War and peace
Give me a break!
Let your imagination run wild

Anete Jēkabsons-Žogota: Queen of the court

PERSONAL SERVICE
PERSONAL APPROACH

- comprehensive range of services to corporate and private clients with national or international interests
- we ensure that each client receives individual attention necessary to obtain the desired results

To enjoy the service, establish contact:
Blaumaņa str. 5a-6, Riga, LV-1011, Tel. +371 67812783, Fax +371 67812786
E-mail: office@markvarte.lv, www.markvarte.lv
Hello, and welcome to Riga International Airport! This is the leading airport in the Baltic region and one of Northern Europe’s fastest emerging air traffic hubs, thanks in large part to our Latvian national carrier airBaltic. We hope you enjoy your time here.

The wide range of routes available from Riga this season is being complemented by the addition of Bremen in Germany and Manchester in the UK. Manchester as a new destination should tempt the football enthusiasts among us to book a flight there soon and watch one of the city’s top Premier League teams play. Manchester is also a major university city.

The number of passengers flowing through Riga International Airport on a daily basis continues to evolve as we head towards the end of 2012. This is especially the case as the large proportion of transit passengers was recently highlighted with the presentation of prizes to the lucky seven millionth passenger transiting through the airport since the restoration of Latvian independence in 1991. For more on these and other developments at RIX, turn to the airport pages at the back of this issue of the magazine, or visit our regularly updated website, www.riga-airport.com.

We are delighted too with the fast growth of cargo being handled at Riga International Airport. The start of non-military NATO cargo flights between Riga and Afghanistan, with two or three outbound flights a day on average, has resulted in an average monthly growth in cargo handled of more than 180% so far in 2012. That is important as it shows we are able to provide fast cargo servicing and delivery to different destinations – a benefit not only to the development of cargo handling in Riga but also to the entire economy of Latvia.

During your stay here at the airport, we invite you to make good use of all our facilities, including our increasing range of shops and restaurants on both sides of the security gates. We are especially proud of the shops selling quality Latvian products and the recently unveiled duty-free stores.

Enjoy your time at RIGA International Airport!

Arnis Luhse
Chairman of the Board of RIGA International Airport
Learn as if you were to live forever

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Nelson Mandela once said, while Mahatma Gandhi declared: “Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.” The words of these two inspirational men remind us that education is vital to the development of a nation and its peoples.

And this is even more fundamental for a small independent country such as Latvia, with its population of just over two million; a nation where the country’s intellectual resources are every bit as important as its key strategic geographical location between East and West.

Education has always been a national priority in Latvia and, in our rapidly moving times, knowledge and the ability to adapt to change are essential pre-requisites for a country’s continued development.

According to the OECD, Latvia ranks 30th in the world when comparing nations in terms of their reading, maths and science scores, with the UK – supposedly a bastion of education, while basic vocational education lasts for a total of nine years. Basic education starts later than in many countries with children beginning compulsory education from the age of seven. Basic education lasts for a total of nine years and focuses on the core subjects of mathematics, Latvian, social science, domestic science, sports, music and the visual arts. Foreign languages, Christian education, history, geography, biology, physics, chemistry and literature are introduced later on during this nine-year study period.

General secondary education then provides a further three years of education, while basic vocational education is available to those who are more likely to finish their studies earlier and concentrate on trades.

Higher education is available to any student who has completed Latvia’s general secondary education programme as well as those who have graduated from four-year vocational programmes. University Bachelor’s degrees typically last three or four years, while a Master’s requires at least five years of study.

With education standards high in Latvia, it is no surprise to discover that this small Baltic country has much to offer those who would like to study higher education. Excellent opportunities also exist for foreign students wishing to study from the age of three all the way through to Bachelor’s, Master’s and doctoral studies.

In the following pages we take a quick look at some of Latvia’s finest higher education establishments and foreign schools:

University of Agriculture

The Latvia University of Agriculture (founded in 1939) is the only place in Latvia where students can obtain higher education in agriculture, veterinary medicine, food technology, forestry science and landscape architecture. The university also provides studies in engineering, environment management, social sciences, economics and information technologies. A key goal of the university is to develop scientific potential and enable it to participate in international research and to integrate academic education and research.

http://www.lja.lv/
International School of Latvia
ISL was founded in 1994 as an international day school for children of all nationalities from 3 to 19 years of age. Since 2004, the school has offered all three International Baccalaureate Programmes – Primary Years Programme, Middle Years Programme and Diploma Programme. Its teachers hail from the USA, Canada, the UK, Australia and Latvia and the school’s academically challenging programmes are designed to develop social skills that are important for a child’s future in a global, multicultural environment.

ISL offers learning support for students with mild special needs as well as English support for students in every grade, ensuring that every child at ISL receives the support to reach their full potential.

www.isl.edu.lv

Riga Stradins University
Riga Stradins University is one of the leading and most advanced higher education teaching and academic research institutions in the Baltic region. RSU has been teaching international students since 1990, and currently represents 17 countries. RSU’s medical science qualifications are recognised in all European countries and by the GMC. Study programmes are taught entirely in English with a teacher-student ratio of 1:12.

www.rsu.lv/eng/

The Stockholm School of Economics in Riga
SSE Riga offers two degree programmes: the three-year BSc in Economics and Business and the two-year Executive MBA programme. Both programmes are taught in English and a tuition fee is charged. In addition to the degree programmes, the school offers a number of Executive Education programmes including open and in-house programmes. According to the Financial Times Ranking of Top European Business Schools in 2011, SSE Riga is the number one business school in the Baltic region.

www.sseriga.edu/en/

The United Nations’ Education index currently ranks Latvia a very healthy 27th in the world, one place below Austria, and ahead of Germany, Japan, Switzerland and the UK.

The motto of RISEBA is ‘where business meets art’; an education establishment where business and creative study programmes create a unique fusion. RISEBA believes that in the modern world, businesses must be creative if they wish to succeed. RISEBA was founded in 1992 and has campuses in both Riga and Daugavpils. One of the key goals of the school is to educate its students to be sensitive and tolerant to cross-cultural differences and enable them to become active contributors of multinational teams.

www.riseba.lv/en.html

University of Latvia
Generations of Latvian students have graduated from this national institution over the decades since it first opened its doors in 1919. The university’s diverse range of degree programmes includes humanities, pedagogy and social sciences. In 2010 it was ranked by Webometrics as being the top college and best university in Latvia. The university is renowned for its research on Latvian studies, material science, information and communication technologies, amongst many others subjects, and has 13 different faculties. Currently, it cooperates with around 60 universities in over 25 countries around the world.

www.lu.lv/eng/

BA School of Business and Finance
The BA School of Business and Finance was founded in 1992 as a banking college under the Bank of Latvia and later became known as the BA School of Business and Finance. As well as being recognised as one of the world’s top 1000 business schools, the school’s professional Master’s programme in International Finance and Banking

www.ldz.lv
is ranked fifth for corporate Master's programmes in Eastern Europe. Currently, around 1400 foreigners and Latvians study at the BA School of Business and Finance. www.ba.lv

Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences
Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences was established in order to create one of the most innovative academic educational centres in the Baltic states. The university, which is located in the forward-thinking town of Valmiera, was founded in 1996 and includes faculties of Business Administration and Economics, Engineering, Social Sciences, and Tourism & Hospitality Management. www.vu.lv/en/

Ventspils University College
Founded in 1997, Ventspils University College has three faculties and offers 10 different study programmes in business management, translation, interpreting, linguistics, computer science and engineering. Ventspils is regarded as being the richest and most developed town in Latvia with large amounts of money continually being invested in its redevelopment. http://vent.lv/en/

Liepaja University
This highly regarded educational establishment has functioned as a university since 2008 but began life way back in 1958 as a teacher training institute. Liepaja University is the biggest educational facility in Kurseme and currently offers 50 study programmes in three faculties: Humanities and Art; Pedagogy and Social Work; Natural and Social Sciences. www.liepu.lv/lv/384/liepaja-university

Riga Technical University (RTU)
Riga Technical University is actualy the oldest university in Latvia, having been founded way back in 1862. RTU is an accredited and internationally recognized European level university which offers high quality academic and professional study programmes. In total, RTU has 34 institutes and educational partners in 28 countries. www.rtu.lv/en/

Jules Verne School
Jules Verne School is the only school in Latvia that operates using the French education system as its model, with an emphasis on the development of a child's personal intellectual growth and independence. The school opened in 2007 and was given independent school status three years later. There are a further 450 schools outside of France that use the same education model. http://soekolaluverne.lv/

Rezekne Higher Education Institution (RHEI)
RHEI is one of the most important educational establishments in its region. As well as its study programmes, RHEI is engaged in scientific research and artistic creative work. www.ru.lv

Daugavpils University
Daugavpils is the largest regional state university in Latvia. More than 3,000 students currently study in Latvia's second city, with 58 different subjects available. The university's five faculties are: the Faculty of Humanities, the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, the Faculty of Music and Art and the Faculty of Education and Management. Daugavpils is a member of Erasmus and has 66 partners in 19 countries. http://du.lv

International School of Riga
The International School of Riga offers an internationally accredited education in English for children aged 2 to 14. The school first opened its doors in 2001 and now boasts a state of the art gymnasium and three floors of well-appointed classrooms. The International School of Riga is recognised by the International Baccalaureate Organization as an IB World School and became the Baltic's first Cambridge International Centre in 2010 and one of the very first schools in the world to offer the International Middle Years Curriculum in Grade 6 to 8. www.isriga.lv/
Queen of the court

Anete Jēkabsone-Žogota is one of the best women’s basketball players in Europe. Her career has seen her play in the highest leagues in the United States, Russia and France, and she has also represented Latvia at the Olympic Games. Anete kindly invited Gateway Riga’s Justin Walley into her home — shortly before she returned to basketball action in Russia with Yekaterinburg — to discuss her distinguished career to date as well as her private life and future plans.

