In 2018, Latvia celebrates one hundred years since it became an independent state. Its birth on 18 November, 1918, coincided with major changes on the political map of Europe – at the end of World War I, the Austro-Hungarian, Russian, German and Ottoman empires broke up and new countries appeared, among them Finland (6 December, 1917), the restored state of Lithuania (16 February, 1918), Estonia (24 February, 1918), Czechoslovakia (28 October, 1918), Poland (11 November, 1918) and Latvia. With over 1000 events at home and all around the world, Latvia celebrates its centenary of statehood with the best it has to offer in culture, lifestyle and innovation. We remember and imagine, create and celebrate – for the next 100.
28 APRIL
THROUGHOUT LATVIA
AND AROUND THE WORLD
THE GREAT CLEAN-UP
Join the Talka (the Great Clean-up), the largest annual voluntary project in Latvia! Shoulder to shoulder, all of us (including the President!) will be there, pursuing the aim of making Latvia the greenest place on earth for its centenary celebrations. We will plant trees, clean up littered areas and renovate neglected backyards in the suburbs, inviting the rest of the world to join in – Latvian communities all over the globe can show you how. If you are busy in April, take part in the global clean-up “Let’s Do It! Campaign”, inspired by the Talka movement, on 15 September, 2018.
Talkas.lv | letsdoitworld.org

4 MAY
WHITE TABLECLOTH DAY
To commemorate the historic decision of 4 May, 1990, by the Latvian Soviet Supreme Council, declaring the restoration of independence of Latvia, we are gathering around white-clad tables with our nearest and dearest to remember, to dream, to eat, to sing and to have a good time. If you happen to be nearby, join in and have fun with us, celebrating our freedom!
Lv100.lv

7 MAY
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LATVIA
EUROPE. BEFORE 100 AFTER
The international conference is bringing together experts, decision-makers and academics representing countries that emerged in Europe at the end of WWI, to share the lessons learnt from history, as well as to build visions of how we can contribute to creating a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future of Europe. The conference findings will be published in an academic journal.
Latvia.eu

11 AUGUST
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY
THE GREENERY BALL
We work hard, and we play hard. For ages, country folk found time in their busy work schedule to get together with neighbours and have some fun. A hundred days before Latvia’s 100th anniversary, we are reviving our grandparents’ tradition of outdoor Greenery Balls to socialise, sing and dance, accompanied by local music groups, under summer skies. This form of community building is our answer to the hectic and stressful modern lifestyle and the limits that virtual communication imposes on personal interaction.
Lv100.lv/en

16 - 19 NOVEMBER
STARO RIΓA, FESTIVAL OF LIGHT
The annual festival of light, Staro Riga, is adding a special flavour to Latvia’s 100th birthday celebration programme – during the dark days of November, Riga will be illuminated by an array of unusual, artistic and impressive objects of light. The concept of this year’s festival, Up Rose the Castle of Light, is rooted in Latvian folklore and is about the victory of light over darkness. Discover the streets, buildings, parks and squares of the capital city in a different light and enjoy the feeling of togetherness!
staroriga.lv

18 NOVEMBER
LATVIA’S 100TH BIRTHDAY
The traditional programme of Latvia’s birthday celebrations includes a military parade in the early afternoon, the President’s speech by the Freedom Monument, and fireworks at 9 p.m. for the finale of the celebration. However, the 100th birthday party will also offer a rich cultural programme all day long, with main events taking place on the 11 November Embankment in Riga.
This year, the National Theatre is offering a night tour around its building as it is the venue where the ceremony of the proclamation of the Republic of Latvia took place one hundred years ago.
Lv100.lv/en

19 - 20 MAY
RIΓA MARATHON
Become a part of Latvia’s Centenary celebrations by joining the Centenary Marathon in Riga! Whether going for the full challenge of the entire distance or doing just a half-marathon, this is your chance to see the beautiful city of Riga. Over 27 years, the annual Riga Marathon has grown into a popular event gathering 33 000 runners from 70 countries, and for six consecutive years it has received the prestigious IAAF Bronze Label.
lattelecomrigasmaratons.lv/en/

30 JUNE – 8 JULY
NATIONWIDE SONG AND DANCE CELEBRATION
Being the central event of the Centenary celebrations, it is likely to be the ultimate experience. Dating back to 1873, the Latvian Song and Dance Celebration is the grandest festival in the Baltics in terms of scope, authenticity and style – no wonder it was included in the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2003. This year, 40 000 participants from 3421 amateur choirs, dancing groups and folklore ensembles are taking part. Music, a sense of togetherness and plenty of positive energy will be surrounding you everywhere you go, so prepare to sing along and train your vocal cords in the first week of July in Riga!
dziesmusvetki.lv
A book is more than just a physical item – it can be an object of art and an instrument to change societies and individual lives. As books have played a significant role in the development of the Latvian nation, the National Library of Latvia offers an inspiring journey into the history of printed texts. The exhibition covers 500 years of book-publishing and book-printing, revealing books as a medium of power, looking into the art of book illustration and binding, as well as exploring experiences of the mind when coming into contact with a suggestive text. Contemporary design and interactive solutions make the exposition an inspiring journey into the world of books.

