



Cēsu  
novads  
pievelk

SPRING 2024

# SPRING EMBRACE

SPRING HOLIDAY GUIDE

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





# SPRING IN CĒSIS COUNTY

Explore spring in Cēsis county with our guide  
**“SPRING EMBRACE”!**

Discover exciting interviews, attend the mysterious Night of Museums 2024 and enjoy the harmonious melody of bird songs while taking walks or bike rides through the picturesque Cēsis county! Our cycling and nature experts share tips for unforgettable spring adventures, and scenic trails offer breathtaking views. Get ideas for family adventures to create moments filled with laughter and positive emotions. Meet Piebalga, the cradle of Latvian culture, where traditions come alive every spring!

Join us to experience spring in **Cēsis County** – every petal, bud, and sunbeam is an invitation to enjoy this wonderful season.



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Explore the value of Latvia's intangible cultural heritage





# SPRINGTIME BUCKET LIST!

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WE INVITE YOU TO TRY OUT ONE OF THE SPRING ADVENTURES IN CĒSIS COUNTY, THAT WILL LET YOU EXPERIENCE EMOTIONS YOU'VE NEVER FELT BEFORE!



## **SPRING BOATING**

Enjoy the tranquility by embarking on a boat ride along the currents of the Amata and Brasla rivers in the picturesque Cēsis County. Immerse yourself in the beauty of the surrounding nature and let the spring currents create unforgettable moments and memories. Before embarking on the adventure, make sure of your abilities and skills, as well as familiarize yourself with safety regulations and adhere to them!

## **BIRDWATCHING**

Discover the exciting world of birdwatching in Gauja National Park. From late May to early June, you have the opportunity to observe the largest population of nesting Grey wagtail and explore the ancient deciduous forests, where many rare birds reside. Perhaps you'll be lucky enough to witness the elegance of the Ural Owl and the charm of the smallest Latvian owl - the Pygmy Owl. Whether alone or with other enthusiasts, immerse yourself in the natural rhythm during this peaceful birdwatching adventure in Gauja National Park!



### **BIRCH AND MAPLE SAP TASTING**

As the earth awakens, a springtime collage of flavors blossoms in Cēsis County, highlighting the uniqueness of Latvia's nature. Our abundant birch groves and sweet maples invite you to savor the true magic of spring - the ritual of drinking birch and maple sap. This tradition is woven into our heritage, creating an unbreakable bond with our ancestors. Don't miss this brief opportunity to experience the authentic taste of spring!

### **YOGA AND MEDITATION IN NATURE**

Find your inner peace amidst the blooming landscapes of Cēsis! Join a yoga or meditation session, or embark on a journey to seek your inner harmony alone. Spend a relaxing yoga session in a place where bird chirping and rustling leaves create a soothing background melody. Become a part of the peace that surrounds you!

### **THE BLOOMING GARDEN OF RUCKA MANOR**

Visit the enchanting tulip and daffodil park of Rucka Manor, where the magic of spring unfolds in every blooming petal. This park is adorned with a magnificent 15,954-flower garden - each flower dedicated to every newborn baby in Latvia from the previous year. Take a stroll through this spring flower kingdom and let the colors of spring inspire you - they literally invite you to witness the enchantment of new beginnings!





A man and a woman are standing in the center of a cluttered antique shop. The woman, on the left, has reddish-brown hair and is wearing a dark blue parka with a thick white fur collar and cuffs, a white scarf, and black boots. The man, on the right, has grey hair and is wearing a black jacket and grey trousers. They are both looking towards the camera. The shop is filled with wooden shelves packed with books, various suitcases, and other vintage items. On the right side, a large, dark wooden cuckoo clock with two faces is visible. The lighting is warm and focused on the couple, with a bright light source visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is cozy and nostalgic.

# TOGETHER

BACK IN TIME



WE MEET WITH TWO LOCALS IN **SKUJENE - GUNTARS** AND **LAILA ZEILES**, WHO HAVE TURNED A COMMON HOBBY INTO AN EXCITING ADVENTURE. GUNTARS AND LAILA HAVE FOUND A LOVE FOR COLLECTING ANTIQUES, WHICH LED TO THE FOUNDING OF AN UNIQUE MUSEUM. OVER SEVEN MAGICAL YEARS, THE MUSEUM HAS BECOME A TREASURE TROVE OF DONATED RELICS, REVEALING THEIR STORIES FROM CĒSIS COUNTY AND BEYOND.

**How did the idea to create the “Antiquities Museum” in Skujene come about?**

When our children grew up, we discovered a new hobby - collecting antiques. Seven years ago, we started renting a hangar where we displayed our collection, and later we opened a museum. Over time, the collection grew, receiving donations from the local area and other parts of Latvia, and the hangars were filled with antiques. There are also people who have entrusted their property for storage temporarily until they themselves need it.

**One thing is clear, these are not just old objects.**

**What do they mean to you?** Antiques are not just objects, but memories and values from the past. An old item can take people back to long-forgotten moments from life, childhood. It's also about preserving and passing on our own history to future generations. For example, in the exhibition, you can find the carriage harness from Skujene Manor, and the dress of an unknown noblewoman.

