

# CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL VALUES OF JĒKABPILS CITY



## KRUSTPILS CASTLE

Krustpils Castle is one of the oldest castles in Latvia. Krustpils Castle was built in 1237 by the Archbishop of Riga — Nikolaus de Magdeburg as a fortification on the way from Riga to Daugavpils. In the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Krustpils Castle became the property of the King of Poland — Stefan Batory, and the centre of the manor. In 1585, the King of Poland gifted Krustpils Castle to baron Nikolaus von Korff. The Korff family owned Krustpils Castle for more than 300 years. After World War I the castle housed Latgale Artillery Regiment. In Soviet times the castle and manor buildings were handed over to the USSR army. Since 1996 Krustpils Castle has housed Jēkabpils History Museum.

Krustpils Castle is a national and archaeological heritage.



## JĒKABPILS HISTORY MUSEUM'S OPEN-AIR EXHIBITION "SĒĻU SĒTA" (Selonian Courtyard)

The open-air exhibition consists of six 19<sup>th</sup> century rural buildings of Augšzeme region — a residential house, a grain barn, a small barn, a threshing barn, a forge, a windmill and a bathhouse. Tools and household items of an average wealthy Selonian farmer of the 19<sup>th</sup> century are also exhibited.

The museum is located in the centre of Jēkabpils, in the park that was planted in the 1980s by A. Hikstein, Jakobstadt's biggest businessman and brewer.



## STRUVE GEODETIC ARC POINT (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

The point is located in Strūve Park in Jēkabpils. It was measured between 1822 and 1827. The work was supervised by Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve, the first director of the Pulkovo Observatory. On 15 July 2005, the Struve Geodetic Arc was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List as the uniquely longest and most accurate system of geodetic measurements of its time, and an excellent testimony to the development of the history of science.



## THE FORMER WEDNESDAY MARKET SQUARE AND JĒKABPILS 330TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL STONE

The former Wednesday market square. This is the oldest historical centre and the oldest market square in the city, where trading took place on Wednesdays. At the end of 2012, the square was given new life with the sculpture "Horse with a carriage" by sculptor, G. Burvis. A historic well with good wishes for the town engraved and a carousel for the pleasure and joy of children can also be found in the square. Here was where Duke Jacob declared the foundation of the city on 12 February 1670. A memorial Jēkabpils 330<sup>th</sup> anniversary stone is also located here.





### **KENS'S PARK WITH AND OPEN-AIR STAGE**

The park was created in the 18th century. Until World War I, the park and the manor belonged to the famous owner of the liqueur factory, Alfreds Kens. Around the manor, Kens created a park with trees only found in Latvia, following the principles of "3 E", i. e. ecology, economy, effectiveness. Later he created a pond in the park.

Today, the manor houses Jēkabpils Music School. The park has a children's playground and a newly built open-air stage that is used to organise various cultural events. The park is also decorated with a secular tree of national importance — European larch.



### **JĒKABPILS FOREST PARK AND RADŽI GRAND STONE**

The park was planted in 1966 with the aim to protect the town from the dust created in the dolomite quarry. When the 158 hectares of used quarry were flooded in 1987, a new favourite recreation place was created close to the town. Forest Park is located next to Radži water reservoir, offering a Blue Flag beach. Today Forest Park in Jēkabpils is a great place for physical activities and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle. Throughout the year, Forest Park hosts various sports activities, sports days, tourism and orienteering competitions, free workouts for residents, triathlon, skiing competitions in winter; beach volleyball and street basketball courts are available to visitors. There is a children's playground, the 10-metre-long wooden exercise equipment "Lynx trail", barefoot trail, "Forest domino" game, Sun terrace and other activities.

On one of the islands of the reservoir is where the 220-tonne-heavy Radži Grand Stone is located — the largest grand stone in Zemgale and the second largest in Latvia. Its height is 4.6 m (the visible part above the water level is 3.1 m), width — 6 m and circumference — 19.5 m.



### **DAUGAVA EMBANKMENT AND PROMENADE**

Construction of the embankment was commenced in 1981 after the great floods. In the summer of 2011, the embankment was renovated and improved. Special design benches for the sister towns of Jēkabpils are located on the left bank of the Daugava. Informative stands on both banks of the river tell the story of the importance of Daugava in the history of Jēkabpils and Krustpils.



