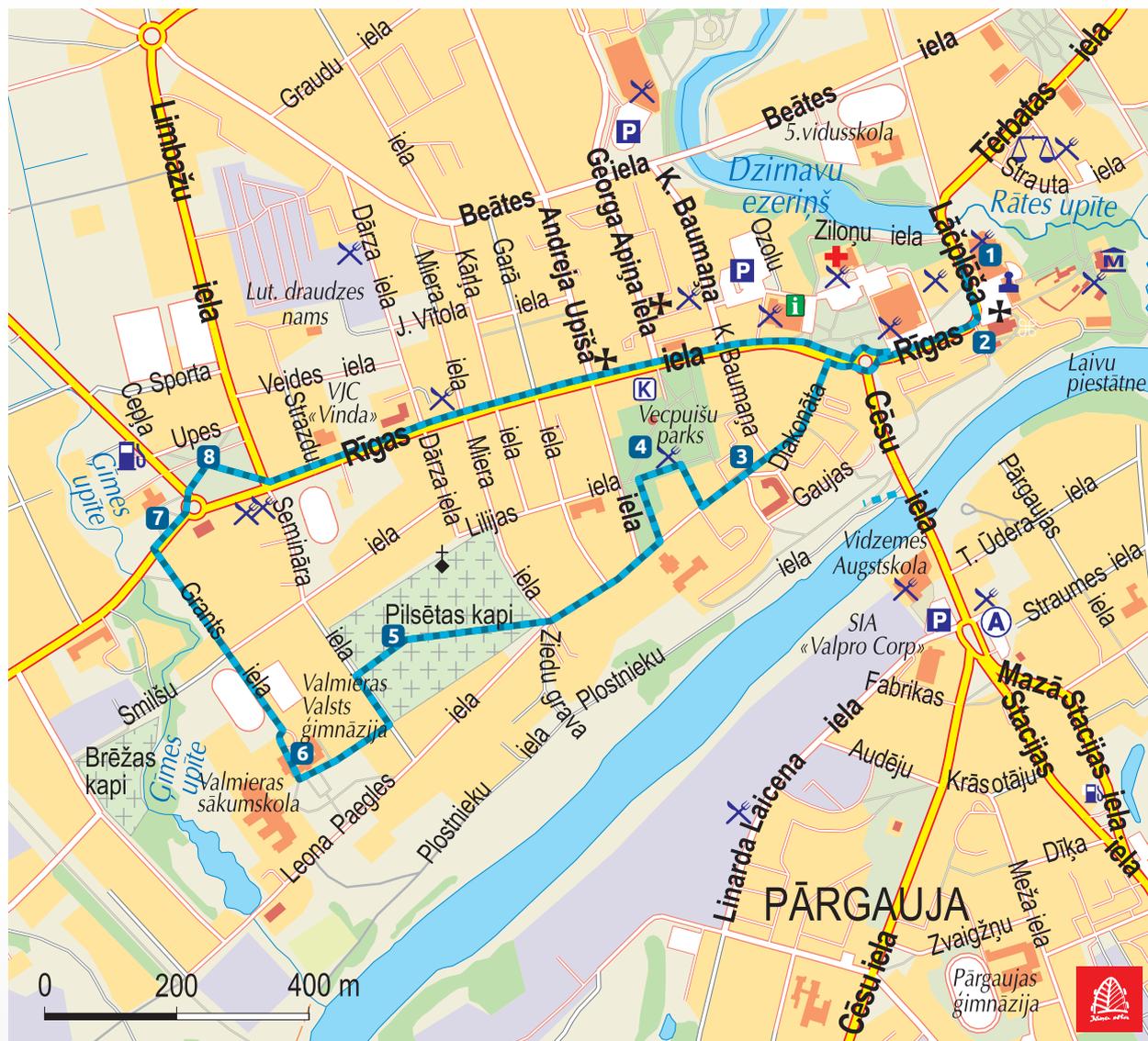


Route

The Freedom Story in Valmiera

The city of Valmiera can boast of more than seven centuries long history. At times in Valmiera, significant events have taken place that have influenced and shaped the history and culture of the Latvian people. There are many prominent people who have lived and worked here, who, without fear of themselves, have actively acted, gathering their followers so that we can live in free and independent Latvia. Within the framework of the Latvian national centenary project "The Story of Brīvības Street in 9 Cities, Symbols and Values of the Regions", the people of Valmiera again emphasize the importance of freedom and the need to protect it.



Route characteristics: The route leads through Valmiera City objects that were important both in the last century as well as today. It gives the traveller an opportunity to have a look at well-known places of attraction of visitors, revealing the essential facts about historically important personalities and events on the way to freedom of Latvia.

