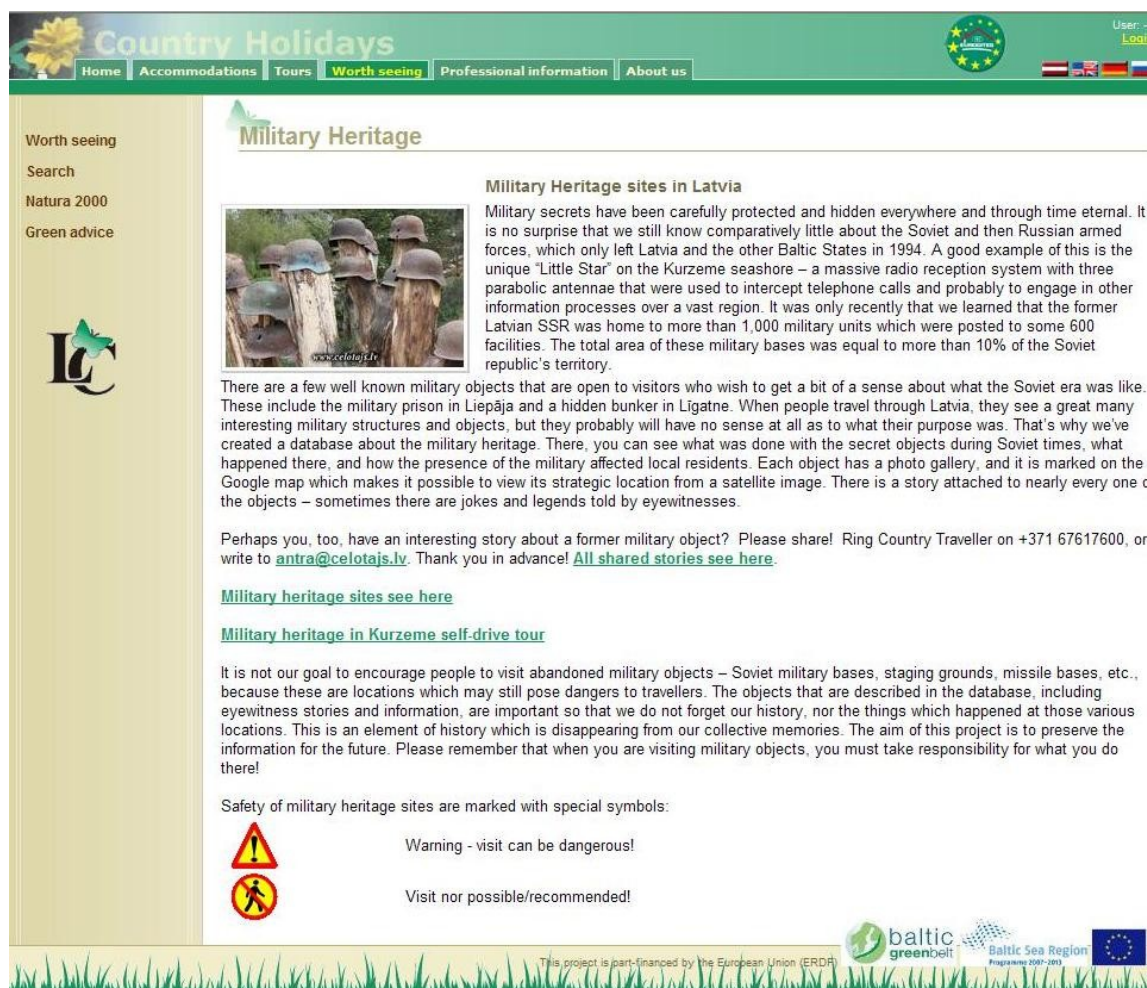


Data base of military heritage objects in Latvia

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. 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 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. 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!

