handed over to the Lithuanian Maritime Museum. Then, M52 "Sūduvis" was opened to the public and adapted for the needs of museum and educational use. The vessel on display has authentic operational equipment.

The French Commissariat is located in the Old Town of Klaipėda. After the First World War, the Treaty of Versailles separated the Klaipėda region (Memel Gebiet or Territoire de Memel) from Germany. In January 1920, the administration of the district was taken over from the German representative by the French-appointed administrator, Brigadier-General, Dominique Odry, who settled at 3 Perkasy Street (now Sukilėlių Street). Thus, from 1920–1923, the Prefecture became the seat of the French Commissariat General and the most important state institution in the Klaipėda region.

On 10–15 January 1923, a well-organised and successfully executed military operation organised by the Lithuanian government, the army and the Riflemen Union took place, which was known as the "Klaipėda County Uprising" for a long time. After that, Klaipėda was annexed to Lithuania. During the military operation, the 2nd (Pagėgiai) Battle Group of Special Task Force, led by Mykolas Kalmantas-Bajoras, broke into and occupied the Prefecture building. High Commissioner Gabriel Petišnė was forced to raise the white flag and surrender.

In cultural history, the Prefecture is associated with the victory of the "rebels", which was the final part of the annexation of Klaipėda. Therefore, the theatrical storming of the prefecture, which is imitated by the reconstructors of war history, is depicted when the annexation of Klaipėda to Lithuania is commemorated.



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French Commissariat in Klaipėda

Sukilėlių g. 8, Klaipėda, Lietuva
GPS: 55.70733, 21.13205



The exposition is located in the central part of Klaipėda. When the Soviets occupied Lithuania in 1940, Klaipėda and the region of Klaipėda were already part of the German Reich. In January 1945, Klaipėda was captured by the Red Army. According to the registration data of the war commandant, only 28 civilians were left in the town at the time. The new Soviet period in Klaipėda began. One repressive regime was replaced with another.

The exposition "Sovietmečio pėdsakais" ("In the Footsteps of the Soviet Era") aims to reflect the Soviet era and the changes that began in the late 1990s and to help understand the complex Soviet atmosphere. The exposition tells the story of the new inhabitants, the construction of the "socialist" Klaipėda, the Soviet ideology and propaganda efforts, the desire to destroy everything that was national, folk and civic, as well as religious consciousness. Different stories and themes are revealed: the interior of a Soviet-era living room of an intelligent person illustrates the everyday life of people of that time; an improvised "red corner" and the Soviet slogans reflect the methods and banality of Soviet propaganda; a computer terminal demonstrates the construction of Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace Church in Klaipėda and its fate in 1957–1963, etc.



207 Exposition "Sovietmečio pėdsakais" ("In the Footsteps of the Soviet Era") at the History Museum of Lithuania Minor ●

Didžioji Vandens g. 2,
Klaipėda, Lietuva
GPS: 55.70716, 21.13443

T. +370 60101082
info@mliuziejus.lt
mliuziejus.lt/lt/muziejus/mazosios-lietuvos-istorijos-muziejus/



208 World War II Exposition "Muziejus 39/45" ●

Priešpilio g. 2, Klaipėda, Lietuva
GPS: 55.70578, 21.12945

T. +370 60101082
info@mliuziejus.lt
mliuziejus.lt/lt/pilies-muziejus-muziejus-39-45/



"Muziejus 39/45", which belongs to the History Museum of Lithuania Minor, tells the story of the Second World War events in Klaipėda and the region. The museum is located under a rampart on the eastern side of the former Klaipėda Castle, where German troops had set up an explosives depot during the war.

The exposition of the museum is modern and engaging for visitors: the exposition consists of four halls that present different periods of the wartime, and 13 interactive points have been installed in the halls. The hall "Klaipėda on the Eve of War" displays historical documents and photos, while the radical changes in Europe of the time are described on an original animated map. The hall "The Storming of Klaipėda" reflects the very tragic history of Klaipėda and its inhabitants, while the second hall "Klaipėda after the War" features an installation commemorating the demolished churches of the city. The last one – the Hall of Memories – features a symbolic six-metre-long carriage with a glass roof, under which multiple simple household objects that once belonged to both German soldiers and Klaipėda civilians are on display. The glass is coated with a layer of sand, so you have to brush the sand off with your fingers to see the exhibits.

Located in Šimonys Forest, along road No. 1216 (a sign and a stand have been installed). Šimonys Forest was known in the post-war Lithuanian partisan struggle as the centre of activity of the largest partisan unit in Aukštaitija, the Algimantas military district. Approximately 200 partisans were operating in the area in 1945, while by 1952, there were only 20–30. From 1947 to 1949, the Šimonys Forest was used by the commander of the East Lithuania (King Mindaugas) partisan territory, Captain Jonas Kimštas-Žalgiris, and in 1949, by the commander who took over from him, Antanas Starkus-Montė, as hiding places – command posts from which the partisan movement in Aukštaitija was coordinated. The route of the partisan battles of the Algimantas military district invites you to get acquainted with six partisan hideouts of the Algimantas military district, created by the partisans of the Žalioji, Šarūnas and Kunigaikštis Mārgiris (King Mārgiris) units, who hid and fought here. There are two walking routes of different lengths (5 and 10 km) in Šimonys Forest, which invite you to follow the paths of the partisans.



209 Along the Trails of the Partisan Battles of the Algimantas Military District ●

Šimonių giria, Anykščių r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.69902, 25.30313



One of the three Holocaust sites of the Jews of Šeduva is located in Pakuteniai Forest (Radviliškis district), about eight kilometres south-east of Šeduva, on a gravel road.

In August 1941, 27 Jews were murdered here, including the last rabbi of Šeduva, Mordechai David Henkin. In two other places, approximately 700 people were killed in Liaudiškiai Forest.

On 25 June 1941, the Nazis occupied Šeduva, and at the beginning of July, the Jews of the town were forcibly evicted from their homes and driven to the neighbouring village of Pavartyčiai, where a ghetto was established. On 25–26 August, a small part of the captured were shot in Pakuteniai forest, and the rest – in Liaudiškiai Forest.

From 2014–2015, pursuant to the initiative of the Jewish Memorial Foundation of Šeduva, the sites of these murders were cleaned up and made accessible to visitors. The monument "Home of the Star of Light", by sculptor Romas Kvintas, is erected on the site of the murder of the Jews of the village of Pakuteniai.



