

## **4 DAYS IN LATGALE -THE LAND OF BLUE LAKES**

**Group: 8-10 persons**

### **DAY 1, DAUGAVPILS**

#### **GUIDED CITY TOUR**

During the Tour you will see The Historical Center of Daugavpils City and Church Hill.

#### **DAUGAVPILS SHOT FACTORY**

The Daugavpils Shot Factory is the only ammunition production factory in the Baltic which is open for tourists and where you can see the oldest shot casting tower in Europe, which is functioning also nowadays.

#### **LUNCH AT RESTAURANT "ART HUBE", "ARSENALS" or similar**

#### **DAUGAVPILS FORTRESS**

Daugavpils fortress is a unique cultural and historical architectural monument of national importance with a total area of 150 ha. Daugavpils fortress is also considered as the last bastion-type fortress in the world that has been preserved without any significant alterations since the early 19th century. The fortress from the bird view reminds the shape of a sun or a star but some find relations with a turtle or even a bat. This particular fortification system's shape was created specially to avoid so called "dead zones" around the fortress. Accordingly, the enemy can be easily noticed regardless of its location and the territory can be controlled effectively at the same time. It is supposed that 85% of the all fortifications remained in its initial condition till nowadays. All these aspects make the Daugavpils fortress the one of the most popular tourist attractions in Daugavpils.



#### **DAUGAVPILS MARK ROTHKO ART CENTRE**

Daugavpils Mark Rothko Art Centre is a multi-functional contemporary art and culture centre in Daugavpils Fortress. The only place in Eastern Europe where you have an opportunity to get acquainted with the original works of Mark Rothko, exhibitions by Latvian and foreign artists in the exhibition space of over 2000 m<sup>2</sup>. Cafe Arsenal and Souvenir shop are located inside the Art Centre.

#### **SMAKOVKA MUSEUM**

Shmakovka Museum, probably the only museum that offers to see an integral part of cultural and historical, and gastronomical element of Latgale – homemade strong alcoholic drink shmakovka. You will have a unique opportunity to bear witness to the development, progress and changes of this tradition-rich beverage. So simple and true in its essence, yet so varied in its taste. Shmakovka Museum is set up in Daugavpils in the Unity House (entrance from Unity Square), is a beautiful place for relaxation and for an informative tour.

#### **DINNER AT RESTAURANT "PLAZA", "GUBERNATORS" or similar**

Free time in Daugavpils

Overnight at PARK HOTEL LATGOLA\*\*\* or similar.

## **DAY 2, DAUGAVPILS - AGLONA - RAZNA NACIONAL PARK**

### **AGLONA BASILICA**

Aglona basilica was built in the late baroque style; it is decorated with two 60 metres high towers. Pilgrims come to Aglona every year on August 15 to celebrate the day of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven. It is one of the most well-known sacred sites in the world. Groined vaults, arches and columns splendidly decorated in rococo style can be found inside. The Dominican order founded a monastery and built the first wooden church in Aglona in the 17th century. When in 1699 the wooden church burned down, the stone building of a monastery and the present temple was built on its place in 1768 – 1780. The interior finish of the church was created in the 18th – 19th century, but the pulpit and the organ – at the close of the 18th century.



### **HILL OF THE KING CHRIST**

A unique sculpture complex with gardens and artificial ponds. Its area is approximately 20 ha.

### **THE AGLONA BREAD MUSEUM**

At this museum, you will learn all about the baking of bread from grain to loaf, and you can make your own loaves, too. You can taste bread and herbal teas. There are theatrical performances related to christenings, weddings, birthdays, etc. Local foods such as dumplings and soups made of dried mushrooms or lake fish are served. The museum sells freshly baked bread, as well as the work of local craftspeople.

### **LUNCH AT BREAD MUSEUM**

### **DEVIL'S LAKE (VELNEZERS)**

A transparent lake, which is said to have no bottom, is one of the lakes of Latgale, that is surrounded by the largest number of legends. Velnezers (also called Certoks, Cortoks, Certaks) is located 12 km away from Aglona, in Aglona municipality, Skeltova civil parish, in the Graveri pine forest delve. Velnezers, being located in the middle of a bilberry forest, is one of the most transparent lakes in Latvia, it attracts people with a peculiar blue-green colour of its waters, its transparency and the strange legends that have surrounded it since ancient times. The depth of Velnezers, which is located in a funnel-shaped delve, reaches 17 meters, and the transparency of its waters in some areas is up to 12 metres.

