



## **Conference Guide**

## Conference Venue

Conference Location: Radisson Blu Daugava Hotel

### Radisson Blu Daugava Hotel

Nestled beside the Daugava River, this city hotel in Riga lies within a short walk of embassies and key business destinations. Guests enjoy easy access to shopping and dining as well as to entertainment options like a bowling center and the Riga Opera House. The railway and central bus stations are only 2.1 kilometers from the hotel, and Riga International Airport is a 15-minute drive away.



Address: 24 Kugu Street LV-1048, Riga, Latvia  
Tel: +371 6706 1111  
Fax: +371 6706 1100  
Email: [info.riga@radissonblu.com](mailto:info.riga@radissonblu.com)  
URL: <https://www.radissonblu.com/en/hotel-riga>

## History of Riga

The 700,000 inhabitants of Riga make up one-third of the population of Latvia and makes it the largest city in the Baltic States. Riga is famous for its Old Town (Vecrīga) and city center (Centrs), in which over 800 buildings are of the Art Nouveau (aka Jugendstil) style of architecture. The old town of Riga is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Art Nouveau style involves intricate building facades, with carvings of flowers and mythological creatures, and ornate doorways and windows. Much of the old town was either destroyed by fire or destroyed by the Germans in World War II and remained in ruins until it was rebuilt in the late 1990s, mainly to make Riga attractive as a tourist destination. Riga is also popular due to its nightlife and discount airlines that offer cheap flights to/from much of Europe. Riga is bisected by the river Daugava. Old (medieval) town is in the center of the city on the east side of the river. It is surrounded by a ring of ~19th -- early 20th century architecture, followed by a mix of private 2-floor house districts (many also pre-WW2) and Soviet-era 5-18 floor apartment districts, with an occasional factory (especially near railroad lines). The term "centre" loosely refers to quite a large area around Old town limited by the river to the west, the railroad lines to the east and south, and without a definite boundary to the north. Riga was founded in 1201 by Albert of



Bremen as a port city and a base to conquer and convert the native Livonians to Christianity, a goal that was achieved in 1206 after a battle in Turaida during the Northern Crusades. Riga developed as the major trade hub of the area during the peak of the Hanseatic League in the 13th to the 15th centuries and was ruled by the Archbishop of Riga. The Reformation reached Riga in 1522, which ended the Archbishops' power. In 1621, Riga became part of the Kingdom of Sweden, although it maintained a great deal of autonomy. In 1710, an invasion by Peter the Great of Russia ended Swedish rule and cemented Russian influence on the city. Latvia declared its independence on November 18, 1918, although it was annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940. Riga became the capital of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic until Latvian independence in 1991. Germans have inhabited the city since its establishment by Albert, and throughout most of its history Germans were the elite while Latvians remained a lower class. Their position as the

elite continued through the Imperial period of Riga. As such, much of the architecture in Riga has been heavily influenced by Germany. The Germans were forcibly evicted after the Nazi occupation of 1941-44.

**Official Web Page of Vienna:** <http://www.riga.com/>

Source: <http://wikitravel.org/en/Riga>

## How to get to Riga

### Air:

**Riga - Riga International Airport (RIX)** is located 10km southwest of Riga. The airport serves approximately 5 million passengers per year. Most flights to/from Riga are operated by the discount carriers Air Baltic, Ryan Air, and Wizz Air. There are designated areas in the airport where smoking is allowed.

Before you start planning your travel to Riga you should visit the Latvian Foreign Ministry web page to see if you need to get a visa.

For more details:

**Riga International Airport (RIX)**  
Tel.: +371 2931 1817  
URL: <http://www.riga-airport.com/en/>

**Luggage Storage Services and Prices**  
Tel.: +371 6766 8253  
Web: <http://www.riga-airport.com/en/main/passengers/services/luggage-storage-wrapping?>

## **How to get from the Airport to the Hotel**

### **By Car:**

Take P133 and Lielirbes iela towards Kalnciema iela for Zemgales priekšpilsēta, Rīga.

