

Welcome to Kuldīga!

Everyone who has ever been to Kuldīga will say – it is a special place! Historic places are an integral part of Kuldīga. Due to the special historical heritage in 2011 the Old town of Kuldīga on the banks of the picturesque river Venta was included in the Latvian list of UNESCO World Heritage. The nature and historic buildings of the town create a unique ensemble that has no equivalents both in Latvia and Europe. The history of Kuldīga is very rich: 775 years ago Kuldīga was first mentioned in documents. The coat of arms of Kuldīga depicts the patroness of the town – St. Katherine. From 1596 till 1616 Kuldīga was the official capital of the Duchy of Courland. Duke Jacob during whose reign the Duchy flourished the most was born in Kuldīga.



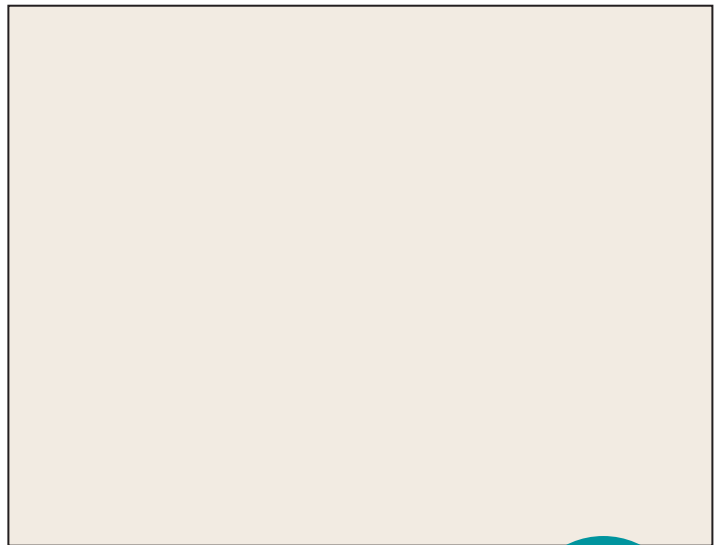
You have accepted a challenge to play the game that will help you get to know Kuldīga with the help of the town map! Therefore we recommend you to put on your most comfortable shoes and discover Kuldīga on foot. To fulfil the tasks, you will need pencils or any other writing tool.

Start your walk in the **Kuldīga Town Hall Square (Rātslaukums)**! Here, quietly murmuring past ancient walls flows the Alekšupīte river, inviting you to enjoy the ancient and mysterious town. The Town Hall Square is an ancient meeting place for people, it was used as a marketplace in ancient times.

You begin the game at **4 Baznīcas street** where you can see a water pump! Fill your water bottles! Once there were 28 water pumps scattered around the narrow cobbled streets of Kuldīga. Nowadays there are just seven of them. Water pumps help people refresh themselves on hot summer days.

task 1:

think of a completely new and unseen type of a water pump that could be built in Kuldīga. Draw it!



IN ANCIENT TIMES



NOWADAYS

Now we are going to go down **Liepājas Street (Liepājas iela)** surrounded by buildings of different ages. The building where pub "Stenders" is located at 3 Liepājas Street is one of the most ancient wooden houses of our town.

task 2:

To get to know what was situated in this building in the 20th century, guess the riddle!

A $38-8=$

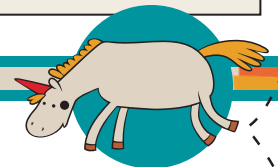
G $20-9=$

N $40+9=$

R $18-1=$

Y $12+6=$

11	17	30	49	30	17	18	

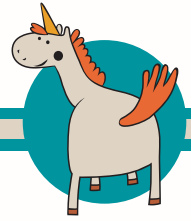


Then go further along Liepājas Street! Nowadays the building at **8 Liepājas Street** is known for Cafe "Staburadze". This is the biggest and the most unusual building in Liepājas Street). There are very beautiful metal lace ornaments on the skylight window of the front door of the house. It is said that in older times there was a pharmacy in this building. Later on the building had several owners, but for some time it served as Robert Herberg's boutique.

task 3:

take a careful look at this house and find the year when the pharmacy was in this building! Provide your answer here.

