



Country Profile: Latvia

Latvia is a stable democracy with a developing economy. Most tourist facilities found in a western European city are available in the capital city of Riga. However, some of the goods and services taken for granted in other countries are not yet available in other parts of the country. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Latvia for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Latvia
Continent:	Europe
Capital City:	Riga
Boundary Countries:	Belarus, Estonia, Lithuania, Russia
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Riga: ARS Medical Company, Children's Clinic, Children's Hospital, Diplomatic Service Medical Center, Gailezera Hospital, Latvian Red Cross, Private Clinic, State Disaster Medicine Center, Stradina Hospital, Via Una Poliklinika
Main Cities:	Riga, Valmiera, Ogre, Salaspils, Jūrmala, Jelgava, Ventspils, Liepaja, Aluksne, Rezekne, Aluksne, Jekabpils, Daugavpils
Country Size:	64,589 sq km
Population:	2,259,810

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Latvian (official) 58.2%, Russian 37.5%, Lithuanian and other 4.3%
Currency:	Latvian Lat (LVL)
Predominant Religions:	Luthern, Roman Catholic, Russian Orthodox
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 18 November (1918); note- 18 November 1918 was the date Latvia declared itself independent from Soviet Russia; 4 May 1990 is when it declared the renewal of independence; 21 August 1991 was the date of de facto independence from the USSR
Economic Status:	Latvia is a stable democracy experiencing rapid economic growth.
Security:	Latvian Republic Defense Force: Ground Forces, Navy, Air Force, Border Guard, Home Guard (Zemessardze)
US Presence:	U.S. Embassy in Riga 1 Samnera Velsa St. (former Remtes) Riga LV-1510 Latvia Phone: +371 6710 7000
Major Airports:	Airports: 46, Airports w/paved runways: 24 Riga International Airport (RIX/EVRA) Riga Airport, Latvia, Riga LV 1053, LATVIA Tel: +371 6 766 8300 Fax: +371 6 766 8301

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