

DIVERSE LATVIA



The population of Latvia is only **0.4%** of the total EU population.

The total land area of Latvia is **64, 600 km²**. It is approximately 5 times smaller than Germany and 2 times larger than Belgium.

 The flag of Latvia is one of the oldest flags in the world. 13th Century Livonian Order Chronicles reference the use of the red white red flag that we still use today.

The national coat of arms combines symbols of Latvian national statehood as well as symbols of ancient historical districts.

Latvia has over **1.2 million dainas (folk songs)** from over a thousand years ago. They define and distinguish unique Latvian culture.



Latvia is **THE ONLY BALTIC COUNTRY WITH ITS OWN WINTER CIRCUS.**

The winter circus was built more than 100 years ago in 1888.

GENERAL FACTS ABOUT LATVIA



The historic centre of Riga, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, is widely recognized as having the finest collection of **ART NOUVEAU/ JUGENDSTIL** buildings in Europe.



One of the world's best known artists, abstract expressionist **MARK ROTHKO**, WAS BORN IN **DAUGAVPILS**, Latvia (formerly known as Dvinsk) in 1903.



The Riga Central Market (Centrāltirgus), also part of UNESCO's World Heritage designation, is **THE LARGEST MARKET AND BAZAAR IN THE BALTICS AND ONE OF THE LARGEST OPEN-AIR MARKETS IN EUROPE** (72.3 thousand m²). The main pavilions were completed in 1930 by reusing old World War 1 Zeppelin hangars.



The Latvian factory VEF (Valsts elektrotehniskā fabrika) manufactured **THE WORLD'S FIRST MINIATURE CAMERA – THE VEF MINOX** from 1937 to 1943. The Minox was notorious as a spy camera and today is a popular collectible. It was invented by Baltic German Walter Zapp.



Latvian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union

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The State Chancellery of Latvia, 2014