### **OPEN-AIR STAGE ON KRUSTPILS (ĀDAMSONS') ISLET**

It is one of the islands belonging to Jēkabpils, located between two rivers — the Daugava and the Little Daugava. An open-air stage was built there in the 1950s. Today, it is one of the most popular recreation places for visitors, where various cultural and entertainment events take place from early spring to the very end of summer, gathering crowds of thousands of residents and guests of Jēkabpils.





### **ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND MEN'S MONASTERY**

The church was built in the second part of the 19th century in the Byzantine style. Saint Nicholas The Miracle-worker's Church, unique with its small size of only 17x19.5 m, is located in the monastery courtyard. A copy of the icon of Virgin Mary of Jacobstadt was returned to the church in 2008, and now attracts a great number of pilgrims every year in July.



### **KRUSTPILS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

It was built in the 17th century, damaged and then rebuilt several times. The first church near Krustpils Castle was built by a devout Lutheran — Baron N. Korff. The coat of arms of the Korffs can be found above the entrance of the church that still serves as a Lutheran church after several centuries. In 1999, the church received the blue flag of European Cultural Heritage.



### **JĒKABPILS OLD BELIEVERS CHURCH**

It is a beautiful wooden building — a National Cultural Monument and one of the oldest Old Believers' churches in Latvia, built in 1888, renovated and rebuilt in 1978.



### **JĒKABPILS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The church was built in the mid-19th century and restored in 1933. Now it attracts attention with its 14 m high belfry, the sounds of the 272 kg bell, the benches dating from 1907, the sound of the new organ, and the statue of Our Lady of Fatima carried over from Portugal.



### **JĒKABPILS ST MICHAEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Construction was commenced in 1769 and the church was consecrated on 15 December 1807. It features an instrument of national significance — the double-manual organ built by the renowned master M. Krēsliņš in 1885.







### **KRUSTPILS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY**

It is the only church in Jēkabpils that rises so high above a city — it was opened in 2004 in the highest part of the city. It is the first Catholic church on the right bank of the River Daugava. This is due to the fact that during the centuries of reign of the house of Korffs, only Lutheran sacral buildings were built.



### **ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE SANCTUARY OF HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (UNIATE CHURCH)**

This is one of the largest churches in Jēkabpils, built in 1783 during the reign of the Duchy of Courland. The church is a national historical monument. Currently it is under restoration by the Orthodox congregation, financed from donations.



### **KRUSTPILS ST NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH**

A stone church built in the Byzantine style in honour of Saint Nicholas, was consecrated in 1910. After World War I, only the walls of the church remained. It experienced a revival after World War II.



### **MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF WORLD WAR I AND BRETHREN CEMETERY**

The memorial is located on the lawn next to Jēkabpils State Gymnasium. It is dedicated to more than 300 soldiers of the 3rd Caucasian rifle regiment of the Russian Army who died fighting the German Army. 139 soldiers and two officers are buried in the brethren cemetery.



### **JĒKABPILS BAPTIST CHURCH**

The Baptist congregation was formed after the great city fire in 1880, when people from remote settlements were called to restore the city. The current church was built in 1930, but the cross, taken off during Soviet times, was returned to its place in 1991.



### **MONUMENT DEDICATED TO THE VICTIMS OF REPRESSIONS**

It is a memorial dedicated to the victims of Soviet repressions. It was opened on 25 March 1989.





### **KRUSTPILS PARK AND WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL**

Krustpils Park was created in the beginning of the 20th century between the city buildings and Adamson's land plot. The World War II memorial was opened in 1976, designed by sculptor Ļ. Bukovskis and architect G. Asaris. It is dedicated to the memory of nine heroes of the Soviet Union who fell during the liberation of Jēkabpils from the German forces. The cannon is placed at the burial site of the Russian army and officers of the Latvian Rifle Corps who fell in World War II.



### **MEMORIAL STONE TO THE DEPORTEES OF 1941**

There were 15 oaks and 13 lindens planted in 1942 on the site where the stone is placed now in remembrance of 15 men and 13 women deported from Krustpils to Siberia. The Soviet government destroyed the trees after World War II and now only one oak remains; the one that is dedicated to the memory of lieutenant N. Upmalis.



