

## USEFUL INFORMATION IF GOING TO **LATVIA** AS A TOURIST IN A PLEASURE CRAFT.



Topic	Comment
Demographic data (population/no of clubs/members/boats)	2 million inhabitants; 22 clubs and associations 2500 members in Latvian Sailing Union – <a href="http://www.sailinglatvia.lv">www.sailinglatvia.lv</a> 14 harbours - <a href="http://www.marinaslatvia.lv">www.marinaslatvia.lv</a> 8600 motor boats, 450 sailing boats
Currency with link for exchange rates	Euro
Formalities, Customs, passport control, visa	ISPS Code reporting is compulsory for ships of 300GT and 45m LOA and above. No passport control and custom clearance for EU flagged pleasure craft normally is required, while Immigration officials may ask for Crew List and identity documents and Customs may come on board for custom control. Visas required for residents of non-EU countries which have not entered into visa free agreement with Latvia. So citizens of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, China and other countries require a visa to travel to Latvia. Tourists travel to Latvia on a Schengen visa, which is valid for staying in Latvia as well as in the other Schengen Area member states. Passport control on the border is only done once the person crosses into the Schengen Area. If the person has been issued a visa for a short-stay visit to a Schengen country, the maximum duration of the intended stay is 90 days within a 180-day period. If the person needs to stay in Latvia for longer than 90 days, he or she has to apply for a long-stay visa or a residence permit. Please advise <a href="http://www.latvia.travel/en/visas-customs-and-entering-country">http://www.latvia.travel/en/visas-customs-and-entering-country</a> ; Normal procedure is to report to marina office and they report further as required.
Banned substances	No medicines other than those as included in the Medical Chest according to International Medical Guide for Ships are allowed on board. The content of Medical Chest may be advised in web link <a href="http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241547994_eng.pdf">http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241547994_eng.pdf</a>
Boat's documents required	Pleasure craft Registration or proof of ownership documents are required. Water police may ask for such documents. Proof of VAT payment is not required. Insurance of recreational craft in Latvian waters is on voluntary base, no regulations. Marinas' offices may ask in case of an accident.
Insurance	Not compulsory – on voluntary basis only.
Legislation certificate of competence	Certificates required for all operators of recreational craft registered in Latvia. Road Safety Directorate issues the certificates for motorboat operators valid for Latvian waters only and International Certificates for Operators of Pleasure Craft (ICC) for sailing yachts and motor-yachts up to 24m LOA. As to visiting sailors – Water Police may ask for certificate of competence, but they are aware of the different requirements in other countries and are not strict on this requirement.
Alcohol limits – on the water and on the road	Regulations provide the limit at 0,5/ml for sailors when navigating in inland waters and at sea. Heavy penalties for exceeding this limit when in inland waters, especially if over 1/ml. The limit on the road driving a car is also 0,5/ml.
Legislation re life jackets	Life jackets are compulsory for children in all conditions. Strongly recommended for all on watch at night and in stormy conditions.
TSS, esp. new ones	No TSS areas are designated in Latvian waters, only recommended sea routes for commercial ships, not compulsory for recreational craft.
Military exercise areas	Some are designated - in Riga Bay and North of Liepaja as marked on sea charts. Warnings given on NAVTEX and VHF broadcasts on Ch.16 – 71 by Latvian Coast Guard at 0703 and 1503 Local Time.
Major construction sites	No construction sites in open sea, only in ports
Windfarms /wave and tidal energy projects	Some windfarms are being planned at sea along the shore between Liepaja and Ventspils, construction not yet commenced.
Bridges	All bridges in Latvian ports are with low vertical clearance, only motorboats can pass them.