At one stage I thought I might not come back but now I am feeling comfortable and confident once again.

Where did you grow up and how did you first become interested in basketball?
I grew up in Zolitude (a district of Riga). All of my family were connected to basketball including my parents and even my grandparents. My mum played until she had my brother and my dad was very successful. So, I guess you could say there was almost no other choice than to play basketball. I began practising from the age of four or five and regularly attended my father’s practices.

Was your father your biggest influence?
My father was very talented and, for some reason, found that I could easily copy and mimic his

Anete, you got injured early in 2012. How is your recovery progressing?
I have been on a rehab course now for six months and I am almost done. I go back to Yekaterinburg on September 10 to start the new season. It has been particularly difficult for me to deal with because it’s the first time in my whole career that I have suffered an injury. Going six months without playing basketball is tough.

Until I suffered that injury, I had played non-stop since I first went to basketball school, aged six.

Your best stay in Riga!
You’re welcome!

Elizabetes 24, Riga, Latvia • Ph. (+371) 6709 9760
E-mail: booking@tallinkhotels.lv

Tallink Hotel Riga
both of my parents decided to send me to basketball school. I played for TTT (Trams & Trolley Trust) Riga just as my Grandma had done. This is another reason why my injury has been so hard to take because until I suffered that injury, playing against the Spanish in the Euro League in January, I had played non-stop since I first went to basketball school, aged six. It is problematic mentally to stop playing, particularly when your body is so used to it.

Yes, my dad has been my biggest influence and certainly my grandma too. She played in the strongest Women’s team in Europe during the 70s; a team which included the world famous Uljana Semjonova.

Tell us about your first memory of playing for local club side Rapa.

Rapa was my first pro-club and I received my first pay cheque as a 14-year-old high school girl. I made sure I graduated high school but I always knew that it would be basketball that I studied as soon as I left school. I remember I wanted to give my first money to my parents. In the end I went out and bought a jumper for myself from Bernu Pasaulē.

When I moved to France and received my first pay cheque there, it was the first time in my entire life when I felt like and realised that I could buy what I wanted. I had never seen such a big choice of things as there was in France and my husband and I filled our supermarket trolley to the top on our shopping trip. You cannot compare the money I earned with my first pay cheque in France to what I earned in Latvia; it was such a huge difference. The same applies now if you compare what I earn playing in Russia to what I earned in France. In fact, the difference is even bigger. I am happy that my career changed in this way and I had time to adapt to my changes in wealth and status.

moves. In 1988 dad went to play in Hungary and I went with him to watch his practice sessions. After training he would show me his training he would show me his watch his practice sessions. After Hungary and I went with him to moves. In 1988 dad went to play in Hungary and I went with him to watch his practice sessions. After training he would show me his training he would show me his watch his practice sessions. After Hungary and I went with him to
How did your first move abroad to France come about?
Because I was regarded as being one of the most talented female players in the world at that time it meant that many US universities were interested in me. But I knew I didn’t want to waste four years at uni studying for the sake of it. My only goal was to be a basketball player and I certainly didn’t want to live so far from home. I also recognised that playing in the US at that time would’ve changed my style of play to being more physical and individual and I didn’t want that. I know many examples of US graduates taking three years or so to readapt to the European game.
One Latvian player – Evija Azace – was already playing at Mondeville. She suggested that she talked to her agent and, a short time later, I was offered a contract. It was certainly easier to adapt to life in France with a fellow countrywoman there. I was very fortunate because I had a fantastic new coach who helped me to develop as a player. It meant that I get better and better with every game. I certainly owe him a debt of gratitude.

A couple of years later you were named the best young player in Europe.
After two years I moved to Bourges where it was more competitive and there were better players. I had to work harder and it was that year that La Gazzetta dello sport named me as the best young player in Europe. It made me very happy; I saw the dividends for my efforts.

Two years later I was named the best female basketball player in Europe. I didn’t become arrogant. When you know that people think of you in those terms it gives you a great responsibility. You need to keep that level of quality and professionalism every time you take to the court.

My favourite coach – Aina Zvirgzdiņa – phoned me while I was still at Bourges and asked me to join him in Russia. It was then that I moved and played three seasons for Dynamo. It was perfect timing because the Russian League was really starting to take off and standards soon became very high.

You then spent a very dramatic time at Spartak.
I moved on to Spartak. It was a turbulent time because in the middle of my first season Kalmanovich was shot dead in Moscow. Kalmanovich was passionate about basketball and put a lot of money into the club and the national team. When we won the EuroLeague – for the fourth successive season – we dedicated that title to him.

| RAIL EUROPE: THE FAST TRACK TO TRAVEL AROUND EUROPE |

Fancy a roundtrip through Europe? Bored of long transfers, endless queues and time-wasting traffic jam situations? Do not think twice: Rail Europe guarantees comfort and safety while bringing you to the heart of many European cities. With a dense railroad network of high-speed, night, regional, Intercity and pan-European trains, your journey has never been so exciting. Why choose between Paris, London and Brussels? Visit them all! Still struggling on your next holiday destination? Bridge your gap and explore new routes! Relax onboard Express Trains along the beautiful scenery of the Swiss Alps. Get to the French Riviera in no time with TGV! And spare a hotel’s room with night trains to Spain and Germany. Make your journey a unique travel experience in style and speed thanks to the wide range of services and advantages on offer.

Travel green. Travel safe. Travel fast. With Rail Europe you are on the right track.

Book it now with FTB Latvia – Rail Europe’s General Sales Agent in Latvia.

Photos courtesy of Anete Jēkabsone-Žogota, Līna Danilenkova and Ummc Ekaterinburg, Sportacentrs.com
him. We had T-Shirts made which read: THIS IS 4 SHABTAI
I played briefly in Turkey for Fenerbahce and then joined my current club, Yekaterinburg, after the coach asked me to join.

What have been your experiences of living in places as culturally diverse as Turkey, France and Russia?

In Russia the culture is similar to Latvia and I also speak the language. I feel very much at home there. In France I particularly liked the cuisine and, of course, Paris, but I never felt like I could live there long term. Turkey was interesting for things like the architecture and religion but I would prefer to be a tourist rather than to live and work there.

And the United States?

It was a dream come true to go to America. It is the top league in the world and if you are asked to play there it means you are recognised as one of the best in the world. It is tough playing there both in a physical and mental sense; it is extremely competitive and I always had to work to prove myself. And, to be honest, there were situations when I almost decided to come home. I even talked to the head coach about leaving and he asked me to at least give it two more weeks. I did as he asked and during my second season I felt more confident. I am happy I completed my contract because it is very difficult for European players to survive. I am proud of myself that I endured everything; it made me stronger as both a player and as a person.

You are also an Olympian, having played at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

I felt more like a spectator than a competitor at times. I am not sure we really realised we had that opportunity. It was difficult to qualify and we arrived with intense emotions and were surrounded by all these stars like Usain Bolt. Then it suddenly dawned on us all: ‘Wait! We have to play!’ I kind of regret that we didn’t participate in the opening ceremony. We had our first game the next day and it was very hot. Our coach was concerned that it would be detrimental to us. You could see his point but I do regret that we didn’t take part in that ceremony. It was an interesting time in my life actually, because just before the Olympics I was asked to represent Latvia by climbing Mont Blanc.

It was an interesting time in my life actually, because just before the Olympics I was asked to represent Latvia by climbing Mont Blanc.

Photos courtesy of Anete Jēkabsone-Žogota, Lina Danilenkova and Ummc Ekaterinburg, Sportacentrs.com
How did it feel watching the 2012 London Olympics on the TV instead of participating in it?

Watching the London 2012 Olympics was frustrating because when you see teams like Croatia and the Czech Republic you know Latvia are more than capable of beating them. Then, on the other hand, had we qualified and I hadn’t been able to play, I would have been even more frustrated for myself personally. Still, if I have the legs, I will go to Rio in four years’ time.

What is your advice to any budding basketball player?

To become a good player you need to be very strict with yourself. Aside from natural ability the attitudes of the coach, the player’s parents and the player him or herself are vital. You always need to be self-critical in order to become better and better. Good players need to be prepared to invest in themselves.

If not a life of hoops, what would you be doing in an alternative universe?

I like children so perhaps I would have worked in a kindergarten. When I was young I used to like dressing up and pretending to be a secretary. But, in all honesty, I cannot imagine what else I would’ve done. Basketball has taught me much in my personal as well as sporting life.

What are your plans for life after basketball?

I am a home person. I like to nap during the day when I feel like it, walk my dog and visit my grandparents in Liepaja. I have started playing golf and now have a green card at Ozo – they promised that all Olympians can play there for free. I also enjoy my books. I am currently reading a lot about Latvians who were exiled to Siberia. I love my country. I feel so good when I am here. When I retire I don’t want to be a coach; I don’t have the patience for it. I want kids and can imagine spending all of my life here. There again, every time I plan something it usually doesn’t work out that way so, let’s see.
No dead cat bounce

Latvia posted the biggest increases in GDP and retail growth across the entire EU in the second quarter of 2012, while business sentiment has reached pre-crisis levels

Most economic indicators suggest that Latvia’s recovery from the 2008-9 crash has not, as some had feared, been built on sand. In early September, Nordea Bank doubled its forecast for Latvia’s economic growth to 4.2 per cent from its earlier estimate of 2 per cent, with both exports and domestic demand contributing to growth. It’s forecast 3.5 per cent for 2012. Latvian Gross Domestic Product grew by 6.8 per cent, year-on-year, in the first quarter followed by an impressive 5.2 per cent in the second quarter of 2012. This follows Latvia’s healthy GDP growth of 3.5 per cent in 2011 as the country’s export industry continues to step up through the gears.