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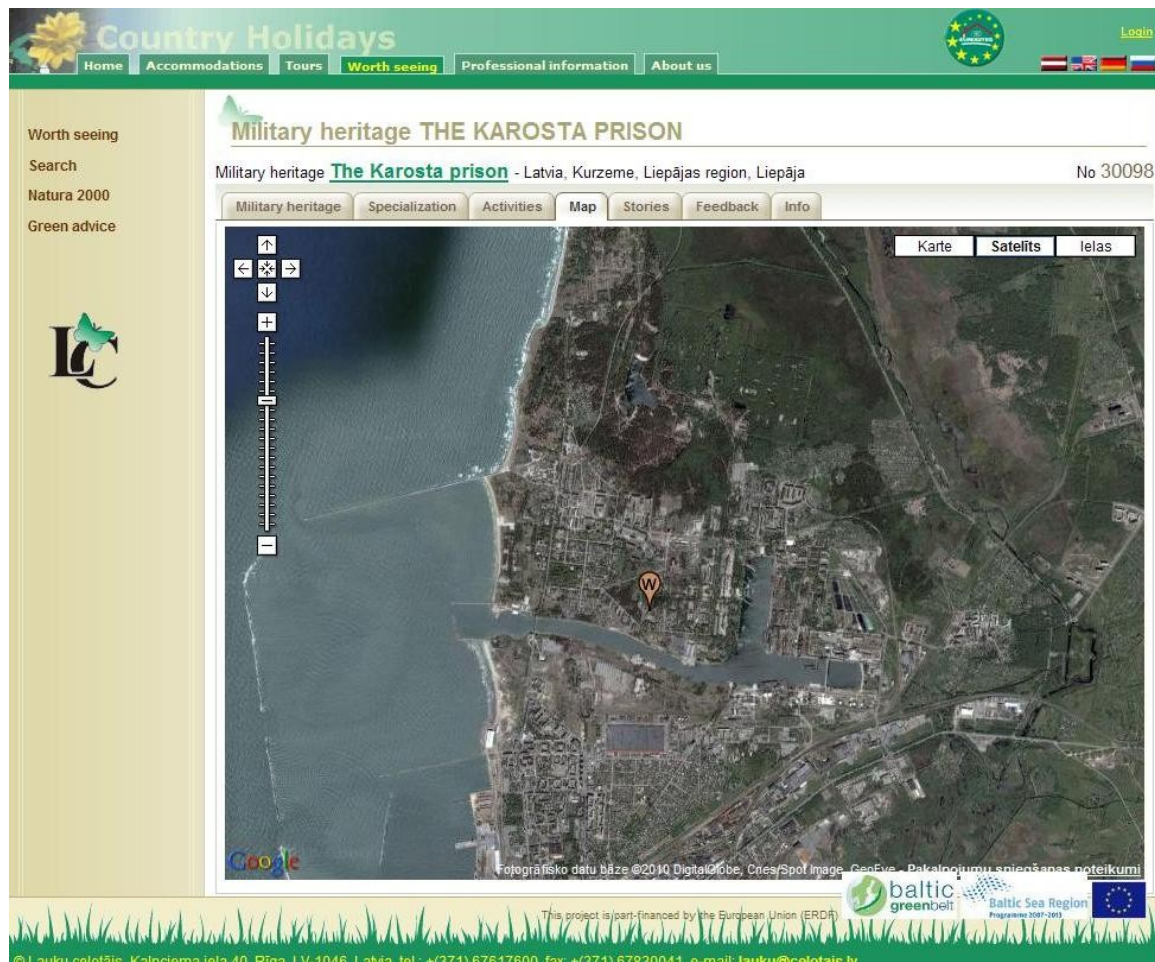
Each object of the data base has its description – what was done with the secret objects during Soviet times, what happened there, how the presence of the military affected local residents and at what condition the object can be found nowadays. Also information about the location of the object (near 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. The main header has a green bar with a yellow flower logo and navigation links: Home, Accommodations, Tours, Worth seeing, Professional information, About us. A 'Login' link is in the top right. The left sidebar has links for 'Worth seeing', 'Search', 'Natura 2000', and 'Green advice', along with a logo. 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 'No 30098'. Below this are tabs for 'Military heritage', 'Specialization', 'Activities', 'Map', 'Stories', 'Feedback', and 'Info'. A photo of the prison is shown with the caption 'View photo album'. To the right of the photo is a description: '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.' Below the description are two small icons and the number '220'. At the bottom of the page, there are logos for 'baltic greenbelt', 'Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013', and the European Union flag. A footer line reads: '© Lauku ceļotājs, Kalnciema iela 40, Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia, tel: +(371) 67617600, fax: +(371) 67830041, e-mail: lauku@celotajs.lv'.

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>.

The screenshot shows the same 'Country Holidays' website, but with the 'Map' tab selected. The map displays the location of 'The Karosta prison' in Latvia, near the border with Lithuania. The map includes various geographical features, roads, and place names. A legend in the top right corner of the map area shows 'Karte', 'Satelīts', and 'Ielas'. The map is powered by Google. At the bottom of the page, there are logos for 'baltic greenbelt', 'Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013', and the European Union flag. A footer line reads: '© Lauku ceļotājs, Kalnciema iela 40, Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia, tel: +(371) 67617600, fax: +(371) 67830041, e-mail: lauku@celotajs.lv'.

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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	Legend about the White lady light bulbs have been unscrewed, and doors suddenly unlocked and slammed open... Read full story ...
12/21/2009 Normunds Krafis	Another story about Soviet Union external border in Liepāja 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. Read full story ...
12/21/2009 Gunārs Silakaktiņš	Celmiņš During certain embarrassment in the court yard Celmiņš dressed in the German uniform and casually walked out of the prison. Read full story ...
12/21/2009 Gunārs Silakaktiņš	Captain (3rd class) Valeri Sablin. 1975. 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. Read full story ...

[Add your story](#)

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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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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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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

Contact information

gids - Juris Rakis
Tel.: +371 26369470 Web: www.karostascietums.lv/
Invalidu iela 4
Karosta
Liepāja, LV-3402, Latvia

Certificates

Certification system	Certificate	Description	Start	End
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