

U won't understand even 1 word they say... or even why... Live it up??

Riga

City SpY

tips, entertainments, services & sleeps

www.cityspy.info

City SpY maps of Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin, Budapest, Krakow, Praha, Riga, Vilnius, Wien

● THIS is the idea... 4 coloured frames = four categories of recommended places.

A sample ...

<p>Icons</p> <p>16 logo number on the map</p> <p>logo</p> <p>Address and opening time</p> <p>Here we tell U about the place</p> <p>50 - and this is map grid reference</p> <p>Transport information</p>	<p>The name</p> <p>Address and opening time</p> <p>Here we tell U about the place</p> <p>50 - and this is map grid reference</p> <p>Transport information</p>	<p>ACCOMMODATION</p> <p>breakfast</p> <p>wheelchair friendly</p> <p>bar</p> <p>quiet</p> <p>board games</p> <p>self-cats. kitchen</p> <p>tv-sports</p>	<p>bathroom</p> <p>with bath</p> <p>hectic</p> <p>board games</p> <p>self-cats. kitchen</p> <p>tv-sports</p>
<p>FOOD & DRINK</p> <p>cocktails</p> <p>live music</p> <p>arty-fairt exhibitions</p> <p>cover charge</p> <p>sable football</p>	<p>CAFF & DINNING</p> <p>take away</p> <p>international cuisine</p> <p>local cuisine</p> <p>info point</p>	<p>OTHERS</p> <p>walking tours</p> <p>shopping</p> <p>book store</p> <p>cinema</p> <p>theatre</p>	

Riga Intro

It was a hard slog & a lotta' fun to produce our map here... Two locals & three aliens worked on it & it's peoples for a couple of months... We have a lot more to say & do regarding this city, than we have managed here in 2008-09... We did our best & our best wasn't good enough. I will tell you now that the city of Riga is a city in shock. A small decent town with a troubled past history & a potential future identity crisis. Until recently this city was a real 'find' on the travelers itinerary, since the advent of the cheap airlines any asshole can make it here... & they do!! Now I know you are a different kind of fish ...

Argonaut Argonaut hostel

Kaleju iela 50
tel: +37-1-2614 7214
www.argonauthostel.com
guest@argonaut.lv

This is the birthplace of Australian style comfort economy accommodation in Riga. Full & fun. An open place with a thoughtful distribution of rooms on two levels... New facilities... an inventive, attentive staff, one could say they are almost God (ess) like, unique free extras, the espresso maker & Beach Hostel escape option. U need to book ahead to get ur head on a bed... in Winter you name your price if you're nice

Old Town Center

Insanetours +37-1-26 14 72 14
www.insanetours.com

Very nice fellow running these outings, not only a good professional job, but a good laugh & an expert's on all things Latvian, & ladies he also has a Nam'ri rug piece! These guys are the real McCoy. They are the only NGO in Latvia with their own competition bobsleds pilot; licensed for high altitude free fall, underwater assault diver, vast weapons & explosives experienced, fast driver trained, counter terrorist close quarter battle hostage rescue, sniper etc... That translates for you to AK47 bunker shoots, Paintball, Shotgun & Vodka, Soviet Prison Reality Tour, Bungee Jumping, Canoeing, Bobsleigh at Sigulda, Pub Tours, BBQ's, & Country wide trips... Ask at Argonaut Hostel for the latest... go ask at Argonaut Hostel!

