

## QUEST: EXPLORE THE OLD RIGA

1. **Statue of Roland.** In the medieval Europe there used to be a tradition to put up a statue of Roland in the main squares. You can notice that our Roland is showing the coat of arms of Riga: the two fortress towers standing opposite each other, the head of the lion in the opened gates, the cross and the two keys above.

**Explore:**

2.	<b>look at Roland and elicit what he is: a merchant, a knight, or a priest?</b>	
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2. **The Blackheads House.** Opposite the Town Hall there is the Blackheads House. They were the German merchants whose patron was Saint Mauris. You can see him on the right of the main entrance. Saint Mauris lived in Northern Africa, and that is why the merchants got this nickname – the Blackheads.

**Explore:**

3.1.	<b>how many coats of arms of Riga there are on the Blackheads House</b>	
3.2.	<b>what the hands of the big clock-face indicate</b>	
3.3.	<b>there are two astronomical clocks, what the one beneath the big clock-face indicates</b>	

3. **Saint Peter's Church.** If you stand in front of the Blackheads House, on your left you can see **Saint Peter's Church** with the nice gilded rooster on its steeple. Go to the church, be careful when crossing Kungu Street.

**Explore:**

4.1.	<b>look at the clock face, what is unusual and not common on modern clocks</b>	
4.2.	<b>go inside the church, find the sign on the floor just beneath the rooster and find four emblems referring to some</b>	<hr/>

	<b>geographical objects , and write them down</b>	<hr/> <hr/>
<b>4.3</b>	<b>elicit how the modern Saint Peter’s Church is used now</b>	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

4. Leave the church, turn right, go around the church up to the statue of the famous **Musicians of the Town of Bremen** from the German fairy-tale.

**Explore:**

<b>5.</b>	<b>when Riga got them as a present from its twin-town of Bremen</b>	
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5. **Saint John’s Church.** Opposite Saint Peter’s there is Saint John’s Church with a nice copper rooster. When the tall gothic steeple, ruined over time in the second part of the XIX century, a new one was constructed in the Neo-Gothic style, and the rooster was transferred to the gable.

**Explore:**

<b>6.1.</b>	<b>the church was consecrated in honour of Saint John, find the statue of Saint John, draw a plan of the church and mark the spot with the capital letters S.J.</b>	
<b>6.2</b>	<b>many centuries ago the church belonged to the</b>	you are here

	<b>Dominican monks who used to be good speakers, so they often delivered their sermons after the Sunday Mass, and their voices were heard around the whole town, they used some special “devices”, try to find them on the facade of the church, draw a plan and mark them with the crosses</b>	
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**6. Saint John’s Yard (Jana Seta).** Find the monastery gates and come into the yard. You can see the fragment of the restored fortress wall there. Look around.

**Explore:**

<b>7.1.</b>	<b>where the merchants used to be sitting and selling their goods during peaceful times</b>	
<b>7.2.</b>	<b>what the Riga citizens used to use to protect their houses from damage caused by horse carts and carriages</b>	

**7.** If you stand back to the fortress wall, you can notice two nice roosters on Saint Peter’s and Saint John’s. You can also see them in another yard, called **the Convent’s Yard (Konventa Seta)**. Don’t be frightened, turn right, go there.

**Explore:**

<b>8.</b>	<b>look around, currently the modern hotel hosts most of the buildings in the former Convent’s territory, find out the names of the museums/galleries situated in the Convent’s Yard today</b>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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**8.** Leave **the Convent’s Yard** through the gates opposite the monument of the Musicians of the Town of Bremen, turn right. You are going along **Skarnu Street**. You can see a lot of beautiful houses there. On one of them you can find info about **a famous Riga citizen**.

**Explore:**

<b>9.1.</b>	<b>what his name is</b>	
<b>9.2.</b>	<b>why he is famous</b>	

**9.** Continue working along **Skarnu Street**, cross **Kalku Street**, turn round, look at the opposite side of **Kalku Street**, you can see a house with a boy on the roof.

**Explore:**

10.	how many cats are running down the roof	
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10. Now turn left, take **Skunu Street**, get to the house with the big flowers on its façade. This house belonged to a rich man from Germany who launched his business in Riga.

