

LAUKU CEĻOTĀJS

Experience exchange program for Estonian rural tourism providers
LATVIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE IN TOURISM – VIDZEME REGION
 October 2-4, 2012

Day 1, October 2, 2012

Departure from Parnu

11.00 – 11.15 Estonian-Latvian border (*meeting the Latvian guide*)

12.00 – 13.30 The Liv Museum „Pīvalind” at Staicele
(Tasting of traditional food and beverages, guided tour in the museum and craftsmen workshops).



The Livs are one of the native tribes in Latvia, once having populated large areas in Vidzeme and Kurzeme regions. Staicele is a part of the ancient Metsepole ('motsa'-forest, 'pūol' – side, forest side) district; ancient writings suggest that this territory has been inhabited by the Livs already since 12-13th century. Liv museum „Pīvalind” introduces with the history and cultural heritage of Staicele area around Salaca, history of Staicele and its surroundings. The museum collection includes ancient objects that were used by people in the neighbourhoods of Staicele, a variety of tools, musical instruments and paintings of countryman - landscape painters.

http://www.staicele.lv/libiesu_muzejs.php

14.15 -15.15 Farm „Adzelvieši”, producer of hemp butter
(Produce tasting and excursion)



Hemp-seed spread is a traditional Latvian butter that is still widely used today. For many in Latvia, the tasty spread is an everyday condiment with meals. For others, it is a delicacy, which is put on the table only on special occasions. This farmer grows a lot of hemp, and the seeds are used to make hemp butter. He also has an exhibit of ancient hemp processing instruments. Visitors can purchase and taste the hemp butter and help to produce it with the ancient tools as well as enjoy an informative tour.

<http://www.celotajs.lv/lv/e/adzelviesi>

15.45 -17.00 Cottage “Lantus”
(Lunch and excursion)



Traditional Latvian house, restored in a contemporary style. Now offers both accommodation and catering services, as well as bath and organization of events. The guest house cooperates with neighbouring farms. Local produce and Latvian traditions are used while cooking. <http://www.celotajs.lv/e/lantus>



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17.30 -19.00 The Valmiermuiža's Brewery

(guided tour and degustation)



Beer brewing tradition dates back as long as the history of Latvians. Continuing the ancient hospitality traditions of Valmiermuiža manor house, the hosts of the new brewery invite to visit the brewery and manor house! The guests will enjoy the history that has produced the influence on current technologies of brewing live beer. Recommendations for enjoying the beer to feel its real taste and regarding the best snacks. In the nearby old barn, there is a shop of sauna accessories. That is because beer and staffs related to beer making have many applications in health and beauty treatment as well as relaxing sauna procedures.

http://www.celotajs.lv/e/valmiermuizas_alus

20.00 Guest House „Nītaures dzirnavas”

(Evening meal. Latvian country sauna. Overnight.)



The building of the guest house "Nītaures Dzirnavas" was initially built as a watermill in the end of 19th century. Since 2006 it has been entirely renovated and adjusted to the needs of a guesthouse. Boulder walls, ancient beams and elegant interior gives the building an aura of antiquity. The building complex includes a log sauna with a terrace and a large room for relaxation right on the mill pond. A large glass window in the sauna offers a view of the pond from the sweating shelf.

<http://www.celotajs.lv/lv/e/nitauresdzirnavas>

Day 2, October 3, 2012

8.00 – 8.45 Breakfast

9.45 – 11.15 The Līgatne paper-mill historical village and cellar system in caves

(Excursion and wine tasting)



The paper-mill town is a unique national urban architecture monument, the only building complex of its type built at the end of the 19th century in the Baltic countries. The paper-mill and the workers housing, the oldest barrack-type buildings in Latvia, built in the beginning of the 20th century have been maintained and are used as residential buildings today. In Līgatne, there is more sandstone than anywhere else in Latvia, and the locals have used this as an advantage for many years making cave systems and cellars. Today the cave cellars are used as a tasting hall of the Līgatne locally produced wines. Līgatne has received the award of European Destinations of Excellence – EDEN in 2011. Development of the renovation concept of the historical paper-mill village was lead by architect Ināra Kārklīņa who is one of the consultation program experts in the project.

http://www.celotajs.lv/en/e/ligatnes_papirfabrika

11.45 – 13.00 Holiday cottage “Ezerklabi”.

(Excursion)



Holiday cottages “Ezerklabi” and “Meža namiņš” are located 80 km from Riga airport and 18km from the town of Cesis, in a quiet, picturesque place, surrounded by forest, meadows and waters. These are among the most demanded rural tourism accommodations because of their clean environment and quality service. Both holiday cottages and the environment around them is build and created by the owners.

<http://www.ezerklabi.lv>



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13.30 -15.15 The Ungurmuiža Manor

(Lunch and excursion)



Ungurmuiža manor house ensemble with the Baroque style manor house is the only architectural monument of the 18th century wooden buildings preserved in Latvia. The manor house was built by Baron von Campenhausen in 1732 as the family house. At present the manor house is being restored to its former splendour. The interior paintings are surprisingly well-preserved. Visitors can enjoy the special atmosphere of the manor house by taking a walk in the park beneath the huge oak-trees or enjoying tea in the Tea House. This year

Ungurmuiža celebrates its 280th anniversary.