Don't get me wrong

... this is a wonderful city full of great times, friendly people, rich in culture, art & nature... but... Since occupation ended in 1991, Latvia & it's capitol city Riga has been catching up at phenomenal speeds. Unfortunately, many things have been overlooked, including controlling a lurking & unwelcome abundance of organized crime. The diaper rash left over from the soviet times is those persons who aspire for the "quick buck" ... is never an honest one & fuck these guys are greedy!! Strip clubs, casinos, & sleazy operations have begun to make a reputation... that attracts the worst of what the west can offer. This city has become a Mecca for the hordes of obnoxious, Ignorant & Ill-tempered Stag party groups from ... you name it ... To the dismay of the local population, Blind eyes of the powers-that-be have allowed the slimy fucks from the gutters of society to make a three ring circus out of a city that has the potential to be the Cirque de Soleil... Friday & Saturday nights have now become a parade of men in identical shirts, who digress from in-tolerable to absolute pollution They shit on this city & half the time end up paying for it in cruel & unexpected ways ... STAY AWAY FROM THE STRIP JOINTS! ... its one thing to have a girl working the pole to pay off her college tuition, but to another to have a girl getting down & dirty so the rich can become richer & she can become poorer ... Better to be a sexy tourist!! ...

Horsehead Tours Baltic back-country adventures

www.horseheadtours.com

Get out the Old Town & into the virgin goodness... the Baltic back-country! for Vodka swilling, beaver munching daytrips... road trip of a lifetime, small groups, like minded travelers... inter-baltic overnighters (Estonia/Lithuania) flexible itineraries to the backwaters & beyond. Seaside camping, multi-day canoeing, North Sea island hopping, sultry saunas or Pagan Praying... something for everyone & anyone!! Stop in at the Argonaut Hostel to see what's up?

go ask at Argonaut Hostel

Barons B & B - hostel

Kr. Barona iela 25
tel: +37-1-2910 59 39
www.baronshostel.com
guest@baronshostel.com

A little bit of extra... Looking down on to a glamorous street this large apartment re-invented to replace your own room desires & even or odd needs. Open spaces & old fire places. Lovely service & as I said, that little bit more than u might expect. Free I-net, a good place to have a quiet rest, do ur laundry, plenty of freedom... The Hostel for Mature Traveler... NB: the door bell is actually a phone. So be prepared to listen to instructions on what safe to open to get your 'smart' key... in-case the Receptionist is not there to hold your hand as you arrive... tram 3,6,8,11 - "Dzirmavu iela"

The city of Riga

... was founded in 1201 after Germans decided to "Christianize the Baltic Heathens" by way of invasion. Bishop Albert opted to build a castle on the area to better access his converts (& the strategic port location) ... the rest "is history" ... Considered throughout the last 8 centuries to be the financial & trade hub of the Baltics, it was said 'if you could control Riga, the Baltics would be yours'. In the end it's left Latvia with some incredible architecture, a multinational sensibility, & a profound love of their own language & culture. Latvians tend to feel a strong connection to the earth & though most of the population is Lutheran they wholeheartedly (& most unabashedly) embrace their pagan traditions. Latvians have a particular respect for great trees, especially for old oaks of considerable girth (heh, eh, 4 meters for oak, are specially registered & protected. The forefathers (& mothers...) worshipped various nature deities & performed their rituals under such great trees. Birch trees occupy the second chair in Latvians' esteem. The tapping of Birch trees & drinking its semi sweet sap in the spring, or fermenting it to drink later in the summer is a well respected tradition. Not quite as sweet or thick as the sap from a Maple tree but it's quite tasty, & according to local legend it contains mystical healing properties. They say if you can find a hearty birch tree, a hammer, and something hard & pointy, make your hole nice deep, wait till it's nice & wet & dripping & start suckin'!!!! You'll be "driving the little horse through the apple grove" in no time...!

Next time before you book ... hostel

GOMIO.COM beds... go here to take a look

Salamandra club-pub

Salamandras iela 1
www.salamandra.lv

Live bands, bargin' parties & friendly locals. It may be on the "wrong side of the tracks" but it's on the level when it comes to hosting some of the best touring bands & dance parties. Different levels & spaces, what ever your mood... C web or www.eventguide.lv for listings. The locals go cuz the locals know... where others try ... tram 6 - all the way

Latvian cuisine

... is quite hearty & chock full of comfort foods a lot of which have Slavic or Germanic origins. Loads of rustic meat dishes, potato dishes, broth soups made with root vegetables & various bean & pea concoctions. Latvians are also quite fond of sour dairy products. On a hot summer day, forget the water & try chugging a bottle of ice-cold kefir milk. You'll never look back ...