210

Jewish Holocaust Site in Šeduva, Pakuteniai Village ●

Pakutenių m., Baisogalos sen.,
Radviliškio r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.69332, 23.77911

T. +370 69844091
tic@inforadviliskis.lt
loststetl.lt/en/jewish-cemetery-and-holocaust-sites/



211 The Site of the First and Second Jewish Holocaust in Šeduva ●

Liaudiškių k., Baisogalos sen.,
Radviliškio r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.69222, 23.66069

T. +370 69844091
tic@inforadviliskis.lt
loststetl.lt/en/jewish-cemetery-and-holocaust-sites/



The sites of the First and Second Jewish Holocaust in Šeduva are located in Liaudiškiai Forest (Radviliškis district), about 10 km south of Šeduva. A direction sign has been installed next to the gravel road.

The first Jewish burial site covers an area of 375 m² and is mostly paved and surrounded by forest. Approximately 400 people were murdered and buried there. The second burial site is located about 500 m away. The remains of Jews are buried in an area of 144 m². The site is flat and most of it is paved. Approximately 300 people were murdered and buried there.

In 1941, the entire Jewish community of Šeduva – almost 700 people – were murdered at these two sites. A month before their deaths, they were still held in the ghetto set up in the village of Pavartyčiai. On 25 and 26 August, the inhabitants of the ghetto were taken to Liaudiškiai Forest. The people were taken to a dug-out pit and killed by local policemen and hired help on the orders of the Germans. Among those killed were 230 men, 275 women and 159 children.

From 2014–2015, pursuant to the initiative of the Jewish Memorial Foundation of Šeduva, the sites of these murders were cleaned up and made accessible to visitors. Two statues by sculptor Romas Kvintas are erected at the sites of the mass killings: "The Door" and "Ray – Star".

The exposition is located in Turmantas of Zarasai district. During World War I, Turmantas was an important logistical point for the German 88th Division on the Eastern Front. The World War I exposition in Turmantas is part of the international route "Along the Trails of the First World War" and is located in the primary school building of the town. The modern and virtual-reality-enhanced exposition features many unique artefacts, replicas and photographs of World War I, as well as introduces the combat conditions and lives of soldiers on the Eastern Front, their weapons and ammunition, as well as uniforms and equipment.



212

World War I Exposition in Turmantas ●

Tilžės g. 21, Turmantas,
Zarasų r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.69176, 26.46681

T. +370 62023114



In a field near Endriejavas, it is possible to see the preserved and unfinished Molotov Line bunker.

The Molotov defence line was a hastily constructed Soviet fortification defence line built in 1940–1941 and stretching across the territory of Lithuania, Poland, Belarus, and Ukraine, occupied and annexed by the USSR in 1939–1940. The Molotov defence line in Lithuania was divided into the fortifications of Telšiai, Šiauliai, Kaunas, and Alytus; the entire length of the line was 328 km (from Palanga to Kalvarija). Construction of 101 concrete bunkers started in the Lithuanian section of the line, but none of them were completed and fully equipped by the outbreak of the German-Russian War in June 1941. Although the Molotov defence line was designed for defence against an attack by German troops, it did not fulfil its function during the German-Russian War.



213

Molotov Defence Line Bunker ●

Endriejavas, Endriejavo sen., Klaipėdos r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.68766, 21.70300



214

Blindages of the Tilžė Defence Line ●

Tilžės miškas, Zarasų r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.66633, 26.56569

T. +370 62023114



Tilžė Forest can be reached by forest roads (there are signs and boards).

From 1915–1918, the 88th Division of the German 8th Army fought against the Russian Army on this section of the front. The defence line was situated here, where three blindages have been preserved. A blindage is a military field shelter designed to protect soldiers from artillery, machine-gun and rifle fire. All three blindages were built to a standard design, with only their size differing. They were built of the strongest construction materials – concrete and rebar – and were adapted to the terrain to be as inconspicuous as possible, either by being dug into the hills or by being incorporated into a more extensive system of trenches.

The blindages are located in the village of Tilžė, just next to road No. 5303.

Two blindages of the 88th Division of the German 8th Army, which fought against the Russian Army on this front from 1915–1918, were designed to protect the soldiers from enemy fire. They were made of concrete. A small amount of reinforcement is visible in the roof structure of the shelter. The inscriptions "88 J.D.T." preserved on the beams of the blindages (metal gutters) indicate that they were made by units of the 88th Division.



215

Blindages of the German Army Support Point in Tilžė Village ●

Tilžės k., Turmanto sen., Zarasų r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.66028, 26.56587

T. +370 62023114



The WWI German Army Blindage (command post) is located in the village of Kimbartiškė, next to road No. 5303. From 1915–1918, the 88th Division of the German 8th Army fought against the Russian Army on this section of the front. A blindage (command post) was situated here. It was built from the most durable building materials – concrete and rebar – and has two entrances with a small row of windows between them. The blindage had electricity, and water was taken from a nearby well; there were two stoves, wooden benches and a sleeping ledge. The premises for the officers, communications offices and redressing rooms had white walls.

This massive building is built to take advantage of the rugged terrain; therefore, it is installed in a small depression. It is an example of a passive fortification structure. Passive structures were not designed for active defence. They were designed to protect soldiers and ammunition from devastating artillery fire. Inside the structure, there are traces of whitewash on the walls. The site is identified as a former command post.



216 WWI German Army Blindage (Command Post) ●

Kimbartiškės k., Turmanto sen., Zarasų r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.65972, 26.55416

T. +370 62023114



217 Alksnynė Defence Complex ●

Alksnynės g. 1 - 3, Neringa, Lietuva
GPS: 55.65722, 21.12444



The anti-aircraft artillery battery was installed in Smiltynė, the Klaipėda part of the Curonian Spit.

The air defence artillery battery is a part of the coastal and air defence system of the German Navy. Its construction was started in 1939 after the annexation of the Klaipėda region to Germany and the beginning of the military reinforcement works of the city. The main function of the battery was the air defence of Klaipėda. From 1939–1944, the air defence battery was armed with four 128 mm Flak-40 guns, and the battery structures included gun emplacements, underground rooms, a command post, an ammunition depot, and a power generator building.

In 1945, German troops retreated and destroyed all the equipment of the battery. Nowadays, the complex is located within the Curonian Spit National Park.

The site can be reached by turning off road No. 5303 and continuing along forest roads.

From 1915–1918, this was the site of a complex of four artillery battery positions of the 88th Division of the German 8th Army, which fought against the Russian Army on this front. A German artillery battery consisted of 2–3 fire platoons and a fire control platoon or division. One battery had two covered casemates for the guns, staff quarters and ammunition depot. The casemates had to not only protect the guns, ammunition and personnel from shelling but also from aerial reconnaissance. All artillery gun emplacements, the fire correction point and the fire control section were connected by a telephone line. A concrete fire correction point, observation and shelter bunkers are preserved in this position.



