



Places and Landscapes of Desire
RICHARD WAGNER IN THE BALTICS

Longing for success, love and recognition drove the young poet-composer Richard Wagner between 1836 and 1839 to a cultural region at the Baltic Sea unique in terms of history and scenery. Artistically, this was the time between his operas “Die Feen” (The Fairies), “Das Liebesverbot” (The Ban of Love) and “Rienzi”. In the end, experiences of escaping inspired him to write the “Flying Dutchman”. At the time part of Prussia and Russia, the northern part of East Prussia, the natural phenomenon of the Curonian Spit, the Memel region, Courland and Livonia, cities such as Königsberg, where Richard in 1836 espoused his first wife Minna, Memel and Riga today belong to Russia, Lithuania and Latvia. This book follows in the traces of the couple and builds a bridge up to the present day. The seductive appeal of a region sometimes out of step with the times, very lively and not ostensibly in the focus of the current cultural sector and touristic interest crosses paths with the unabated interest in Richard Wagner.



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