

Latvia

Kurzeme

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SALDUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

SALDUS, LATVIA

Saldus Secondary school is general educational institution from Latvia located in the region of Kurzeme. It was founded in the year of 2016 on the base of the reorganization of the school network where two biggest secondary schools of municipality were merged in one regional school – Saldus Secondary school. School has overtaken the long experience of both institutions at the same time integrating new approaches, raising new targets, and implementing new traditions. School aims to ensure qualitative educational environment by implementing contemporary educational process. Its headmistress is Inga Mankus.

Having 665 students age 7-19 and ~100 staff members out of whom 65 teachers and 30 technical workers, school provides pupils with an extended English language, Humanitarian, Science and Sports primary education programmes, and extended Science and Humanitarian secondary education programmes, as well as specialised integrative education for students with disabilities. In addition to that our students are encouraged and given opportunity to attend optional interest related education programmes in creative crafts, computing sciences, languages, sports and performing arts to develop in singing, dancing, performing, drawing, playing different sports etc.



Staff working in school has many years of varied experience in working with both National and European level projects. We are committed to enhance personal and professional development of our teachers as well as promote opportunities for our students to explore various cultures and differences in the school curriculum, foster improvement of foreign language skills and networking with young people, as well as active participation. It is important for us to strengthen results, promote growth and increase motivation of our students in various areas such as intercultural awareness, health and active lifestyle, science, social engagement and civic participation.

SALDUS ST. JOHN EVANGELIC LUTHERAN CHURCH



Saldus St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is the oldest building of the town and the first stone made church in Saldus. The church was built in 1615 but re-designed by Wilhelm Neumann and rebuilt at the end of 19th century. There are unique art monuments in the church: musical instrument – organ - made by K.A. Hermann – a famous expert from Liepāja, a pulpit in mannerism style and 19th century altar with the altar painting of artist J. Dering. The well-known Latvian artist Janis Rozentāls has pictured the church in many of his paintings at the turn of the 20th century. His diploma work “After Church” is particularly notable.

OSKARS KALPAKS SQUARE IN SALDUS



Nowadays O. Kalpaks square is a beloved place for different celebrations and concerts of the Saldus town or simply get-together venue for relaxing. Also it is the place, where Christmas tree creates special festive atmosphere during the winter celebrations. But historically it once was the central market place and on March 10th, 1919 Saldus became the first Latvian town to be freed by Kalpaks' battalion and already on March 14th, 1919 the square held the first parade of the Latvian national army. As a testimony to those days there is a memorial stone for colonel Kalpaks and the square is named after Oskars Kalpaks.

CONFECTIONARY "SALDUS GOTIŅA"



Nowadays there is nobody who could tell about the actual origin of the legendary candy "Gotiņa" recipe. Nevertheless, during the first years of the Latvian independence, almost all housekeepers at the famous "Kaucminde" Housekeeping School had acquired the skill to make the milk candy using a similar recipe. In 1960, production of candy "Gotiņa" was launched in Saldus. There is possibility to go to the excursion in confectionary "Saldus Gotiņa", where is possible to see the process of producing the candies and taste freshly made candy.

THE SQUARE OF *MĀRIS ČAKLAIS*

WITH THE FOUNTAIN



At the square is the fountain, which has a name „A Drop of Honey”. Latvian poet *Māris Čaklais*, who was born in Saldus, has compared the town with a drop of honey in the bowl of Courland (Kurzeme) region of Latvia. This metaphor gave rise to the idea of the fountain-sculpture, which consists of two honeycombs connected by a drop of honey. The upper honeycomb symbolizes the heaven, the lower honeycomb represents the earth, and we – people – are somewhere in between. The honey drop builds a connection between the heaven and the earth, thus showing the person’s place in the world.

The author of the fountain-sculpture is Kārlis Īle, he is the sculptor, who was born in Saldus.

SALDUS CASTLE MOUND (*SALDUS PILSKALNS*)



Saldus Castle Mound is not only a national archeological monument, but also a beautiful place that is often visited to gain a great view over the town of Saldus. It is situated near Saldus Lake and many legends remain about the castle mound, most of them about the “sweet life” inside it, because translation of root of the name “Saldus” refers to “sweet”.

