

Cēsis
attracts



AUTUMN 2024

REACHING HEIGHTS

INSPIRATION GUIDE FOR HOLIDAYS IN CĒSIS

visit.cesis.lv



AUTUMN IN CĒSIS COUNTY

As the fresh air of the season carries cranberry hues and the scent of leaves, Cēsis County slowly turns into a picturesque repository of warm tones and cozy aromas. The new guide **“REACHING HEIGHTS”** invites you to explore Cēsis County, view it from a bird’s-eye perspective by climbing observation towers and hills, savor it by enjoying homemade meals and visiting Restaurant Week, relax by indulging in various indoor and outdoor activities, and get inspired by reading fascinating interviews and much more.

See you in Cēsis County!



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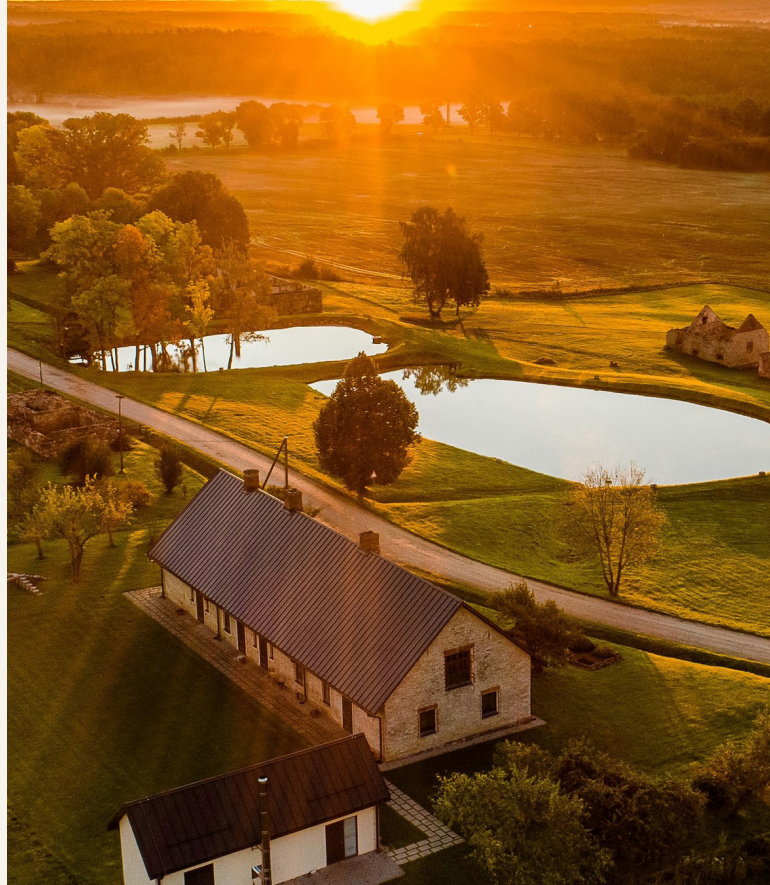
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GEMS OF GAUJA NATIONAL PARK

GAUJA NATIONAL PARK IS LIKE A VIBRANT GEMSTONE IN LATVIA'S ATTIRE, CHANGING ITS COLORS WITH THE SEASONS, SOON SHIFTING FROM LIVELY GREEN TO WARM AUTUMN TONES. HERE, YOU CAN FIND PEACE AWAY FROM THE CROWDS, INDULGE IN WILD ENTERTAINMENT WITH FRIENDS, EXPERIENCE FAMILY JOY, OR EMBRACE SOLO ADVENTURES AND DISCOVERIES. GAUJA NATIONAL PARK INVITES EVERYONE TO VISIT AND ENJOY ITS SPLENDOR.

THE ALLURE OF CAVES

Catch the last moments to see the beautiful caves that **Gauja National Park** is rich in. Near Cēsis, you'll find the long **Kalējala**, the **Bride's Cave** in Cīrulīši trails, larger and smaller recesses in the **Berlin Cliffs** at Jāņmuiža, and the unique **Lielā Ellīte** in Liepa. The most unusual cave can be found in Straupe, where the **"Vējiņi" underground lakes** are located. Note that as the cold season arrives, bats begin to hibernate in the caves, and human presence disturbs them.