### **MONUMENT "FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN FOR THE MOTHERLAND"**

The monument is dedicated to the memory of soldiers of Krustpils who fell in the Freedom Battles; it was designed by A. Birznieks and built with donated money. It was opened in 1925, destroyed during Soviet times, and restored in 1992.



### **OLD TOWN SQUARE**

The current Old Town Square was formed in Jēkabpils in the early 20th century in the very city centre. The symbol of the city — the lynx, greets the visitors in the Old Town Square with the city clock, purse, well and scales reminding them of the marketplace that was once here. Also, the people seen in the display of olden-day photographs tell the story of the city.



### **HISTORIC NATIONAL BANK BUILDING**

It was built in 1931 in the Classical style. The centre of the façade is decorated with four column-shaped projections topped with capitals. The building retains the original interior of the bank. Currently, the building houses the Regional Business and Tourism Development Society "Jēkabpils residence", the support unit of LIAA Ogre Business Incubator in Jēkabpils, as well as the Children and Youth Service Department of Jēkabpils City Library.







### **JĒKABPILS CITY COUNCIL (THE FORMER JĒKABPILS DISTRICT COURTHOUSE)**

The building was built at the end of the 19th century as Jēkabpils district courthouse in the Classical style. Now it houses Jēkabpils City Council.



### **THE HOUSE WHERE THE ORGANIST PĒTERIS SĪPOLNIEKS LIVED**

Pēteris Sīpolnieks was a music teacher and one of the most famous organists in Latvia. His family home was built in 1820.



### **JĒKABPILS AGRIBUSINESS COLLEGE (FORMER PARISH SCHOOL)**

The city centre is even more proud of its former parish school, built in 1820 in the Classicist style and decorated with massive columns on the main façade. Now Jēkabpils Agribusiness College is located in this building.



### **THE HOUSE WHERE OTIS AND UGA SKULMES WERE BORN**

The family of Skulmes has endowed Latvia with a number of magnificent and well-known painters — Oto Skulme (1889-1967), Uga Skulme (1895-1963) and Džemma Skulme. The house was built in 1895 by Jēkabs Skulme, who worked in Jēkabpils City Council in the 20th century and was the first to have the courage to offer using the Latvian language at Council meetings. The house can only be viewed from the outside.



### **ENSEMBLE OF DWELLING HOUSES**

The houses were built in the 1870s and feature a longitudinal structure. As the courtyard is located between two houses, one of the walls (the one facing the neighbour's courtyard) tends to have no windows.



### **THE HOUSE-MUSEUM OF THE CERAMIST ANDREJS PORMALIS**

Ceramist Andrejs Pormalis (1898-1977) was one of the most prominent Latvian ceramicists, who dedicated



his life to Jēkabpils. His ceramic fireplace was awarded the silver medal at the International Exhibition of 1937 in Paris. There is a memorial plate near the building. The building can only be viewed from the outside.



### **SCULPTURE IN MEMORY OF JĀZEPS VĪTOLS "LITTLE VIOLINIST"**

The first four years of the life of the outstanding Latvian composer Jāzeps Vītols (1863–1948) were spent in Jēkabpils. The sculpture "Little Violinist" by sculptor, A. Bikše, was opened in 2013 near the house where the Vītols family lived.

narrow-gauge railway that stretched on to Viesīte and Nereta. The beautiful bridge was destroyed during World War II. The current bridge we see was built in 1962. It has united two towns located on the two banks of the River Daugava — Krustpils and Jēkabpils, under one name.



### **THE STONE BRIDGE OF LOVE**

One of the bridges in Jēkabpils, located on the bank of the Daugava, near Krustpils Lutheran Church. The Love Bridge is a stone pedestrian bridge across the River Donaviņa (formerly Dzirupīte), built in the late 19th century as a natural limestone arch bridge.



### **TUNNEL AT THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE DAUGAVA**

The tunnel (43.04 m long) is one of the few parabolic monolithic reinforced concrete structures in Latvia that was built in the 1920-30s. The driveway still has the original cobblestone pavement.



### **DEWELLING HOUSE OF TH 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

A historical building located in Jēkabpils — a residential house built as a post and pretrail house.



### **BRIDGE ACROSS THE DAUGAVA**

The first bridge across the Daugava that was built in 1936. Krustpils and Jēkabpils were connected by a

