

## Latvia's Top 2012 Events Guide

### JANUARY

01.12. 2011	15.01.	Christmas Tree Festival	Festival of urban design objects by exhibiting innovative solutions through the use of Christmas trees – a Christmas symbol, keeping the traditional Christmas spirit and balancing traditions with novelties. Rīga – the capital of the first decorated Christmas tree.	Riga	<a href="http://www.riga.lv">www.riga.lv</a>
04.11. 2011	12.01.	100th Birthday of Kārlis Padegs	The exhibition to mark the centennial of Kārlis Padegs (1911–1940). Padegs was a dedicated figurative painter, a very personal and highly sensitive artist, his works reflecting both traits of expressionism and the new application, and even surrealism, as well as the “spirit” of the 19th century <i>fin de siècle</i> decadence rather unknown to the society of that time.	Main building of the Latvian National Museum of Art. White Hall	<a href="http://www.lnmm.lv">www.lnmm.lv</a>
16.11. 2011	05.02.	Re-novation. Exhibition of Latvian Decorative Arts and Design	The exhibition intended as a display of decorative arts and design reflecting the latest processes and phenomena in this field of art in Latvia. This exhibition shows artists engaged in the decorative arts and design and students of the Art Academy of Latvia displaying their latest works created in 2011.	Museum of Decorative Arts and Design	<a href="http://www.lnmm.lv">www.lnmm.lv</a>
09.12. 2011	29.01.	The Dense Space. Works from Guntis Belēvičs's collection	Exhibition encompasses more than 120 works of about 80 artists analysing perception peculiarities in a room oversaturated with information. At the same time, diversity of the content and form of art affecting perception makes one think about political context and personal longing characteristic of this period.	Arsenāls Exhibition Hall	<a href="http://www.lnmm.lv">www.lnmm.lv</a>
09.01.	13.02.	Winterfest	Every year around this time, Herman Braun Foundation organises Winterfest, an international winter music festival. Festival concerts are characterised by versatility of genres and	Riga	<a href="http://www.hbf.lv">www.hbf.lv</a>

			participation of legendary maestros, famous young soloists, chamber ensembles, as well as choirs, period music ensembles, jazz vocal groups and cross-over groups.		
20.01.		Annual Symphonic Music Concert	Great concert of Latvian symphonic music is given by the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, Liepāja Symphony Orchestra, Latvian National Opera Orchestra and Sinfonietta Rīga State Chamber Orchestra.	Great Guild	<a href="http://www.latvijaskoncerti.lv">www.latvijaskoncerti.lv</a>
20.01.	22.01.	Winter Swimming World Championships	Swimming competition in an open pool cut in ice. Participants may swim a distance of 25 metres in breaststroke or a distance of 25 or 50 metres in freestyle. Results will be evaluated according to 10 age groups, the youngest group for participants under 20, but the oldest – for those aged 70 and over.	Lielupe, near the bridge over the River Lielupe in Jūrmala	<a href="http://www.winterswimming2012.com">www.winterswimming2012.com</a>
21.01.		Kontinental Hockey League All-Star Game	Hockey fans from not only Latvia and Russia but also from other European countries may take this opportunity to watch the best Kontinental Hockey League players in action.	Arena Riga	<a href="http://www.arenariga.com">www.arenariga.com</a>
28.01.		Premiere of “Mazepa” by Peter Tschaikovsky	Responding to an invitation from the Croatian National Theatre, the Latvian National Opera will please its visitors with a new production of Peter Tschaikovsky’s opera “Mazepa” in 2011/2012 season. The performance will be given by the brightest Latvian soloists, while the scenery and costumes will be provided by Zagreb theatre. Conductor – Modestas Pitrenas.	Latvian National Opera	<a href="http://www.opera.lv">www.opera.lv</a>

## FEBRUARY

07.02.	17.02.	Viennese Classic	Viennese Classic Festival popularises music	Rīga	<a href="http://www.vinesklasika.lv">www.vinesklasika.lv</a>
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			composed by Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven, three great composers representing the Viennese Classical School. Their music will be played by excellent musicians and groups in concert halls in Rīga and other places in Latvia.		
07.02.		Rammstein. Made in Germany 1995–2011 Greatest Hits Tour	Energy, explosion and a lot of special effects – these are the things fans certainly expect from Rammstein. In Riga, the band will present its greatest hits and give the concert named “Made in Germany 1995–2011”.	Arena Riga	<a href="http://www.bilesuserviss.lv">www.bilesuserviss.lv</a>
10.02.	12.02.	14th International Ice Sculpture Festival	International Ice Sculpture Festival has been promoting ice art in Latvia for 13 years already showing this unique type of art to Latvian people and creating a place where Latvian artists may express themselves professionally.	Jelgava	<a href="http://www.jelgava.lv">www.jelgava.lv</a>
10.02	12.02.	Balttour 2012	19th International Travel Trade Fair. Balttour will pleasantly surprise both professionals and ordinary travellers with versatile travel offers across Latvian regions, tastings and interesting souvenirs.	Ķīpsala International Exhibition Centre	<a href="http://www.balttour.org">www.balttour.org</a>
10.02.	22.04.	Latvian Photography Award 2011 Exhibition	Nine nominations, three winners for each category. Latvian Photography Award 2011 Exhibition in the Large Hall of Rīga Art Space. Curator – Ilmārs Znotiņš. Event promoting contemporary photography.	Rīga Art Space	<a href="http://www.artspace.riga.lv">www.artspace.riga.lv</a>
18.02.	22.04.	Ars Viva 2010/11 – Language Exhibition	Ars Viva 2010/11, the prestige German prize for contemporary art, draws attention to the language and its different aspects in contemporary art. Rīga Art Space is one of the three partners organizing exhibition of winners’ works. Winners of Ars Viva 2010/11 – Language are <i>Jurgen Staack</i> , <i>Philipp Goldbach</i> and <i>Erik Bunger</i> .	Rīga Art Space	<a href="http://www.artspace.riga.lv">www.artspace.riga.lv</a>