### **Car Hire:**

There are several car rental offices in Riga airport as well as in other parts of the town. You can even rent a cheap soviet style car. However, traffic can be extremely slow, especially on the bridges, and parking in old town can cost up to €10/hour. Riga international airport is served by several reputable car rental companies. Their offices are located in the Arrivals sector E and will be open on pick-up time of your rental.

<http://www.riga-airport.com/en/main/passengers/services/cafes-bars/car-rental>

### **By Public Transportation:**

Bus No.22, which leaves from Abrenes Street, has direct services between the airport and the city centre.

You will get out straight at the terminal on the 2nd level. To get on the bus at the airport look for bus stop located opposite the terminal behind the car park P1. Frequency 10 - 30 minutes, journey time to city centre about 30 minutes.

A ticket for an unlimited number of trips is valid 24 hours from its first usage costs 5.00EUR.

A regular ticket for one trip can be bought from the bus driver 2.00 EUR, but if you buy it before commencing your trip at the airport services and tourism information bureau "Welcome to Riga", in a ticket vending machine at the stop of Bus 22 and in Narvesen press kiosks at Level 1 and 2 of the terminal. Regular one-way ticket will cost you only (1.15 EUR).

Additional information on bus lines and schedules at [www.rigassatiksmel.lv](http://www.rigassatiksmel.lv)