Business sentiment remains positive with Latvian entrepreneurs’ mood index now the highest it has been since the heady pre-crash days of 2007, although ‘cautiously optimistic’ is perhaps the best way to describe the mind set of those who learned the tough economic lessons of 2008-9. According to the Citadele Index, provided by Citadele Bank and SKD5, entrepreneurs in the construction and manufacturing industries became noticeably more optimistic than their counterparts in other industry sectors during the first half of 2012.

While Latvia’s export-driven recovery could be threatened by a downturn in EU markets such as Germany and Sweden, export volumes to developing countries are on the increase, including to the likes of Egypt, Turkey, Russia and Poland. And while, on average, retail trade across the EU was down by 0.2 per cent in July 2012, figures published by Eurostat show that Latvia posted the highest monthly growth at 2.7%. This is part of a positive general trend for this country, with annual retail growth up by a whopping 10.3% in Latvia – easily the highest in the EU – compared to contractions of 7.6% and 7.3% in Portugal and Spain respectively.

According to the Citadele Index, Latvia is the first country in the EU to see the post-crisis boom in new inflows. Latvia has seen more than $1.2 billion in new inflows made Latvia their home in the first half of 2012. This follows Latvia’s recovery could be threatened by a downturn in EU markets such as Germany and Sweden, export volumes to developing countries are on the increase, including to the likes of Egypt, Turkey, Russia and Poland. And while, on average, retail trade across the EU was down by 0.2 per cent in July 2012, figures published by Eurostat show that Latvia posted the highest monthly growth at 2.7%. This is part of a positive general trend for this country, with annual retail growth up by a whopping 10.3% in Latvia – easily the highest in the EU – compared to contractions of 7.6% and 7.3% in Portugal and Spain respectively.

While Latvia’s export-driven recovery could be threatened by a downturn in EU markets such as Germany and Sweden, export volumes to developing countries are on the increase, including to the likes of Egypt, Turkey, Russia and Poland. And while, on average, retail trade across the EU was down by 0.2 per cent in July 2012, figures published by Eurostat show that Latvia posted the highest monthly growth at 2.7%. This is part of a positive general trend for this country, with annual retail growth up by a whopping 10.3% in Latvia – easily the highest in the EU – compared to contractions of 7.6% and 7.3% in Portugal and Spain respectively.

According to the Citadele Index, Latvia is the first country in the EU to see the post-crisis boom in new inflows. Latvia has seen more than $1.2 billion in new inflows made Latvia their home in the first half of 2012. This follows Latvia’s recovery could be threatened by a downturn in EU markets such as Germany and Sweden, export volumes to developing countries are on the increase, including to the likes of Egypt, Turkey, Russia and Poland. And while, on average, retail trade across the EU was down by 0.2 per cent in July 2012, figures published by Eurostat show that Latvia posted the highest monthly growth at 2.7%. This is part of a positive general trend for this country, with annual retail growth up by a whopping 10.3% in Latvia – easily the highest in the EU – compared to contractions of 7.6% and 7.3% in Portugal and Spain respectively.

According to the Citadele Index, Latvia is the first country in the EU to see the post-crisis boom in new inflows. Latvia has seen more than $1.2 billion in new inflows made Latvia their home in the first half of 2012. This follows Latvia’s recovery could be threatened by a downturn in EU markets such as Germany and Sweden, export volumes to developing countries are on the increase, including to the likes of Egypt, Turkey, Russia and Poland. And while, on average, retail trade across the EU was down by 0.2 per cent in July 2012, figures published by Eurostat show that Latvia posted the highest monthly growth at 2.7%. This is part of a positive general trend for this country, with annual retail growth up by a whopping 10.3% in Latvia – easily the highest in the EU – compared to contractions of 7.6% and 7.3% in Portugal and Spain respectively.

According to the Citadele Index, Latvia is the first country in the EU to see the post-crisis boom in new inflows. Latvia has seen more than $1.2 billion in new inflows made Latvia their home in the first half of 2012. This follows Latvia’s recovery could be threatened by a downturn in EU markets such as Germany and Sweden, export volumes to developing countries are on the increase, including to the likes of Egypt, Turkey, Russia and Poland. And while, on average, retail trade across the EU was down by 0.2 per cent in July 2012, figures published by Eurostat show that Latvia posted the highest monthly growth at 2.7%. This is part of a positive general trend for this country, with annual retail growth up by a whopping 10.3% in Latvia – easily the highest in the EU – compared to contractions of 7.6% and 7.3% in Portugal and Spain respectively.

According to the Citadele Index, Latvia is the first country in the EU to see the post-crisis boom in new inflows. Latvia has seen more than $1.2 billion in new inflows made Latvia their home in the first half of 2012. This follows Latvia’s recovery could be threatened by a downturn in EU markets such as Germany and Sweden, export volumes to developing countries are on the increase, including to the likes of Egypt, Turkey, Russia and Poland. And while, on average, retail trade across the EU was down by 0.2 per cent in July 2012, figures published by Eurostat show that Latvia posted the highest monthly growth at 2.7%. This is part of a positive general trend for this country, with annual retail growth up by a whopping 10.3% in Latvia – easily the highest in the EU – compared to contractions of 7.6% and 7.3% in Portugal and Spain respectively.

According to the Citadele Index, Latvia is the first country in the EU to see the post-crisis boom in new inflows. Latvia has seen more than $1.2 billion in new inflows made Latvia their home in the first half of 2012. This follows Latvia’s recovery could be threatened by a downturn in EU markets such as Germany and Sweden, export volumes to developing countries are on the increase, including to the likes of Egypt, Turkey, Russia and Poland. And while, on average, retail trade across the EU was down by 0.2 per cent in July 2012, figures published by Eurostat show that Latvia posted the highest monthly growth at 2.7%. This is part of a positive general trend for this country, with annual retail growth up by a whopping 10.3% in Latvia – easily the highest in the EU – compared to contractions of 7.6% and 7.3% in Portugal and Spain respectively.
Chemical attraction

Latvia’s chemical and pharmaceutical industry is increasingly one of the most important sectors of the Latvian economy

According to the latest data from the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia and the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, the industry accounts for 9 percent of total added value within the manufacturing sector and is the seventh most significant employer, with around 6 percent of all those working in manufacturing employed in this sector. The same data shows that over 400 companies now operate in this vast industry sector. One in four medical preparations that were manufactured in the USSR and were intended for its fifteen ‘national’ republics and ‘189 peoples’ was produced in Latvia, the second smallest of those republics.

Broadly speaking, the Latvian chemical, pharmaceutical and biotechnology sector can be divided up into five manufacturing subsectors:
- Pharmaceuticals, medicine and phytopharmaceuticals;
- Paints and varnishes;
- Chemical compounds and synthetic fibres;
- Household chemicals, cosmetics and perfumes;
- Plastic and rubber products.

One in four medical preparations that were manufactured in the USSR and were intended for its fifteen ‘national’ republics and ‘189 peoples’ was produced in Latvia.

The biggest players in the pharmaceutical industry are Grindeks and Olainfarm. As well as being one of the biggest companies in the Baltics, Olainfarm can boast more than 35 years of industry experience and production volume which runs into the tens of millions of units per annum. In late 2011 it signed an agreement with an unnamed leading European drugs manufacturer as a distribution and marketing partner. Grindeks opened its first production facility in this part of the world immediately after the Second World War in 1946 and today exports to 46 countries around the world.

The company announced the creation of 20 new products in 2012 and hopes to increase its annual turnover to around 100 million euro.

Other leading companies that should also be mentioned include Dzintars, JSC Valmieras and JSC Riga Varnish & Paint. Dzintars has been trading since its first factory was opened in Riga in 1849 and is something of a household name in Latvia. JSC Valmieras exports more than 90 percent of its products and is the largest producer in the Vidzeme region.

JSC Riga Varnish & Paint is the leading paint manufacturer in the Baltic states and offers close to 200 different kinds of paints.

Latvia’s higher education establishments play a major role in the industry and contribute towards the majority of graduates who later specialise in the sector. Chemistry, pharmacy and biotechnology courses are offered by the University of Latvia, Riga Technical University, Riga Stradins University, the University of Daugavpils, the Latvian University of Agriculture and the Mechanical & Technological college of Olaine. Cooperation between industry and these higher education establishments is one of the main reasons why Latvia should be considered as an ideal base for future BiO projects. It is also worth noting that Latvian companies currently hold patents for twelve active ingredients. (For more information about Latvia’s higher education establishments see our special Education feature – ‘Learn as if you were to live forever’ – on page 4 of this magazine.)

One of Latvia’s great strengths is its geographical location between East and West. On one hand this country is an integral part of the European Union and Schengen Zone while, on the other, it boasts a significant ethnic Russian minority and business and cultural connections with all parts of the former Soviet Union. It is therefore no exaggeration to say that Latvia has a clear competitive advantage in this regard over the majority of the other 26 EU states and can, if the economy is competently managed, expect exports in all of its key sectors, including pharmaceuticals, to grow in the coming years.
Latvia’s geographical position on the fringes of Mainland Europe, Scandinavia and Russia has ensured that large powers and invading armies have fought for centuries over this strategic territory. Beginning with marauding tribes and centuries later with the Crusaders, Latvia’s territory has been in the gun sights and conniving plans of countless leaders and despots including Ivan the Terrible, Napoleon, Peter the Great, Hitler and Stalin. If military heritage is of interest to you, then you have come to the right place.

