

Cēsis  
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SUMMER 2024

# CATCH THE SUN

INSPIRATION GUIDE FOR HOLIDAYS IN CĒSIS COUNTY

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





# SUMMER IN CĒSIS COUNTY

Welcome to our summer guide! This will help you discover Cēsis county and have an unforgettable summer holiday! Here you'll find various ideas: from picturesque sunrise and sunset spots to active adventures in nature, delicious culinary festivals and inspiring cultural events. This guide is your ticket to a summer filled with exploration, discovery, and relaxation!

**See you in Cēsis county!**

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# A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

SET OFF ON A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY THROUGH **CĒSIS COUNTY**! CHOOSE BETWEEN BREATHTAKING SUNRISES AND SUNSETS, DELICIOUS DRINK TASTINGS, SCENIC FLOWER GARDENS, RETRO TOURS, AND EDUCATIONAL CRAFT WORKSHOPS! JOIN US AND DISCOVER THE ESSENCE OF SUMMER IN **CĒSIS COUNTY**!

## **GOLDEN HOUR**

Discover stunning sunrises and sunsets by choosing between picturesque lake and river landscapes or peaceful relaxation spots. Head to **Liepas Manor**, where a platform offers panoramic views of the surrounding fields. Experience the beauty of dawn or dusk combined with wide views of the of the **Gauja valley** at the **Ērgļu Cliffs**. Similarly, **Zvārtes Rock** and **Lustūzis Cliff** invite you to witness nature painting the sky in vibrant colors, with the sun gracefully rising or setting, immersing you in the silence of the moment.

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## **RETRO TOUR IN LĪGATNE**

Take a ride through the heart of **Līgatne's historic center** in the iconic "Latvija" minibus! Discover **Līgatne's** hidden gems, delve into the rich history of the paper factory, and experience the charm of the 1980s in a legendary journey. From May to October, every Saturday and Sunday, you are invited to join a one-hour adventure. While prior registration is not required, we recommend booking in advance to ensure availability by calling +371 28652090.







## PICNIC IN THE FLOWER GARDEN

In the summer splendor of **Cēsis county**, vibrant flower gardens await your visit. The “**Jaunrūjas**” farm grows ornamental perennials, miniature bulb flowers, peonies, and water lilies. When the flowers begin to bloom, hosts Guna and Jānis Rukšāni organize open house days and tours. Meanwhile, the old **Kārļamuiža** orchard, also known as the Zīvers apple orchard, still echoes the times when it was a vast pomological garden and one of the largest nurseries in the Baltic states in the 19th century. Schedule a visit, set up a picnic table, and enjoy the atmosphere!

## CRAFT WORKSHOPS

Visit craft workshops where creativity, ancient traditions, and heritage cherished through generations coexist. From porcelain workshops to natural jewelry making and beyond—together with knowledgeable craftsmen of **Cēsis county**, you can try various craft skills. We invite you to explore ancient crafts such as paper making at the “**Cits papīrs**” paper workshop, birch bark weaving with Līgatne’s craftsmen, porcelain production at the **Piebalgas Porcelain Factory**, and many other fascinating crafts. Plan your adventure, unleash your creativity, and support local craftsmen!



## DRINK TASTINGS

Visit one of the county’s drink producers, such as the **Raiskumietis Brewery** or **Līgatne Winery**, and savor the summer in **Cēsis county**. At Raiskumietis, you can learn about old beer brewing, bread baking, and meat smoking techniques with a guide while tasting their craft delicacies. Meanwhile, **Līgatne Winery** since 2010 offers around 30 wines made from local fruits and berries, inviting you to indulge in their diverse flavors during a tasting by candlelight in a sandstone cave at the foot of **Lustūzis Cliff**.





# HEART OF 'SVĚTAVOTS'





LET'S HEAD TO **CĒSIS, SVĒTAVOTS**. WE MEET WITH **VIZMA RUBENE**, THE "GRANDMOTHER" OF **SVĒTAVOTS**, WHOSE LIFE IS CLOSELY CONNECTED TO THIS LEGENDARY PLACE.

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**How did you end up here in Cīruliši?** I originally come from Saldus, but moved to Cēsis in my youth. After finishing my studies after World War II, I worked as a teacher near Cēsis. At the age of 25, I began thinking about family and met my husband, Valdemārs, who was a Latvian legionnaire, and we started a family. My husband saved money and bought a house here. It was important that there was water here. My husband found a barrel, dug a hole, and installed a pump. Our neighbors also took water from us. The place where the Svētavots nature park is now was a ravine, overgrown with bushes, like a jungle. Youngest one of our two sons said, that he wanted to create something beautiful here. We laughed, saying he had quite an imagination.

**How did Svētavots Park come about?** The younger son had grown up, finished university, and started working, never giving up his childhood dream. He found helpers—one person held the idea on paper, another built, and a third brought materials. I was amazed that they worked on this for 16 years and never gave up. It was a long effort, but everything was done with great love and dedication. I watched everything from the side. My son had a little baby boy who always watched them work. Now he is the owner here, and I am the grandmother. Earlier, when I had the strength, I busied myself here, sewed, hammered with a small board, and cut with scissors. Now everything has changed; small machines are used to mow. And I just live with all of it.

**What makes Svētavots special?** Svētavots has many healing properties. It is very valuable because Svētavots water contains all the necessary microelements. The spring has flowed like this for hundreds of years. Svētavots comes from a depth of 88 meters. Springs that come out with great force are good, and up to 3 liters of water flows from Svētavots per second. Our little Latvia has more than 10,000 springs. A spring is a symbol of life. Our Latvia is already wonderful by itself—the land is good, and we have so many springs! It's a great value.

**What is the significance of spring water in your life?** Water is an immense value, and it must be drunk. We have the opportunity to live in this world, everyone has their mission. We have everything to be well—light, the land from which strength comes, and water. Water is a natural product that helps people, one of the oldest elements. We consist of cells, and if the cells are healthy, we will be healthy too. It is our life and strength. Water also receives information. They say you can think of a wish, and sooner or later the water will hear and the wish will come true. But it is important that the wish is not materialistic.

**Do you drink only Svētavots water every day?** Since living here, I have only drunk Svētavots water, and now I am 98 years old. Every day I also go down to the spring. I warm the water a bit because it is important not to drink it cold. If you drink cold, the body will use a lot of energy, and the water will not be able to help the body fully. I usually pour water into my prettiest cup, think good thoughts, and drink. It's my daily ritual.

**Tell us about the rituals you lead at Svētavots.** I offer to perform a ritual to realize a good intention. By placing a wish in your thoughts, you put your hand on your heart, then walk barefoot against the stream, and I lead the ritual further. But wise advice—it is not recommended to wish for wealth or material things at Svētavots. After the ritual, everyone is always happy and with good feelings. Many people's wishes have come true. There have even been cases where a family that could not conceive a child comes back to Svētavots with news that they are expecting. Faith has great power. Come visit and see for yourself!

VISIT!

## **NATURE PARK "SVĒTAVOTS"**

**Atpūtas street 12, Cēsis**

Tel.: +371 29460660

[www.svetavots.lv](http://www.svetavots.lv)



# THE STORY OF THE FERRY

**CĒSIS COUNTY** IS LEISURELY SITUATED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE **GAUJA RIVER**. TO GET FROM ONE BANK TO THE OTHER, YOU CAN USE THE BRIDGE IN CĒSIS OR THE ONE IN SIGULDA, BUT IN BETWEEN THEM, IN **LĪGATNE**, THERE IS A UNIQUE FERRY. THE UNUSUAL STRUCTURE CONSISTS OF TWO PARALLEL AND INTERCONNECTED STEEL BOATS WITH A WOODEN DECK. A CABLE STRETCHED ACROSS THE RIVER PREVENTS THE FERRY FROM DRIFTING DOWNSTREAM, WHILE THE CURRENT MOVES IT FROM BANK TO BANK, ALLOWING A PRIMAL, LEISURELY CROSSING OF THE GAUJA.