Learn more at www.dabasdati.lv



PHOTO SPOTS

When the leaves begin to change colors, head to places with wide-open views. Capture moments and feelings that will fill your emotional cup! Clear your mind by climbing the **Cīruliši Green Tower**, admire the Gauja river bends near the **Ērgēļu Cliffs**, or head to the **Lustūzis Cliff** in Līgatne, where an orchestra once played lively dances. In this season, the cliffs colored by autumn sunsets along the banks of the **Brasla** and **Amata** rivers will be most stunning.

ACTIVE AUTUMN

Who says autumn must be enjoyed peacefully? Experience a wild bike ride with electric bikes at **Elektro Eži**. Meet yourself on the **Camino Latvia hike** from Valmiera to Sigulda via Cēsis and Līgatne, which will reward you with breathtaking autumn views and unexpected twists. Take an adventurous hike with huskies through **Āraiši** or **Ceciļu nature trails**. Or enjoy the most beautiful views by canoeing along the mythical Gauja River. Everyone will find their perfect way to enjoy this season.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MOVIES

Explore the locations where scenes from films that have become Latvian cinema classics were shot. The poignant views in the movie “Blow, the Winds” (Pūt, vējiņi!) were filmed near the majestic **Ērgēļu Cliff**. You can follow the story of Edgars and Kristīne from the film “Purva Bridējs” at the thieves’ balcony of **Lielstraupe Castle**, **Āraiši Church**, and **Cēsis Castle Park**. You’ll recognize **Cēsis Medieval Castle** and the **Līgatne Paper Factory Cliffs** from the fairy tale movie “Sprīdītis”. These are just a few of the films shot in the photogenic **Gauja National Park**. Which will be the next one?



LOVING NATURE

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH KRISTĪNE GARKLĀVA, AN INSPIRING TV PRODUCER AND ENTHUSIASTIC ENVIRONMENTALIST, WE LEARN ABOUT HER FAVORITE TRAILS IN CĒSIS COUNTY AND WHY IT IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN A CONNECTION WITH NATURE.

What inspires you to go on hikes? I have a natural urge to go hiking because only in nature can I truly relax and experience what I call real holidays. Autumn is a fantastic time to go into nature and feel the autumn scents all around. We transition from vibrant colors to a somewhat melancholic northern environment where gray and countless shades of pale blue dominate.

What are your favorite places in Cēsis County, especially in autumn? Cēsis County can truly boast of its beauty, blessed and gifted from head to toe with stunning and unique nature. There are particular spots I visit at least 15 times a year. Of course, my beloved Amata River. It's a popular place, and many have explored it in all directions and seasons, but in my opinion, it's one of the most beautiful trails in the county. I am usually drawn to trails that are near rivers, like the Strīkupe nature trail, especially the left bank trail, and also trails along Raunis. I'm very attracted to wild trails where there are challenges—fallen trees or river crossings. I love the trail along the Līgatne stream at the end of summer or early autumn because it has both deciduous and coniferous trees, creating a jungle-like feeling. Cēsis County's places are all more beautiful than the next, and it's hard to say what I like most, as each one has its charm.

What advice would you give to people who want to deepen their connection with nature?

I believe that by building a connection with nature, we become aware of its valuable impact on our health and mind. Only by getting to know it can we understand why it is important to take care of it. Respect and care not only locally, but also by getting involved in important decisions regarding environmental issues around us. For those who want to get to know nature better, I encourage you to go out when the weather is a bit worse, as this increases the chance that you'll be alone on the trails. That's when you can truly listen and observe nature. Walking more challenging trails makes people focus on how to navigate the path, how not to fall. There's no time to think about daily worries or work. That feeling, when your brain has rested, becomes somewhat addictive.



What environmentally friendly practices do you follow when hiking or camping?