18.02.	04.03.	Sigulda Winter Festival	Winter Festival is held under the slogan: “More sports. More leisure. More art. More entertainment.” It will include folk skiing, tourism rally, snow sculpture championships, Sigulda Cup in snowboarding, downhill and distance skiing. Shrovetide festivity with Latvian songs, dances, rituals and dishes.	Ski tracks, Svētķu Square in Sigulda, bobsleigh and toboggan track	<a href="http://www.sigulda.lv">www.sigulda.lv</a>
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## MARCH

09.03.	18.03.	20th International Piano Stars Festival	International Piano Stars Festival is the most prestigious music festival in terms of professionalism and artistic value. In terms of content, this Festival is unique in the entire Baltic Region. The special charm of Liepāja along with the charisma of soloists and “amber sound” of Liepāja Symphony Orchestra attract thousands of music devotees every year not only from Latvia but also from other countries.	Liepāja	<a href="http://www.iso.lv">www.iso.lv</a>
10.03.	24.03.	Latvian New Music Days	Festival focuses on innovations introducing audience to the new music of different genres written by Latvian composers of different generations, as well as on continuity of traditions. Festival concerts are given by the best Latvian musicians and artists, including Sinfonietta Rīga State Chamber Orchestra, Latvian National Symphony Orchestra etc.	Riga	<a href="http://www.komponisti.lv">www.komponisti.lv</a>
17.03.	18.03.	Birthday Celebration of Liepāja	March is the birthday month of Liepāja when different events like concerts, events and exhibitions take place in the city organized by Liepāja residents in order to entertain each other and visitors of	Liepāja	<a href="http://www.liepajaskultura.lv">www.liepajaskultura.lv</a>

			Liepāja.		
20.03.	09.04.	Windstream	Windstream Spring Festival will take place already for the third time. Five concerts will be held covering the most significant spring festivities and remembrance days, i. e., Commemoration Day of Victims of Communist Terror, April Fools' Day and Easter. Festival is organized by the Professional Symphonic Band Rīga.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.music.lv/riga">www.music.lv/riga</a>
23.03.	20.05	Fabergé Exhibition	The exhibition gives insight into the work of the House of Fabergé, the famous Saint Petersburg (since 1842) and Moscow (since 1887) jewellery firm. Unique items related to a certain event or a period especially important in the history of Fabergé or Russian Emperor's family.	Art Museum „Riga Bourse”	<a href="http://www.lnmm.lv">www.lnmm.lv</a>

## APRIL

April		Birdwatching in Ķemeri National Park	Ķemeri National Park is a perfect place to practice birdwatching all year long, including winters, because of its ice-free places for resident waterbirds. The largest number of birds found here occurs during migration seasons of spring and autumn, when thousands of waterbirds can be observed at the same time.	Ķemeri, Jūrmala	<a href="http://www.daba.gov.lv">www.daba.gov.lv</a> <a href="http://www.jurmala.lv">www.jurmala.lv</a>
04.04.	03.06.	Hendrik Valk (the Netherlands). Exhibition	The life of the Dutch artist Hendrik Valk is connected with Latvia. The exhibition will introduce its visitors to the Dutch avant-garde art of the 20th century and reveal the development aspects of the artist's personal signature, as well as reflect its	Art Museum „Riga Bourse”, Bosse's Hall	<a href="http://www.lnmm.lv">www.lnmm.lv</a>

			connection with <i>De Stijl</i> artistic movement.		
04.04.	27.05.	Egons Spuris. Solo Exhibition	“Proletarian districts of Rīga in the 19th century and early 20th century”, series of black-and-white photographs made by Egons Spuris has been included in the Latvian Cultural Canon and recognised as one of the best in the Latvian photography art.	Arsenāls Exhibition Hall	<a href="http://www.inmm.lv/lv/arsenals">www.inmm.lv/lv/arsenals</a>
06.04	09.04.	Easter	Families with children are especially welcome to this Easter celebration. For several days they may participate in creative activities and traditional Easter rituals, as well as songs and games. During Easter different events and fairs take place throughout Latvia following both Christian and pagan traditions.	The whole Latvia	<a href="http://www.latvia.travel">www.latvia.travel</a>
20.04.		Premiere of “La Bayadère” by Ludwig Minkus	Ludwig Minkus’s “La Bayadère” ballet will be performed on the stage of the Latvian National Opera in Marius Petipa’s choreography for the first time. “La Bayadère” is the only big classical ballet that has not been staged in Riga yet. Almost entire ballet troupe of the Latvian National Opera will take part in the sophisticated performance.	Latvian National Opera	<a href="http://www.opera.lv">www.opera.lv</a>
27.04.	28.05.	Baltic Ballet Festival	This annual ballet festival has already become a nice tradition offering versatile and rich ballet and dance programmes to audience that likes different dance styles, bringing stars from all over the world and allowing dance enthusiasts to enjoy world-class performances from classical to avant-garde.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.ballet-festival.lv">www.ballet-festival.lv</a>
29.04.		Premiere of “Twilight of the Gods” by Richard Wagner	“Twilight of the Gods” is the last in Richard Wagner’s cycle of four operas titled “The Ring of the Nibelung”. Musical director – Cornelius Meister, a well-known interpreter of Wagner’s music, featuring internationally recognised singers.	Latvian National Opera	<a href="http://www.opera.lv">www.opera.lv</a>

