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TRAVELLER'S CAMPAIGN: VISIT BALTIC MANORS

Dedicated to the Centenaries of Lithuania Independence restoration and Latvia and Estonia Independence declaration and European Year of Cultural Heritage
Summer 2018

131 historic manor houses and castles in three Baltic countries open their doors to the visitors from May 24th till September 16th 2018. The manor associations of three countries have joined their forces to organize a cross-border event to visualize the density of manor network and the range of it's services in these countries; to highlight the significance of the manors as drivers of cultural, economic and regional development in the past as well as today.

The campaign is organized by Estonian Manor Association, Estonian Manor School Association, Latvian Association of Castles, Palaces and Manors and Lithuanian Association of Castles and Manors.

While celebrating the centenaries of the restoration of independence of Lithuania, the declaration of Latvian and Estonian states, the associations of manors and castles of three countries unite to demonstrate the symbolic continuation of the Baltic chain. The past as well as the present day of Baltic countries is rich for its challenging contradictions both for their legacy as well as intercultural dialogue. One of these intriguing themes is the fate of the manors through the 20th century. The former carriers of political power, architectural and cultural glory; birthplaces of well-known world explorers, artists, writers, scientists, etc. have witnessed new functions, but even more the abandonment and decay during 20th century. The renaissance of the legacy of the manors started very slowly in the 1980s; the first studies and conservation works paved the way to the reuniting with the European cultural area in 1991.

Since then the states, municipalities, heritage authorities, but most of all hundreds of private owners have dedicated their time, resources and energy to preserve and revitalize the former glory of the manors. The contemporary challenge is to restore the position of the manors as the drivers of rural economic and cultural development in the urbanizing societies - as exciting museums, as boutique hotels, as modern educational and cultural centres, as well as local kitchen populizers.





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The aim of the campaign is targeted to offer the visitors and manor owners themselves the possibility to learn, compare and share. There are many interesting aspects to look for. Hereby we mention just some.

Nobility manors and castles have various connections not just to courts but also royal families. In many manors you can hear the fascinating stories of royalties who have paid the visit or stayed over. The marriages inside noble class crossed the borders and nationalities and of course the political map has changed through centuries. Thus for example Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian manors are connected by noble families like Uexküll (Vigala, Ravila), Buxhoevden (Pädaste), Ungern-Sternberg (Suuremõisa) and Queen of Sweden (Ranka manor), famous mayor of Riga George Armitstead (Jaunmoku castle), Grand Dukes of Lithuania (Liubavas manor), Radvila family (Biržai castle, Buivydiškės, Čiobiškis, Jašiūnai, Vasaknos manors), Tyzenhauzas family (Rokiškis, Paliesius, Liubavas manors), Oginskis family (Plungė manor) and many others.

Castles and manors reflect different type of architectural style - from medieval ruins or restored castles up to pearls of baroque and unique objects of neo-classics and neo-gothic.

Castles have witnessed attacks and defenses. It is worth to stress that due to strategical geographical position there are more and bigger castles in Lithuania and Latvia than in Estonia.

The architectural styles reflect not only the taste and the richness of the owners, but also the development and the spread of the ideas, knowledge and needs.

The traditional manor is an economic unit – large latifundium's or small side manors depending on their arable land or manor industries. The land reforms in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 1919-1922 and later the Soviet Occupation for all three Baltic states changed the economic situation of the manors completely. The limited income from agriculture and reorganizations is one of the main reasons, that makes the maintenance of Baltic manors a huge challenge in comparison to other European countries.

High credit should be given to owners that have become models of ecology friendly production. Situated in rural areas, all active manors create jobs and promote local development.

The contemporary manor owners formed national associations in early 2000s to create a platform to exchange knowledge and support each other. **For the first time the associations of three Baltic countries have joined forces** to create a common traveller's campaign to visualize the density of manor network, to **explore the similarities and differences**, to witness personally the effort of the people who work hard to preserve our common heritage.

Participating manors belongs to NGO sector, private owners and state. The campaign offers an unique opportunity to visit not only museums, cultural centers, manor schools, but many of the participating manors that belong to private owners.