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Liepājas Street promenade (Liepājas ielas promenāde) – a unique pedestrian street full of houses built in different centuries, with interesting and historic doors and their skylight windows.

task 4:

imagine that you are in the future – your task is to draw a picture of how it could look like in 100 years!



IN ANCIENT TIMES



NOWADAYS

When you are in Kuldīga again many years later, look at this drawing and find out if you have foreseen the future.

Keep going! Walking along Raiņa Street (Raiņa iela) you can already from afar see **Kuldīga Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church** (Kuldīgas Svētās Trīsvienības Romas katoļu baznīca) at **6 Raiņa Street**. The foundation stone for the church was laid a long time ago, in Duke Jacob's times. There are true art treasures in the church – the sculpture "Madonna with a Child" and the painted confession bench. But in the inner yard of the block there is "Our Lady of Sorrows" women's monastery (Sāpju Dievmātes klosteris) where Dominican Sisters serve.

task 5:

somewhere outside this church there is a Jesus figurine. Find it! Write in where exactly the figurine is situated!

Go to Year 1905 Street (1905. gada iela) past Cafe "Staburadze". There is **the Synagogue building complex at 6 Year 1905 Street** (1905. gada iela 6) on your left. It consists of three buildings: the Synagogue that was built during the period of reign of Tsar Alexander II, the preaching-house and the Jewish mortuary. Nowadays after restoration the Synagogue building houses the main library, but the former preaching-house has been turned into Kuldīga Art House.

task 6:

in this building there was a Jewish temple. Above the altar there was a window that differs in shape from the other windows. Light through this window spread all over the temple. It is your task to find this window and count how many rays there are on the window.

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Across the street in the park there is a recreation area with a fountain including the **sculpture “A Girl with a Water Bowl”** by sculptor Līvija Rezevska. Kuldīga citizens have named this sculpture **Annīņa**.



task 7:

Kuldīga citizens name this sculpture **Annīņa**. Do you have an idea what kind of legend might there be about **Annīņa**? What crucial events of this girl’s life could this sculpture depict?

Continue your walk crossing the park in the direction of **Baznīcas Street (Baznīcas iela)**. Walking down **Baznīcas Street** you will definitely have a look at the **Levinson’s house (Levinsona nams) at 27 Baznīcas Street** located on the right of the street. Levinson’s family lived here in ancient times. The building accommodated **Gustav Cimmerman’s** typography, barber’s shop, grain shop, ironing service, milk shop, saddler’s workshop. Here it was also possible to apply for transporting the goods by car.



task 8:

Standing in front of the house you will notice an ancient advertisement on the wall. It depicts what was located in this building earlier. Think of what it was and write it down.

Further on you can notice a building that possibly gave the name to **Baznīcas Street** (meaning Church Street) – **St. Catherine’s Lutheran Church (Sv. Katrīnas luterāņu baznīca) at 31/33 Baznīcas Street**. Initially it was built in 1252 as the first church in Kuldīga un named after the patroness of Kuldīga – St. Catherine. Take the chance to get to the top of the church tower opening a wonderful view of Kuldīga.

One of the most ancient parts of the church is the royal door. Previously only Duke Jacob or his wife – **Duchess Luise Charlotte** could use this door during their visits to the church. In the church there is a famous **St. Catherine’s medallion**, the ancient coat of arms of Kuldīga.

task 9:

find the church door with the ancient coat of arms of Kuldīga depicting St. Catherine above it! Mark this place in the photo!



You should certainly have a look at the former **Landlord's house** (*Virspilskunga namiņš*) at **34 Baznīcas Street**.

After the Great Northern War Kuldīga Palace was ruined and the landlord with his servants moved to live here. Now you have come to Kūrava square. Kuldīga citizens tell that through the hiss of the waterfall one can hear heavy steps and clang of swords as at midnight Duke Jacob keeps fighting with robber William. The legend says that the Duke was defending the Latvian girl Līzīte and during the fight he plunged robber William into the river in the so called Gipsies' whirlpool. There is a novel written on the basis of this legend "The Duke and the Couronian Girl". Go towards the river until you reach the stairs that lead downstairs to the bank of the river Venta!

task 10:

try to figure out the Gipsies' whirlpool in the river Venta. Put a cross in the photo where, in your opinion, it is located!

