



Legend

- Railway
- Main roads
- 9 Distance in kilometres
- P22 Regional roads
- Unsurfaced road
- Boundary of administrative unit
- Strenču novads**
- Gas filling station
- 15 Places of interest
- Accommodation



EXPLORE VALKA MUNICIPALITY!

The municipality of Valka is located in the north-east of Latvia, on the Estonian border. The municipality is often called "Latvia's Nord Gate". There are five parishes and one city in the municipality of Valka. The city of Valka is the centre of the municipality; it is located on the border, so it is called the city where Latvia starts. The Estonian city of Valga is located nearby. When you are in Valka-Valga, you are in two countries at the same time. The national highway and tourism routes run through Valka municipality. In this area you can see unique heritage objects, and can camp or stay at guesthouses. Valka is 157 kilometres from Riga, the capital city of Latvia, and 88 kilometres from the Estonian city of Tartu. You need a passport in order to cross the border. It is a good idea to book before visiting these points of interest!

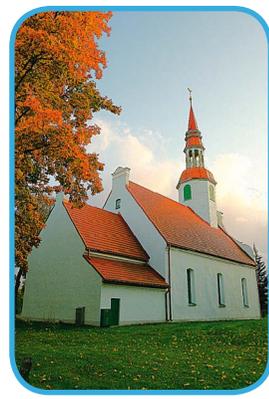
1 Valka Local History Museum

Rigas Street 64, Valka, ph. +371 64722198, muzejs@valka.lv 57° 46' 5" 26° 0' 23"
 Jānis Cimze started the first seminary for Vidzeme parish schoolteachers at the 19th century, on the site where the museum now is. Many famous figures of Latvian and Estonian culture and education were educated at this seminary. Due to the museum's historical location, it seeks to popularize the work of Jānis Cimze, who was a pedagogue and a founder of the Latvian choir singing culture, as well as that of his pupils. It also aims to promote public interest and knowledge concerning the historical events that have taken place in Valka County.



2 Valka-Lugaži Lutheran Church, observation tower

Rigas Street 9, Valka, ph. +371 28498000 57° 46' 34" 26° 1' 23"
 The first written record of the church dates from 1477. The church is in the basilica style, and has a simple appearance, indicating that it must have been the peasants' church in earlier times. The church is still used for services. From the church tower there is a beautiful view of Valka-Valga: one city – two states.



3 TLMS "Saulīte"

E. Dārziņa Street 8, Valka, ph. +371 26375211, 29440051 57° 46' 26" 26° 1' 5"
 Members of "Saulīte" create hand-made products using wool and other materials – gloves, blankets, tablecloths and so on. Participate in open markets and other places. It is a good idea to book before visiting!

Valka municipality Tourism Information bureau
 Rigas Street 22, Valka, LV 4701
 ph. +371 64725522, 26446602
 www.valka.lv, www.visit.valka.lv
 tib@valka.lv 57° 46' 27" 26° 1' 9"

Kārķi parish Tourism Information point
 Ausmas, Kārķi, Kārķi parish office, LV-4716
 ph. +371 26391447
 57° 49' 35" 25° 36' 13"



www.valka.lv



www.visit.valka.lv





4 Pedele Nature Trail and Putraskalns Arbour
Sēlijas Street, Valka 57° 46' 50" 26° 1' 30"
This is a nice place for walking or cycling. From Putraskalns arbour, you can have a good view of Valka–Valga: one city two states. The walking trail crosses the border and then continues along local footpaths and the river's beach belt.

5 Zāgezers Lake
In the North-west of Valka 57° 47' 38" 25° 58' 46"
This freshwater lake is in the north-west of Valka municipality. Zāgezers beach and the spring near the lake are popular among both locals and holiday-makers alike.

6 The ancient Latvian soldier
Varoņu Street, "Meža kapi", Valka 57° 46' 54" 26° 0' 15"
The memorial soldier was built in 1919 in honor of those who fell in the Latvian War of Independence, and is the only existing example of Latvian Cubist art.