218 German Army Artillery Positions in Kimbartiškė Village ●

Kimbartiškės k., Turmanto sen., Zarasų r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.64831, 26.53777

T. +370 62023114



In the autumn of 1948, the farm of partisan supporters A. and S. Mikniai in the village of Minaičiai (Radviliškis district) was chosen as the wintering place for the Priskėlimo Military District headquarters. The partisans dug a small bunker under the barn to house the staff of the district.

On 16 February 1949, the partisan commanders in Minaičiai finalised and published the declaration of the Lithuanian freedom struggle "Sąjūdis". The main aim of the Declaration was to restore Lithuania to a parliamentary republic (as it was from 1920–1926). Eight people formally attended the meetings: Jonas Žemaitis-Vytautas, Juozas Šibaila-Merainis, Petras Bartkus-Žadgaila, Adolfo Ramanauskas-Vanagas, Aleksandras Gribinas-Faustas, Vytautas Gužas-Kardas, Leonardas Grigonis-Užpalis, and Bronius Liesys-Naktis.

The bunker was also used later. A partisan pharmacist Izabelė Vilimaitė-Stirna treated partisan Laurynas Mingilas-Džiugas, who was seriously wounded in the Battle of Užpelkiai. In 1953, the unoccupied bunker caved in and the owners earth-filled it.

In 2010, the work on the restoration of the partisan bunker and barn, as well as the construction of the monument began. The monument, created by sculptor Jonas Jagėla, bears the names of the partisans who signed the Declaration. An authentic, glass-roofed partisan bunker has been built in the barn, and the visitors are provided an opportunity to see it from above; there is also an exhibition in the barn.



219

Sąjūdis Memorial to Lithuanian Freedom Fighters in Minaičiai (Minaičiai Bunker-Museum)

Partizanų g. 8, Minaičių k.
Radviliškio r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.62764, 23.55284

T. +370 69825197
milrimma@gmail.com
inforadviliskis.lt/lankytinos-vietos/minaičiai-lietuvos-istorine-sostine/



220

Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant

Elektrinės g. 12/1, Drūkšiniai,
Visagino sav., Lietuva
GPS: 55.60019, 26.56443

T. +370 65817766
info@iae.lt
iae.lt/pazintines-ekskursijos/579



Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant is located at a distance of 6 km from Visaginas, on the Visaginas-Ignalina road (KK177).

It is the only former nuclear power plant in the Baltic states. It is sometimes called the "sister" of Chernobyl because both plants have Soviet-made RBMK reactors. The first reactor (power block) of the Ignalina Power Plant was commissioned in 1983. It was planned to install four such reactors. After the installation of all the units, Ignalina was to become the most powerful nuclear power plant in the world.

The second reactor was due to be commissioned in 1986, but the Chernobyl accident postponed the start-up. However, in 1987, it was put into operation. In 1988, based on the initiative of the Lithuanian reform movement Sąjūdis, the "Ring of Life" campaign was organised in front of the power plant against the construction of Unit 3. The construction of the plant was conserved, and it was finally stopped in 1989. After the accident at Chernobyl, the safety system of RBMK-type reactors was upgraded but their proliferation was stopped.

Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records. It became famous again in 2019 as the location for the production of HBO and Sky UK TV miniseries Chernobyl. Decommissioning works of the nuclear power plant started in 2010. Nowadays, tours of the plant are organised and an exhibition hall has been set up.

After driving past Andrioniškis Cemetery (there is a signpost), there is a preserved hideout – a command post. From 1944–1949, a command post of the Lithuanian partisans of the Eastern Lithuania (King Mindaugas) region operated in this hiding place. In the summer of 1944, Balys Žukauskas, with brothers Petras and Juozas Jovaišos, established the hiding place to evade the mobilisation announced by the Red Army in 1944. At the end of 1945, Antanas Slučka-Šarūnas started to use the hiding place. He was the first one to form a partisan unit in the Troškūnai area and later united the partisans of Rokiškis, Anykščiai, Kavarskas, Troškūnai, and Andrioniškis to form the Šarūnas Unit. In 1947, A. Slučka-Šarūnas became the commander of the Algimantas district, and in 1949 – the commander of the Eastern Lithuania partisan region. This means that from 1949, the hiding place became the command post of the Lithuanian partisans in the Eastern Lithuania region. The hiding place, which had successfully sheltered partisans for five years, was betrayed on 28 October 1949. The farm where the partisans were hiding was besieged by KGB troops; the partisans refused to surrender and blew themselves up.

The bunker has been preserved, and a cross and a monument to the fallen have been installed.



221

Eastern Lithuania (King Mindaugas) Region Lithuanian Partisan Command Post

Butkiškio k., Andrioniškio sen., Anykščių r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.59779, 25.03154



The monument is located in the centre of Troškūnai, Anykščiai district, near the Church of Holy Trinity. During the partisan war of 1944–1953, the territory of Lithuania was divided into nine partisan military regions. From 1947–1950, partisan units of the Algimantas region of Lithuania, the establishment of which is closely related to Troškūnai, were active in the Panevėžys and Anykščiai area. The inhabitants of this town organised partisan units in Aukštaitija. The first partisan commander of the Algimantas region, Antanas Slučka-Sarūnas, was born and lived in Troškūnai.

In 1996, pursuant to the initiative of the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, a monument dedicated to the partisans of the Algimantas Military District was erected in Troškūnai. The monument was created by sculptor Jonas Jagėla and architect Audronė Kiaušinienė. The main part of the monument is a black stone gate that symbolises the fallen defenders of the homeland. The bronze crosses on the sides of the gate symbolise the Christian faith, while the bronze sword, like the sword of St Michael the Archangel, symbolises the light of faith and hope. In the square in front of the monument, a black stone plaque commemorates the three units of the Algimantas region: Šarūnas, Žalioji and Kunigaikštis Mārgiris.



222

Monument Dedicated to Algimantas Military District Partisans ●

Troškūnų miestelio aikštė, Troškūnų sen., Anykščių r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.58700, 24.86965



223

Museum of the History of Freedom Fights and Exile in Priekulė ●●

Klaipėdos g. 29, Priekulė,
Klaipėdos r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.55666, 21.31707

T. +370 69626175
tremties@gargzdumuziejus.lt
gargzdumuziejus.lt/filialas-laisves-kovu-ir-tremties-istorijos-muziejus-3/



The museum is located in Priekulė, on Klaipėdos Street (a signpost has been installed).

The museum is situated in the buildings of the former East Prussian Gendarmerie Station. They were built in 1909 to a standard design. In the post-war period, the buildings housed repressive structures of the Soviet Union: From 1945–1950, there was a sub-division of the NKGB-MOI-KGB of Priekulė Parish, from 1950–1953 – a division of the KGB of Priekulė district, and from 1946–1953 – the headquarters of the Priekulė eliminators. People were interrogated and tortured in the main building of the former parish administration and its basement, detainees were imprisoned in a former outbuilding, and the bodies of people who had been killed were dumped in another building. The bodies were then buried in the garden or taken to Drukiai peat bog.

