



LATVIA

SIGGY AND HEATHER | EUROPE 2015 | SUNDAY, 31 MAY 2015



CHURCH WITH A SMILE ON ITS FACE



TYPICAL LATVIAN WOODEN CHURCH

Leaving Lithuania

A violent storm lashed our free camping place by the lake during the night making for a much cooler day today. The plan was to drive up through to Latvia's wild north western cape and then on to Riga, the capital. Our journey was on minor roads running across the major highway system that runs north-south. It was a pleasant journey through small rural villages. It is interesting to see that most villages had a large church. Wooden houses were still the norm. The countryside is very lush and green with mostly broad acreage farming. Crossing into Latvia was uneventful and the scenery did not change much.

We decided to have an early lunch and stopped in a village beside a splendid wooden church. The church service had just concluded. A large number of old foggies tottered out on walking sticks along with many old mamas in head scarves. A group of local lads watched the long procession home from a nearby park bench. It left us thinking that country villages like this may be slowly dying out, or maybe it just means that only the oldies go to church.

Latvia is about half the size of Tasmania. We only have a few days here. The weather turned foul so instead of heading to the north west coast we opted instead to head to Riga where we are now. Tomorrow we have time to explore the city called the Paris of the North.



STORKS We have not seen so many storks congregating together as in Lithuania. They are attracted to insects when farmers turn the soil. Their presence apparently signal good luck.



CHURCH GOERS The church congregation moved unsteadily out of the church. Every person in the passing parade was lost in their own thoughts. Must have been some sermon!!



UNFAMILIAR LINES This interesting building greeted us on our way in. Riga has a number of buildings with edgy designs.