

EN

# Your Holiday Guide to Cēsis Region

Cēsis, Amata, Pārgauja, Priekuļi, Līgatne,  
Vecpiebalga, Jaunpiebalga





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**Cēsis Region: the intriguing spirit of the old with the creativity of the new, in the dazzling landscape of Vidzeme**

The central part of Vidzeme, which has enjoyed unwavering popularity as a traveller-friendly place for decades, is characterised by the depth of its culture and history, the tranquil pace of life of its towns and rural parishes, and the generations of skills of its craftsmen. You can find romance in the quiet water-lily bays of Piebalga’s lakes, and the music and poetry born in the homes or artists who lived there. The yearning for space and freedom in the depths of Līgatne’s forests harmonises with the fast Amata River calling for adventure. The ever-creative Cēsis adds an urban charm to the character of the region, while you should probably look for its merchant genes in the Pārgauja area, and in Straupe, the smallest town of the Hanseatic League. You can find a somewhat magical and mysterious feeling in the Priekuļi area, with its set of large natural sandstone arches, an ancient place of worship. The Gauja National Park calls to enjoy the pristine beauty of its nature, while the gentle flow of the Gauja brings peace and harmony. But who knows, maybe everything is completely different? So it’s time to travel there and discover it for yourself!



1

### Cēsis Castle Complex and Old Town

Pils laukums 9, Cēsis  
+371 26576111  
57.3134; 25.2709  
www.cesupils.lv

Take one step into the cobblestone streets of the old town of Cēsis, and you will teleport back in history: the medieval layout of the town's historical centre has remained almost unchanged. The small area of the Cēsis Castle Complex has seen more than ten centuries. The Riekstukalns Castle Mound built by the Vends, an old Latvian tribe, represents this ancient history. Evidence of the mediaeval age is not far away in the mighty ruins of the castle built by the Brothers of the Sword, with Cēsis Castle Complex and the New Castle as the central object. You can discover the creativity of the time in the exhibition house of the horse/carriage stable of Cēsis Castle.

Shown: Cēsis New Castle (Cēsis History and Art Museum)



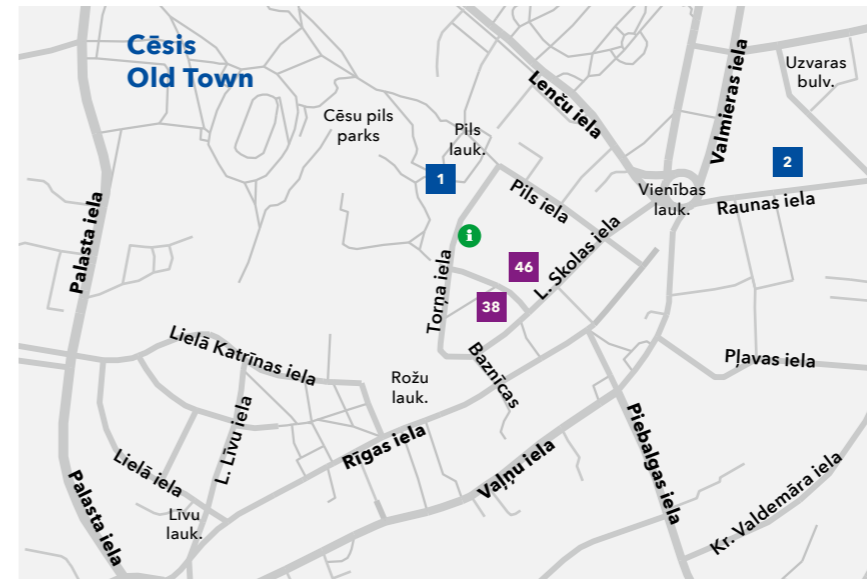
Shown: Maija Park

Scenic Pils and Maija Parks include elements of the Romanticist era of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Maija Park will greet you with its charming fountains and a friendly couple of black swans. Cēsis Castle Park offers leisurely recreation both in winter and in summer.

Amazing and heroic stories of resistance of individuals are revealed in the Bonfire of Conscience ("Sirdsapziņas ugunskurs") exhibition, created in a Soviet-era temporary detention facility, and talking about the occupation of Latvia.



Shown: Cēsis St John's Lutheran Church and Old Town



### Sightseeing objects on the map

- 1 Cēsis Castle Complex and Old Town
- 2 Cēsis Concert Hall (see page 6)
- 38 "Cēsu maize" bakery (see page 36)
- 46 "Labas saknes" healthy snack maker (see page 38)



2

### Cēsis Concert Hall

Raunas iela 12, Cēsis  
 +371 641 199 22  
 57.3133; 25.2764  
[www.cesukoncertzale.lv](http://www.cesukoncertzale.lv)

The concert hall is a vivid example of the legacy of the past and the modern world, the interaction between the old and the new. The contemporary architectural solutions created during the reconstruction of the old Cēsis Public Event Society building (Cēsu Viesīgās Biedrības nams) fit well into the town's environment, and attract attention, while the house itself continues to live a dynamic life. Here, everyone can access professional, high-quality art events: symphonic, chamber, jazz and contemporary music concerts, opera, ballet and theatre performances, art projects, film screening programmes, and visual art exhibitions.

Shown: Cēsis Concert Hall



# Travel to the past!

Today's dynamic cultural life of Cēsis Region has strong and deep roots in its past. Old castle ruins, castles, manors, and country houses still preserve the unique evidence of the region's cultural history.

3

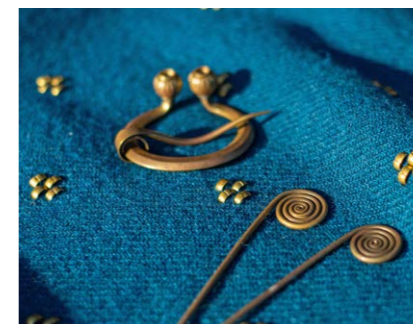
## Āraiši lake dwelling Archaeological Park and its surroundings

Āraiši, Drabeši Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 25669935  
57.2517, 25.2824  
ezerpils@cesunovads.lv  
www.araisi.com

A visit to the Āraiši Archaeological Park can become a real journey into the past: bring just a little imagination, and a tiny bit of curiosity, and your adventure can begin with the Stone and Bronze Age house exhibits on Meitu Island. The Āraiši lake dwelling is surrounded by legends, and is the only reconstructed 9-10<sup>th</sup> century fortified residence in Europe. Visiting the little houses on the lake island, exploring the local antiquities in the exposition, and listening to the stories of Āraiši, you can enjoy an experience of many centuries you cannot find elsewhere. The castle ruins on the shores of the lake keep the signs of the mediaeval age.