**Is there an exhibit in the museum that is more special to you than others?**

All exhibits are dear to us, but if one has to be mentioned, then it's Guntar's great-grandfather's christening robe dating back to 1899, and for Laila - wooden horses. There's a very special story about one particular antique in the museum - the Zhiguli. How did we come into possession of the Zhiguli in the museum? The guys from the neighboring village offered it to the museum. We agreed but insisted that we wouldn't buy it. The owners responded that they knew that and they were giving away the Zhiguli. We objected - we couldn't take it for free, but they said either we take the Zhiguli or they would scrap it. In the end, we faced each other, so to speak. On the day of the meeting, we realized that the previous day had been a bit “sour” for the owners. Well, so that neither I nor they would be sour, we “bought” the Zhiguli, paying with a bottle of vodka.

**What is the farthest place from which an exhibit has traveled to the museum?**

A dowry chest has come from Belarus, blouses from America. The dowry chest from Belarus was given to us by a man who received it from his grandmother's estate. On the other hand, the blouses from America were made in Latvia. Initially, they traveled from Skujene to America and then back to Skujene. Meanwhile, exhibits from Latvia have come from almost all directions, except from the Ventspils and Talsi sides.

**What amusing moments have you experienced in the museum?**

A girl, about 14 or 15 years old, took an ordinary landline telephone in her hands, turned it around, and asked how we went to school with such a thing. At that moment, there was complete silence in my head for a couple of seconds, but when I started to explain that it wasn't taken anywhere, that it was standing at home on the table, and the wire was stuck in the wall, the girl's world turned upside down.

**Where do you find the time and drive to continue?**

The drive that sustains and propels our museum is our shared hobby - a passion. It also creates the necessary motivation and desire to act. Great support comes from family and friends, as well as from every visitor who shows genuine interest in our museum.

VISIT!

**ANTIQUITIES MUSEUM**

**“Dzirnaiņi”, Skujene parish**

Tel: +371 26262495

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

This exciting museum and many others will be open during Night of Museums 2024 on May 18th. Turn to the next page and find out what else you can see during the event in Cēsis County!

EXPERIENCE  
SKUJENE!







OUR COUNTY IS RICH WITH A DIVERSE ARRAY OF MUSEUMS, EACH SERVING AS A GATEWAY TO ANOTHER ERA. FROM ART TO HISTORY, FROM SCIENCE TO NATURE - BEHIND EVERY MUSEUM DOOR LIES A STORY WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED AND HEARD. EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF MUSEUM NIGHT ON MAY 18! THIS YEAR'S **MUSEUM NIGHT** THEME IS **"EXPLORE AND DISCOVER, RESEARCH AND UNDERSTAND!"** AND WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN THE LIVELY CËSIS COUNTY, WHERE COUNTLESS MUSEUMS WILL OPEN THEIR DOORS TO VISITORS FREE OF CHARGE.



# NIGHT OF MUSEUMS IDEAS

## CINĪŠI ANTIQUE MUSEUM

In Jaunpiebalga, you can see the private collection of the Petkēvičs family, which presents both a collection of Soviet and older household items, as well as exhibitions of “Riga Porcelain Factory”, Kuznetsov, and other countries’ porcelain products.

### “Ciniši”, Jaunpiebalga parish

Tel: +371 26155171

## FIRST LATVIAN NATIONAL OPERA MUSEUM “BAŅUTA”

Created by director Gunta Gailītis, the museum is dedicated to the first Latvian national opera “Baņuta” by Alfrēds Kalniņš, which premiered on May 29, 1920, at the Latvian National Opera.

### “Srāgu krogs”, Zosēni, Jaunpiebalga parish

Tel: +371 29244251

## LIELSTRAUPE CASTLE

The restoration of Lielstraupe Castle over the centuries has been overseen by an ancient Baltic-German family - the von Rosen family, who managed the castle with small interruptions until 1939. Lielstraupe Castle is the only castle in Latvia that includes a church within the same building volume. The journey through both buildings is an exciting story of times - from the ancient to the present day.

### Lielstraupe Castle, Straupe

Tel: +371 26620422

[www.tourism.straupe.lv](http://www.tourism.straupe.lv)

## CĒSIS HISTORY AND ART MUSEUM

In the carefully restored historical interiors of Cēsis New Castle, an exciting and modern exhibition has been arranged, which tells about the special significance of Cēsis in Latvian history.

### Pils laukums 9, Cēsis

Tel: +371 26576111

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

## JETE'S ROOM IN DZĒRBENE CASTLE

Jete's room adorned with 1500 pearls hanging from the ceiling symbolically represents a part of the gloves made by the Folk Art Master in her lifetime. Most of her gloves, which “sang, cried, laughed” about her life spent in a wheelchair, are now in various Latvian museums and the “Glove Path” fund.

### “Pils”, Dzērbenes parish

Tel: +371 29408315

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

## CĒSIS ADVENTURE TRAIL

Participate in the exciting adventure game “Cēsis Adventure Trail”. During the game, you will visit historical sites, solve tasks, and enjoy the beauty of Cēsis during the nighttime. The 3.8 km route will lead you through more than 800 years of the city's secrets. The five most successful teams with the highest score will receive surprise prizes from local entrepreneurs.



