



KURZEME

Western Latvia



Sweden

Finland

Norway

Estonia

Russia

Kurzeme
region

Latvia

Lithuania

Belorussia

Denmark

United
Kingdom

Germany

Poland

Ukraine

*Listen to the wind caressing the sea
and whispering to forests...*

Why should we strive for far away exotic countries when there are plenty of things to do and places to see in Kurzeme? Have you managed to enjoy the view from Slītere lighthouse, go on a boat ride down the river Irbe, take part in Fishermen's festivals all the way along the coast or try carrot pies and shiitake mushrooms?

When you get to know things and places, they become meaningful. Take this travel guide and set off exploring Kurzeme and falling in love with it!

What an amazing place we are living in! Four seasons change one after another and each of them has its own charm. Spring invites you to vimba show in Kuldīga, summer will treat you with some wine in Sable, autumn offers great performances in Liepāja concert hall Great Amber and Centre of Performing Arts in Ventspils, but winter attracts tourists to Kurzeme castles and museums, while skiing fans will not miss the chance to enjoy winter activities on local hillsides.

EXPERIENCE HISTORY!

What could attract a modern traveller these days? Could it be ghosts and tales at Ēdole castle or presence of past events in *Karosta's* fortifications in Liepāja? In both cases visitors will experience true emotions which will boost their imagination.

When travelling through Kurzeme don't miss the opportunity to explore its manors and castles. They offer a variety of possibilities – a medieval feast in Jaunpils, the glamorous interior of Kukšu manor or Ventspils Livonian Order castle with its modern exposition and knight tournaments.



Ventspils Livonian Order castle



Jaunpils castle



Karosta former military base in Liepāja



Aizpute Livonian Order castle ruins



Skrunda manor



Durbe manor will attract your attention with its 19th century interior, rotunda in the park and a stone bridge, while Jaunmoku palace, designed as Riga mayor Geroge Armisted's hunting palace, built in 1901 is one of the renowned architect Vilhelm Bokslaf's masterpieces. Jaunmoku palace and Šlokenbeka manor, which is the home of *Latvian Road Museum* today, both offer accommodation for travellers.



Jaunmoku palace



Ēdole castle



Kuldīga Old town

TASTE KURZEME!

Kurzeme will amaze its visitors by delicious local specialities. The assortment ranges from substantial cod pot casserole *menciņi* available in Liepāja restaurants, suiti carrot pies *sklandraušī* and smoked plaice in every fishing village to potato dumplings – a speciality of *Rucava Zvanītāji*. If you don't feel too adventurous in trying anything new, a variety of traditional restaurants with excellent chefs will satisfy your appetite.



After tasting chocolate in Pūre, it's worth visiting a restaurant *Terase* or Rūmene manor in Kandava district for a delicious lunch. Wine tasting in Aizpute or Abava wineries might be a real adventure, but winery *Vējkalniētis* in addition to wine will delight its visitors with gorgeous daylily gardens. You won't regret having dinner in a cafe *Goldingen Room* in Kuldīga, a cafe *Ostas 23* or a restaurant *Zītari* in Ventspils.





Honey



Aigars Silis, Bangert's chef



Morels



Baltic seafood



In Saldus visitors are welcome to see ice-cream and toffee production but a beekeeper Jānis Vainovskis will spoil you with fresh honey. If this sounds too sweet, then *Užava's beer* or acorn coffee from Kandava could be a good change. Mushroom lovers are welcome to *Garīkas* for shiitake meals all year round.



Local fisherman Andris Andersons

EXPLORE NATURE!

Travelling in nature will guarantee You lots of positive emotions
Engure Lake is full of surprises. Until 19th century 50's people used to find great amounts of amber there, but nowadays about 200 bird species choose to nest in this area every year. Ornithological research centre is located on the eastern coast of the lake.