Shown: Āraiši lake castle



You can continue the journey by visiting the nearby church, which has been there since late 18<sup>th</sup> century. While reflections of the mid-1800's can be found on the walls of the Āraiši Windmill. The spirit of creativity has sparkled for a long time in the Craft House of Drabeši Manor.

4

### E. Veidenbaums Memorial Museum in "Kalāči"

"Kalāči", Liepas Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 25601677  
57.3955, 25.4780

Eduards Veidenbaums is a Latvian poet and translator. At the Kalāči Museum you will discover and feel the environment where one of the most famous Latvian poets lived and wrote in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Veidenbaums lived only twenty-four years, but his vibrant and extraordinary personality resulted in more than 90 poems, a contribution of significant value to Latvian culture, which shows its impact even today.



Shown: Reinis and Matīss Kaudzītes,  
19<sup>th</sup> century 80s

5

### Kaudzīte Brothers Memorial Museum in "Kalna Kaibēni"

"Kalna Kaibēni"  
Vecpiebalgas Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+317 26185382  
57.028020, 25.722436  
www.piebalgasmuzeji.lv

The literary contribution of the Kaudzīte brothers is inestimable. The museum is where they wrote the first Latvian novel, "Times of Land Surveyors" ("Mērnieku laiki"). The writers were also passionate travellers, and introduced the travelogue as a new genre in Latvian literature. In the museum, you see various objects related to the brothers' lives and their European trips. For example, the renovated viewing platform in the corner of the garden got its look, because the writers were inspired by the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

6

### K. Skalbe Memorial Museum in "Saulrieti"

"Saulrieti", Vecpiebalgas Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 26494406  
57.0780, 25.8418  
www.piebalgasmuzeji.lv



Kārlis Skalbe was a Latvian poet, writer, politician and journalist. His literary folktales play an especially significant role in the history of Latvian literature. The writer is called the "king of fairy tales" for this reason. In his stories, Kārlis Skalbe praises spiritual strength, and defies violence and hatred. The museum impresses with its unique architecture, the unforgettable landscape of its surroundings, the peaceful forest, and the poet's warm presence in the rooms, objects and stories.

Shown: K. Skalbe Memorial Museum  
"Saulrieti"

7

### Melānija Vanaga Museum

Amatas Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 29445480  
57.1673, 25.2780  
www.melanijavanaga.lv

Melānija Vanaga was a Latvian writer, local historian and lawyer. During World War II, she and her eight-year-old son were deported to Siberia, Krasnoyarsk Krai. Her memoirs about spending 16 years in Siberia are a striking and amazing chronicle of the fate of Latvian people, reminding us of their unimaginable strength and love for their homeland. The writer's heritage can be found in the museum.

Shown: Lielstraupe  
Castle Church Compound

8

### Lielstraupe Castle Church Compound

Lielstraupe pils, Straupe  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 29464946 (castle)  
+371 26411827 (church)  
57.3477, 24.9482  
www.tourism.straupe.lv

One of the most impressive groups of medieval historical buildings in the municipality is Lielstraupe Castle, which offers a journey through the centuries and its labyrinthine structures.

Climb the building's 26 staircases and almost 300 steps, and you will enjoy the unmistakable subtleties of the interior of the old oak school and the glazed tiled stoves from the beginning of the last century. You will feel an unexpected overlap of moods and events in the notable presence of the former hospital.





9

**Līgatne: a cultural and historical centre for industrial heritage**

Sprīņu iela 2, Līgatne  
 Cēsis Municipality  
 +371 29189707  
 +371 64 153 169  
 57.140, 25.222  
 www.visitligatne.lv

A place where industrial heritage blends harmoniously with nature, a place where contrasts merge and offer an unusual experience for every traveller. Gorgeous nature, with the Līgatne River, Lustūzis, and Ānfabrika Cliffs containing 333 cave cellars, combined with a paper factory and 19<sup>th</sup> century wooden architecture perched on the hills. An amazing worker village with a culture club, pharmacy, hospital, maternity hospital, and a beautifully renovated worker apartment in the oldest wooden row houses in Latvia, breaking the boundaries of time, and making the sense of history an evident reality.

Shown: left River Līgatne near Gaujmala, right the industrial cultural historic heritage centre

10

**Secret Soviet Bunker**

Skaļupe, Līgatne Parish  
 Cēsis Municipality  
 +371 26467747  
 57.2559; 25.0691  
 www.bunkurs.lv



Shown: Secret Soviet Bunker

The Soviet-era bunker was built in the 1980s for the political and state elites to use in the event of a nuclear war. It was only declassified in 2003. To this day, all authentic underground equipment has been preserved in the bunker. During your visit to the bunker, you will go underground as deep as 9 metres. Find all secrets of this page of history with a guide.





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### Jaunpiebalga St Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church

Gaujas iela 23, Jaunpiebalga  
+371 28381573  
57.1766, 26.0362

Renovated in 2013 after extensive restoration, the stately white church with a starry ceiling, a detailed Gothic interior and 800 seats is a real house of God perched in the hills of Jaunpiebalga. The old organ is played during both services and concerts. Master composer Emīls Dārziņš learned to play the organ here more than 100 years ago.

12

### Veselava Manor

“Viesturi”, Veselava Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 26100962  
57.2901, 25.4776

The Veselava Manor house is one of the twelve buildings of the once mighty manor complex that had a park and a pond. Accompanied by a guide, you will hear a ghost story about a white lady, walk around the manor house, and see its amazing heating system in the attic. You will find tools and household items in the room of old objects and curiosities.

Shown: Veselava Manor at the top,  
Vecpiebalga Manor at the bottom



13

### Vecpiebalga Manor

Can be seen from the outside  
“Pils”, Inešu parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
57.0191, 25.8305

The manor complex was built at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century on the banks of the Arisa (or Orisāre), the shortest river in Latvia. With its 19<sup>th</sup> century classicist park and flooded pond, it tells us tales of the time after the Great Northern War, when this manor became a prize for the destruction of Vidzeme that Peter the Great gave to the military leader Boris Sheremetyev.