Tourist Information Center, Baznīcas Square 1,  
Cēsis



18.05.2024. ⌚ 18.00



Downloaded **Actionbunds app**

DISCOVER ALL  
THE COUNTY'S  
MUSEUMS





# GET READY FOR CYCLING SEASON

IT'S SPRINGTIME, TIME TO CHECK YOUR BIKE AND GET READY FOR YOUR NEXT ADVENTURES WITH FRIENDS! HERE ARE CYCLING MASTER **JĀNIS RATSEPS** TIPS ON HOW TO ENJOY A SAFE AND PLEASANT RIDE!



## TIRES

When spring arrives, it's important to check your bike's tires and adjust the air pressure. For mountain bikes, the pressure should be 2-3 atmospheres, while for city bikes, it should be 3-3.5 atmospheres. Carefully inspect the condition of the tires and tread wear, and be sure to check for any sidewall cracks. If you find any cracks, replace the tires immediately!



## BRAKES

Before riding, squeeze the brake levers to make sure the brakes are working effectively. It may be necessary to apply some lubricant. Also, don't forget to check the gear shifters to ensure they are working properly after the winter break.

## CHAIN

After the winter season, it's often necessary to oil the bike chain to ensure its proper functioning. However, be cautious - if the bike has been in a damp place, the chain may be heavily rusted and may need to be replaced. City bikes equipped with gears in the rear wheel hub and a coaster brake may also require chain tensioning, as it tends to stretch over time.

**Remember!** When riding a bike, always follow safety rules, wear a helmet, and use lights or reflective vests if riding in the dark.





### **BIKE SHOP “EŽI”**

Rīgas street 51A, Cēsis

Tel: +371 26573132

[www.veikals.ezi.lv](http://www.veikals.ezi.lv)

**5%** discount with the **Drauga card** in “Eži” stores for all goods except bicycles;  
**20%** discount for rental services.

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### **ELECTRIC “EŽI”**

Rīgas street 51A, Cēsis

[elektroezi.cesis@gmail.com](mailto:elektroezi.cesis@gmail.com)

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

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### **BIKE RENTAL “HOTEL TIGRA”**

Veidenbauma street 2, Priekulī

Tel: +371 25414499

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

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### **BIKE MAINTENANCE “STRAZDU GRAVA”**

Selekcijas sreet 6C, Priekulī

Tel: +371 29611629

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

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### **BIKE ADVENTURES**

#### **“CYCLING ADVENTURES”**

“Jaunklabi”, Amatas parish

Tel: +371 29483489

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

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### **BIKE RENTAL “EASY RIDE”**

Zemgaļi, Līgatne

Tel: +371 22084232

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

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### **ELECTRIC BIKE RENTAL “LAZY BIKES”**

Zemgaļi, Līgatne

Tel: +371 29255860

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

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### **VELOTAVA**

Gaujas street 21, Jaunpiebalga

Tel: +371 27001128

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





EXPLORE THE NATURE



## SWING ROAD IN DZĒRBENE

Length: **5 km**

Difficulty level: **easy**

**Suitable for children**

The Swing Road in **Dzērbene** is designed for everyone, locals and visitors alike, to enjoy a scenic bike ride or walk through the most picturesque areas of **Dzērbene** - to enjoy the beautiful nature, breathe fresh air, and draw inspiration from the wise locals.

Each swing carries its own story - about life, history, or the people who once lived here. Swinging on the swings, you will not only feel freedom but also travel through time, as the inscriptions on the swings range from ancient times to just a few decades ago.

During the walk, also visit **Dzērbenes Castle Park**, **the High Mountain** and **Dzērbenes Church**.



## WHAT TO EXPERIENCE AROUND?

Greet the sun from the tower of **Dzērbenes Castle** or, together with a guide, get to know the ghost stories of the castle. The bravest can test their skills in the castle's basement escape game.

Prior registration required - tel: 29408315. Try your hand at paper casting, lamp making, or participate in other creative workshops offered by the creative house **"Memberi"**, Tel: +371 29424560.

## WHERE TO STAY AND EAT?

### GUESTHOUSE "SAKNĪTES"

Dzērbenes parish

Tel: +371 26516512

[www.facebook.com/viva5.saknite](http://www.facebook.com/viva5.saknite)

### COUNTRY HOUSE "EZERMUIŽA"

Dzērbenes parish

Tel: +371 26444283

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

### COUNTRY HOUSE "AVOTNIEKI"

Dzērbenes parish

Tel: 29284972

### PIZZERIA "MEISTARS UN MARGARITA"

Basement of Nēķina manor, Taurene

Tel: +371 25588348



VIEW THE  
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## LANDSCAPES OF CĒSIS SURROUNDINGS



Length: **16 km, circular**  
 Difficulty level: **moderate**  
 Starting point: **Cēsis New Castle**

Embark on an exciting 16 km walk through the surroundings of **Cēsis**, where nature awaits with breathtaking views and rich history. Start your journey at the impressive **Cēsis New Castle**. The path then leads along Lenču Street past Meža Cemetery, where you can see the **Mother Earth sculpture** created by Jansons. Next, enjoy a walk through the forest trail to **Ērgļi Cliffs**, which rise 20 meters above the **Gauja River**. There you can catch your breath and admire the stunning view of the river valley, which is included in the **UNESCO World Heritage List**. Further along the forest road, head to the talented Janson family's art creation place "**Silķes**", where sculptures that can be seen daily in the old town of Cēsis have been created. In the final stretch, you can explore the ancient wooden villas, and at the end, treat yourself to something delicious at one of the cafes in the **old town of Cēsis**.