## MAY

04.05.		Independence Declaration Day of the Republic of Latvia	On 4 May 1990, the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia. Traditionally on 4 May, many different celebratory events take place throughout Latvia.	The whole Latvia	<a href="http://www.latvia.travel">www.latvia.travel</a>
11.05.		Season Closing Concert of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra	The Orchestra under the guidance of its Chief Conductor Karel Mark Chichon will perform one of the most tragic and emotional Russian classical pieces of music – Sergei Prokofiev’s “Romeo and Juliet”. Guy Braunstein, the 1st Concertmaster of the Berliner Philharmoniker, will make his debut in Rīga with the Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto.	Great Guild	<a href="http://www.lnso.lv">www.lnso.lv</a>
19.05.		Museum Night	Latvian museums both in the capital city and the regions take part in this event. Museums are joined by other institutions preserving and popularising cultural heritage: theatres, concert halls, libraries, higher educational institutions. During Museum Night no admission is charged.	The whole Latvia	<a href="http://www.muzeju-nakts.lv">www.muzeju-nakts.lv</a> <a href="http://www.muzeji.lv">www.muzeji.lv</a>
19.05.		Opening of Jūrmala Summer Resort Season	Traditional Jomas Street procession from Majori to Dzintari and a rich programme of cultural activities for the whole day on Turaidas Street at the exit to Dzintari beach.	Jūrmala	<a href="http://www.jurmala.lv">www.jurmala.lv</a>
19.05.		Mežotne Hillfort Festival	Mežotne Hillfort Festival has become an annual tradition bringing together local residents and other enthusiasts from the whole Latvia. The Festival has been widely supported by the public already from the beginning.	Bauska	<a href="http://www.pilskalns.lv">www.pilskalns.lv</a>

20.05.		Nordea Rīga Marathon	Start and finish area of the marathon is located on 11th November Embankment ( <i>11. novembra krastmala</i> ), but the course itself goes through the city centre. Runners may chose among five distances – classical marathon, half-marathon, 10 km run, 5 km run, as well as the Solidarity kilometre distance, which is also available for people with special needs.	11th November Embankment ( <i>11. novembra krastmala</i> )	<a href="http://www.nordearigasmaratons.lv/lv/">http://www.nordearigasmaratons.lv/lv/</a>
24.05.		Premiere of “Lucia di Lammermoor” by Gaetano Donizetti	The popular musical version of Walter Scott’s novel “The Bride of Lamermoor” returns to the Latvian National Opera. Marina Rebeka, a brilliant Latvian opera star, will sing the title role in Gaetano Donizetti’s bel canto opera “Lucia di Lamermoor”.	Latvian National Opera	<a href="http://www.opera.lv">www.opera.lv</a>
24.05.	27.05.	Jelgava City Festival	The last week of May is the week of Jelgava City Festival when whole families are welcome to take part in different activities. This is one of the greatest events in Jelgava encompassing all ethnical groups living in the city, thus showing that Jelgava is open to different cultural traditions.	Jelgava	<a href="http://www.jelgava.lv">www.jelgava.lv</a>
26.05.	27.06.	Stage of European Autocross Championship	Both drivers and spectators from Latvia and other European countries approve of competitions in Mūsa Sports Complex. This will be the 22th European Autocross Championship hosted by Mūsa Sports Complex and involving participants from 13 European countries. Thus it is the largest autocross event in the Baltic States.	Bauska	<a href="http://www.musa.lv">www.musa.lv</a>
26.05.		Cycling Day and Night in Kuldīga	Cycling Day and Night in Kuldīga is a non-commercial cycling event in Latvia having “Europe. Kuldīga. Think green!” as its slogan. The aim of the event is to promote cycling culture and green thinking. At the end of the event winners will receive prizes and everyone is welcome to enjoy extensive	Kuldīga	<a href="http://www.velokuldiga.lv">www.velokuldiga.lv</a>

			entertainment programme.		
26.05.	27.05.	Liv Village Craft Festival	This Festival is one of the largest traditional culture events in Latvia combining etnomusic with traditional culture, art and craft, as well as food tastings. During the Festival visitors will have a great opportunity to purchase art objects that are usually not for sale.	Liepāja	<a href="http://www.livasciems.lv">www.livasciems.lv</a>
26.05.	27.05.	Livonian Festival in Cēsis	During the Festival Cēsis, Cēsis Castle and Āraiši are brightened up by art, music, different skills, fashion and competitions. A special emphasis is put on knighthood and war, i. e., competitions, field battles and battle reenactments. Visitors will have a great opportunity to spend the night in Cēsis Medieval Castle garden.	Cēsis	<a href="http://www.tourism.cesis.lv">www.tourism.cesis.lv</a>
26.05.	30.08.	Liepāja Summer Festival	This Festival is the spiritual heir and continuation of Liepāja Summer, a legendary summer symphonic music cycle. For decades, residents and visitors of Liepāja with their families used to enjoy the symphonic music concerts on the open air stage in Sea Park during hot summer days.	Liepāja	<a href="http://www.liepajasvasara.lv">www.liepajasvasara.lv</a>

## JUNE

01.06.	18.06.	Rīga Music Festival	Rīga Music Festival has invited symphony orchestras and famous conductors that are well-known in Europe to promote Rīga as a city of summer festival popularising academic symphonic music and chamber music.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.latvijaskoncerti.lv">www.latvijaskoncerti.lv</a>
02.06.		Sigulda Jazz 2012	2nd International Jazz Festival starts the open air music festival season in Latvia. This event will not be devoted to academic and difficult music usually associated with jazz but more appropriate for a	Sigulda Castle ruins	<a href="http://www.jazzfest.lv">www.jazzfest.lv</a> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/Sigu">www.youtube.com/Sigu</a>