Historically, there have been several bridges across the Gauja near what is now Līgatne. The current ferry was established by the Līgatne paper mill to allow workers to get to work from Pārgauja. The swift and ever-changing Gauja has been a difficult river to cross for centuries. The way the Swedes crossed it since 1600 was very simple but not comfortable. Ropes were stretched from one bank to the other, and the crossing was done using boats, rafts, and by holding onto the ropes. Later, after 1629, when the Swedes established a longer presence in Vidzeme, a wooden pile bridge was built at this Gauja crossing point.

Given the almost continuous winding of the Gauja in the section from Skaļupe to the Nurmiži River mouth, forming a left curve, a kind of pocket is formed on the left bank. Therefore, at the beginning of the last century, three simple wooden bridges were built at Muižnieki, Attakas, and Rāmnieki. The piles of the Muižnieki bridge are still visible.

In 1947, the Līgatne paper mill refurbished the ferry left by the Germans and established a crossing point 200 meters downstream from the still-existing bridge. Over the years, the ferry was improved, but its operating principle remains unchanged to this day.



Today, crossing the Gauja on the Līgatne ferry is a unique experience, as it is the only ferry of its kind in the Baltics. Boarding it, you can feel how the ferryman guides it into the current, allowing it to smoothly move with the river's flow. The ferry is an exciting means of transportation, and many would not refuse to try their hand at operating it. Although the technique is simple, and its mechanism is straightforward, the river's force is significant, requiring the ferryman to be careful and attentive. Skills acquired over time and certain agility are crucial. Strength is also needed both for daily ferry operation and for maintenance and ice-cutting in the winter. Every day, tourists and locals who live on one bank and work on the other cross the river. It's also possible to organize a social event here; for instance, the ferry was recently one of the stops for a bachelor party.

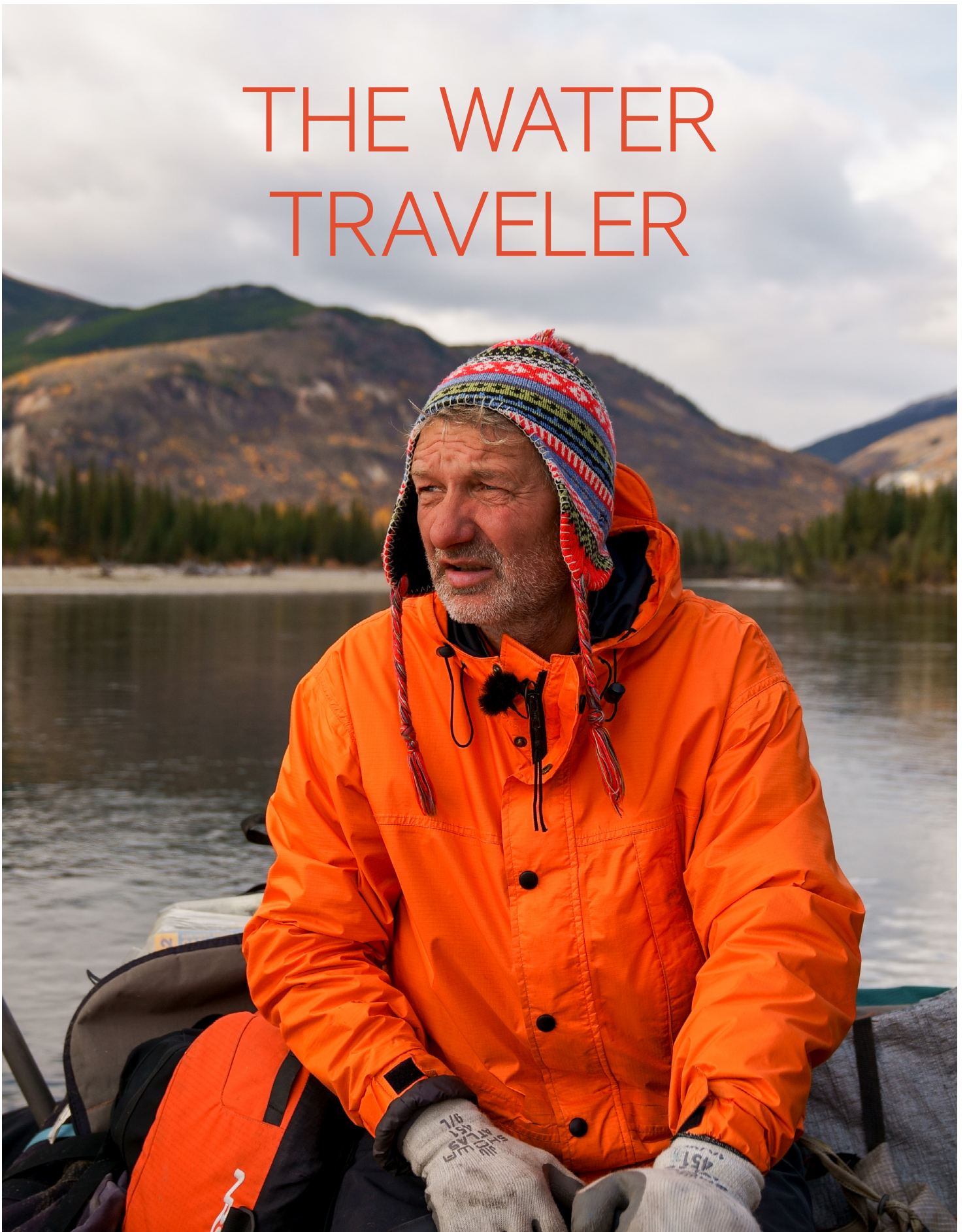
VISIT!

**The ferry operates every day, carrying not only pedestrians but also cars, though exceptions may occur due to technical or unavoidable circumstances. For the latest information, call the ferryman at +371 25737578.**



EXPERT RECOMMENDS

# THE WATER TRAVELER





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MANY KNOW **RAIMONDS DOMBROVSKIS** AS THE OWNER OF “**VANAGKALNS**” IN **JAUNPIEBALGA**, WHO INVITES CLOSE AND FAR SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS TO KILOMETERS LONG SKI TRACKS IN WINTER. THIS TIME LETS TALK ABOUT RAIMONDS’ OTHER PASSION - BOATING.

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### **Tell us about your boating experience!**

At the age of 14, I went on my first solo trip on the Latvian river Abava. Why did I go alone? Because my classmates’ parents didn’t let them go. I lied to my mother and sneaked away alone. Later, at 15, I joined the Riga water tourism club and went with them to the Carpathians, where I learned to paddle on third-category rivers. I’ve also boated in North America. In between, there have been all kinds of adventures. I took a break from boating for a while, but then I started learning again, and today I think I’m quite good at it.

### **What rivers have you conquered in Latvia and the world?**

In Latvia, almost all of them have been conquered, but, of course, there is still more to discover. We have many small rivers with enough water for boating for example, in May before they overgrow or dry up. Worldwide, the list is really long. I’ve boated both very long rivers and shorter, simpler ones in North America, Canada, and America. One river I can boast about is the Yukon. It’s a meditation river, and I paddled its full length. I challenge myself with rafting on challenging and demanding routes, usually in rivers of categories III – V. One of the biggest challenges was conquering the Grand Canyon in Arizona. I recommend everyone to watch the movie “Latvians in Canada,” where you can see the true rafting experience.