**Toll-free information:** +371 8000 1919, +371 8000 1919

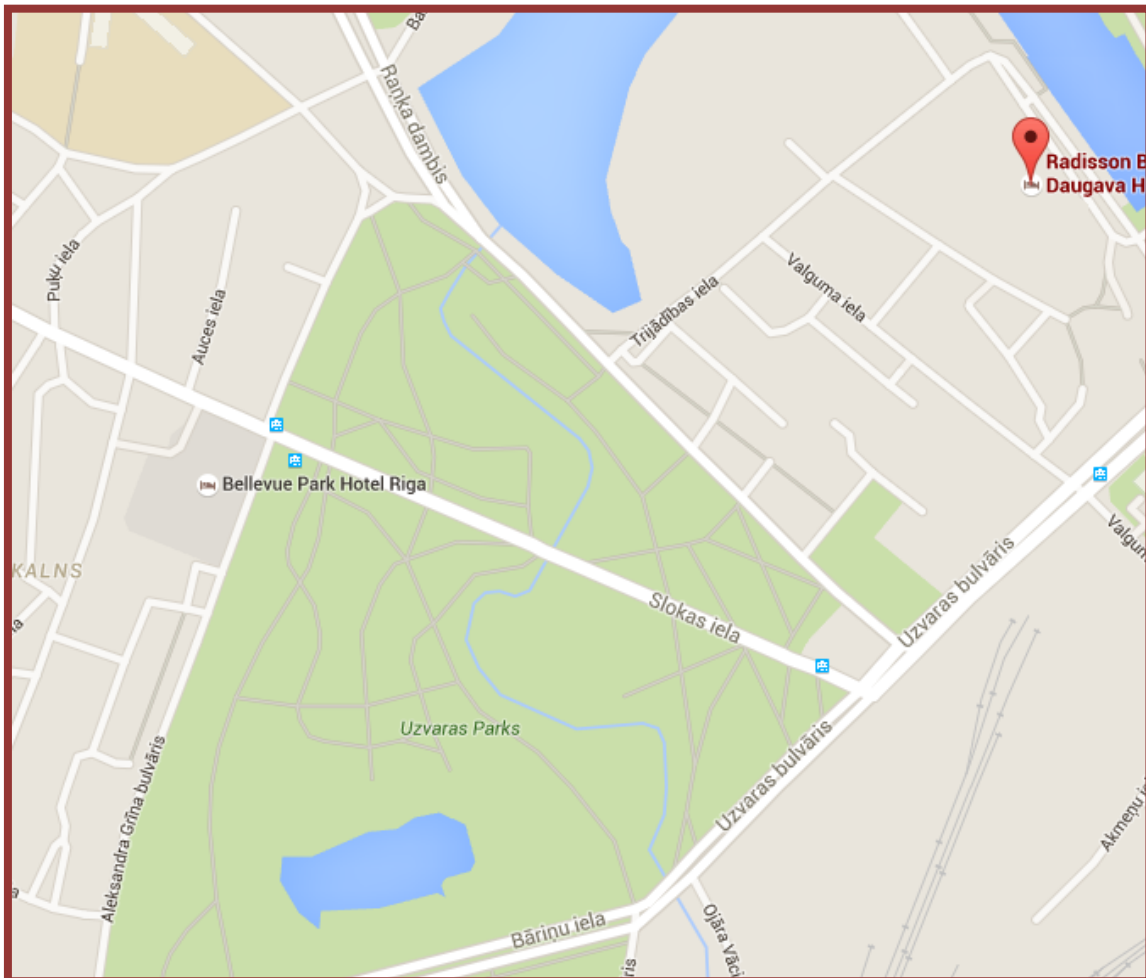
### **Mini bus route Nr.241**

Fare per one trip - Esplanāde - Zolitūde (bus stop "Priedaines iela" is place, where fare changes) 1 EUR, Priedaines iela - Riga Airport.. Tickets available in the shuttle bus from the bus driver.

Additional information on mini bus line and schedule available at [www.rdsd.lv](http://www.rdsd.lv)

## By Taxi

The way to hire a taxi is to use the online phone apps such as ClickTaxi, Taxify, which allows you to see the rates being charged, time to pickup and pay with the credit card. These apps use data roaming, beware of extra charges. If you hail a random taxi on the street, be aware that the taxi may not follow the most direct route and may use a meter rate that will significantly overcharge you. This can be avoided by taking "Red Cab" Taxis (the fleet of Red Ford S-max and White + Red roof S-max). You can find these at the airport or outside the Hotels Radisson Latvija, Radisson Daugava, Radisson Elizabete, , Monika Centrum, Albert Hotel or Hotel Roma and Central Train station. You can also call one to come and collect you +371 8383. For groups up to 8 people mini vans available. Wheelchair accessible mini vans (must be pre-ordered). Accept credit cards.





## PLACES TO VISIT

### Old Town Riga

Old Town Riga is a popular entertainment district in the historical and geographical center of the Latvian capital, featuring cobble-stone streets and an abundance of architectural gems. Old Town Riga, with its narrow cobble-stone streets, not only features gorgeous Medieval-era buildings, but unique sacral structures as well. Spread your arms out on Rozena Street, the narrowest street in Riga, where you can touch opposite walls at once.

**Address:** Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

**Tel:** +371 67227444

**Admission Fee:** Free

**URL:** [www.liveriga.com](http://www.liveriga.com)

For more details, you can visit the site:

**URL:** <http://www.latvia.travel/en/sight/old-town-riga>

### Riga Art Nouveau Museum

Riga Art Nouveau Museum was opened on April 23rd, 2009. It is located in the apartment where the outstanding Latvian architect Konstantīns Pēkšēns (1859 - 1928) lived until 1907. The building was constructed in 1903 as K. Pēkšēns private house. The project for it is the work of K. Pēkšēns himself together with Eižens Laube, then a student of architecture. The building is notable for its extremely powerful dimensions and expressive silhouette. The ornamental reliefs, craftily incorporated in the architectonic shape, feature stylized motifs from the local flora and fauna - fir needles and cones and squirrels. The current display of the museum shows the characteristic furnishings of an apartment of a Riga inhabitant in the beginning of the 20th century. In 2016 a digital exhibition will be opened in the base storey of the building.

**Address:** Alberta iela 12 (entrance from Strēlnieku Street), Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1010, Latvia

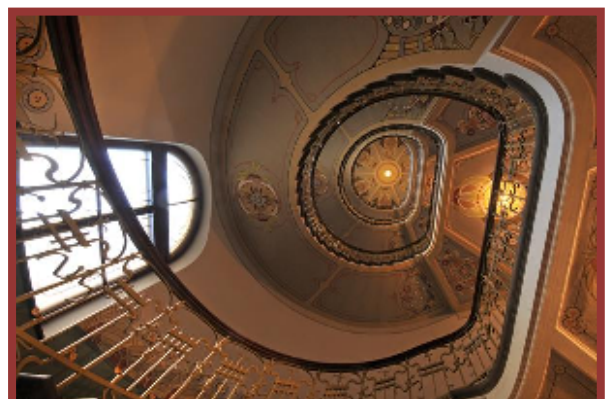
**Opening hours:** Every day, except Mondays, 10:00-18:00

