

# Art Nouveau buildings in Cēsis

Discover the beautiful Art Nouveau buildings and their details hidden in the narrow streets of the city. During the walk, you will get to know the old times' and modern Cēsis, find out who once lived and who visited the ancient houses, what exciting events took place there and what is there today.

Recommended time: **all year round**

Difficulty: **easy**

Service:

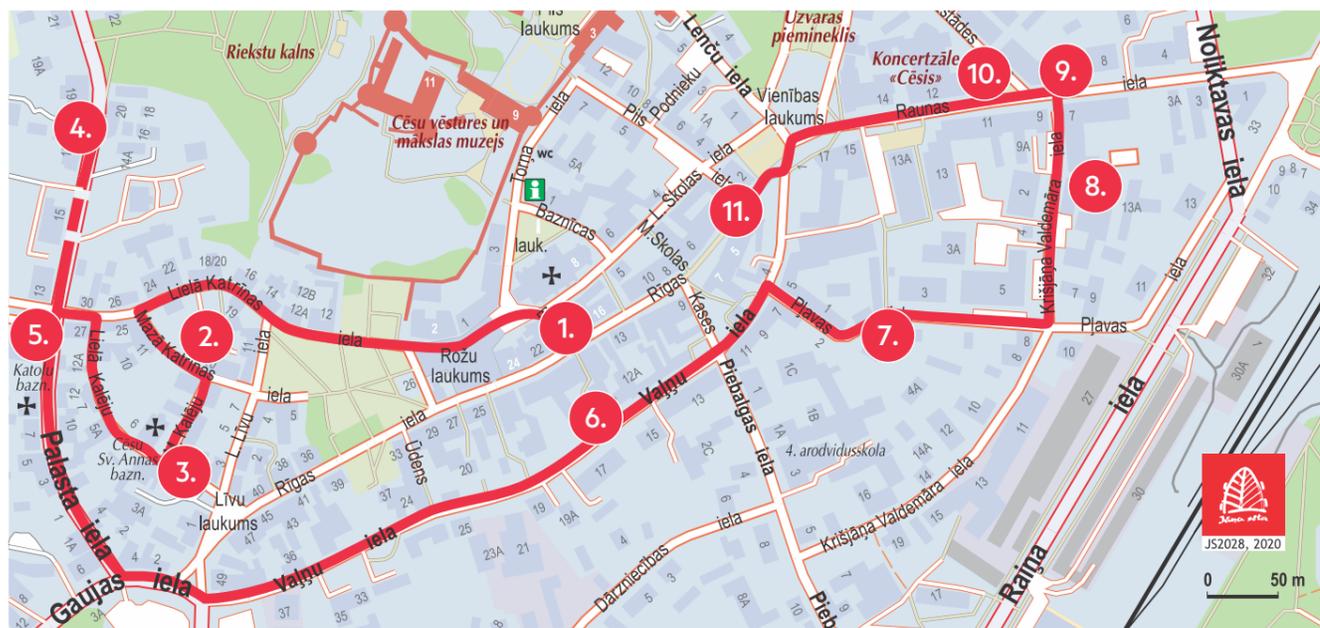
Cēsis Tourism Information Center  
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Length: **2.15 km**

Road surface: **asphalt, pavement**

Duration: **1.5 hours**

Marking: **no markings**



**1. Rental house with shops**  
📍 57.3119, 25.2721, **Rīgas street 20**

The rhythm of the vertical forms of the building, built in 1913, forms a harmonious interaction with one of the most recognizable objects in Cēsis - St. John's Church. Despite the massive volume and gloomy color of the building, the elegance of the decorative elements of the building facade meets the heavy effect of the massive structure. The tab of the building shows the name of its owner - Hermine Dance and the year of construction. The building is currently performing its original function. This is a tenement house with a pizzeria and coffee bar on the ground floor. But there was a time once, when the shopkeeper Mārtiņš Lilje invited everyone on the first floor to his grocery store.

**2. The building of the Hotel Katrīna**  
📍 57.3117, 25.2682, **Mazā Katrīnas street 8**

The house was built back in 1913. The facade is very simple, but with an expressive silhouette. By looking more closely at the arrangement of the architectural elements, it is possible to observe the connection between the numbers "2" and "3". Art Nouveau elements are arranged by "playing" with these figures. The building was renovated in 2002 according to the project of architect Zigurds Lazdins. In 1932, the tailor's workshop of A. Eglītis was located in the house. Now the building houses the hotel Katrīna.

**3. The building at Lielā Kalēju street 3**  
📍 57.3110, 25.2671, **Lielā Kalēju street 3**

Probably the most elegant, comfortable and prestigious house in the Old Town of Cēsis, where the wealthiest Cēsis residents of the beginning of the last century could reside. The house, built in 1912, belonged to the writer A. Niedra. At one time, patients were admitted to this house, at the practice place of Dr. Olga Gulbis. With a careful look at the right-hand side of the pilasters facade, the shallow Avant-corps corners are spotted with a distinct look of ionic capitols. These decorations characterize the neoclassicism that was popular after 1910. Nowadays, the house has several apartments.

