

Practical Information Note



Welcome to Riga

Welcome to the capital of Latvia! Located on the banks of the Daugava River and on the shores of the Baltic Sea, Riga is a modern and vibrant city, and a melting pot of different cultures and nationalities.

Conference venue

National Library of Latvia

Mūkusalas iela 3, Rīga, Latvia

<https://www.latvia.travel/en/sight/national-library-latvia>

Its shape is a symbolic expression of the Hill of Glass and the Castle of Light found in Latvian folklore. According to the legend, the Castle of Light sank into an ancient lake and would only arise from the depths when Latvians were once again masters of their own land.



During the conference you will be able to take a guided tour of the building, which allows you access to the top floor, or just wander around for spectacular views of Old Riga across the river.

Conference hotel

Wellton Riverside SPA Hotel is Superior class 4-star Hotel with 265 rooms with a view of panorama of Riga

Website: <https://www.wellton.com/en/hotels/wellton-riverside-spa-hotel>

Address: 33, 11.novembra krastmala, Riga Latvia.



The conference venue, the National Library, is just across the river, and it takes only one tram stop or 10–15-minute walk to get there.

The meeting the Advisory Group on Legal Issues (T-DO LI) will take place in this hotel on 4 October 2023.

How to book a room:

1. Visit the hotel chain's website www.wellton.com and click on "Book now"
2. Choose the dates of your stay, entering the promotional code **EP2023** upon doing so.
3. Select Wellton Riverside and proceed with booking
4. For questions, please write to conference.riverside@wellton.com and indicate that you participate in the Council of Europe's anti-doping event

Other hotels

Two other centrally located hotels cooperate with the Latvian Presidency of the Council of Europe. Promotional codes are available for both:

- **Grand Poet by Semarah**, Raiņa bulvāris 5/6, Riga (www.semarahhotels.com)
- 20 % discount for bookings with code **PRES2023** (price depending on occupancy, booking with the promotional code may only be made via the hotel's website)
- **Pullman Riga Old Town**, Jēkaba iela 24, Riga (<https://pullmanriga.lv>) offers special rate Superior king single use 95 EUR / 115 EUR double use including breakfast, Fit&Spa with gym, sauna and pool. Special rate upon availability for period 01.-05.10.2023 with PROMO code AM031023 via e-mail inga.gravite@accorhotel.lv

Attendees may use any other hotel or type of accommodation of their choice. Please note no promotional codes or negotiated fares are available from accommodation providers other than those listed above

Transport

a) Useful websites for transport information

[Rīgas satiksme \(rigassatiksme.lv\)](http://rigassatiksme.lv) Official website of Riga's public transport. It can be used to view schedules, timetables, routes and map of all stops.

1188.lv Information about all types of transport, by selecting "City transport", then "Riga". A drop-down menu with all available public transport types (tram, trolley and bus) will appear, displaying all routes and timetables.

b) Public transport in Riga

The base price and time-limited ticket for any type of public transport costs €1.50 for 90 min. It should be noted that there are different schedules for working days and weekends. To buy a ticket, download the mobile app "**Mobilily**" or go to any "**Narvesen**", booths, "**Rimi**" or "**Maxima**" grocery stores, to name a few (a list of tickets sales points can be found [here](#)). If you use "Mobilily", you can scan the QR code found in every public transport vehicle, or you can alternatively manually enter the digits written under the code.

To get from the Riga International Airport (*RIX*) to the city or vice-versa you can take bus No. 22 (*Lidosta-Abrenes iela*). For convenience you can buy a ticket from the driver for €2 (*only on this route*), from the aforementioned "Mobilily" app for €1.50, or from a ticket machine or booth.

An alternative way to get to the city is to hire a taxi; here are some suggestions: through the mobile app "**Bolt**" or by phone to **Baltic Taxi** (+371 20 008 500).

Cultural sites

The Freedom Monument – Riga's central landmark is a symbol of the Latvian nation's quest for freedom and independence. The woman at the top of the monument holds up three golden stars, representing Latvia's historic regions of Kurzeme, Vidzeme, and Latgale. The motto "For the Fatherland and Freedom" is inscribed on the pedestal.

The Old Town, with its narrow, cobbled streets, is the historic centre of Riga. The Old Town features such impressive buildings as the Dome Cathedral and St. Peter's Church, Riga Castle and others.

The Latvian National Opera and Ballet – the grandiose white building was unveiled in 1863 and was originally built and used as the Riga City Theatre building. The building's ownership was transferred to the Latvian National Opera in 1919, and in 1922 Latvia's first professional ballet company joined the opera troupe.

The Art Nouveau architecture in Riga accounts for about one third of all the buildings in the centre of Riga, making the Latvian capital the city with the highest concentration of Art Nouveau architecture anywhere in the world. Art Nouveau is an art style of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Art Nouveau architecture is mainly concentrated in the Quiet Centre district, about a 10-minute walk from the

Old Town. Alberta Street is the pearl of Riga's Art Nouveau architecture: the entire street is lined up with Art Nouveau buildings.

Latvian National Museum of Art - the collection of the largest art museum in Latvia includes more than 52 000 works by painters and sculptors, reflecting the development of professional art in the Baltic region from the mid-18th century to the present day. The Latvian National Museum of Art building is a national architectural monument. Between 2010 and 2015, the museum underwent a reconstruction which doubled its total size.

Additional information

- **Language:** Latvian is the official language of Latvia. English and Russian are widely spoken.
- **General emergency number:** 112
- **Assistance for foreigners:** tourist police unit in Riga (+371 6718 1818)
- **International dial code for Latvia:** +371
- **Latvian time:** GMT +2
- **Currency:** EURO €
- **Riga - events and information:** <https://www.liveriga.com/en/>