### **What should be taken into account when starting boating? What equipment is necessary?**

For those who want to learn boating, I would recommend starting in summer, when it is warm, there are no spring floods, and the water level is manageable. The next step is to choose a boat suitable for the season and the chosen river.

For example, there is a kayak, which has one oar and two blades. These boats only go straight and will be useful for exploring the Gauja River. There are also canoe boats, inflatable boats, which are better for rougher rivers like Amata. SUPs are also in fashion now, especially useful if you want to paddle in very, very shallow rivers. Essentially, remember the golden rule – the vehicle is subservient to the river, not the other way around. First choose the river and only then the boat.

### **What should be considered when planning a boat trip?**

Safety always comes first, so the first thing to do when planning a boat trip is to check the weather forecast. Boaters should bring the “worst-case scenario”, i.e., before setting out, the necessary items should be packed in case of cold or, conversely, sunburn. Bring spare clothing if it rains and all clothes get wet, because hypothermia can also occur in summer. Although it sounds a bit funny, I would recommend putting a raincoat in the boat, which can protect you from both rain and sun. Of course, drinking water is also vital. Likewise, food products that can provide energy. If the body lacks sugar, a person loses energy, becomes tired, and starts making mistakes, which can often lead to an accident.

**Boating is not only an exciting sport, but also a way to communicate with nature and challenge oneself. Raimonds’ extensive experience and enthusiasm for the activity highlight the importance of preparation, safety, and proper equipment. Let his story inspire you to take up paddles, explore new waterways, and create unforgettable adventures!**







# EXPERIENCE SUMMER!

Inspired by this year's Olympic Games taking place in Paris, France, the county guests and residents are invited to participate in the biggest summer challenge **"Your Olympic Start" in Cēsis** county. There will be an opportunity for everyone to overcome 5 different routes - a boat trip on the river, a cycling adventure in **Liepa**, a photo orientation in **Piebalga**, a walk in **Līgatne**, and an exciting car ride in **Skujene, Nītaure**, and **Zaube**. Participants will be able to receive participant cards at **Cēsis and Līgatne tourism information centers**, as well as from entrepreneurs who will have to be visited within the framework of the route to receive a sticker on the participant's card. At the end of the campaign, participants will be invited to submit participant cards to draw the main prize - an **AIRPLANE FLIGHT over Cēsis** for one person - and other prizes prepared by various local entrepreneurs. Information on the game rules can be found on the website **[visit.cesis.lv](http://visit.cesis.lv)**

You don't have to go to Spain to go on your own Camino pilgrimage. Right here in Latvia, you can follow the trails, walking the 562 km long route that leads from Valka to Žagare or Skaistkalne. Through the **Cēsis** district, three sections of this route weave, offering walkers an extremely picturesque walk in the **Gauja National Park**, with the opportunity to enjoy both forest, river and city sections. On **July 27**, St. James' Day, everyone will have the opportunity to meet in one of the trail sections, as there will be a joint hike "One Day in Latvia like every day in Spain" throughout Latvia. Cēsis county also invites you to join the hikes **Cēsis-Līgatne** and **Līgatne-Sigulda**, which will be introduced by **Zane Eniņa**, the author of the book "Santiago Road: a plaster for feet and heart", on **July 26 in Cēsis**.







EXPLORE THE NATURE



## AROUND RIEBIŅŠ LAKE



Length: **6 km, circular**

Difficulty level: **easy**

Start: **GPS 57.37395, 24.9649**

This will be an excellent route for a short weekend walk, as it offers both a walk through forest trails and country roads and a refreshing swim at one of the picnic spots along the lake shore. If you start your walk on the right side of the lake, the first 3 km will take you through a micro nature reserve that protects the old oak and pine forest, which is 156-176 years old. The most diligent walkers will be able to see trees, various unusual plants, and a squirrel dining place under the pine tree. Take binoculars with you to observe various forest and lake residents! Further on, the path will lead along the dirt road around the lake to the other side. Along the way, you can enjoy a magical young spruce forest, greet local residents, where the road leads past “Vecriebiņi” house, enjoy the charm of rural landscapes, until the road returns to the starting point. A refreshing swim in the lake will be a great end to this walk!

### WHAT TO EXPERIENCE AROUND?

In **Straupe**, you should visit the **Lielstraupes Castle**, surrounded by stories, and the magical underground lakes of **Vējiņi**, which are unique throughout the Baltic States. For those craving adrenaline, we recommend trying the giant swing over the river offered by **Brasla Adventures**.



### WHERE TO STAY?

#### GUEST HOUSE “BĒRZI”

“Bērzi”, Plācis, Straupes parish

Tel.: +371 29738677

#### HOLIDAY HOUSE “BURTAKAS”

“Burtakas”, Straupes parish

Tel.: +371 29451234

[www.burtakas.lv](http://www.burtakas.lv)

#### HOLIDAY HOUSE “VĒJIŅI”

“Vējiņi”, Straupes parish

Tel.: +371 29354189

[www.pazemesezeri.lv/brivdienu-maja](http://www.pazemesezeri.lv/brivdienu-maja)

#### CAMPING “MĀRKULĪČI”

“Āvaidi”, Straupes parish

Tel.: +371 29363936

[www.markulici.lv](http://www.markulici.lv)

### WHERE TO EAT?

#### CAFE “BĒRZI”

“Bērzi”, Plācis, Straupes parish

Tel.: +371 25575426

#### CAFE “ZEM OZOLA”

“Šķesteri”, Straupes parish

Tel.: +371 29641454

[www.rozkalnumaize.lv](http://www.rozkalnumaize.lv)



VIEW THE  
ROUTE HERE









## STRĪKUPES TRAIL



Length: **6 km, circular**

Difficulty level: **medium**

Start: **GPS 57.3789, 25.2647**

This small hiking trail, suitable for families with children, will also be suitable for adventure seekers. The trail is not marked in nature, so the attached GPX file will be very useful. This trail starts from the edge of the parking lot, a few meters further along the right bank of Strīkupe, where the once longest cave, known as **Kalēji cave**, has comfortably settled. For cave exploration, pocket flashlights will be useful, but enter with caution. Not without reason is it no longer the longest cave, as part of it has collapsed. Then return to the parking lot from which the forest path starts, leading to the culmination of this walk - **Nebraukšu cave**. On the way back, follow the path along the river. There will be wetter sections where the river has overflowed, and at times you will need to maintain your athletic form by climbing over fallen trees. At the farthest point of the trail, there will be an opportunity to see **Nebraukšu cave**, comfortably nestled in the banks of **Strīkupe**. The return path will lead along a wide and comfortable larger forest road, allowing you to enjoy the charm of the pine forest.

### WHAT TO EXPERIENCE AROUND?

If you want to extend your adventure, you can go about 3 km forward where **Patkules cave** is located. Meanwhile on the other side of the parking lot you can go an additional 10 km round to **Ērgļu cliffs**, which are majestic ended up at the Gauja. Close by the nearby **Jāņmuiža** can play **Laser tag game "Shooter"** or go to **Berlin**, which is a few meters high sandstone reveal.

