

THE BALTIC STATES

SOME PLACES ARE DIFFERENT



CONFERENCE
AND INCENTIVE

WHAT DID PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH DO IN ESTONIA?

When President Bush visited Estonia in 2006, he met Estonian President Ilves. Among other things, Estonian President Ilves presented the Estonian e-government, one of the most innovative e-solutions in the world, to President Bush.



Estonian Prime Minister Ansip gave President Bush a gift – a **Skype phone** – as a symbol of a world-famous Estonian invention and a success-story.

ESTONIA IS A FAMOUS E-COUNTRY!

- » There are as many mobile phones in Estonia as there are people living there.
- » 2/3 of the population are Internet users.
- » The world's first e-election was held in Estonia in 2007.
- » You can pay for parking and buy a bus ticket by mobile phone.
- » Estonians are the second biggest users of Internet banking services after Finns.
- » There are 82,030 WiFi areas in Estonia. That is 1 access point for every 16th person.



WHAT DID RUSSIA'S TSAR PETER THE GREAT DO IN ESTONIA?

Russia's reformist Tsar Peter the Great built his summer cottage in Estonia. Tsar Peter gave it to his wife Catherine I, hence the Palace is named after her.

ESTONIA – BETWEEN THE EAST AND THE WEST!

- » Due to its geographical location, Estonian history has seen many invasions from the east and the west.
- » Estonia has repeatedly been conquered by its eastern neighbour Russia, both at the times of Peter the Great and during the Soviet Era.
- » During the earlier conquests, Estonia was subdued both to Denmark and Sweden.
- » Estonia boasts its countryside manors.
- » In the Middle Ages, Tallinn was known as a Hanseatic town. From that era, Tallinn has retained its' medieval looks – a fascinating Old Town with all its stories and myths.





WHAT DID JAPAN'S EMPEROR AKIHITO DO IN ESTONIA?



You could have easily met Emperor Akihito in Tallinn Old Town or in the mini Song Festival in May 2007.

LAND OF TRADITIONS!

- » The restoration of independence in Estonia is definitely connected with the Singing Revolution.
- » The Song Festival tradition goes back to 1869, and the nation-wide festival takes place in every four years. The next is in 2009.
- » More than 30 thousand singers dressed in national costumes form the Song Festival's United Choir.
- » Tallinn will be the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2011.
- » Estonia is rich in summer concerts. Birgitta Festival is an excellent example of performing quality music on the open-air stage of the historic Pirita Monastery.
- » One of Estonia's most popular traditions is Jaanipäev – Midsummer's Day – 24 June. On this lightest night of the year, Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians make a bonfire and celebrate the day with merry parties.
- » There are 5 seasons in Estonia: spring, summer, autumn, winter and flood in Soomaa National Park.
- » There are over 1,500 islands in Estonia.



WHAT DID QUEEN ELIZABETH II DO IN ESTONIA?



During her visit in 2006, Queen Elizabeth II visited Tallinn Old Town and praised the modern and developing Tallinn City.

A TINY COUNTRY WITH REMARKABLE DEVELOPMENT!

- » Tallinn Old Town is a true pearl – our historic cultural heritage full of cafés, pubs, shops and handicraft boutiques. Tallinn Old Town Days is a historically flavoured cultural festival with a multifaceted programme.
- » In Tallinn City, there are many new buildings of modern architecture.
- » Many of the new buildings are hotels with vast conference spaces, with luxury spas in many Estonian towns and islands.
- » The Tallinn Airport is in a continuous development process.
- » In Tallinn, everything is just nearby. A trip from the airport to Old Town takes only 10 minutes.





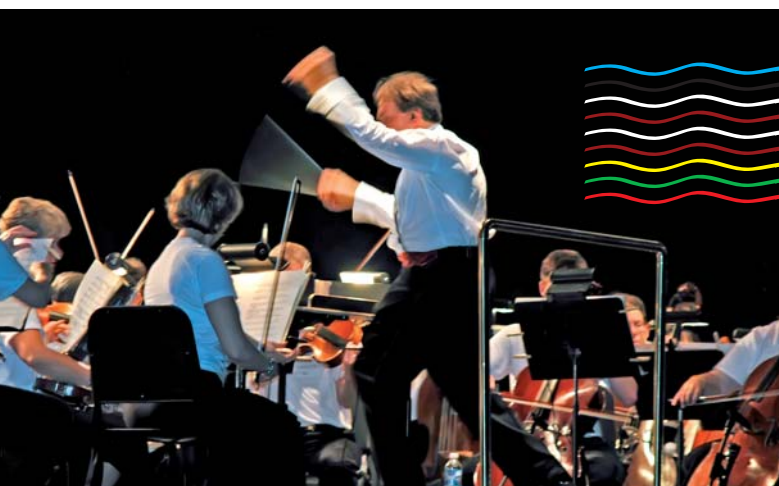
WHAT DID RICHARD WAGNER DO IN LATVIA?