Given Riga's Past with the Big Brother back in Red Square

It is no surprise that just beyond the famed central market you can find the rather extensive & gritty "Little Moscow" known by the LO-Cals as Moskackha (G-H-16). Please consider yourself warned.... You want a bite of reality hop a tram (3,7 or 9) or hoof it ... If however you want to get bit by this reality, do it after dark (not the kind of place to prove your machismo) ... Notorious for being a "rough hood" Moskackha can offer you a glimpse into the best & worst... As charming & beautiful as the Old City is the sad fact is that life in Riga is not all about Art Nouveau & Stiletos... Rather the grim truth is that this is still a city with a huge social rift that stems from a long history of unfortunate circumstances & a multi-cultural struggle to maintain ones identity, half the cities population still think they are still in Russia... Moskackha is a first hand glimpse into the history books, & Rivals the ethnographic Museum for cultural abundance & interactive education. The crown jewel of this area is "Stalin's Birthday cake" (Science Academy), the huge gothic looking building looks like a suitable home for King Kong. The surrounding working class neighbourhood mostly populated by starving students, Desperate Pensioners & Petty Criminals ... all adds up to an insightful culture shock just 2 minutes from the Pimped up Old City. The rotting wooden houses, beautifully dilapidated pre-WWII buildings & Menopausal Soviet Bloc's may be just what your Parents were thinking about when you said you was heading to the East !!!

Doma Hostel Skatu iela 16
+37-1-67 21 31 01
info@domahostel.com
www.domahostel.com

... you couldn't find a bed much closer to the heart of old town unless you crashed under a pew in St. Peters... They got what you need in terms of facilities - dorms, singles double & quads - are open 24 hours & if you're nice the receptionist may even help you up or down the stairs... no better launching pad in town so grab your dome & head Doma. Prices from 8 Euros pp... Old Town Center

If you happen to stroll through one of the many parks

... in Riga & then happen to stumble over (!) one of the quaint little bridges stretching over the winding creeks & streams, you might notice something a little out of the ordinary: Lots'a locks. Bike locks, Padlocks, Masterlocks, Barn locks, chastity belt Golden handmade medieval locks... & if you look even closer you will notice that almost every lock is engraved with two names & a date... Yeah it took me a second to Wedding locks. It is a Latvian tradition for the couple to fasten a lock to a bridge on their wedding day. While the lock is a requisite item in this ritual, the bridge can be substituted for any large stationary object (ie: tree, bush, house, cow, etc...) So keep your eye out for a groom running the Riga Bridal Bridge Gauntlet... As he too is bound to be locked ... & He's handing over the keys !!! ...

The Andrejsala

... 'Andre-sala' (C1) www.andrejsala.lv This place is just begging to be left alone, so all the better for you to go sneak a peak while its still on Secret Squirrel status... Just a few steps by tram or a nice walk up the river side... Formerly used as a Loading Dock for Cargo ships, in recent years become a Safe Haven for the fresh & Funky to express their artistic achievements or attempts... The industrial charm of this area are the first things that hit you... venture inside you may be surprised at what you find... Cafes, indie art galleries, mid-afternoon dance parties, & late night ... this place has got it ... U wont feel forced to do anything, this is an open space for people to be & be themselves... It's all the alternative that Old town is missing. The bar-cinema-come venue 'dirty deal cafe' www.dirtydeal.lv opens most evenings so... There is also a hostel here the 'Singalong' cool place www.singalong.lv artist residence programmes & kinda' velling that is the entire Art village that is Andrejsala ...