### WHERE TO STAY?

#### MĀJA KOKOS

"Lobēlijas", Priekuļu parish

Tel.: +371 29462628

www.majakokos.lv

#### WATER TOURISM CAMP "JĀŅARĀMIS"

Place for tents, fire place

GPS: 57.3615, 25.30513

#### REST HOUSE "LAURETA"

"Cekuli", Priekuļu parish

Tel.: +371 29119867

#### GUEST HOUSE "PIE PĒTERA"

"Vaguļi", Priekuļu parish

Tel.: +371 28348909

### WHERE TO EAT?

#### TAVERN "GLENDELOKA"

Ata Kronbalda street 2b, Cēsis

Tel.: +371 64161016

#### RESTAURANT "JĀŅOGA"

Valmieras street 21a, Cēsis

Tel.: +371 28309298

#### CAFE "SOLO"

Jāņa Poruka street 21, Cēsis

Tel.: +371 64107927



VIEW THE  
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## ZAUBES INFINITY ROUTE



Length: **8,5 km**

Difficulty: **moderate**

Start: **near the store “Skorpions”,**

**GPS: 56.9963, 25.2614**

This route begins right in the **center of Zaube** at the store, where you can treat yourself to the first ice cream of the day. A couple of hundred meters away are the medieval castle ruins of **Zaube**, with a small but cozy walking path starting at impressive gates. The path then leads out of the village alongside a pond, guiding cyclists through scenic rural roads and landscapes that inspired **Vilhelms Purvītis**. Through a forest path track will loop back to the center of Zaube, inviting you to continue along Lakstīgalu street for the second loop. Returning to **Zaube's center**, you'll encounter the proud **Zaube Oak**, which has adorned the shores of Lake Lejas for 300 years. Nearby, there's a well-equipped swimming spot to refresh yourself at the end of your cycling journey and enjoy a well-deserved second ice cream.

### WHAT TO EXPERIENCE AROUND?

In the center stands the **Zaube Lutheran Church**, inviting visitors to explore its history and interior. Every **September**, Zaube hosts chefs and gourmets for the **Zaube Wild Culinary Festival**, this year on September 7th. Just 6 km from Zaube is V. Purvītis' birthplace museum **“Vecjauži”**.



### WHERE TO STAY AND EAT?

#### GUEST HOUSE “ANNAS DZIRNAVAS”

“Annas dzirnavas”, Zaubes parish

Tel.: +371 29176917

#### HOLIDAY HOUSE “LILLIUM”

“Ezermalī”, Nītaures parish

Tel.: +371 26274267

#### HOLIDAY HOUSE “KALNA ĶAVARI”

“Kalna Ķavari”, Nītaures parish

#### ANNA HOTEL RESTAURANT

Annas, Zaubes parish

Tel.: +371 67722288



VIEW THE  
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## “MĒRNIĒKU LAIKI”



Length: **100 km**

Difficulty: **medium, circular**

Start: **any point along the route**

Challenge yourself to a multi-day cycling trip through the picturesque **Piebalga region**, following the footsteps of Latvia's first novel, “Mērnīeku laiki.” The scenic route winds through country roads, Green Railways and forest paths, revealing places that inspired the colorful characters of the Kaudzītes brothers: Ķencis, Pāvuls, Švauksts, Oļiniete, Pietuka Krustiņš, and others.

Along the way, you can enjoy views from **Brežģu Hill and Viņķu Hill observation towers**, visit the Kaudzīši brothers' ancestral home “**Kalna Kaibēni**” and stop by local farms and museums. A digital map will be a great companion, offering practical information like cafes, accommodations, bike rental points, and descriptions of places associated with various “Mērnīeku laiki” characters and attractions worth stopping for.

### WHAT TO EXPERIENCE AROUND?

**Piebalga** offers a wide range of activities - from lively **Rika alpaca school**, memory preservation artisans at **Kino Ferma**. Learn about days gone by at the “**Vēveri**” **exhibition**, or rediscover at **Gardenia Eco Candle** workshop and **Piebalga Porcelain Factory**. Amidst it all, you'll find the memorial homes of writers and musicians such as “**Jāņaskola**”, “**Saulrietī**”, “**Kaikaši**” and “**Kalna Kaibēni**”.

VIEW THE  
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### WHERE TO STAY?

#### GUEST HOUSE “JAUNOGRIŅI”

“Jaunogriņi”, Inešu parish

Tel.: +371 29426585

[www.jaunogrini.lv](http://www.jaunogrini.lv)

#### CAMPING “NIEDRĪTES”

“Niedrītes”, Vecpiebalgas parish

Tel.: +371 29101130

[www.kempingsniedrites.mozello.lv](http://www.kempingsniedrites.mozello.lv)

#### RECREATION COMPLEX “CHILL UP”

“Raskumi”, Vecpiebalgas parish

Tel.: +371 20377207

[www.chillup.lv](http://www.chillup.lv)

#### Z/S “LIELKRŪZES”

“Lielkrūzes”, Jaunpiebalgas parish

Tel.: 29146397

#### VANAGKALNS

“Ziedoņi”, Jaunpiebalgas parish

Tel.: +371 26567616

### WHERE TO EAT?

#### CAFE “VECPIEBALGAS ŪDENSROZE”

Vecpiebalga

Tel.: +371 27787588

#### CAFE “LAURA”

Vecpiebalga

Tel.: +371 29358896

#### CAFE “PILS”

“Pils”, Ineši, Vecpiebalgas parish

Tel.: +371 26036554

#### CAFE “VIRPIĶI”

Rūpniecības street 2a, Jaunpiebalga

Tel.: +371 26404241









## BRASLA IN TWO DAYS



Lenght: **Plācis - Brasla bridge (A3) - 20 km**  
**Brasla bridge (A3) – Gauja - 9 km**

Difficulty: **medium**

Rafting down **Brasla River** rewards with thrilling river bends, scenic cliffs, and picnic opportunities along the riverbanks. From **Plācis** to **Straupe**, you can enjoy the winding river, which meanders through leafy shores, reaching the small **Hanseatic town of Straupe**. Near Straupe, the first sandstone outcrops appear. In dry summers, some areas may be shallow, but this doesn't diminish the beauty of the journey. 1 km before Brasla Bridge, you can stop at the settlement **"Mārkuliči"** where you can not only camp in tents or guesthouses but also try your hand at shooting. The second day leads all the way to the **Gauja River**. Crossing over the **Braslas HES**, the river journey starts through a section rich in cliffs, revealing reddish rocks at almost every turn. Along the riverbanks, you'll find charming picnic spots and a walking trail that follows the river's flow. Continuing the adventure, the river will take you to its confluence with the Gauja, where the exit point is located.

## WHAT TO EXPERIENCE AROUND?

You can enhance your trip, especially if it lasts two days, by visiting nearby attractions: the ancient Hanseatic city's gem - **Lielstraupe Castle** with it's unusual legends, the **"Vējiņi"** underground lakes, which are hard to find anything similar to, or indulge in daring activities by swinging on the large swings over the river at **Brasla Adventure**. You can find culinary delights at both the **Straupe dairy** and the **Rožkalni bakery shop**.