The famous conductor visited Riga and forgot his baton there. It has become an important relic used by present conductors during Autumn Chamber Music Festival concerts.

THE COUNTRY OF GREAT MUSIC!

- » The musical visiting card of Latvia is the world-famous violinist Gidon Kremer and his Kremerata Baltica, the best chamber music orchestra besides the Berlin Philharmonics.
- » There are many world stars of pop music giving open-air concerts in summer. Check the programme for this summer!
- » Latvia is well known for its Song and Dance Festival. Many thousands of singers and dancers dressed in traditional costumes give concerts all around the country.
- » Classical music and ballet festivals are held there, and they are very popular both among local people and visitors: Baltic Ballet Festival with local and international ballet stars, International J.S. Bach Music Festival, Opera Festival to name a few of them.
- » The Dome Cathedral of Riga offers a unique experience of enjoying the magnificent sound of the largest pipe organ in Europe.



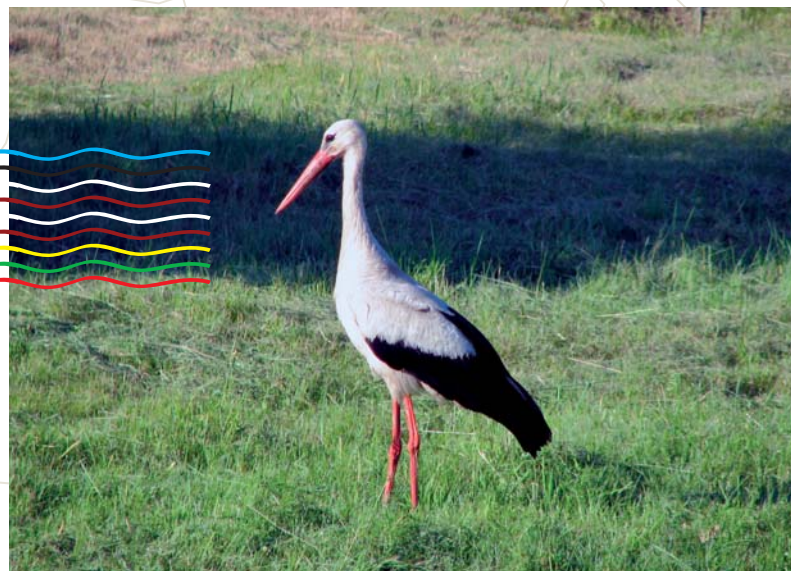
WHAT DID JACQUES CHIRAC DO IN LATVIA?

French President Chirac took part in "Amazing Latvia" festival.



LATVIA — REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS!

- » Latvia is a country of inventors: Did You know that Latvia is the home of Minox, the first mini camera; Remantadin, an anti-flu medicine; zefir, delicious marshmallows in chocolate; nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy; different medicines against cancer worked out by Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis; Blue Microphones, very popular among world's music stars.
- » Birds – the idea of ringing birds from their birth comes from Latvia. When the birds are small, the ornithologists use plasticine inside the ring. When they grow up, their legs push it out from the ring!
- » Christmas tree comes from Latvia, where the Blackheads used it during their celebrations.



WHAT DID MICHEL PLATINI DO IN LATVIA?

He took part in a friendship football match with local football stars and representatives.



WHAT DID LAURA BUSH DO IN LATVIA?

During Bushes' visit to Latvia, the First Lady of the USA visited the Botanical Garden of the University of Latvia in Riga.



LATVIA — A PLACE TO BE ACTIVE!

- » Aerodium – a special place where we teach you to fly. Maybe you saw it during the Closing Ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Turin in 2006?
- » GoPlanet – a place to experience laser games in a multi-level labyrinth and many simulators and carting tracks.
- » We have winter here as well. 4 month a year at best. We don't have mountains, but we have many ski resorts. We go mad during the World Hockey Championship. We like skating and skiing. Want to try biathlon? Want to try bobsleighbing? You are welcome.
- » Do you know AS World Series, Raid Gauloises? These are adventure racing competitions. Latvia hosts many of such competitions. Be with us!!!



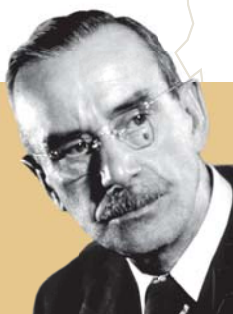
LATVIA — A GREEN COUNTRY!