14

### Ungurmuiža Manor

“Ungurmuiža”  
Raiskums Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 22007332  
57.3633, 25.0872  
www.ungurmuiža.lv

Discover the peaceful and carefree life of a 18<sup>th</sup> century manor in Ungurmuiža. The lovely manor, resting in the shade of large lime and oak trees, reminds its guests of the old days, when the manor house was one of the first big Baroque buildings in Vidzeme after the devastating Great Northern War. Harmony, balance, peace, and quiet create the special character of this manor. A cup of tea in the tea house, or hearty, slow-cooked meals inspired by old recipes in the restaurant will perfectly complement your visit. Extend your visit to the manor, stay overnight in the manor hotel!

Shown: Ungurmuiža Manor





# Be active!

The region has long been prized for its outdoor recreation. The snow-rich Vidzeme Highland offers the joys of winter, with snow often still up there even with the first spring flowers blooming everywhere else. Rapid rivers attract boaters in spring, while the Region's lakes are a place for fishing, and stand-up paddleboarding, and the forests, lush landscapes and Gauja National Park are a catch for hikers.

## **Boating in the Gauja, Brasla, and Amata**

Explore all the meanders of the Gauja, indulge in the flow of water and the restlessness of the river, breathe in the smell of grass in the spring, and enjoy the intoxicating freedom of being in water in summer. You can get all of that by boating on the Gauja. Meanwhile, a trip through one of the most beautiful small rivers in Latvia, Brasla, will surprise you with its gorgeous sandstone outcrops, and delight you with clear water and yellow lilies. It's up to you to choose the vehicle, be it a SUP board, a double canoe, or a spacious and comfortable picnic raft.



15

**“Araisis”**

“Pils”, Dzērbene Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 29648957  
57.1959, 25.6665  
www.araisis.lv

Historical-based activities: archery, javelin-throwing, walking with stilts, or running a battle race in full armour. We offer various workshops and other entertainment for different target groups.

16

**Disc golf**

Izmēģinātāju iela 1a, Priekuļi  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 29393403  
57.3103, 25.3705  
www.vgs.lv

There is a disc golf course very close to Cēsis, in Priekuļi. An 18-basket course can be a real challenge for beginners, and a great way to spend free time for seasoned players. A part of the course is located in an open area and another part in a wooded park. Group lessons with a coach are also available.



17

**“Karjers” outdoor recreation centre**

Priekuļu iela 21, Cēsis  
+371 20444141  
57.3173; 25.3176  
www.cesukarjers.lv

A popular aquatic sports centre was created in the old Cēsis dolomite quarry, giving it a second life. Its clear water entices rowers, with a 258-meter-long wakeboard track, springboards of various heights, as well as other dizzying possibilities, for those who like more exciting activities.



Shown: “Karjers” outdoor recreation centre

18

**“Chill Up” recreation complex**

“Raskumi”, Vecpiebalga Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 20377207  
57.0847, 25.8096  
www.chillup.lv

The recreation complex on the shores of Lake Alauksts has something to offer for all ages, different levels of ability, and excitement. Here you can relax and sunbathe, spend the night at a campsite, go to the sauna, swim, ride a boat or a wakeboard, rent bicycles and hydrocycles.



19

**Sesīji ponies**

“Sesīji”, Drabeši Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 26595545  
sarmitesviderska@inbox.lv  
57.2550; 25.2092

If the dream of a pony is a distant childhood memory of yours, it is time to make your own kids happy, and take them to a pony farm, for riding, carriage or sledge trips await. Perhaps you could combine it all with a child’s birthday party, for double the fun.



Shown: Sesīji pony at the top, husky sleigh at the bottom

20

**Give us a paw: an adventure with huskies**

“Papardes 2”, Drabeši Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 25951531  
57.2438, 25.2864  
www.dodkepu.lv

You can not only spend a great time getting friendly with the dogs on the farm, but also go on an exciting trip in a dog sleigh through the snow-covered forests and fields, or take a walk with the vivacious pets in summer.



21

**“Sillakas” fish farm**

“Sillakas”, Liepa Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 29188367  
57.3573, 25.4506  
www.sillakas.lv

You can fish for trout, carp, catfish, sturgeon and pikeperch in the Sillakas ponds. You can forget about cleaning your fish here. Our friendly hosts will prepare your catch, smoking it or make fish soup. If you don’t find fishing too exciting, you can go on a tour of the trout farm to buy and taste fish.



Below: “Apaļkalns” camping site

22

**“Apaļkalns” camping site**

“Apaļkalns”, Raiskums Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 29448188  
+371 29252679  
57.3177, 25.1477  
www.apalkalns.lv

“Apaļkalns”: your meeting place! And beyond, depending on choice and ability, by car, bicycle, or on foot through various charming routes around Raiskums. From a couple of hours’ trip to a day’s adventure through Stalbe and Straupe. The trails include pristine natural sites: rocks, lakes, rivers, caves, as well as old cultural history sites, like castle ruins, castles, manors, and mills. But you can also stay and breathe in the calm winds of Lake Raiskums, ride a boat or catamaran, fish and swim.





Shown: Ozolkalns at the top, Žagarkalns at the bottom



23

**Skiing hills and campsites on the outskirts of Cēsis**

**Žagarkalns**  
Cīrulīšu iela 70, Cēsis  
+371 26266266  
57.3037, 25.2311  
www.zagarkalns.lv

**Ozolkalns**  
“Saulkrasti”, Drabeši Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 26400200  
57.29434; 25.22298  
www.ozolkalns.lv

**“Cēsis” ski and biathlon centre**  
Vaive Parish, Cēsis Municipality  
+371 26433500  
57.3055, 25.3822  
www.occesis.lv

Popular winter holiday facilities with a wide selection of services for the entire family. Here you can ski and snowboard on tracks of varying difficulty, and have fun tyre sledging. Professional instructors teach skiing in a technically correct and safe way to everyone who wants it. The summer offerings include boating, rafting and other aquatic fun, as well as relaxing at the campsite.