## WHERE TO STAY?

### GUEST HOUSE "LAIMES PAKAVS"

Bērzu street 2, Straupe  
 Tel.: +371 28677662

### HOMESTEAD "GUGUČI"

Guguči, Straupe  
 Tel.: +371 28721525

### GUEST HOUSE "PLŪSME"

"Līčupes", Lielstraupe  
 Tel.: +371 25800099

### GUEST HOUSE "KAČUKALNS"

"Kārklīņi", Straupe  
 Tel.: +371 20045658

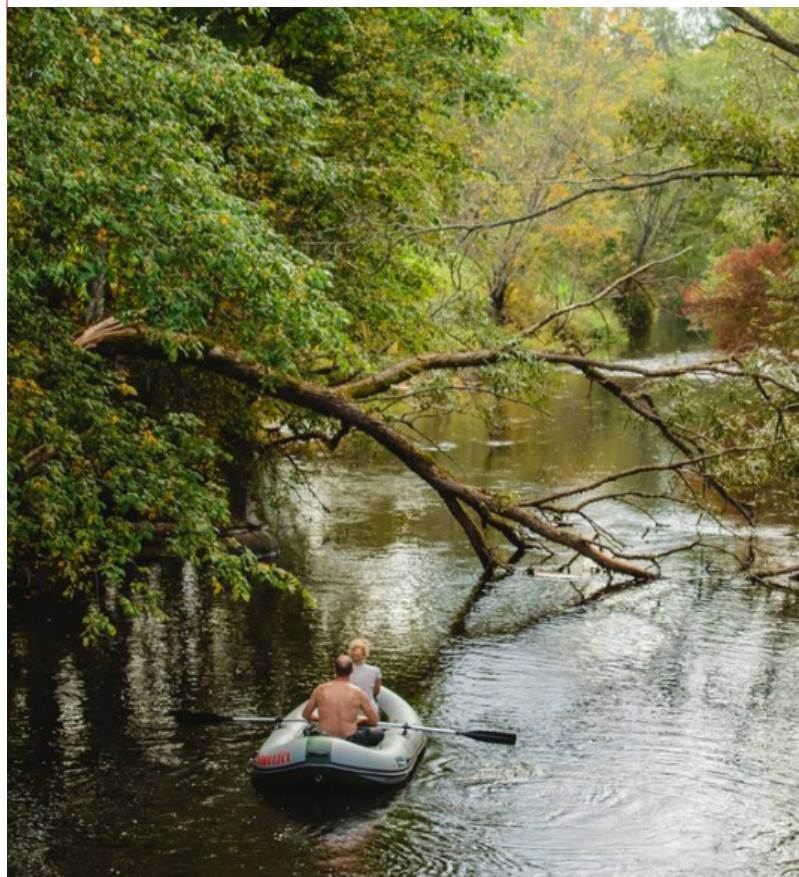
## WHERE TO EAT?

### CAFE "BĒRZI"

"Bērzi", Plācis, Straupes parish  
 Tel.: +371 25575426

### CAFE "ZEM OZOLA"

"Šķesteri", Straupes parish  
 Tel.: +371 29641454  
[www.rozkalnumaize.lv](http://www.rozkalnumaize.lv)



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## GAUJA CATAMARAN ADVENTURE



Distance: **17 km (4-5h)**

Route: **Cēsis-Līgatne**

Difficulty: **moderate**

Adventure sensations change as soon as one element changes. Therefore, this time we offer to embark on a route familiar to many, **Cēsis-Līgatne**, by a swimming vehicle that not everyone has tried - a river catamaran. It can accommodate 6 people comfortably. For paddling, there are benches along the sides of the catamaran. Meanwhile, the middle is left for lazy passengers, children, and picnics. Start your adventure at **Žagarkalns** campsite where you can leave your car and rent a catamaran, and embark on an adventure that includes 7 picturesque bends, 3 riffles, and 17 kilometers of lazy floating down the river or, on the contrary, exhilarating paddling!

### WHAT TO EXPERIENCE AROUND?

Before starting, warm up your muscles by climbing the **Green Tower of Cīruļkalns**, which offers a pleasant view of the ancient valley of the **Gauja River**. Nearby, inviting walks are offered by the **Cīruliši Nature Trails** and the magical sculpture garden **"Svētavots"**. To extend your adventure, stay overnight at the campsite and the next day explore the mysteries of the universe at the **Space Education Center**.



VIEW THE  
ROUTE HERE:



### WHERE TO STAY?

#### CAMPING "ŽAGARKALNS"

Mūrlejas street 12, Cēsis

Tel.: +371 26266266

[www.zagarkalns.lv](http://www.zagarkalns.lv)

#### CAMPING "OZOLKALNS"

"Saulkrastī", Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 26400200

[www.ozolkalns.lv](http://www.ozolkalns.lv)

#### CAMPING "OŠKALNS"

"Oškalni", Meijermuiža, Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 20034344

[www.oskalns.lv](http://www.oskalns.lv)

#### CAMPING "MAKARS"

Gaujas street 36, Līgatne

Tel.: +371 29244948

[www.makars.lv](http://www.makars.lv)

#### GUEST HOUSE "PŪCES"

Brīvības street 1A, Līgatne

Tel.: +371 29426433

#### JAUNSAIMNIEKU GLAMPING

"Jaunsaimnieki", Līgatnes parish

Tel.: +371 28268308

### WHERE TO EAT?

#### GAUJAS GRILLBAR

Mūrlejas street 12, Cēsis

Tel.: +371 29426705

#### CAFE "ORBĪTA"

Cīrulišu street 63, Cēsis

#### CAFE "ZEIT"

Gaujas street 4, Līgatne

Tel.: +371 25779944

#### TAVERN "PIE JANČUKA"

Spriņģu street 4, Līgatne

Tel.: +371 29149596

### CATAMARAN RENTAL

#### ŽAGARKALNS

Mūrlejas street 12, Cēsis

Tel.: +371 26170074



# BOAT RENTAL

## “MAKARS”

Tel.: +371 29244948

[www.makars.lv](http://www.makars.lv)

**Offering:** canoes and kayaks, inflatable rafts, wooden rafts

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## “ŽAGARKALNS”

Tel.: +371 25170074

[www.zagarkalns.lv](http://www.zagarkalns.lv)

**Offering:** kayaks, canoes, rubber boats, rafts, river catamarans, SUP boards

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## “OZOLKALNS”

Tel.: +371 26400200

[www.ozolkalns.lv](http://www.ozolkalns.lv)

**Offering:** canoes, inflatable boats, rafts, SUP boards

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## “CĒSU PLOSTI UN LAIVAS”

Tel.: +371 26576205

[www.cesuplostilaivas.lv](http://www.cesuplostilaivas.lv)

**Offering:** canoes, kayaks, rafts, SUP boards

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## “PIE PĒTERA”

Tel.: +371 28348909

[www.piepetera.lv](http://www.piepetera.lv)

**Offering:** canoes

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## “JENČU LAIVAS”

Tel.: +371 20607509

[www.jenculaivas.lv](http://www.jenculaivas.lv)

**Offering:** canoes, rubber boats, rafts

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## “GAUJAS KRASTS”

Tel.: +371 29423270

<https://www.facebook.com/gaujaskrasts>

**Offering:** canoes

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## “ALDA LAIVAS”

Tel.: +371 26554959

[www.aldalaivas.lv](http://www.aldalaivas.lv)

**Offering:** kayaks, canoes

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## “AMATAS LAIVAS”

Tel.: +371 29585850

[www.amataslaivas.lv](http://www.amataslaivas.lv)

**Offering:** canoes, rubber boats

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## “UPES 19”

Tel.: +371 29219279

**Offering:** canoes, SUP board

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## SUP DĒĻU NOMA “SUPo CĒSIS”

Tel.: +371 24881188

[www.facebook.com/SUPoCesis](http://www.facebook.com/SUPoCesis)

**Offering:** SUP boards

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## SUP DĒĻU NOMA “ED SUP BOARDS”

Tel.: +371 26433020

[www.facebook.com/edsupboards](http://www.facebook.com/edsupboards)

**Offering:** SUP boards

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# CATCH THE SPLASHES

SUMMER ISN'T SUMMER WITHOUT ADVENTURES BY THE WATER. CHECK OUT THE ACTIVE RECREATION SPOTS WHERE YOU CAN BOTH SPLASH AROUND AND SOAK UP THE SUN ON THE SANDY SHORE!

