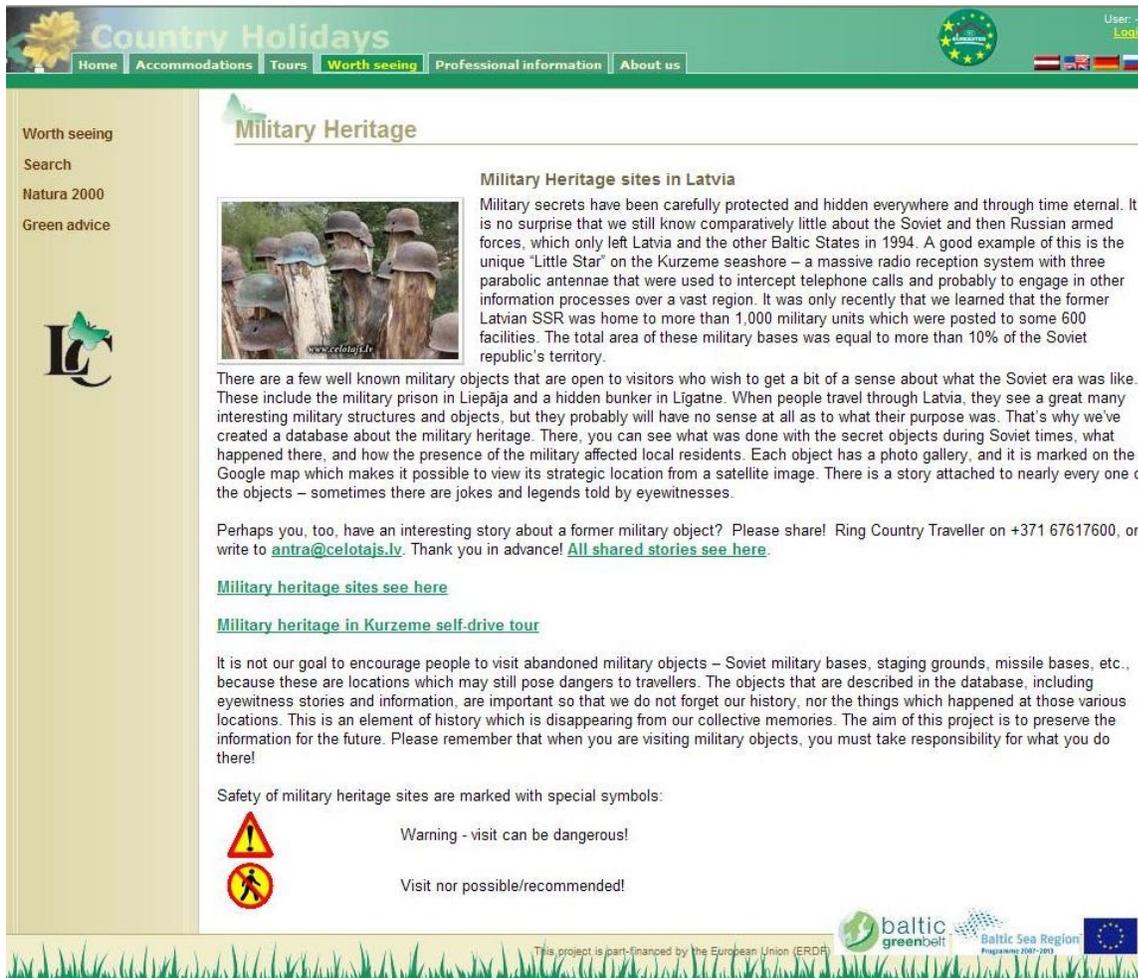


## Data base of military heritage objects in Latvia

There are compiled information about more than 100 military heritage sites and objects and interesting stories about the military history of Latvia in the data base - [http://www.celotajs.lv/cont/wrth/military\\_en.html](http://www.celotajs.lv/cont/wrth/military_en.html). Web data base is available in 4 languages – Latvian, English, German and Russian. All military heritage sites and objects have been evaluated during field visits.