			concert hall. Up to midnight, Sigulda Castle ruins will be filled by smooth jazz, funk un big band.		IdaJazz <a href="http://www.myspace.com/SiguldaJazzFestival">www.myspace.com/SiguldaJazzFestival</a>
02.06.	03.06.	42nd Traditional Applied Arts Fair at the Latvian Ethnographic Open Air Museum	This will be the 42nd Fair at the Latvian Ethnographic Open Air Museum bringing together several thousands of the best craftsmen from all Latvian regions, i. e., blacksmiths, wickerwork masters, weavers, potters, tailors, wood carvers, leather craftsmen, knitters etc.	Latvian Ethnographic Open Air Museum	<a href="http://www.brivdabasmuzejs.lv">www.brivdabasmuzejs.lv</a>
05.06.	17.06.	Rīga Opera Festival	Since 1998, Rīga Opera Festival has been marking the end of the Latvian National Opera's performance season with new productions, best moments of the previous year and some large-scale vocal and instrumental work performed by popular local soloists and bright foreign stars.	Latvian National Opera	<a href="http://www.opera.lv">www.opera.lv</a>
08.06.	10.06.	Daugavpils City Festival	This year, Daugavpils City Festival is devoted to children and young people. Festival programme includes performances of popular artists in Vienības Square and splendid fireworks near the River Daugava.	Daugavpils	<a href="http://www.daugavpils.lv">www.daugavpils.lv</a>
June	August	“Music for Church” Concert Cycle at the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Liepāja	All locals and guests of Liepāja will have an opportunity to listen to the famous organ of Liepāja Holy Trinity Cathedral in the afternoons of organ music at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in summer, from June to August, on Saturdays at 5.00 pm.	Liepāja	<a href="http://www.liepajaskultura.lv">www.liepajaskultura.lv</a>
09.06.	10.06.	Lilium Vindaviensis Knight Tournament at the Livonian Order Castle	Knights from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia gather at the Livonian Order Castle in Venstpils in order to compete with each other demonstrating their fighting skills and fighting spirit.	Ventspils	<a href="http://www.ventspils.lv/lat/sv/etki_ventspili/2012/">www.ventspils.lv/lat/sv/etki_ventspili/2012/</a>
14.06.	29.07.	“Rogues. Artists –	Exhibition is devoted to the bravest Latvian artists	Arsenāls	<a href="http://www.lnmm.lv/lv/arsena">www.lnmm.lv/lv/arsena</a>

		Challengers in Society.” Exhibition	employing forms unusual to the society of that time or through challenging content trying to waken people’s minds dozed off in narrow-mindedness. Art untouched by censorship from the second part of the 1980s to present.	Exhibition Hall	<a href="#">ls</a>
15.06.	18.06.	Time to Dance International Contemporary Dance Festival	The largest contemporary dance event in Latvia brings together professionals, students and dance enthusiasts. Festival programme includes performances, discussions, workshops and jam sessions. Moreover, dance devotees may obtain new ideas and experience, find new international contacts and attend master classes.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.dance.lv">www.dance.lv</a>
16.06.	22.06.	Preparing to celebrate “Jāņi” in Rīga	A week before midsummer residents and guests of Rīga are welcome to attend different events aimed at preparing to celebrati Jāņi, including traditional Jāņi and Līgo rituals, concerts given by folklore groups, Jāņi bonfire and modern music concerts.	Rīga Centre and Latvian Ethnographic Open Air Museum	<a href="http://www.brivdabasmuzejs.lv">www.brivdabasmuzejs.lv</a> <a href="http://www.liveriga.com">www.liveriga.com</a>
21.06.		Midsummer Festival	During Midsummer Festival the old Midsummer night traditions are cherished with the help of folklore groups from Latvian regions. Wreath making workshops, cheese making outdoors, seeing a sunset, Latvian folk songs and old dances, fire ritual, seeing a sunrise on Folksong Hill ( <i>Dainu kalns</i> ).	Turaida Museum Reserve, Jāņi Hill	<a href="http://www.turaida-muzejs.lv">www.turaida-muzejs.lv</a>
22.06.		Herbs and Grass Market	Herbs and Grass Market appeals both to eyes with large bunches of flowers and flower wreaths and to taste buds with smoked meat and fish. Skilful cooks from all Latvian regions offer the most delicious cheeses. This means real preparation for celebration and intensive selling and buying all day long.	Doma Square	<a href="http://www.LiveRiga.com">www.LiveRiga.com</a>
23.06	24.06.	“Līgo, Rīga!”	Plays, different Latvian rituals, dances and songs.	Embankment	<a href="http://www.liveriga.com">www.liveriga.com</a> and

			Cheese and beer. This is the place to learn where to look for the fern flower, taste frothy beer, cheese as yellow as the sun itself and great-smelling little pies. There will be music for everyone, both folklore groups and ensembles and pop music singers from rock'n'roll to schlager.		<a href="http://www.latvia.travel">www.latvia.travel</a>
28.06.	07.07.	International Bach Chamber Music Festival	Festival is focussed on the intimate, soulful, personal and introvert qualities manifesting producers' desire to reveal Bach masterpieces from the "quiet side", thus proving that relatively few sounds in a chamber music score can say just as much as Bach's major vocal and symphonic compositions in terms of fundamental ideas, thoughts and content.	Rīga, Jaunmoku Palace	<a href="http://www.music.lv/bachfestival">www.music.lv/bachfestival</a>

## JULY

01.07.		Jomas Street Festival	The whole Jomas Street buzzes with different events on four stages, largest of which is located in Majori parking place, the centre of Jūrmala public events, namely concerts and performances. The smallest participants may occupy Horn's garden. As every year, motorcycle parade will be an integral part of the Festival.	Jūrmala	<a href="http://www.jurmala.lv">www.jurmala.lv</a>
01.07.	29.07.	25th International Organ Music Festival "Rīga Cathedral"	Organ concert programmes are devoted to commemoration of French composers Cesar Frank and Maurice Duruflé. Festival's 13 concerts will be given by leading organists from Latvia and other countries, soloists and choirs.	Rīga Cathedral	<a href="http://www.doms.lv">www.doms.lv</a>
03.07.	08.07.	Rīgas Ritmi Festival	This international modern jazz and world music festival has become one of the most significant jazz	Rīga	<a href="http://www.rigasritmi.lv">www.rigasritmi.lv</a>