24

**Skiing tracks in the Piebalga area**

**“Vanagkalns” skiing track**  
“Ziedoņi”  
Jaunpiebalga Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 2656 7616  
+371 27084919  
57.1150, 25.9491  
www.skiriver.lv

**“Zelta krogs” skiing track**  
Zeltiņi, Jaunpiebalga Parish,  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 26 333 814  
57.1065; 25.9247

Proud Piebalgans claim that there is always snow in Piebalga, and nothing is the same as anywhere else. Everyone is invited to confirm this. Cross-country skiers can enjoy their sport here day or night. If you do not have your own skis, you can rent or buy them on-site. In summer, this can become a true paradise for Nordic walkers, as the trails wind around the picturesque hills of Piebalga. We also offer hiking, guide services, boat trips, accommodations and a sauna.

25

**“Jaunpiebalga-Viņķu kalns” cycling trail with sights**

“Zauska” bicycle rental  
Gaujas iela 21, Jaunpiebalga  
+371 27001128  
57.1771, 26.0420



Below:  
“Zelta krogs” skiing track



# Cycling and hiking trails



## “Zaļie dzelzceļi” hiking trail

A trail for walkers, cyclists, Nordic walkers, and skiers, as well as for horseback riding and horse-drawn carriage rides. The trail mostly runs along old railway lines in Vidzeme and southern Estonia, for a total of about 750 kilometres. In Cēsis Municipality you can take the Ieriķi-Gulbene trail.

[www.greenrailways.eu](http://www.greenrailways.eu)

## Hiking trail from Līgatne to Cēsis

Intended for active hikers or cyclists, people who like to discover nature and find out about culture and history. This is a trip along the old valley of the most impressive river in the Baltics with Devonian sandstone outcrops on the banks of the Gauja and its tributaries. Located in Gauja National Park.

[www.visit.cesis.lv](http://www.visit.cesis.lv)

## “Mežtaka” long-distance hiking trail

The forest trail stretches for about 1060 km from Riga to Tallinn, through the territories of Latvia and Estonia and three national parks. The trail is divided into eight regions with different landscapes, terrain, nature, and hiking experience. In Vidzeme, it stretches through Gauja National Park and the Veclaicene Forest.

[www.baltictrails.eu](http://www.baltictrails.eu)

## Cycling trail from Gauja to Daugava

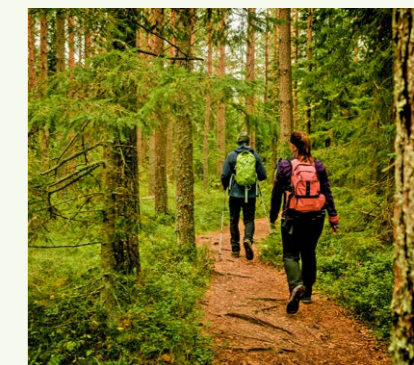
Take a trip of one or more days, to learn about history, to discover scenic views and nature trails, to go on adventures and to taste the world! Most exciting and significant sights in the vicinity of Līgatne, Amata, Ogre and Skrīveri are along the trail. For cyclists, the trail is recommended from May to September. The routes are mostly paved with asphalt, but with gravel in some places.

[www.visit.cesis.lv](http://www.visit.cesis.lv)

## Way of St James pilgrimage

One of the most popular pilgrimage routes in the world, with its destination at the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral in Northern Spain. In the vicinity of Cēsis, the Way of St James winds along the old Gauja Valley, through the surroundings of Priekule, Cēsis, Amata and Līgatne. The route is marked and runs mainly along forest trails, including those with asphalt or gravel paving.

[www.caminolatvia.com](http://www.caminolatvia.com)



# Go outdoors!

One of the basic aspects of the attractiveness of Cēsis Region is its nature. The diversity this one region can encompass amazes and captivates. From the bird cherry blossoms of the Gauja Valley, blazing autumn colours of the Cēsis and Līgatne areas, to the romantic landscapes of Piebalga roads and lake bays. From the rapid Amata to the fabulous Inesis and its seven islands.

26

## Brežģis Hill observation tower

“Brežģa kalns”, Taurene Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
57.1131, 25.6930

The view of the landscape that opens from Brežģis Hill has inspired many if not to start making poetry, then at least to dream. It is really worth climbing its 255 metres above sea level, and then, after a breather, another 11 metres of the tower! And not just because the long time on the road has been tiring, and you want to warm up your legs. From the tower, you can see (or try to see) the lakes of Piebalga – Alaukstis, Zobols, maybe even Inesis – and figure out which of the hills is Elka out there in the distance, or just inhale the morning air at sunrise, or enjoy the intoxicating sunset.

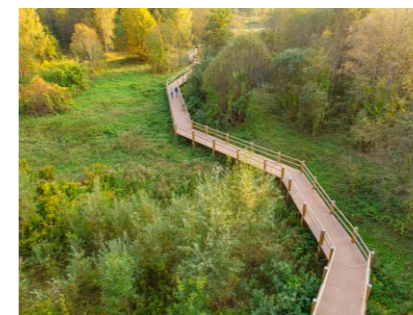
Shown: Cīrulīši Nature Trail

27

## Cīrulīši Nature Trails

Cīrulīši, Cēsis  
+371 28318318  
57.2995; 25.2191  
[www.visit.cesis.lv](http://www.visit.cesis.lv)

To think about the time when people did not yet live on the banks of the Gauja, to become stunned by the realisation that this miracle of nature here has existed for at least 12 thousand years, is a powerful emotion to experience while walking in the Gauja Valley. The Cīrulīši Nature Trails are a place where unique natural structures invite you for awe-inspiring sights. And awe-inspiring they are indeed! Zvanu Cliffs, Cīrulīši and Līgava Caves, Spoguļu Cliffs and Dzidravots Stream are all along the trails. Don't miss Cīruļkalns Hill during the trip, for the recently opened “Zaļais tornis” nature observation tower.