16 FEB - 20 MAY
ARSENĀLS EXHIBITION HALL, RĪGA
FUTURE STATE.
Futuristic fantasies of Latvian artists on the concept of a future state. A call to be daring and bold in one's fantasies on what could be an ideal or unreal, or real Latvia sometime in the future. The exhibition is a platform for one's imagination on some perceived place where idealistic formulas and an imaginary ideal future state is being made.

4 MAY - 2021
THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY OF LATVIA
LATVIA'S CENTURY
The joint project of 60 Latvian museums is a display of historical items collected from various regions of Latvia, with an aim to answer a simple question – what does the nation-state of Latvia means to us? Objects of the exhibition reveal aspects of cultural, social and practical life of certain periods, placing individual life stories in the setting of various political circumstances.

MAY - AUG
ART MUSEUM RĪGA BOURSE
ART NOUVEAU – ORIGIN, INFLUENCES, PARTICULARITY
The most colourful manifestations of Europe's art nouveau in the form of paintings, graphics, sculpture and applied arts. The exhibition features the beginnings of this style and its flourishing in Europe, putting Latvia's art nouveau (Jugendstil) in a broader context, highlighting the local peculiarities of the style. Rīga is a place where various national schools and directions meet, challenging the spectator to look for similarities, influences and differences of various forms of art nouveau.

NOV - DEC
THE MUSEUM OF DECORATIVE ARTS AND DESIGN
LV DESIGN STORY – 100
The objects of art and design items selected for this exhibition are cultural icons of Latvian cultural heritage, dating from 1918 to 2018. A story of how traditional folk crafts have gradually turned into objets d'art of professional art and design, revealing the sustainability of Latvian national identity, rooted in nature, folklore and traditional craftsmanship, the aesthetics of Northern minimalism and use of materials.
International Programme
Highlights

9 APRIL – 15 JULY
MUSÉE D’ORSAY IN PARIS, FRANCE
WILD SOULS. SYMBOLISM IN THE BALTIC STATES
(ÂMES SAUVAGES. LE SYMBOLISME DANS LES PAYS BALTES)
One of the most ambitious joint centenary projects of the three Baltic countries, the exhibition represents the “golden age” in Latvian art. The French Symbolism movement of the 19th century influenced all of European culture, including the Baltic region. Mythology rooted in local folklore, the world of fantasies and dreams, as well as decadent notes are vividly expressed in paintings, sculptures, drawings and pastels, altogether 133 items from the four national art museums of the three Baltic countries, by outstanding Baltic artists of the time. Latvia will be represented by the works of Janis Rozentāls, Vilhelms Purvītis, Johans Valters, Pēteris Krastiņš, Rūdolfs Pērle and Teodors Ūders; Lithuania – by Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, and Ferdinandas Ruščicas (Ferdynand Ruszczyc), while Estonia – by Kristjan Raud and Konrad Vilhelm Mägi.

Lnmm.lv | musee-orsay.fr

10 - 12 APRIL
"OLYMPIA", LONDON HAMMERSMITH RD, LONDON, UK
MARKET FOCUS ON BALTIC LITERATURE, LONDON BOOK FAIR 2018
In 2018, as the Baltic countries are celebrating their centenaries, Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian literature will be in the spotlight of the London Book Fair. The event is introducing the English-speaking world to the rich Baltic literary history and contemporary literature through novels, poems and book illustrations. One of the Baltic Authors of the Day will be the Latvian writer Nora Ikstena – one of Latvia’s brightest and most prominent prose writers, known for her special writing style and detailed attention to language as an art form.

londonbookfair.co.uk | latvianliterature.lv

1 FEB – 30 APR
ROTHKO IN JAZZ
Inspired by the art of Mark Rothko (1903-1970), who was born in Latvia’s second largest city, Daugavpils, the audio-visual project, Rothko in Jazz, features musical themes by 10 contemporary Latvian composers arranged by the artists of the Māris Briežkalns Quintet to be performed during their world tour – New York, Brussels, Katowice, London. facebook.com/marisbriezkalnsquintet/