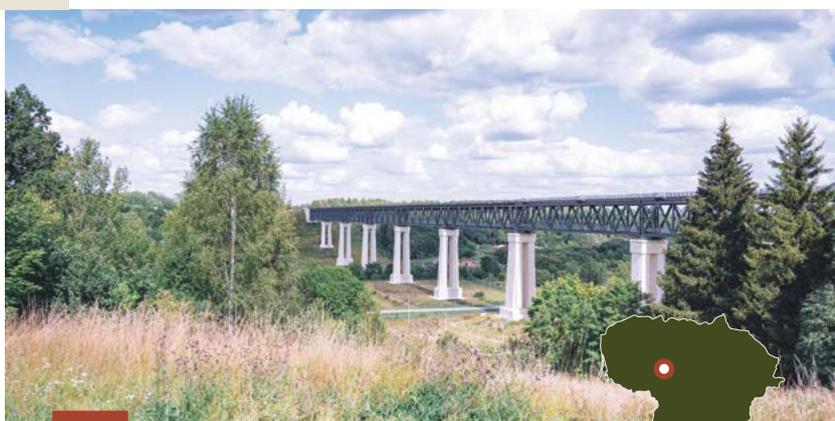
The museum has been located in these premises since 2006. The main themes of the exhibition include the post-war resistance struggles and deportations in this region of Klaipėda. The museum also has an open-air exhibition: a deportation carriage and a replica of a partisan bunker. Memorial signs have been placed on the museum grounds: a chapel has been built, and wooden sculptures by folk artists and a memorial at the mass grave site have been installed.

The bridge is located on kilometre 50.7 of the Radviliškis-Pagėgiai railway and crosses the Dubysa valley. It is the longest (599 m) and highest (42 m) railway bridge in Lithuania. The first wooden Lyduvėnai Bridge was built by imperial Germany in 1916. Due to the threat of fire, the decision was made to rebuild the bridge, by replacing the wood with concrete and metal structures. The bridge was opened on 17 May 1918 and was named after Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg, commander of the German Army.

After Lithuania regained its independence, the bridge was intensively used for both domestic transport and international transit. In 1937, three reinforced concrete fortifications were built to protect the bridge in the event of war (one of them remains to date).

Despite attempts to protect the bridge (it was bombed several times unsuccessfully), it was blown up by the retreating Nazi German troops on 26 July 1944. The Soviet Army quickly installed a temporary wooden bridge on new piers. In 1951, the restoration of the steel bridge on nine piers of two types began: six new piers were Russian-built, while three – German-built piers that have survived since 1918. The first train was launched over the restored bridge on 1 May 1952.

Since the end of 2023, after the last reconstruction of the bridge, tourist excursions have been organised along the bridge maintenance walkway, which is installed under the rails.



224

Lyduvėnai Railway Bridge ●●●

Tilto g. 4, Lyduvėnai,
Raseinių r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.50604, 23.08693

T. +370 61425095
dubysos.rp@saugoma.lt
saugoma.lt/lt/objektai/objektai-lyduvenu-gelezinkelio-tiltas



The museum is located in Utena, near the junction of the Kaunas-Daugpilis (A6) and Vilnius-Utena (A14) trunk roads. The museum was established in 2015 at the former narrow-gauge railway station building of Utena. The museum claims to be a form of poetry that tacitly exposes the post-war truth. The exhibition "A Common European Identity in the Context of Totalitarian Regimes" offers to explore the past of Lithuania and Europe through the history of one Lithuanian region. It tells the story of secret documents and the division of Europe in 1939, the Soviet occupation of Lithuania, the forced participation of Lithuanians in World War II, exile, post-war resistance and the organisation of collective farms in the Utena region. The painful events of 1940–1965 in the Utena region and the events in Lithuania are contrasted with life behind the Iron Curtain.

The history of the narrow-gauge railway station also has tragic pages. From here, in 1941 and from 1945–1953, train cars with deportees were sent to Siberia.



225

Museum of the Battles for Freedom in Utena

Stoties g. 39, Utena, Lietuva
GPS: 55.49411, 25.58218

T. +370 67079217
regina.zapolskiene@utenosmuziejus.lt
utenosmuziejus.lt/laisves-kovu-muziejus/



226

Macikai Camp Penal Cell-Museum

Vilties g. 2, Macikų k.,
Šilutės r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.35678, 21.51874

T. +370 65751909, +370 44162207
info@silutesmuziejus.lt
silutesmuziejus.lt/maciku-lageriai/



The exhibition is located 2 km from Šilutė, on the left bank of the River Šyša, in the village of Macikai, on the grounds of the former manor castle.

From 1939–1944, the prisoner-of-war camp Stalag 1C Heydekrug was established in Macikai, where Polish, Belgian, French, and Russian prisoners of war were imprisoned. When Lithuania was occupied by the Soviets for the second time from 1944–1946, Camp No. 184 was established there to keep German prisoners of war. From 1946 to 1948, the prisoner-of-war camp was transformed into Šilutė (Macikai) Division 3 of the GULAG labour camp, which operated until 1955. After the re-organisation, civilians not wanted by the Soviet occupation government were placed in the camp. The relatively small camp of the labour camp type had all the features of the Soviet era: barracks, a solitary confinement cell and a sanitary unit. It could accommodate 3,000 detainees at a time, and a third of them were Lithuanians. The only remaining part of the former concentration camp buildings is the solitary confinement cell. In 1995, pursuant to the initiative of the Šilutė Association of Deportees and Political Prisoners, a solitary confinement cell of a concentration camp – museum was set up in the former building of the confinement cell of Macikai concentration camp. It houses the Šilutė Hugo Scheu Museum exhibition, which reflects the different periods of history of the camp.

The Memorial Stone for Nida's Gliding School is located to the south-west of Nida.

During the interwar period – in 1933, the Lithuanian mecca of gliding, the Nida Gliding School, was founded on the highest Sklandytojų (Gliders) Dune of Nida, just next to the famous Parnidžio Dune. It is easy to ascend from Sklandytojų dune, as the eastern wind created a favourable oblique headwind on the slope of the dune. The infrastructure of the gliding school consisted of a hangar, a canteen and a school building. From 1933–1939, 508 glider pilots were trained at the Nida Gliding School, including trainees from Germany, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Finland, France, Czechoslovakia, and the Netherlands.

In 1936, at the Nida Gliding School, the former Lithuanian military pilot Captain Jonas Pyragius set a gliding record of 22 hours and 36 minutes; it was the 4th best result in the world at the time, while in 1938, Alfred Giess broke the record and spent 26 hours and 3 minutes in the air.