**Explore:**

11.	look at the roof, find out who guards his house	
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11. Find a T-junction of **Skunu Street** and **Amatu Street**, take **Amatu street** and go ahead. At the end of the street you can see two magnificent buildings, on the left there is the building of the Great Guild Hall and on right there is the Small Guild Hall. The Great Guild was the home of the rich merchants, the Small Guild was the home of craftsmen. Opposite the Great Guild Hall you can see a big house constructed in the French Neo-Gothic style.

**Explore:**

12.1	what the boy sitting on the roof is doing	
12.2	what the bears standing on the balcony are holding	

12. Go straight ahead up to **Livu Square**. The Liv tribes used to live on the Baltic Sea coast.

Look at the façade of the **Small Guild Hall**.

**Explore:**

13.	how many towers you can see on the coat of arms of Riga	
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13. Go along **Meistaru Street** up to **Kalku Street**. You can see the big yellow-brownish building. It is a **theatre** at the present moment, but years ago this building was constructed as a place of meeting after a working day, and people gathered together as small creatures that always return to their home before the sunset.

**Explore:**

14	<b>have a look at the façade, find the places where the small creatures return to before the sunset, it was the name of the society which invested money into the construction of this building</b>	
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14. Look on the right of the theatre, you can see the building with the unusual decorative elements on its top. Now you can easily guess what was one of the most popular pastimes of Riga citizens at the turn of the XX century - hunting

**Explore:**

15.	<b>what amazing creatures there are</b>	<hr/> <hr/>
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15. Go along **Kalku Street** towards **Valnu Street**. On your right you will be passing the buildings constructed in the different times. Try to find a building with the lion on its façade, it is the former pharmacy.

**Explore:**

16.	<b>look at the buildings on the left of the pharmacy and on the right of the pharmacy, try to find out when they were constructed and calculate how many years passed between the time of their construction</b>	
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16. Continue walking along **Kalku Street** up to **Valnu Street**, turn left, go along **Valnu Street**, look on your left, you can find a nice small yard with a monument

**Explore:**

17.	<b>what is on the top of the monument</b>	
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17. Go through the yard, take the first right, go straight ahead, you can see the tall yellow building on the left, go further, stand in front of the main entrance decorated with the mask and floral ornament.

**Explore:**

18.	look at the roof, you can see two cats on the top of the corner towers, look attentively, what else you can see what is unusual on the roof, there are many of them	
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18. Turn left, take **Maza Smilsu Street**, go straight ahead up to the big red brick tower. The Swedes kept black powder there, since that time it has been called **the Powder Tower**. Now it is **the Latvian War Museum**.

**Explore:**

19.1	stand in front of the main entrance, look up, find out what is depicted on the decorative balcony	
19.2	go inside, climb up the stairs, while moving up, try to find information when the students' society Rubonia hosted the tower	
19.3	find the exposition devoted to the XVII-XVIII century, go inside the hall, move round the room anti-clockwise, find the narrow stairs, send a spy, elicit what you can do there	
19.4	leave the hall, go upstairs, on the top floor you can find an exposition connected with the military career of the Latvians in the foreign countries' armies, find the medals given to the bravest, elicit what country they are awarded from	
19.5	go downstairs, on the ground floor turn left, you can see the temporary exhibition, go into that hall, elicit what the exhibition is devoted to	

19. Leave **the Powder Tower**, turn left, go straight ahead up to the fragment of the fortress wall. There is a nice view of **Saint Jacob's Church** and **Ramer's Tower**. Turn left, then turn right and go along the fortress wall.

**Explore:**

20.1.	who is standing on your right near the fortress wall	
20.2.	what is in the Ramer's Tower now	

**20.** Continue going straight ahead up to **the Swedish Gates** that you can see on your right. Look on the left, you can see the storehouse of white colour at the corner of **Aldary Street** and **Maza Troksnu Street**.

**Explore:**

21.	look very attentively at the white storehouse at the corner, what unusual you can notice in the building itself	
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**21.** Take the narrow **Troksnu Street**, go along, cross **Ekaba Street**, go between **Saint Jacob's Church** and the former **House of the Knights**. In the niche you can see **Lacplesis**, the hero of the Latvian national epos who was fighting for the freedom of the Latvian people. **The Latvian Parliament – Saeima** – hosts the building nowadays.

**Explore:**

22.	look at the building, it consists of two parts, what is the main difference between them	
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**22.** Go past the building of **the Latvian Parliament – Saeima** – and go straight ahead, take the second left, go straight ahead, on your left you can see the main entrance to the church.