So many nations and tribes have fought over Latvia that it is hard to imagine that an independent sovereign state could actually exist today on this territory. Evidence of what has gone before is to be found all over this country from medieval castles to secret nuclear bunkers; from war museums to former military prisons.

The oldest existing military heritage is the medieval fortifications that are scattered all over Latvia the first of which were constructed a thousand years ago. While evidence of the Baltic Tribes such as the Curonian and Latgalians is limited today, many of the castles and fortresses built by the Crusaders of the 13th to 16th centuries still remain. The most impressive of these include the spectacularly situated

Military enthusiasts can find a treasure trove of former military facilities, fortresses, fortifications, battle sites and hardware in Latvia.
Turaida castle along with the castles at Cesis and Bauska.

Of greatest interest to military heritage enthusiasts, however, will be the twentieth century battlefields, former bases, missile sites, museums and military hardware. A great place to start is Liepaja, home to Liepaja Karosta, the former home of the USSR's main Baltic naval base. Built by Imperial Russia during Soviet times Karosta became an autonomous city within a city, home to 30,000 military personnel, a submarine warren and nuclear weapons. Readers will not be surprised to discover that this city was completely off limits to the outside public. Today, Karosta's many fascinating sights can be discovered by anyone who makes the three hour journey from Riga; military enthusiasts can even stay overnight at its former military prison and participate in the spy game 'Escaping from the USSR' at the former military port. The half destroyed concrete hulks of Liepaja's northern fortifications, known as the Libava fortress, are also worth investigating if you plan to visit this attractive coastal city.

The world's eighth largest radio telescope, used to eavesdrop on the West during the Cold War, is found up the coast from Liepaja between Ventspils and Kolka. Nicknamed 'the Starlet' during Soviet times, Irbene's 32-metre wide radio telescope was used to intercept NATO radio signals and telephone conversations. Tours of the radio telescope are available to any curious visitor interested in discovering more about this chapter of Latvian history.}

Any military history buff should definitely pay a visit to the Secret Military Bunker in Ligatne. Located nine metres under the innocuous looking Ligatne Rehabilitation Centre is a 1980s-built nuclear

"I LOVE FLYING HAINAN AIRLINES, WHERE I FEEL AT HOME.

Hainan Airlines Airbus 330 flies between Berlin/Brussels/Zurich and Beijing with connection of Air Baltic from Riga

Via Beijing, you can reach nearly 50 cities in China. On board our Airbus 330 wide body aircraft, business class passengers will enjoy their own private space with a seat that reclines to a fully flat 180 degrees.

Enjoy.

Photos courtesy of LTDA and Latvian Country Holidays
bunker, which would have housed the first Secretaries of the Communist Party in the event of an American nuclear strike. Declassified as late as 2003, a visit to this former facility is a unique opportunity to step back in time to the Soviet era and discover a Cold War facility that remains pretty much as it was at the height of the Cold War. Former Soviet nuclear bases can be found at Tervete, Eleja, Rudbarzi, Zeltinu and Vainode. Zeltinu’s former nuclear base even has a huge bust of Lenin, which once stood in Alūksne’s central square.

Latvia’s second city, Daugavpils, is home to an incredible nineteenth-century military fortification that is yet to capture the imagination of the masses because, strangely, it still remains relatively unknown to many Latvians, particularly those from the capital. Dinaburg Fortress is the only early nineteenth-century fortress in Eastern Europe that has remained virtually unchanged, with its eight bastions and moat among its many located nine metres under the innocuous looking Ligatne Rehabilitation Centre is a 1980s-built nuclear bunker.

Photo courtesy of LTDA and Latvian Country Holidays

Preparatory Programme

A great opportunity to significantly improve English language skills. It is specially designed for international students willing to join RIEBA and study in English.

Programme duration: September-January, January–June

Undergraduate Programmes

Architecture (ENG)
Audiovisual Media Arts (LV, RUS)
Business Studies (BNG)
Business Psychology (LV, RUS)
E-Business (LV, RUS)
European Business Studies (ENG)
Public Relations and Advertising Management (LV, RUS)

Postgraduate Programmes

Audiovisual Media Arts (ENG)
Business Management (LV, RUS)
Human Resource Management (LV, ENG)
Health Management (ENG)
International Business (LV, ENG)
International Business (ENG)
RIEBA MBA (ENG)
Project Management (LV, ENG)
Public Relations Management (LV, ENG)

Doctoral Programmes

PhD in Business Management (LV, RUS, ENG)

NEW Distance Learning (LV, RUS)

RIEBA is inter-disciplinary, multicultural university that facilitates the development of creative personalities and prepares students for entrepreneurial careers at international level.

RIEBA has been awarded International Quality Accreditation by Central and East European Management Development Association (CEMAD) and has full institutional accreditation from the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia.

University offers a wide range of business and creative programmes in English and Russian languages, both full time and part time. RIEBA offers undergraduate, postgraduate study programmes, as well as Doctoral studies in Business Management.
features. Tsarist Russia had hoped to build an entire military town within the fortress fortifications, including a parade ground and dozens of blocks of residential buildings. Mark Rothko was born in Daugavpils and today his foundation is helping to resurrect his home town’s incredible fortress with extensive restoration work. The Mark Rothko Centre, due to open in the coming months, will display many of his original pieces of work on the walls of the former Arsenal building and will, along with the 150-hectare restored Dinaburg Fortress, help to put Daugavpils back on the map.

On a sombre note, Latvia is full of reminders of the tragedies and atrocities that took place on its soil during the First and Second World Wars. Riga’s War Museum is a good place to begin if you wish to gain a fuller understanding of the events that took place during the twentieth century with countless exhibits providing documentary evidence. Another museum of note include Lidošuva War Museum, Mores Battle Museum, Aglona’s World War II Museum and Exposition Hall and, of course, the Aviation Museum, which you will find adjacent to Riga International Airport and features dozens of former Soviet military aircraft, including MiG fighters.

Quirky military heritage destinations include Svente Manor House, which is home to both a hotel and a military vehicle museum that has everything from World War II tanks to Soviet combat vehicles. Also, don’t miss the radars and former military village at Skuns, ‘Death Island’ (near Kikavas) and the Dobele tank base.

On a sombre note, Latvia is full of reminders of the tragedies and atrocities that took place on its soil during the First and Second World Wars. Riga’s War Museum is a good place to begin if you wish to gain a fuller understanding of the events that took place during the twentieth century with countless exhibits providing documentary evidence. Another museum of note include Lidošuva War Museum, Mores Battle Museum, Aglona’s World War II Museum and Exposition Hall and, of course, the Aviation Museum, which you will find adjacent to Riga International Airport and features dozens of former Soviet military aircraft, including MiG fighters.

Quirky military heritage destinations include Svente Manor House, which is home to both a hotel and a military vehicle museum that has everything from World War II tanks to Soviet combat vehicles. Also, don’t miss the radars and former military village at Skuns, ‘Death Island’ (near Kikavas) and the Dobele tank base.

Further information
There are so many places of interest with some form or other of military heritage in Latvia that in 2011 Latvian Country Holidays produced a military heritage map for the first time. For those of you interested in learning more about Latvia’s military heritage, you can download the map at this address: www.celotajs.lv/publ/MilitaryHeritageMap2011.pdf

Latvian Country Holidays (www.celotajs.lv) and the Latvian Tourism Development Agency (http://www.latvia.travel/en) are excellent sources of information for the full range of tours, activities and military heritage sites scattered all over Latvia.

Hotel “Karavella” offers:
- 76 comfortable rooms. Each room includes: air conditioning, satellite television, wireless internet, telephone. All bathrooms have bath and hair dryers.
- Restaurant “Colombo” with its excellent cuisine, pleasant music and spectacular bird’s-eye view of Riga city.
- Lobby bar on the 1st floor of the hotel.
- 2 conference rooms, each has a space for up to 40 people, cozy room for coffee breaks and an open air terrace.
- Free parking lot for our guests’ cars and buses.

Dinaburg Fortress is the only early nineteenth-century fortress in Eastern Europe that has remained virtually unchanged.
Welcome to Riga, home to the world’s most exceptional collection of Art Nouveau architecture.

More than 800 Riga buildings can be classed as Art Nouveau or Latvian National Romanticism.

Approximately one third of all buildings in central Riga are Art Nouveau. Riga’s financial boom of 2004-2007 saw this city’s real estate prices rise faster than anywhere else in the world, but even this did not match its financial mega-boom and heyday of the late nineteenth century and early years of the twentieth century when Riga was awash with so much cash that hundreds of wealthy individuals decided to spend the modern equivalent of hundreds of millions of it lavishing the buildings of the city in the de rigueur art style of the time: Art Nouveau.

The intelligentsia of Moscow and Saint Petersburg made this western outpost of the Russian empire their home as did wealthy business men from all over Europe. Russian, German (in the 1867 census 40 per cent of Riga’s population identified themselves as being ‘German’) and Jewish money presented an open cheque book to renowned architects such as...
Mikhail Eisenstein and Konstantins Peiksens let their imaginations run wild and conjure up an astonishing ensemble of facades, motifs and gargoyles. In fact, more than 800 Riga buildings can be classed as Art Nouveau or Latvian National Romanticism.