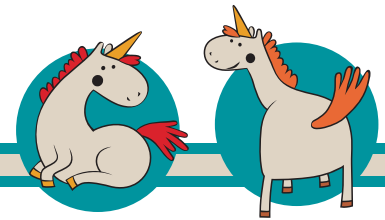


On your way to the Venta bridge you have to see **Alekšupīte waterfall** (*Alekšupītes ūdenskritums*) that is the highest (4,15 m) natural **waterfall** in Latvia and the windmills next to it. There used to be a barrage with sluices for the needs of the windmills of the palace. Behind the windmills you will see the **ancient brick bridge** over the river Venta that is the pride of Kuldīga – one of the longest brick vaulted bridges in Europe. The bridge has interesting lanterns with fish!

task 11:

how many fish can you count on the bridge? Give the correct answer!

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Walking over the bridge, you can see the beautiful **waterfall Ventas rumba** – the widest natural waterfall in Europe. It is 249 metres wide. There are several legends and historical events connected with the waterfall, for example, Duke Jacob's invented fish catching device that was located on the waterfall.

task 12:

put the letters in the correct order and identify the reason why ancient Kuldīga was known as a town where...

G	U	T	A	C	H

N	I

H	E	T

R	I	A

S	I	H	F

E	R	E	W

Go to **Pils Street** (meaning Palace Street) by the river and visit the **House of the palace guard** (*Pils sarga mājiņa*) at **4 Pils Street**. It is also known by people as the Executioner's house – In townspeople's conversations the small building got the horrifying name since there used to be a place of punishment here. While there was the palace on the bank of the river Venta, the guards lived there. In ancient times there was an uplift bridge over the river Venta, the guards charged a bridge fee for the transported goods. The last guard Bořemel asked the Duke for permission to use the palace wall stones in order to build his house in the yard. Soon the house was ready, the palace collapsed though, and the last ruins were collected 160 years ago.

Near the river there is the **Rumba pavilion at 4A Pils Street**. It was the idea of the fourth President of Latvia Kārlis Ulmanis that there should be a kiosk for tourists here. From the pavilion one can get a great view of Ventas rumba and the ancient bridge.

task 13:

count how many columns support the reed roof of the Rumba pavilion!

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You will find **Kuldīga District Museum** (Kuldīgas novada muzejs) not far from here **at 5 Pils Street**. The history of this building is ancient and is still being explored. There are certain reasons to think that it was designed by a famous architect. It is known as *Bangert's villa* as it as if belonged to the famous industrialist *Bangert* who also owned a sheet metal factory in *Liepāja*. During restoration (2013-2014) the house revealed a lot of its initial looks. The original paintings on the walls and floors of the villa walls were uncovered and fragments of the original wallpapers were found. A luxurious tile stove and a fireplace, as well as historic doors and windows have been preserved.

task **14**:

walking along Pils Street you will see several rigid ancient cannons. Count them! How ancient are they?

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Going further along Pils Street you will see a fountain. Crossing the pond bridge you will get to **Dīķu Street** (Dīķu iela). Continue walking till you reach **Rumbas Street** (Rumbas iela). The quiet and romantic Rumbas Street is relatively ancient, but not as ancient as the neighbouring Kalna Street and Jelgavas Street. It was not marked in the town plan in 1797 yet. In the first half of the 20th century it was not so quiet here, the street echoed noise of horses and carriages since blacksmith worked at 2 Rumbas Street 2, later at 4 Rumbas Street. There were just three blacksmiths in the town. At that time they were not short of work!

task **15**:

walk quietly along the paved Rumbas Street and write down how many and what colour cats you met during your walk!

At the end of Rumbas Street there is a crossroad, turn right and walk along **Kalna Street** (Kalna iela). It is one of the most ancient streets of Kuldīga. The old dwellers built it from the stones of Kuldīga palace. The characteristic feature of the street is its ancient construction, fantastic doors with skylight windows. It is worth stopping and looking at the buildings at 13 Kalna Street and 15 Kalna Street dating back to the 18th century.

task **16**:

imagine that you are the door designer!
Draw the door for this building!