Old brick bridge in Kuldīga



Great Ķemeri Bog



Pedvāle open-air museum

Kurzeme bog landscape is worth seeing. Following specially built boardwalks you will enjoy the beauty of wild orchids, cotton grass, blooming cloudberries, bog myrtle and other bog flora in Ķemeri National Park, Slītere National Park and Dunika bog hornbeam grove.

Man's interaction with nature can be well observed in Riežupe sand cave maze which was made by digging the sand for Ilgūciems glass factory, while Laumu nature park offers fascinating bee-themed activities in its various trails.



Abava ancient valley



Slītere National park

Every nature lover will be charmed by the beauty of *Kolkasrags* (cape Kolka) which marks the meeting point of the Baltic Sea and Riga Bay. Another fascinating place to see is the waterfall *Ventas Rumba* in Kuldīga where vimbas strive to jump up the stream while the magnificent old brick bridge thoughtfully watches their efforts.



Cape Kolka (*Kolkasrags*)



Kemer National park



Amber



Lillas Lavender lavender fields



Liepāja fortifications



Wild horses, Pape Nature park

FOR THE RESTLESS MINDS

Relaxing doesn't always mean lying on the grass and looking at the sky. For those who prefer active recreation, Kurzeme offers a wide range of excellent places and activities to enjoy on your holiday. Boat trips could be a good option in summer. *Abavas laivas*, *Daba Laba*, *Sofijas laivas* and *Jūras laivas* are reliable boat rentals in Kurzeme. A different type of boat ride you might experience in Grobiņa *Coronian viking settlement*.

Those striving for more extreme activities might enjoy visiting much loved Kurzeme hillsides – *Milzkalns*, *Zviedru cepure* and *Lemberga Hūte*. They offer various activities all year round.





Adventure park *Tarzan Liepāja*



Ventspils Water Adventure park

Those who are brave enough to try wakeboarding are welcome to *Liepāja BB Wakepark*, but cycling enthusiasts might enjoy any of 40 cycling routes available all over Kurzeme.

Ready for an adventure? *Daba Laba* offers archery – see whether you have any hunter's skills in two different length tracks with 3D targets.



Paragliding in *Jūrklane*



Daba Laba



BB Wake Park in Liepāja

RELAX YOUR BODY AND MIND!

In today's hectic world saunas and SPA treatments could be a good way to relax your body and balance your mind. A visit to Barefoot trail in *Valguma pasaule* might be a real adventure. Pebbles, cones, a stream – seemingly ordinary things will provide new delightful experience for your feet.



Breathtaking sensations you will experience in *Usma SPA* on the coast of Usma lake. *Milk Manor Berghof* will provide you with peaceful and calming atmosphere. You may also enjoy milk baths, SPA rituals and swimming pool there.



Milk Manor Berghof

Those of you who enjoy saunas and water parks won't regret visiting *Liepāja Olympic Centre* with its swimming pools and SPA complex or *Ventspils Water Amusement Park* with its water attractions, baths, saunas and salt room.



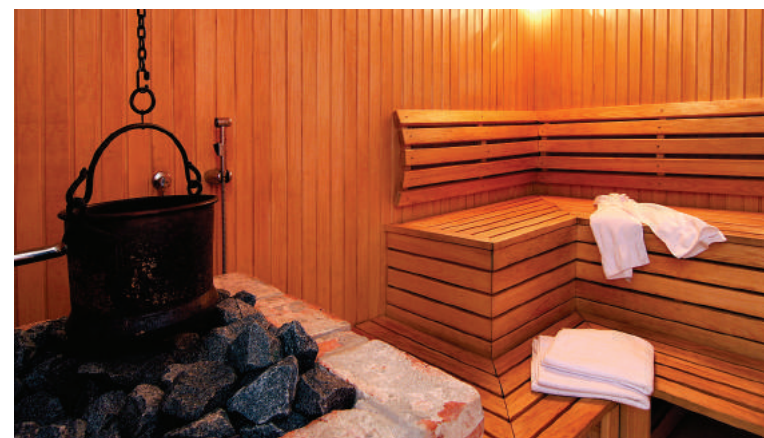
Usmas SPA



Usmas SPA



Liepāja Olympic centre



KURZEME SEACOAST

In Kurzeme all roads lead to the sea. Travelling along the seashore might be a good alternative to expensive trips to exotic places. You can reach everywhere on foot and enjoy the beautiful landscape. While walking along the beach you might be lucky to find pieces of amber.