			festivals in Europe. The Festival includes concerts and master classes, showcase and children's festival pleasing audiences three times a year – in winter, spring and summer – culmination – session concerts.		
05.07.	09.07.	IX KREMERATA BALTICA Festival	The concert will be given by the popular orchestra and soloists under the guidance of Gidon Kremer. Kremerata Baltica has been recognised as one of the best orchestras in Europe and the world. The young musicians from the Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – will offer a wide and versatile repertoire.	Concert Hall Baltais flīģelis in Sigulda	<a href="http://www.baltaisfligelis.lv">www.baltaisfligelis.lv</a>
05.07.	09.07.	Baltica International Folklore Festival	The largest, most popular and world-known traditional culture festival in the Baltic States offering an insight into the brightest Latvian and foreign folk traditions and bringing in significance of traditional culture within the current cultural context.	Rīga, Ikšķile, Madona, Madona Region, Ērgļi Region	<a href="http://www.nkmva.gov.lv">www.nkmva.gov.lv</a>
05.07.	07.07.	Valmiera City Festival	Every year Valmiera City Festival attracts a large number of visitors and tourists. Festival programme involves different sport and leisure events, creative workshops, a possibility to purchase different souvenirs in craftsmen's fair, try various snacks and attend concerts.	Valmiera	<a href="http://visit.valmiera.lv">visit.valmiera.lv</a>
06.07.	07.07.	Summer Sound Liepāja International Music Festival	Each of the four stages located on Liepāja beach is devoted to its own music theme. Quality and variety of music are the main characteristics of the Festival. Rock, hip hop, ambient and electronic music, pop music performed by legends of today's modern world and new emerging stars.	Liepāja	<a href="http://www.summersound.lv">www.summersound.lv</a>
06.07.	07.07.	Jēkabpils City Festival	City Festival programme includes large celebration	Jēkabpils	<a href="http://www.jkp.lv">www.jkp.lv</a>

			involving art performances, concerts, competitions and craftsmen's fairs.		
07.07.		Bat Night in Ķemeri National Park	This event is free of charge. Its participants may take part in creative workshops and games, attend a lecture about bats and after the sunset go on bat watching excursion. Visitors are recommended to wear comfortable clothing and footwear appropriate for weather conditions, and take a pocket light and refreshments with them.	Ķemeri, Jūrmala	<a href="http://www.daba.gov.lv">www.daba.gov.lv</a> <a href="http://www.jurmala.lv">www.jurmala.lv</a>
09.07.	15.07.	3rd Music Festival "Music and Cinema"	The basic idea of the Festival is unusual expression of performances and abandonment of usual show organization principles with combinations of different forms and genres and use of the most progressive elements of contemporary art.	Dzintari Concert Hall	<a href="http://www.dzk.lv">www.dzk.lv</a>
11.07.	14.07.	Early Music Festival	Festival provides an opportunity to sample the feel of Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods. Festival concerts are given in churches and concert halls of Old Riga. The Festival traditionally reaches climax with a performance in the most magnificent Latvian Baroque castle in Rundāle. Splendid costumes of olden days, early instruments, authentic performance and fireworks.	Rīga, Rundāle	<a href="http://www.smf.lv">www.smf.lv</a>
13.07.	14.07.	Bauska Country Music Festival	One of the four international country music festivals organized in Europe on a regular basis. During the Festival visitors may live in a tent city, enjoy summer and scenic Bauska town and its environs near the place where the Mūsa and the Mēmele flow into the River Lielupe and visit the majestic Bauska Castle ruins.	Bauska	<a href="http://www.countrymusic.lv/?&amp;id=1&amp;mid=78&amp;mmid=">http://www.countrymusic.lv/?&amp;id=1&amp;mid=78&amp;mmid=</a>
13.07.	15.07.	6th International Sand Sculpture Festival "Summer Signs"	Every year, both local and foreign artists take part in the Festival and sand sculpture contest. Not only contest works but also additional sand sculptures are created during the Festival and then displayed in	Jelgava	<a href="http://www.jelgava.lv">www.jelgava.lv</a>

			Uzvaras Park in Jelgava.		
13.07.	15.07.	International Meet of Baltic Sea Region Bikers “Kurland Bike Meet”	Motorcycle Club Association of Latvia invites motorsports riders, youth and children’s federations of small motorcycles, trick masters and motorcycle clubs from the Baltic States to participate in the event. The Meet traditionally involves parade ride along the streets of Ventspils.	Ventspils	<a href="http://www.mca.lv">www.mca.lv</a> <a href="http://www.tourism.ventspils.lv/">http://www.tourism.ventspils.lv/</a>
14.07.	15.07.	MX1 Motocross World Championship. Grand Prix Latvia	MX2 World Championship competition will also take place within the framework of MX1 Motocross Grand Prix Latvia. Organisers will decide on women race, veteran race or junior race (two-stroke class).	Ķegums	<a href="http://www.mx1latvia.lv">www.mx1latvia.lv</a>
14.07.		Sea Festival	Sea Festival in Liepāja is traditionally held near ships – on Liepāja Promenade. Ships with colourful flags, Neptune and his retinue, songs and dances about the seas and related to it not only in Latvian but also other languages daily heard in Liepāja streets, as well as dance steps.	Liepāja, entire seashore	<a href="http://www.liepajaskultura.lv">www.liepajaskultura.lv</a>
19.07.	22.07.	Feast in Kuldīga – the town of romance and love	A brilliant Feast opening, an extreme running competition on the Alekšupīte and rivulet carnival, joyful water activities, egg throwing contest, craftsmen’s fair, Feast parade, dances, a classical music concert in Town Square at the end of the Feast and a special surprise, which “only happens in Kuldīga!”	Kuldīga	<a href="http://www.kuldiga.lv">www.kuldiga.lv</a>
19.07.	22.07.	The Singing Kivin Humour Show	This will be the 17th time when Jūrmala welcomes the funniest people from Russian Club of the Happy and Inventive. Teams compete with each other in one or more competitions whose genre and topic may be selected in advance, and then judges decide	Dzintari Concert Hall	<a href="http://www.dzk.lv">www.dzk.lv</a>