Habitats and other protected areas	Some nature protection areas have been designated along the Riga Bay coastline but not closed for recreational craft. Areas <u>prohibited for Navigation</u> as defined by geographical co-ordinates, where all vessels are not permitted to enter. The following areas prohibited for shipping and fishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North from Port of Liepāja -56°33.42'N 20°59.72'E; 56°33.28'N 20°58.54'E; 56°33.8'N 20°58.76'E; 56°33.92'N 20°59.96'E;</li> <li>• North from Papesciems - shipping is prohibited in the area enclosed by coastline and the lines connecting following points: 56°12.0'N 20°59.5'E; 56°12.0'N 20°53.0'E; 56°17.0'N 20°53.0'E; 56°17.0'N 20°59.2'E; Please note <a href="http://www.lhd.lv/ATONLV/pub/301">http://www.lhd.lv/ATONLV/pub/301</a></li> </ul>
Flag traditions/ application of flag rules	Flying a courtesy flag is a norm when in Latvian waters. For the boat's ensign – time of hoisting at 0800 and taking it down at sunset.
Weather forecast	Local forecasts available from major ports VTSs, please note Important Phone Numbers. Forecasts are transmitted by Latvian Coast Guard on Ch. VHF 16 – 71 at 0703 and 1503 Local Time.
Harbours including approx number of natural harbours	Please use <a href="http://www.marinatlatvia.lv">www.marinatlatvia.lv</a> where updated information may be obtained on Latvian marinas. New marina in Riga port in Kipsala area has been developed in 2013, new marina commissioned also in Jurmala (56°59.56'N / 23°55.33'E) since August 2016, available for visitors. No natural harbours are available in Latvian waters.
Mooring booking facilities	No mooring booking facilities are available in Latvian waters.
Swinging mooring buoys for pleasure yachts	No swinging mooring buoys are used in Latvian marinas, there is enough space in marinas for mooring alongside pontoons or from buoys with stern to pontoon or jetty.
Anchoring and free access ashore	No anchoring is allowed in port areas. Access ashore from seaside could be restricted, subject to preliminary clearance in designated ports when coming from another country.
Good harbour manners	Normally it is not necessary to raft out in Latvian marinas as there is enough berthing place. Silence in late hours is normally expected from visiting boats.
Safety in harbours	Speed limits apply where marked. In commercial harbours the limit of 8 knots applies.
Rescue services	<a href="http://www.mrcc.lv">www.mrcc.lv</a> - Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC Riga) - Coast Guard Emergency phone <b>+371 67 323 103</b> ; +371 29 476 101; +371 67 082 070. "Riga Rescue Radio" is keeping constant watch on: MF 2182 kHz, VHF channel 16, DSC MMSI number 002750100 on MF 2187.5 kHz and VHF channel 70.
Pyrotechnics - legislation re carrying - if flareguns (Very pistols) permitted - if so is licence required? - procedure for disposal	No national rules are applied for disposal of outdated pyrotechnics. No rules as to pistols for rockets, which normally are not used.
Staying during the winter	Winter storage ashore is possible in some marinas, Mersrags is one option. Cradles could be a problem.
Antifouling regulations	No regulation for recreational craft up to 24m LOA.
Fuel availability	Fuel berth is available in Pavilosta marina and at several floating fuel stations in Rīga (one in marina a/s Latvijas Jahta, one in marina Andrejosta and another one upstream in the river Daugava, passing 4 bridges with minimum vertical clearance of 7m). All diesel fuels, obtained from the above fuel stations and from road public petrol stations in summer time contain 5% biodiesel.
Gas and electricity systems available – necessity for adapters	Gas bottles may be obtained from petrol stations and marine shops with standard connections (ask marina office).
Pump out stations for sewage and oily water	Latvia formally applies the HELCOM recommendation on sewage. There is a provision in Cabinet of Ministers regulations for recreational craft to have holding tanks. Pumping out holding tank ashore service is provided in some marinas, but not in all.
Pump out stations – type(s) of nozzle used in the country	Nozzles used in pumping out stations are according to European standard, i.e., of conical shape which is compatible with whatever size of the opening on deck.
Public transport	Bus service covers most of the country; train traffic is available to Tallinn and Moscow, also local electric trains are in service from Rīga.

