



LATVIA
RIGA AND RIGA REGION



OLD RIGA - BALTEZERS, 19 km

Through Riga – UNESCO World Heritage Site

The starting point of Forest Trail in Latvia is located in the heart of Old Riga, the Town Hall Square. The route leads along Kaļķu Street, passes the Monument of Freedom, through Vērmāne Garden and along the historic Tērbatas street. Then it arches over the Zemitāni railway station pedestrian bridge and treads into Biķernieki and Šmerlis forests. The Forest Trail winds through Jugla, passes the Latvian Ethnographic Open-Air Museum and goes on along the pedestrian-bicycle path until Baltezers.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 19 km

🕒 6 – 8 h

🚩 Old Riga, Town Hall Square (Rātslaukums) by the Riga TIC

🚩 Baltezers, by the hotel "Baltvilla"

📍🚶 Rātslaukums – Kaļķu street – Inženieru street – Vērmāne Garden park – Tērbatas street – Tallinas street – Krišjāņa Barona street – Pērnavas street – Zemitāni railway sta-

tion pedestrian bridge – Ieriķu street – Kastrānes street – Raunas street – Ķeguma street – Biķernieki forest – Šmerlis – Šmerlis forest – Brīvības avenue – Melderu street – Rožu street (avenue) – pedestrian-cycle path along Rīga-Sigulda highway – Senču avenue – Baltezers



Mainly paved sidewalks, pedestrian and cycle paths, forest roads and trails



Easy



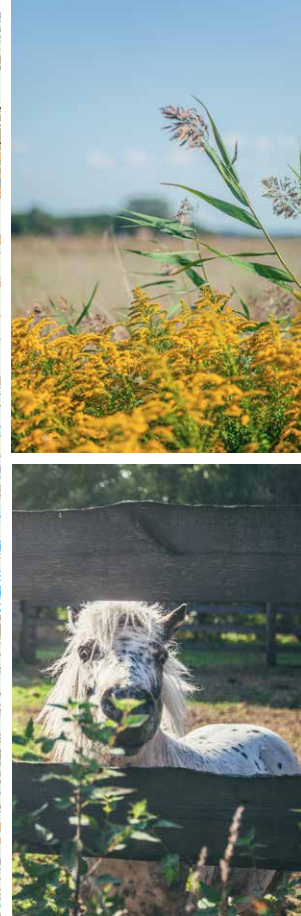
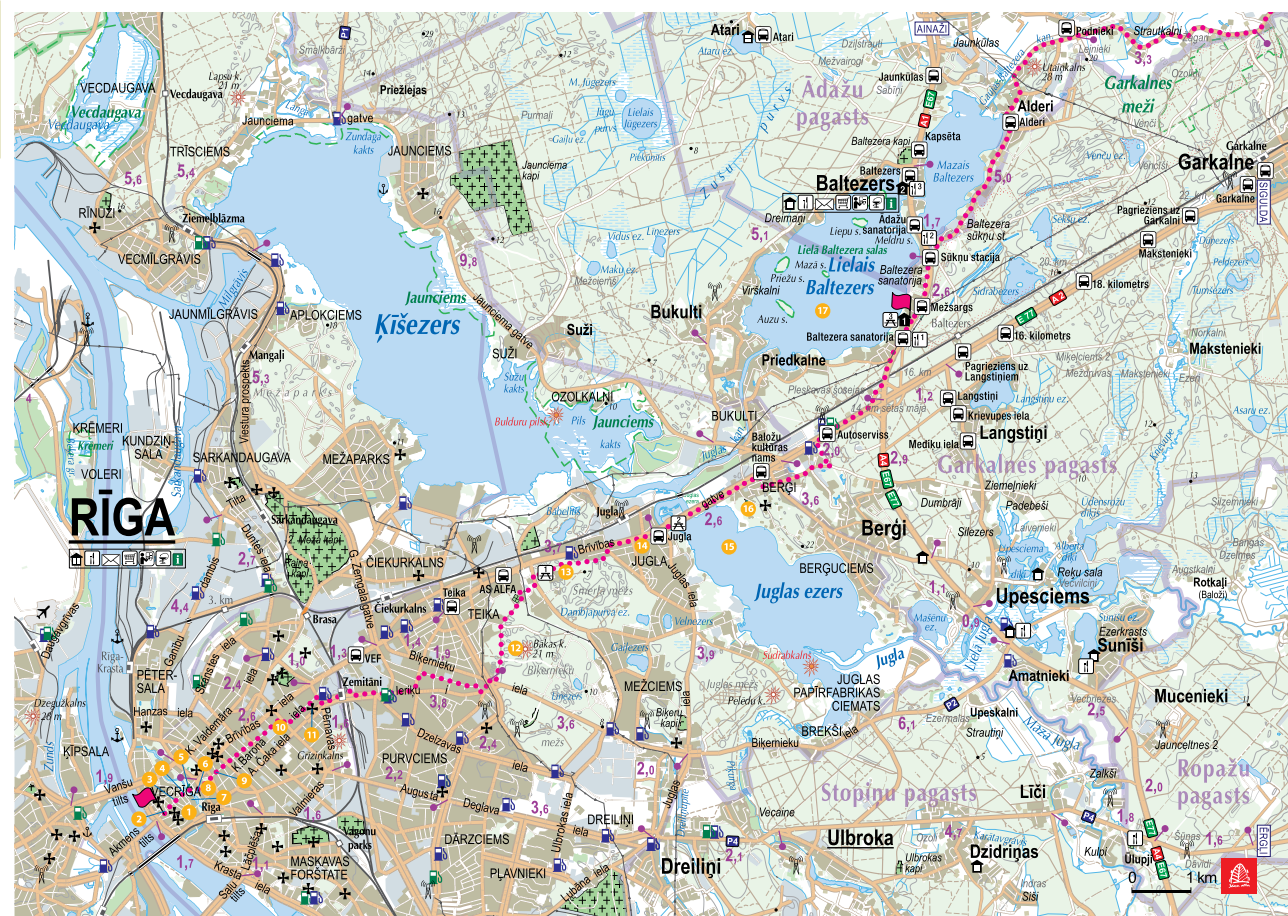
Cross highways and railway tracks only in designated areas!



