

Walking route:

In the Footsteps of the Hanseatic Traders



- all year through
- 2,6 km
- ~1,5h walking time, ~4h ar with sightseeing
- easy
- asphalt and cobblestone roads
- unmarked

Service

Cēsis Tourism Information Centre

Baznīcas laukums 1, Cēsis
Tel. +371 28318318
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Cēsis Castle Visitor Centre

Pils laukums 9, Cēsis
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The street layout of Cēsis Old Town has survived from the Hanseatic times, when the old marketplaces saw the gathering of people from near and faraway lands and from the other cities of the Hanseatic League. Walking along this route will allow you to enjoy the atmosphere and charm of the more than 800-year-old city, as well as to become acquainted with its architecture and history.

1 The Cēsis Castle Complex

57.3132, 25.2715

The complex is in the very heart of the city, where unique monuments from various periods of history are located in close proximity. The medieval castle ruins (13th century) are the most impressive and the best-preserved castle ruins in Latvia. The Count Sievers' Manor House or the New Castle (18th century) houses the interactive exposition of Cēsis History and Art Museum. The towers of both castles offer a breathtaking view of Cēsis.

2 The Old Cēsis Beer Brewery

57.3144, 25.2706

The beer brewing tradition in Cēsis dates back to the 15th century, whereas the brewery was built in 1878. It is included in the list of State-protected cultural monuments. Now the old brewery is turned into a cafe and art space, but the famous "Cēsu Alus" beer is brewed in a new and modern factory.

3 The Castle Park

57.3144, 25.2690

The romantic landscape garden, created in the early 19th century by the Sievers family, has an artificial pond, a pier and romantic gazebos, and is a favorite place for walks of both the inhabitants of Cēsis and visitors of the city. In summer, concerts take place on the open-air stage, whereas in winter you can enjoy a sleigh ride in the park and skate on the frozen pond.

4 Hill

In the 15th century, the ancient Wend castle mound Riekstkalns was the site of a wooden castle standing there, around which the Cēsis Old Town later took shape. There is a piece of the Cēsis Old Town Medieval Castle at the top of the hill, as well as the ruins of St. John's Church.

5 Cēsis Transfiguration of Christ Orthodox Church

57.3140, 25.2670

This church (1845) was built on the foundations of the former St. Catherine's Church (14th–18th century). It is a Byzantine style building. The Estonian painter Johann Köler started his professional career here by creating the ceiling paintings for the church. The church garden is the resting place of von Sievers, the owners of Cēsis castle manor.

6 Monument of Students in Cēsis Regiment

57.3120, 25.2660

The monument was unveiled in 1938, marking the place where in 1919 the Cēsis Students Regiment, formed of 14 to 18-year-old youths, went on their way to participate in the Freedom Fights for Latvia. In 1950, it was dismantled, as the Soviet regime deemed the monument adverse to it, but in 1992, the monument was created anew.

7 The Cēsis Mint

57.3115, 25.2666

During the time of Master Wolter von Plettenberg (1494–1535), Cēsis saw a development boom. The city joined the Hanseatic League, and it had its own mint where Cēsis shillings were made. Unfortunately, the mint itself has not survived; only its location is known.

8 Prayer House

57.3112, 25.2671

The prayer house (1876) was originally built as a school for Cēsis low-income children that, in the end, was not established. In 1878, it was turned into a prayer house for the St. John's Church congregation.

9 Livu Square and Princess House

57.3106, 25.2677

Livu Square (early 13th century) is the first marketplace of the city. The cobblestone bears a mark, noting where the Riga Gate stood during the Middle Ages. The fountain is located in the place where "Lejas Šķimbēgs", the first well of the city, once stood. Despite the stories that Russian ladies-in-waiting that were exiled from the court lived in the Princess or Countess House (late 18th century), it was actually home to one of Count Sievers's five unmarried sisters – countesses.

10 Rožu Square and sculpture "Ancient Cēsis"

57.3116, 25.2706

The former city marketplace (mid 13th century) has become the main gathering place of the inhabitants of Cēsis and its guests. There is a refreshing fountain there in the summer, and the square is surrounded by cafés and local shops. "Ancient Cēsis", a model created by the sculptor M. Jansons, adorns the square. The myth says - when the touches of people create an image of a knight on the coin worked into the sculpture, Cēsis will mint its own money again!