No river or spring flows in or out of this lake. Neither bulrushes nor water lilies grow there. Birds and wild animals avoid Velnezers, too. People say that there are plenty of



snakes in the lake, and the fish is rarely caught, except fat perches. According to one of the versions, Velnezers resulted from the fall of some space object.

### **MAKONKALNS (CLOUD HILL)**

Mākoņkalns (Cloud Hill), also called Padebešu kalns, is located near Lake Rāzna (249 m above the sea level).

Relative height of the hill is around 50 meters, it is located in South-East direction from Rāzna lake. In the Medieval times the Volkenberg castle was situated on this hill – the oldest crusader fortress in Lotigolas (now – Latgales) land. Nowadays only negligible part has been preserved (ruins and coincided underground path) of once remarkable castle. To the top of the hill leads path with stairs and couple informative stands. From top of the hill opens up marvelous view on nearest surroundings.

### **LUZNAVA MANOR**

Art Nouveau gem of Latgale. It was built in the early 20th century as a place for art and music. Over the decades it experienced historic change, becoming a school, military headquarters, then school again, parish administration and library. At last in 2015 - reborn anew to inspire and become a true home for MUSE.

### **DINNER AT RESTAURANT / CAFE**

Overnight at Guest house "EZERKRASTI" , "RĀZNAS LĪCIS" or similar



## **DAY 3, RAZNA NATIONAL PARK - REZEKNE - LUBANA - LIVANI**

### **GUIDED TOUR IN REZEKNE**

During the tour you will see the Embassy of Latgale GORS, Ruins of the Rezekne Castle Hill, Monument "United for Latvia", Heart of Jesus Cathedral, Green Synagogue.

### **LUNCH AT RESTAURANT**

### **TEIRUMNIEKI BOG TRAIL**

Teirumnieki Bog and its surroundings is a part of Lubāna Wetland Complex, which is a protected territory of international importance. The trail leads along wooden footpaths with the total length of 800 m.

The footpath made for exploring the bog goes along the picturesque Teirumnieki Lake and its miry coast. At the start of the trail, there is a place for campfire, but at the end – a recreation area with benches.



### **LAKE LUBANA**

Lake Lubāns is surrounded by Lubāns wetlands (area 813 km2). It is a unique natural formation of European and global importance with an



important role in the preservation of many protected species and biotopes. 225 bird species have been recorded in the lake surroundings, of which 51 are enlisted among the most protected species in Latvia.

6 vantage towers are available for bird-watching; a telescope and binoculars – at the Tourism Information Point of Lubāns wetlands.

### **DINNER AT CAFE "5.Elements" or Cafe "Gamma"**

Overnight at city of Livani, Guest house "Avotīgi" or "Krasti"

### **DAY 4, LIVANI - PREILI**

#### **LIVANI GLASS MUSEUM**

An opportunity to see the samples of all products manufactured in the Līvāni Glass Factory during its years of operation. Līvāni Glass Museum tells the history of the factory and the manufacturing of glass artifacts from its opening in 1887.

#### **LUNCH AT RESTAURANT**

#### **PREILI MUSEUM OF DOLLS**

The Museum of Dolls was founded by the Preili artist and museum owner Jeļena Mihailova, who within a year's time has managed to create 150 dolls. All of them are original artworks, made single-handedly by the artist herself.

The dolls are displayed in different interiors, each of them having their own story to tell. It is a most interesting and nice place to visit with the family, children or friends. As suggested by Irēna, Head of the Tourism Information Centre in Preili: "It cannot be described in words, you have to see it!" The proof is evident in the pictures where Irēna herself appears in a court-lady's dress inviting to visit Preili.

#### **FARM HOUSE "KALNI" AND WINE TASTING**

The farm offers visitors an excursion around the garden and wine cellars; it is possible to try wine, as well as buy wine, candy and marmalade.

#### **Price (for group of 8-10 persons) 350 EUR per person**

#### **Package price includes:**

- Tour guide for all program
- Local guides at Aglona Basilica and some of museums
- Entrance fees at the tourism objects, as per itinerary
- Accommodation at 3-4\* hotels or guest houses (TWIN or DBL use)
- 4 x Lunch; 3 x Dinner and 3 x Breakfast
- Excursion and Wine tasting at Farm House "Kalni"