Goija Tea-rooms Strēlnieku 1a
Daily: 11.00-02.00
www.tea-room.lv

A place where people meet around... tea-time... 3 different spaces... for your moods... magnificent fountain court yard, big sofas, the Zen room... they say it's Edith Piaf's car there... Silent murmuring of the water with Ice Mate or Japanese Matcha reminds of the French philosophic living room? Or maybe artists chess party by aged-puer from chin tea cups?... nicely mixed with modern chiyu tea... Amsterdam smart menu... real Moroccan sweet mint whiskey, an exotic tea shake... iwy wild berries drink... At the same time the best Chinese oolong's & Argentinian yerba mate are served... like a journey by feet it keeps the romance of the old days ... Art Nouveau District

Sunny Terrace jazz bar
Brīvības iela 198c
Mon-Thurs + Sun: 12.00-24.00
Fri-Sat: 12.00-02.00
www.sunnyterrace.lv

This recently opened jazz lounge fills a huge void in Riga's live music scene. It is perched way up atop the Europa City hotel & hosts the cream of the cream, local & international jazz acts... they ain't talking jive about no Terrace neither - their boast one of the largest in town... Plenty of delicious meals & fruity cocktails 2 sip whilst you sway - i may need to spend a penny, but music fans wont mind !!!... to find this jiving jazz joint... jump ... higher baby ... trams 3 & 6 up Barona, dismount by the bridge at VEF stop

Jaņa Sēta map-guide book shop
Elizabetes iela 83/85
www.mapshop.lv
Opening hours: Mon-Fri: 10.00-19.00 Sat: 11.00

Check this place out, this is the travelers Mecca for the Baltic states. Not only do they sell every kind of map, travel book & tourist guide under the sun, the company produces their own maps on site. Here Cartography is not a lost art but a found science. Amazing selection of vintage & original maps of the former Soviet Union. Topographical propaganda makes for a great & unique anniversary present ... tram 3,6,8,11 - "Dzirmavu iela"

The Population is 2.4 million

... 60% Latvian, 30% ethnic-Russian Latvians & 10% unknown ... One of the first things you will notice about Riga is that it is a tri-lingual city, you will hear just as much Latvian as you will Russian & ... wait for it... of English... like... u know ...

RhönEtatikk Dikšona/r. CCC. GEE

... some useful phrases...

1 = Vie-vance 2 = Dee-Vee 3 = Trees
A = Cal.ree 5 = Peat.ze

Boy = puke-Ahhh (puika)
Girl = M18 (meitene)
Beer = ah-loose
Hello = Sway-kee
Who? = Kas- Kursh/Kura
Dark/Light = Thum-shh/Guy'ish
Great Oaks from little acorns grow = Lee-aly waz, ul,alich aoug nouah mazzam zee.Lem
I have a black belt in Karate = Man or melon, a' use to carrot tea
I like you. Buy me a drink = To man, pat teets => Vooh! Shouts man
My name is Sue, how do u do? = Money saw-woods, caught Ev yet?
Please may I fondle your buttocks? =
Why es loo,d.zoo var-at-'u pag-loud-it Usu pak-ah-lynn-You
I don't know where I live = Es nye-zinu kur es zee-voy-uh...
U play tonsil hockey? = Vy tu gree-bea, Noah-suck-this?
I feel like a cobblestone = Es uz-has kah brud-jak-mens
You have beautiful eyes = Theo ear sky's-top art's is
It's red & tasty = Das ear sar'cuts un Gar-Sheaks
I am a woodworm = E's ass'mo Koo-a-Koo T'arps
It's a narrow road = T'as ear shewers sell shhhh!
Are those fake? = Why tas ear-will-toy-youms?
Where is the beach? = Kur ear plud-male-?
What's your name? = Kah tev E'sou-Tits
Smells like fish = Smer'D pet's zee-vim
Is this a Forrest? = Why tas ear mesh
How much? = T'sick tass mak'sah?
An ashtray = Ah'bul-doo Pliir,aks
Apple pie = Ah'bulo Do Pliir,aks
Light my fire = Yal! Dead zany man
In a pig's ear = Y'Sue' Kas auh-sea
Snow is white = Sneck's ear balts
I love you = S' the 'Vee Mea'loo
Thank you = Pal-dies
Please = Loo,d.zoo
Latvia = LaT've
Yes/no = Yal/neh
Cool = For she
Bread = May-ze
OK = LaBi

2008 © Gordon J Stone
City SpY Mapping Ltd.

www.cityspy.info

With her faint Latvian accent

... she rolled over & said "Things around here are the same continues blur as they always have been, my liver has filed for divorce & my toilet is suing me for domestic abuse..."