## RECREATION COMPLEX “CHILL UP”

Discover peace and excitement in one place at the “Chill UP” recreation complex by Lake Alauksts in Vecpiebalga! Enjoy adrenaline-pumping water attractions and take advantage of the opportunity to rent SUP boards, rowing boats, pedal boats, kayaks and bicycles. Those who prefer peaceful relaxation are invited to relax their body and soul in the sauna sessions.

### “Raskumi”, Vecpiebalgas parish

[www.chillup.lv](http://www.chillup.lv)

## ACTIVE RECREATION PARK “KARJERS”

Embark on an adventure amidst dolomite cliffs and crystal-clear waters. Enjoy thrilling rides on wakeboards or skis powered by the linear WakeStation system. Karjers boasts system towers up to 10 meters high and tracks that exceed 258 meters in length.

### Priekuļu street 21, Cēsis

<https://www.facebook.com/karjers>

## BRASLA ADVENTURE

Feel the butterflies in your stomach by experiencing the “kingline” free fall swings or unleash your inner child with the snapline attractions located by the Brasla River.

### “Mārkuliči”, Straupes pagasts

<https://www.facebook.com/brasladventure>





IMAGINE A PLACE WHERE THE GENTLE RUSTLING OF THE WATER AND THE SONGS OF BIRDS GREET YOU EARLY IN THE MORNING, WHERE THE DAY BEGINS WITH SUN RAYS AND MORNING COFFEE TASTES ESPECIALLY GOOD AS EACH SIP IS SAVORED WITH A VIEW OF A MAGICAL LANDSCAPE. THESE WATERSIDE ACCOMMODATIONS OFFER NOT ONLY COMFORT BUT ALSO THE OPPORTUNITY TO FEEL ONE WITH NATURE, REGAIN PEACE, AND INNER HARMONY. THEY ARE PLACES WHERE TIME SEEMS TO STAND STILL, ALLOWING YOU TO ENJOY EVERY MOMENT FILLED WITH THE BEAUTY AND TRANQUILITY OF NATURE.



SUMMER  
PEACE



## JAUNSAIMNIEKI GLAMPING

Genuine countryside peace just 200 meters from the banks of the Gauja River. Enjoy undisturbed relaxation at the edge of a farmhouse, where the peaceful natural landscape is complemented by visible and audible flocks of sheep. Start your morning with breakfasts prepared by the hosts using local products. Bicycle and SUP board rentals are available.

### Z/S “Jaunsaimnieki”, Līgatnes parish

Tel.: +371 28268308

[https://www.instagram.com/js\\_glempings](https://www.instagram.com/js_glempings)

## TREE HOUSE “MĀJA KOKOS”

Fulfill a childhood dream by staying among the pines six meters above the ground by Lake Ninieris. An ideal place for those who wish to disappear into silence for a while, enjoying starry nights or sunrises with a view of the lake. Explore the lake and its surroundings by boat or on a scenic forest trail hike.

### “Lobēlijas”, Priekule parish

Tel.: +371 29462628

<https://www.majakokos.lv>



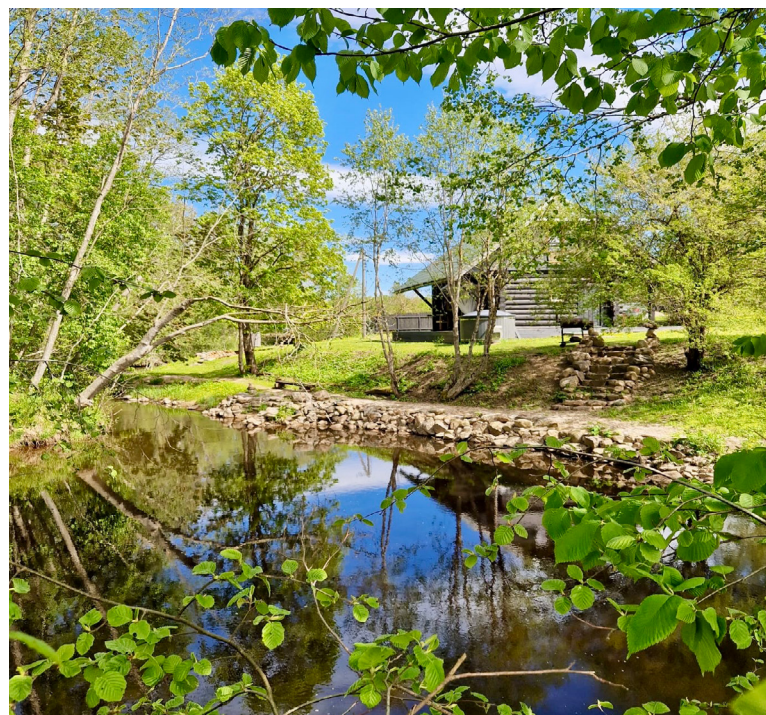
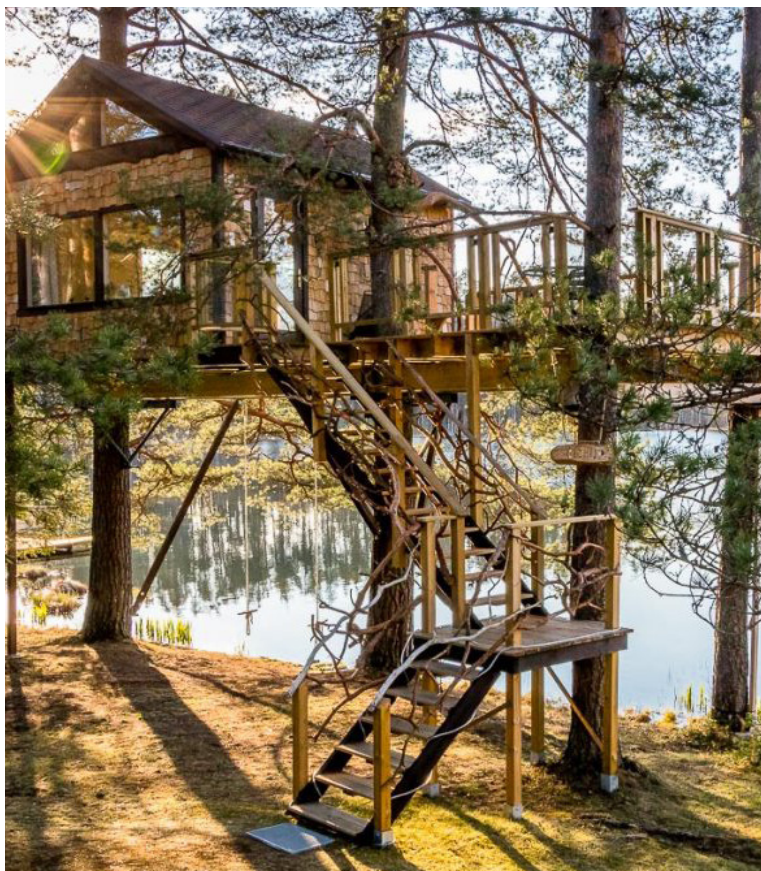
## RIVER HOUSE “UPES MĀJA”

A place to merge with nature, listening to the sounds of the Mergupe River. The fairytale-like house is located right on the riverbank – one of the few deep bed spots of the Mergupe River, where swimming and fishing for river trout are possible.