I always familiarize myself with the rules of the specific natural area. In the Cēsis region, there are reserves where people are not allowed, and it's important to respect and not break these laws. Nature reserves have a purpose, and it's essential to preserve them. Since childhood, my parents taught me to leave the places where we camp cleaner than we found them. That habit has stuck with me, and I also instinctively pick up things others have dropped because it pains my eyes and heart. Cēsis County is special in that we have caves, and I urge people in autumn to respect the rules and not enter caves where bats live. Disturbing bats can cause significant harm. It's important to me that what surrounds us remains for centuries after us, so that future generations can also experience it.

If you could inspire one change in people's interaction with nature, what would it be?

To love nature. I still see that this love is dormant in people. I would like people to appreciate the environment around us and realize that it is home to thousands of creatures. I have come to understand that it's also my home. If I feel tossed about, then when I get into nature, I realize that I am home. In today's hectic world, this is a source of peace. **I encourage people not to be indifferent and to get involved. This also applies to efforts like clearing invasive species that harm our beautiful nature. Getting involved and protecting natural values—loving and being active—is essential.**

GOLDEN PEAKS

CĒSIS COUNTY ENCHANTS WITH ITS DIVERSE LANDSCAPES, WHICH BECOME ESPECIALLY STUNNING IN AUTUMN. DURING THIS TIME, IT IS POSSIBLE TO VISIT COUNTLESS SCENIC VIEWPOINTS AND EXPERIENCE THE CHARM OF THIS SEASON. CHECK OUT THESE SPOTS IN CĒSIS COUNTY AND LET NATURE'S BEAUTY ENCHANT YOU!



LIEPA MANOR VIEW POINT **Liepa manor, Liepa parish**

Head to Liepa Manor, where a panoramic view stretches over the Rauna Valley and surrounding fields.



LUSTŪZIS CLIFF **Līgatne**

Lustūzis is a sandstone outcrop of the Gauja formation, located in the center of Līgatne. At the base of the cliff, on the opposite bank of the stream, there is a special viewing platform, while two more platforms are set up at the top of Lustūzis, offering magnificent views of the Līgatne Valley and the village.

ZVĀRTES ROCK **Zvārte cove, Drabeši parish**

One of the most picturesque Devonian sandstone rocks in Latvia. Climbing to the top of Zvārte Cliff offers an unparalleled autumn landscape.

LADEMAHER TOWER OF THE NEW CASTLE IN CĒSIS **Pils square 9, Cēsis**

The Cēsis panorama from Lademaher Tower surprises with its variety—romantic medieval castle ruins, golden parks, the tall spire of St. John's Church, old town rooftops, and a vast landscape of forests and hills hiding the Gauja River valley.



GREEN TOWER **Cīrulišu street 70, Cēsis**

At the top of Cīruļkalns Hill stands a 22-meter-high viewing tower. From the tower, you can enjoy expansive views, including the city of Cēsis and the landscape of the Gauja River Valley.

BREŽĢA HILL VIEWING TOWER **Brežģa hill, Taurene parish**

From the 11-meter-high tower, you can enjoy a wide view of Alauksts, Zobols, Inesis, Elka Hill, and the autumn-colored hills of Vecpiebalga during sunrises and sunsets.

VIŅĶU HILL VIEWING TOWER **Jaunpiebalga parish**

Viņķu Hill is the highest and most picturesque spot in Jaunpiebalga. On the hill, a 17.8-meter-high viewing tower has been built, and its structure is decorated with Latvian symbols and patterns painted by artist Sandra Strēle.



AUTUMN FLAVORS

CĒSIS COUNTY RESTAURANT WEEK, which will take place from **November 8 to 18**, invites you to rediscover childhood flavors inspired by family traditions and Latvian heritage. As Latvia's Independence Day approaches, restaurant owners and chefs will share cherished recipes passed down through generations, creating and celebrating a sense of coziness and togetherness.

Chef Edgars Rubenis sets the tone for a refined autumn flavor symphony, offering everyone the chance to prepare a hearty and aromatic stew that will warm up the chilly autumn evenings. **Take a look and try it yourself!**



“This stew recipe once surprised my taste buds. By adding a bit of wine and beets to a seemingly simple stew, the dish transforms in both taste and appearance. The ingredients can be changed using available root vegetables, like turnips, parsnips, radishes. Just don't forget the beetroot, as it does all the work for you.”