7 Horseback riding at Kalnabundas Farm
Pedele, Valka parish, Valka municipality
ph. +371 26543796 57° 49' 9" 25° 53' 59"
The farm offers horseback riding, hiking and training. You can also rent a horse-drawn carriage and sleigh. Special offer: posture improvement program. Visits should be booked in advance.



8 Krastiņi Farm
Valka parish, Valka municipality,
ph. +371 28301586 57° 42' 23" 26° 6' 35"
Here you can take an educational trek, during which you will learn about meadows which are threatened in Europe, hear stories about rare species and watch the nature all around you. Hiking trips should be booked in advance.

9 Zīle and Vekši Nature Trails
Zīle, Valka parish, Valka municipality,
ph. +371 26375441 57° 42' 9" 26° 2' 46"
You can take a guided tour, during which you will learn about the nature and life of the valley of the River Gauja, and the ways in which it is protected. You will hear about the beavers, rare and protected plants, birds and insects that live in this area. The excursion takes from 50–100 minutes, and covers a distance of about 2 km. Walking tours should be booked in advance.



10 Lugaži Estate and Park
Lugaži, Valka parish, Valka municipality
57° 45' 52" 25° 57' 19"
Lugaži was a castle belonging to a vassal of the order. It was first mentioned in written documents in 1431. Now only the complex of household buildings and fragments of park are still standing. The cultural centre can be found in the renovated house.

11 Monument to General Pēteris Radziņš
"Jaunvidzes", Valka parish, Valka municipality 57° 47' 29" 25° 56' 42"
Pēteris Radziņš was an eminent Latvian army general and commander, who was awarded the Order of Lāčplēšis. Here, at his birthplace, stands a monument to Radziņš.

12 Jasmini Deer Garden
Kārķi parish, Valka municipality,
ph. +371 29417661,
edmunds.juskevics@inbox.lv
57° 51' 27" 25° 37' 29"
About 200 deers live in deer garden along with beef-cattle. These animals can be seen from the viewing tower. Jasmini is especially suited for those interested in clay pigeon shooting. Visits should be booked in advance.



14 Strautmaļi grand linden
Kārķi parish, Valka municipality
57° 50' 31" 25° 33' 43"
This linden was associated with the church. An informative plaque was placed near to the linden tree during the Kārķi Wood day in 2004.

16 Salainis Lake
Zvārtava parish, Valka municipality
57° 35' 29" 26° 09' 51"
Salainis Lake is part of a group of other lakes. Bedne and Vadainis bogs are near the lake; this area is a nature reserve. On the banks of the lake is the ancient hunting castle of Baron von Vulf.



18 Vijciems cone kiln
Mežmuiža, Vijciems parish,
Valka municipality
ph. +371 26478620, 64747266
57° 35' 33" 26° 2' 21"
This is the oldest cone kilns in Latvia and the only of such type in Europe. The same wellhead equipment has been used here for over 100 years. Awarded with the European cultural heritage status. Visits should be booked in advance!

19 Ielicas Ethnographic Farm
Vijciems parish, Valka municipality,
Valka–Smiltene road, ph. +371 29461673,
www.ielicas.lv 57° 39' 29" 26° 0' 4"
This is a farm constructed in the 18th–19th centuries, where you can see old buildings dating from that time, including the main house; the bathhouse, which contains a



13 Kārķi Lutheran Church
"Nameji", Kārķi parish, Valka municipality,
ph. +371 29162772 57° 49' 15" 25° 36' 16"
Kārķi Lutheran Church was built in 2002, and stands next to Baron's Cemetery. It is particularly interesting to visit at night, as in 2002, it was nominated as the brightest building in Vidzeme. Popular marriage church.

15 Naglas grand willow
Kārķi parish, Valka municipality
57° 46' 46" 25° 39' 34"
This tree is famous throughout Latvia, and has a circumference of 6.25 m. It is by the side of the Valka–Rūjiena road. Naglas is also home to the mountain climber Imants Zauls.