You can start your trip from small coastal villages in Tukums district. Lapmežciems hosts a fishermen's museum. In Apšuciems visitors are welcome to admire black clay ceramics created by potters *Graši*, but Ragaciems will treat you with smoked fish. In Engure you must have a look at the church which is the closest to the sea. Kaltene attracts tourists with its stony beaches but Roja is a favourite destination for movie and art lovers visiting the festival *Roja Royal* at the end of July. If you prefer a solitary journey along the seashore, you might start from Kolka and visit lighthouses Miķeļtornis, Oviši, Užava, Akmeņrags on your way. History lovers won't regret visiting the Liv coast in Mazirbe with *boat cemetery*. Coastal flora is also worth mentioning – if you're lucky, in Užava and Pāvilosta dunes, you might even find the sweetest smelling wild carnations.



Kolka lighthouse



Roja



Ventspils South Pier and fishing vessel *Azova*



Smoking of sea pikes



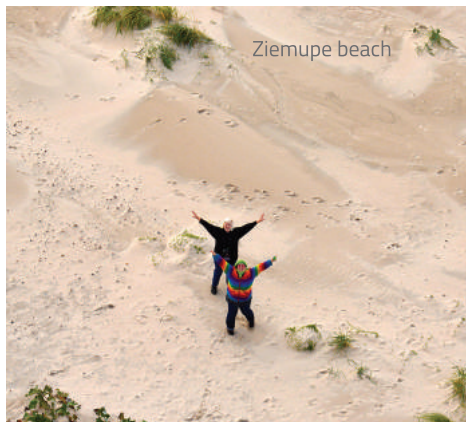
Pāvilosta breakwaters



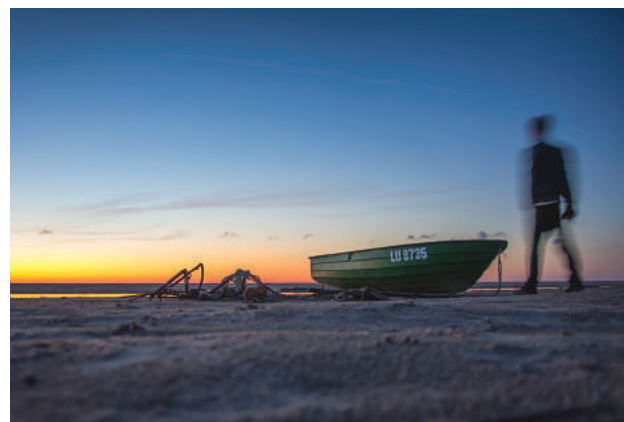
Amber



Mīķelbāka Lighthouse



Ziemeļu beach



WHAT TO DO IN KURZEME?

There is something for everyone! The activities range from town and fishermen's festivals to special events available only in Kurzeme. The festival season starts in Kuldīga in April with *Flying fish* and is followed by *Talsi Rally* in mid-May.

At the beginning of July you might find yourself choosing between the *Rose festival* in Tukums and *Sweets festival* in Saldus. The second weekend of July invites everyone to Fishermen's festivals in the coastal towns, which is also a great way to get to know Kurzeme.



Concert hall Lielais Dzintars (Great Amber) in Liepāja



Jaunpils Medieval festival



Rally Liepāja



Talsi Town festival

Visitors are welcome to taste smoked fish and meet the Sea King in almost every seaside town and village – Engure, Mērsrags, Ventspils, Pāvilosta and Liepāja where the festival *Summer Sound* gathers music lovers on the city beach. A week after Fishermen's festivals Kuldīga invites everyone to the *Town feast* with a wide range of activities including the famous Alekšupīte race. The holiday season then moves on to *Sabīle Wine festival* which takes place in mid-July.