<http://www.celotajs.lv/en/e/ungurmuiza>

15.30 -16.30 The Brasla Tavern

(Herb teas and snacks)



A cosy tavern on the side of Valmiera road near Straupe. Both the building of tavern and the interior is furnished according to Latvian traditions and the food presentation and preparation meets Latvian cooking customs. Here you can try sauerkraut, lamb, chanterelles or sorrel soup, traditional barley porridge with bacon crisps and lingonberry jam or pumpkin pancakes, blueberry jelly with dumplings or hot drinks, and other dishes. Products delivered from local farms are used for cooking.

<http://www.celotajs.lv/lv/e/braslaskrogs>

17.00 – 18.30 The Birini Castle. Watermill with Tavern

Demo farm of the project. (Excursion)



The Biriņi estate complex and the park was built in the 18th-19th century. The castle itself was built in 1860, and exemplifies a successful mixture of styles - the architecture is dominated by the Neo-gothic and semicircle style, while the interior features Neo-renaissance. Today the castle is a prestigious venue for banquets, seminars and accommodations. One of the parts of Birini palace complex is the old Watermill where the museum of ethnic items hosts a tavern during the summer season. At the tavern Latvian food can be enjoyed, but ethnic exhibition offers information on household, costumes and crafts. <http://www.celotajs.lv/e/birinupils>

19.00 The Igate castle and Pub Mill

(Excursion. Evening meal. Overnight.)



Only 76 km from the capital city of Riga but far enough from the haste of the city and daily worries stands the elegant Igate manor house built in the style of neo –Renaissance. The manor house and its picturesque surroundings are a perfect holiday destination for families, a stop travelling around Vidzeme, as well as an excellent location for celebrations – romantic weddings, elegant banquets and balls. Near the castle you will find the "Dzirnavu krodziņš" (*Pub Mill*), where you definitely have to taste the mealy barley porridge cooked from the grain grown by the local farmers and ground in the local "Krodziņš" mill. <http://www.celotajs.lv/en/e/igatespils>



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Day 3, October 4, 2012

8.00 – 8.45 Breakfast

09.15 –10.15 Saulkrasti bicycle museum

(Excursion)



Saulkrasti Bicycle Museum is the only collection of old bicycles in Latvia. The home of bicycles! The development of the collection started in 1977. It contains the most technically interesting samples from the history of bicycle development found in Latvia. The collection also includes an extensive range of other objects associated with bicycles, the sport of cycling, associations, and bicycle production. The largest collection of bicycle insignia in eastern Europe is displayed here.

10.45 –11.45 Pottery workshop of Ingrīda Žagata

(Demonstration of work and a possibility to try potter's work)



Dishes and interior decorations are made of clay, stone paste and other ceramics. The potter burns the products in an open kiln. Excursion, demonstration, possibility to try one's hand.

http://www.celotajs.lv/en/e/ingrida_zagata

12.00 -13.00 The Meķes pub

(Lunch)



The Meķes pub in the 51st km of the Tallinn – Riga road was, until recently, just an abandoned outhouse. Since June 21, 2011, the old building hosts a pub. Pubs may be found in roadside houses, castles, thrashing barns and mills, but this one has been arranged in a 104 years old cattle shed. The site is mentioned in 1888 as the Meķe estate in the Liepupe parish.

<http://www.celotajs.lv/lv/e/meke>

14.15 -15.30 Latvian courtyard “Dzirnupes”

Demo farm of the project. (Excursion, old farm equipment exhibit, black smith's forge, bow shooting)



“Dzirnupes” is a traditional Vidzeme rural courtyard, where you can enjoy the romance of the Latvian countryside. Main buildings of the farm are built in the beginning of 20th century and are changed very little since. The owner introduces with the ancient tools and their uses, as well as is making a variety of craft products - drums, pipes, hangers himself. But in the forge blacksmith craft is demonstrated. <http://www.celotajs.lv/e/dzirnupes>



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16.00 -17.30 Salacgrīva lamprey weirs

(Lamprey weirs and fishermen's stories, video about lamprey fishing and produce tasting)



Lamprey is a special delicacy for many gourmets, however, lamprey fishing is not so common in the world. Nowadays only in Salacgrīva the weirs are still used for lamprey fishing - a unique fishing technique with a centuries old history. The first Salaca lamprey weir is a special construction footbridge crossing the river closest to the sea mouth, approximately 800m. It is built according to the ancient methods from fir lumber prepared over several years. During the visit, it is possible to watch a video about lamprey fishing and extreme situations in various seasons of a year. It is also possible to taste lamprey.

17.30 Departure for Tallinn

This experience exchange trip is organised within the framework of the project „Promotion of cultural heritage and potential in Latvian rural tourism”. Follow the updates at <http://www.kultura.celotajs.lv>



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