The division between pedestrian and cycle lanes, as well as safety rules must be observed when walking the shared pedestrian and cycle paths.



The route from the Monument of Freedom may be continued along Brīvības avenue. An intercity bus may be taken to Baltezers (crossing Gauja River over Kadagas Bridge) to Rāmkalni. The recommended time is two days, spending the night in the camping "Leiputrija".



FORESTS

The Forest Trail begins in Riga, where natural heritage is concentrated in the gardens and parks of the city. One of the oldest wild tree species, the ginkgo, can be found by the city canal. Riga is considered to be one of the most northern points where this type of tree can survive outdoors. The Manchurian walnut, Canadian poplar, broadleaf and silver linden, Caucasian wingnut and other rarities can be found in the Vērmāne Garden park. The Forest Trail winds through forested dunes in Bīķernieki and Šmerlis forests, where giant pine trees may be seen. Šmerlis forest provides home to such rare species as the sweet chestnut and grey walnut.

WORTH SEEING!

- 1 **Old Riga.** UNESCO World Heritage Site, the most popular tourist destination in Latvia. GPS: 56.94928, 24.10969
- 2 **Town Hall Square.** Until the 19th century, this was the administrative centre of Riga with the Town Hall and the House of the Blackheads. GPS: 56.94762, 24.10663
- 3 **Līvu Square.** Built after World War II, 18th century residential buildings have been preserved here. GPS: 56.94956, 24.10907
- 4 **Laima Clock.** The most popular meeting place in Riga since 1924. GPS: 56.95041, 24.11199
- 5 **Freedom Monument.** Built in 1935 using money donated by residents. Built to honour the fallen Latvian freedom fighters. GPS: 56.95148, 24.11328
- 6 **University of Latvia.** Founded in 1919. Largest University in the Baltic States. GPS: 56.95053, 24.11563
- 7 **Latvian National Opera.** Founded in 1863 as a German Theatre. GPS: 56.94943, 24.11399

- 8 **Vērmāne Garden park.** One of the oldest and most beautiful parks in Riga centre (as of 1817). Features an insect house. GPS: 56.95105, 24.11860
- 9 **Tērbatas street.** Buildings No. 14, 15/17 and 33/35 are gems of Art Nouveau architecture. GPS: 56.95371, 24.12147
- 10 **Krišjāņa Barona street.** Named after the greatest Latvian folklorist and folk song collector. GPS: 56.96107, 24.14099
- 11 **St.Trinity Orthodox church.** One of the most vivid orthodox churches in Latvia. Located next to Sergius Female monastery. GPS: 56.96340, 24.14753
- 12 **Bīķernieki forest.** War memorial to The Holocaust victims of World War II and Bākas hill. GPS: 56.97229, 24.20793
- 13 **Šmerlis forest.** The most biologically diverse forest in Riga with 200-year-old pine stands. GPS: 56.98447, 24.21700
- 14 **Jugla.** The etymology of the name shows a presence of the indigenous people of Riga, the Livs: *jok, jog, joig* meaning "river" in Livonian language. GPS 56.98866, 24.23914
- 15 **Lake Jugla.** A shallow lake with important bird nesting sites. GPS: 56.99121, 24.25372
- 16 **The Ethnographic Open-Air Museum of Latvia.** One of the oldest open-air museums in Europe. GPS: 56.99480, 24.26994
- 17 **Baltezers.** A settlement place between the Lakes Lielais Baltezers and Mazais Baltezers since late 13th century. The region developed into a private house village in the post-war period. GPS: 57.01878, 24.31039

TOURIST INFORMATION:

i Riga TIC, Town Hall Square,
Rīga, Rātslaukums 6
www.liveriga.com, +371 67037900;
GPS: 56.94726, 24.10707

SERVICES



Accommodations

1. "Hotel Baltvilla", +371 67840640;
GPS: 57.02197, 24.31323
2. "Vanaga ligzda", +371 22443232;
GPS: 57.04217, 24.31485

Staying in Riga:
www.liveriga.com



Catering

1. Café "Korsārs", +371 25999077;
GPS: 57.01925, 24.31328
2. "Pica&Grill", +371 67436066;
GPS: 57.03407, 24.31945
3. "Vanaga ligzda", +371 22443232;
GPS: 57.04217, 24.31485

Where to eat in Riga: www.liveriga.com



Shops

Shops and gas stations along the route.



Public transport

In Riga:

You can travel to Jugla by tram No.1 or train. City public transport timetables: www.rigassatiksmeliv; intercity bus and train timetables: www.1188.lv

In Baltezers:

www.sabiedriskaisautobuss.lv



Rest areas

1. In Šmerlis forest,
GPS: 56.98385, 24.21271
2. By Lake Jugla,
GPS: 56.99139, 24.25003
3. By Lake Baltezers,
GPS: 57.02203, 24.31125