Summer solstice in Jūrkalne Uguns pļavās (Fire meadows)



Kuldīga Cycling Fest



Rose festival in Tukums



Saldus Hot Air Balloon festival



Ventspils City festival



Sommer Sound music festival in Liepāja

*Ventspils City festival on the first weekend of August will satisfy all tastes. Autumn and winter are the concert and theatre seasons. The concert hall *Great Amber* in Liepāja and the Centre of Performing Arts *Jūras vārti* in Ventspils won't let you down.*



Fisherman's festival in Roja



Flying fish in Kuldīga

A GOOD HANDICRAFT HAS A GOLDEN FOUNDATION

What distinguishes Kurzeme craftsmen from other Latvian craftsmen? Could it be some ancient code hidden in amber thread bracelets in Ventspils House of Crafts or in Baiba Rītere's tapestries which visitors might admire in her textile workshop *Austrumi*?



Tals' keramik' ceramic workshop



Black ceramic kiln



Baiba Rītere's tapestries



No man is his craft's master the first day, so it's worth visiting skilled craftsmen like a wood-carver Igurds Baņķis in Valdemārpils who will charm you with his works and stories about Ārlava train or a blacksmith Gints Haņeckis in Tukums to admire his attractive and witty hammered work. A different world will open up for you in Tukums *Straw museum*. Straw ships, gnomes, dragons and animals from all over the world will capture your imagination.



Weaving of flower crowns
on Midsummer Eve



Liepāja House of Crafts

For 125 years Pāce wool factory has been manufacturing fleece yarn from the wool of Latvian sheep and providing its customers with colourful contemporary products. Also ceramists Diāna and Nauris from Talsi pottery *Ciparnīca* skillfully combine traditions with modern usability. Their bowls and mugs are inspirational.



Pampāļi ceramics



Straw museum
an workshop



Creative workshop
Ligzda



Ēberīņi apiary



Baking of *sklandrausi*

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Visiting wild animals will ensure true emotions, especially when travelling with children. *Kalvene Zoo* is a pleasant place for walks all year round, but in winter you might be lucky to see grey wolves there. *Indāni farm* offers its visitors an opportunity to experience farm life of ancient times.

In the *Dairy museum* (near Skrunda) you can meet a talking cow, but *Laumu nature park* will introduce you to the world of bees and the most exciting outdoor game – disc golf. If you want to bake your own bread, *Pastariņš museum* is the best choice. *Saldus* might be your destination if you have a sweet tooth – ice-cream, toffees, pretzels and even fresh honey!





Valguma pasaule



Pastariņa museum



Cinevilla film studios



Tarzan Liepāja
adventure park

Restless teenagers might be attracted by *Ventspils Adventure Park* or electric go-kart centre *Blue Shock Race*. Those interested in exploring things might enjoy a visit to Ventspils Creative House with planetarium and observatory or Science centre *ZINOO* in Liepāja.



Dairy museum



TOP ROUTES

KURZEME COAST

Rīga – Engure – Mērsrags – Roja – Kolka – Ventspils – Jūrkalne – Pāvilosta – Liepāja – Nīca

Natural and cultural heritage saturated route of 400 kilometers along the Baltic Sea coast, offering to get to know the lifestyle of local people and relaxation by the sea. Among the many old fishing villages there are two largest Latvian cities to visit - Ventspils, that is praised as the friendliest city for children and families, and Liepāja - Latvian capital of music, that can be walked through as by notes.

ROMANTIC TOWNS OF KURZEME

Rīga – Saldus – Skrunda – Aizpute – Pāvilosta – Jūrkalne – Alsunga – Kuldīga – Sābīle – Kandava – Tukums – Rīga

One of the most scenic Kurzeme routes, because passing this route, there is a chance to view the beautiful nature of Kurzeme, manor houses surrounded by century-old trees, castles and churches, ancient Aizpute with romantic wooden houses, Latvian sweetest town Saldus, tradition rich *suiti* county in Alsunga, Kurzeme ancient capital Kuldīga and the richest of landscapes and cultural heritage river valley – Abava valley.