4 - 23 SEPTEMBER
SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON, UK
MATTER TO MATTER. LONDON DESIGN BIENNALE
Variant studio and Artūrs Anāls’ interactive installation – a meditative space, emotionally and visually demonstrating the interaction between nature and man – is playing with the concept of the meaning of design in Latvia, as well as its global impact on the use of resources and climate change. During the biennale, the national day of Latvia will feature Sir David Adjaye, in discussions on design as the catalyst of a healthy society. Focusing on bold innovative design ideas with added benefits to society, biennale is a platform for new projects and the development of design thinking.

lnmm.lv/en/mdad/ | variantstudio.com

5 MAY
JOG LATVIA IN THE WORLD
If you are a Latvian living abroad or a fan of our country, join the project and leave virtual imprints of Latvia in your place of residence! All you have to do is use your favourite sports app to create a route resembling the geographical contour of Latvia, then jog, walk or cycle the distance and share the route on social media afterwards tagging it with #izskrienLatviju. We have prepared some routes for you in various cities around the world.

Latvia.eu

LATVIA100 IN THE USA
The Latvian diaspora in the USA is organising a vast event programme to celebrate Latvia’s 100th anniversary of statehood in 2018 and to promote Latvian culture, traditions and achievements in local societies. The American Latvian Association has created a special digital platform to help you find out more about the centenary celebration programme in the USA.

Latvia100usa.org

Janis Rozentāls. Arcadia. Oil on canvas, ca. 1910 © The Latvian National Museum of Art
### #IAMINTROVERT
The #IAMINTROVERT campaign created for the Latvian literature international promotion is both about a national personality trait, and a description of an immense richness and depth in the world of imagination. Our writers and poets do us a favour by letting their literary works speak for us. But there is nothing to be ashamed of - after all, “introvert” also applies to the act of reading a book. Latvianliterature.lv

### THE LATVIAN SCHOOL BAG
The largest Centenary project is an educational initiative offering funding and an event programme for more than 200,000 of Latvia’s schoolchildren, to help them gain personal cultural experience of Latvia’s natural and cultural treasures through theatre, music, visual arts, dance, architecture, cinema, literature and regional studies events. The initiative integrates scientific and business achievements into the school curricula, providing a holistic educational programme for different age groups. To be launched in September 2018, this is our gift to the children of Latvia. LVI100.lv | Latvia.eu

### A NATIONAL COSTUME FOR EVERYONE
From the embroidered white woollen costumes typical to the eastern regions of Latvia, to the bright and colourful aesthetics of the Suiti traditional attire in the western part of the country, the traditional dress has always been a carrier of information about its wearer’s social, family and material status. In a series of DIY seminars, publications and video tutorials the story of the Latvian folk costume is told in great detail to raise general awareness and to give a new lease of life to the traditional crafts, inspiring modern-day Latvians to make or acquire one’s own folk dress by the time Latvia turns 100 years old in November 2018. LVI100.lv | Latvia.eu

### LATVIAN FILMS FOR LATVIA’S CENTENARY
Being a nation of cinema-goers, it is natural for us to celebrate the centenary with a cinema programme. Latvian Films for Latvia’s Centenary. In 2017 and 2018, six feature films, two animated films and eight documentaries cover various periods of our history – from a mockumentary about the ancient Baltic tribes to the end of the 1980s and restoration of independence through the eyes of three young girls. The films are directed both by recognised Latvian cinema classics and by directors of the younger generation. See you at the film premieres! Nkc.gov.lv/en/

### VISIT CASTLES, PALACES AND MANORS OF LATVIA
2018 is not just the year when Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia celebrate their centenaries of statehood – it is the Year of European cultural heritage. The tourism campaign, Visit Castles, Palaces and Manors, is an invitation to explore 69 castles and manors of Latvia as excellent examples of architecture and landscape, hubs of culture and art which stored and guarded valuable art collections, brought together creative personalities from all around Europe and along with the sophisticated life of lords, shaped the social life in local communities. Pilis.lv/en

### DŽOŠANĀS – MAPPING OF THE GREAT TREES
For a country where half of its territory is forest, it is a matter of pride to keep count of its grandest and oldest trees – often remarkable elements of the landscape, are testament to the majesty and splendour of the natural world. Apart from the 8,000 identified Great trees, there are many more yet to be discovered, so we invite you to go out into the wilderness, equipped with a measuring tape, to look for majestic trees and add information about them to the digital platform, dizosas. lv100.lv. After double-checking by specialists, the tree which fits the criteria will be included in the official Great Trees register. Dizosas.lv100.lv