### “Lejas Cimeres”, Nītaure

Tel.: +371 27745566

[https://www.instagram.com/js\\_glempings](https://www.instagram.com/js_glempings)





## KOKA MĀJA

Exclusive relaxation for those seeking a unique and unforgettable experience, starting with special wellness treatments and ending with private dining. This place is ideal for individualists, romantics, as well as families and groups of friends who want to explore new places together without losing comfort.

### Amatciems, Amata

Tel.: +371 28480457

<https://www.kokamaja.com/>



## RECREATION SITE "IEVIŅI"

"Ieviņi" is located in a beautiful, scenic spot by lake Bānūzis. A place to enjoy nature and tranquility, romantic solitude, or family relaxation.

### "Ieviņi", Banūži

[www.facebook.com/AtputasVietalevini](https://www.facebook.com/AtputasVietalevini)

Tel.: +371 29203098





CITY SUN.  
**CĒSIS**



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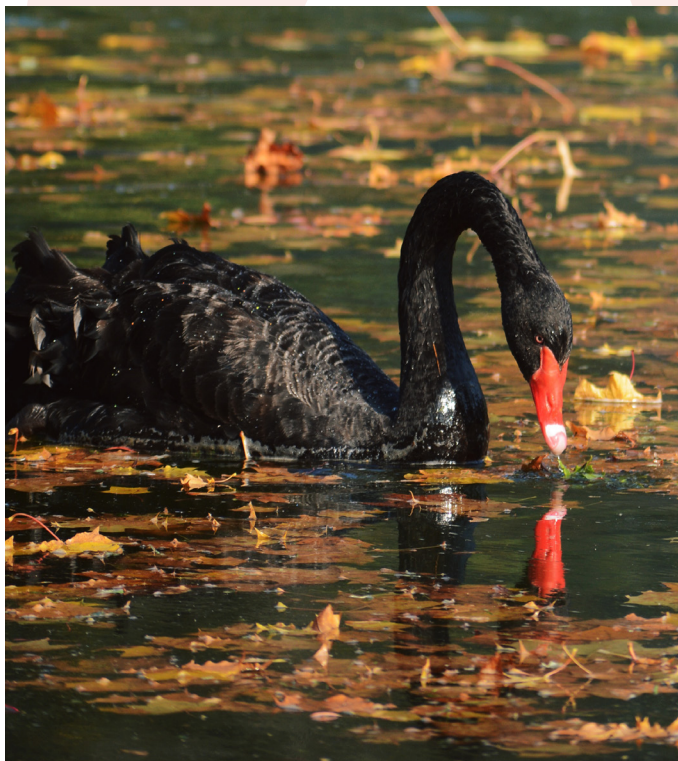
THE CITY IS ALSO EXCITING IN SUMMER! IT'S FULL OF ADVENTURES AND OPPORTUNITIES, BUSTLING WITH ENERGY, CHANGING ITS DAILY RHYTHM BY FILLING PARKS, OUTDOOR TERRACES, AND "RĪGA STREET - SUMMER STREET" WITH PEOPLE, JOY, AND SUMMER EASE. CHECK OUT OUR MAGICAL TWO-DAY ADVENTURE IN CĒSIS!

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Start your morning by visiting the **local Cēsis market**, where you will find an abundance of summer riches – fresh vegetables, aromatic berries, and homemade treats. Enjoy the hustle and bustle of the early morning market and discover the stories of local producers while purchasing goods directly from the farmers.

Continue your morning stroll through the heart of **Old Town Cēsis**, enjoying excellent coffee at the cozy coffee shop "**Melnais Gulbis**". Here, not only do they serve great coffee, but the host delights with their friendly and warm atmosphere.

Next, take a walk through the streets of the **Old Town** – wandering through the ancient streets is one way to immerse yourself in the city's atmosphere. The cobblestone paths of the **Old Town** still follow medieval planning, enchanting with authentic red tile roofs, mysterious courtyards and meticulously restored house facades.



Head to one of **Cēsis' parks** where you'll find a true nature and history adventure. In **Maija Park**, you can meet the majestic black swans Grāfs and Katrīna, walking through the magnificent **Cēsis Castle Park**, you can follow in the footsteps of the noble Kārlis Gustavs von Zīvers family, who once walked these same paths. The scenic spots in the castle park are a great choice for a summer picnic to enjoy the peace of nature and the surrounding historical atmosphere. After the walk, enjoy a refreshing and cold drink or indulge in a summer concert at the old brewery's terrace - **Art Space MALA**.





We invite the curious to visit the **Northern Natural Medicine Museum**, where the exhibition includes more than 40 Latvian and Northern medicinal plants.

Have lunch enjoying the best burgers in town at the **“Zaļa Zāle”** cafe terrace, where you can feel the Tuscan vibe, but children will especially appreciate the water pleasures among the fountain rows at **Rožu square**, which in the evenings are illuminated in bright colors. After a delicious lunch, enjoy the panorama of Cēsis by climbing the **tower of St. John’s Church**. The view from tower from the church tower is like a beautiful culmination and surprises with its diversity – medieval castle ruins, green parks, rooftops of Old Town houses, and a landscape of forests and hills stretching kilometers, hiding the **Gauja River valley**.

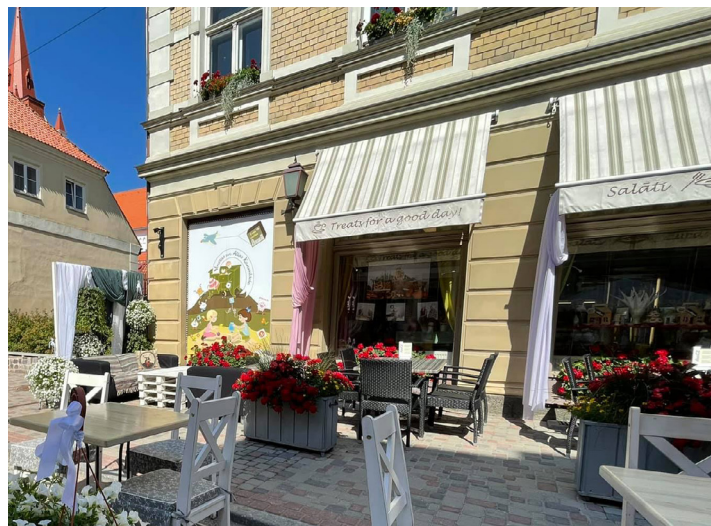
End the day with excellent dinners at the **Michelin guide restaurant H.E. Vanadziņš** or at the **Trimpus beer bar**, enjoying locally brewed beer, cocktails, and homemade lemonades. The bar is located in a building where Veidenbaums, Poruks, Julla, Miesnieks, and other significant figures for Latvia once studied.



## DAY 2

Start the second day early and actively – take an electric bike ride from **Elektro Eži** along the **Cīrulīši nature trail section** of the Gauja bay, which winds through small streets and paths along the Gauja River.

After the ride, stop for a delicious breakfast and freshly baked bread at the **Vinetas and Allas Kārumlāde cafe**.





A visit to Cēsis cannot be imagined without visiting **Cēsis Medieval Castle** with a lantern. You will be able to see the western tower of the castle and the master's living space inside – a unique 16th-century interior with luxurious star vaults, artificial stone mass vault consoles, and fragments of wall paintings. From the attic floor of the tower, you can enjoy an impressive view of the rest of the castle ruins.