THE GREEN CIRCLE OF NORTHERN KURZEME

Rīga – Talsi – Dundaga – Pāce – Ance – Ventspils – Ugāle – Tukums – Rīga

The Northern Kurzeme invites travelers to explore the diversity of nature – to listen to birds singing near Lake Kanieris and Lake Engure, to observe cows and wild horses, to enjoy sun rising and setting and the way how collide waves of two seas at Cape Kolka, to visit the organ workshop in Ugāle, to get to know The *Bees Path* at Recreation Park Laumas and walk Talsi nine hills, but near Tukums to get to know film stories and visit the place where films are made - *Cinevilla Studios* backlot.



EXPERIENCE HISTORY!

- 1 **VENTSPILS LIVONIAN ORDER CASTLE**
muzejs.ventspils.lv
- 2 **JAUNPILS CASTLE**
www.jaunpilpils.lv
- 3 **ŠLOKENBEKAS MANOR**
www.slokenbeka.lv
- 4 **LIEPĀJAS KAROSTA**
www.karosta.lv
- 5 **ĒDOLES CASTLE**
www.edolespils.lv
- 6 **JAUNMOKU CASTLE**
www.jaunmokupils.lv
- 7 **KULDĪGAS MEDIEVAL HISTORICAL CENTER AROUND ALEKŠUPĪTE**
www.visit.kuldiga.lv

TASTE KURZEME!

- 8 **FAMILY WINERY "ABAVAS"**
www.abavas.lv
- 9 **LIEPĀJA TRADITIONAL DISH "MENCIŅI"**
www.liepaja.travel
- 10 **PURE CHOCOLATE MUSEUM**
www.purechocolate.lv
- 11 **BAKING OF SKLANDRAUŠI IN ALSUNGA, KOLKA AND ANCE**
www.madeinkurzeme.lv
- 12 **"FISHERMAN'S DINNER" IN ROJA**
www.rojahotel.lv
- 13 **LIV CUISINE IN MAZIRBE "STŪRĪŠI"**
www.visit.dundaga.lv
- 14 **UŽAVA BREWERY**
www.uzavasalus.eu

EXPLORE NATURE!

- 15** **SLĪTERE NATIONAL PARK AND KOLKASRAGS**
www.slitere.lv
- 16** **ĶEMERI NATIONAL PARK**
www.kemerunacionalaisparks.lv
- 17** **PAPE NATURE PARK**
www.pdf-pape.lv
- 18** **LAUMAS NATURE PARK**
www.laumas.lv
- 19** **WATERFALL VENTAS RUMBA**
www.kuldiga.lv
- 20** **JŪRKALNE**
www.jurkalne.lv
- 21** **NATURE PARK „ABAVAS SENLEJA”, WINE HILL**
www.senleja.lv

FOR THE RESTLESS MINDS

- 22** **VENTSPILS ADVENTURE PARK AND ALPINE SKIING**
www.piedzivojumuparks.lv
- 23** **CENTRE FOR ACTIVE TOURISM “CURONIAN VIKING SETTLEMENT”**
www.grobinasvikingi.lv
- 24** **MILZKALNS – ALPINE SKIING AND WAKEBOARD**
www.visitkandava.lv
- 25** **ARCHERY AND BOAT RENTAL “DABA LABA”**
www.dabalaba.lv
- 26** **CYCLING ROUTES IN KURZEME**
www.velokurzeme.lv
- 27** **BOAT RENTALS AND MAPS**
www.upesoga.lv
- 28** **BB WAKEPARK LIEPĀJA**
www.bbwakepark.lv

- 27** **ADVENTURE PARK “TARZAN LIEPĀJA”**
www.tarzans.lv/liepaja
- 28** **“BLUE SHOCK RACE” GO-KARTS**
www.blueshockrace.com

RELAX YOUR BODY AND MIND!