Edgars Rubenis, chef
“H.E. Vanadziņš. Ziemeļu restorāns”

AUTUMN ROOT VEGETABLE STEW WITH BEETS AND JERUSALEM ARTICHOKEs

INGREDIENTS:

- 100g onions
 - 40g garlic
 - 200g carrots
 - 200g potatoes
 - 150g beetroots
 - 100g Jerusalem artichokes
 - 30g butter
 - 300g whipping cream
 - 100g white wine
 - 700g broth
 - 20g rapeseed oil
 - 0,5g nutmeg
 - 1g bay leafs
 - 4g salt
 - 1g pepper
-

PREPARATION

- 1.** Prepare the vegetables: finely chop onions and garlic, peel and dice carrots, potatoes, and fresh beets.
- 2.** Heat a pot on medium heat.
- 3.** Add oil and onions with garlic.
- 4.** Stir occasionally and sauté for about 2 minutes.
- 5.** Add 20 g of butter.
- 6.** Add carrots and beets and allow to fry slowly for about 5 minutes.
- 7.** Add wine and continue to heat for 5 minutes.
- 8.** Add broth, potatoes, and spices.
- 9.** Cover and let it simmer for 10 minutes.
- 10.** Add cream and simmer for 3 minutes without the lid.
- 11.** Let it rest for 10 minutes.
- 12.** While the stew rests, peel and finely chop the Jerusalem artichokes and fry them in butter until browned.
- 13.** Serve in a warm bowl with the fried Jerusalem artichokes on top.



AMATA RIVER LONG LOOP



Length: **15 km, circular**

Difficulty: **difficult**

Start: **Kārļi Fish Farm/Bridge**

Markings: **Orange markings on tree trunks**

Keep in mind! In wet weather, the surface may be slippery.

The geological trail along the **Amata River** offers breathtaking views and 350-400 million-year-old sandstone and dolomite outcrops. In autumn, you can enjoy vibrant landscapes and watch fish spawning in the river. The route leads from **Ainavu Cliff to Zvārtes Rock**, along the way passing impressive rock formations, and the return path takes you through the grand **Kārļi Oak Alley**.

WHAT TO EXPERIENCE AROUND?

Zvārtes Rock, a majestic sandstone outcrop, is one of Latvia's natural wonders, attracting both local and international travelers with its stunning landscape and rich history. Nearby is the **Rakši Camel Park**, offering an unforgettable adventure with exotic animals, exciting activities, and delicious surprises. We also invite you to visit **Līgatne**, where you can enjoy the beauty of nature, explore historical sites, and take part in various active recreation adventures.



WHERE TO STAY AND EAT?

HOTEL "KĀRĻAMUIŽA"

"Kārļi", Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 26165298

www.karlamuiza.lv

GUEST HOUSE "BILLE"

"Billīte", Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 29221082

HOTEL "MELTURI"

"Sarkanāboli", Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 29267224

CAFE "MELTURI"

Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 68301272

CAFE "PIE DZIRNAKMEŅA"

Ieriķi, Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 64170089

During the route, you can rest at several well-equipped campfire sites, where you can enjoy a picnic atmosphere, easily light a fire, and spend time with friends and family.



VIEW THE
ROUTE HERE:





DZĒRBENE LANDSCAPE PATHS

Length: **Various, circular**

Markings:

- white-green (**easy**)
- white-yellow (**moderately difficult**)
- white-red (**difficult**)

Start: **Dzērbene castle**

The bicycle adventure route in **Dzērbene parish** offers three cycling route sections, suitable for travelers of various levels of experience. These routes provide visitors with the opportunity to explore the parish's natural beauty, cultural and historical riches, and tourism opportunities, all while enjoying an active bike ride.

WHAT TO EXPERIENCE AROUND?