### WHAT TO EXPERIENCE AROUND?

Visit the **Cēsis Castle** complex with its majestic medieval fortress, museum exhibitions, and themed events.

Explore the artistic creations of sculptor Kārlis Jansons at his family home "**Silķes**".

Enjoy picturesque landscapes and take a walk along the trails of **Gauja National Park** to **Ērgļi Cliffs**. Relax with SPA procedures offered by "**Villa Santa**".

VIEW THE  
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### WHERE TO STAY?

#### SPĪDALAS NAMS

Lielā Katrīnas street 12A  
[www.majascesis.lv](http://www.majascesis.lv)

#### SAUNA HOUSE "VILLA MARTA"

Ērgļu street 15, Cēsis

#### HOTEL "PROVINCE"

Niniera street 6, Cēsis  
 Tel: +371 26407008

#### CASTLE PARK APARTMENTS

Palasta street 25, Cēsis

#### BOTIQUE HOSTEL CESIS-X

Rīgas street 20-2, Cēsis

### WHERE TO EAT?

#### CAFE "PAGRABINŠ"

Vienības square 1, Cēsis  
 Tel: +371 20267700, +371 64120125

#### VECPILSĒTAS KEBABS

Rīgas street 4, Cēsis  
 Tel: +371 20237139

#### CAFE "PASĒDNĪCA"

Raunas street 15, Cēsis

#### RESTAURANT "MANGO SKY LOUNGE"

Raunas street 12, Cēsis  
 Tel: +371 23000210









## JAUNPIEBALGA - VIŅĶU HILL

Length: **17 km, circular** (bike route Nr. 161)

Difficulty level: **moderate**

Starting point: **Gaujas street 21, Jaunpiebalga**

The 17 km long route will take you through the enchanting landscape of **Piebalga**, allowing you to explore not only the scenic beauty but also the cultural and historical values of **Jaunpiebalga** center: the **Jaunpiebalga Lutheran church**, where you can see the monument created by K. Zāle in memory of those who fell in the fight for freedom, as well as a State cultural monument - the tavern building, which was built in 1800 and is the largest building of this type in Latvia. Climbing the observation tower on **Viņķu Hill**, built in 2019, offers a breathtaking view of the vast fields of Piebalga. It almost begs for a canvas and a palette of colors to paint this landscape. Looking at the 17.8 m high observation tower, you can try to guess what message artist Sandra Strēle has hidden in Latvian runes. Along the route, you can also visit **PuuceStudio** ceramics workshop, where pottery is imbued with the colors of Piebalga



### WHAT TO EXPERIENCE AROUND?

Where better to learn about the history of Jaunpiebalga than at the **Jaunpiebalga Local History Museum** with an experienced guide. Explore and purchase linen costumes and textiles at the **“Baltie darbi”** workshop. Jaunpiebalga is special with its dome **“Pūces”**, where for several years the ceramics workshop **“puuceStudio”** has been operating, creating unique ceramic products.

### WHERE TO STAY AND EAT?

#### **GUESTHOUSE “ZELTA KROGS”**

“Zeltiņi”, Jaunpiebalgas parish

Tel: +371 26333814

#### **“VANAGKALNS”**

“Ziedoņi”, Jaunpiebalgas parish

Tel: +371 26567616

#### **CAFE “VIRPIĶIS”**

Rūpniecības street 2a, Jaunpiebalga

Tel: +371 26404241



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## KĀRĻA SCENIC LOOP



Length: **21 km, circular**

Difficulty level: **moderate**

Starting point: **The Āraiši Lake Castle Archaeological Park**

This circular route will delight both experienced hiking enthusiasts and cyclists, offering the opportunity to explore various natural features and understand the local environment and history. Starting your journey in **Āraiši**, head along the old **Āža tavern** towards the highway. On both sides of the road, you can observe quarrying activities. Further along, the route leads along a gravel road, crossing the **Rakšupe River** several times. Turning off at the “Saulītes” house, a forest path will take you to the **“Rakši” camel park**, where you can feed various exotic animals by hand. Nearby in the forest, you’ll find the colorful **Rakstu cliffs**. Continue along the **Mežtaka** section to **Kārļi**, where the road leads through an impressive alley of oak trees. Stop at **Kārļamuiža Hotel** to visit the pomological garden and landscape park. The final stretch of the route leads back to the starting point, passing by the beautiful **Āraiši Windmills** and **Drabeši Manor**, where there is still an active cultural life. If you still have energy, play the **“Āraiši Legends”** game, which tells the legends of the surrounding area.

### WHAT TO EXPERIENCE AROUND?

Enjoy relaxation and adventure in **Drabeši** parish! Visit the leisure complex and **Zoo “Rakši”**, where you can see various exotic animals and enjoy various activities. Explore the historic **Āraiši Windmills** and learn about their operation. Get to know Latvia’s ancient history at the **Āraiši Lake Castle Archaeological Park**, where you can see the reconstructed lake castle, learn about life on **Meita Island**, and explore the ruins of **Āraiši Castle**. Play the game **“Āraiši Legends”**. Test your skills and participate in various outdoor activities with huskies at **“Dodkepu.lv”**.