Shown: Lynx (Lynx lynx)

28

## Līgatne Nature Trails

Līgatne Nature Trails  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 28328800  
57.2486; 25.0150  
[www.ligatnesdabastakas.lv](http://www.ligatnesdabastakas.lv)

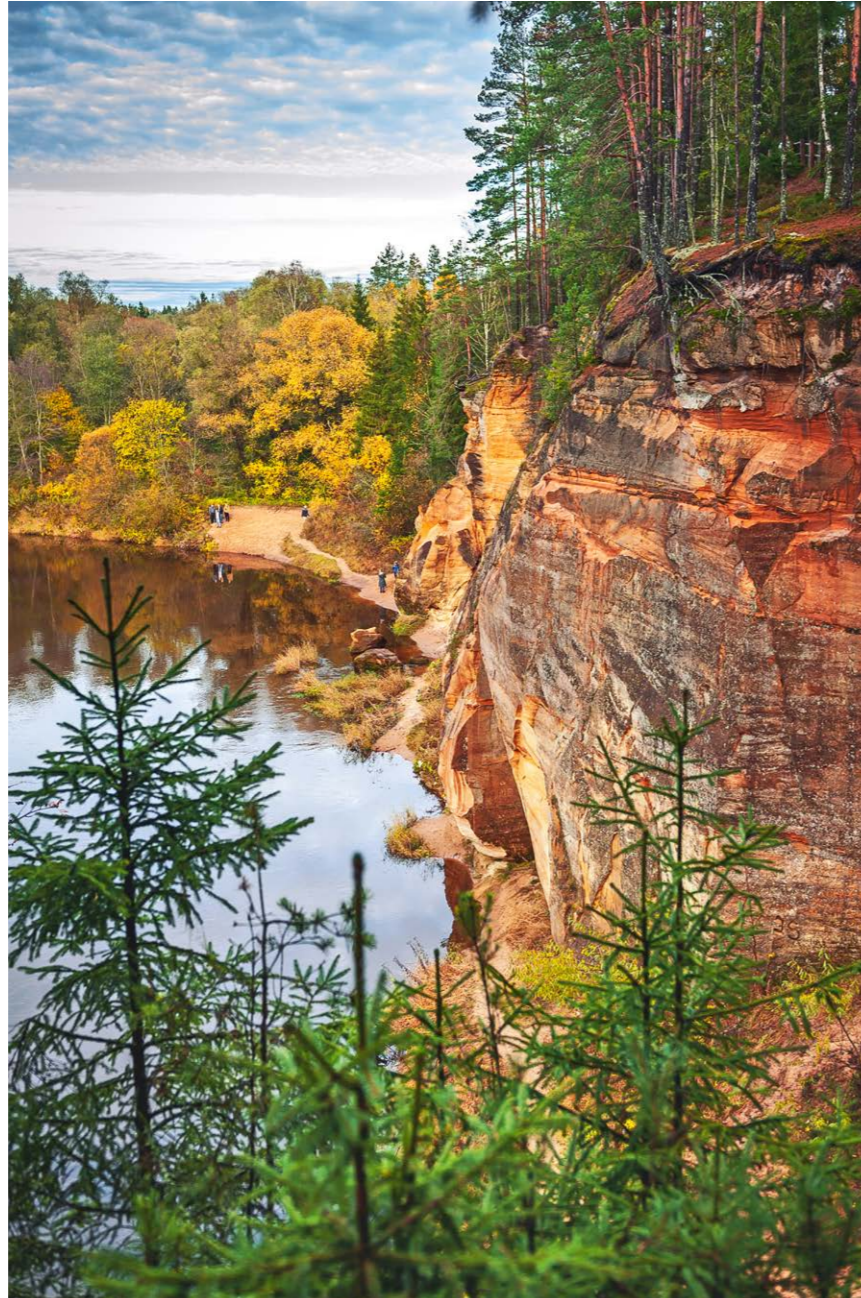
On the Līgatne Nature Trails you will see various species of Latvia's wild animals, untouched natural landscapes, listen to the sounds of the forest and meadows, and test your physical fitness by walking through the ravines and hills of the old Gauja Valley. The hiking trails are about 4-5 km long with varying degrees of difficulty.

29

**Ērgļi Cliffs**

Priekuļi Parish, Cēsis Municipality  
+371 28318318  
57.3601, 25.2609

Arrange a romantic date in the cliffs of Ērgļi, take your family or friends there, and you will definitely become a little bit happier! An old legend says that the echo among these cliffs sounds like a pipe organ. Stop at the viewing platform and enjoy this concert hall of nature!



30

**Lielā Ellīte**

Liepa Parish, Cēsis Municipality  
+371 28318318  
57.3845, 25.4276

This is one of the oldest tourist attractions in Latvia. Surrounded by sandstone arches, the Lielā Ellīte (Big Little Hell) cave site is almost beyond this earth and time. Its spring, formed by the groundwater flowing down the sandstone, makes Lielā Ellīte an unforgettable stop with a special mood of an old place of worship.

Shown: Ērgļi Cliffs on the left,  
Lielā Ellīte on the right



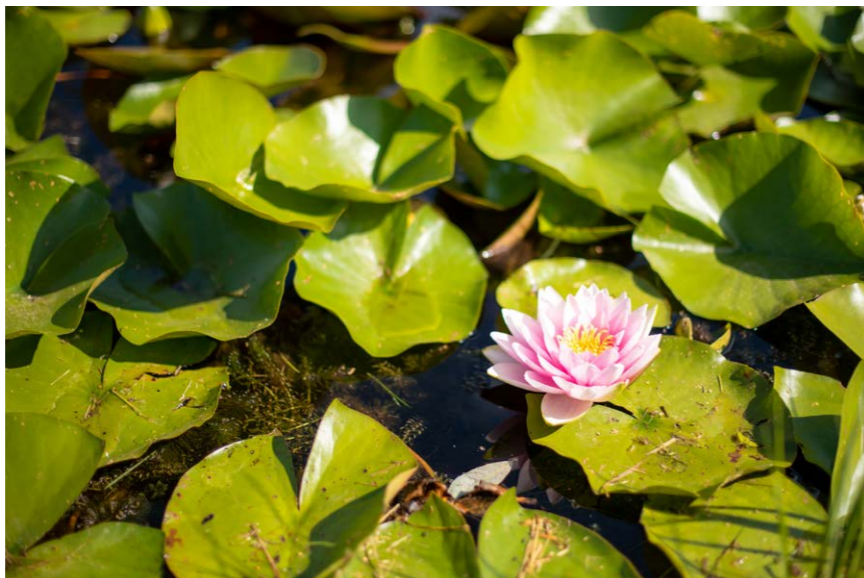
31

### Vecpiebalga water lilies

“Ūdensrožu dīķi”

Vecpiebalga Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 26109774  
+371 26253468  
57.0616, 25.814705

The story of the legendary Vecpiebalga water lilies probably began in the quiet gulfs of lakes, where young men in love took young women to look at the beautiful flowers. You can and should do this even today. However, travellers in more of a hurry are invited to stop in the centre of Vecpiebalga, at the Cēsis-Madona road, which has the Vecpiebalga Guestroom, a park for walking and exploration on the one side, and on the other, water lilies of different colours blooming from May to September. Children will especially enjoy feeding the fish that tickle their fingers in the water. You can also buy water lily seedlings for your own pond here.



