

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



| Topic | Comment |
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| Demographic data (population/no of clubs/members/boats) | 2 million inhabitants; 22 clubs and associations 2500 members in Latvian Sailing Union – www.sailinglatvia.lv 13 harbours - www.marinaslatvia.lv 8600 motor boats, 450 sailing boats |
| Currency | The Euro (previously the Lat LVL) 1LVL = 1.42 EUR |
| 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. Please advise http://www.latvia.travel/en/visas-customs-and-entering-country ; 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 http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241547994_eng.pdf |
| 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 on that. 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 such, but they are aware of the different requirements in other countries and may not be strict on this requirement. |
| Alcohol limits | 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 at sea is provided for professional sailors on commercial ships. |
| TSS, esp. new ones | No TSS areas are designated in Latvian waters, only recommended sea routes are designated for commercial ships. |
| 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"> • 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; • 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; |
| Flag traditions/ application of flag rules | Flying a courtesy flag is a norm when in Latvian waters. For the boat's ensign – times of hoisting and taking it down are not strict. |
| Weather forecast | Local forecasts available from major ports VTS's, please note Important Phone Numbers. Forecast are transmitted by Latvian Coast Guard on Ch. VHF 16 – 71 at 0703 and 1503 LT. |

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| Harbours | Please see www.marinatlatvia.lv where updated information may be obtained on Latvian marinas. New marina in Riga port in Kipsala area has been developed, commissioned in August 2013, available for visitors. |
| 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 | www.mrcc.lv -Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC Riga) - Coast Guard Emergency phone +371 67 323 103 ; +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 | No national rules are applied for utilization of outdated pyrotechnics |
| Staying during the winter | Winter storage ashore is possible in some marinas, Mersrags is one of choice. 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 availability | Gas bottles may be obtained from petrol stations and marine shops (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 sewage ashore service in some marinas is provided. |
| 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. |
| Shopping hours | Supermarkets generally open from 08.00-22.00, all weekdays. Some 24 hours. 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 | www.mrcc.lv - Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC Riga) - Coast Guard Emergency phone +371 67 323 103 ; +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 – channel 9, Ventspils – channel 9 and Liepaja – channel 11. General Emergency telephone number in Latvia is 112 Maritime Safety Information (MSI) is transmitted by MRCC 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 on receipt, and repeated at 3 minutes and 33 minutes past each hour. www.lja.lv - Maritime Administration of Latvia http://www.lhd.lv/ATONLV/pub/301 - Notices to Mariners, Shipping Regime www.lj.lv/mapshops - Navigation charts |
| Practical advice | Latvia is rather relaxed on keeping to strict formalities. Alcohol limit when navigating a boat could be adhered strictly. Cash money from cash points may be obtained in all ports, but better to have some small cash at hand. 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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