Eat Riga city tour

Daily at Noon (rain or shine) Meet in front of St. Peters www.eatriga.lv

... we wager you've already wandered through the cobble beats of old town's streets... & the odds are that like many a weary wanderer before you - this is all you will be doing while in Riga residing...

Old Town Center

the domineering pick-pocket babushkas (scary ladies in head scarves), they're not afraid to wrestle you for the last pickle. Ever seen people selling plastic bags & used underwear? ... be sure not to miss out on Kosk Heaven just opposite the Zeppelin-esque meat lockers...

There is a particular respect for storks

... &, more recently, also for swans. The nesting of a stork by your house is considered a particular blessing. The old name for the stork - svetlis, (indicating holiness) - suggests that this bird may have been regarded as sacred.

Orange Bar club-café

Jāņa Sēta 5 Sun-Thurs: Noon-02.00 Fri-Sat: till 06.00 www.orangebar.lv

This is a bar & it is orange. You will come here & eat, drink, dance, prance & make forgettable memories to last a lunch time... & then you will come back the next day under some hypnotic magnetic trance & do it all over again.

Old Town Center

About the old Art Nouveau

... www.artnouveau.lv - the main areas are (FG-2) from the Brīvības northwest till our map ends. Keep up the Elizabetes iela & you will run into it & it is incredible... Prague has nothing like this in terms of workmanship & sheer quantity of buildings available in such a small space of city while you are in there.

Posh Backpacker Hostel

Pūpolu Iela 5 tel.: +37-1-721 09 17 fax: +37-1-721 09 17 www.poshbackpackers.lv

Right in the belly of the market... another truly eastern experience! Most unusual place in terms of atmosphere & service. Very much recommended as a starting platform for those of us intending to go further into the big East.

in the Central Market

Being smack dab in the middle of the Vodka Belt

... the potato juice flows freely in this city. Although there are only a few local brands, a lot of great Russian Vodkas can be purchased for Very Good prices mai firrend. Latvian beer is also quite good, cheap & incredibly strong.

Riga Old Town hostel, pub

Valņu iela 43 tel.: +37-1-722 3406 www.rigaoldtownhostel.lv

Hot Sauna - Cool Bar + Ultra Modern Design - Extend stay... so I back & turn... The travellers bar, quaint & frequented, the hostel lies hidden behind the 'oh' so clever book case...

left beside Main train station

Central Market (Central Tirgums)

... Behind the bus & Train Stations, is probably one of the most fascinating outdoor markets in Eastern Europe. From swine & cheese to smoked, cured, dried, raw & rotten, they got it all!

Cool Cat Souvenir souvenir shop

Jana iela 12 www.coolcats.lv Daily 10.00-20.00

So, you're a hip "alternative" traveler who wouldn't be caught dead in a souvenir shop buying some linen for your mum... right? Well, your in luck daddy-o coz them got u covered...

Old Town Center

XXX Lab- tattoo and body piercing

Kaļķu iela 6 tel: 722 10 67 655 99 07 Mon-Fri: Noon - 21:00 Sat till 17.00, Sunday Closed www.tattoos.lv

A righteous place to chill to a Ska tune while you get punctured, poked, and punished by paint. If piercing is your pleasure, they have lovely things to fill up your holes, and some lovely help to make you holy. Tattoo "flash" designs on hand, and custom work on demand.

middle Old Town

Looking up

... If you can manage to look up without breaking an ankle on the 'artistically' laid cobblestones, looking up is what this city is all about (after looking both ways before you cross!).

Black Balsams (Karstais Balsams) hot please!!!

... the stuff legends & hangovers are made of... They say Balsams cured Catherine the Great & has been the drink of Riga ever since! It's made from grass picked on 46 different days of the year, over 200 hundred herbs, seeds & oils extracted from who knows where...