**Tel:** +371 6718 1465

**E-mail:** [jugendstils@riga.lv](mailto:jugendstils@riga.lv)

For more details about the fees you can visit the official site:

**URL:** <http://www.jugendstils.riga.lv/eng/muzejs>





## **The Museum of the Occupation of Latvia**

This museum dedicated to the Nazi and Soviet occupations of Latvia is now located in the former US embassy on Raiņa bulvāris. The various exhibits display the atrocities committed against the people of Latvia and the systematic destruction of their nation's sovereignty. Visitors can catch a glimpse of the intolerable living conditions of Siberian labour camps and see firsthand how Latvians managed to keep their spirits up in this frozen wasteland. Exhibits are available in English and Latvian, but you can also take a guided tour of the museum in four languages.

**Address:** Raiņa bulvāris 7, Rīga, Latvia

**Opening hours:** 11:00-18:00

**Tel:** +371 6721 1030

For more details about the fees you can visit the official site:

**URL:** <http://okupacijasmuzejs.lv/en>

## **Riga Cathedral (Doma baznīca)**

The largest place of worship in the Baltics, measuring 187 x 43m, with walls two metres thick, Riga Cathedral also has one of the biggest organs in Europe (6,768 pipes!). It was such a marvel in its day that Franz Liszt composed a piece of music in its honour. The drop from Cathedral Square (Doma laukums) to the church's base shows how the level of the city has risen in the 800 years since its foundations were laid on the site of a Livonian fishing village. Although currently undergoing renovations, it's still open to the public. Opening hours for the upcoming week are listed next to the entrance. The price of the ticket also includes access to its Romanesque cloister and the cathedral offers extended opening hours in July.

**Address:** Herdera laukums 6, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia

**Opening hours:** 10:00-17:00

Admission: € 3

For more details you can visit the official site:

**URL:** <http://www.doms.lv/>



## St. Peter's Church

First mentioned in ancient chronicles in 1209, St. Peter's was a Catholic church until 1523, when it turned Lutheran. Its wooden tower, the highest in Europe at that time, was destroyed several times. It first collapsed in 1666 and was rebuilt a year later. To see how long it would last, the builders hurled a glass from the top: the more pieces the vessel broke into, the greater the tower's longevity. Alas, a pile of straw cushioned the glass' fall and the spire burnt down one year later. Artillery fire destroyed the structure again in 1941. In 1973 it was finally rebuilt and the glass ritual was repeated, this time with smashing results. Take the lift to the observation platform for spectacular views of the city.

**Address:** Skārņu Street 19, Riga, LV1050, Latvia

**Opening hours:** 10:00-18:00

Sun 12:00-18:00, Closed Monday

Fees: €9

For more details you can visit the official site:

**URL:** <http://peterbaznica.riga.lv/en/news/>

## Aldaris Beer Museum

Latvia's most iconic beer brand began its storied existence in the middle of the 19th-century and this modern museum housed in one of its original brick buildings traces the history of Aldaris from its founding to the current day. Put on a white lab coat and take a stroll amongst antique photographs, copper beer vats from the 1930s and informative displays of the hallowed brewing process. You can also take a look at the real thing as Aldaris beers are still brewed on the premises just behind the glass wall. Finish your experience with a brew in the lovely tasting room that also boasts a 'periodic table of beer' that includes an example of every type of beer brewed around the globe. Register for the museum at the entrance on Tvaiku. Take tram No.5 to the Gaujienas iela stop and walk down Gaujienas to Tvaika iela.

**Address:** Tvaika iela 44, Riga, LV1005, Latvia

**Opening hours:** 9:00 – 18:00, Sat 10:00-15:00. Closed Sun

For more details about the fees you can visit the official site:

**URL:** <http://www.beermuseum.lv>



## Fire-Fighting Museum

Set up in 1978 on the premises of a former fire station built in 1912, this museum displays the history of fire fighting in Latvia from the second half of the 19th century until the present. View fire fighting equipment, uniforms, flags, photographs and documents for a nominal fee.