Reach for the sun and enjoy the autumn landscape from **Dzērbene castle tower**, or explore the ghost stories of the castle with a guide. The bravest can try their skills in the castle's escape room in the basement. Try your hand at paper making, lamp crafting, or other creative workshops offered at the **"Memberi"** creative house.



WHERE TO STAY AND EAT?

GUEST HOUSE "SAKNĪTES"

Dzērbenes parish
Tel.: +371 26516512

HOLIDAY HOUSE "EZERMUIŽA"

Dzērbenes parish
Tel.: +371 26444283
www.ezermuiza.lv

HOLIDAY HOUSE "AVOTNIEKI"

Dzērbenes parish
Tel.: +371 29284972

HOLIDAY PIZZERIA "MEISTARS UN MARGARITA"

Nēķina manor basement, Taurene
Tel.: +371 25588348



VIEW THE
ROUTE HERE:





SEARCH FOR THE OLD CĪRULIŠI LUGE TRACK



Length: **6 km, circular**

Difficulty: **medium**

Start: **Žagarkalns ski complex parking lot**

Markings: **Cīruliši nature trail markings**

Keep in mind! In wet weather, the surface may be slippery.

The historical Cīruliši luge track once played a significant role in the careers of many Latvian Olympic medalists. The track was built by sports enthusiasts in the 1960s, and initially, it was made of wood. Ice was naturally frozen, so the season's length depended on weather conditions. Several Olympic athletes began their careers here, including lugers Vera Zozuļa and Ingrida Amantova, Iluta Gaile, and bobsledder Zintis Ekmanis. Today, some fragments of the luge track remain, which can be seen at the **Ozolkans Ski Complex**.

WHAT TO EXPERIENCE AROUND?

Take the opportunity to climb the 22-meter-high Cīrūkalns viewing tower, the **Green Tower**, where you can enjoy a wide panorama. Next to it is the **Space Education Center**, an educational leisure destination with various creative workshops and activities. Also visit **Svētavots**, a unique nature park with a healing spring that attracts visitors with its beauty and historical significance. At the **Rakši Camel Park**, an unforgettable adventure with exotic animals, exciting activities, and tasty surprises awaits you.



WHERE TO STAY AND EAT?

CAMPING "OZOLKALNS"

Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 26400200

www.ozolkalns.lv

CAMPING "ŽAGARKALNS"

Cēsis

Tel.: +371 27841107

www.zagarkalns.lv

CAMPING "OŠKALNS"

Meijermuiža, Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 20034344

www.oskalns.lv

APARTMENTS "RAKŠI"

Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 20009097

www.kamieli.lv

CAFE "ORBĪTA"

Cīrulišu 63 (Space Education Center)

CAFE "CAMEL CAFE"

Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 20009097

www.kamieli.lv



VIEW THE
ROUTE HERE:





CECĪĻU NATURE TRAIL



Length: **2 km**

Difficulty: **medium**

Markings: **white arrows on a green background**

Start: **“Ekju” company parking lot (Ceciļu street 12)**

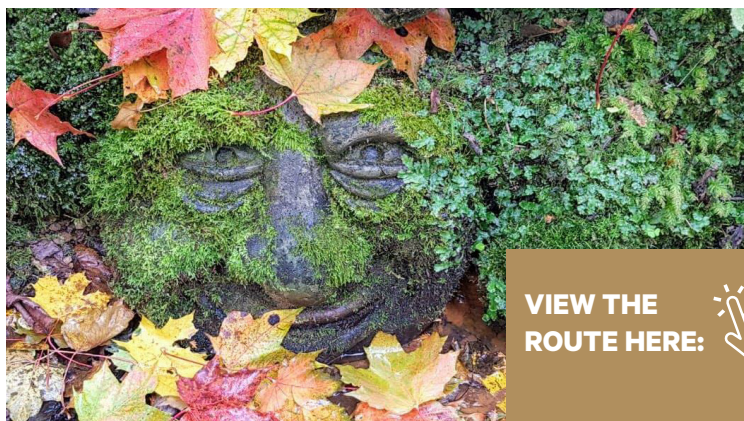
Paid visit - more about prices and opening hours at www.cecilutaka.lv

The Ceciļu Nature Trail's short loop offers views of the impressive **Ceciļu Cliff** from the right bank of the **Kumada River**. The cliff is over 10 meters high and 100 meters long. As you walk along the trail, you'll see the **Dančupīte Canyon**, a cave, a waterfall, and the **Ceciļu Pine**.