Trams, Trains & Trolleys

... The most affordable & insight-full ways to see this little city on the swamp is to hop on one of the pre-historic public transport vehicles & soak in the scenes... This is not to say that there aren't a few shiny new bus' rolling side by side with the Beemers & Bentleys, but why bother, you can rock that steez back home... for only .30 Santims you can have the P.T. (public transport) experience of a lifetime.

Trolley Bus

... as the filthy blue & white milk box on wheels approach's, one may notice it is connected to electric cables, but also has an engine that often runs at the same time... Experts have "agreed to disagree" on this one...

Trains

... same price, different system... When the Steam engine comes a rollin', look both ways...dodge traffic & hop on the front car of this bad-boy... push your way up to the chuffer & lay your money on the small platter...

Trains

... although it is advised to arrive 2 hours before your departure for domestic train rides in Latvia, it is more fun to cut it close... Upon arrival at the station, realize that you are on your own sunshine & there is no-one to help... I know, you see the sign that says information, but they have more important things to do like not answering the phone or reading Russian tabloids...

Depo live music-rock club

Valņu iela 32 Thurs-Sat: 20.00 - 5.00 closed Sun-Wed www.klubsdepo.lv

Fear not ye denizens of underground-indie-reggae-ska-electro-metal-ROCK! - you have found your lair. This place got the bulk of 'in-four-face' live concerts, local & international rockers, after parties, semi-techno rockish DJ's kinda' even... if you want it live & live it up tonight, looking to break it down... hitch your steed the Depo don't let u down...

Old Town Center

Many of you will be 'doing' the Baltic's

... & you catch the bus to Tallinn (get off at the first stop, it leave you right at the gate to the Old town) or get off all the way out at the bus station!... You will go to see Vilnius where you will have to experience the bus station & meet with hungry looking Russian types at all hours of the day & better not... At night! We spent a little time in these two cities & have a few tips for you regarding them. Go to our web site & click there www.cityspynio.com... Another web site u will need is www.eurolines.lv

Although very much a part

... of the EU for some time now Latvia is not in the Euro zone, so you will be dealing in 'Lats' that is made up of 100 Santims & seems to be holding value with the Yen. So 1 Lat is worth about 1.45 Euro. Also you are an hour ahead of Central European time here... so hurry up! & all u Europeans... there is no smoking indoors... ANYWHERE!!! in this city so u side to smoke... Join the party out side!!

The locals love a party

... and it should be no surprise that the biggest bash of the year occurs on the most pagan of all holidays, the vernal equinox (usually somewhere around the 23rd-25th of June)... Once the booze really starts flowing Latvians tend to start hurling themselves over their bonfires... Every Tuesday at 6pm... there is free entry to St. Peters Church in Old Riga to attend various classical music recitals... This is your big chance to be a culture vulture & free loader all at the same time...

La Belle Epoque pub

Mazā Jaunvārds 9 Mon-Sat: 17.00-05.00

Good clean drunken fun on Old Riga... These gentlemen (& a few fair ladies) will rock your socks in a variety of languages... Don't let anyone they got the cheapest beer around... It's also known as "the place" to drink a local favorite: shooters made from vodka, apple juice & cinnamon... the locals call it "Prags" or apple-juice... Popular with students from the universities around, if it's got an underground feel it's because it's the real deal... always full of people from everywhere, drunk & happy to the wags hours... They have the "where did they find that music thing going on too... Every time I go I hear something good... show the night on Mon, Tues, & Wednesday nights for a free apple pie shot!!

heart of the Old Town

Index café sandwich bakery

Brīvības bulvāris 32 Mon-Fri: 07.00 - 22.00 Sat from 09.00 & Sunday till 19.00 www.indexcafe.lv

They got it right; the perfect mix of coffee shop & baked bar in the absolute perfect location. Even before trying any of the fresh made breads, cakes, salads or take-away coffee-etc you will appreciate the open concept & hip layout... best of all the bread is fresh... you can too watch it being worked up through the overlocking window walk-Spy the Rye! Sit & stay or grab & go away... whatever you want. Prices drop at 6pm to please out the old & make room for the new... Simple, quick, tasty, cheap - Index indeed, just what u needed! ... close to Freedom monument