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**Military Heritage**

**Military Heritage sites in Latvia**

Military secrets have been carefully protected and hidden everywhere and through time eternal. It is no surprise that we still know comparatively little about the Soviet and then Russian armed forces, which only left Latvia and the other Baltic States in 1994. A good example of this is the unique "Little Star" on the Kurzeme seashore – a massive radio reception system with three parabolic antennae that were used to intercept telephone calls and probably to engage in other information processes over a vast region. It was only recently that we learned that the former Latvian SSR was home to more than 1,000 military units which were posted to some 600 facilities. The total area of these military bases was equal to more than 10% of the Soviet republic's territory.

There are a few well known military objects that are open to visitors who wish to get a bit of a sense about what the Soviet era was like. These include the military prison in Liepāja and a hidden bunker in Līgatne. When people travel through Latvia, they see a great many interesting military structures and objects, but they probably will have no sense at all as to what their purpose was. That's why we've created a database about the military heritage. There, you can see what was done with the secret objects during Soviet times, what happened there, and how the presence of the military affected local residents. Each object has a photo gallery, and it is marked on the Google map which makes it possible to view its strategic location from a satellite image. There is a story attached to nearly every one of the objects – sometimes there are jokes and legends told by eyewitnesses.

Perhaps you, too, have an interesting story about a former military object? Please share! Ring Country Traveller on +371 67617600, or write to [antra@celotajs.lv](mailto:antra@celotajs.lv). Thank you in advance! [All shared stories see here](#).

[Military heritage sites see here](#)

[Military heritage in Kurzeme self-drive tour](#)

It is not our goal to encourage people to visit abandoned military objects – Soviet military bases, staging grounds, missile bases, etc., because these are locations which may still pose dangers to travellers. The objects that are described in the database, including eyewitness stories and information, are important so that we do not forget our history, nor the things which happened at those various locations. This is an element of history which is disappearing from our collective memories. The aim of this project is to preserve the information for the future. Please remember that when you are visiting military objects, you must take responsibility for what you do there!

Safety of military heritage sites are marked with special symbols:

 Warning - visit can be dangerous!

 Visit not possible/recommended!

This project is part-financed by the European Union (ERDF)

baltic greenbelt Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013

Each object of the data base has its description – what was done with the secret objects during Soviet times, what happened there, how the presence of the military affected local residents and at what condition the object can be found nowadays. Also information about the location of the object (near the sea, distance from the capital, nature protection etc.) and recommendations for or not to visit the site. Each site has a photo gallery - <http://www.celotajs.lv/w/e/karostascietums?lang=en>.

The screenshot shows the 'Country Holidays' website interface. The main header features the site name and navigation links: Home, Accommodations, Tours, Worth seeing, Professional information, and About us. A sidebar on the left lists 'Worth seeing', 'Search', 'Natura 2000', and 'Green advice'. The main content area is titled 'Military heritage THE KAROSTA PRISON' and includes the text: 'Military heritage **The Karosta prison** - Latvia, Kurzeme, Liepājas region, Liepāja' with the ID 'No 30098'. Below this is a photo album showing a group of people sitting on a bench in front of a stone wall. The text below the photo reads: 'The Karosta prison cannot be described, it must be experienced and surveyed. That's an opportunity for everyone. This is the best example in Latvia as to how the military heritage can be used for tourism purposes. Others can learn from this site.' The footer contains contact information for 'Lauku ceļotājs' and logos for 'baltic greenbelt', 'Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013', and the European Union.

There is published information on specialization and activities offered at the heritage site if there are some. Each object has been marked on Google map which one can see also as satellite image showing the strategic location of the site as Latvia once was Western border of the Soviet Union - <http://www.celotajs.lv/w/e/map/karostascietums?lang=en>.

This screenshot shows the same website page as above, but with the 'Map' tab selected. It displays a Google Map of Latvia with a red pin marking the location of 'The Karosta prison' in the Liepāja region. The map includes various geographical features, roads, and city names. The interface elements, including the navigation menu and sidebar, are consistent with the previous screenshot. The footer contains the same contact information and logos.