Preferable time: all through the year

Length: ~ 3,6 km

Approximate duration: 1h (excluding guide narration)

Start point of the route: Valmiera Drama Theatre

End point of the route: Vienības Square in Valmiera



1. Valmiera Theatre- Valmiera Latvian Society House

The current Valmiera Drama Theatre building was built as Valmiera Latvian Society House in the 80's of the 19th century. Later to the building was built the stage with the hall, where in 1905 were rehearsed in the nation beloved R. Blaumanis plays "Indrāni" and "Ugunī" (In the Fire). The birth year of the Valmiera Drama Theatre is considered the year 1923. Over the years, the theatre building has been rebuilt several times until it flourished in its present form, completing the work in 2004. In the theatre in 1988, Rainis play "Daugava" was rehearsed, during which M. Braun's patriotic power song "Sun, Thunder, Daugava," was played for the first time.

GPS: 57.539132, 25.425830

2. Valmiera St. Simon's Church

1283 is considered to be the beginning year of the building of the church. Originally, it served as a Catholic Church. In 1554, Livonia's laddish in the Church of Valmiera declared the freedom of belief in Livonia, which limited the sharp conflicts of the Catholics and the new adherents. In turn, during the Battle of Freedom, Valmiera was helped by Estonian troops from the Great Bolsheviks. During the fighting in May 1919, Estonian schoolboy, Victor Anderson has been killed, in honour of whom a memorial plaque was unveiled at the church. The memorial plaque is also installed in the church for Kārlis Ulmanis, who for several years successfully worked in the Kauguri Agricultural or the Baltic Agricultural Society. GPS: 57.539132, 25.425830

3. A Monument dedicated to the students of the Cēsis Regiment - Valmiera Real School

Valmiera Real School was opened in 1907. It was led by Pastor Ludwig Adamovich, who later became Minister of Education of Latvia. On May 26, 1919, registration of volunteer students for the formation of a battle and self-defence group after the sample of students of the Estonian army, which participated in the release of Valmiera, began under the guidance of Valmiera real-school teacher Alfrēds Lukstiņš (later - senior sergeant). The first volunteer group maintained the order in the city, performed guard service and provided support for Estonian units. At the beginning of June, students entered and fought in the Cesis Regiment Schoolchildren unit.

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4. Bachelor's Park

In 1914, eight well-known Valmiera entrepreneurs decided to set up a park at the outskirts of the city and build a pavilion with a non-alcoholic buffet and a book table - the history of the Bachelor's Park began. Latvia's birthday celebrations, meetings, rallies, concerts took place here on 20 November 1918. Later in the park's pavilion there operated a culture house, a sports school, a pioneer house, a bowling gym. Bachelor's Park in Soviet times was also called Cultural Park, Komsomol and



Middle Park, but in earlier documents also as City Park.

GPS: 57.536432, 25.417258

5. Valmiera City Cemetery - White Crosses

In 1828, a new cemetery was arranged on the edge of Dzirnau Street, now Leona Paegles Street. On 22 June in 1923 in the Valmiera City Cemetery was opened monument dedicated to World War I and Latvian Freedom fights in memory of the fallen soldiers. The monument was made by sculptor Wilhelms Treijs, but forged by Eduards Konča. Many famous people associated with Valmiera, such as poets Jānis Ruģēns and Rieteklis (Jūlijs Eduards Balodis), painters Teodors Ūders and Aleksandrs Petrovs, professor Eižens Neilands, physician Georgs Apinis, a distance walker Jānis Daliņš, as well as many local researchers are buried in the city cemetery. GPS: 57.534218, 25.411282

6. Valmiera State Grammar School - Valmiera Teachers' Seminary

In the current Valmiera State Gymnasium School's building from 1902 till 1917 the Valmiera Teachers' Seminary was functioning. The first floor of the Valmiera Teachers Seminary project, designed by architect Aleksejs Kizelbas, was designed for the students' learning process, while the second floor for the school's dormitory, teachers' apartments and prayer chapel. New teachers were trained at the seminar. Famous and recognizable people like Leons Paegle, Linards Laicens, Gustavs Klucis and others have also trained in it. In this building on 15 September 1920, students of the Valmiera State Grammar School began training. GPS: 57.532649, 25.408403

7. Barricades Memorial Site

On 24 January 2002, for the members of the barricades the memorial stone was installed, which is a special place to the people of Valmiera for the remembrance of these events. The author of the monument idea was a police Major Aleksandrs Melngāršs. The memorial stone was designed by the sculptor Jānis Sprudzāns, Dainis Saulītis and the author of the words carved on it, the poet Ojārs Vācietis. The idea of creating a memorial site was also supported by Dzintars Vītols from Burtņieki, the author of the book "The Road to the Barricades". GPS: 57.532649, 25.408403

8. Vienības (Unity) Square – Victory Square

The current Vienības (Unity) Square has had different names: Garrison Square, Red Square, Victory Square. It served the garrison parades, Riflemen rallies, the livestock exhibitions and markets. Earlier in this place, the land was rented by city cabs, craftsmen, merchants - livestock holders, and therefore these people disdainfully were called "field thrushes". During the Soviet era it was called the Victory Square and there were May 1 and October holiday demonstrations.

GPS: 57.532649, 25.408403