Art Nouveau is often associated with Antoni Gaudi’s Barcelona, pre-war Germany, the town houses of Brussels and 1900-France, because of its artistic association with the French language, however, the greatest collection of Art Nouveau to be found anywhere on planet Earth is in Riga, Latvia. UNESCO recognised this fact in 1997 when it added the Latvian capital to its protected list because Riga has “the finest collection of art nouveau buildings in Europe”, and because of the “quality and the quantity of its Art Nouveau/ Jugendstil architecture”. Other cities where Art Nouveau has left its mark on the very nature of the city include Prague, Paris, Brussels, Buenos Aires and the architectural treasure trove that is Montevideo.

Art Nouveau represented a desire to live with greater freedom of expression, escaping the constraining shackles of the dour Victorian era, when individuals were expected to behave with social and sexual constraint. Combining nature and mythology in an art form that centred on man and his environment, Jugendstil – as it was often termed – was a completely new way of living, which extended beyond the architectural style itself to encompass elements of interior design, artwork, fashion and even a more open-minded way of thinking and interacting with others. This positive and eclectic vision of life lasted from 1894 to the outbreak of the First World War, when, understandably, it disappeared from the public consciousness (this period extended to 1920 in Garcia Nunez-inspired Argentina).

Mikhail Eisenstein (his son, Sergei, was the famous Soviet film-
Art Nouveau represents a desire to live with greater freedom of expression, escaping the constraining shackles of the dour Victorian era. Art Nouveau architecture in this style in Riga. With Art Nouveau apartment buildings towering down from either side of this long, narrow street, Alberta iela resembles a movie film set of epic proportions. If you leave Riga without spending half an hour scrutinising this street, then you should be shot! Staring up at the grand facades you will spot elaborate designs, monstrous gargoyles and a screaming woman. At street level there are even two sphinx guarding one particular apartment block.

Konstantins Peksens was another Art Nouveau genius who put his name to more than 200 Art Nouveau buildings in Riga. Opened in 2009, Alberta iela’s Art Nouveau museum (Alberta 12) is located in the former apartment of Konstantins Peksens, who designed the building itself and oversaw its construction in 1903. This is perhaps as good a place as any for beginning your Art Nouveau adventure.

This art form extends beyond the building facades that you will find around Riga to include staircases, interior walls and the interior design of many Riga apartments, including the furniture. Riga’s antique shops are one place to search for reminders of this golden period while the dedicated Art Nouveau shop on the corner of Alberta and Strelnieku offers embroideries, jewellery, postcards and even hand-made plaster Art Nouveau faces. Art Nouveau inspired cafés and restaurants have also begun to spring up here, suggesting that one day perhaps, in the not too distant future, Art Nouveau may experience its own mini-comeback, inspiring a new generation of artists, fashion students and trend seekers.
Beyond the aforementioned Alberta iela some of the premier streets for seeking out the finest examples of Riga's Art Nouveau include Elizabetes, Vilandes, Berivā, Valdemāra, Barona, Smilšu, Gertrūdes and Blaumaņa. The delightful district of Agenskalns, on the opposite side of the river Daugava, is also home to an impressive collection of Art Nouveau intermixed with many examples of wooden architecture. Further afield Lāčplēša, Jūrmala and Daugavpils also boast some wonderful examples of this art form.

During your exploration of Riga's Art Nouveau streets, compare and contrast the ‘bling’ of Elizabetes, home to many embassies, law firms and company head offices with some of the decaying dilapidated structures of nearby Vilandes street where many buildings are nothing more than spectacular Art Nouveau shells, tortured faces and gargoyles staring out at passers-by as if longing for multi-million euro-investors to spot them and decide to return these interiors to their former glory. Number 7, with the two pairs of dishevelled but classy ladies guarding its two doorways, is a perfect example of this paradox.

And while you are on this journey of artistic exploration, try to imagine Riga as it was at the turn of the nineteenth century: awash with cash, intelligentsia, spies and business people; its skyline a cartoon-like cacophony of emerging Art Nouveau masterpieces. The world had never seen the architectural imagination run wild like that before...and probably never will again.
Give me a break!

G ATEWAY RIGA autumn/winter 2012/2013

Latvia offers amazing five-star spa experiences at three-star prices. Time to banish the autumn and winter blues by treating yourself to a luxury spa break. Time to banish the autumn and winter blues by treating yourself to a luxury spa break.

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!

Give me a break!
the Latvian capital Riga, has been a dedicated health resort for centuries and was a popular haunt for the likes of Nikita Khrushchev and other leading members of the politburo during the years of Soviet occupation. These days, holidaying spa tourists are just as likely to be from Norway or Germany as Russia.

Few countries can boast such a concentration of high-class, state-of-the-art spa centres and facilities as Latvia, thanks to a handful of international spa break operators, local spa therapists, spa managers and treatment therapists. There are also only a few of Latvia’s spa and wellness centres.

**Capital Pleasures**

Riga is home to dozens and dozens of spa and wellness centres. Many are located within the premises of three-, four- and five-star hotels, while others are found in dedicated spa and wellness centres.

**ESPA Riga**

ESPA Riga is a stunning urban spa, contained within a beautiful Art Nouveau building adjacent to the Radisson Blu Hotel Latvia. This six-floor sanctuary of relaxation has storeys dedicated to spa treatments, male and female relaxation rooms, thermal suites, a lower level with a large swimming pool and relaxing steam rooms and saunas, and the exclusive sixth floor spa and rooftop outdoor pool, where, if you hang out in your bathrobe and slip into the water experiences, including the sauna, steam room, indoor pool and the luxuriant rooftop outdoor vitality pool, those taking advantage of the package will enjoy a tension relaxing back massage, a revitalizing facial, a deeply nourishing scalp massage with carefully selected oils. By the end of this massage, this individual has rarely felt so relaxed in his whole life.

For our massage experience we were met and greeted by our personal masseur, as we relaxed with carefully selected oils. By the end of this unforgettably unwinding crescendo, which involves an amazing head massage, this individual has rarely felt so relaxed in his whole life.

**If you choose to travel to this corner of the Baltic states, you could say you are getting five-star spa and wellness breaks for three-star prices**

For almost 20 years we turn a simple showering into something special for you. We love what we do.

For the award of the top spa in the world, the prize doesn’t get much better than that.

For our massage experience we were met and greeted by our personal masseur, as we relaxed with fruit and a reinvigorating cup of tea on the sixth floor of ESPA Riga’s spa centre. We had just enjoyed an hour of paddling in the heated outdoor pool, contemplating the meaning of life, in-between stints in the nearby steam rooms and saunas. With less than half a dozen other guests present, this definitely feels ‘exclusive’.

Using the ‘sci-fi’ lift to transport ourselves to the treatment rooms on the lower floors, the massage began in a room filled with candles and sweet smelling aromas. The one hour full body massage is so relaxing, there’s a danger it will send you to sleep; and that is before the unforgettable unwinding crescendo, which involves an amazing head and scalp massage with carefully selected oils. By the end of this massage, this individual has rarely felt so relaxed in his whole life.

ESPA Riga has a very good value autumn/winter special available to Gateway Riga readers for 75 lats up until December 31. As well as enjoying full use of ESPA Riga’s heat and water experiences, including the saunas, steam room, indoor pool and the luxuriant roof top outdoor vitality pool, those taking advantage of the package will enjoy a tension relaxing back massage, a revitalizing facial, a deeply nourishing scalp treatment, a two-course light lunch in the spa café and the truly relaxing Oriental scalp massage. http://espariga.com/en
Aqua Villa Spa
Some readers will prefer smaller, more intimate spa centres. Aqua Villa is a friendly boutique spa located in the heart of Old Riga. Aqua Villa offers spa procedures, relaxing massages and also has a cozy water relaxation suite for visitors who wish to unwind in the privacy of their own sauna, steam rooms and Jacuzzi. Only recently, the stylist.co.uk named Aqua Villa among the top five spa breaks in Europe for 2012.

We tried out the Romantic Sauna for two; a chance to be locked away from the outside world for a whole two hours in our own private sauna suite where we enjoyed the delights of Aqua Villa’s steam and infrared saunas, hot bubbling Jacuzzi and sauna, which was filled with chamomile and mint aromas. Bathrobes, towels, slippers and heated floors added to the intimate atmosphere of the occasion.

As if these two hours of restful, luxuriant solitude weren’t enough, next we were treated to a wonderfully relaxing massage with warm, natural cosmetic yoghurt and monoi of tiare oil, which is made from tiare flowers and held in the pulp of a coconut. Although it is fair to say this whole experience is deliciously relaxing, the cosmetic yoghurt massage actually provides energy and moistens the skin, restoring it to its natural physiological pH level. After this fantastic experience, you can expect to return home and sleep like a baby.

