

Publicity photos

# EAST BALTIC COAST YOUR NEXT SAILING DESTINATION

It really doesn't matter if you're looking for a sandy white beach or a rocky beach, or whether you prefer to sail around bigger or smaller islands – you'll find it all here. Discover the network of more than 70 marinas in Estonia and Latvia.



Riga

There are marinas at 11 locations on the Latvian coast: in Liepāja, Pāvilosta, Ventspils, Roja, Mērsrags, Engure, Jūrmala, Riga, Skulte, Salacgrīva, and Kuiviži. To enjoy the approximately 270 nautical miles of Latvian coastline at a relaxed pace, we recommend that you set aside two weeks to explore it by yacht. If you also want to include Estonia and enjoy its countless small islands, you'll need to plan another two weeks.

The official waterways in this region are well surveyed and available on digital navigation systems, and the nautical signs are accurate. Almost all of the marinas are located in river estuaries, and all are well protected from winds and big waves.

This time we encourage you to become better acquainted with Latvia's coastal harbours, but it's definitely worth taking time to explore Estonia's small islands and harbours as well.



Liepāja

## LATVIAN MARINAS

Sailing has experienced a renaissance in Latvia in recent years, and, thanks to investments from EU funds, the infrastructure at the country's ports has been modernised and offers high-quality services to sailors, including well-equipped marinas, service houses, and yacht wintering sites as well as all kinds of repair services.

Latvia's coast is roughly divided into two parts: the western coast, stretching for 100 nautical miles along the open sea, and the Gulf of Riga. There are marinas along the entire length of the coast, comfortably located within a day's sail of each other.

There are three marinas on Latvia's western coast. Travelling from Lithuania, the first marina sits cosily in the heart of the city of Liepāja. The Old Town, shops, and cafés are just five minutes away, while the marina itself offers all the services sailors and their passengers need after a long journey. Pāvilosta, for its part, is called Latvia's summer capital and is famous for its holiday atmosphere. It also has a marina offering peaceful repose, a repair workshop, a crane capable of lifting a 20-tonne yacht, and a winter storage facility. Meanwhile, the industrial port of Ventspils pleasantly surprises yachters with its quiet marina tucked away from the waves. While travellers, and especially families with children, enjoy the town's range of tourist activities, their yacht can be properly cared for thanks to a port that

offers all necessary technical services, including a 35-tonne lift to hoist a yacht for repairs or wintering.

The Irbe Strait, located between the Estonian island of Saaremaa and the northern coast of Latvia, separates the Baltic Sea from the Gulf of Riga. The gulf, which measures approximately 50x50 nautical miles, welcomes sailors with eight more marinas. Sailing down the western side of the gulf and calling at the marinas of Roja, Mērsrags, or Engure, you can discover the charm of Latvia's small seaside villages. All of the marinas offer a wide range of services to ensure yachters a comfortable journey, including the opportunity to enjoy smoked fish and a summer break at one of the local restaurants.

The mood is completely different in the Latvian capital, Riga, where five marinas welcome sailors with the choice of mooring their vessels in the city centre with views of the Old Town or in a quieter spot away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Continuing north from the capital along the eastern side of the gulf towards Estonia, you can relax in Skulte or head straight to Salacgrīva, where the newly built harbour house has become a tourist magnet that invites visitors to enjoy the promenade and a schedule of summer concerts.

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SAILING IN LATVIA AND ESTONIA? LET US GIVE YOU THREE REASONS TO DO SO!

### 1. Unique cultural heritage

The vibrant, modern capitals of Riga and Tallinn and their Old Towns offer medieval streets full of Hanseatic historical sights as well as gourmet restaurants and contemporary and classical arts and music. Alternatively, escape the crowds and head for the charming small towns to taste freshly smoked fish or enjoy a Midsummer folk festival.

### 2. Endless white beaches, islands, and pine forests

The East Baltic Coast is known for its beaches. Here you'll find not only resort towns such as Jūrmala and Pärnu, which are famous for their spas and summer festivals, but also Saaremaa, Hiiumaa, and smaller islands offering a sailing experience like no other.

### 3. Modern sailing infrastructure

More than 70 comfortable and modern marinas are located within 50 nautical miles of each other, thus ensuring safe and relaxing sailing all along the coast. Each of the mooring sites provides you with water, electricity, internet, and often even a sauna and other services to welcome you after a long trip.

Sailing season starts in May and lasts until September. With up to 19 hours of daylight and comfortable sailing conditions, chances are really high that you'll thoroughly enjoy your next sailing destination – the East Baltic Coast!

This article reflects the views of the author. The managing authority of the programme is not liable for how this information may be used.



Pāvilosta



The best assistant to plan your sailing trip is [www.eastbaltic.eu](http://www.eastbaltic.eu). Read and download the free harbour guide to Estonia and Latvia, and check out the port entrance videos, navigation advice, and practical information on planning your sailing.

