

commissioned in Moscow in 1880. Before it they were stored in simple boxes.

The cabinet is 160 cm high, 66 cm wide and 42 cm deep. The cabinet had 70 drawers which were divided in 20 compartments. The cabinet contains a total of approximately 268,815 different folk songs.

Only one copy of the cabinet of the same content was made during the World War II. But in 1997, thanks to the initiative of the enterprising foreign Latvian Imants Freibergs the folk material digitization was launched with the aim that the folk songs could be available on the Internet for folklore researchers and simply for those interested. But on September 4, 2001, the Cabinet of Folksongs was inscribed in the UNESCO Memory of the World list, becoming a part of the world's culture. The folk songs represent the Latvian identity, they are a symbol that has been preserved from ancient times, and they tell the story of how we have survived through a wide range of time arcs.

Mostly thanks to the people's patriotism, it is the most preserved cultural value. And maintenance of the folk song value can start today, starting with everyone and the environment where we live because the nature is also a symbol of national identity. And the main thing is to be proud of who you are, not to lose the identity around the world, and pass it on to future generations.

TOURISM AND SIGHTSEEING IN JELGAVA

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For a long time Jelgava is not just a city in a low and wet place with a Palace and a market. It is a city, which we call the capital of Zemgale, educational and cultural centre. Demolished, burned and rebuilt in the twentieth century, it still locates in Zemgale plain by the river Lielupe side. Jelgava is a hospitable city, which wants and knows how to host guests. Despite all last century war destruction, there are still architectural, cultural, history and nature monuments as well as modern buildings. Jelgava has formed as various nationalities

populated administrative centre, and has become a city with dynamic development in the sphere of economics, education, and culture. Jelgava visitors can get here whatever they want, namely, a chance to relax, to enrich themselves culturally, as well as to find a place for business activities development.

Speaking of cultural enrichment, despite all the wars and demolitions throughout the years, Jelgava has managed to save most of its cultural treasures, for example, the Jelgava Palace was a residence of the Dukes of Courland and Semigallia, later an administrative centre of the province. Currently the palace is the home of the Latvia University of Agriculture (LLU). The Jelgava Palace is the largest architectural monument in the Baltic States, significant work of the early period of Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli, the outstanding Russian Court architect, and one of the rare Jelgava architectural monuments that has survived until now. Of course, we cannot forget the Bell Tower of the Jelgava Holy Trinity Church, because it has been situated here until 1944. It was the oldest Lutheran church in Jelgava made of stone and was considered to be one of the first newly built Lutheran stone churches in Europe. The church, which was owned by German Lutheran parish, was started in 1574 and completed only in 1688. In 1944 the greatest part of Jelgava was destroyed during the plane attack, including the Holy Trinity church. The only remnant of the church was the bell tower which was opened to visitors only in 2010 after the reconstruction work.

But for those who prefer festivals or holidays, throughout the year there are a lot of festivals and holidays which can be visited. In winter, the International Festival of Ice Sculptures is very popular, it has been held in Jelgava for 13 years. Many artists from all over the world arrive in Jelgava in February and create large-sized sculptures using 40 tons of ice. The festival has become the most visited event of the year attracting more than 45,000 visitors in 2011. Of course, it is not the only international festival held in Jelgava, during summer we have the International festival of Sand Sculptures «Summer Signs». Every year in the middle of summer — in July — Jelgava holds this festival, the theme of the festival in 2011 was «Circus» and it brought together artists of sand sculptures from 8 countries. The first fire sand sculpture in the world was created during the festival in Jelgava. But we cannot forget a healthy way of life, and that what the festival of Milk, Bread

and Honey stands for. The main idea is to show how to focus a healthy way of life and to put an emphasis on the use of healthy products that are full of vitamins. Visitors can try and taste different products; there are competitions, amusement activities, the fair, etc. The most popular and most likely the most amusing event is the annual milk carton regatta on the Lielupe river. You will, for sure, be delighted if you participate or watch.

References

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