

DAY TRIP TO VENTSPILS



Ventspils - popular tourism centre which offers recreation on the wonderful well-equipped Blue Flag Beach and “Ventspils” aqua park.

Tourists are invited to walk the cobbled lanes of Ventspils Old Town, the Livonian Order Castle (1290) and Ostgals. On the Anchor Trail one can see a 6 m high, 23-tonne anchor. A ride on the narrow gauge railway “Mazbānītis” in the Maritime Open-air Ethnographical Museum and a trip on Ventspils Harbour on the tour boat “Hercogs Jēkabs” will leave a special impression. Ventspils is also considered to be the ‘Floral Capital’ of Latvia. Here you will find unique, sculptured flowerbeds - “Underwater World”, “Bobsleigh Team”, “Mārītes”, “Family of Ducks” as well as the Flower clock - the only one in Latvia. Ventspils is an excellent base for family holidays

The itinerary :

9.00 Pick up of guests from hotel and beginning of the trip

11.30 Aproximate arrival at Ventspils city center.

Ventspils Town Square with International house of writers and translators and St. Nicholas Ev. Lutheran Church (1835)

Ventspils Market Square (17th century)

Ventspils Ostas street promenade (Ventmala) with Travelling Cow installation.

Coffee break or light lunch in **The "Melnais sivēns" ('Black piglet') tavern** located in the Ventspils Livonian Order Castle provides medieval style meals and atmosphere

13.00 Boat trip aboard "Hercogs Jēkabs"

Livonian Order Castle (1290) containing Ventspils Museum. It includes a digital exhibition “Living history”, image gallery "Ghost's Cellar", prison exhibition and other artefacts. It's possible to try your arm at archery in the courtyard. An International Knights' Joust takes place here annually in May.

Monument of Kr. Valdemārs, the father of Latvian seafaring (1825-1891)

Fountain “Ship Observer”

Ostgals - Ventspils Old Town with 19th century wooden buildings

14.30 Trip continued to the **Ventspils Southern Breakwater**

Fishing boat “Azova” (1967)

Ventspils Southern Breakwater with observation tower, environmental installation "Cow Sailor" and promenade



The Blue Flag Beach of Ventspils

15.00 Trip continued to the **Seaside Open Air Museum**



The Seaside Open Air Museum was founded in 1954 to preserve the heritage of the seaside fishing village. Today it is the only open air museum dedicated to fishing in Latvia. It features fishermen’s homesteads, barns, wind mills (from the Užava parish), smokehouses, curing cabins, net sheds and other samples of native building and household artefacts. In an area of 4 ha, you will find an extensive sea boat collection and the largest anchor collection in the Baltics with more than one hundred exhibits dating from the 17th century to present day. At the Seaside Park you can enjoy the Enkuru taka (Anchor trail) which is formed of the biggest anchors. One of the most attractive features of the Museum is a 600 mm narrow gauge train called Mazbānītis. Coupled with carriages, this steam engine until recently - back in the 1960’s - provided regular services to the seaside fishing villages. The steam engine was built in Germany in 1916; it weighs 9 tons and can reach a speed of 20 km per hour. Mazbānītis takes tourists for a 1.4 km journey around the Jūrmala Park on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 May to 31 October. Rides for groups can also be arranged outside the normal working days. The Museum also offers rides on a peculiar hybrid of a tractor and a locomotive – LocoTractor. VeloTrolley – enjoys immense popularity among the museum visitors who in tandem joyfully pedal away down the narrow gauge rail track.

16.30 Returning to Riga.

19.00 Approximate arrival in Riga