After an active first half of the day, indulge in an Italian taste experience at **Bekko cafe-shop**. Bekko is a place where you can not only indulge in delicious food but also buy Italian delicacies to continue this culinary adventure at home



To conclude the two-day adventure, there's nothing better than watching the sunset from the **Mango Sky Lounge** restaurant, located in the heart of Cēsis. As the sun slowly sets behind the Cēsis panorama, Mango Sky Lounge offers the perfect place to enjoy this natural wonder.

For more ideas: **[visit.cesis.lv](https://www.visit.cesis.lv)**



# MY HOME CAFE

THE ANNUAL TRADITION OF HOME CAFE DAYS WILL CONTINUE THIS SUMMER IN THE **CĒSIS COUNTY**. THIS SUMMER, MORE THAN 30 HOME CAFES WILL OPEN THEIR DOORS ON **AUGUST 3-4 IN THE SKUJENE PARISH** AND ON **AUGUST 17-18 THE REST OF CĒSIS COUNTY**.

**The homestead “Kalna Raskumi” is a historical homestead typical of Piebalga. It is located at approximately 220 meters above sea level, offering beautiful landscapes and views of Lake Alauksts.**

Managed by two generations of women, this year marks the 20th year of their stewardship. Currently, the homestead includes a residential house built around the end of the 1800s. Though it has undergone many reconstructions, extensions, and modernizations over time, it still retains the characteristics of different periods in its layout and other details. The former barn had outlived its usefulness, and we didn't want to keep animals, so we decided to build a barn on its foundations, which now serves as a summer event barn. There is also a traditional ice cellar and a granary site in the yard.

During Home Cafe Days, we participate under the name “Monument 602” This name doesn't reflect the historical status of the buildings but invites visitors to discover what it means by visiting us! This will be our third year participating in Home Cafe Days.



We also use Home Cafe Days as open house days. Since we have decided to rent out the property for events, the cafe days are an excellent opportunity to showcase it. In the first cafe days, the historical residential house drew significant interest. Restored over many years, it features respectfully built side rooms and other infrastructure for comfortable living. We still heat it with six wood stoves. We noticed that this offer particularly interested those who had recently started renovation projects on their country houses. We will likely open our doors to visitors again this year.

We have an interesting story about hosting guests. After a late night of final preparations, one of the first guests greeted us with “Bonjour,” causing brief confusion about whether it was due to sleeplessness or because there was indeed a group of French guests. It turned out to be the latter.



We can boast of the surrounding landscape and sunsets, which have also been appreciated by some painters. Last year, a Latvian painter spent several hours with us, enjoying the surrounding beauty while leisurely savoring our Napoleon cake and sketching a table number block. This sketch was left as a keepsake and will be placed on the table this year. I highly recommend participating in Home Cafe Days for those interested in a little game with the unknown and a new experience. You don't need much, really. We recommend keeping the menu simple at first. We experiment every year to keep it interesting for ourselves and to see what works best.



Transitioning from a restaurant style to something more informal, there will also be a Piebalga street food cafe. The main thing is a good team! As newcomers to Piebalga, we always get excited when we can learn some information about our homestead. Since there is practically no previous information or photos, cafe days are a great time when someone who has lived, been, seen, or visited here can share new details. In short, it's a great way to meet many truly interesting people.







# PIEBALGA



# PIEBALGA TURNS 800

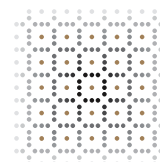
PIEBALGA'S SUMMER WILL BE VIBRANT, HOSPITABLE, AND BEAUTIFUL. IN **VECPIEBALGA**, THE WATER LILIES WILL BLOOM AGAIN, IN **JAUNPIEBALGA** THE MARKET WILL BUSTLE, MUSEUMS WILL OPEN THEIR DOORS FOR CONVERSATIONS ABOUT GREAT PERSONALITIES, HOMEMADE CANDLES WILL FILL THE AIR WITH FRAGRANCE, AND THE WONDERS OF PIEBALGA PORCELAIN WILL DELIGHT. THE LAKES WILL INVITE YOU TO VISIT, BUT IT'S BETTER TO RESERVE PLACES FOR OVERNIGHT STAYS AND REFRESHING SUMMER MORNINGS IN ADVANCE. PIEBALGA AWAITS VISITORS!

The name **Piebalga** is 800 years old this year! In the distant year 1224, Riga's Albert and his opponents, the Sword Brothers, agreed on the division of the Tālava lands. Fortunately, a Latin document listing 12 bishop's villages has survived to our days, in which Prebalge, i.e., Piebalga, is mentioned for the first time. The place by the little Balga River, which still winds past the Vecpiebalga hillfort and the ruins of the Riga archbishop's stone castle, flows into the picturesque Inesis Lake.

Even today, the descendants of the faraway **Piebaldzēni** are active in this beautiful central Vidzeme region, celebrating and welcoming guests. Every year in the middle of summer, near and far people are invited to Vecpiebalga, where the traditional cultural festival **"Vecpiebalga atver durvis"** takes place. It is an opportunity to enjoy high-quality concerts, learn about traditional Piebaldzēni activities at the market, discover and participate in activities, relax, and enjoy the romance of a summer evening in Vecpiebalga's cultural spots. This summer, during **Piebalga's 800th anniversary**, Vecpiebalga invites you to visit. Discovering Piebalga's secrets will be encouraged by the cultural-historical conference "Piebalga's Whispers" and the amateur theater "Sumaisītis" performance. Families are invited to participate in Children's Morning, which will include a bike ride and a party for the little ones.

The entrepreneurial spirit of the Piebaldzēni will be evident at the crafts market, and at the traditional Small Kalniņa Days in Vecpiebalga Manor Park, Imants Kalniņš song lovers will once again open the sky to friendly togetherness and song.

In early August, **Jaunpiebalga** will continue the events of Piebalga's 800th anniversary, inviting everyone to the famous fair with an exciting cultural program **"Izvēlies Piebalgu"**.



NEMATERIĀLAIS  
KULTŪRAS  
MANTOJUMS





## EVENTS

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|                      |                                                           |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>13.07.-24.07.</b> | <b>Cēsis Art Festival</b> , Cēsis                         |
| <b>19.07.-21.07.</b> | <b>Cēsis 818</b> , Cēsis                                  |
| <b>26.07.</b>        | <b>Story evening with Zane Eniņa</b> , Cēsis              |
| <b>27.07.</b>        | <b>Camino hikes</b> , Cēsis-Līgatne and Līgatne-Sigulda   |
| <b>26.07.-28.07.</b> | <b>Home Cafe Days in Skujene</b> , Skujene parish         |
| <b>10.08.</b>        | <b>Exhibition-Fair “Izvēlies Piebalgu”</b> , Jaunpiebalga |
| <b>10.08.</b>        | <b>Paper Mill Festival</b> , Līgatne                      |
| <b>17.08.-18.08</b>  | <b>Home Cafe Days in the Cēsis county</b>                 |
| <b>25.08.</b>        | <b>Lielstraupe Castle Festival</b> , Straupe              |
| <b>07.09.</b>        | <b>Zaube Wild Culinary Festival</b> , Zaube               |

Find out more: [www.pasakumi.cesis.lv](http://www.pasakumi.cesis.lv)

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### PLAN BETTER WITH THE CĒSIS COUNTY FRIEND CARD

Purchase a **Friend card** and receive various discounts from 5% to 30%, as well as other pleasant bonuses on services offered in the Cēsis county.

Friend card purchase points: **Cēsis**, Baznīcas square 1; **Līgatne**, Sprīņģu street 2; **Āraiši**, Āraiši ezerpils Arheological park ticket office **Straupe**; Lielstraupes pils ticket office.