**Address:** 5 Hanzas Street, Riga, LV-1045, Latvia

**Opening hours:** 10:00-17:00. Closed Mon, Sun.

**Admission:** €0.28

For more details about the fees you can visit the official site:

**URL:** <http://muzejs.vugd.gov.lv/eng/>

## Latvian National Opera & Ballet

A magnificent venue for opera, ballet and international performing artists. In the course of a season that runs from September to June the LNOB performs more than 200 performances, staging on average six new productions every season of both opera and ballet. The LNOB today is a repertoire theatre. While paying tribute to the traditional values of the classical and Romantic operas and ballets that are the cornerstones of its repertoire, the LNOB continually strives to seek contemporary forms of expression.

**Address:** Aspazijas bulv. 3, Riga, Latvia

**Tel:** +371 6707 3777

**E-mail:** [info@opera.lv](mailto:info@opera.lv)

For more details about the fees you can visit the official site:

**URL:** <http://www.stephanskirche.at/index.jsp?menuekeyvalue=20&langid=2>





## TOURS

### **Riga by Canal**

“Rigabycanal” is a water tourism and tour project located in the centre of the city. The offered route consists of sightseeing spots in Old Riga, as well as on the left bank of the River Daugava, thus giving the opportunity to see the city from a different point of view. It is a possibility to see the bridges of Riga, the legendary Central Market, the picturesque architecture of Old Riga, as well as the industrial environment within the territory of Andrejosta. The Riga Passenger Terminal is located almost in the heart of Riga – a 20 minute walk away from the National Opera and the Freedom Monument. The road to the centre runs through a park and the quiet centre of Riga with astonishing art nouveau architecture in Alberta Street can also be found nearby. Therefore a walk from the terminal to the centre will be a lovely way to see the city for the first time.

**Business hours:** 10:00-19:00

**Boarding:** Bastion Hill (Bastejkalns) pier (specially equipped). 100 metres from the Freedom Monument.

**Tickets:** adults €18, children (5 - 14) €9, children under 5 free

**Tel.:** +371 2591 1523

For more details about the fees you can visit the official site:

**URL:** <http://www.rigabycanal.lv/en>



## DINNING IN RIGA

### **Kolonāde**

You couldn't ask for a more perfect location. Housed in an historic building surrounded by Ionic columns, Kolonāde offers postcard quality views of the Freedom Monument and the Laima Clock as well as the National Opera and its gardens. The menu specialises in gourmet Latvian and international dishes, which are prepared in the open plan kitchen by the entrance. An early breakfast is also available not to mention Latvian beer and cider and an extensive drinks list that places an emphasis on Italian wines. Delicious desserts are also available and best enjoyed in its glass conservatory.

**Address:** 26 Brīvības Blvd., Riga LV – 1050, Latvia

**Tel:** +371 2660 8882

**E-Mail:** [info@kolonade.lv](mailto:info@kolonade.lv)

**URL:** <http://kolonade.lv/en/>

### **Indian Raja**

All of the dishes served here are so veritably Indian, it's almost overwhelming. This is hardly Baltic-modified cuisine, which is why the bill won't be small, but it will reflect one of the best dining investments in the city. Although many of them have Indo European roots, most locals still shy away, which means you, expats and tourists, will have the peaceful interior and its incredible views of St.Peter's Church and its medieval surroundings all to yourself.

**Address:** Skarnu street 7, Riga (Old City)

**Tel:** +371 6722 3240

**URL:** <http://indianraja.lv/>



### 3 Pavāru Restorāns (Tam labam būs augt)

Unlike most restaurants in the historic Jacob's Barracks in Old Riga, this one is located above ground and provides a bright, trendy interior with views and plenty of sunlight. Owned and operated by three local celebrity chefs, hence the name, it's frequented by the moneyed class as well as the occasional stargazer and serves fresh international cuisine prepared in an open-plan kitchen in the centre of the room. Light lunches of soups and salads are served during the day and more substantial (and expensive) dinners are offered after 18:00. We especially liked the lamps made of common drinking glasses, but were a bit surprised to discover that a Latvian draught beer is cheaper than water or soft drinks.