11 Harmony House

57.3199, 25.2713

This is one of the oldest stone houses in Cēsis (first half of the 18th century). In 1789, the cultural association "Harmony" was established there, consisting of the local German nobility, doctors, lawyers, and clerks. In 1879, the Latvian composer Alfrēds Kalniņš, father of Latvian opera, was born in this house.

12 Merchant House

57.3119, 25.2725

This is the most lavish residential building (1778) of Cēsis historical centre, as well as a unique example of 18th century town architecture. The Merchant House is a symmetrical baroque building, preserving the shapes characteristic of the 18th century. Inside the building there is a wooden parade staircase and a unique first floor ceiling finish.

13 City Hall

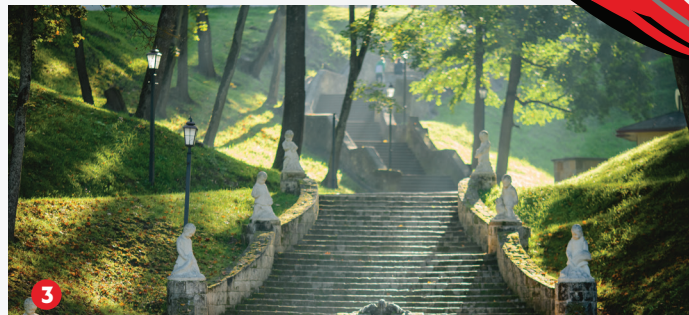
57.3122, 25.2737

Architectural monument of State significance (1767). In 1861 it became the City Hall. On its wall the old coat of arms of Cēsis can be seen. Since 2018 the centre of non-governmental organisations is located there.

14 Vanadžiņš House

57.3122, 25.2737

The landed estate was marked in the city's plan as early as 1693. The present-day building is a copy of the house that in 1923 became the property of Doctor Kārlis Vanadžiņš, the Mayor of Cēsis (1922–1933) and a Bearer of the Order of the Three Stars. Its courtyard contains a medieval city wall piece.



15 Rauna Gate

57.3128, 25.2756

Nowadays the Rauna Gate (14th–15th century) is the main entrance to Cēsis Old Town. The reconstructed foundation and surface pieces of the gate help to picture the medieval walls, as well as the size and solidity of the gate.

16 Vienības (Unity) Square and Monument of Victory

57.3132, 25.2748

The Monument of Victory is the central part of the main parade square of the city. It was erected in 1924, commemorating the Estonian and Latvian soldiers who fell during the Freedom Fights for Latvia (1918–1920). The monument was blown up during Soviet times and restored in 1998.

17 6 Skolas Street

57.3134, 25.2726

In the 1665 inspection protocols, the place was marked as an abbey-owned landed estate, where the Chapter of Cēsis Bishopric and the residence of the Jesuit Order were located. The current building was built in 1778 as a school; nowadays it houses a co-creative centre for entrepreneurs along with various creative workshops.

18 St. John's Church

57.3122, 25.2718

St. John's Church (consecrated in 1284) is one of the oldest and most impressive sacral buildings in Latvia. It houses a significant collection of tombstones, an altarpiece by the Estonian painter J. Köler, as well as one of the most sonorous concert organs in Latvia. There is a panoramic view of the city from the tower (rebuilt in 1853).

19 Sculpture "Through the Centuries"

57.3123, 25.2716

This sculpture (nicknamed Old Time Man) by Matīass Jansons was created as a tribute to the 800th anniversary of Cēsis. The ancient monk depicted in it carries a lantern – the symbol of the city. There is a belief that rubbing it will show you your future.

20 May Park

57.3145, 25.2739

The former Alekša Park was created in the early 19th century. The park is particularly well-suited for recreation with children: it has a specifically designated area for children's activities, a skatepark and a cycling park. In summer the illuminated fountains and a pair of black swans delight the visitors of the park.

21 Sculpture "Battle with Centaurus" and "Dziesminieks"

57.3147, 25.2734

The sculpture "Battle with Centaurus" is a gift to Cēsis by the famous Latvian sculptor Kārlis Jansons. This sculpture was his graduation work when he graduated from the Academy of Art in 1925. "Dziesminieks" is a tribute to the legendary Latvian singer Haralds Simanis. The sculpture was created by sculptor Ģirts Burvis.

22 Cēsis Exhibition Hall

57.3132, 25.2715

The old stable and cart house have an unusual architectural layout. The impressive two-storey rooms, made of wooden constructions, make it possible to display various exhibitions there, whereas the outstanding acoustics allow one to regularly hold concerts there.