### WHERE TO STAY AND EAT?

#### GUESTHOUSE “VIRGABAĻI”

“Virgabaļi”, Drabešu parish

Tel: +371 26597100

#### “KĀRĻAMUIŽA”

“Kārļamuiža”, Drabešu parish

Tel: +371 26165298

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

#### CAFE “MELTURI”

Drabešu parish

Tel: +371 68301372



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## LIEPA, LĪČU – LAŅĢU CLIFFS

Length: **9 km, circular**

Difficulty level: **easy/moderate**

Starting point: **parking lot**

**Note!** During leafless periods, the rock formations are more visible! Not suitable for stroller walks.

**Līču-Laņģu** trail offers an exciting walk through picturesque landscapes, revealing the wonders of nature. The trail begins at **Lielā Ellīte** - an impressive cave that is 12 meters deep and 18 meters wide. Next, the trail leads through **Liepa** to the **Lodes clay quarry**. This quarry still produces clay for brick production. The characteristic features of the quarry are steep sandstone walls and colorful layers of clay. Further on, the trail winds through the forest, offering views of the ancient **Gauja valley** and the Līču-Laņģu cliffs - a kilometer-long sandstone outcrop with a maximum height of 30 meters. It is one of the largest sandstone outcrop complexes in Latvia. Over time, the springs flowing from the cliffs have formed many caves, niches, and grottos, which continue to change.

### WHAT TO EXPERIENCE AROUND?

Visit the **Veidenbaums Memorial Museum “Kalāči”**, where you will learn about the work of the poet **Eduards Veidenbaums**. Try your hand at baking rye bread or pies at the **“Krūmiņi”** bakery. Enjoy the historical atmosphere and thematic events at **Skangāļi Manor**. Relax at the **“Sillakas”** fish farm, where you can both catch fish and stay overnight.

### WHERE TO STAY AND EAT?

#### CAFE “PIETURI LIEPA”

Rūpnīcas street 1A, Liepa

Tel: +371 28712422

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

#### CAFE “PIE RIKARDIONA”

Rūpnīcas street 19

Tel: +371 20028129

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

#### COUNTRY HOTEL “LIEPAS MUIŽA”

“Mežrozes”, Liepas parish

Tel: +371 28490600

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

#### HOLIDAY HOUSE “LEJAS OZOLI”

“Lejas ozoli”, Liepas parish

Tel: +371 29432515

#### GUEST HOUSE “GRĪVIŅU PIRTS”

“Grīviņu pirts”, Liepas parish

Tel: +371 26751908

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



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# LOCAL'S CHOICE

WELCOME TO THE "LOCAL'S CHOICE" SECTION, WHERE WE DISCOVER INTERESTING PLACES AND TIPS FROM THE HEARTFELT PEOPLE OF **CĒSIS COUNTY**! FIND OUT HOW TO RELAX AS SUGGESTED BY **ĒRIKS DREIBANTS** AND WHAT **LĪGA EGLĪTE** RECOMMENDS TO DO IN SPRING!





# THE SOUND OF SPRING

THE MOST PICTURESQUE HERALDS OF SPRING ARE THE MIGRATORY BIRDS, DELIGHTING WITH THEIR SONGS AND DANCES. **ĒRIKS DREIBANTS** RECOMMENDS TAKING BINOCULARS, HEADING INTO NATURE, AND OBSERVING THESE COLORFUL SINGERS!

## How and why to go birdwatching?

To go birdwatching, you first need an interest. Secondly, it's good if you can start by going with someone knowledgeable who can show you where to hear and see things. Since we Latvians love being in nature, birdwatching is an added value. Birdwatching is very harmonious and calming because when you're searching for a bird species, you can forget yourself for hours. While birdwatching, you set yourself up to be quieter. Go, for example, to the **Daibe Bird Tower**, take a thermos, sandwiches, and understand that now you'll enjoy three hours of birdwatching without rush. Maybe five or six. And in the end, you'll return home relaxed and serene.

## Why is spring a great time for birdwatching?

In early spring, when migratory birds haven't returned yet, I enjoy listening to the song of the blackbird in the dark forest. It sounds so beautiful! It reminds you that spring is just around the corner. This is a great time for birdwatching, especially for beginners who recognize birds by appearance but not by sound, as the leaves have not yet unfolded, and they can be seen well in the tree branches.



Ēriks Dreibants, Owner of the MICHELIN-starred restaurant PAVĀRU MĀJA LĪGATNE, member of LOB.

## Where to go to listen to bird songs?

Birds can be observed everywhere, even in cities where many think there are no birds. In fact, there are various species even in cities. Just stop and observe! Starting from March evenings, go to listen to the owl calls, for example, in the **Ciruliši nature trails** or **Kvēpenes trails**. To hear birds, you can use owl call recordings available on the website [www.putni.lv](http://www.putni.lv). Download the most popular owl call in Latvia and play it in the forest. If there's a male nearby, he'll respond, saying, "Hey, this territory is already taken!" Ornithologists call this provocation. On the other hand, in early spring, when the fields are flooded with water and the time of geese migration begins, go to watch the geese on **Raiskums**, where the meadows are flooded. There you can observe them in flocks. Later in spring, when the ground has already dried, go birdwatching along the trail that connects **Līgatne** with **Cēsis**.

