

## 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; 28 yacht clubs and class 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 registered sailing boats
Currency with link for exchange rates	Euro
Formalities, Customs, passport control, visa	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 officials may come on board for custom control of prohibited goods. Normal procedure is to report to marina office and they report further as required. Visas required for residents of non-EU countries which have not entered into visa free agreement with Latvia. Citizens of Russia, Belarus and other countries require a visa to travel to Latvia. Please see <a href="http://www.latvia.travel/en/article/travelling-latvia-visas-customs-procedures">http://www.latvia.travel/en/article/travelling-latvia-visas-customs-procedures</a>  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. 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 permit of residence.
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 Certificate of Registration or other document proving the ownership of a boat is required. 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 of competence 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 boats – 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	According to national regulations the alcohol limit for operator of recreational craft is 0,5/ml 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, these routes are 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 by NAVTEX and VHF broadcasts of Maritime Safety Information of Latvian Coast Guard "Riga Rescue" on Ch.16 > Ch.71 at 0703 and at 1503 Local Time (UTC +3h in winter, UTC +2h in summer).
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, also close to Salacgriva; construction may be commenced around year 2030.
Bridges	All bridges in Latvian ports are with low vertical clearance, only motorboats can pass them.

Fishing equipment	According to national regulations the fishing equipment in the Latvian territorial sea and EEZ shall be marked as follows: - The ends of fishing nets and other fishing gear at sea shall be marked by floating sticks with flags of any colour (red, orange or other colour, <u>except white</u> ), size of flags for sticks shall be at least size 30cm X 30cm, in the port waters additionally shall have light signal. - Any net or other fishing gear shall have a floating identity mark with fishing licence data.
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: • North from Port of Liepāja -56°33'.42N 20°59'.72E; 56°33'.28N 20°58'.54E; 56°33'.8N 20°58'.76E; 56°33'.92N 20°59'.96E; • North from Papesciems - shipping is prohibited in the area enclosed by coastline and the lines connecting following points: 56°12'.0N 20°59'.5E; 56°12'.0N 20°53'.0E; 56°17'.0N 20°53'.0E; 56°17'.0N 20°59'.2E; Please note <a href="http://www.lhd.lv/ATONLV/pub/301">http://www.lhd.lv/ATONLV/pub/301</a>
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 VTs, please note Important Phone Numbers. Forecasts are transmitted by Latvian Coast Guard on Ch. VHF 16 > Ch.71 at 0703 and 1503 Local Time (UTC +3h in winter, UTC +2h in summer).
Harbours including approx number of natural harbours	Updated information on Latvian marinas may be obtained on <a href="http://www.marinaslavia.lv">www.marinaslavia.lv</a> New marina in Jurmala (56°59'.56N / 23°55'.33E) since August, 2016 available for visitors. No natural harbours in Latvian waters.
Mooring booking facilities	For mooring booking in Latvian marinas online Information system may be used, but not for all Latvian marinas: <a href="https://marinamia.eu/home">https://marinamia.eu/home</a> Direct call by mobile phone to marina office is advisable, please use <a href="http://www.marinaslavia.lv">www.marinaslavia.lv</a>
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 speed 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 Ch.16, DSC MMSI number 002750100 on MF 2187.5 kHz and VHF Ch.70.
Pyrotechnics - legislation re carrying - if flareguns (Very pistols) permitted - if so is licence required? - procedure for disposal	No national rules for disposal of outdated pyrotechnics from recreational craft. No rules as to pistols for rockets, which normally are not used.
Staying during the winter	Winter storage ashore is possible in some marinas, please contact marinas on <a href="http://www.marinaslavia.lv">www.marinaslavia.lv</a> Pavilosta and Mersrags are options. 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, also 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).
Repair and maintenance facilities	These services are few, please 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/">https://mapshop.lja.lv/mapshop/</a> <a href="mailto:lja@lja.lv">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 10.00-19.00, Monday to Saturday. Purchase of alcohol in shops 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 Ch.16, DSC MMSI number 002750100 on MF 2187.5 kHz and VHF Ch.70 All ships shall keep permanent radio watch on VHF Ch.16 when in Latvian waters and also when approaching the Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) areas of Latvian ports: Riga – VHF Ch.9, Ventspils – VHF Ch.9 and Liepāja – VHF Ch.11. General Emergency telephone number in Latvia is <b>112</b> Maritime Safety Information (MSI) is transmitted by MRCC Riga- “Riga Rescue Radio” on VHF Ch.71 with preliminary notification on VHF Ch.70 (DSC) and Ch.16. Broadcasting is performed in English and Latvian languages in the following order: MSI (Navigational Warnings first followed by Weather Forecast) is transmitted at 07.03 and 15.03 Local Time (UTC +3h in winter, UTC +2h in 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 persulcatus</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 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 may be 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 and miscellaneous information	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 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 DATE: First version 2008 – Updated December 17, 2017



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)