Shown: Vecpiebalga water lilies at the top, view from Elka Hill at the bottom



32

### Elka Hill

Skujene Parish, Cēsis Municipality  
+371 29475811  
57.0838, 25.5916

The attractiveness of the large hill near Cēsis lies in the extensive landscape with green forest accents visible in the Amata area. Skujene, Taurene, and Piebalga become pieces in the mosaic of the landscape. One of the Struve Geodetic Arc points is also located here. Some say that this is where the origin of the Gauja is. Tours of the area and warm soup are available.

33

### Viņķi Hill and observation tower

Viņķi, Jaunpiebalga Parish  
Cēsu novads  
+371 26615072  
57.1474, 26.0762

Enjoy the grandeur and beauty of the historic lands of Piebalga from the Viņķi observation tower. The almost 18-metre-high tower will present an unforgettable natural landscape. Embrace your dreams! Let it become your Piebalga for a moment, too!



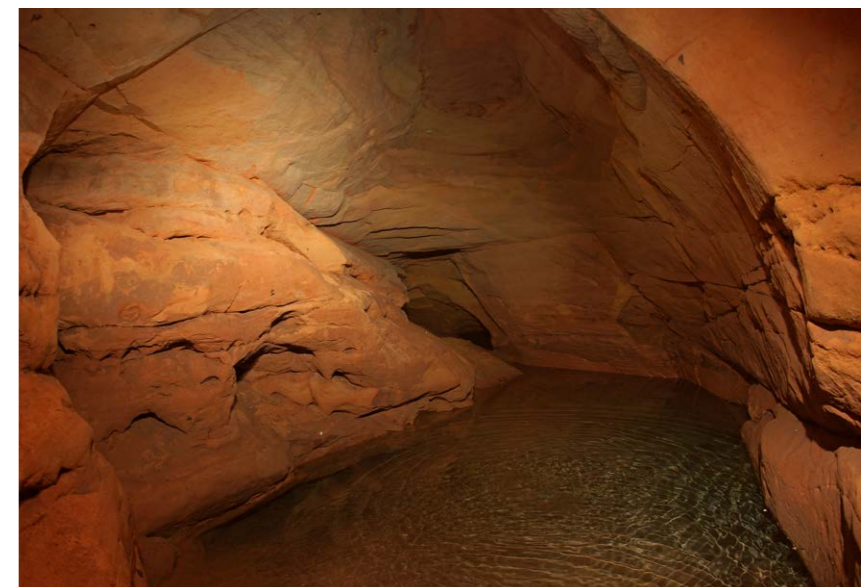
Shown: a view from Viņķi Hill at the top, Vējiņi underground lakes at the bottom

34

### Vējiņi underground lakes

“Vējiņi”, Straupe Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 29354189  
57.3398, 24.9056  
[www.pazemesezeri.lv](http://www.pazemesezeri.lv)

A mysterious place on the banks of the River Brasla, where underground springs have washed away large hollows and caves. A unique cave system with an underground stream and two beautiful underground lakes filled with clear and icy cold groundwater. After the walk, you can have a picnic or relax in the “Vējiņi” holiday house.





### Zvārte Cliff and Amata Trail

Zvārte Cliff, Drabeši Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 29252126  
57.2459, 25.1424  
zvartesiezis@gmail.com

This is one of the most picturesque Devonian sandstone outcrops not only in Gauja National Park, but also in Latvia. Here you can start a good hike along the bank of the Amata. You can cross the Amata using the pedestrian bridge, climb the stairs to the very top of the rock, and take the Meža Māte (Forest Mother) Trail. You can also not go anywhere and just enjoy the natural landscape at the river. In summer, there is a tourist information centre, and tours are available.

Shown: Zvārte Cliff



# Learn, master, create!

Cēsis Region is home to active and creative people who continue old artisan traditions, and develop new ideas. Visiting them can become an opportunity to discover your hidden talents. Everyone is invited to visit Cēsis, Zaube, Raiskums, Liepa, Piebalga, as well as Drabeši, Priekuļi, and Ineši. Friendly hosts are everywhere to offer food, advice, knowledge, and friendly encouragement.

36

## **"Annas dzirnavas" deer garden**

"Annas dzirnavas"  
Zaube Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 29176917  
57.0335, 25.3500

In this beautiful place by the mill lake, you will get to take part in a tour, look at the graceful animals, feed them and take a lovely picture with them.



Shown: deer garden at the top, Guna and Jānis Rukšāns Garden at the bottom

37

## **Guna and Jānis Rukšāns Garden**

"Jaunrūjas", Raiskums Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 29488877  
57.3489, 25.1133

Guna and Jānis Rukšāns have created the largest collection of hostas in Latvia, with 250 varieties and species, as well as phloxes, 100 lily varieties and about 80 varieties of water lilies. The crocus collection contains almost all 250 species currently known in the world. Around St John's Day, visitors are welcome to join the glorious Peony Festival, while the first Sunday in August is reserved for the Phlox Ball.



38

**“Cēsu maize” bakery**

Rīgas iela 18, Cēsis  
(entrance from Lielā Skolas Street)  
+371 26412803  
57.3120; 25.2720  
www.cesumaize.lv

This small and cosy bakery in the middle of Cēsis Old Town does not disappoint. Bread is baked here from organically grown spelt, buckwheat, oat and barley flour. Natural yeast is used. The owner of the bakery invites guests to taste and discover the secrets of baking healthy bread.



Shown: “Maizes māja” at the top,  
“Cēsu maize” bakery at the bottom



39

**“Maizes māja” farm**

“Krūmiņi”, Liepa Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 26887921  
57.3629, 25.3968  
www.maizesmaja.lv

“Maizes māja” has been making bread with the taste of freedom in Liepa Parish for almost 100 years – the owners are best at telling its story. They invite guests to join rural bread-baking rituals, to make their own dough and bake pies, to explore grain products, Latvian pagan symbols, and to find out about bread-related traditions.