In 1978, an arch was built on the foundations of the former hangar, marking the location of the gliding school. In 1998, on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the school, a memorial to Lithuanian and German gliders was unveiled. The site of the former gliding school can be reached by turning off the road leading to Parnidžio Dune.



227

Memorial Stone for Nida's Gliding School

Nida, Neringos sav., Lietuva
GPS: 55.29364, 20.97845



A stylised cannon commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Giedraičiai is located behind the town of Giedraičiai, 200 m after turning off on road No. 172. On 21 November 2020, a monument by sculptor Džiugas Jurkūnas was unveiled on a hill at the site of the Battle of Giedraičiai, commemorating the victory. The monument is a stylised interpretation of the battles of the Lithuanian Army against the Polish Army during the inter-war period. In an attempt to move away from the description of the conflict, the monument highlights the importance of the union of the two countries in the context of contemporary events. The rust-covered cannon symbolises the strong union of the republics of Lithuania and Poland – two countries that fought each other a century before. The situation of the time is described on the sides of the monument; the Lithuanian and Polish Army units involved are mentioned and a brief description of the battle is provided. The Lithuanian Armed Forces are the initiator and the funder of the erection of the monument.



228

A Stylised Cannon Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Giedraičiai ●

Giedraičiai, Molėtų r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.08692, 25.25365



229

Monument to the Soldiers Killed for Lithuania's Freedom in 1920 ●

Vilniaus g., Giedraičiai, Molėtų r., Lietuva
GPS: 55.07519, 25.26015



The monument is located in Giedraičiai. On 19 June 1932, a monument dedicated to the fallen Lithuanian freedom fighters was unveiled in Giedraičiai. The construction of the monument was initiated by the inhabitants of Giedraičiai – the painter and author of the monument Antanas Jaroševičius, Pastor Meigis, Malvina Valeikienė and Matas Valeika, who supported the Lithuanian soldiers in battle, the community of Širvintos and the Lithuanian Army; the amount of 11,000 litas was raised for the construction of the monument. The appeal for donations for the monument states that it is being built "to honour victory and our eternal joy, which will remind us of the historical significance of the site and pay tribute to the soldiers buried in Giedraičiai". The opening ceremony was sumptuous. It was attended by the President of the Republic of Lithuania, A. Smetona – Commander-in-Chief of the Lithuanian Armed Forces, representatives of the 2nd, 4th, 7th, and 9th Regiments and officers, who took part in the Battles of Giedraičiai. Flowers were dropped at the monument from military planes, and Malvina Valeikienė, a prominent Lithuanian personality and one of the organisers of the construction works of the monument, read out the names of the Lithuanian soldiers who died in Giedraičiai, and she was awarded the Order of the Cross of the Knight, 3rd Class. The flag of the local rifle-men unit was consecrated at the monument. From 1962–1964, pursuant to the instructions of the Soviet administration, an unsuccessful attempt was made to demolish the monument, but it was later declared a historical monument.

Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum is located at the crossroads of major international transport routes near Kaunas and it is easily accessible by car.

The Ninth Fort was built from 1903–1913 as one of the forts of the Kaunas fortress complex with the task of protecting the strategically important Linkuva ridge. The fort was built with the use of concrete slabs – an innovation of the time, electricity and ventilation system. The fort did not suffer damage during the First World War. From 1924 to 1940, the Ninth Fort was a prison for political prisoners and criminals, while from 1940 to 1941, it became an NKVD redistribution point. During the Second World War, the Ninth Fort became the site of a mass murder of Jews, where around 50,000 Jews from different countries were killed by the Nazi occupation regime. In 1958, a museum was established in the Ninth Fort to tell the story of Nazi crimes, and in 1984, a memorial complex was built and a monument to the victims of Nazism was erected (authors: Alfonsas Vincentas Ambraziūnas, Gediminas Baravykas and Vytautas Vielius). Today, the Ninth Fort Museum tells the story of the fortress, as well as the history of crimes committed by the Nazis and the Soviets.



230

Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum ●●●

Žemaičių pl. 73, Kaunas, Lietuva
GPS: 54.94391, 23.87508

T. +370 68626243
info@9fortomuziejus.lt
9fortomuziejus.lt



The museum is located in Kaunas, close to the Raudondvaris highway (signs have been installed). The "Spy Museum of the KGB" section of the museum features surveillance, secret communications and other equipment used by national security authorities and secret services. It is believed to house the largest collection of secret photographic equipment in Europe, for instance, cameras embedded in a tie, a jacket button or a pack of cigarettes. The nuclear bunker also houses the workplaces of an investigator on duty and the head of the KGB, the photo laboratory of KGB, and an exhibition of the dentist serving the Politburo of the Communist Party. Visitors are surrounded by unique, authentic objects: a telephone used by Marshal Zhukov, a one-of-a-kind radio receiver made especially for Stalin, etc. The museum also presents military and civil protection equipment. The largest collection of gas masks and closed-circuit breathing apparatus in the Baltic states, and possibly in Europe, is on display. Gas masks for children, gas masks for horses and Lithuanian gas masks that have been made since 1935 can be seen here.

The museum showcases not only Cold War equipment but also machinery and equipment from both World Wars and other eras. The museum was established in 2014 in a former civil defence shelter 6–7 metres underground. The Soviet-era building belonged to the Aidas factory in Kaunas.



231 KGB Nuclear Bunker Museum



Raudondvario pl. 164A, Kaunas,
Lietuva
GPS: 54.91365, 23.84206

T. +370 61815919 (LT, RU),
+370 67757736 (EN, DE)
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atominisbunkeris.lt



232 Vytautas the Great War Museum

K. Donelaičio g. 64,
Kaunas, Lietuva
GPS: 54.89987, 23.91209

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vdkaromuziejus@kam.lt
vdkaromuziejus.lt



The museum is located in the centre of Kaunas.

Vytautas the Great War Museum is a Lithuanian military museum established during the War of Independence, and the opening ceremony of the museum was held on 16 February 1921. Originally, the museum was established in a wooden building constructed during the Tsarist Russian Empire, while, on 16 February 1936, the museum opened in its new premises, where it remains open to visitors to date. During the occupations of 1940–1941 and 1944–1956, the museum was called the War History Museum, from 1956–1990 it was called the Kaunas State History Museum, and in 1990, it regained the name of Vytautas the Great War Museum.

During the inter-war period, the museum, together with the K. M. Čiurlionis Gallery, performed the functions of the national museum. The exhibition of the museum told the story of the struggle for independence of the people of Lithuania, and the garden was the main venue for national holidays and important celebrations. During the Soviet occupation, the exhibition of the War Museum and its garden were destroyed and replaced with exhibits and monuments glorifying the Soviet ideology.