The screenshot shows the 'Country Holidays' website interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Accommodations', 'Tours', 'Worth seeing', 'Professional information', and 'About us'. A 'Login' button is visible in the top right corner. The main content area is titled 'Military heritage THE KAROSTA PRISON' and includes the text 'Military heritage The Karosta prison - Latvia, Kurzeme, Liepājas region, Liepāja' and the number 'No 30098'. Below this, there are tabs for 'Military heritage', 'Specialization', 'Activities', 'Map', 'Stories', 'Feedback', and 'Info'. The 'Map' tab is active, displaying a satellite view of the Karosta Prison area in Liepāja, Latvia. The map includes a scale bar, navigation arrows, and a 'W' marker indicating the prison's location. The bottom of the page features logos for 'baltic greenbelt', 'Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013', and the European Union. A footer line contains contact information for 'Lauku ceļotājs'.

There is a story attached to nearly every one of the objects – sometimes there are jokes and legends told by eyewitnesses - <http://www.celotajs.lv/w/e/story/list/karostascietums?lang=en>.



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Military heritage **THE KAROSTA PRISON**

Military heritage **The Karosta prison** - Latvia, Kurzeme, Liepājas region, Liepāja No 30098

Military heritage Specialization Activities Map Stories **Feedback** Info

Stories [See all stories](#)

Date	Story
12/21/2009 Gunārs Silakaktiņš	<b>Legend about the White lady</b> light bulbs have been unscrewed, and doors suddenly unlocked and slammed open... <a href="#">Read full story ...</a>
12/21/2009 Normunds Krafts	<b>Another story about Soviet Union external border in Liepāja</b> For those who could not accept living under the Soviet regime, all sorts of creative ideas came to mind to illegally escape the USSR. But for the most part, these attempts were unsuccessful. <a href="#">Read full story ...</a>
12/21/2009 Gunārs Silakaktiņš	<b>Celmiņš</b> During certain embarrassment in the court yard Celmiņš dressed in the German uniform and casually walked out of the prison. <a href="#">Read full story ...</a>
12/21/2009 Gunārs Silakaktiņš	<b>Captain (3rd class) Valeri Sablin. 1975.</b> This event caused a great confusion in the upper circles of the Soviet leadership. In order to hold down rumours and to keep Sablin beyond reach of foreign journalists, he was brought to Liepāja, to the guardhouse of the Naval Port. <a href="#">Read full story ...</a>

[Add your story](#)

This project is part-financed by the European Union (ERDF)

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Also a section for feedback has been created where tourists or any other stakeholder can publish their comments after visit of military heritage and taking part in the development process of the data base - <http://www.celotajs.lv/w/e/feedback/list/karostascietums?lang=en>.

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Military heritage **THE KAROSTA PRISON**

Military heritage **The Karosta prison** - Latvia, Kurzeme, Liepājas region, Liepāja No 30098

Military heritage Specialization Activities Map Stories **Feedback** Info

Feedback [See all feedback](#)

Date	Feedback	Author
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[Add your feedback](#)

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Info section contains contact data if the particular heritage object is managed and offered for tourist visits - <http://www.celotajs.lv/w/e/info/karostascietums?lang=en>.



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The screenshot shows a website titled "Country Holidays" with a green header. The navigation menu includes Home, Accommodations, Tours, Worth seeing (highlighted), Professional information, and About us. A sidebar on the left lists "Worth seeing", "Search", "Natura 2000", and "Green advice", along with a logo featuring a stylized "L" and a tree. The main content area is titled "Military heritage THE KAROSTA PRISON" and includes a search bar with "The Karosta prison" entered and "No 30098" displayed. Below this are tabs for "Military heritage", "Specialization", "Activities", "Map", "Stories", "Feedback", and "Info". The "Contact information" section lists "gids - Juris Rakis" with contact details: Tel: +371 26369470, Web: [www.karostascietums.lv](http://www.karostascietums.lv), Invalīdu iela 4, Karosta, Liepāja, LV-3402, Latvia. A "Certificates" section contains a table with columns for "Certification system", "Certificate", "Description", "Start", and "End". The footer includes logos for "baltic greenbelt", "Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013", and the European Union, along with the text "This project is part-financed by the European Union (ERDF)". A copyright notice at the bottom reads: "© Lauku ceļotājs, Kalnciema iela 40, Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia, tel.: +(371) 67617600, fax: +(371) 67830041, e-mail: [lauku@celotajs.lv](mailto:lauku@celotajs.lv)".