You can extend your hike by choosing marked trails: following the yellow dots, you can reach the **Dzilnas Cliff**, covering approximately 4 kilometers, while following the blue dots allows you to walk the longer loop, which spans 12 kilometers.

WHAT TO EXPERIENCE AROUND?

Close to this trail, you can visit the historic **Ieriķi Mill**. The park area is home to several waterfalls and features unique floral exhibitions. After your adventures in nature, we invite you to visit the **Ieriķi Station**, where both kids and adults can immerse themselves in the events of the historic Battle of Cēsis using virtual reality glasses. To fully enjoy the beauty of the **Līgatne region**, we recommend taking a walk through the unique **Vienkoču park**, which has many thematic observation and educational sites.



VIEW THE
ROUTE HERE:



WHERE TO STAY AND EAT?

HOTEL “JONATHAN SPA”

“Ezerputni”, Amatciems, Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 25606066

www.jonathanspahotel.com

GUEST HOUSE “VIRGABAĻI”

“Virgabali”, Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 26597100

CAFE “MELTURI”

Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 68301272

CAFE “PIE DZIRNAKMEŅA”

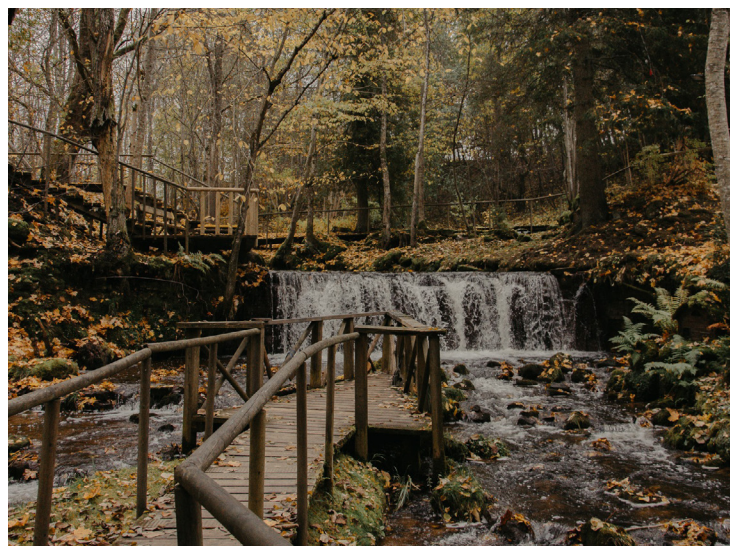
Ieriķi, Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 64170089

“BURGERS 66” Līgatne

Rasiņas, Augšlīgatne

Tel.: +371 20466600





A HAVEN OF HISTORY AND CULTURE

AUTUMN IS THE IDEAL TIME TO ENJOY CULTURE, HISTORY, AND GASTRONOMY WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE CHILL OUTSIDE. EXPLORE IDEAS FOR EXCITING INDOOR ACTIVITIES. ATTEND VARIOUS LOCAL CULTURAL EVENTS, UNCOVER THE MYSTERIES OF HISTORY, SAVOR EXQUISITE DISHES, AND DELVE INTO INSPIRING ART!

LIELSTRAUPE CASTLE

Straupe

Lielstraupe Castle, built in 1263, offers an exciting journey through the centuries. This unique castle, combined with a church in one structure, has been the property of the Archbishop of Riga's vassal and has belonged to the von Rosen baron family since the 13th century. Now the castle gates are open to every visitor—explore its mysterious labyrinths with 27 staircases and over 300 steps, admire the luxurious oak staircases and beautiful tiled stoves, and discover the secrets of the past hidden around every corner!