Then keep going to reach **Ede's Photoworkshop** (Edes fotdarbnīca) **at 21 Kalna Street**. Kuldīga District Museum stores beautiful ancient photos – a big, smartly dressed family sitting in the park. Invention of the photo equipment at the beginning of the 19th century finally allowed to immortalize people. People prepared for it, went to the town and were sitting without moving in front of the camera for about 20 minutes until the picture was created. Several photographers worked in this wooden house including Karlis Ede. On the old board of the facade of the building now you can see M. Zingberg's name on the advertisement.



task 17:

to immortalize your trip around Kuldīga please draw portraits of you and your friends! Very beautiful! This will be a nice photo as a memory of today's walk!



Now go along **Skolas Street!** In front of you there is a bridge over the river **Alekšupīte**. **Alekšupīte** in the upper course is also called **Čūtene**, **Dzirnavupīte**, **Pelčupīte**, in the midstream – **Sūre**, **Sūrupīte**, in the lower reaches – **Alekša upīte**. It flows through Kuldīga old town and flows into the river **Venta**. We are on one of the six unusual bridges in Kuldīga old town that are protected by the state.

task 18:

describe this bridge and write what it is made of?

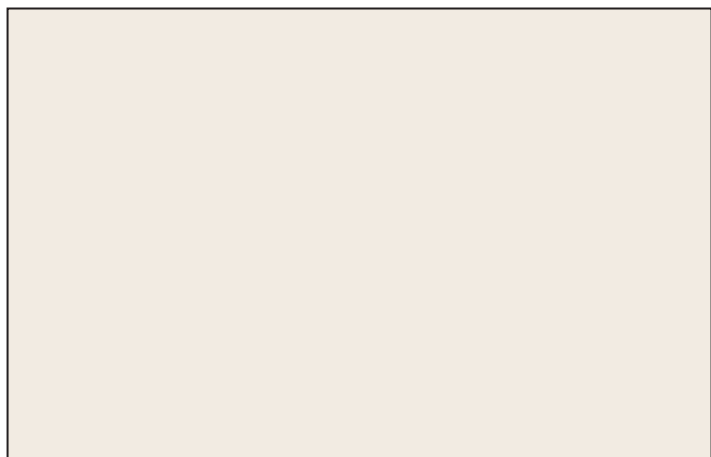
As you continue walking along Skolas Street, you will reach the crossroads with Baznīcas Street. As you turn right, you will see **Stafenhagen's house** (Stafenhāgena nams) **at 17 Baznīcas Street**. This house some time ago belonged to a merchant Ernst Stafenhagen who later was the second Mayor of Kuldīga. An ancient legend says that in the 17th century the King of Sweden Karl XII stayed in the building. After his stay he left an unusually big money box in the hall that one can still see. Open the doors safely, go through the entrance hall!

task 19:

Find the big box!

Write where it is situated or draw the box!





On your way to the Town Hall Square there is one of the rare buildings on the right **at 10 Baznīcas Street** that was built using the German timber frame and infill method.

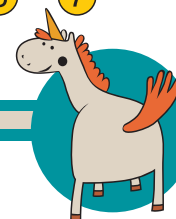


task 20:

letter game. After you guess it, you can discover what was there in the building in 1622 already. Write the first letters of the words naming what you see in the picture.

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1 2 3 4 5 3 6 7



Go further until you reach the building at **7 Baznīcas Street**. This house has the honour to be the oldest wooden residential building in Kuldīga. It is really an example of a typical Kuldīga old residential building. The building has a souvenir from the past.

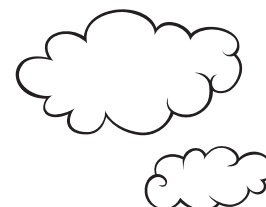
task 21:

explore the building very carefully from bottom to the top! Find it! We were carrying it with us all the time while playing this game, we were looking for it. Did you find it?