Here is one of the most known and trusted legends:

In the spot where Saldus resides today, there once was a large hill. At the top of this hill, a small boy tended his pigs. One day this boy discovered a large hole in the hill and crawled into it. Inside he found a town with friendly inhabitants. They served him sweet food and drinks. In the evening, the pigs returned home without the boy. All wondered what had happened to the boy. He returned home only the next day. The locals inquired, “Where were you all night long?” The boy replied, “I ate sweetly, I drank sweetly, on top of Saldus hill.” As the boy spoke these words, the hill exploded and from underneath, a town rose. So it had happened - when the name of the town was spoken, the town rose up.

LATVIAN FOLK DANCE (THE NATIONAL FOLK DANCE COSTUMES OF KURZEME REGION)



Important part of Latvian culture is the national treasure - Latvian folk dance. Latvian folk dance has its origins in the traditions of the Baltic tribes from the ancient times. Over time, these folk dances were formalized into choreographed presentations based on traditional dance patterns. Dancers wear folk costumes made of wool and linen. The decorative elements incorporate the signs of ancient, pre-Christianity deities and the costumes are chosen to represent specific areas of Latvia where a dancer's family has its origins. The woman's headdress shows her marital status.

RYE BREAD SWEET DISH (*RUPJMAIZES KĀRTOJUMS*)



Latvian dishes demonstrate wonderful qualities by being so natural and pure, Latvian ethnic food is simple and tasty. The typical Latvian Rye bread sweet dish has these ingredients: Rye bread, sugar, vanilla, sweet cream, jam, whipped cream and is served in layers.

VENTA WATERFALL (THE WIDEST WATERFALL IN EUROPE)



The Venta Waterfall is the widest waterfall in Europe located in the medieval appearance town Kuldīga. The width of the waterfall is around 249 -270 metres, while its height is 1.8—2 metres. The waterfall can be viewed along its entire length from both the sides of the river, as well as from the old brick bridge across the Venta river, which is located 200 m downstream from the waterfall. Each autumn and spring one can see an exciting phenomenon here, as the fish try to get upstream by jumping over the rapid. The fish are called vimba bream

(*Vimba Vimba*) and every spring they go up the rivers to breed

“CĪRUĻI” OUTDOOR ZOO IN KALVENE



The branch of Riga Zoo „Cīruļi” in Kalvene was created in the summer of 1993. In the 137 hectares there are 38 species of wildlife animals and 12 breeds of different farm animals. Here you will find bears, lynxes, wolves, kiang herd, elks, eagles and vultures, and the legendary Latvian blue cow! The walk in Zoo „Cīruļi” could be more than one hour and it is a great opportunity to get away from daily stress and rush. There is possibility to use special places for relaxing and having a picnic.

NOTHERN FORT IN LIEPĀJA

The Northern Forts were built between the 19th and 20th century to provide shelter to the naval base. It is an integral part of the Liepāja Fortress that once surrounded the whole city. It is possible for visitors to walk in subterranean labyrinth and bunkers, get information about Liepāja Fortress, its history and construction.

In November 1908 the fortress was liquidated, as its construction had been acknowledged a strategic mistake. A part of the cannons were dismantled and delivered to the Kaunas Fortress in Lithuania, while the other part was recast. The remains of the Tsarist Russia fortress and also the later, more modern fortress, still stand today.



TĒRVETE NATURE PARK AND OUTDOOR MUSEUM



In Tērvete Nature park everyone can experience picturesque nature, rich cultural history and ancient monuments. Visitors are delighted by the sights of the valley of the river Tervete with its beautiful landscape and unique old pine forest, with pines approaching 300 years of age. The park covers a territory of 1,200 hectares, one-third of which is occupied by the world of Fairy Tales, governed by the King of the Forest, dwarves, devils and witches. It is considered to be one of the best and most suitable places for families with kids and those who are still able to view the world through kids' eyes, believing in fairy tales and seeing wonders.

THE CASTLE OF THE LIVONIAN ORDER

The Castle of the Livonian order is the symbol of Ventspils town that is the 6th largest city in the country. It houses Ventspils Museum since September 2001, and is the oldest preserved building that has survived to this day, built in the second half of the 13th century. Through its 700-year history, it has been used as a fortress, residence, garrison, school, military base, and prison. In 1995, the castle was restored to its 19th-century appearance, and was converted into a museum.

The museum regularly sees temporary exhibitions on art and history, as well as concerts and other events that enrich the city's cultural life. It is also possible to book educational programs or creative workshops at the museum, which are meant for pupils, as well as for families with children. There are various programs to choose from depending on your field of interest.



Information sources:

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