17 Vijciems Lutheran Church
Vijciems, Valka municipality
ph. +371 64728199, 28785708
57° 35' 2" 25° 57' 2"
Vijciems Lutheran Church is one of the eight wood stave churches in Latvia. It was built in 1852. Several works of art can be seen in the church, including the altar and the painted altar piece "The Last Supper".



cottage room; three granges; a cattle-shed and stable with feed rooms; a threshing barn; a coach-house and a cellar. The film Pūt, vējiņi was shot at Ielicas.

20 Kankariši rock 57° 36' 31" 25° 55' 47"
Vijciems parish, Valka municipality
This is the place where the River Vija joins the River Gauja: a very fast section of the river, with many rapids. Here is also an outcrop of red sandstone, known as Kankariši rock. You can get a particularly good view while boating on the river. Tourists who choose to stick to dry land can see the rock calendar mountain, as well as the ancient Latvian observatory on Bitarinkalns hill.



21 Ērģeme castle ruins
Ērģeme, Valka municipality
57° 48' 46" 25° 49' 50"
There was a strong fortress here in the 14th century, built by the Livonian Order in order to protect their eastern border. It belonged to the master of the order, and was the castle-front for the fortress in Cēsis. The castle was destroyed in the Northern War, but a legend tells that Swedish soldiers hid war booty somewhere in the building before its destruction. Currently the subject is under an ambitious restoration works.



22 Viewing tower
Zvārtavas parish
57° 39' 48" 26° 12' 03"
Located at the protected landscape area "Ziemeļgauja". From 27 metres high tower nature lovers can see river Gauja and its curves, also all surrounding - meadows and forests. Parking lot.

ACCOMMODATION

Valka

- 1 Guest house "Otrā elpa"** – Zvaigžņu Street 12, 12a, Valka, ph. +371 64722280, 29282639, www.otraelpa.com 57° 46' 29" 26° 1' 21"
- 2 Guest house "Jumis"** – Rīgas Street 12a, ph. +371 64722108, 26563497 57° 46' 36" 26° 1' 21"
- 3 House in Valka** – Semināra Street 20, Valka, ph. +371 64723213 57° 46' 23" 26° 1' 13"
- 4 Valka gymnasium hostel** – Semināra Street 25a, Valka, ph. +371 64723344, 26540200 57° 46' 20" 26° 1' 9"

Valka municipality

- 5 Cottage "Arāji"** – Ērģeme parish, Valka municipality, ph. +371 29478340 57° 49' 3" 25° 46' 30"
- 6 Holiday house "Upmaļi"** – Upmaļi, Ērģeme parish, Valka municipality, ph. +371 29756912 57° 44' 50" 25° 48' 32"
- 7 Guest house "Ezernieki"** – Valka parish, Valka municipality, ph. +371 20213860 57° 47' 53" 25° 59' 13"
- 8 Guest house "Ausmas"** – Stāļi, Ērģeme parish, Valka municipality, ph. +371 29234102, www.lainotiek.lv 57° 51' 59" 25° 45' 29"
- 9 Guest house "Kamenes"** – Vēveri, Kārķi parish, Valka municipality, ph. +371 29417661 57° 46' 0" 25° 41' 20"
- 10 Farm "Ielicas"** – Vijciems parish, Valka municipality, ph. +371 29461673, www.ielicas.lv 57° 39' 29" 26° 0' 4"
- 11 Cottage "Dravnieki"** – Vijciems parish, Valka municipality, ph. +371 29479771 57° 37' 13" 26° 0' 38"
- 12 Recreation centre "Mednieki"** – Zvārtava parish, Valka municipality, ph. +371 26543450, www.medniekos.lv 57° 35' 29" 26° 09' 51"
- 13 Guest house "Salaiņi"** – Zvārtava parish, Valka municipality, ph. +371 26374145 57° 35' 29" 26° 09' 51"