

## **PRACTICAL NOTE ON RIGA**

### **1. Introduction about Riga**

Welcome to the capital of Latvia – Riga! Located on the banks of the River Daugava and on the coast of the Baltic Sea, Riga has a rich and turbulent history.

Through centuries, it has been passed from one foreign rule to another. In 1918 when Latvia proclaimed the independence, Riga became the capital and now is a modern and lively city and a “melting pot” of different cultures and nationalities.

### **2. Useful webpages for information on transport**

WEBPAGE	DESCRIPTION
<a href="http://rigassatiksmes.lv">Rīgas satiksme (rigassatiksmes.lv)</a>	Official webpage of public transportation in Riga. Can be used to view schedules, timetables, routes and map of all stops.
<a href="http://1188.lv">1188.lv</a>	Information about all types of transportation, by choosing “City transport”, then “Riga” visible all available public transport types - Tram, Trolley, Bus and their route and schedule.

### **3. Public transportation in Riga**

The base price and time limit ticket for any type of public transportation is priced 1.50€ for 90 min. It should be noted that there are schedules for working days and weekends, so departure and arrival time will vary. As for buying transportation ticket, download mobile app “**Mobilily**” or go to any booth “**Narvesen**”, grocery stores “**Rimi**” or “**Maxima**” etc. (ticket trade outlets can be found [here](#)). If you use “**Mobilily**”, you can scan the QR code, which is found in any public transport, or manually write the digits, which are written under the code.

#### 4. Taxi and Ride-hailing services from/to airport or through the city

To get from the Riga International Airport (*RIX*) to the city or vice-versa you can go by bus No. 22 (*Lidosta-Abrenes iela*). For convenience you can buy (*only on this route of transport!*) a ticket from the driver for 2€, from before mentioned app “Mobilly” for 1.50€ or ticket vending machine or booth. Alternative way to get to the city is by hiring a taxi, here are some suggestions: **Bolt** (*it is possible to hire a taxi through “Bolt” mobile app*) or **Baltic Taxi** (20 008 500).

#### 5. Accommodations

For your convenience, we have prepared promotional code “PRES2023” in two centrally located hotels:

- **Grand Poet by Semarah**, Raiņa bulvāris 5/6, Riga ([www.semarahhotels.com](http://www.semarahhotels.com)) - 20 % discount for reservation with code PRES2023 (price depending on occupancy, booking with the promotional code via the hotel webpage)
- **Pullman Riga Old Town**, Jēkaba iela 24, Riga (<https://pullmanriga.lv>) - with code PRES2023 price for single room 95 EUR per night<sup>1</sup> (breakfast included). Booking by e-mail to [inga.gravite@accorhotel.lv](mailto:inga.gravite@accorhotel.lv) referencing the discount code.

#### 6. Cultural Sites

- **The Freedom Monument** – Riga's central landmark is a symbol of the Latvian nation's striving for freedom and independence. The woman on top of the monument is holding up three golden stars, which represent Latvia's historical regions Kurzeme, Vidzeme, and Latgale. The motto "For the Fatherland and Freedom" is inscribed upon the base.
- **The Old Town** with its narrow cobblestone streets is the historical centre of Riga. The Old Town features such impressive buildings as the Dome Cathedral and St. Peter's Church, Riga Castle, the House of the Blackheads and others.

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<sup>1</sup> Except for the duration of IIHF Championship, during these dates price for a single room will be 205 EUR per night

- **Latvian National Opera and Ballet** – the grandiose white building was unveiled in 1863, and was originally constructed and utilized as the Riga City Theatre building. The building itself was handed over to the Latvian National Opera in 1919, and in 1922 the first professional ballet ensemble in Latvia joined the opera troupe.
  
- **The Art Nouveau architecture** in Riga makes up roughly 1/3 of all the buildings in the centre of Riga, making Latvia's 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. The Art Nouveau architecture is mainly concentrated in the city's quarter called the "Quiet Centre", which is about a 10-minute walk from the Old Town. Alberta Street is the pearl of Riga's Art Nouveau style - "art nouveau" style buildings are located along its entire street.
  
- **Latvian National Museum of Art** – the collection of the largest art museum in Latvia comprises more than 52 thousand works by painters and sculptors reflecting the development of professional art in the Baltic area from the middle of the 18th century until the present time. The building of the Latvian National Museum of Art is a national architectural monument. Between 2010 and 2015 museum underwent a reconstruction, during which the total size of the building was doubled.
  
- **The National Library of Latvia** (“the Castle of Light”) is located opposite the Old Town, on the left bank of the Daugava. This is one of the most significant cultural buildings in the history of restored Latvia. The library's new building was opened in 2014, designed by the world-renowned Latvian architect Gunārs Birkerts. The main task of the library is to create and preserve the collection of national and world literature and ensure its free access to everyone. The stock consists of more than 4 million items.

## 7. **Other 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 (6718 1818)
- **International dial code for Latvia:** +371
- **Latvian time:** GMT +2