

CESMA AGA 2017, RIGA, LATVIA

Welcome to Riga, Latvia

It is our honour to welcome You in the City of Riga, capital of the Republic of Latvia, where our organisation – Latvian Shipmaster's Association (LKKA) - will host 22nd Annual General Assembly of CESMA and Council meeting.

Riga is the gem of the Baltics. The city is located along the Baltic Sea at the southern coast of the Gulf of Riga. The historical core of Riga is situated on the right bank of the Daugava River, about 10 kilometres from where the Daugava flows into the Gulf of Riga.

Riga combines beautiful architecture and cultural heritage. Streets of Riga depict over 800 years of history: the many centuries and rulers, Art Nouveau architecture and Modernism, wooden buildings and masonry. Yet the city is still young and its cultural & historic environment blends with diverse contemporary events. Legend has it that Riga will never be finished... Riga is a city that lives and develops. We suggest you to come to Riga earlier or leave later to enjoy the nearest cultural, nature and entertainment treasures.



About Latvia

Latvia, the pearl of the Baltic States, is one of the European Union member states and is situated in the North of Europe – on the shores of the Baltic Sea. It has the territory of 64,589 km² and a population of only 2.0 million people. Since ancient times Latvia has been at the cross-roads between East and West, North and South. Therefore, Latvia is a multi-

cultured state, where traditions have merged, creating a unique environment, the like of which is not to be found anywhere in the world.

Latvia presents unspoilt nature to its visitors with 45% of the territory covered by natural forests and 500km long sandy beaches. Various recreational possibilities right in the lap of nature are accessible to everybody. The diversity of historical, culture and architectural sites just adds to the charm for a cultural traveller. To find out more, visit: <http://www.latvia.travel/en>

You can easily reach Riga by plane from most European capitals.

Council Venue

The chosen Council venue – Harbour Master of Freeport of Riga building - is located inside the Port of Riga, in Vecmilgravis suburban. It is about 20 minutes' drive from the City centre. Council members will meet in the morning at announced meeting point in Old Town and will proceed to the venue place by River boat, enjoying panoramas of Port of Riga underway. A dedicated bus service will be arranged for transportation from the venue to the city centre.





AGA Venue

The chosen AGA venue – Freeport of Riga Authority main building - is located in a walking distance from the heart of the city – the Old Riga, at the bank of City Canal. The building surrounded by a green park area – Kronvalda Parks.



The Freeport of Riga Authority main building was built in 1999. The building has been designed for use as a Port Administration office, while keeping the harmony with surrounding area.



Currency

Currency in Latvia is Euro (EUR).

It is common in Latvia to make payments via credit card. Though there are no credit card usage charges in general, some cards issued by foreign banks may attract additional charge. There are many currency exchange outlets with late night hours of operation. Many are open on weekends as well.

Smoking Prohibitions

Smoking is not allowed in public places such as bus, trolley and tram stops, train station platforms, parks, at least 10 meters away from entrances to schools, public buildings etc. It is also banned in bars, cafes and other closed spaces not carrying a special sign for smoking zones.

Weather

In May the weather can still be cold, especially at the beginning of the month, but the temperature rises over the course of the month, exceeding even 20 °C in the warmest days.

The average temperature in Riga in May is quite mild at 11.4 °C. Afternoons can be very mild with average high temperatures reaching 16 °C. Overnight temperatures are generally cool with an average low of 5 °C. The average daily temperature variation/ range in May is 11 °C. The weather in May is a little parched with rain occasionally. A mere 43mm of H2O precipitates during an average of 12 days. It is sunny approximately 53.4% of daylight hours and cloudy 46.6% of daylight hours.

The Official Language

The sole official language in Latvia is Latvian. Mostly, people do speak in English and Russian as well. Latvian is a Baltic language and is most closely related to Lithuanian, although the two are not mutually intelligible. Latvian belongs to the Baltic language group of the Indo-European language family.

Public Transport

Riga has four methods of public transportation – tram, trolleybus, bus and rail. Public transport in Riga starts running at 05:30 and ends at 23:30. Public transportation timetables can be found on the "Rigas Satiksme", the company of public transportation, www.rigassatiksme.lv (Latvian, Russian, English). The web-site also provides information on the price of tickets and where they can be purchased. Even though tickets can be purchased from the driver, it is cheaper to purchase an e-ticket at street kiosks and select shops.

It is also possible to get around Riga by rail, which costs about EUR .75 per ride within city limits. It is possible to see a route map of rail transportation within Riga city limits at <http://www.ldz.lv> (Latvian, English, Russian), as well as timetables at www.1188.lv (Latvian, English, Russian).

Many people use rail transportation to reach the coastal resort town of Jūrmala, which is only about 30km outside of Riga's city limits. It must be taken into account that there are several rail stops in Jūrmala. The most popular are Lielupe, Bulduri, Dzintari, Majori and Dubulti. A one-way ticket to Jūrmala station "Majori" costs about EUR 1.45.

Visa information

Citizens of all EU countries are not required to have visa to enter Latvia. See the list below. If you are a citizen of a country that is not in the list, please, make sure that you have valid visa before entering the country.

List of the countries that are NOT REQUIRED TO HAVE VISA to enter Latvia:

Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Czech Republic; Denmark; France; Greece; Croatia; Estonia; Ireland; Iceland; Italy; Cyprus; United Kingdom; Lithuania; Liechtenstein; Luxembourg; Malta;

The Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania Slovakia; Slovenia; Finland; Spain; Switzerland; Hungary; Germany; Sweden; Albania (applies only to holders of biometric passports); Andorra; Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; the United States; Australia; Bahamas; Barbados; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) (applies only to holders of biometric passports); Bosnia and Herzegovina (applies only to holders of biometric passports); Brazil; Brunei; Darussalam; Chile; Guatemala; Honduras; Israel; Japan; New Zealand; Canada; Korea (South Korea); Costa Rica; Malaysia; Mauritius; Mexico; Montenegro (applies only to holders of biometric passports); Moldova (only for the tour of biometric passports issued in accordance with ICAO standards); Monaco; Nicaragua; Paraguay; Panama; El Salvador; San Marino; Seychelles; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Serbia (applies only to holders of biometric passports are not subject to specific Coordination Directorate (in Serbian language Koordinaciona uprava) issued Serbian passports); Singapore; Uruguay; Vatican; Venezuela; Peoples Republic of China to administer Special Regions: only Hong Kong SAR passport holders; only Macau SAR passports. Taiwan , Republic of China (applies only to Taiwanese passport holders with an identity card number of the English " Personal Id . No ").

HOTEL Information

Here is a list of some recommended Hotels in Riga. All of them are located in the Centre of Riga and the location will be convenient to reach all planned events and meeting points:

3-Star Hotels:

- 1) Konventa Sēta – <http://www.hotelkolonna.com/hotels/riga/konventa-seta/en/>
- 2) Hotel Forums – <http://stpetershotel.lv/en/hotels-and-apartments/forums-hotel/about-hotel/>
- 3) Kolonna Hotel Riga – <http://www.hotelkolonna.com/hotels/riga/kolonna-hotel-riga/en/>

4-Stars Hotels:

- 1) Radi un Draugi – <http://www.hotelradiundraugi.lv/en/>
- 2) Rixwell Centra Hotel – <http://www.rixwell.com/en/rixwell-centra-hotel>
- 3) Hotel Gutenbergs – <http://www.hotelgutenbergs.lv/index.php?lang=en>
- 4) Hotel Roma – <http://hotelroma.lv/?lang=en>
- 5) Semarah Hotel Metropole – <https://www.semarahhotels.com/en/metropole-hotel/>