40

**Saules Park**

Cēsu prospekts 7  
Priekuļi Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
57.3128, 25.3554

There are crops growing in Saules Park, and you can discover their names by taking the park’s paths. Its unique sundial will only show the time if you participate in the timing process yourself. In spring, 120 rhododendrons bloom here.

41

**“PuuceStudio” dome house and white clay workshop**

“Siliņi”, Jaunpiebalga  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 29439058  
57.1583, 26.0140

Stories about being friends with clay, Piebalga meadows, and how nature inspires one to create. Decorative kitchenware and interior items are available for sale.

42

**Piebalga Porcelain Factory**

“Piensaimnieki”, Ineši Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 28451800  
57.0210, 25.8310  
www.porcelanadarbnica.lv

Artist Jānis Ronis makes Piebalga’s white gold at the Piebalga Porcelain Factory. His diligent hands create delicate kitchenware, souvenirs, and special gifts. You can also visit the factory, learn the secrets of making the fragile porcelain and try painting it!

Shown: Piebalga Porcelain Factory



43

**Rakši Zoo**

Drabeši Parish, Cēsis Municipality  
+371 20009097  
57.2758, 25.1933  
www.kamieli.lv

Camels, alpacas, Valais Blacknecks, lemurs, Poitou donkeys and families of lively rabbits live in Rakši. Come and meet them! If you want to go hiking with a llama, ride a camel, enjoy a donkey safari, or feed the animals, plan for more time to spend in the village!

44

**Pigori workshop**

“Mazkrūzes”  
Jaunpiebalga Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 28626469  
57.1855, 25.9649

If you need your own steel-tongue drum, you have to go to Jaunpiebalga! Here you can find them in different sizes and colours. Steel-tongue drums are a modern musical instrument made out of metal, with a wonderful, meditative sound.

Shown: Pigori workshop

45

**“Veselības laboratorija”  
brewery**

Kalna iela 5, Līvi, Cēsis  
Municipality  
+371 29499567  
57.2843, 25.2518  
www.veselibaslaboratorija.lv

“Veselības laboratorija” makes alcohol infusions using only the plants and fruits obtained in Latvia’s biosystem, bringing out the combinations of vitamins, colours, and aromas typical of each season. During your visit you will taste the variety of alcohol infusion flavours combined with game meat snacks.



46

**“Labas saknes”  
healthy snack maker**

Lielā Skolas iela 6, Cēsis  
+371 26568037  
57.3126; 25.2729  
www.labassaknes.lv

The benefits of roots are so powerful that they cannot be ignored. The company produces hand-made healthy snacks from fruits, berries and vegetables, so that everyone has access to treats to tap natural and healthy energy from!



47

**Candle house**

“Pils”, Ineši Parish  
Cēsis Municipality  
+371 22080211  
57.0202, 25.8303  
www.gardeniaeco.com

The walls of the servant house at Vecpiebalga Manor still hold evidence of the times long past, while its windows are decorated with the light of bright and fragrant candles made today. The candle workshop, intoxicating with its endless aromas, is a place for everyone to cast a natural wax candle, enriched with herbs and essential oils. Here you can create gifts for others, and make treats for yourself. Time flies here, and positive emotions are a given. You can also buy the candles, if you are in a hurry, or not in a busy mood.



Shown: candle house at the top,  
“Labas saknes” healthy snack maker at the bottom

# Taste Cēsis Region!

Cēsis Region is small. Everything here is close and personal. You can shake hands with a farmer who grows grain and grinds it into flour for making bread. You can watch a cow grazing in the meadows, to provide milk for your breakfast coffee. On a flowering hill in the Piebalga area, you can hear bees humming and treat yourself to honey in the apiary. In the forests of the valley of the Gauja you can pick berries or mushrooms all day. As you pass by, you will see a fisherman waiting for his catch on the coast of the lake and know that a delicious meal will be coming. Your neighbours' rooster calling won't let you sleep on early weekend mornings, but you know that those chickens will lay eggs so yellow that the yolks on your plate will be competing with dandelions in the meadow



outside the window. The flavour of Cēsis Region has a unique note to it and much mysterious charm. This is probably also why Latvian restaurants that use local foods, have found a home in Cēsis Region. Your taste buds are guaranteed a festival whenever you visit our region! In Līgatne, you can go to "Ozolaine Kitchenspa" created by personable and friendly chef

Elmārs Tannis, and the Cook House restaurant by Latvia's celebrity chef Ēriks Dreibants. Popular chef Māris Jansons set up the restaurant "Kest" in Cēsis. Delicious, ecological and high-quality foods for their great meals come from the farms of Cēsis Region, with quinoa, amaranth, and buckwheat grown by Gusts Apinis, dairy products supplied by the Ieviņas farm, honey products brought by the Upmaļi farm, and teas, by "3X9 zālītes".

In Cēsis, you are welcome to enjoy a unique culinary experience prepared by local restaurateurs, growers and producers at the Flavour Market, which takes place in spring, at the whole Region's Autumn Restaurant Week in late summer, and at the Home Cafe Days in September. The weekend Zaube Wild Culinary Festival in July and the Slow Food Straupe Market at the Straupe Old Post Station will introduce you to the authentic flavours and recipes of the region.

Go on an unforgettable adventure of flavour in Cēsis Region!



## Restaurants in Cēsis Region

- **H.E. Vanadziņš Nordic restaurant**, Rīgas iela 15, Cēsis
- **"Zaķīši" Chinese restaurant**, Aroniju iela 3, Raiskums
- **"Ozolaine Kitchenspa"**, Ozolaine, Augšlīgatne
- **Pavāru māja in Līgatne**, Brīvības iela 2, Līgatne
- **"Jāņoga" restaurant**, Valmieras iela 21a, Cēsis
- **"Jonathan SPA Estate restaurant"**, Amatciems, Cēsis Municipality
- **"Kārļamuiža" restaurant**, Kārļi, Cēsis Municipality
- **"Ungurmuiza" restaurant**, Ungurmuiza, Cēsis Municipality
- **"Villa Santa" restaurant**, Gaujas iela 88, Cēsis
- **"Kannas" restaurant**, Anna, Zaube Parish, Cēsis Municipality
- **"1815" restaurant**, Springu iela 1, Līgatne
- **"Kest" restaurant**, Valmieras iela 1, Cēsis
- **"Cēsis" Hotel restaurant**, Vienības laukums 1, Cēsis

