Viljandi (Estonia)

Viljandi (Pellin) lies right in the centre of Estonia. Over the 733 years of its existence many artists, actors and musicians, but also tradesmen and innovators have lived here. The powerful commander of the Livonian Order resided in the Viljandi Order Castle, built in 1224. Viljandi’s location on crossing trade routes convinced merchants already in the 14th century that this place was excellent for trade and stopovers. In 1991 the tradition with Hanseatic Days, was taken up to emphasize the town’s heritage. During the Hanseatic Days Viljandi citizens dress up in historic costumes to welcome visitors from far and near; the handicraft fair and numerous concerts are highlights. All year round, Viljandi offers a professional theatre, several concert halls and a broad variety of cafés and restaurants. This in combination with nice hotels, makes Viljandi worth visiting at any time of the year. Find out more at: www.viljandi.ee/web/en

Cēsis (Latvia)

Cēsis (Wenden) was first mentioned in 1206. At the turn of the 14th-15th centuries, due to close proximity to the Gauja River, Cēsis got involved in trade and joined the Hanseatic League. In the Middle Ages the city had its own currency, and in the 20th century it was even the capital of Latvia for two days. One of the oldest breweries in Northern Europe – “Cēsu alus” still operates in Cēsis. Modern Cēsis is a cultural centre where the past is the basis for present times’ creativity. The greatest treasures of Cēsis are the Old City and the well-preserved ruins of the Livonian Order’s castle. In the Old City you can meet the Old Man of Time. He holds one of the symbols of Cēsis – a lantern that helps to switch on various lamps of the Old City. Find out more at: turisms.cesis.lv/en/

Limbaži (Latvia)

Limbaži (Lemsa) was a member of the Hanseatic League and served as one of Riga’s archbishop’s residences. The city has been well preserved – the structure and road plan remains almost as in the 14th century. Because of its small size, the city can easily be explored on foot.

Modern Limbaži is proud of its medieval castle ruins with reconstructed outlook tower. The Old Town hall is home to the Silver museum with the biggest silver artworks in the Baltics. Limbaži offers workshops and demonstrations by the silversmiths, a unique taste of the silver water and exquisite wall paintings preserved since the 18th century. The city has the Lielezers lake and the beach, where you can rent a boat or a water bicycle, or simply stroll on the boardwalk. The true flavour of Limbaži is embodied within its locally produced food. Find out more at: www.visitlimbaz.lv/en/

About the HANSA project

The main aim of the HANSA project (Hanseatic Approach to New Sustainable Alliances) is to underline the values of historical Hanseatic League, which can still be found among the member cities. After detailed research of local history, partners work together to create, develop and promote new tourism products to make the Hansa a leading brand within the Baltic Sea Region.

The HANSA project brings together smaller Hanseatic cities and helps them to get visibility and impact on the tourism market. Local citizens and different stakeholders (like entrepreneurs, NGO’s, activists) benefit from the project, since their products can be spread far beyond their own region and reach a broader public. By working together Hanseatic cities strengthen their common values and make them more apparent to locals and visitors.

The European perspective is very important – the HANSA project is an active part of the modern Hansa network (die Hanse) and its certification as Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. The HANSA project is implemented with the support of European Regional Development Fund Central Baltic Programme 2014-2020.

www.hansea.org/en/ExploreHANSA/

Explore HANSA