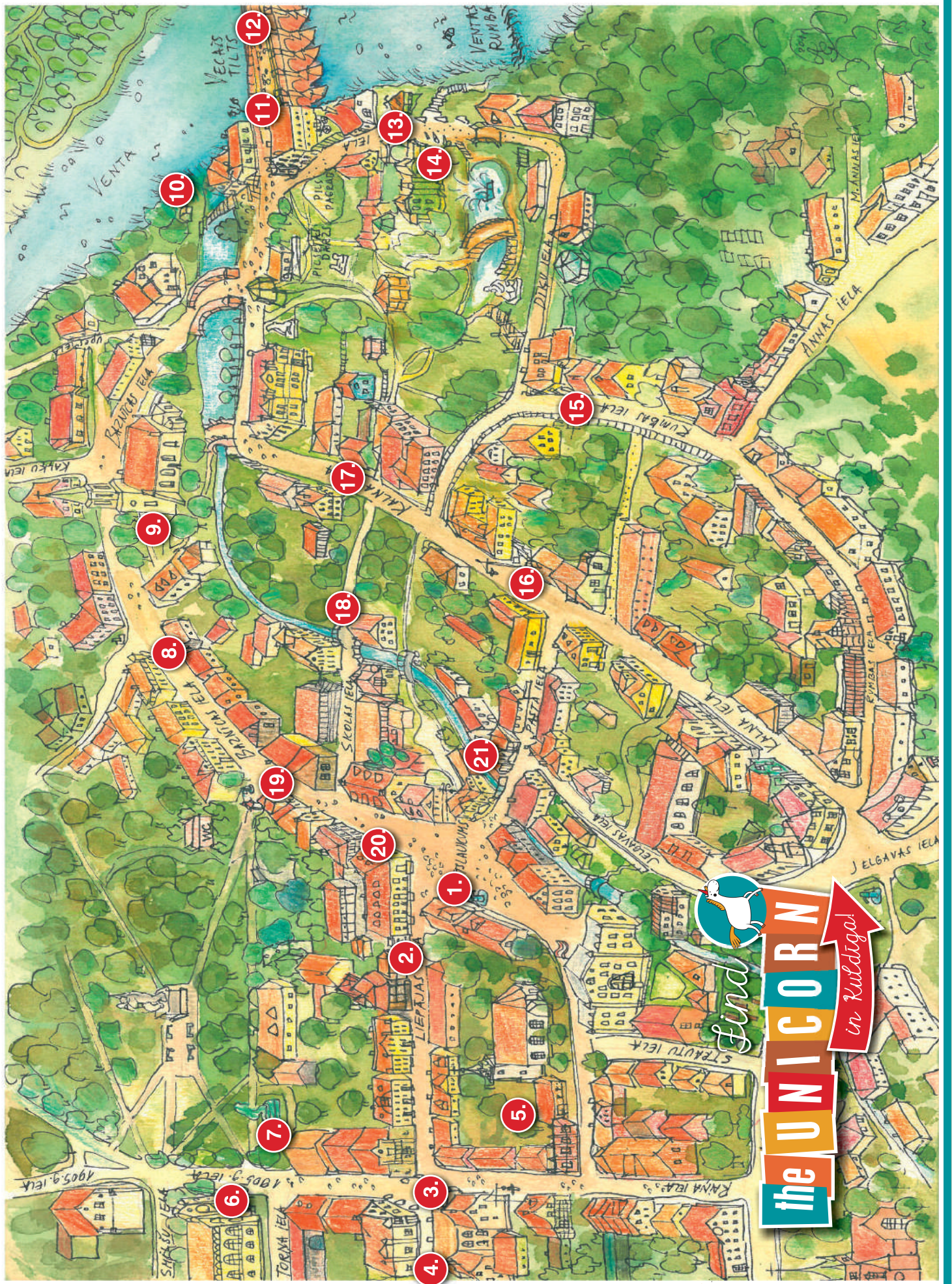
It has a beautiful weathervane decorated with a silhouette of the mythical guard of the house – the unicorn, a property sign and the year “1670” that has been later supplemented by the year “1742”.

task 22:

draw the ancient weathervane “**Unicorn of Kuldīga**”!



Since 1956 this most valuable article is been stored in the Kuldīga District Museum. The weathervane is made of copper sheet fastened to the iron frame. A similar copper sheet is also used for the supplements of the year 1742. Among numerous weathervanes made in Rīga and Courland in the 17th – 18th centuries the Kuldīga weathervane is the only one possessing such a combination of material – it was explored in the 30-s of the 20th century by the Baltic German researcher of the local history Valfrīds Fromholds-Treijs.



Find

the UNICORN

in Kuldīga!



Nordplus