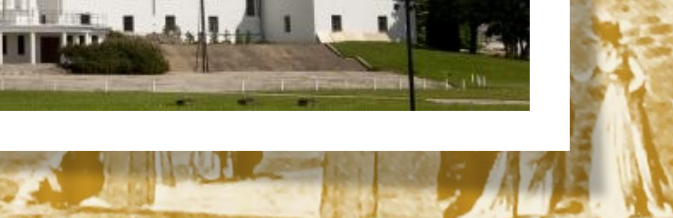
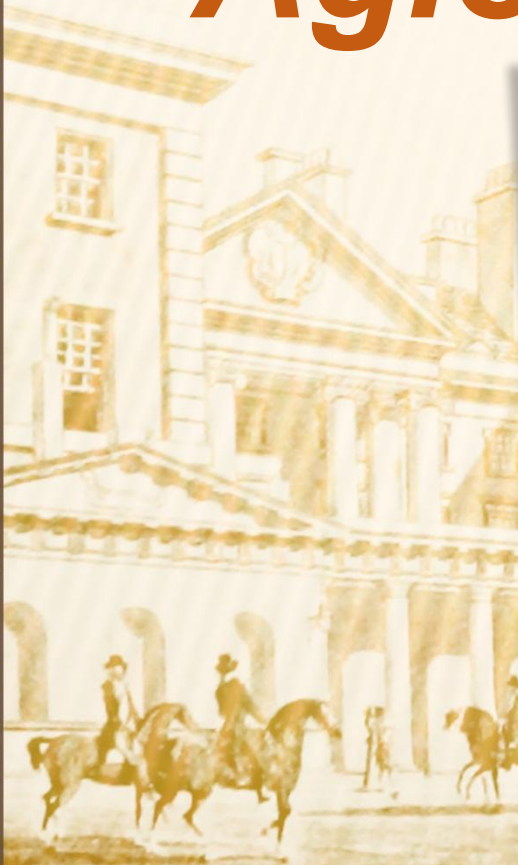
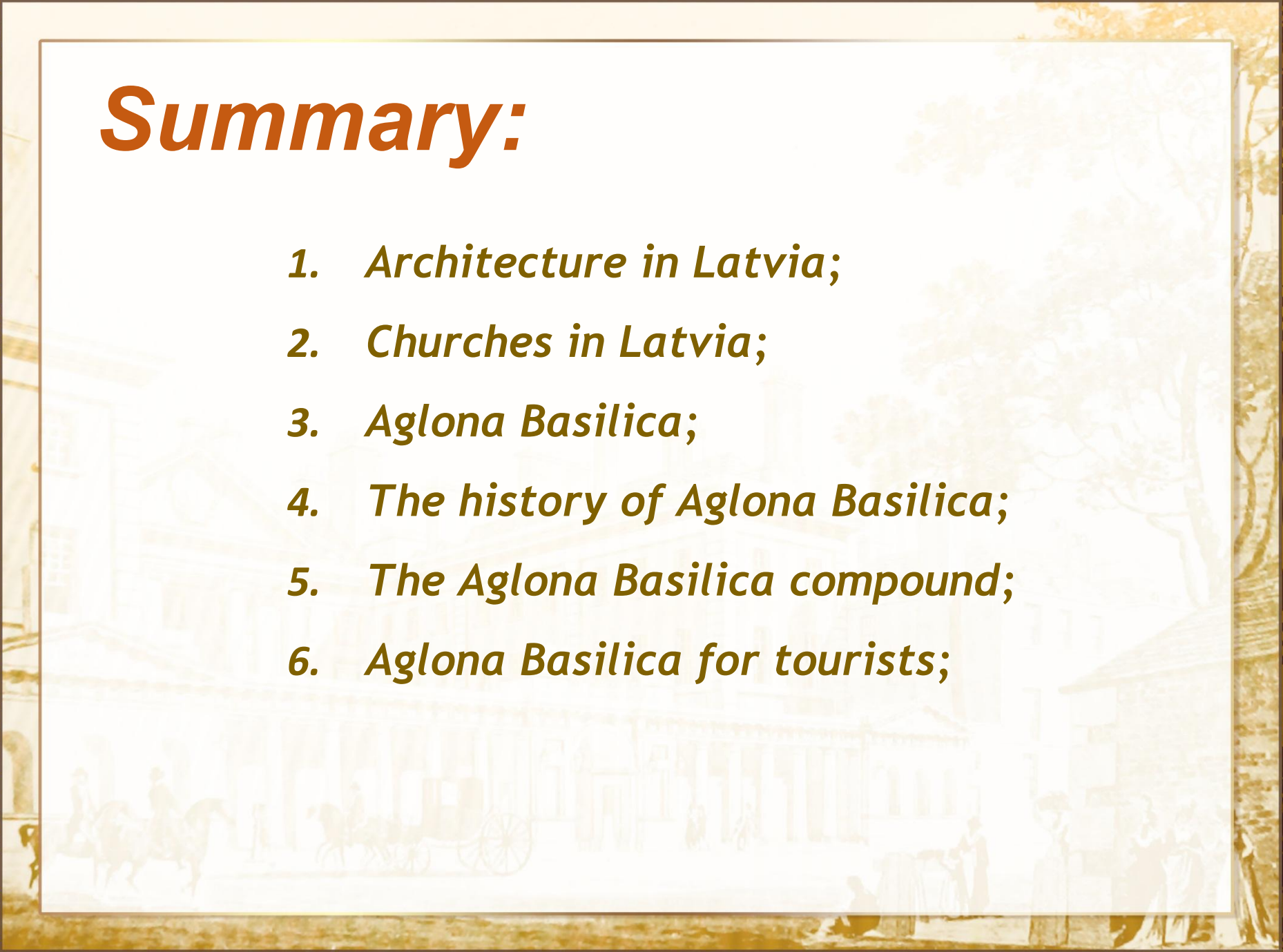