RUCKA MANOR

Piebalgas iela 19, Cēsis

Every week, guests arrive at Rucka Manor to experience and enjoy various events. From lectures and masterclasses to concerts, film discussions, and theater performances—there's a wide range of cultural events for every visitor. Foodies will especially appreciate Rucka Manor's "Trattoria," a small family café serving authentic Neapolitan pizza.

ĀRAIŠI LAKE CASTLE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

Āraiši, Drabešu parish

At Āraiši Lake Castle—the only reconstruction of a fortified dwelling from the 8th to 10th centuries in Europe—autumn drapes the landscape in stunning colors, allowing you to enjoy the charm of the lakeside castle. Visit the permanent exhibition showcasing artifacts found in excavations and listen to Jānis Apals' stories about ancient Latvian history, while you can savor the beautiful autumn moments by walking through the exhibition of Stone and Bronze Age dwellings on Meitu Island.



CONCERT HALL "CĒSIS"

Raunas iela 12

Nestled in medieval Cēsis is the breathtaking Concert Hall "Cēsis"—a home for music and art. This autumn, it offers a wide range of events: symphonic and chamber music concerts, jazz and contemporary music evenings, opera, ballet, and theater performances, as well as film programs and art exhibitions. Visit the Concert Hall "Cēsis" and immerse yourself in the enchanting culture and arts of autumn.

CĒSIS MUSEUM

Pils square 9, Cēsis

Visit the New Castle and its impressive history and interior exhibitions! On the first floor, explore the estate's utility spaces and servants' rooms, while the second floor and the third and fourth floors of the Lademahera Tower showcase the restored castle interiors and the history of the Count von Sievers family. Admire the five-century history of the castle and its architectural charm!





DISAPPEAR INTO PEACE

THE SAUNA IN LATVIAN CULTURE HAS LONG BEEN ROOTED AS A PLACE OF PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL CLEANSING, WHERE NOT ONLY PHYSICAL WELL-BEING RITUALS OCCUR BUT ALSO MENTAL REJUVENATION. BEATING WITH BIRCH OR OAK BRANCHES RELAXES NOT JUST THE BODY BUT ALSO THE MIND, WHILE THE AROMAS RELEASED BY VARIOUS PLANTS AND LEAVES SOOTHE BOTH THE MIND AND HEALTH. EXPLORE THIS ANCIENT TRADITION AT ONE OF THE UNIQUE WELLNESS STOPS IN THE COUNTY AND FEEL HOW THE POWER OF NATURE IMPROVES YOUR WELL-BEING.



KĀRĻAMUIŽA

In the heart of the forest is a small house that invites you to enjoy the cozy charm of a rural sauna. Here, the air is fragrant with soaked birch branches and freshly brewed herbal tea, picked from the surrounding meadows. A sauna master's services are also available.

“Kārļi”, Drabešu pagasts

Tel.: +371 26165298

www.karlamuiza.lv



ZIEDU PIRTS

Here you can enjoy a truly traditional Latvian sauna ritual. Moreover, through the sauna master's stories, you will learn about the connection between sauna rituals and the cleansing of positive energy and the arrangement of your inner world.

“Ziedu pirts”, Auciems, Raiskuma parish

Tel.: +371 20210997

SAJŪTU PIRTS

Enjoy a sauna ritual, where sauna masters and drum artists will let you feel the vibration of the drums. The sauna ritual start with gentle warming, followed by a brief tea break, and then a Himalayan salt and herb scrub massage. Afterward, under the guidance of a sauna master, you'll learn the art of proper sauna bathing with branches. The sauna ritual is available individually or for groups.

“Kalna Vērši - 4”, Drabešu parish

Tel.: +371 29456485

AKMENS SALA

Surrounded by meadows, forests, and water, enjoy the warmth of the sauna or relax in a hot tub under the starry sky in a dome house. Pamper yourself with a refreshing skin treatment experience in a beauty parlor where a certified specialist will take care of your skin and body relaxation.

“Robežnieki”, Inešu parish

Tel.: +371 28380883



ANNAS DESIGN HOTEL & SPA

In Annas, along with peace, you'll find nature and water, providing enjoyment for both body and soul. Only in harmony with oneself can a person organize their thoughts and let nature take care of both inner and outer beauty.