You can enjoy a similar package to the one we experienced but with lots of added extras that make it a full half-day spa experience. Individual massage treatments such as Aqua Villa’s half hour medical back and neck massage start from just 17 lats. For more details, contact the friendly staff at Aqua Villa or just walk in off the street to its excellently located spa centre, just off Dome Square.

www.aquavillaspa.lv

Kolonna Spa
Located in the middle of Riga’s old town, Kolonna Spa is believed to be the largest day spa in the entire Baltic region. The spa centre includes saunas, baths and a popular gym & fitness club, but it is perhaps best known for its extensive choice of day spa treatments for men and women. Treatments include sound therapy, mud procedures, amber treatments, hydrother-
Jurmala Spa Hotel
Jurmala Spa Hotel offers more than 100 different treatments designed to improve the health and well-being of its many satisfied guests. Professional masseurs are on hand to ensure that anyone who is looking to relax and unwind is guaranteed to leave their treatment rooms feeling rejuvenated. This was certainly Gateway Riga’s experience after a full body massage eliminated the aches, pains and knotted muscles that had been created after a particularly stressful week of work and sport. The sculpting massage pays special attention to problem areas, toning the muscles and working out any tension in the waist, stomach and lower back areas. This particular massage will also be of particular interest to some of our female readers as it helps to eliminate cellulite. Other treatments include Geo-thermal body plus treatments, hair and scalp massages, amber therapy and feet massages. You can also take advantage of the manicure, pedicure and hairstylist services. Feeling relaxed but very much rejuvenated from our massage treatment in one of the dedicated treatment rooms on the third floor of the Jurmala Spa Hotel, and having enjoyed the wonderful panoramic views of the adjacent beaches and pine forests from the roof-top restaurant, it was more fun and leisure in the extensive Spa & Wellness Centre. The Spa & Wellness Centre is popular with hotel guests and affluent locals alike, and you can certainly see why. Leaving the changing room area you emerge into an underground world of steam rooms, hammans and saunas, which in turn lead, via a spiral staircase to a large swimming pool with its own cocktail bar and bubbling jacuzzis. Families are welcome and this is the perfect place to hang out, particularly if you fancy a lazy Sunday afternoon. The Hotel Jurmala Spa has a number of very special offers for the autumn and winter period with prices beginning as low as 85 euros. This includes an overnight stay for two in one of the hotel’s cozy modern rooms, buffet breakfast in the restaurant ‘Jurmala’; use of the saunas and pools in the Wellness & Relaxation Centre, and two treatments per room from an extensive menu of treatments that includes underwater massages, body detoxification and nourishing hair care treatments.

Baltic Beach Hotel
This luxurious, all-purpose five-star hotel has it all as they say. Nested between pine trees next to the gorgeous white-sands of Maiori beach in Jurmala, the Baltic Beach Hotel is ideal for couples, families, conference delegates and anybody else who is simply looking for a high-class, relaxing break away from it all by the sea. And if it is a spa break that you are seeking then this is definitely the place for you, with an incredible 400 different treatments available to visitors as well as an excellent swimming pool and water relaxation facilities, and the Baltic Beach’s exclusive ‘The Garden’ spa and relaxation centre. ‘The Garden’ is definitely the place for you, with an incredible 400 different treatments available to visitors as well as an excellent swimming pool and water relaxation facilities, and the Baltic Beach’s exclusive ‘The Garden’ spa and relaxation centre.

We do like to be beside the seaside...
Jurmala is home to a 33-kilometre long beach with blue eco flags at Majori and Bulduri, as well as mile after mile of pine tree forests, gorgeous wooden buildings and Art Nouveau structures. The popular website Aol.co.uk recently listed Jurmala as amongst Europe’s top ten spa destinations (2012).
The International School of Latvia (ISL) was founded in 1994 as an international day school for children of all nationalities from ages 3 to 19 years of age. Since 2004, the school has offered all three International Baccalaureate Programs – Primary Years Programme, Middle Years Programme and the Diploma Programme. We are very proud to be the only PK-12 IB World School in the Baltics. We have students attending from over 29 countries and our teachers are highly motivated professionals from the USA, Canada, the UK, Australia and Latvia. ISL offers academically challenging programs designed to develop skills that are important for your child to succeed in a multicultural world.

The Amber Sea Hotel & Spa is a lovely four-star establishment, located in the middle of a pine forest, just 100 metres from the sea. The hotel is home to a spa centre, indoor swimming pool, saunas, steam rooms and Jacuzzi and also offers a wide range of spa treatments. The Harmony Spa package includes an early 11am check in, one night’s accommodation in one of the hotel’s well-appointed rooms, dinner in the hotel restaurant and one treatment per person from a range of services including Thai foot massages, Green Tea Body wraps and back, shoulder and neck massages. This good value package also includes use of the hotel’s Aqua Club, free bicycle hire and complimentary breakfast; all this starting from just 76 lats, based on a single room stay. For more information: www.amberhotel.lv

Amber Sea Hotel & Spa

Amber Sun spa package is available for 97 lats during autumn for two people. This includes a double room, buffet breakfast, use of the swimming pool, sauna and gym, plus a complimentary spa package of your choice from a selection of autumnal spa and massage treatments.

www.amberhotel.lv

The Harmony Spa package includes an early 11am check in, one night’s accommodation in one of the hotel’s well-appointed rooms, dinner in the hotel restaurant and one treatment per person from a range of services including Thai foot massages, Green Tea Body wraps and back, shoulder and neck massages. This good value package also includes use of the hotel’s Aqua Club, free bicycle hire and complimentary breakfast; all this starting from just 76 lats, based on a single room stay. For more information: www.amberhotel.lv

...Strolling along the adjacent white sand beach shortly after leaving one of the establishments listed above, the smell of sea salt and pine trees intermingling in the whole experience feels exclusive from the minute you enter the marble-floored dressing room to the moment you step into the water relaxation centre. The Garden has been uniquely designed so that you can step in and out of one sauna to another, enjoying big variations in temperature and humidity, with the rooms designed in an anti-clockwise order so that your body gains the optimum experience. After a swim in the pool and lying around in the bubbling Jacuzzi, step in to the invigorating Amber sauna before moving on to the extremely cozy wood burning sauna. This sauna is so cozy in fact that it puts one in mind of a remote Scottish inn. Next it is the hamman, which feels so authentic that it would not be out of place in Turkey. Feeling like a new person, finally it is time for ‘the Garden’s’ amazing Raul: rich and scintillating aromas that evoke memories of Middle eastern souks heighten the senses before jets of warm water spray down from the star-filled ceiling and wash off your clay body mask. If some clay still remains afterwards then wash it off in the tropical rain style showers, which come with accompanying bird noises. Shut your eyes for a moment or two and you could actually be there in the middle of the Borneo rainforest. The Amber Sun spa package is available for 97 lats during autumn for two people. This includes a double room, buffet breakfast, use of the swimming pool, sauna and gym, plus a complimentary spa package of your choice from a selection of autumnal spa and massage treatments. www.amberhotel.lv

Amber Sun spa package is available for 97 lats during autumn for two people. This includes a double room, buffet breakfast, use of the swimming pool, sauna and gym, plus a complimentary spa package of your choice from a selection of autumnal spa and massage treatments. www.amberhotel.lv

Photography courtesy of Baltic Beach Hotel

Jurmala Spa Hotel offers more than 100 different treatments designed to improve the health and well-being of its many satisfied guests.
the light autumn breeze, it is natural to conclude that Jurmala must indeed rank as one of Europe’s premier spa break experiences.

**Musical west coast spa adventures!**

Liepaja is located on Latvia’s west coast and is renowned for its stunning beaches, outdoor sports and rock music. The city is also home to a number of spa centres.

**Fontaine Royal, Liepaja**

If you are looking for a short escape from the Latvian capital then the coastal city of Liepaja and the excellent Fontaine Royal Hotel are certainly worth considering. Although this hotel is not dedicated to spa breaks, it does boast a spa and wellness centre with a sizeable pool, steam rooms, Turkish baths and saunas. We would like to refer to a stay at the Fontaine Royal as a ‘musical spa break’ as this quirky establishment is famous for its adjacent music club where top local and international artists regularly perform. This autumn and winter, it is possible to stay in the hotel’s Presidential Suite (which even has its own Jacuzzi in the bedroom) for as little as 80 lats per night. One very special offer is the ‘Rock n Sleep’ package which includes one night in a double room, welcome drink on arrival, free entrance to the ever popular Fontaine Palace Music Hall and the Fire Bar, complimentary use of the spa centre for one hour, as well as the chance to enjoy the hotel’s excellent buffet breakfast. The price of this package is an absolute giveaway at just 30 lats.

**www.fontaineroyal.lv**

---

**A land of spa**

As we mentioned at the beginning of this feature, Latvia is full of excellent spa centres to suit every taste and pocket, and the spa experiences mentioned in this issue were simply our own recent relaxation adventures. The majority of Latvia’s spas are to be found in Riga and Jurmala, but there are spa centres all over this country waiting to be tried out and enjoyed.
Slicker and fitter

A year of streamlining sees Austrian Airlines looking slicker, fitter and offering higher standards than ever

Austrian Airlines is Austria’s largest airline and its national flag carrier. It operates an extensive worldwide network of flights to more than 130 destinations. This network is especially strong in Central and Eastern Europe (as football fans travelling out to Euro 2012 discovered) where its 44 destinations make Austrian Airlines the market leader. Austrian Airlines’ hub is the beautiful city of Vienna, located at the very heart of Europe and making it well placed to accommodate those wishing to travel between the east and west of this continent. These days Austrian is part of the Lufthansa Group, which is the largest carrier in Europe and a member of the Star Alliance.

Austrian Airlines is streamlining its fleet of aircraft. A total of seven Airbus A320 will be incorporated into regular flight operations before the summer flight schedule of 2013. At the same time, the fleet of Boeing 737-800 will be removed from service as part of a policy of creating a homogeneous fleet, while the airline’s 10% reduction in seat capacity will lead to increasing efficiency. As well as streamlining its fleet, 2012 also saw Austrian create new uniforms for all of its staff, open a new terminal and undergo a significant streamlining of its organization from top to bottom.