## What to prepare when going birdwatching:

- Weather-appropriate clothing;
- Binoculars;
- Bird guidebook;
- Lunch and water.



# NATURE'S GIFTS

AS SPRING ARRIVES, **LĪGA EGLĪTE** RECOMMENDS DISCOVERING NATURAL TREASURES FOR HEALTH AND WISDOM!

## What greenery to look for in nature in spring?

From March until the budding of leaves, you can gather buds from trees and shrubs that you recognize. You can collect apple tree buds, as well as currant bush buds. Gather soft, semi-blossomed lime tree buds, where the leaves are already emerging, as well as the young shoots of fir trees from the ends of branches, while they are about an inch long. Along the forest edge, look for sorrel and cowslip (leaves and flowers), while in the garden, go for “weeds”: nettles, ground elder, dandelions, hedgemustards, and shepherd's purse leaves.

**Seasonal eating!** Blend a few buds (no more than 5-10) together with some greens in a smoothie. Add semi-blossomed tilia tree buds to salads, but eat fir tree shoots as they are, while walking in the forest! They are pleasantly tangy in taste and refreshingly quenching. Garden and forest herbs and weeds can be added to any salad. Quickly blanch dandelion leaves in hot water before using to remove bitterness.

**How to best absorb the power of plants within oneself?** That varies for everyone, but the main thing is to do everything with joy! If you don't enjoy it and aren't in the mood, it's better not to start. If you add your joy to every dish you cook, it will be good! The most important thing is to say THANK YOU to nature.



Līga Eglīte, gardener at the Cēsis Medieval Castle, author of “Zāļu sievas piezīmes”





# FAMILY WEEKEND IN CĚSIS COUNTY

**CĚSIS COUNTY** OFFERS ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT. WE HAVE PREPARED A THREE-DAY PLAN FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE FAMILY ADVENTURE IN CĚSIS COUNTY THAT WILL INSPIRE, EDUCATE, ENTERTAIN, AND RELAX YOU! READ ON AND GET INSPIRED FOR YOUR WEEKEND IN **CĚSIS COUNTY!**

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## DAY 1

Begin your weekend with an enlightening walk in the fresh spring air at **VIENKOČI PARK**. It's suitable for children and captivating for adults. Vienkoči Park is located on the banks of the miniature **Līgatne River**. Here, you'll find walking trails with thematic sights and educational objects. **The Woodworking Museum** is arranged like an ancient workshop. Visitors can explore the history of **Līgatne**, nature, and the nuances of woodworking from the Stone Age to the present day.

### **"Vienkoči", Līgatnes parish**

Tel: +371 29329065

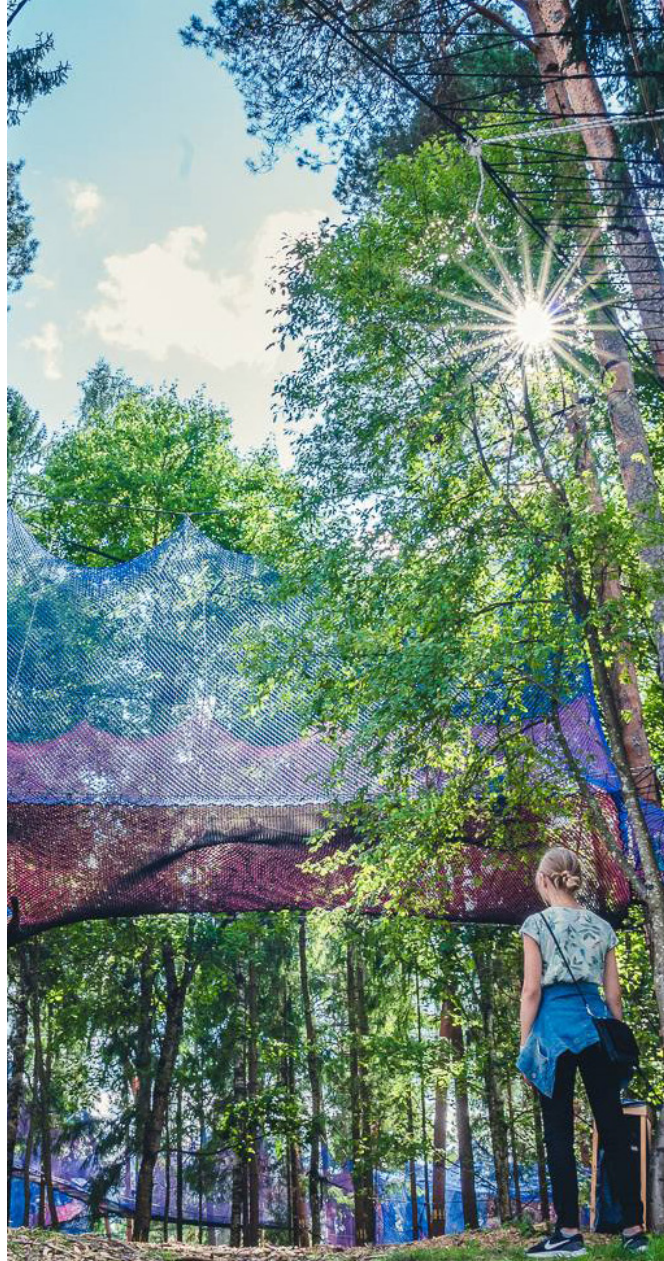
[www.vienkoci.lv](http://www.vienkoci.lv)

Nearby, you can test your balance by walking several meters above the ground and enjoy the view from the treetops at the **treetop park "TĪKLU PAKRS"**. Embark on tree adventures and experience an incomparable sense of freedom and fun activities for everyone! **"ZEIT"** creative quarter also features a small treetop park and a playroom for the little ones.