			which team is the best.		
20.07.	21.07.	Positivus Festival	Positivus is the largest rock music, pop music and art festival. Its unique location on the coast of the Baltic Sea and the impressive list of artists make this festival one of the best annual events in Baltic States.	Salacgrīva	<a href="http://www.positivusfestival.com">www.positivusfestival.com</a>
21.07.	12.08.	Cēsis Art Festival	Synthesis of different professional art forms. Three Festival weeks offer excellent professional art exhibitions, cinema and theatre, as well as different concerts taking place in both open air and indoor locations. During Festival a conference will be held as well.	Cēsis	<a href="http://www.cesufestivals.lv">www.cesufestivals.lv</a>
24.07.	30.07	New Wave	Dzintari open air concert hall hosts this international contest for young pop singers allowing the audience to enjoy performance of not only emerging stars from Europe and other places in the world, but also important and popular artists from Russia and the world.	Dzintari Concert Hall	<a href="http://www.dzk.lv">www.dzk.lv</a>
26.07.	29.07.	Ad Lucem International Introvert Art and Music Festival	Festival creates a special atmosphere offering a sanctuary from everyday rush and stress and draws attention from the external to the internal leading to creative transformation of a personality, as well as helps to create a new understanding about the spiritual role of art.	Rīga, Vecgūbene	<a href="http://www.adlucem.info">www.adlucem.info</a>
26.07.	29.07.	Samsung Wave Kite Party 2012	Samsung Wave Kite Party 2012 is the largest gathering of kiteboarding enthusiasts and professionals in the Baltic States. Competitions, kiteboarding seminars for beginners, as well as summer beach parties allow everyone to enjoy the positive atmosphere of the event.	Ventspils	<a href="http://www.kiteparty.lv">www.kiteparty.lv</a>  <a href="http://www.tourism.ventspils.lv/">http://www.tourism.ventspils.lv/</a>
27.07.	28.07.	3rd Blues Festival	This is a big blues event in its generally accepted sense, i. e., under the open sky, with a large stage,	Sigulda Castle ruins	<a href="http://www.bluesfest.lv">www.bluesfest.lv</a>

		and National Blues Contest	beer and blues above it all. The Festival will take place for two days, and the sounds of blues music will fill the air of Sigulda Castle ruins on Friday and Saturday up to midnight.		<a href="http://www.youtube.com/latblues">www.youtube.com/latblues</a> <a href="http://www.myspace.com/siguldabluesfestival">www.myspace.com/siguldabluesfestival</a>
27.07.	29.07.	Ērgļi Regional Festival	The last week of July has been the week of Ērgļi Regional Festival for 15 years already. The Regional Festival is held under the slogan: "Festival for us, our people and our guests". These are three days bustling with sports activities and interesting events.	Ērgļi	<a href="http://www.ergli.lv">www.ergli.lv</a>
27.07.	04.08.	Bauska Regional Festival	A week-long festival from the last Friday of July to the first Saturday of August. Plein air workshops, concerts, little fairs and performance of nonprofessional groups at the end of the Festival allow visitors to feel welcome in this friendly region.	Bauska	<a href="http://www.kultura.bauska.lv">www.kultura.bauska.lv</a>

## AUGUST

03.08.	05.08.	20th International Sigulda Opera Music Festival	Thanks to the International Sigulda Opera Music Festival, many opera singers famous in Europe and around the world arrive to Latvia. The Festival culminates in a unique original open air opera production specially adapted to Sigulda Castle ruins.	Sigulda Castle ruins	<a href="http://www.opersvetki.lv">www.opersvetki.lv</a> <a href="http://www.sigulda.lv">www.sigulda.lv</a>
03.08.	05.08.	International Baltic Flower Carpet	Ventspils International Flower Carpet Festival, which is now organized for the 12th time in a row, is an integral part of Ventspils City Festival. Not	Ventspils	<a href="http://www.tourism.ventspils.lv/">http://www.tourism.ventspils.lv/</a>

		Festival and Ventspils City Festival	only Latvian florists and flower lovers but also participants from other countries take part in the process of making flower carpets.		
06.08.	19.08.	Opera Summer Performances	During summer season the Latvian National Opera offers a special two-week series of performances for the residents and guests of Rīga. It usually means four opera performances and four ballet performances that have been loved by audiences and critics in the previous seasons.	Latvian National Opera	<a href="http://www.opera.lv">www.opera.lv</a>
09.08	27.09.	Concert Series to Celebrate the 40th birthday of the Professional Brass Band "Rīga"	Mozart's Requiem at Rīga Cathedral on 9 August, Orff's "Carmina Burana" during Rīga Festival, "Let's celebrate together" in Rīga Great Guild concert hall on 6 September, Riga Jazz on 27 September.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.music.lv/riga">www.music.lv/riga</a>
10.08.	12.08.	Fontaine Festival	Every year Fontaine Festival brings like-minded people together. Its organisers invite alternative music enthusiasts to Liepāja continuing previous traditions. Four stages serve as a platform for local and foreign groups of musicians, as well as new bands.	Liepāja	<a href="http://www.fontaine.lv">www.fontaine.lv</a>
10.08.	12.08.	Historical Film Show in Cēsis Castle	Historical film programme in a real, historical environment, debates of professionals and historians over connection between cinema and history. Medieval Heroes event is devoted to feature and documentary movies from different countries shown in their original languages. Programme also includes cartoons for children.	Cēsis	<a href="http://www.filmuskate.cesis.lv">www.filmuskate.cesis.lv</a>
12.08.	17.08.	International Music Festival Summertime – Inese Galante Invites You	During this one-week Festival opera and jazz maestros, orchestras, folk groups and vocal groups from all over the world gather in Dzintari Open Air Concert Hall, Jūrmala.	Jūrmala	<a href="http://www.hbf.lv">www.hbf.lv</a>

