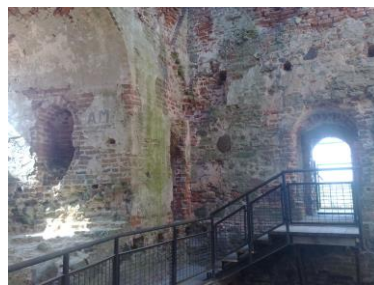


BAUSKA CASTLE AND RUNDALE PALACE DAY TRIP

The itinerary :

10.00 Pick up of guests and beginning of the trip

11.30 Approximate arrival **Bauska Castle Museum** – Livonian Order fortress built in the middle of the 15th century. Jaunā Pils (The New Castle) - Courland Dukes' residence has been added to the Livonian Order fortress in the late 16th century. In the 17th–18th centuries huge fortifications were built around the Castle. Tourists have can see the fortress ruins and the observation tower, the Jaunā Pils (The New Castle) as it is today and an exhibition about the Castle's history, archeology and renovation.



13.30 Trip continued to the **Rundale Palace**.

Rundale Palace is one of the most outstanding monuments of Baroque and Rococo art in Latvia. It was built between 1736 and 1740 as a summer residence of Duke Ernst Johann of Courland. The Duchy of Courland-Semigallia, a vassal state of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, was founded in 1561 and it existed until 1795. In 1737 Ernst Johann Biron, a landlord in Courland and favorite of the Russian Empress Anna Ioannovna, became the Duke of Courland-Semigallia.



The Italian architect **Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli** designed Rundāle Palace and supervised construction work. After the death of Empress Anna Ioannovna, the Duke was arrested and sent to exile in Russia. Construction works in the palace were resumed after the Duke's return at the beginning of the reign of Empress Catherine II. The major part of the interior was made in the period between 1765 and 1768. In 1972 the Rundāle Palace Museum was founded and restoration of the palace began. Restoration is not yet completed and is still going on

16.00 Returning to Riga.

17.00 Approximate arrival in Riga