Transfer times for passengers using Vienna were significantly reduced in 2012 with the opening of the new Austrian Star Alliance Terminal at Vienna Airport. The new terminal is 150,000 square meters in size and is staffed by 700 Austrian employees. Vienna airport’s minimum time of transfer of 25 minutes is unique among the world’s hubs:

“This is a milestone in Austrian air transport,” explained Austrian CEO Jaan Albrecht. “Its minimum transfer time of 25 minutes and its new and modern image have returned Vienna Airport to being a competitive hub in Europe. This strengthens the role played by Vienna International Airport in the Lufthansa Group and enhances its role of being an important international hub for Star Alliance.”

Passenger numbers remain bullish despite the global economic crisis: In 2011, the Austrian group (Austrian, Austrian Arrows and Lauda Air) carried 11.3 million passengers. In the period from January to June 2012, the number of passengers carried rose by 6.7 percent compared to the previous year’s figure, with 5,440,600 passengers choosing Austrian Airlines. Austrian has seen its best passenger growth, year-on-year, coming from domestic demand and from flights to and from the UK, Spain and Romania. Ranked among the ten best airlines in Europe in the 2012 World Airline Awards, after a period of streamlining, Austrian is now fight- ing fit and looking ready to face the new challenges of the 21st century aviation industry.
Ski heaven

Innsbruck and Salzburg are not only stunningly beautiful towns but also serve as the perfect bases for those wishing to enjoy Austria’s superb mountain skiing.

With its narrow winding streets, intimate coffee houses and 35 Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque churches – overhung by an awe-inspiring fortress and surrounded by sublime Alpine mountain scenery – few cities in the world have the magical allure of Salzburg. And that’s before we mention Salzburg’s high culture, for this is the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the genius who created an astounding 24 operas and over 50 symphonies during his enlightened 35 years. Mercifully, more than half of Salzburg’s Baroque buildings escaped the Allied bombing raids of WWII and today’s remarkable UNESCO world heritage site is one of the finest Baroque towns in all of Europe. As is the case with Riga, Salzburg’s entire old town is a world heritage site.

There are dozens and dozens of ski resorts close to Salzburg with altitudes ranging from 640 metres at Lofer, right up to roof-of-the-Alps ski runs of 2,300 metres at Kaprun. All are easily accessible and have top notch facilities with well serviced Holzkirchen, for example, having 55 ski lifts to complement its six kilometres of runs. The ski area south of Salzburg is one of the best in the country - along with the Tyrol and Vorarlberg - and offers limitless winter sports opportunities for skiers, snowboarders and cross-country skiers alike. There are around 80 ski slopes within one hour of Salzburg airport and almost one hundred more an extra half hour away by road. The area encompassing Flachau, Kleinai, Waggau and Zaremehoe is the most extensive of these with more than 350 kilometres of slopes to be negotiated and explored. The Salzburg Super Ski pass covers most of the large and small ski areas in the province including popular Saalbach, Zell am See and Obertauern. Beginners will appreciate the softly curved beginners’ runs, while challenging black runs and deep powdery snow slopes await those who live for skiing.

Innsbruck is a world famous winter sports centre and hosted the Winter Olympics in 1964 and 1976. Because of its location between high mountains, Innsbruck is ideally situated for Austria’s winter skiing season. Those basing themselves here for ski holidays can also enjoy the beauty and character of Innsbruck’s enchanting town centre which is home to countless parks and gardens, churches, museums and watch towers; all of which is ringed by a spectacular backdrop of snow-capped mountains. Goldenes Dachl (Golden roof) is one inspiring Innsbruck landmark that shouldn’t be missed by any visitor.

Local ski resorts of note include Seefeld, Igls and Tulfes and an underground train connects the city with the Nordpark ski area, which boats some of the steepest runs in the Alps and is also ideal for off-piste lovers. Nearby Igls holds a place in Austrian sporting folklore after local hero Franz Klammer won Olympic gold here and has runs for beginners, intermediates and expert skiers. It even has ski-in and ski-out accommodation for those who don’t choose to overnight down the valley in charming Innsbruck. Closer still to home, Innsbruck’s futuristic Bergisel ski jump has become a new landmark which, aside from its obvious functionality, provides visitors with a 360-degree perspective of the Tyrol Mountains.

For a skiing holiday that combines beauty, culture and fantastic slopes to suit every level of skier, it would be difficult to better the gorgeous cities and ski centres of Salzburg and Innsbruck.
October

**Latvia v Liechtenstein 2014 World Cup Qualifier**
October 14: Stadion Atrium, Riga
vs.

**La Boheme (special cast)**
October 11-15:
National Opera House, Riga

** LaTeX**

**Moscow Circus on Ice**
November 2-3:
Arena Riga

**VOCES**
November 5:
National Opera House, Riga

**Garage**
November 14:
Palladium Riga

**Star Vs Riga lights festival**
November 15-16:
www.palladium.lv

**La Boheme (Special cast)**
November 16:
National Opera House, Riga

**Riga**

**I solisti veneti**
November 19:
National Opera House, Riga

**November**

**December**

**Smokie & Symphony orchestra**
December 3:
Arena Riga

**Vanessa Mae**
December 12:
Arena Riga

**Musae**
December 13:
Arena Riga

**November 26**

**WELCOME TO THE YOGA AND BEAUTY STUDIO LABORATORY OF GOOD SENSES!**

Invest in yourself – by making yourself more beautiful today and thus creating value for the future.

- The largest spectrum of different yoga styles.
- Qualified yoga teachers – group & individual approach.
- Garuda yoga – special program of yoga postures in a warm and humid room;
  Large special master – for those who prefer holistic approaches to healing;
- Body and face treatments – exclusive cosmetics and massage world!

**December 7**

**KOLOJNA LASER CLINIC** RegenMP® is an aesthetic procedure which uses the healing power of the patient’s blood to biologically stimulate skin cells. It stimulates regeneration of the patient’s cells and skin renewal, as a result of which:
- Skin colour, tone and fullness improve;
- Collagen fibers are transformed;
- Wrinkles are lastingly evened out and facial features are strengthened;
- The healing process after aesthetic procedures (laser therapy, chemical peeling) is speeded up;
- Rejuvenates and renews the dermis;
- Excess fat wrinkles and stretches facial features;
- Stimulates production of new collagen.

**January**

**Aida**
January 8:
National Opera House, Riga

**A Midsummer Night’s Dream**
January 17:
National Opera House, Riga

**Adrenaline Tan**
The most qualitative and positively charged tanning studios in Riga are inviting you! Only at us – the latest and the most modern UVA solarium modules in the Baltic States and nearby – SKAUV TAN with unprecedented, innovative concept! Fasten free, based on natural orig- ing ingredients, maximal amount of dose vapor and more natural moisturants, with no orange or redness effect! The best result for the best price. Our tanning stu-

**Weyergans High Care Center**
Welcome to Weyergans High Care Centre. Our mission is to help you in a positive body image and more health, for a good figure, beauty and health are gifts you need to make to yourself, Weyergans will help you.
We offer treatments for face and body:
- Vacuum Power – With deep action effect
- Pulsating Breast – Lift the breasts without an operation
- Dermafraction
- Dermolifting – Look younger!
- MEDI Treatment – Instant youthful appearance with Long – Term effect
- Ultrasonic
- Beautiful Lips – Full lips with hyaluronic acid and cold light – Without injection!
- Slide Style – effective lymph drainage
- Bodystar Treatments – Fine currents for a good figure
- Intermittent Vacuum Therapy – Firm skin and healthy age
- Vacucyler – Through space technology
- Therapeutic Manage

**Salon Prior**
Skin PRF® – good hairstyle style
- Haircutting, coloring and styling
- Manicure and pedicure
- Facial treatment procedures
- Massage and SPA

**Aqua Villa Spa**
- Managers, SPA procedures, SPA packages for couples, for her and for him
- Face treatments, esthetic correction procedures for face – lifting, dermalization etc.
- Waxing

- Hand/feet’s studio
- Manicure/pedicure studio
- Romantic sauna (ञランド, sauna, infrared cabin, SPA pool/jacuzzi (private rent)
- Cosmetic products for home use
Welcome to Majorenhoff restaurant!

We are happy to offer our guests versatile cuisine for gourmets and lovers of exotic dishes and Europan dishes.

You will be able to find a wide assortment of dishes in our restaurant according to your own taste, and you will know what the real Italian pizza is. Try our pizza, baked according an ancient Italian recipes with adding spices and sauces, and you will find yourselves in the streets of Napoli or Napol.

We are ready to offer a wide assortment of dishes to satisfy the most demanding appetites.

Restaurant Majorenhoff

Welcome to Majorenhoff restaurant!

We are happy to offer our guests versatile cuisine for gourmets and lovers of exotic dishes and Europan dishes.

You will be able to find a wide assortment of dishes in our restaurant according to your own taste, and you will know what the real Italian pizza is. Try our pizza, baked according an ancient Italian recipes with adding spices and sauces, and you will find yourselves in the streets of Napoli or Napol.

We are ready to offer a wide assortment of dishes to satisfy the most demanding appetites.

Restaurant Majorenhoff

Welcome to Majorenhoff restaurant!

We are happy to offer our guests versatile cuisine for gourmets and lovers of exotic dishes and Europan dishes.

You will be able to find a wide assortment of dishes in our restaurant according to your own taste, and you will know what the real Italian pizza is. Try our pizza, baked according an ancient Italian recipes with adding spices and sauces, and you will find yourselves in the streets of Napoli or Napol.

We are ready to offer a wide assortment of dishes to satisfy the most demanding appetites.