### A SPECIAL BOOK ON A SPECIAL BOOKSHELF
Created in 2014, the People’s Bookshelf in the atrium of the National Library of Latvia rises five storeys high and holds over 5000 books. By donating a book of personal importance, with a hand-written dedication or a personal story on the title page, we are creating the tale of Latvia through personal life experiences that otherwise would be lost. During the Centenary year of 2018, all official guests to Latvia – royals, presidents, speakers of parliaments, prime ministers, and other officials – will have an opportunity to donate a book of their choice to the People’s Bookshelf. The initial goal is to collect 15,000 books by the time the National Library of Latvia celebrates 100th anniversary on 29 August, 2019. Tautasgramatuplaukts.lv/en
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LATVIA
We like to call the new National Library building our Castle of Light. Unveiled in 2014 and designed by the Latvian architect, Gunnar Birkerts (1925-2017), it holds our nation’s collected wisdom – it is home to the unique Cabinet of Folksongs, over 2 million books and is at the centre of the nation-wide network of knowledge uniting 800 libraries loaded with books, periodicals, public computer workstations and free Wi-Fi. Throughout 2018, various Centenary events are taking place there, and a folksong pressed onto a silver bookmark in a hi-tech glass case, will be Latvia’s gift to our official guests – a symbolic way to share our centuries-old know-how with the rest of the world.

Lnb.lv

THE NATIONAL THEATRE
Opened to the public in 1902 as the Second Rīga City Theatre, the Latvian National Theatre is a place where the independent state of Latvia was born on 18 November, 1918. The act of proclamation was accompanied by singing of the national anthem, Dievs, Svētī Latviju! (God Bless Latvia!). One hundred years later, on 18 November 2018, the theatre will open its doors to the public for night tours around the legendary venue.

Teatris.lv

THE FREEDOM MONUMENT
Unveiled in 1935, the Freedom Monument by Kārlis Zāle is possibly the largest crowd-funding project in the history of Latvia. Comprised of 56 large-scale sculptures depicting scenes from Latvian culture, folklore and history, it is a powerful symbol of our quest for freedom. The monument is inscribed with the words “For the Fatherland and Freedom”, and is a revered site for celebrations and official occasions.

Latvia.eu

REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTRES
The Great Amber concert hall in Liepāja, Dzintari Concert Hall in the seaside town of Jūrmala, GORS multifunctional concert hall in Rēzekne, Cēsis Concert Hall and Daugavpils Mark Rothko Art Centre in a bastion-style fortress are places to visit during the Centenary year. With a diverse and rich cultural programme, these architectural masterpieces, both modern and historic, offer concerts in the Ring of Latvia concert programme, special exhibitions and events for art, theatre and music lovers.

Lielaisdzintars.lv/en | dzintarukoncertzale.lv | latgalesgors.lv/en | cesukoncertzale.lv/en | rothkocenter.com

THE GARDEN OF DESTINY
Planting trees and taking large stones from all over the country to a garden on the riverbank of the Daugava is our way of getting over past traumas of deportations and mass killings of the 20th century. Visualised by the Japanese landscape architect, Shunmyo Masuno, the garden on the Koknese peninsula is taking shape as a symbol of the nation’s continuous growth and development. Funded through public donations, it is the people’s gift to Latvia’s centenary.

Liktendarzs.lv

THE LATVIAN MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
The future Latvian Museum of Contemporary Art (LMoCA), in a stellar modern building designed by Sir David Adjaye, will be opened in 2021. Located in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, the historic centre of Rīga, in the location of the former Rīga railway goods station, it will house a unique collection of works celebrating arts and visual culture in the Baltic Sea region from the 1960s onwards. State-owned works will be deposited in the Museum of Contemporary Art’s collection for assembling museum exhibitions and to make them accessible to the public in the long term.

Lmocaf.org/en
Come and experience the cultural adventure of Latvia’s centenary!

The Latvian Institute

The Latvian Institute deals with promoting awareness and providing a wide range of information about Latvia. It works closely with local and foreign dignitaries, diplomats, academics, students and international media in developing an understanding of Latvia, its branding and its people.

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Not for sale

For further information please contact the Latvian Embassy or Consulate in your country, or the Latvian Institute: Latvijas Institūts Pils iela 21, Rīga LV 1050, Latvia.
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