



Rose garden

PARK OF RUNDĀLE PALACE

The Baroque garden of Rundāle Palace (10 ha) was created under the leadership of gardeners Christopher and Michael Weyland (1736–1740) and has been restored by the Museum, preserving the initial layout as designed by Rastrelli. Now it displays all the characteristic elements of Baroque gardens – an ornamental parterre, fountain, the Green Theatre, bosquets, pergolas, pavillons and a labyrinth. It also includes a rose garden (approx. 2200 varieties), a collection of decorative trees and shrubs, and plantations of summer flowers and perennial plants characteristic to the 18th century. A garden featuring fruit tree and berry bush varieties popular on the manors and farmlands of the late 18th century, as well as 19th and 20th century, is being established on the west side of the Palace. It will also contain apple tree and berry bush varieties propagated by Latvian specialists.

On the south side the Palace borders a hunting park, whereas the area on the north side is used for economic activities. The area of the Rundāle Palace architectural ensemble covers 85 hectares.

CHURCH ART EXHIBITION

The former Palace stables, now a home to the ecumenical chapel of the Holy Family, displays objects of church interiors and liturgical ceremonies from the collection of Rundāle Palace Museum.

‘POMPA FUNEBRIS’

Objects representing funerary art in Latvia, such as sarcophagi from various church burial sites in Courland and casket adornments from the Great Cemetery in Riga, are exhibited on the basement level of Rundāle Palace Museum.

Rundāle Palace

Summer residence of the Duke of Courland, Ernst Johann Biron, built according to the architectural design of the architect Francesco Rastrelli from 1736 to 1740, and from 1764 to 1768.

The Rundāle Palace Museum was founded in 1972 and the restoration of the architectural ensemble of the Palace was commenced.



Foto: Ināra Lāncovska, Ina Lācis, Artis Jūras



The Gold Hall

PALACE INTERIORS

Most of the interiors were produced between 1765 and 1768, while sculptor Johann Michael Graff and painters Francesco Martini and Carlo Zucchi worked at the palace. The state staircases and the Small Gallery are unique examples of Francesco Rastrelli's early design style and have survived to this day. The artistic restoration of interiors was carried out from 1972 to 2014. The interiors now feature art objects and household items characteristic of the era to the Dukes.

The eastern wing of the Palace houses staterooms for festivities while the Duke's staterooms and private apartments are in the central building and the Duchess' apartments in the western wing. The ground floor of the eastern wing displays the Palace kitchen exhibition.

Several thematic exhibitions are also available to visitors: "Eighteenth-Century Fashion", "The von Behr Family in Courland", "Eighteenth-Century Portraits of Courlanders", "Duchess Dorothea of Courland and the Family of Counts Medem", "The History of Rundale Palace Construction", "Stone Carvings and Ironwork in Latvia".



The Duke's Bedroom



The Duchess' Boudoir



Room with Gothic, Renaissance and Mannerism art objects

"FROM THE GOTHIC STYLE TO ART NOUVEAU"

The western wing of the Palace houses exhibition of European and Latvian decorative arts "From the Gothic Style to Art Nouveau", covering the period between the 15th century and World War I. Examples of Gothic style, Renaissance, Mannerism, Baroque, Rococo, Neo-classicism, Empire style, Biedermeier, Historicism and Art Nouveau are spread over 15 rooms. The exhibition displays interior groups supplemented with paintings, engravings and household articles, and helps to shape the concept of the main development directions and local peculiarities of all the historic styles.



Ice bucket and a plate from 'Courland set';
The Royal Porcelain Manufactory, Berlin, Germany, circa 1790



Room with Empire style art objects



Room with art objects from the Art Nouveau period