Aglona Basilica



Summary:

- 1. Architecture in Latvia;***
- 2. Churches in Latvia;***
- 3. Aglona Basilica;***
- 4. The history of Aglona Basilica;***
- 5. The Aglona Basilica compound;***
- 6. Aglona Basilica for tourists;***



The cultural and historic heritage of Latvian architecture spans many centuries, from authentic rural homesteads to unique samples of wooden architecture, to luxurious palaces and manors, churches, and impressive Art Nouveau buildings.



Architecture in Latvia

Churches in Latvia

A visit to a church in Latvia is a cultural and historical journey through the centuries, complete with their specific artistic, architectural styles.



There are a lot of historical and very beautiful churches in Latvia. Some of them you can find in the capital of Latvia, in Riga (Riga Cathedral; St. Peter's Church), and the rest are located throughout the territory of Latvia.

Aglona Basilica



Aglona Basilica

Aglona Basilica is the major Roman Catholic shrine of Latvia. Pilgrims flock to Aglona on August 15 each year to celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven.

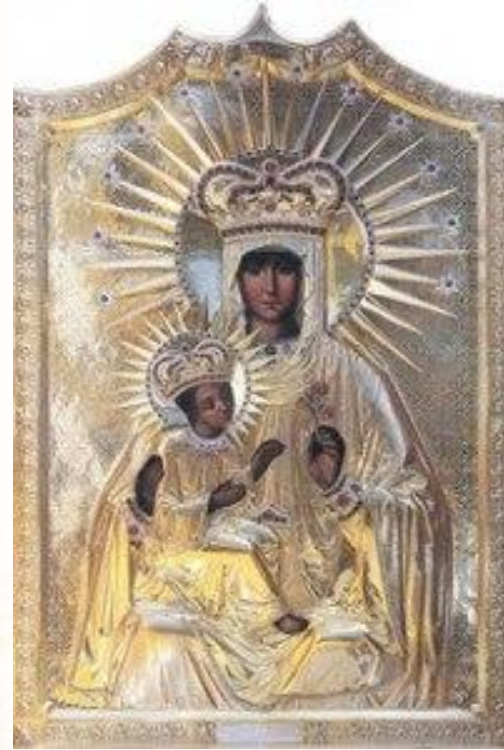
Aglona Basilica, built in the late Baroque style, boasts two approximately 60-meter-high towers. Inside the church, there are groin vaults, arcs and columns featuring rich Rococo style adornments. The church's refurbishing is from the 18th century and its bye-altars have been built in the early 19th century.



The History of Aglona Basilica



- *The first recorded mention of Aglona as a Christian center dates back to 1263.*
- *The church's interior was created in the 18th-19th centuries, and the organ and confessional were made in the late 18th century.*
- *Marking the 200th anniversary of Aglona Basilica in 1980, Pope John Paul II granted it the title of Basilica minoris, or 'small basilica'. Aglona Basilica is the only bearer of this title in Latvia*



A collection of paintings, sculptures and other artwork kept in the church includes a 17th century icon, “Our Miraculous Lady of Aglona”, which is only unveiled to the public during religious celebrations. The icon is believed to have miraculous powers of healing.

The Aglona Basilica compound

Aglona Basilica for tourists

The are a lot of legends about Aglona, which attract even more attention to this object. For example, do you know that peasant Kristaps Mateisāns from Spīku village was once taking his child to Aglona for christening. A fierce storm blew up as he was rowing his boat across Lake Cirisu and it rocked violently in the choppy waters. The peasant, struggling to navigate his boat, did not notice his child overboard. When he realized the tragedy, he cried out to the Lady of Aglona, and miraculously, his child emerged from the water near the shore, rescued by people on the lakeside.

A sepia-toned historical illustration of a busy street scene. In the background, a large, multi-story building with a prominent portico and many windows stands. The street is filled with activity: several horse-drawn carriages are visible, some with drivers and passengers. Pedestrians in period clothing are walking along the sidewalks. The overall atmosphere is that of a bustling 19th-century town square or main street.

Thank you for your attention!