- 29** **MILK MANOR**
www.pienamuiza.lv
- 30** **USMAS SPA**
www.usma.lv
- 31** **LIEPĀJA POOL AND SPA**
www.loc.lv
- 32** **VENTSPILS WATER AMUSEMENT PARK**
www.udensparks.lv
- 33** **BAREFOOT TRAIL**
www.valgumapasaule.lv

WHAT TO DO IN KURZEME?

- 34** **SABILE WINE FESTIVAL**
www.sabile.lv
- 35** **SALDUS SWEETS FESTIVAL**
www.turisms.saldus.lv
- 36** **LIEPĀJA SUMMER SOUND**
www.liepaja.travel
- 37** **KULDĪGA TOWN FESTIVAL**
www.kuldiga.lv
- 38** **“FLYING FISH IN KULDĪGA”**
www.visit.kuldiga.lv
- 39** **FESTIVAL OF ROSES IN TUKUMS**
www.visittukums.lv
- 40** **RALLY LIEPĀJA**
www.liepaja.travel

A GOOD HANDICRAFT HAS A GOLDEN FOUNDATION

- 41** **TEXTIL WORKSHOP “AUSTRUMI” – BAIBA RĪTERE**
www.baibatextileart.lv
- 42** **CRAFTSMAN RANCH “KAULIŅI”**
www.meistarsigurds.lv
- 43** **PĀCE WOOL FACTORY**
www.pace.lv
- 44** **VENTSPILS HOUSE OF CRAFTS**
www.muzejs.ventspils.lv/amatu-maja
- 45** **TALSU CIPARNĪCA CERAMICS WORKSHOP**
www.ciparnica.blogspot.com
- 46** **TUKUMS STRAW WORKSHOP**
www.salmulietas.lv
- 47** **DĀRZA STREET CREATIVE QUARTER IN LIEPĀJA**
www.liepaja.travel

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

- 48** **LAUMAS NATURE PARK**
www.laumas.lv
- 49** **PASTARIŅA MUSEUM**
www.tukumamuzejs.lv/pastarina-muzejs
- 50** **DEER GARDEN “MAZSĀLIJAS”**
www.mazsalijas.lv
- 51** **VENTSPILS CREATIVE HOUSE, PLANETARIUM AND OBSERVATORY**
www.jaunradesnams.lv
- 52** **SALDUS SWEETS TOUR**
www.turisms.saldus.lv
- 53** **VENTSPILS ADVENTURE PARK**
www.piedzivojumuparks.lv
- 54** **CINEVILLA FILM STUDIOS**
www.cinevilla.lv
- 55** **“ZINOO LIEPĀJA” SCIENCE CENTER**
www.zinoo.lv/centri/liepaja

KURZEME TOURISM INFORMATION:

Talsi Region Tourism Information Centre

Lielā street 19/21, Talsi, LV-3201
Phone: (+371) 63224165, 26469057
www.talsitourism.lv

Saldus Tourism Information, Culture and Sports Centre

Striķu street 3, Saldus, LV-3801
Phone: (+371) 63807443
turisms.saldus.lv

Ventspils Tourism Information Centre

Dārzu street 6, Ventspils, LV-3601
Phone: (+371) 63622263, 29232226
www.visitventspils.com

Tukums Tourism Information Centre

Talsu street 5, Tukums, LV-3101
Phone: (+371) 63124451, 28311557
www.visittukums.lv

Kuldīga Active Recreation Centre

Baznīcas street 5, Kuldīga, LV-3301
Phone: (+371) 63322259, 29334403
www.visit.kuldiga.lv

Liepāja Region Tourism Information Office

Rožu square 5/6, Liepāja, LV-3401
Phone: (+371) 63480808, 29402111
www.liepaja.travel

Kurzeme tourism association

Baznīcas street 5, Kuldīga, LV-3301
Phone: (+371) 63322259, 29334403
visitkurzeme@gmail.com

WWW.KURZEME.LV

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