

Welcome to the Zone4-Gathering August 3-10, 2019

Kaliningrad is truly worth a trip

We are deeply indebted to our brothers and sisters of Subud Russia for their readiness to organize this year's Zone4-Gathering.

The course for this event was set during World Congress 2018 in Freiburg. At the end of November 2018 Subud Russia decided to hold the gathering at **Kaliningrad**. Since then communication, planning and organization processes began to speed up.

Here are the details:

Kaliningrad is the westernmost Russian city on the Baltic Sea - the former city of Königsberg, situated between Poland to the South and Lithuania to the North – an exclave which was the easternmost German city until the end of World War II, and before this time the capital of the East-Prussian Empire.

Then a flourishing city of commerce, with beautiful ancient German buildings, was it heavily bombed by the former Soviet Union in the years 1942-43 and then further destroyed between 1944-45 by the British Air Force.

Today's **Kaliningrad** is a multicultural city with approximately 470.000 inhabitants, surrounded by the so-called "Oblast Kaliningrad" or the Kaliningrad Region. Being an exclave it does not have any direct land connection with its Mother Country Russia.



Here is an aerial image of today's **Kaliningrad**:



The city has several universities, colleges and professional schools, academies, research institutes and libraries. Immanuel Kant, the world-renowned German philosopher (1724-1804) was its citizen and professor at the ancient Albertina University. The city's state-owned university was named after him, the "Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University".

Kaliningrad's Culture and Places of Interest

Among the city's top attractions are several museums, theaters, imposing structures and historic buildings. One of the most well-known museums is the **Amber Museum**, situated in an old castle, the "Dohna Tower". It houses an impressive collection of amber jewelry and historic exhibits, natural amber and an exposition of the famous Amber Room.

If you are interested we recommend a short English-language youtube-video of the Amber Museum: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_rIQeV6mMo, or a brief introduction into Kaliningrad's top attractions, also in English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZONUK7iUXI>



The Dohna-Tower with the Amber Museum



Historical sailing ship made of amber

Museums:

Museum of Art and History
Immanuel Kant-Museum
Cathedral Museum
Museum of the World Ocean

Historic Buildings:

King's Gate
Friedland Gate with History Museum
Rossgartner Gate with Restaurant
Sackheim Gate



Kaliningrad's restored cathedral



The Russian Orthodox Cathedral
on Victory Square



Jewish Temple, destroyed in 1938,
rebuilt and consecrated in November 2018

Why Kaliningrad is truly worth a trip:

Scenic attractions all around the city may become your personal highlight of this visit: The so-called **Curonian Spit**, a peninsula of nearly 100km length reaching into the Baltic Sea belongs partly to Lithuania, and partly to the Kaliningrad Region. It is a formidable sand dune landscape, partly forested and a nature conservation area with a national park status for bird breeding – a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000, signed by Russia and Lithuania.

Busses from **Kaliningrad** go directly to the **Curonian Spit** (32 km).

Again we recommend you two short videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qg8ZB1dQ8A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TY9k45pVAjw>

Among the many scenic attractions around **Kaliningrad** are the so-called **Baltic Sea resorts**:

A much frequented seaside resort is Zelenogradsk, formerly Cranz, about 25km away from **Kaliningrad**, with daily bus connections from and to Kaliningrad.

Here is another short English-language video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zODzrKVPNVs>



Beach at Zelenogradsk, Baltic Sea resort

Our Zone-4 Gathering and the Baltica Hotel in Kaliningrad:



Thanks to the grand cooperation between Subud Russia and **Hotel Baltica** we are given the opportunity, during the entire meeting, to enjoy a pleasant atmosphere of **Western-style hotel rooms, sports grounds, recreational facilities, fitness rooms and large latihan rooms – at very affordable prices!**

Right nearby there is a lake, easily reachable by foot.
And food will be plenty and exquisite!

The contract with **Hotel Baltica** is near conclusion, and soon the Zone4-Team will mail out the official invitation to all Zone4 countries.

All details concerning costs, registration, room reservation and visa-questions will be included in this invitation. We have prepared an online-registration form which should make things very easy for you.

The Journey:

There are **flights** to Kaliningrad from all big German airports with a stopover in Warsaw. The Polish airline LOT has daily flights to Kaliningrad and back except on Saturdays. The Kaliningrad Airport is approximately 19 km away from the city center. The hotel is offering shuttle services to the airport and back.

Another low-budget alternative are flights via Danzig (Poland) with Wizzair or Ryanair. Busses from the Danzig bus station leave several times a day for Kaliningrad.

Have you become curious already?

**We certainly are –
and we are looking forward to being there together with you!**

Hashannah Kaplan, in the name of your zone4-team:

- **Salama Gielge, Zone4-Rep, Subud Austria**
- **Yosef Leuthold, treasurer, Subud Switzerland**
- **Alain Drejza, IT, Subud Norway**
- **Hashannah Kaplan, secretary, Subud Austria**

Fotos and videos : Wikipedia, Wikivoyage, Youtube