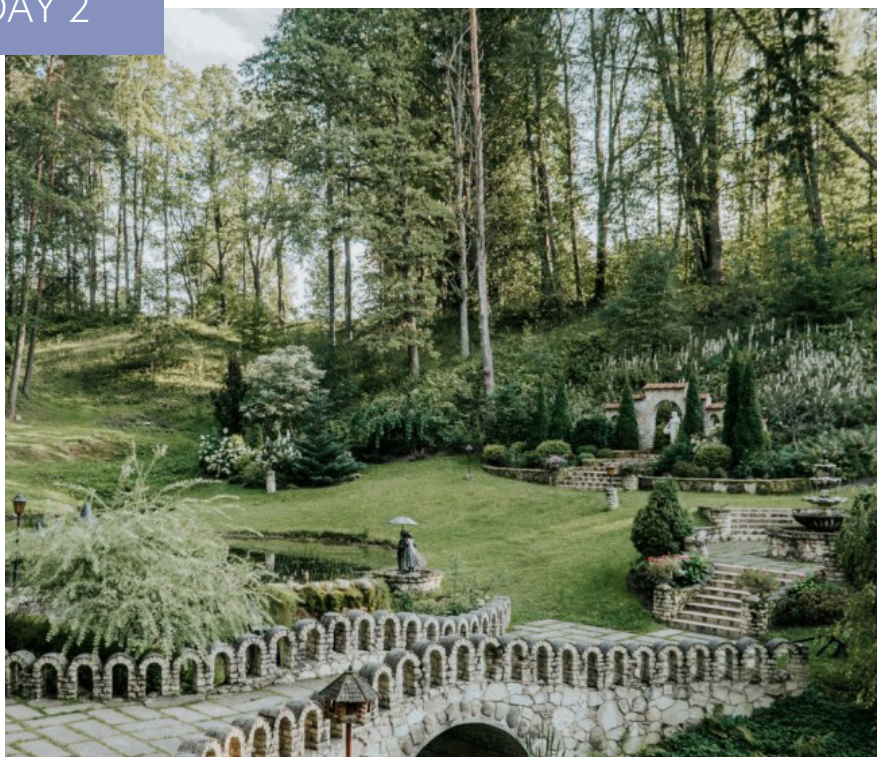
### **Gaujas street 4, Līgatne**

Tel: +371 25779944

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



## DAY 2



Starting a new day, your adventure will take you closer to Cēsis. In the **nature park "SVĒTAVOTS"**, every visitor is welcomed as a special guest. You'll learn the story of Svētavots, unique advantages of spring water. Everyone will be offered a unique opportunity to listen to the legends shrouded in secrets and perform an ancient ritual to draw strength from the Svētavots.

### **Atpūtas street 12, Cēsis**

Tel: +371 29460660

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



Don't miss out on valuable educational entertainment at the **SPACE EDUCATION CENTRE**. All visitors of the center will gain an understanding of how much our daily processes, scientific achievements, inventions, and human talents are connected to the exploration of space, and will point out the wide-ranging career and business development opportunities offered by the space industry.

**Cīrulišu street 63, Cēsis**

Tel: +371 27873226

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

Just nearby, take a look at the blooming spring from the **ZAĻAIS TORNIS** sightseeing tower, which stands a whole 22 meters high. Located on **Cīruļkalns hill**, it is a modern and technologically equipped nature observation tower, one of the highest points in this Gauja region, offering expansive views where you can admire both the **city of Cēsis** and the landscape of the **Gauja River valley**.

**Žagarkalns, Cēsis**



**DAY 3**

Another day begins, and your adventures with us continue. To get closer to nature, visit one of the farms and take a pony ride at **SESĪĻI PONIES**.

**“Sesīli”, Drabešu parish.**

Tel: +371 26595545

[sarmitesviderska@inbox.lv](mailto:sarmitesviderska@inbox.lv)

At **RIKAS ALPAKU SKOLA**, you can not only enjoy the beautiful natural scenery but also see alpacas, with which you can walk amidst the picturesque hills of **Piebalga**. You will also be able to view and purchase products made from alpaca wool.

**Ģibuļi”, Vecpiebalgas parish**

Tel: +371 22011307

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



If you're looking for something more active, head to Liepa parish and unleash your stored energy with an exciting outdoor laser tag game at **LAZZERFUN**. Here, you can also organize a picnic or even a small party.

