

Riga Art Nouveau — The Big Spotter Challenge

Where to find every item — complete guide for parents

Parents & guides only
ANSWER SHEET

barefootbaltic.com · Keep this sheet — don't let the kids see it until after the walk!

For parents and guides only. This sheet tells you exactly where to find every item on the spotter list — so you can subtly point children in the right direction without giving it all away. Give hints, not answers. 'It's on that building... look higher... look at the corner...'

Difficulty key:

● Easy — visible immediately once you know where to look

● Medium — requires looking carefully or knowing exact spot

● Hard — small detail, needs pointing out

1 STREET FINDS

Visible from the pavement · No museum entry needed

1

Two lions on a rooftop

Easy

Alberta iela 4 — both roof corners

of 18

Step back to the opposite pavement, then look all the way up to the roof corners. A lion stands on each. They are quite large — you need distance to see them.

3

A face staring down at you

Easy

Any Eisenstein building — Alberta 2a, 4, 6 or Elizabetes 10

of 18

Look up at the 3rd or 4th floor of any Eisenstein building. The most dramatic faces are on Alberta iela 2a (colossal — almost full storey height) and Elizabetes 10b.

5

Sky-blue ceramic tiles on a building

Easy

Elizabetes iela 10b — the full facade

of 18

This is the unmistakable one. The entire facade of Elizabetes 10b is covered in restored sky-blue ceramic tiles. Stand directly across the street to see the full effect.

7

A snake or serpent

Hard

Alberta iela 4 or 6 — decorative border detail

of 18

Look at the ornamental borders framing the windows and entrance arches on Alberta 4 and 6. The serpents are woven into the flowing Art Nouveau borders rather than as

9

Leaves or vines on a building

Easy

Anywhere — easiest on Alberta 6 or Elizabetes 10b

of 18

Art Nouveau uses organic plant forms everywhere. The easiest find is the flowing floral borders on Alberta 6 and around the window frames of Elizabetes 10b.

11

A flower ornament

Easy

Any building — easiest on Alberta 8 or Elizabetes 10b

of 18

Floral ornament appears on almost every building. The easiest finds are the stylised flower rosettes around the window frames on Alberta 8 and the decorative garland

13

A sleeping or dreaming face

Medium

Alberta iela 2a — 3rd floor, outer faces

of 18

The faces on Alberta 2a include both anguished and serene expressions. The outer faces on the 3rd floor have closed or half-closed eyes that read as sleeping or dreaming. Compare

15

Any bird ornament

Easy

Elizabetes 10b (peacocks) or Alberta 2a (eagles)

of 18

Peacocks on Elizabetes 10b — mid-floor level. Eagles on Alberta 2a — upper floors near the roofline. Both are clearly bird-shaped. The peacocks are the easiest to identify from the feather tail shapes.

2

Two stone dragons

Easy

Antonijas iela 8 — flanking the front door

of 18

Walk down Antonijas iela from Alberta iela. The door is about halfway along. The two dragons are at head height on either side of the entrance arch — hard to miss once you're looking.

4

A peacock carved in stone

Medium

Elizabetes iela 10b — the blue building

of 18

Stand across from Elizabetes 10b and look at the middle floors. The peacock ornament is between the second and third floors on the bay window section.

6

An eagle with spread wings

Medium

Alberta iela 2a — upper floors and roofline

of 18

Look at the upper floors of Alberta 2a. The spread eagles are between the large colossal faces and the roofline — wings fully extended outward.

8

A Latvian sun symbol carved in stone

Medium

Alberta iela 11 — mid-building, above the entrance

of 18

The auseklis (morning star / sun wheel) is the most prominent ornamental motif on Alberta 11. Look at the central section between the first and second floors — a

10

A window with a very strange shape

Hard

Alberta iela 6 — upper floor, central section

of 18

Look at the upper floor windows of Alberta 6. One window aperture has a distinctive keyhole or teardrop shape — elongated and narrowing at the top. It stands out clearly

12

A building with a corner tower

Easy

Alberta iela 12 — the museum building

of 18

Alberta 12 has a distinctive round corner tower with an ornate cap. Best seen by standing at the junction of Alberta iela and Strēlnieku iela and looking diagonally at the corner.

14

An angry or grumpy face

Medium

Alberta iela 4 — entrance level, Medusa heads

of 18

The Medusa heads flanking the entrance of Alberta 4 have dramatic, fierce expressions. Also check the upper floor masks on Alberta 2a — several have stern downward-turned mouths.

The hint strategy that works

Never point directly. Say: 'It's on that building... look higher... try the corners... walk across to see it better'. Children find things much more satisfying when they feel they found it themselves.

If they're getting tired

Items 1, 2, 3, 5 and 12 are the easiest and highest impact. If energy is running low, guide them to those five — all on Alberta iela or Antonijas 8 — and save the museum items for the end.

16

The spiral staircase

Museum entrance hall — Alberta iela 12

Easy

of 18

You see it the moment you enter. Stand at the bottom, look straight up — the staircase spirals all the way to the top of the building. Pēkšēns designed this as the centrepiece of his own home.

17

A bathtub with animal feet

Museum bathroom — ground or first floor

Easy

of 18

The cast iron bath stands on four lion's paw feet. Look closely at the feet — they are fully sculpted lion paws, claws and all. The bath was installed in 1903 and has never been replaced.

18

Wearing a 1903 period hat

Ask at the museum reception desk

Easy

of 18

The museum keeps a collection of period hats in the entrance. Ask the staff — they always offer them. The hats are reproductions of styles worn by Riga residents in 1903. Take the photo in one of the restored rooms.

Entry: €5 adults. Children are often free or reduced — ask at the door. Hours: Tuesday–Sunday. The museum lends period hats at the reception — always ask, they always say yes. Photograph

Explorer level guide — what to tell the children

1–4 found

Art Nouveau Apprentice*Good start! You spotted the basics. Come back and find more next time.*

5–9 found

Jugendstils Detective*Excellent spotting. You know what to look for now.*

10–14 found

Alberta iela Expert*Impressive. Most adults miss half of what you found today.*

15–17 found

Riga Heritage Keeper*Outstanding. You've seen things most visitors walk straight past.*

All 18!

Eisenstein's Apprentice ☒*Perfect score. You found everything. Eisenstein himself would be impressed.*

"The dragon door was the one that got them. They stood in front of it for five minutes deciding which dragon looked more dangerous."

"My daughter spotted the keyhole window before I did. I'd walked past it three times."

This answer sheet was prepared by Barefoot Baltic. We run small-group guided tours of the Art Nouveau district — and much more of Latvia. Find us at barefootbaltic.com.