

THE BALTIC SEA: PART 4

RIGA, LATVIA II

Surprise! We woke up the next morning still in Riga, not in Tallinn as we said in the last travelogue, (*Okay, okay! I forgot to include this in the last travelogue then*).

With the extra day we went to the The Ethnographic Open-Air Museum of Latvia, an open-air museum located just outside Riga on shores of Jugla Lake. The 214 acre (87 hectare) museum has over 110 buildings, more than 3,000 items and 150,000 artifacts. Most of Latvia's historical ethnic groups are represented in the museum.

The museum was created in 1924 and in 1928 the first building was relocated here from the Vestiena parish and by 1939 there were at least 40 buildings.

During World War II, the museum remained mostly undamaged, but most of its pre-war personnel were unavailable after having been repressed or forced into exile. During the time of Soviet occupations (before and after the Nazi German occupation) the museum was declared ideologically incorrect.

When Latvia regained its independence in 1991, the museum started actively collecting and documenting Latvian heritage from the 1920s and 1930s, a period during which Latvian agrarian reforms reshaped the Latvian countryside. As a result, a new complex of farmers' homesteads from the 1930s was opened in 1997.



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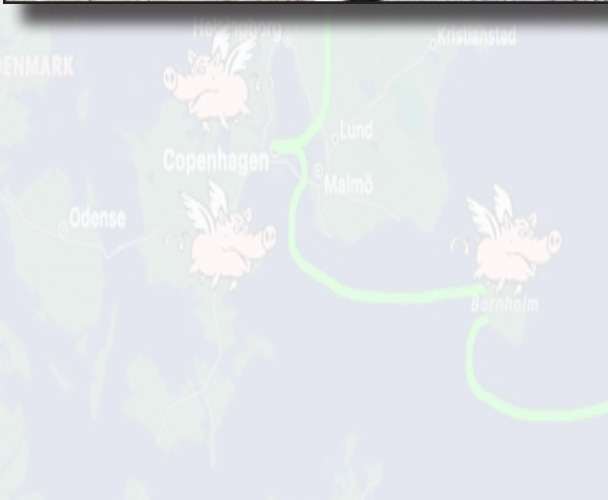
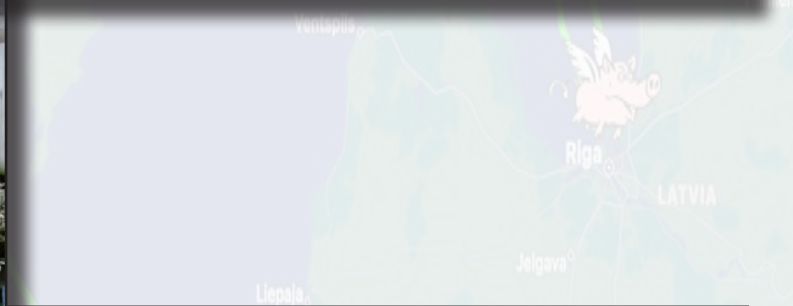
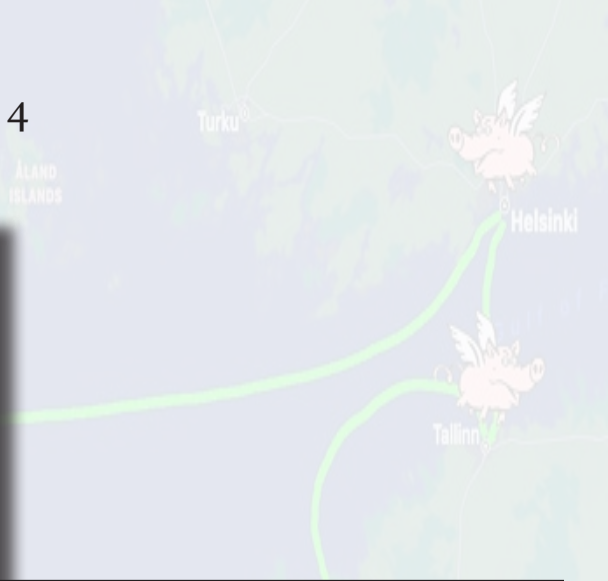
There was substantial thickness to the straw-like roofs.



We found a cafe along the way for a traditional Latvian lunch.



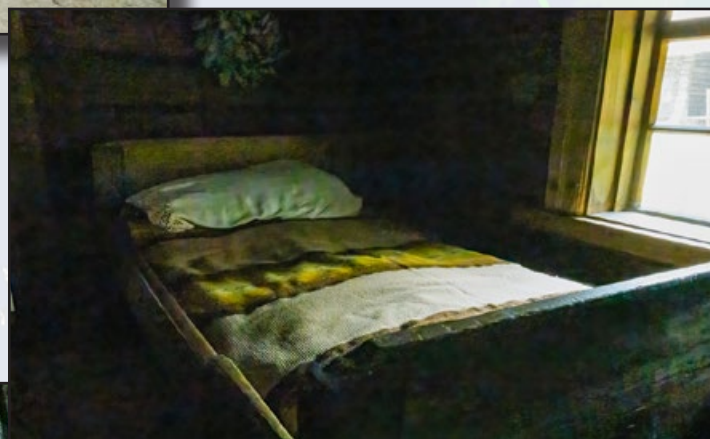
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I was a bit tired from all the walking....
I didn't see any signs saying not to...
thought about it for a minute or two...
but in the end kept on walking.



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After spending the day at the museum we got back on board and headed out to sea again and towards Tallinn, Estonia.

Again, we sat on our Situation Room balcony and took in the interesting sights as we traveled down the river.



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We passed some US Navy ships loaded with military hardware that had been participating in recent NATO Baltic Sea exercises, (or, I hoped, supplying some gear to the Ukrainians).



A bit later we saw yet another grand sunset.



The next Flying Pig Adventures travelogue really will be about our stop in Tallinn, Estonia.

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