Today, the Vytautas the Great War Museum exhibition invites you to explore Lithuanian military history: ancient and modern weapons, armour and uniforms of the soldiers, awards, and an exhibition about pilots S. Darius and S. Girėnas, who crossed the Atlantic Ocean in an aircraft. The Special Warfare Equipment exhibit displays Soviet military equipment and military equipment of NATO.

The monument is located in Vilnius, in front of the Second Palace of the Parliament (Seimas) of the Republic of Lithuania.

In January 1991, the people of Lithuania surrounded the Parliament Palace with barricades, in a fight for and in defence of their freedom. It was an attempt to protect Lithuania from military aggression by the Soviet Union of the time – Soviet attempts to stage a coup d'état in Lithuania and restore Soviet rule. Barricades surrounded the Parliament building until the end of 1992. In 1993, in front of the Palace of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, a unique memorial was erected – made of parts of the barricades and other relics – it was dedicated to the Lithuanian people who sacrificed their lives for freedom. On 13 January 1991, tragic events unfolded, as the Soviet Army and special forces occupied the Lithuanian Radio and Television Centre building and the television tower, killing 14 freedom fighters and injuring around 600 people. As the tenth anniversary of the Defenders of Freedom Day was approaching, a decision was made to preserve the composition by creating a memorial to 13 January. The Memorial was inaugurated in 2008.

The memorial preserves an authentic fragment of the 1991 parliamentary barricades and has a chapel with an icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The memorial displays objects brought by people and provides an insight into the events that took place during the defence of the independence of Lithuania.



233 January 13th Memorial of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Gedimino pr. 53, Vilnius, Lietuva
GPS: 54.69110, 25.26123

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lankytojai@lrs.lt



MILITARY HERITAGE TOURING ROUTES

Routes for visiting military heritage sites have been developed. The title, duration, region, historical period, theme and visit experiences of each route in the guide have been indicated.

Full details are available at militaryheritagetourism.info/en/tours.

It includes a day-by-day itinerary, military heritage sites, and options for accommodation and catering.

Routes or parts thereof may be merged to continue the theme of the route beyond the borders of one country – in Latvia-Lithuania or Lithuania-Latvia-Estonia. Route connections are suggested for each route.

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1

Military heritage along the Iron Curtain

Duration: **5 days**
 Latvia: Kurzeme
 Region: Lithuania: Pajūris, Žemaitija, Aukštaitija, Dzūkija
 Route: Liepāja – Palanga – Klaipēda – Kretinga – Salantai – Plateliai – Plungė – Telšiai – Šiauliai – Lyduvėnai – Kaunas – Vilnius
 Historical periods: **2 3 4 6 7**
 Connects with routes: **3; 6; 7; 9; 10**



The Baltic states were the westernmost frontier of the Soviet Union during the Soviet era and the Cold War. Behind the frontier was what Soviet propaganda called the “rotting West”. The borders of the USSR were thoroughly guarded to prevent the Soviet people from seeing and experiencing what life was like for people to the west of the border of the USSR. Even individual fishing in the Baltic Sea was banned for fear that people would flee in their boats across the Baltic Sea to Sweden. This was a time when the Baltic states were located within the territory behind the so-called Iron Curtain, which could only be crossed by a “chosen few”, who were often those close to the regime. When the totalitarian Soviet regime collapsed, so did the Iron Curtain. Although the main theme of the route is the Second World War and its aftermath – the Soviet occupation, the Cold War and the Iron Curtain – it also includes sites from other military periods of the 20th century and the present day. This is a continuation of the route of the same name, which starts in Tallinn, Estonia, and runs along the coast of Estonia and Latvia: “Military heritage along the Iron Curtain. Route by car from Tallinn to Liepāja”. This route, or parts thereof, can be connected to the following routes in Latvia and Lithuania: “Scenes of Soviet Lithuania”, “Legacy of the Cold War and Soviet Occupation in Žemaitija”, “World War I and the Wars of Independence in Southern Latvia”, “Along the Baltic Way from Vilnius to Riga”, “World War II and its Aftermath – Soviet Occupation in Southern Latvia and Latgale”.

Your experiences on the route: On the route, you will be able to visit authentic sites – underground bunkers created as shelters for nuclear war, museums with modern and interactive exhibitions, climb aboard a real mine-hunter, see deep nuclear missile silos where missiles targeted against Western countries were stationed, visit a Soviet military town, learn about spy equipment, as well as visit memorials dedicated to the War of Independence, the Holocaust and the independence of Lithuania.

2

The Great Cross-Border Route – Military Heritage of Latvia and Lithuania over 100 Years

Duration: **6 days**
 Latvia: Zemgale, Latgale
 Region: Lithuania: Žemaitija, Dzūkija, Aukštaitija
 Route: Jelgava – Eleja – Joniškis – Šiauliai – Radviliskis – Ariogala – Kaunas – Vilnius – Molėtai – Utena – Ignalina – Turmantas – Zarasai – Medumi – Svente – Daugavpils – Jēkabpils – Pļaviņas – Salaspils – Rīga
 Historical periods: **1 2 3 4 5 6 7**
 Connects with routes: 1; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 10



The route connects two capital cities – Riga and Vilnius – as well as two major cities outside the capital cities of Lithuania and Latvia – Kaunas and Daugavpils – passing through five historical regions. On the route, you may visit the most important military sites bearing evidence of the historical events of the last century and the beginning of this one. This is a continuation of “The Great Cross-Border Route – Military Heritage of Latvia and Estonia over 100 Years”, which covers Estonia and Latvia (Vidzeme, Kurzeme). This route, or parts thereof, can be connected to the following routes in Latvia and Lithuania: “Military heritage along the Iron Curtain”, “Scenes of Soviet Lithuania”, “World War I and the Wars of Independence in Southern Latvia”, “The Sites of Battles of Latvian and Lithuanian National Partisans – the Forest Brothers”, “World War II and its Aftermath – Soviet Occupation in Southern Latvia and Latgale”, “Partisan Roads and Trails in Aukštaitija”, “Latgale – the Eastern Border of Latvia”.

Your experiences on the route: On the route, you will be able to explore collections, museums, monuments and memorials, climb the restored tower of Jelgava Holy Trinity Church, visit the dugouts of national partisans, as well as bunkers specifically designed for nuclear threats, visit the former Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant, climb the unique shot casting tower of the Daugavpils Lead Shot Factory and visit one of Europe’s most impressive military fortresses – Daugavpils Fortress.