DEPO live music-rock club

Valņu iela 32 Thurs-Sat: 20.00 - 5.00 closed Sun-Wed www.klubsdepo.lv

Fear not ye denizens of underground-indie-reggae-ska-electro-metal-ROCK! - you have found your lair. This place got the bulk of 'in-four-face' live concerts, local & international rockers, after parties, semi-techno rockish DJ's kinda' even... if you want it live & live it up tonight, looking to break it down... hitch your steed the Depo don't let u down...

Old Town Center

The Alternate Route

... South of Riga... to expand your experiences & visit a little more of the Beautiful Baltics... Why go straight to Vilnius when you can go via Liepāja, Klaipēda & Kaunas... Liepāja... Latvia... For those of you wanting to see a slice of the Baltic's that is fresh out the oven & waiting to burn your tongue. Make south-west to the industrial porturbed-Baltic beach Mecca of Liepāja. This city will take you back in time & serve you up a cocktail well worth the journey. The small city turns into a premier destination for Baltic Guys & Gals & has a nightlife & character that beats its big sister of Riga. Take a cruise through a fully operational metal factory that hasn't passed a safety screening since the industrial revolution, or get locked up & treated like a naughty Commie in a Former Soviet Military Prison. Not into industry? Kick back at Fontaine Palace, a Dutch Owners version of "Roadhouse", cheeseburgers, Reggie parties & pagan butt rock to boot... "the city where the wind is born" & blown' up skirts all over the Baltic's with a 10 kilometer beach you will see plenty local talent at a Kite Boarding galore... a rare chance to see & feel how day to day life is in this part of the world for the mass's. The Argonaut Hostels of Riga have their country hostel in this resort, www.liepajahostel.lv Within meters of the beach it's a wicked, old brick house. Entertainment every night all year... better than any piss-up in Riga? ... Klaipēda... Lithuania... Small & Basic Traveller's Guesthouse next to the bus station, guestplace@yahoo.com. For a little higher standard try www.litintp.com & here you have the Coronian Spirt, 200km of Cycle tracks & 4 dance clubs, www.klaipedainfo.lt In summer u can catch a boat to & from Klaipēda - Riga or use bus routes to Riga & Klaipēda, then on to Vilnius running daily... I mention these towns are half the price on everything compared to Old Riga town... Lithuania... The most Direct Route to Warsaw & what's the hurry? On-route visit this bombed out Broken Down town with buildings to marvel at. A Parisian style & fashion shopping till u dropping mall one kilometer long. Tasty but non-brewing Monastery to stay in located in an impressive Old Town of Kaunas sveuciniai@kn.icn.lt... More info for your reception for all these options...

A.L.L. Cappuccino 3 café bars

1. Antonijas i. 11 2. Audēju i. 16 (near Gaiķis Cafe) 3. K. Barona i. 30 Open: 08.00 - 23.00 Sunday: from 10.00

Competition for your cup of Coffee in Riga is fierce - This place makes the others look like a steaming pile of... grounds. This is the coffee-bar that cares. Great coffees & caps, cool ambience, Italian design, full menu, toys for kids, Food for dogs (seriously), DJ's & live music. Wireless!... Three locations make it hard to not find a reason to drop in. The Barona street café even has a cigarette fire for us nicotine freaks. Pretty sure a certain Italian American Actor would give his blessing to these jacked up java joints...

1. Art Nouveau District 2. in the Old Town 3. tram 3,6,8,11 - "Dzīznavu"

If you are a TV addict

... like me, well you have arrived in heaven... almost every bar restaurant public place has a bloody Television on every wall each showing something different... Become a global local... mydaytrip.com Interactive travel information...