14.08.	15.08.	Feast of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven	The largest annual Catholic feast. Aglona is a place to which not only Catholics but also Christians from other confessions and simple believers can go for receiving blessing. Pursuant to the law, Aglona has been recognised as a Latvian holy place of international importance but the Feast of Virgin Mary – as a feast of national importance.	Aglona	<a href="http://www.latvia.travel">www.latvia.travel</a>
17.08.	19.08.	Rīga Festival	Rīga Festival is a kaleidoscope of music, art, theatre and dance performances, sports activities and different events entertaining its visitors and conveying new unforgettable impressions. Events take place in the streets and squares, on water and in the air, in museums, concert halls and culture centres.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.rigassvetki.lv">www.rigassvetki.lv</a>
24.08.	25.08.	Rally Kurzeme Speed Festival	An attractive, interesting and surprising city speed stage, competition for non-professional drivers, powerboat racing in the city canal. Emotions during award ceremony on the large stage on the Promenade, dances and fun until the morning sun.	Liepāja	<a href="http://rallykurzeme.lv">rallykurzeme.lv</a>  <a href="http://www.liepajaturisms.lv">www.liepajaturisms.lv</a>
25.08.		12th Milk, Bread and Honey Festival and 10th Milk Carton Regatta on the River Lielupe	This Festival is held in Duke Jacob's Square, Jelgava and devoted to town residents and visitors, as well as all dairy processors and food producers in order to popularise healthy lifestyle and organic food made in Latvia.	Jelgava	<a href="http://www.jelgava.lv">www.jelgava.lv</a>
28.08.	08.09.	International Sacred Music Festival	This Festival is organised by the State Choir "Latvia", one of the most internationally demanded professional choirs in Latvia. Traditionally, the Festival programme includes a new work composed	Rīga	<a href="http://www.koris.lv">www.koris.lv</a>

			by Latvian composers, arrival of world-known composers as guests of honour and staging of a large vocal and symphonic production.		
30.08.	02.09.	Homo Alibi/recycled Experimental Theatre Festival	Festival will focus on the recycling theme in theatre and offer a programme of performances, shows, discussions and creative workshops dominated by not only recycled materials but also ideas, skills, words, movements and stories bringing together Latvian and foreign artists.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.theatre.lv">www.theatre.lv</a>

## SEPTEMBER

08.09.	9.09.	White Night	White Night offers its visitors to get acquainted with art, theatre, music, movement and other similar projects. White Night is a part of White Nights Europe, an international project implemented by five European capitals – Brussels, Madrid, Paris, Rīga and Rome.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.baltanakts.lv">www.baltanakts.lv</a>
09.09.		Baltic Autocross Championship	Both drivers and spectators from Latvia and other European countries have always approved of competitions in Mūsa Sports Complex. Apart from basic classes, spectators will have an opportunity to watch Junior Beta Buggy competition and youth B-600 competition, VAZ Cup and Folkrace Cup.	Bauska	<a href="http://www.musa.lv">www.musa.lv</a>
14.09.	25.09.	Mark Rothko International Plein Air	The international plein air is organised in Daugavpils, a city of birth of the world famous artist. Plein air includes intensive creative work, experience exchange and discussions. On 25 September, an exhibition of art works created during the plein air will be opened in the Exhibition Hall of	Daugavpils	<a href="http://rothkoresidences.lv/index.php?lang=lv">http://rothkoresidences.lv/index.php?lang=lv</a>

			Daugavpils Regional and Art Museum.		
15.09.	08.10.	Autumn Chamber Music Festival	The motto of the Autumn Chamber Music Festival is <i>tête-à-tête</i> or 'eye to eye', emphasizing the intimate atmosphere of chamber music and the special dialogue that takes place between the audience and musicians. For several years now the Festival has been held under the patronage of Pēteris Vasks, the world famous Latvian composer.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.kamermuzika.lv">www.kamermuzika.lv</a>
13.09.	23.09.	Baltic Pearl Film Festival	Baltic Pearl is one of the oldest film festivals in the Baltic States introducing cinema professionals and enthusiasts to the films that have won awards in the most significant international film festivals, revealing names of young talents and demonstrating masterpieces of classical films in a special programme.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.balticpearl.lv">www.balticpearl.lv</a>
14.09.	23.09.	Arsenāls International Film Forum	The aim of the Film Forum is to introduce the audience to the latest news in cinema world by organising workshops and lectures and informing about film production in Latvia and Baltic States.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.arsenals.lv">www.arsenals.lv</a>
24.09.		11th International Organ Music Festival at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Liepāja	Festival will allow audiences to get acquainted with the sounds of the historical organ of Liepāja Holy Trinity Cathedral, which is a national cultural monument. This organ belongs to the family of mechanical instruments and still attracts artists' attention and fascinates with saturated, rich and unique sound.	Liepāja	<a href="http://www.liepajaskultura.lv">www.liepajaskultura.lv</a>
29.09.		Rīga Russian Theatre Season Opening	The new season opening of Mikhail Chekhov Rīga Russian Theatre.	Rīga Russian Theatre	<a href="http://www.trd.lv">www.trd.lv</a>
29.09.		Michaelmas Fair	Michaelmas is autumn solstice when the sun turns to the winter and day and night becomes the same	Rīga	<a href="http://www.liveriga.com">www.liveriga.com</a>

			length. It is an important point for a peasant, because major works have already been done and outside activities have been stopped for a while. Michaelmas takes place during the richest and brightest season, thus also being a harvest feast.		
30.09.	10.10.	Golden Mask Theatre Festival	Annual Russian theatre festival offering the best performances from all theatre genres. Golden Mask is the Russian National Theatre Award for season's best performance, best director, choreographer, conductor, designer and actors.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.goldenmask.lv">www.goldenmask.lv</a>
End of September	October	International Sculpture Quadrennial Event	This is one of the largest such art events in the Northern Europe taking place every four years. Exhibition, conference and discussions will emphasise border zones, both contacts of geographic and political zones and culture and artists' messages in which art directions and media flow into each other.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.mmic.lv">www.mmic.lv</a>