**Explore:**

23.	elicit what is the name of the church	
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**23.** Turn right from the church and go straight ahead up to **Pils (Castle) Square** where you can see **the Riga Castle**, built in the XIV century. At the moment it looks like a huge mansion, but years ago it used to be an unwinnable castle.

**Explore:**

24.	how many towers there are in the castle	
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24. Leave the square, take **Pils Street** which used to be the main street of Riga in the medieval times. Go straight ahead, take the first left, go to **Maza Pils (Castle) Street**. You can see **Saint Jacob's Church**. Move towards it along **Klostera Street**.

**Explore:**

25.	<p><b>on one of the buildings in Klostera Street you can find two plates with the names of two people, with whom the history of one of the first Riga schools is connected very closely, write their names</b></p>	<hr/> <hr/>
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25. Go back to **Maza Pils (Castle) Street**, you can see three medieval dwelling houses which are called **the Three Brothers**. . At that time the Riga residents used to pay taxes for the plot of land on which the house was located, for the number of the windows on the facade, and for sunlight penetrating from the street into the rooms.

**Explore:**

26.	<p><b>look at the yellow house very attentively, elicit when it was built</b></p>	
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26. You are welcome inside. Find the door you can open, come in, say hello, go through the room, find the narrow passage leading to **the inner yard**. Here you are! Look at the nice coat of arms of Riga on the wall of one of the houses.

**Explore:**

27.	<p><b>you have had information how people used to live in the medieval times, analyse the outlook of the Three Brothers now, and point out what you have discovered</b></p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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27. Go back using the same way, go out of the building, turn right, go up to the narrow brownish building, go inside, move through the narrow passage, stop in a big hall. You are in **the Art Museum Riga Bourse**.

**Explore:**

28.	<p><b>the hall with the glass roof is commonly called the atrium, look up, what two unusual things you can see above your heads</b></p>	<hr/> <hr/>
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**28.** Go out using another entrance , turn left, you are in **Dom Square**. It is called in such a way, because **the Riga Dom – the Riga Cathedral** – is located here. Just have a look: an amazing building with the Romanesque and Gothic windows, the Baroque tower, and the Art Nouveau entrance hall. That is why **the Riga Cathedral** is often called a book of the architectural styles.

**Explore:**

29.	<b>find the main entrance to the Cathedral, go inside, look at the ceiling and metal railings, identify the typical Art Nouveau symbols, choose from the list: masks, birds, flowers, moon, stars, sun</b>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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**29.** Come back to **Dom Square**. Being there you can find a special position from which you can see three roosters on the three steeples of the Riga churches.

**Explore:**

30.	<b>not far from that place, where you are standing now, there is a plate saying that Riga has proved itself to be one of the world treasures, find it, point out which list of the world treasures Riga has been inscribed into</b>	
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**30.** Look at **the Art Museum Riga Bourse**. The building was constructed in the Neo-Renaissance style for the Riga Exchange in the second half of the XIX century. It looks as a real palace with a plenty of sculptures and decorative elements on its facade

**Explore:**

31.	<b>look at the sidewall with a nice balcony, you can see three round dials on it, elicit what they are</b>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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**31.** Look at the building opposite **the Art Museum Riga Bourse** at the beginning of **Pils (Castle) Street**. It is the former **Bank of the Riga Stock Exchange**, it was built some years after **the Stock Exchange**.

**Explore:**

32.	<b>look at both buildings, and find at least one common element that you can find on both facades</b>	
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**32.** Around **Dom Square** there are a lot of beautiful buildings. Try to find the one with sculpture of the lady holding an anchor and watching towards the sea.

**Explore:**

33.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>enjoy a view of the building, and find a nice gnome, draw a plan of the building, and put the capital letter G at the place where you have found him</b></p>	you are here
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**33.** Now go to the middle of the square, turn left, take the second street on your left. It is **Rozena Street**, the narrowest street in Riga. The width of Riga streets were strictly determined, their width should be enough for a horse-rider moving a lance in his stretched right hand traverse the horse saddle.

**Explore:**

34.	<b>while walking along Rozena Street, find the narrowest place, measure how wide it is</b>	
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**34.** When you come through Rozena Street, at the crossroad you can see the Riga Cathedral on your right and Saint Peter's on your left.

**Explore:**

35.	<b>look at the map of Riga and find out the shortest way back to the base. Go!</b>
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