**LaazerFun**

**"Vidus Penderi", Liepas parish**

Tel: +371 29123359

laazerfun@gmail.com

After a day full of adventures, immerse yourself in relaxation by visiting the **RIFS swimming pool!** Choose between a spacious pool suitable for all age groups or a small hydro pool, especially liked by children! When it's time to relax, enjoy the warm and soothing sauna procedures.

**Cēsu Avenue 46a, Priekuļi**

Tel: +371 29227544

www.rifs.lv

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**Cēsis County's** rich offering of leisure activities will help you create a family weekend plan to suit every taste. Whether you're seekers of adventure, cultural enthusiasts, or nature lovers, you'll find everything you could want in **Cēsis County**.

For more ideas, visit the website **visit.cesis.lv**.





EXPLORE PIEBALGA



PIEBALGA



# PIEBALGA: A VALUE OF LATVIA'S INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

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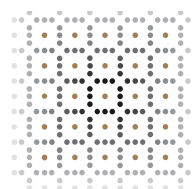
SINCE 2023, **PIEBALGA'S CULTURAL SPACE** HAS BEEN A VALUE OF LATVIA'S INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE. AND IT'S NOT WITHOUT REASON. **PIEBALGA** BOASTS GLITTERING LAKES, WINDING ROADS, AND LEGENDS IN ITS HILLS AND VALLEYS. THE GREAT PLAIN WHERE THE GAUJA BEGINS ITS COURSE, **THE SEVEN-ISLAND LAKE INESIS**, AND THE **SINGING WATER LILIES**. IT'S THE HOMELAND OF CULTURE, ART, AND LITERATURE, **THE CRADLE OF LATVIAN CULTURE**. VISITING PIEBALGA IS ALWAYS LIKE A SMALL JOURNEY IN TIME, BECAUSE THE SPIRIT OF THE PAST COEXISTS HERE WITH THE ACTIVE PRESENT. THE ROADS OF PIEBALGA ARE AN ADVENTURE. NAVIGATING THE CURVES, AN INQUISITIVE EYE WILL DISCOVER THE CHARM OF THE **VIDZEME HIGHLANDS**.

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One of these roads leads from **Vecpiebalga** to the native **"Jāņaskola"** of the notable Latvian composer **Emīls Dārziņš** in **Jaunpiebalga**. The place where the author of the "Melancholic Waltz" spent his childhood, music is still playing today. **The Emīls Dārziņš and Jānis Sudrabkalns Memorial Museum "Jāņaskola"** is a cultural site where you can learn about the life story of the outstanding Latvian composer and get closer to the secrets of his genius work. The forget-me-not meadows, the spring hustle and bustle of storks in the "Jāņaskola" nest, the silence and the sun's play in the **Piebalga hills** invite you to indulge in the enchantment of nature.

Continuing the journey along the white roads of **Piebalga**, we invite you to visit the rural exhibition **"Vēveri"**. In the characteristic rural setting of **Old Piebalga**, it's a place for walks and an opportunity to try out your skills in weaving, churning butter, or baking bread. **"Vēveri"** welcomes you with at least 400 years of ancient history, restored Piebalga farmhouses, and craftsmen's tools from looms to spinning wheels, from carts to cradles. At the highest point of **Vēveri Hill**, 226 m above sea level, rise the Vēveri windmills, which mark an accent in the landscape nowadays rarely seen.

In the weaving workshop **"Vēverišas"** skilled weavers' hands cultivate the beauty of this land into shawls, scarves, and tablecloths. Textile artist Dagnija Kupče works there. Together with other masters in **Vecpiebalga** and **Cēsis**, she takes care of preserving intangible cultural heritage – Latvian authentic folk costumes.



NEMATERIĀLAIS  
KULTŪRAS  
MANTOJUMS





## PLAN AHEAD

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|                      |                                                                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>15.03-31.03</b>   | Gastronomy event <b>“GOURMET’S JOURNEY”</b>                                    |
| <b>29.03.</b>        | Pārgājiens <b>“LIELĀ PIEKTDIENA LĪGATNES MEŽOS”</b>                            |
| <b>6.04.</b>         | Hike with an expert <b>“BIRDSONG SYMPHONY IN DZĒRBENE”</b>                     |
| <b>12.04.-14.04.</b> | Festival <b>“PĒTERIS VASKS MUSIC APRIL”</b>                                    |
| <b>11.05.</b>        | Test your skills in the <b>LATVIAN ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIP LONG DISTANCE</b> |
| <b>18.05.</b>        | <b>“MUSEUM NIGHT”</b> and night hike in Cēsis                                  |
| <b>25.05</b>         | <b>“LĪGATNE FESTIVAL”</b>                                                      |
| <b>25.05.</b>        | <b>“SKUJENE SOUNDS”</b>                                                        |

Find all county events here: [www.pasakumi.cesis.lv](http://www.pasakumi.cesis.lv)



**PLANNING IS COOLER WITH A FRIEND CARD FROM CĒSIS COUNTY!** Purchase a **Friend Card** and receive various discounts from 5% to even 30%, as well as other pleasant bonuses for services offered in the **Cēsis county!**

Card purchase points: **Cēsis**, Baznīcas laukums 1, **Līgatne**, Sprīņu street 2; **Āraiši**, at the ticket office of the **Āraiši Lake Castle Archaeological Park**; **Straupe**, at the ticket office of **Lielstraupes castle**.