- » Latvia is known as an ecofarming country: Our households try to learn useful information and use the ancient healing methods by consuming different herbs. We drink various herb teas and enjoy Latvians' favorite steam-bath. We teach all of it to our guests: Get to know Latvian national beliefs of healthy lifestyle, enjoy Latvian-style meals and much more.
- » Gauja National Park is the largest park in Latvia. We call a part of it a Latvian Little Switzerland due to its sceneries, castles and nature trails.
- » As we lie on the Baltic Sea, the fisherman's profession is well known here. Take a great opportunity to watch the process not only from the side, but also from inside.
- » We have much water – lakes and rives. The Europe's widest waterfall is in Kuldiga on the river Venta, the widest white sand beaches are in the resort city of Jurmala.



WHAT DID THOMAS MANN DO IN LITHUANIA?

The famous German writer and winner of the Nobel Prize Thomas Mann (1875–1955) had a summer cottage built in the famous Lithuanian resort in Neringa where he spent his summer vacations.



LITHUANIA IS A COUNTRY OF GLAMOROUS NATURE!

- » Neringa is the Lithuanian part of the Curonian Spit, a long and narrow sand peninsula that separates the Curonian Lagoon from the Baltic Sea. The natural wonder, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, is marked by a truly unique landscape, dominated by picturesque sand dunes and pristine beaches.
- » The popular British newspaper "Sunday Times" mentioned holidays at the Lithuanian beach in Neringa as one out of the 100 top places to spend the summer vacation. Curonian Spit finds its way into the best 100 holiday getaways already second time in a row.
- » Lithuania has nearly 3,000 beautiful lakes that provide plenty of fishing, water sports and other recreational possibilities.
- » Lithuania has five national parks, each with distinct characteristic natural beauty.



WHAT DID NAPOLEON DO IN LITHUANIA?



During the war with Russian Empire in 1812, Napoleon with his troops passed Vilnius. A legend has it that when the great general saw the church of St. Anne in Vilnius, he was so enthralled with its beauty that he wanted to take it on the palm of his hand and carry it back to France.

LITHUANIA IS A COUNTRY WITH BEAUTIFUL ARCHITECTURE!

- » The ensemble of St. Anne and Bernardine churches in Vilnius represents a brilliant example of late Gothic style.
- » St Peter and Paul's church with over 2,000 stucco figures decorating its interior is one of the most beautiful baroque examples in Lithuania.
- » The capital of Lithuania has one of the biggest and most beautiful old towns in Central Europe, listed in the UNESCO cultural heritage list.
- » University of Vilnius is not only one of the oldest universities in Eastern Europe, dating back to 1579, but also a unique blend of variety of architectural styles.



WHAT DID ROBIN HOOD DO IN LITHUANIA?

The New Adventures of Robin Hood is a 1997–1998 TV series on Turner Network Television. This film, as well as a number of other films, was shot in Lithuania and produced and distributed by Dune Productions, M6 and Warner Bros.

LITHUANIA IS A COUNTRY OF ADVENTURE!

- » Trakai Castle – the fairy-tale red-brick Gothic castle on a pretty lake, with green forests disappearing into the distance, lures the visitor into the medieval atmosphere.
- » Bungee jumping from the Vilnius TV-tower with its height of 326.5 meters and the jumper's average free-fall speed of 104 km/h can surely be one of the most adventurous experiences.
- » Those longing for Soviet times can jump back into the atmosphere of 1984. The participants of the survival drama will be taken to a secret labyrinth, met by guards with dogs. They leave their valuables, get special clothes and launch into the former Soviet Union realities with KGB interrogations, the anthem of the USSR, lessons on how to assemble Kalashnikov, Soviet dances and real Soviet lunch.



WHAT DID POPE JOHN PAUL II DO IN LITHUANIA?

On 7 September 1993, Pope John Paul II visited the Hill of Crosses, declaring it a place for hope, peace, love and sacrifice.



LITHUANIA IS THE CENTRE OF EUROPE!

- » The Hill of Crosses is a unique religious place and the main centre of attraction for pilgrims from all over Europe and beyond. It has over 50,000 crosses put on two small hills, and thousands of tiny effigies and rosaries.
- » In 1989, a group of French scientists announced that the geographical centre of Europe was just 26 kilometres to the north of the Lithuanian capital Vilnius.
- » Lithuania has the Park of Europe which occupies an area of 55 hectares and exhibits over 90 works created by artists from many countries. The park gives an artistic significance to the geographic centre of the European continent, and presents the best achievements of the Lithuanian and international modern art.
- » The Gate of Dawn in Vilnius is famous and visited by pilgrims from many surrounding countries because of the painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary, widely known for miraculous recoveries and other graces.



BALTCOMING SERVICES:

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