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Participating Manors from Latvia:

Abgunstes muiža, Alūksnes Jaunā pils, Arendoles muiža, Berķenes muiža, Bīriņu pils, Blankenfeldes muiža, Cesvaines pils, Cēsu pils komplekss, Dikļu pils, Dundagas pils, Durbes pils, Elejas muižas Tējas namiņš, Gārsenes muiža, Igates pils, Jaunauces muiža, Jaunmoku pils, Jaunpils pils, Kārļa muiža, Kokmuižas pils komplekss, Krāslavas muiža, Krimuldas muiža, Krustpils pils, Lielplatonas muiža, Lielvircavas muiža, Limbažu pilsmuiža, Litenes muiža, Lizuma muiža, Lūznavas muiža, Mālpils pilsmuiža, Mežotnes pils, Padures muiža, Preiļu muižas komplekss un parks, Rankas muiža, Skrundas muiža, Smuku muiža, Šlokenbekas muiža, Tukuma pilsētas vēstures muzejs “Pils tornis”, Turaidas pils un pilsmuiža, Ungurmuiža, Vadakstes muiža, Varakļānu pils, Vecauces pils, Veselavas muiža, Virkas muiža, Zaļā (Zaļenieku) muiža, **all together 45.**

Participating Manors from Estonia:

Alatskivi mõis, Allikukivi veinimõis, Anija mõis, Arkna mõis, Aruküla mõis, Aruküla (Koeru) mõis, Atla mõis, Cantervilla loss, Haeska mõis, Illuka mõis, Jäneda mõis, Kassari mõis, Kernu mõis, Kiltsi mõis, Koigi mõis, Kolu mõis, Kostivere mõis, Kukruse Polaarmõis, Kumna mõis, Kuremaa loss, Kärstna mõis, Lasila mõis, Lihula mõis, Loona mõis, Luke mõis, Maidla mõis, Muhu pastoraat, Muuga mõis, Olustvere mõis, Palmse mõis, Palupera mõis, Pidula, mõis Pilguse mõis, Puurmani mõis, Raikküla mõis, Ravila mõis, Rogosi mõis, Roosna-Alliku mõis, Rāpina mõis, Saka mõis, Sangaste loss, Suislepa mõis, Suure-Lähtru mõis, Suuremõisa loss, Vana-Vigala mõis, Vana-Võidu mõis, Vasalemma mõis, Vasta mõis, Vihula mõis, Võidula, mõis Vääna mõis, **all together 55.**

Participating manors from Lithuania: Abromiškių dvaras, Akmenos dvaras, Alantos dvaras, Aristavelės dvaras, Aštriosios Kirsnos dvaras, Aukštosios Fredos dvaras, Babtyno Žemaitkiemio dvaras, Biržų pilis, Bistrampolio dvaras, Buivydiškių dvaras, Čiobiškio dvaras, Dautarų dvaras, Gedimino pilis, Jakiškių dvaras, Jašiūnų dvaras, Kelmės dvaras, Kurtuvėnų dvaras, Liubavo dvaras, Markučių dvaras, Paberžės dvaras, Paliesiaus dvaras, Panemunės pilis, Plungės dvaras, Renavo dvaras, Rokiškio dvaras, Saldutiškio dvaras, Trakų salos pilis, Trakų Vokės dvaras, Vasaknų dvaras, Zyplių dvaras, Žeimių dvaras, **all together 31.**

The symbol of the travel campaign is a **key** – a reference to the manor or castle opening doors to the **new discoveries in cultural heritage**. Visitors will collect the symbolic keys as a memory of experience and feelings .

Travel campaign rules:

The aim of the traveller campaign is to show a large variety of manors throughout the whole summer and therefore the number of open manors varies day by day. It is important to check





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always out which manors are open on the day of Your travel. Information on the open manors, opening hours and events is available at www.visitbalticmanors.com

Visitors are invited to collect stickers or stamps for every visit on a participant card available in every participating manor. Everyone collecting more than 5 stickers or stamps from home country and 10 from neighbors will participate in the lottery of awards. The awards donated by the participating manors will be drawn at the Closing event.

Visitors are expected from **May 24th till September 16th**. Closing event in Latvia have been planned on **October 28th**

TRAVELLER'S CAMPAIGN: VISIT BALTIC MANORS

For exciting news and events in Baltic manors, please follow:

www.visitbalticmanors.com

<https://www.facebook.com/visitbalticmanors/>

For additional information, please take contact with national representative:

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