

Latvian Girl Secrets

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikJm-OyMI8w>

Transcript: <https://dontveter.com/ec/latvia2.pdf>

We are here with Liga, she's a ~~traditional Latvian person~~ [Latvian native] from Riga [and her family has been here for] ~~from~~ many, many generations.

She just finished [giving some visitors] the free walking tour and thanks to her I know lots of information about Latvia.

I asked her if she [would] repeat [her story] about the summer traditions [here in Latvia] because they are so cool.

Yeah, so the ancient Latvian calendar looks like a circle and it's all about the nature cycles, like longest night of the year and shortest night of the year.

Basically it's all about the seasons changing because in summer it's like, plus 25, in winter it can get ~~up~~ [down] to minus 25, so basically it's all pretty logical.

And so on the shortest night of the year we celebrate midsummer [when] it only gets dark for four hours and we go closer to nature.

Usually [people go to] a river or maybe a [the] seaside and we light big bonfires and then we dress up in like, traditional costumes.

Sometimes we decorate the fire because it's a symbol of the sun.

We don't have ~~so~~ [very] many sunny days a year.

And then we dance around the fire, we ~~give~~ [bring] some donations [to the party] well, like I mean, not like babies, ~~with~~ [I mean] like food, food and drinks.

We drink beer and somewhere around midnight sometimes we would go like skinny-dipping.

That means swimming naked with your friends in the moonlight or something like that, singing all sorts of songs with your friends and sometimes we would go to sauna, heat up like a sauna, hit each other on the back with all sorts of branches and leaves and... well it's all pretty interesting because...

But... aren't people a bit shy?

Like everybody's naked so...

Well not in the midsummer and I mean we make our saunas like really, really steamy, so it's so hot that you can't actually, can't see other people.

Ah, ok, ok.

So... yeah, and also we make like crowns from flowers and from leaves.

Men make a crown from oak leaves and women wear [crowns made] from flowers, and it's also a tradition in each flower crown [that] there should be at least seven different flowers.

Each flower gives you power and so on.

So, also, from a really young age we are taught all about the plants, all about the mushrooms, all about the teas and yeah, little witches :)

Do you have any suggestions about the typical food?

I don't know, ah... authentic from Latvia...

Smoked fish, sometimes we smoked fish, we put some parmesan cheese on the top, sometimes garlic and onions and smoked chicken.

I like pumpkin soup, pumpkin pie, all sorts of sweets like honey cake.

We have a thing, it's called bread soup.

When you like blend, like blend rye bread.

Do you mean the soup [goes] inside the bread?

No no, it's like it comes just in a regular pot.

We like blend that dark bread and it's like a sweet soup, we put like, like I forgot the name, like sweet cream [on top].

So it's all like really interesting.

Nice, and what about the chocolates?

You told me that all the...

So we have this chocolate factory, it's actually from [the] 1870s and the chocolate, it's usually vegan.

But of course you have to double-check, but usually it's always [on the box] in all languages.

And ~~one option is~~ [with one variety] there's a big yellow box, with the name Prozit.

And those are like chocolates with all sorts of different alcohols inside.

Traditional Latvian black balsams, which is like a hairball vodka-based drink.

It comes with flavors as well, and then [there is] rum and whiskey and tequila and it's a pretty good souvenir as well.

I'm gonna buy some.

Yeah, and you can get it in any supermarket or any kiosk and well, the traditional drink, black balsams it's originally invented as like a cautionary thing.

What about the grandmas?

The thing that they ~~give~~ [do is take] a bite and then...

Oh yeah, this is how a typical Latvian usually ~~first time~~ trys alcohol [for the first time].

A grandmother buys these candies, she kinda takes one piece, she drinks it and gives the chocolate to the kid.

So yeah, who wants chocolate anyways :)

Yeah, yeah, of course, and then you feel like a true grown-up ... and some liquor as a kid.

That's great!

So guys, [the way] she ~~telling~~ [told] this story was the best way to do it because I would never be able to express all this information in such a good way.

Thank you so much!

Ok, thank you! Bye! Don't forget to like, comment and subscribe!

Thank you for watching, keep reading and believe in your dreams! Ciao!