## OCTOBER

05.10.	13.10.	Sound Forest	This festival of untamed and experimental music and movies reflects the latest in musical experimentation. Sound Forest is the meeting place for artists predicting future of the music and home for vast diversity of genres. Special atmosphere is created by sessions of handpicked untamed urban and philosophical movies.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.skanumezs.lv">www.skanumezs.lv</a>
Second half of October		Arena New Music Festival	Contemporary music festival and a forum including performances of the latest Latvian music, internationally recognised musicians playing the new music and world famous composers.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.arenafest.lv">www.arenafest.lv</a>

End of October		Night of the Jump Freestyle Motocross World Championship	Traditional Freestyle Motocross Grand Prix brings together world famous motorsports stars from different countries giving spectators a magnificent, attractive and unforgettable show that can even be called motocross diving including both sports and show.	Arena Riga	<a href="http://www.arenariga.com">www.arenariga.com</a>
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## NOVEMBER

01.11.	20.01.2013	Silver Age. Russian painting.	Cooperation project among Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian museums. A wide diversity of Russian works of art, excellent paintings, sculptures and graphic works from the middle of the 19th century to the early 20th century. Exhibition includes works reflecting realism, academism as well as other art movements of the early 20th century.	Art Museum „Riga Bourse”	<a href="http://www.lnmm.lv">www.lnmm.lv</a>
07.11.	11.11.	Porta World Music Festival	The aim of the Festival is to educate the audience and musicians, for world music includes many creative impulses that can turn into surprising source of inspiration and information. Programme also covers films about music created by different people living all over the world, thus providing deeper insight into diverse cultures.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.festivalporta.lv">www.festivalporta.lv</a>
21.11.	13.02.2013	International Winter Music Festival “Winterfest”	Every year around this time, Herman Braun Foundation organises Winterfest, an international winter music festival. Festival concerts are characterised by versatility of genres and participation of legendary maestros, famous young soloists, chamber ensembles, as well as choirs, period music ensembles, jazz vocal groups and cross-over groups.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.hbf.lv">www.hbf.lv</a>
November		Candle Night	The Christian Church associates Candle Night with a specific day, i. e., All Saints’ Day for Catholics and Eternity Sunday for Lutherans. All Saints’ Day	The whole Latvia	<a href="http://www.latvia.travel">www.latvia.travel</a> un <a href="http://www.liveriga.com">www.liveriga.com</a>

			is celebrated at the beginning of November. Eternity Sunday is the Sunday before the First Advent. These are the days when people specifically commemorate and honour the deceased.		
11.11.		Remembrance Day of War Heroes ( <i>Lāčplēša diena</i> )	On Remembrance Day of War Heroes, people in Latvia light candles in memory of those who died on 11 November 1919 fighting in the Latvian State Army against West Russian Volunteer Army or so-called Bermont's forces and gaining the victory. On Remembrance Day of War Heroes, homage is paid to the Latvian freedom fighters and National Armed Forces parade is an integral part of the Remembrance Day.	The whole Latvia	<a href="http://www.latvia.travel">www.latvia.travel</a> un <a href="http://www.liveriga.com">www.liveriga.com</a>
----- 18.11.	-----	Proclamation Day of the Republic of Latvia	Different events take place in Latvia all day long. In Rīga, celebration starts with a parade and flower-laying ceremony at the Freedom Monument. Traditionally, the President of the Republic of Latvia and other senior State officials participate in this parade. Celebration day in Rīga ends with splendid fireworks above the River Daugava.	The whole Latvia	<a href="http://www.latvia.travel">www.latvia.travel</a> un <a href="http://www.liveriga.com">www.liveriga.com</a>
15.11.	18.11.	“Staro Rīga” Festival of Lights	Almost one hundred objects in the city will be lighted up with the help of modern light and video technologies. Both buildings lighted up and multimedia projections in parks, on multi-storey buildings and monuments. Light dispels autumn dullness and city landscape can be seen in other dimension.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.staroriga.lv">www.staroriga.lv</a>

## DECEMBER

07.12.	13.01. 2013	Christmas tree Festival	Festival of urban design objects by keeping the traditional Christmas spirit and balancing traditions with novelties. Rīga – the capital of the first decorated Christmas tree.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.riga.lv">www.riga.lv</a>
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02.12	30.12.	European Christmas	Throughout the December European Christmas Festival will please the audiences with beautiful concerts in concert halls and churches of Rīga and other Latvian cities upholding the old Christmas music traditions in Europe.	The whole Latvia	<a href="http://www.eiropasziemassvetki.lv">www.eiropasziemassvetki.lv</a>
14.12.	31.12.	“Jarmarka”	“Jarmarka” is a place where to see and purchase unique works made by the students of the Art Academy of Latvia. About 300 students from all departments take part in “Jarmarka” displaying approximately 10,000 new and unseen works of art.	Art Academy of Latvia	<a href="http://www.lma.lv">www.lma.lv</a>
2.12.	10.01. 2013	Christmas Market	Christmas Market will bring pleasure to both old and young visitors. The smell of mulled wine, roasted almonds, herbal tea and coffee, gingerbread. The peaceful Christmas time, Advent concerts in various places of the city and cheering Christmas Market crowd.	Old Rīga	<a href="http://www.LiveRiga.com">www.LiveRiga.com</a>
Middle of December		“The Nutcracker” by Peter Tschaikovsky	“The Nutcracker” is one of the most popular performances staged in the Latvian National Opera and given both in Latvia and abroad. Set and costumes have been designed by the famous artist of Russian origin Alexander Vasilyev from France.	Latvian National Opera	<a href="http://www.opera.lv">www.opera.lv</a>
31.12.		New Year’s Eve in Rīga	Rīga dressed up for New Year’s Eve – a great choice for celebration! Concerts, markets, winter joy and splendid fireworks at the Freedom Monument on New Year’s Eve.	Rīga	<a href="http://www.liveriga.com">www.liveriga.com</a>