# Top sights in Cēsis Region

## Travel to the past!

1. Cēsis Castle Complex and Old Town
2. Cēsis Concert Hall
3. Āraiši lake dwelling Archaeological Park and its surroundings
4. E. Veidenbaums Memorial Museum in "Kalāči"
5. Kaudzīte Brothers Memorial Museum in "Kalna Kaibēni"
6. K. Skalbe Memorial Museum in "Saulrieti"
7. Melānija Vanaga Museum
8. Lielstraupe Castle Church Compound
9. Līgatne: a cultural and historical centre for industrial heritage
10. Secret Soviet Bunker
11. Jaunpiebalga St Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church
12. Veselava Manor
13. Vecpiebalga Manor
14. Ungurmuiža Manor

## Be active!

15. "Araisī" Disc golf
16. "Karjers" outdoor recreation centre
17. "Chill Up" recreation complex
18. Sesīļi ponies
19. Give us a paw: an adventure with huskies
20. "Sillakas" fish farm
21. "Apaļkalns" camping site
22. Skiing hills and campsites on the outskirts of Cēsis
23. Skiing tracks in the Piebalga area
24. "Jaunpiebalga-Viņķu kalns" cycling trail with sights

## Go outdoors!

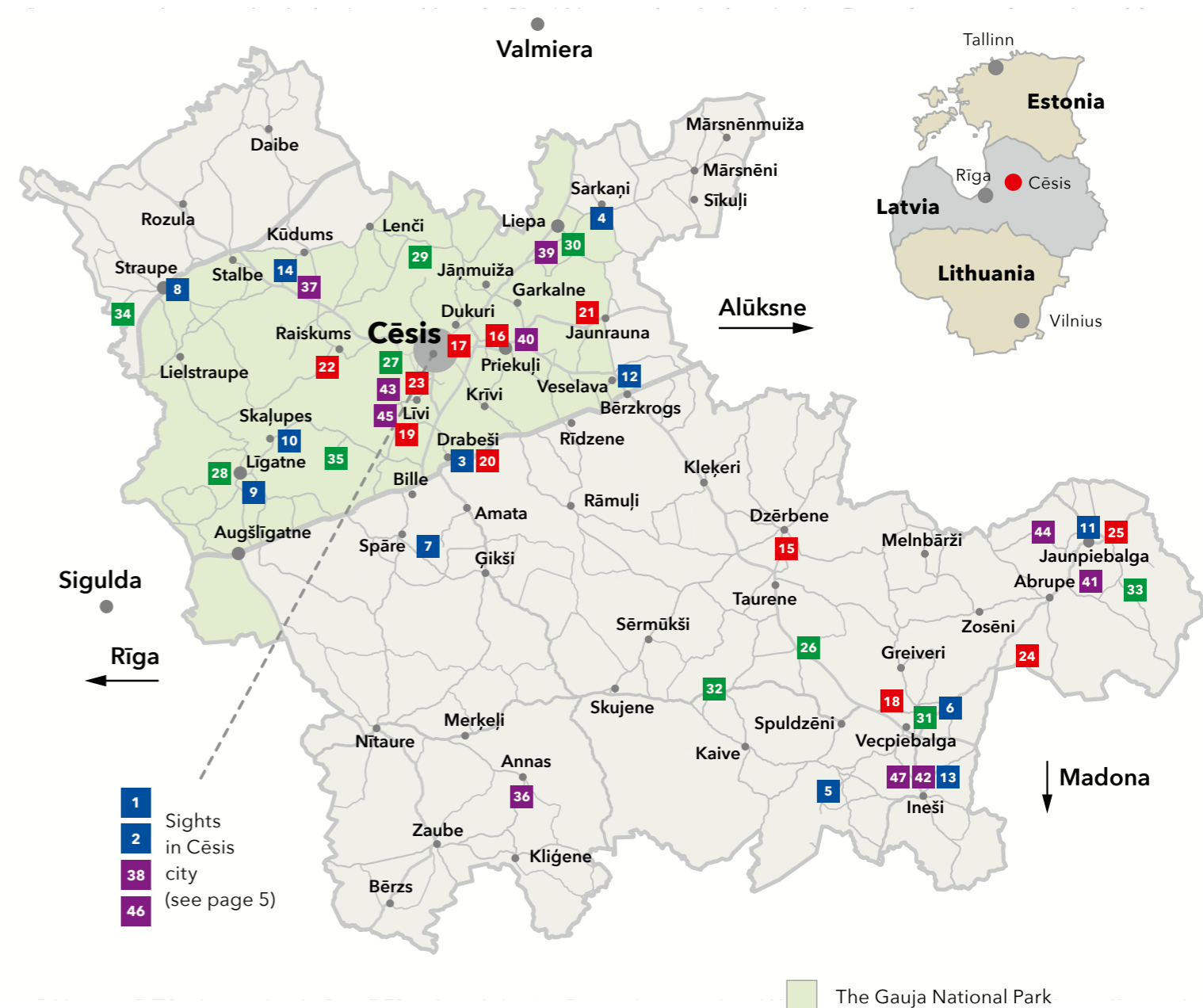
26. Brežģis Hill observation tower
27. Cīrulīši Nature Trails
28. Līgatne Nature Trails
29. Ērgļi Cliffs
30. Lielā Ellīte
31. Vecpiebalga water lilies
32. Elka Hill
33. Viņķi Hill and observation tower
34. Vējiņi underground lakes
35. Zvārte Cliff and Amata Trail

## Learn, master, create!

36. "Annas dzirnavas" deer garden
37. Guna and Jānis Rukšāns Garden
38. "Cēsu maize" bakery
39. "Maizes māja" farm
40. Saules Park
41. "PuceStudio" dome house and white clay workshop
42. Piebalga Porcelain Factory
43. Rakši Zoo
44. Pigori workshop
45. "Veselības laboratorija" brewery
46. "Labas saknes" healthy snack maker
47. Candle house

- Cultural history and art
- Outdoor recreation
- Nature
- Learn, master, create!

Find out more about the sights of Cēsis Region at [www.visit.cesis.lv](http://www.visit.cesis.lv)





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