3

Along the Baltic Way from Vilnius to Riga

Duration: **3 days**

Region: Lithuania: Aukštaitija
Latvia: Zemgale

Route: Vilnius – Molėtai – Panevėžys – Pasvalys – Bauska – Iecava – Rīga

Historical periods: **4** **5** **6** **7**

Connects with routes: 1; 4; 6; 7; 10



The route follows the so-called Baltic Way Corridor. The Baltic Way took place on 23 August 1989 at around 19:00, when two million people in the three Baltic states joined their hands for 15 minutes to form a living chain of around 670 km that joined the three Baltic capitals – Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn. The route also includes some sites belonging to other periods of the military history of the 20th century. This route, or parts thereof, can be connected to the following routes in Latvia and Lithuania: “Military heritage along the Iron Curtain”, “Scenes of Soviet Lithuania”, “World War I and the Wars of Independence in Southern Latvia”, “The Sites of Battles of Latvian and Lithuanian National Partisans – the Forest Brothers”, “World War II and its Aftermath – Soviet Occupation in Southern Latvia and Latgale”.

Your experiences on the route: Along the route, you will be able to explore the memorial sites dedicated to the Baltic Way, see the Bloody Sunday Memorial, memorial sites dedicated to the National Partisans, and interesting museum exhibitions.

4

The Sites of Battles of Latvian and Lithuanian National Partisans – the Forest Brothers

Duration: **3 days**

Region: Latvia: Zemgale, Sēlija
Lithuania: Aukštaitija

Route: Jēkabpils – Aknīste – Vytelinė – Obeliai – Dušetos – Utėna – Druskiai – Andrioniškis – Troškūnai – Panevėžys

Historical periods: **5**

Connects with routes: 2; 3; 5; 6; 7; 8; 10



The theme of the route focuses on national partisans, who resisted the Soviet occupation and sought to restore the independence. Partisans were called forest brothers because groups of partisans lived in bunkers in forests and swamps and carried out attacks against the occupation authorities. Partisans lived in the bunkers for a long time after the end of the Second World War. The route includes the sites of battles, burial and memorial sites of national partisans in south-eastern Latvia and north-eastern Lithuania. This route, or parts thereof, can be connected to the following routes or parts thereof in Latvia and Lithuania: “Along the Baltic Way from Vilnius to Riga”, “Partisan Roads and Trails in Aukštaitija”, “Scenes of Soviet Lithuania”, “Latgale – the Eastern Border of Latvia”, “World War I and the Wars of Independence in Southern Latvia”, “World War II and its Aftermath – Soviet Occupation in Southern Latvia and Latgale”, “The Great Cross-Border Route – Military Heritage of Latvia and Lithuania over 100 Years”.

Your experiences on the route: This trip will give you the opportunity to see the bunkers of the national partisans, which were usually located in hidden and poorly accessible areas, as well as enjoy a visit experience that will allow you to experience the living conditions of the partisans.

5

Latgale – the Eastern Border of Latvia

Duration: **4 days**
 Region: Latvia: Latgale
 Route: Daugavpils – Aglona – Rēzekne – Ludza – Līdumnieki – Kārsava – Viļaka – Balvi – Preiļi – Jersika – Arendole – Svente – Daugavpils
 Historical periods: **1 2 3 4 6 7**
 Connects with routes: 4; 8



Latgale is the eastern border area of Latvia, the Baltic states and the European Union. Historically, Latgale has been at the crossroads of various historical events and territories. It was neither spared by the two world wars in the 20th century, nor by the period of Soviet occupation that followed the last war. The route offers a wide variety of military heritage sites, with objects from all periods of the military history of the 20th century, as well as the opportunity to learn more about the creation and protection of national borders, both historically and in the present day. This route, or a part thereof, can be connected to the following routes in Lithuania: “Partisan Roads and Trails in Aukštaitija”, “The Sites of Battles of Latvian and Lithuanian National Partisans – the Forest Brothers”.

Your experiences on the route: The route includes private collections and museums of all types and sizes, including the restored Daugavpils Fortress, as well as wooden footbridges through Stompaki Swamp, thus exploring the areas of national partisan battles on site and expanding knowledge about the Border Guard. The Daugavpils Lead Shot Factory is a unique site in Europe and even worldwide, where visitors can learn about the pellet production process.

6

World War II and its Aftermath – Soviet Occupation in Southern Latvia and Latgale

Duration: **5 days**
 Region: Latvia: Southern Kurzeme, Zemgale, Sēlija, Latgale
 Route: Liepāja – Skrunda – Saldus – Zvārde – Ezere – Auce – Jelgava – Bauska – Aizkraukle – Koknese – Preiļi – Aglona – Rēzekne – Malnava – Viļaka – Stompaki Swamp – Balvi
 Historical periods: **4 5 6**
 Connects with routes: 1; 9; 10



The route runs through the southern part of Latvia along the Lithuanian border, and then turns along the border of the European Union – through Latgale towards Balvi. It connects the two most distant points of Latvia – Liepāja in the south-west of Latvia and Balvi in the north-east of the country, presenting evidence of the Second World War both in the Kurzeme Pocket, and in eastern Latvia. The route also reveals the consequences of the war – the Soviet occupation and its heavy impact on the fate of the people of the 20th century. This route, or a part thereof, can be connected to the following routes in Lithuania: “Legacy of the Cold War and Soviet Occupation in Žemaitija”, or “The Scenes of Soviet Lithuania”, or “The Military heritage along the Iron Curtain”.

Your experiences on the route: The route offers a wide variety of sites – museums, private collections, monuments, and memorial sites. You will be able to step into the shoes of a prisoner at the Karosta Military Port of Liepāja, board the train carriage that deported Latvians to Siberia, visit the Soviet Air Force target polygon in Zvārde, bunkers and battle sites of the national partisans, and memorials dedicated to the memory of the Holocaust and other victims of war. You will have the opportunity to see the place that Adolf Hitler visited during World War II.

7

World War I and the Wars of Independence in Southern Latvia

Duration: **5 days**

Region: Latvia: Southern Kurzeme, Zemgale, Sēlija, Latgale

Route: Liepāja – Skrunda – Saldus – Lielauce – Dobele – Christmas Battle Museum – Valgunde – Jelgava – Eleja – Bauska – Jaunjelgava – Jēkabpils – Viesīte – Svente – Medumi – Daugavpils

Historical periods: **1 2**

Connects with routes: 1; 9; 10



8

Partisan Roads and Trails in Aukštaitija

Duration: **3 days**

Region: Lithuania: Aukštaitija

Route: Utena – Visėtiškės – Andrioniškis – Troškūnai – Panevėžys – Smiltynė – Vytelinė – Rokiškis – Obeliai – Antazavė – Zarasai

Historical periods: **4 5 6 7**

Connects with routes: 5; 6; 7



The route passes through the southern part of Latvia, approaching the Lithuanian border, and stretches from the extreme west – Liepāja – to the south-east – Daugavpils, the second largest city in Latvia. The route is themed around World War I and the subsequent Latvian War of Independence. This route, or a part thereof, can be connected to the following routes in Lithuania: “Legacy of the Cold War and Soviet Occupation in Žemaitija”, or “The Scenes of Soviet Lithuania”, or “The Military heritage along the Iron Curtain”.