Restaurant Majorenhoff

Welcome to Majorenhoff restaurant!

We are happy to offer our guests versatile cuisine for gourmets and lovers of exotic dishes and Europan dishes.

You will be able to find a wide assortment of dishes in our restaurant according to your own taste, and you will know what the real Italian pizza is. Try our pizza, baked according an ancient Italian recipes with adding spices and sauces, and you will find yourselves in the streets of Napoli or Napol.

We are ready to offer a wide assortment of dishes to satisfy the most demanding appetites.
Manchester, while transit passenger at Riga International Airport, broadens.

New routes continue to be launched in the Baltic region, with Riga International Airport announcing the start of a new route to Bremen and new flights to Gothenburg.

Mr Luhse and senior managers at both Riga International Airport and Riga's capital city have been consulted to build an extensive plan to cover the central parking area – including a possible noise and station. Clearly, development at Riga International Airport will continue, no matter what the economic conditions may be.

Elina Hakkarainen, Ryanair's Nordic & Baltic Sales & Marketing Executive suggested: "Ryanair is also bringing back its Riga-Bremen route, starting on November 8. This route to Germany's commercial and industrial Hanseatic city with its beautiful Gothic and Renaissance Old Town, will be operated three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays."

Incidentally, another item of news is that Riga International Airport has taken back operation of the business lounge from airBaltic. Access to the lounge for all passengers is open from October and can be purchased by credit card at the lounge reception.

**Passenger 7 million**

The total number of passengers passing through Riga International Airport is down in 2012, for the first time ever. Yet this is broadly in line with expectations and comparable to the situation at most airports in Europe. Manufacturer numbers in Riga are forecast to grow again from November, year-on-year. Thousands of people continue to stream through the arrival and departure lounges. Riga recently welcomed its seventh millennium transit, a passenger since the restoration of Latvia's independence. Hari Adhikari, who arrived at the airport on an airlift flight from Munich to Riga for a subsequent trip to Helsinki, was greeted as a surprise as he walked into the terminal.

"Thanks to our national carrier airBaltic, our airport is a transit hub," Arnis Luhse, Chairman of the Board of Riga International Airport, said. "Transit passengers account for a significant share in the airport's passenger structure."

Mr Luhse and senior managers at both Riga International Airport and airBaltic presented transit passengers with no less than four airlines competing on the Riga-Bremen route, starting on November 8, 2012, when non-military NATO cargo flights began between Riga and Afghanistan, with two outbound flights a week on average in the first month and around 2 flights per week further on. The amount of cargo handled increased by as much as 63% in April, year-on-year, to 7,519 tonnes for the month. That's an unprecedented amount in the history of the airport and a huge increase from the average 1,000 tonnes of cargo per month that the airport had been used to. The US airlines Kalitta Air and National Air Cargo have been flying most of this cargo in and out of Riga.

These operations are highly significant for Riga International Airport, as they contribute to the development of the hub's cargo services, as Mr Luhse explained.

"Considering the significance of fast cargo servicing and delivery to the destination, Riga International Airport has so far created 11 new workplaces in order to perform this function efficiently," he said. "It is not only the airport that benefits as a result of the development of cargo transport, but the entire economy of Latvia."

Meanwhile, development of the airport is pressing ahead. A set of infrastructure projects co-financed by the EU Cohesion Fund is in progress, with the tender process due to conclude in the coming months. Potential partners are also being consulted to build an extension of the terminal building to cover the central parking area – including a possible noise and station. Clearly, development at Riga International Airport will continue, no matter what the economic conditions may be.

Elina Hakkarainen, Ryanair's Nordic & Baltic Sales & Marketing Executive suggested: "Ryanair is also bringing back its Riga-Bremen route, starting on November 8. This route to Germany's commercial and industrial Hanseatic city with its beautiful Gothic and Renaissance Old Town, will be operated three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays."

Incidentally, another item of news is that Riga International Airport has taken back operation of the business lounge from airBaltic. Access to the lounge for all passengers is open from October and can be purchased by credit card at the lounge reception.

**Passenger 7 million**

The total number of passengers passing through Riga International Airport is down in 2012, for the first time ever. Yet this is broadly in line with expectations and comparable to the situation at most airports in Europe. Manufacturer numbers in Riga are forecast to grow again from November, year-on-year. Thousands of people continue to stream through the arrival and departure lounges. Riga recently welcomed its seventh millennium transit, a passenger since the restoration of Latvia's independence. Hari Adhikari, who arrived at the airport on an airlift flight from Munich to Riga for a subsequent trip to Helsinki, was greeted as a surprise as he walked into the terminal.

"Thanks to our national carrier airBaltic, our airport is a transit hub," Arnis Luhse, Chairman of the Board of Riga International Airport, said. "Transit passengers account for a significant share in the airport's passenger structure."

Mr Luhse and senior managers at both Riga International Airport and airBaltic presented transit passengers with no less than four airlines competing on the Riga-Bremen route, starting on November 8, 2012, when non-military NATO cargo flights began between Riga and Afghanistan, with two outbound flights a week on average in the first month and around 2 flights per week further on. The amount of cargo handled increased by as much as 63% in April, year-on-year, to 7,519 tonnes for the month. That's an unprecedented amount in the history of the airport and a huge increase from the average 1,000 tonnes of cargo per month that the airport had been used to. The US airlines Kalitta Air and National Air Cargo have been flying most of this cargo in and out of Riga.

These operations are highly significant for Riga International Airport, as they contribute to the development of the hub's cargo services, as Mr Luhse explained.

"Considering the significance of fast cargo servicing and delivery to the destination, Riga International Airport has so far created 11 new workplaces in order to perform this function efficiently," he said. "It is not only the airport that benefits as a result of the development of cargo transport, but the entire economy of Latvia."

Meanwhile, development of the airport is pressing ahead. A set of infrastructure projects co-financed by the EU Cohesion Fund is in progress, with the tender process due to conclude in the coming months. Potential partners are also being consulted to build an extension of the terminal building to cover the central parking area – including a possible noise and station. Clearly, development at Riga International Airport will continue, no matter what the economic conditions may be.
the day, according to Latvian rules, or 40 to 50 at nights. Most of the urban areas and villages surrounding the airport are largely unaffected by excessive noise, as the map illustration for daytime flights shows. But some hamlets, such as Babite, Jaunmārupe and Spilve, are over the noise limit at certain parts of the day.

Latvia’s first-ever action plan on airport noise will now be put in place based on Jānis’ findings. This plan may help people living in built-up areas to the west and east of the airport. This is because pilots are known to make up a few extra minutes and save a bit of fuel by turning their planes left sooner than they should. That is not against the rules of air traffic controllers or the airport, but the trajectories push up noise levels for greater numbers of people on the ground – especially annoying late in the evenings.

Riga International Airport aims to draw up the action plans with the assistance of the airlines, getting their assurance that their pilots no longer take a short-cut by turning earlier than they should. News about the process of making the plan, and more information about the noise maps, is being posted regularly on the airport website (www.riga-airport.com).

“Few people living on the ground are affected by very loud noise.”

Lexus GS CREATING AMAZING

This is a car that can tell some amazing stories. About materials that were discovered especially for its use. Or of technology that will end the debate over the fuel of the future. Lexus’ Hybrid Synergy Drive has been designed to optimize the use of any kind of fuel on our planet. Innovative and responsible thinking has resulted in a combination of the power of a sports car with excellent fuel economy, enabling the new GS to boast some amazing numbers – 343 horsepower and fuel consumption of just 6 litres per 100 km. Or stories of the longest test drive in the world. The Lexus team tested the new GS on a route with a length comparable to a distance of 40 times around the world. The tests took up in Alaska, Death Valley and Russia. However, it is the best to hear these stories straight from the source, the GS itself.

Start at lexus.

LEXUS GS
CREATING AMAZING

Lexus GS pricing starts from Ls 32,720.
Lexus GS 450h combined fuel consumption 6.0 l/100 km, combined CO2 emission 139 g/km.

Gateway Riga is the official airport magazine for RIGA International Airport.

It is distributed three times per year. Start circulation 17000. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors or persons interviewed and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, Check-In Baltic or RIGA International Airport.

All rights reserved. Material in this publication may not be reproduced in any form without written permission. Unsolicited manuscripts, photographs and illustrations are not accepted. Gateway Riga accepts no responsibility for such materials sent to its offices, nor is it liable for loss of, or damage to, such material. All prices are subject to change without notice.

Gateway Riga accepts no responsibility for printing errors.

Printed by Talsu Tipogrāfija, Latvia.


Editor-in-Chief: Justin Walley
Contributing writer: Anatol Steven
Art director: Guntis Gvozdevs
Project Manager: Madara Liniņa

Advertising and Sales Enquiries: madara@gateway-riga.com
Tel: +371 29135431

Editorial: justin@gateway-riga.com
Comments and opinions: info@gateway-riga.com

Website: www.riga-airport.com

Gateway Riga is the official airport magazine for RIGA International Airport.

It is distributed three times per year. Start circulation 17000. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors or persons interviewed and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, Check-In Baltic or RIGA International Airport.

All rights reserved. Material in this publication may not be reproduced in any form without written permission. Unsolicited manuscripts, photographs and illustrations are not accepted. Gateway Riga accepts no responsibility for such materials sent to its offices, nor is it liable for loss of, or damage to, such material. All prices are subject to change without notice.

Gateway Riga accepts no responsibility for printing errors.

Printed by Talsu Tipogrāfija, Latvia.
Enjoy