**4. Robert von Vegesack family mansion**  
📍 57.3118, 25.2657, **Palasta street 11**

During the Soviet occupation, the building housed the local office of the Communist Party, but now it houses the Cēsis Regional Civil registry office and the Cēsis City Art School. The house was built in 1912 according to the project of architect V. Resler. The asymmetrical opening corresponds exactly to the interior layout, but the vertical proportions of the openings in the facade indicate the features of the Art Nouveau style. There was once also a radio committee in this house, a general meeting place of the Latvian National Flag Association, and an editorial office of the newspaper "Cēsu Stars".

**5. A. Niedra building**  
📍 57.3133, 25.2668, **Palasta street 20**

An excellent example of national romanticism in Cēsis. The house was built in 1910 and until 1926 belonged to the writer and politician A. Niedra. The building has the ponderosity of national romanticism. Some areas of the asymmetrical facade are dressed in rustics, but the lower window above the entrance indicates the location of the staircase. Elegant cornices, which cross the Avant-corps in a slight curvature, give the top of the central part of the building a feeling of lightness and "transparency". Today, the building serves as an apartment building.

**6. Building on Valņu street**  
📍 57.3113, 25.2723, **Valņu street 14**

Another example of neoclassicism. The house, built in 1910, housed the Latvian National Flag Association. Board game trainings were organized here - for table tennis and novus. The Art Nouveau style is still evidenced by the layout of the windows, the division of the small parts into the upper parts of the windows and the rectangular geometric pattern of the balcony railings. Today, there are apartments on the upper floors of the building, and there is a beauty salon on the ground floor.

**7. Dravnieks building**  
📍 57.3118, 25.2757, **Pļavas street 4**

At the end of the 19th century, the green area between the historic city and the station was divided into plots of land and sold for the construction of private houses. Dravnieks House was built around 1920. It belonged to Krišjānis Plaučiņš. From 1933, the house belonged to the apiamist Balodis, who traded honey and bee cells in Cēsis. Signs of Art Nouveau can be seen in the architecture of the building. Unfortunately, the main decor of the house has suffered over time. On the other hand, the "manor" character of the building allows us to imagine its former luxury.

**8. Salvation Army building**  
📍 57.3126, 25.2782, **Kr. Valdemāra street 3**

The building was built in 1913 near the station. Before the Second World War, this house on Valdemāra street housed the Salvation Army and a scrap collection point, where it was possible to hand over clothes, shoes and other belongings. The building has a distinctly asymmetrical facade with accentuated vertical divisions that characterize the Art Nouveau style. Today, the building has both - residential premises and a cafe.

**9. Krišjānis Plaučiņš tenement building**  
📍 57.3135, 25.2777, **Raunas street 10**

This impressive building was built in 1911 according to the design project of A. Malves. The house with shops on the ground floor has retained its function today. The complex, where there were only four luxury apartments on each floor with all amenities, occupies an entire block. The facade shows signs of romanticism - the lower floor is lined with boulders, but the windows in the roof structures have sloping sides. In the 1930s and 1940s, the building housed a paint shop, a municipal sales department, a bailiff's office, a carpenter's artel, as well as a spirit and vodka factory warehouse.

**10. Cēsis Guest Society House**  
📍 57.3134, 25.2764, **Raunas street 12**

The house was built in 1914 according to the project of A. Malves, in 1919 it was burned down by German troops, but in two years' time the house was restored, preserving its original appearance. In 2011, the building was reconstructed and expanded according to the project of architect Juris Poga, furnishing the concert hall Cēsis. The facade of the house has been carefully restored, preserving it as an example of neoclassicism. The entrance to the building is accentuated by a shallow Avant-corps, crowned by a classic pediment. On the second floor there is a loggia decorated with ionic columns and a classic balustrade. The building once housed lounges, apartments and shops.

**11. Three-storey house on Rigas Street**  
📍 57.3126, 25.2739, **Rīgas street 4**

In 1924, the existing building was demolished and a three-storey house was built, which was expanded in the following years, building the entire end of the quarter between Rīgas, Pils and Lielās Skola streets. The architecture of the building is similar to the Art Deco style, but it is noticeably closer to its predecessor - the Art Nouveau style. Today, the building has several shops, a beauty salon, apartments and residential premises.

## Glossary of terms

- \*Moulding** - the basic type of sculpture, where the sculptural image is formed in a plane and, similarly to a painting, can be seen from the front.
- \*Pilaster** - a decorative protrusion in the wall. Usually designed as a column.
- \*Avant-corps** - a protruding part of the building at its entire height.
- \*Ionic** - a style of ancient Greek architecture, characterized by the lightness of the columns and the subtlety of the ornaments.
- \*Capitol** - the closing element of vertical supports, such as columns. The word is derived from the Latin word "caput", which means head.
- \*Zelma ledge** - a band that crowns the wall, which separates the wall from the roof and protects the wall from precipitation.
- \*Pediment** - a covering of a building facade, an architectural element, consisting of a gable, usually of a triangular shape, placed above the horizontal structure of the lintel, or entablature, if supported by columns