Your experiences on the route: On the route, you will have the opportunity to embrace the unique military town of Karosta (Military Port of Liepāja) with its multiple former military objects, “experience” Karosta Prison, visit the coastal defence batteries and battle sites of the legendary Colonel Oskars Kalpaks and his battalion during the Latvian War of Independence, walk through the sites of the Christmas Battle described by A. Grīns in his novel *Dvēseļu Putenis* (Blizzard of Souls), climb the Ložmetējkalniņš observation tower, drive through the Sēlija region and learn about the narrow-gauge railway network built by the German Army, as well as experience the everyday life of a soldier in the First World War.

The route introduces the activities of national partisans in Lithuania. During the Soviet occupation, a partisan war was fought, during which the territory of Lithuania was divided into nine partisan regions. The Lithuanian national partisans were well organised and armed, wearing military uniforms and carrying on the traditions of the inter-war Lithuanian Army. They fought with murderous NKVD (Soviet secret police) and Red Army units, and prepared plans for attacks. Hiding from persecution and prying eyes, Lithuanian partisans built bunkers for themselves in the thickets of forests and swamps. The route also includes some sites belonging to other periods of the military history of the 20th century. This route, or a part thereof, can be connected to the following routes in Latvia: “Latgale – the Eastern Border of Latvia”, “World War II and its Aftermath – Soviet Occupation in Southern Latvia and Latgale”, “World War I and the Wars of Independence in Southern Latvia”.

Your experiences on the route: Along the route, you will have the opportunity to visit history museums and exhibitions, see evidence of resistance to the Soviet occupation regime, authentically restored partisan bunkers, battle sites and monuments.

9

Legacy of the Cold War and Soviet Occupation in Žemaitija

Duration: **3 days**
 Region: Lithuania: Pajūris, Žemaitija
 Route: Priekulė – Klaipėda – Palanga – Kretinga – Salantai – Plateliai – Plungė – Telšiai
 Historical periods: **3 4 5 6**
 Connects with routes: 6; 7



This route explores the legacy of the Soviet rule and the Cold War. During the Second World War, after the German occupation, Soviet power returned to Lithuania for the second time. Lithuania did not exist as a separate country during this period, as it was incorporated into the USSR. Resistance to the occupation regime and large-scale deportation operations by the Soviets began. As the Cold War arms race intensified, the Soviet government also stationed their nuclear weapons in Lithuania. The route also includes some sites belonging to other periods of the military history of the 20th century. This route, or a part thereof, can be connected to the following routes in Latvia: "World War II and its Aftermath – Soviet Occupation in Southern Latvia and Latgale", "World War I and the Wars of Independence in Southern Latvia".

Your experiences on the route: The route will enable you to visit historical museums and exhibitions, a sculpture park, see nuclear missile silos where missiles aiming at Western countries were stationed, visit a Soviet-era military camp, see espionage equipment, and view memorials to the War of Independence and the independence of Lithuania.

10

Scenes of Soviet Lithuania

Duration: **5 days**
 Region: Lithuania: Pajūris, Žemaitija, Aukštaitija, Dzūkija
 Route: Klaipėda – Kretinga – Salantai – Plateliai – Telšiai – Šiauliai – Radviliškis – Panevėžys – Stanioniai – Likpetriai – Kaunas – Vilnius
 Historical periods: **4 5 6 7**
 Connects with routes: 6; 7



The route enables the traveller to understand the extent of the Soviet occupation and the traces it left in Lithuanian history, while revealing the ability of people to preserve their identity and fight for independence. The Soviet occupation of Lithuania lasted for about five decades. World War II was followed by Soviet repressions, resistance by national partisans, the militarisation of Lithuania during the Cold War and the regaining of independence by Lithuania. Lithuania was also strategically important to the USSR due to its proximity to Western countries, which is why military installations were deployed there. The route also includes some sites belonging to other periods of the military history of the 20th century. This route, or a part thereof, can be connected to the following routes in Latvia: "World War II and its Aftermath – Soviet Occupation in Southern Latvia and Latgale", "World War I and the Wars of Independence in Southern Latvia".

Your experiences on the route: On the route, you will have the opportunity to visit history museums and exhibitions thereof, a sculpture park, see the silos of nuclear missiles aimed at Western countries, visit a Soviet military camp, learn about the repressions and deportations effected by the Soviet power, resistance to the Soviet occupation regime, as well as the bunkers of national partisans.

MILITARY HERITAGE TOURISM SITES



MUSEUMS

private collections, public exhibitions, museums



FORTIFICATIONS

coastal batteries, fortresses, pillboxes, battle trenches



TRAILS

local trails connecting military heritage sites



MILITARY EQUIPMENT

bombers, canons, planes, ships, tanks, trains, wagons, weapons, other military equipment



BUNKERS

partisan bunkers built for living in a forest



BATTLE SITES

local and larger scale battle territories, places of fights, areas of contention, hostile oppositions, front lines



MILITARY TOWNS

residential areas for officers and other army staff next to military bases



INFRASTRUCTURE

lighthouses, piers, railway stations, barracks, airfields, communication facilities, bridges, old hospitals, border points, water towers, fire control towers, observation towers



MEMORIAL SITES

cemeteries, monuments, graveyards, commemorative plates, sculptures, parks, memorial sites

www.militaryheritagetourism.info

Extending the Baltic military heritage tourism product in Lithuania and South Latvia (Military Heritage II, project number LL-00052) 01.01.2024 - 31.03.2026

The aim of the project "Military Heritage II" is to increase the role of military heritage tourism in economic development by expanding the Baltic military heritage tourism product in Lithuania and South Latvia. Aware of the shared history of the Baltic states, the project partners aim to extend the territorial coverage of the Baltic military heritage tourism offer by including sites from South Latvia and Lithuania, thus revealing a comprehensive historical narrative.

Interreg



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Latvia – Lithuania

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**MILITARY
HERITAGE**

On the Military Heritage website
www.militaryheritagetourism.info

- More than 1,030 military sites - bunkers, military equipment sites, battle sites, memorial sites, museums, trails, military towns, infrastructure sites, and fortifications;
- The 7 large timeline sections are divided into 270 smaller timeline sections;
- 174 descriptions of military history topics;
- 417 military heritage tourism stories (stories, personal memories and testimonies about military heritage sites and the history thereof);
- 26 military heritage touring routes (descriptions of a total of 112 days);
- There are almost 6,000 links between sites, topics, timelines, and stories;
- 116 user comments;
- Around 50 sites offering more than 100 tourism and educational programs;
- 1,358 places with GPS coordinates (objects, stories, topics, etc.).



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