

CESIS — TOWN WHERE THE PAST MEETS THE FUTURE

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Cesis was founded in early 1206 and six years ago Cesis celebrated its anniversary of 800 years. In Cesis there are around 15000 citizens, comparing with Baranovichi Cesis is 2.5 times smaller.

Cesis is one of the few most popular tourist cities in Latvia. In all seasons in Cesis there are lots of exciting activities, which offer the local people and tourists many activities in nature and guide them through the historical monuments and culture of the city. For example, Cesis is located ashore of one of the greatest rivers of Latvia: the Gauja. The Gauja is famous with its caves which the river has formed for hundreds of years. Also, the rides with canoe will attract people who enjoy a calm trip with unforgettable views and also quite experienced canoe riders.

Surely, you can visit many windmills, castles, manors, and craftsmen markets. But, of course, Cesis castle ruins are most loved by tourists. The castle was built in the time of Livony. The castle itself still is in a pretty good shape after few reconstructions.

In one part of the castle there is a museum, and the museum stocks are continuously complementing, the reason being that around the castle there are always spots which are not investigated yet, and which are probably hiding many secrets about the castle, city or time of Livony.

For the guides there always are some interesting facts that they can tell about. As for all castles, also Cesis castle has got its own legends and myths, which are taken very seriously by some people, but many just smile and take them as an interesting story. The castle has always gained admiration among tourists, because the castle literally enchants them with its beauty and majesty. Also the castle is in few minutes walk away from the city center.

In winter Cesis provides many skiing tracks, which can serve the people who get on the skis for the first time and also prepares tracks for experienced skiers and snowboarders. In Cesis there is the longest skiing track in Latvia: 500 meters. The Oakhill (Ozolkalns) which is

near Cesis is always ready for customers. There you can overcome your frights of height doing bungee jumping and walking roped tracks in the forest from tree to tree and learn to trust your team.

After a well spent day Cesis offers many cafes and restaurants for tourists and local citizens. Because of the huge range of restaurants and cafes they will be able to satisfy even the most particular gourmand. In the evening you can spend the night in local hotels which provide for various relaxation procedures and treatment.

In 2014 Cesis will be nominated as a culture capital city. Because of this big event, in Cesis there will be lot of culture-historical and physical activities. This event has gained huge attention, because it is big honor for a tiny city. That is why if someone has got interested to visit Cesis and its area, then the best time would be in 2014.

LATVIAN FOLK SONGS — LATVIAN IDENTITY SYMBOL

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The world is developing very rapidly, and Latvia has also been involved in the globalization process. Unfortunately, this process has resulted in the loss of many of our cultural values. On the other hand, several organizations have joined to maintain the cultural objects, such as the Latvian Cultural Foundation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) etc. And one of the values that we try not to lose is the «Cabinet of Folksongs», which is full of Latvian folk songs — the Latvian identity symbol.

«Latvian Folk Songs» is the name of the first Latvian folk edition, which was created by Krišjānis Barons, a Latvian now known as the *Daina* (folk song) father, because he was the man who took on collecting folksongs and folklore texts, as well as organizing them according to separate themes and topics. An increase in the number of the collected folk songs required to systematize them. For this reason, he sorted them as a kind of text basic forms choosing a quatrain, each written on a separate sheet. To be able to structure and facilitate their storage, Krišjānis Barons created this *Daina* cabinet, which was