“Annas”, Zaubes parish

Tel.: +371 67722288

www.annashotel.com

VILLA SANTA HOTEL

Gazing at the inspiring view of the forest slope, Villa Santa's SPA area will pamper not only your body but also your soul. Indulge in enchanting treatments for your face and body, as well as various rejuvenating and aromatic SPA rituals.

Cēsis, Gaujas street 88

Tel.: +371 64177177; +371 26181678

www.villasanta.lv



JONATHAN SPA

Jonathan SPA combines the serene atmosphere of unspoiled nature with refined interiors. Take the opportunity to relax in the pool and recharge with various classic and Ayurvedic massages. In the sauna, enjoy a traditional ritual with oak branches or fragrant seasonal herbal branches from cherry, lilac, or other plants. A sauna ritual with a master is available.

“Ezerputni”, Amatciems

Tel.: +371 25606066; +371 26667007

www.jonathanspahotel.com



DISCOVER PIEBALGA



PIEBALGA

CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN

WHEN IN PIEBALGA, YOU'RE ALREADY HIGH, IN THE HIGHEST PART OF LATVIA – THE PIEBALGA HIGHLANDS. THE PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPES OF VECPIEBALGA ARE PART OF THE PROTECTED VECPIEBALGA SCENIC AREA. BEAUTIFUL BUT TOUGH, PIEBALGA IS THE CRADLE OF MANY GREAT PEOPLE.

The trails on **Incēnu Hill** preserve the sound of **Kārlis Skalbe's** footsteps, the king of Latvian fairy tales. It was here, at the foot of the hill in the "Incēni" house, Jānis Skalbe's youngest child was born 145 years ago. In 1926, his family's summer house "**Saulrieti**" was built at the hill's peak, which is now a memorial museum.

"Saulrieti" is his castle, and in the interactive exhibition **"Kaķīša dzirnavas"** (Cat's Mill), opened in 2023, you can sift the grains from the chaff. Donning a crown and sitting on the king's throne, you'll understand what true wealth is. Who was Kārlis Skalbe? "The poet of the heart, sun, and dreams," the author of the fairy tale collection included in Latvia's cultural canon, and the writer of one of Latvia's most-read books. He was also a defender of a free Latvia, journalist, politician, nature lover, and beloved grandfather to his grandson Andrejs. You might find the answer to who he was by walking through the **Soul Forest** or planting your tree on **Incēnu Hill**.

Perhaps you'll understand more at the adjacent **Watch Hill**, where legends and gold coins still linger in the General's Pit on the eastern slope, while on the western slope, you'll meet the great Piebalga native by looking **at Alauksts Lake**. There, in a stone boat with a windblown sail, lies the grave of Kārlis Skalbe, who died in Sweden, along with his wife Lizete Skalbe and their daughter Ilze Skalbe-Legzdiņa.

Text by: D. Šatrovska

"Climb the mountain – to a place where the sky is much higher than a spoon can reach! See that 'the world has no end, and the heavens have no bounds. True life is as vast as the world and as high as the sky!'"

(K. Skalbe)





PLAN AHEAD

- 05.10.** **Fire Night in Vienkoči Park 2024**, Vienkoči, Līgatne
08.11.-18.11. **Cēsis County Autumn Restaurant Week**, Cēsu county
23.11. **Friends – For Andrejs Žagars**, Vidzeme Concert Hall “Cēsis”
14.12. **Christmas Solstice**, Āraiši Lake Castle Archaeological Park

Find all the events here: www.pasakumi.cesis.lv



PLAN BETTER WITH THE CĒSIS COUNTY FRIEND CARD! GET a Friend Card and enjoy various discounts from 5% to 30% and other pleasant bonuses for services offered in Cēsis County!

Friend Card sales points: **Cēsis**, Baznīcas laukums 1, **Līgatne**, Sprinģu street 2; **Āraiši** Āraiši Lake Castle Archaeological Park ticket office; **Straupe**, Lielstraupe castle ticket office.