**Address:** Torna street 4, Riga, LV-1050

**Tel:** +371 2037 0537

**E-mail:** [3pavari@3pavari.lv](mailto:3pavari@3pavari.lv)

**URL:** <http://www.3pavari.lv/en/restaurant>

### Valmiermuižas alus

Although one of Latvia's best brews is produced just outside the northern town of Valmiera, the brewery also has its own so-called embassy in Riga's trendy Briāna iela neighbourhood. Taste a variety of quality brews on draught or in bottles and order tasty nouvelle Latvian cuisine from slowly-cooked pork belly with seasonal greens to oven baked organic lamb. Locally made fruit and berry wines are also on the menu, but bear in mind that it might be hard to get a table on weekend evenings. The Latvian meat platter goes perfectly with the beers and affordable daily lunch specials are also on offer.

**Opening Hours:** Open 11:00-24:00, Wed, Thu, Fri 11:00-02:00, Sun 11:00-22:00

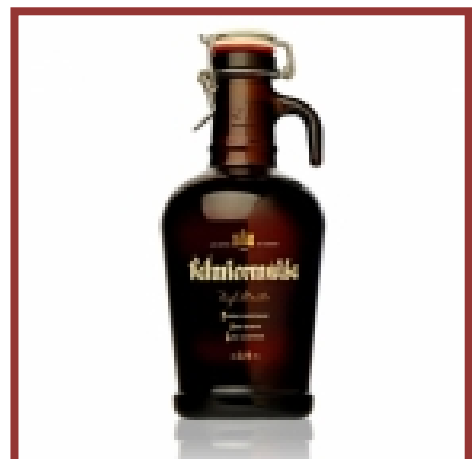
**Address:** A.Briāna street 9a, Riga

**Beer shop tel:** +371 2547 3473

**Beer kitchen tel:** +371 2865 6111

**Price:** €6 - €10

**URL:** <http://www.valmiermuiza.lv/en/news>





## Charlestons

Charlestons is a casual, yet elegant restaurant in the city centre. The main dining hall offers soft, dark colours and much of the space is divided by stacks of alder firewood, which is used to smoke many of its meat and fish dishes. In fact, the delicious pork ribs and other Charleston delicacies are smoked for 4 - 14 hours in a specially-designed smoke room downstairs. Naturally, seafood and a variety of vegetarian dishes are also available for the non-carnivores among us. So if you like good beer, wine and cocktails and mouth-watering barbecued meals, then look no further than Charlestons, which also has a great weekend brunch (Sat, Sun 11:00 - 15:00) that's fun for the whole family.

**Opening hours:** Daily 11:30 to 24:00

**Address:** Blaumaņa 38/40, Riga, LV-1011, Latvia

**Tel:** +371 6777 0573

**E-mail:** [info@restaurant-riga.com](mailto:info@restaurant-riga.com)

**URL:** <http://www.charlestons.lv/>

## Key to Riga

Located on Cathedral Square, this large restaurant has a huge menu of Latvian classics with cheeky names that are often references to the legendary comedic Latvian film Vella kalpi (The Devil's Servants) about the fictional guardians of Riga who are part Three Musketeers and part Three Stooges. You'll find everything here from grey peas, potato pancakes and schnitzels to more exotic dishes like blood sausage and even bulls' testicles! You can also take part in a pork knuckle eating contest and win a free beer and a souvenir to remind you of your achievement. The interior is a mix of the rustic and the medieval, but we liked the wooden chandeliers with blown glass and the cowhide benches, not to mention the expansive summer terrace.

**Opening Hours:** 10:00-23:00

**Address:** Doma laukums 8A, Riga

**Tel:** +371 2837 0747

**URL:** <http://www.keytoriga.lv>





More options to dine in Riga:

<http://www.restoransbiblioteka.lv>

<http://www.restaurantkid.lv>

<http://www.lido.lv>

<http://www.muusu.lv>

<http://www.neiburgs.com>

<http://www.oldshanghai.lv>

**Sources:**

<http://www.riga.com/>

<http://wikitravel.org/en/Riga>

<http://www.riga.com/travel>

<http://www.latvia.eu/>

<http://www.latvia.travel/en/article/top-10-destinations>