Major source of charts/pilot books in the country with link	Maritime Administration of Latvia, Cartography, postal address: Trijādības iela 5, Rīga, LV-1048 Tel. +371-67062101, <a href="https://mapshop.lja.lv/mapshop/lja@lja.lv">https://mapshop.lja.lv/mapshop/lja@lja.lv</a>
Shopping hours	Supermarkets generally open from 08.00-22.00, all weekdays. Some shops on 24/7 base. Smaller shops open generally from 10.00-18.00, Monday to Saturday. Purchase of alcohol is prohibited after 22.00 hrs.
Important phone numbers, home pages and useful links	<a href="http://www.mrcc.lv">www.mrcc.lv</a> - Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC Riga) - Coast Guard Emergency phone <b>+371 67 323 103</b> ; +371 29 476 101; +371 67 082 070. “Riga Rescue Radio” is keeping constant watch on: MF 2182 kHz, VHF channel 16, DSC MMSI number 002750100 on MF 2187.5 kHz and VHF channel 70 All ships shall keep permanent radio watch on VHF channel 16 when in Latvian waters and also when approaching the Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) areas of Latvian ports: Riga – VHF channel 9, Ventspils – VHF channel 9 and Liepāja – VHF channel 11. General Emergency telephone number in Latvia is <b>112</b> Maritime Safety Information (MSI) is transmitted by MRCC - “Riga Rescue Radio” on VHF channel 71 with preliminary notification on VHF channels 70 (DSC) and 16. Broadcasting is performed in English and Latvian languages in the following order: MSI (Navigational Warnings first followed by Weather Forecast) is transmitted at 0703hrs and 1503hrs Local Time (UTC +3 winter, UTC +2 summer). Gale Warnings and Warnings on other dangerous meteorological phenomena are transmitted by “Riga Rescue Radio” on receipt, and repeated at 3 minutes and 33 minutes past each hour. <a href="http://www.lja.lv">www.lja.lv</a> - Maritime Administration of Latvia <a href="http://www.lhd.lv/ATONLV/pub/301">http://www.lhd.lv/ATONLV/pub/301</a> - Notices to Mariners, Shipping Regime
Tick borne diseases	Human infections with tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) virus are a public health concern in certain regions of Europe, also in Latvia where you may find two tick species – <i>Ixodes ricinus</i> and <i>Ixodes persultcatus</i> . Up to 30% of ticks are infected, therefore Public Health authorities are advising the anti-tick vaccination (only for TBE). Practical advice to visitors is – to avoid strolling in forests and in case of finding a tick on your body apply for medical assistance by calling 113.
Legislation re visiting with pets aboard	Official formalities are rather strict, please advise <a href="http://www.pettravel.com/immigration/latvia.cfm">www.pettravel.com/immigration/latvia.cfm</a> To enter Latvia, your pet must first be microchipped with an ISO 11784/11785 pet microchip that is a 15 digit and non-encrypted. If your pet's microchip is not ISO 11784/11785 compliant, you can bring your own microchip scanner. If your pet is entering Latvia from a rabies-free or rabies-controlled country, it will need a rabies vaccination after the microchip is implanted and more than 21 days prior to entry but not more than the expiration date of the manufacturer of the vaccine. If your dog, cat or ferret has a current rabies vaccination but no microchip, it will have to be vaccinated again after the microchip is implanted and wait 21 days before travel. Latvia does honour the 3 year rabies vaccination for dogs, cats and ferrets entering the country from outside of the EU. When entering Latvia from another EU Member State, annual rabies vaccinations maybe required. These formalities are under control of Sanitary Border Inspection of Latvia but in practice they are not very active in control of visiting yachts, please advise marina office.
Practical advice	Latvia is rather relaxed on keeping to strict formalities. Alcohol limit when navigating a boat could be adhered strictly. Cash from cash points may be obtained in all ports, but better to have some small cash at hand in euro currency. Sailing season is short and sometimes rather rainy, so take good sailing clothes with you.

*This document does not claim to include all known information on the subjects covered but the compilers and the Baltic Sea Cruising Network (BSCN) believe that the information contained represents a useful aid to those visiting the country by boat. Visitors should make prudent use of the information available on the websites quoted. No responsibility for loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from action as a result of the material in this publication is accepted by the compilers or the Baltic Sea Cruising Network.*

BSCN/Useful Information/LAT-GS

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Latvijas Zēģelētāju Savienība (Latvian Yachting Union) [www.sailinglatvia.lv](http://www.sailinglatvia.lv)



Latvijas Burāšanas Mācību Asociācija (Sail Training Association Latvia) [www.lbma.lv](http://www.lbma.lv)