Stag daze

... This issue has even exploded in the European Parliament as a Latvian MP lashed out at an MP from Liverpool & blamed his constituents for destroying his city & giving it a bad name calling them 'savages' (apologies to all you savages reading this). The Englishman denied the allegation (as usual) & demanded that the Latvian MEP visit Liverpool to meet its lovely, friendly people... He did so & found that they were actually 'Skousers'! Both men then sang Let it be, went out for the few scoops, got locked & laid by some Latvian ladies living in Liverpool. So regardless of whether or not you are a tank, general, landmine or civilian on the battlefield of sex tourism, the city is caught up in a serious identicrisis and even if you want to visit some luscious & lascivious Latvian ladies... use your head (both of them)...

Paddy Whelans Irish pub sports bar-restaurant

Grācinieku iela 4 Sun-Thurs: 11.00-01.00 Fri-Sat: till 03.00

The one & only Irish Pub in town... that ain't no malakey! This is your one stop watering hole, feeding trough & playpen? Your thirsts be quenched, impressive list of imported beers & biders (local brew is also on hand), & besides the international & or local grub, Paddy's 'Tikka House' serves up the best Indian food in the City!!! Like most 'modern' Irish pubs... all the international games involving guys & girls projected on flat screens & a giant wall-o-tron. Also summer terraces & smoking premises (hard to come by aye)

Old Town Center

Par-Daugava is the Other Side of the River

... Riga is what it is because of the River than runs through it... If it were not for the lovely Daugava Latvia would just be another Finland... Did I say that???? Hundreds of years of bloodshed can be blamed on the river & its bounties, & a lot of that probably ended up drowned there... don't be scared to wander over there... 'Lielas Kristaps' Big Kristaps, the statue in the glass by the river at the Castle used to walk the Pagans across it all the time, & they carried on hugging trees & praying to Reindeer!!! These days, you can find a great mix of the past, 100 years of Latvia over there, architecturally speaking of course... Tsarist to Commie, Wooden Houses to Skyscrapers, Rusty abandoned Factories to Blossoming parks & or bowling allies (Lūzvars bulvāris 2/4)..... It's a fantastic place to walk off your hangover, ride a bike... take in one of Latvia's most controversial monuments... THE SOVIET VICTORY MONUMENT is a colossal reminder of the not so distant past... Nicknamed the "rapist monument" by the indigenous population, the powerful soldiers with guns & yet the fleeing female are suggestive of either the Motherland leading her boys into victory, or her boys hunting the spoils of victory... in Communism... This area is also on the fast-track for big changes... so get there B4 Big Brother do... the new one... that is...!

DEPO live music-rock club

Valņu iela 32 Thurs-Sat: 20.00 - 5.00 closed Sun-Wed www.klubsdepo.lv

Fear not ye denizens of underground-indie-reggae-ska-electro-metal-ROCK! - you have found your lair. This place got the bulk of 'in-four-face' live concerts, local & international rockers, after parties, semi-techno rockish DJ's kinda' even... if you want it live & live it up tonight, looking to break it down... hitch your steed the Depo don't let u down...

Old Town Center

City Lounge swanky Hostel

Alfrēda Kalniņa iela 4 +37-1-22 35 83 18 info@citylounge.lv www.citylounge.lv

4 flights of stairs... open the door... the first disco you encounter... a dangling Disco ball... on reception reflecting shimmering light off of plush Italian leather... no this is not a David Lynch film, this is your hostel. Riga's newest traveler haven! & it's dressed up... ready to serve. The rooms are city themed & you have the choice of various dorms & doubles. But no matter how nice your room may be, the hypnotic lounge (with fusball, widescreen tv, dvd's & video games galore) will be your nest until you disappear into the night... trams - 3,6,8,11

City Spy Mapping

Vilnius, Amsterdam, Berlin, Prague, Budapest, Wien, Krakow, Riga, Barcelona

So that's about it from us to you here in Riga. Special thanks here to the great to Thore Case, Jean Stralvins, Karolis Calais, Eva Kallisa & the Riga mystery agencies. Also to you! Hope to see you next time. If so please support the cause & help them spread word & again... High Profile style. Cheers, M. Gurdinsky

www.cityspy.info mapman@cityspy.info