

# SIGULDA & CESIS TRIP

The itinerary :

**10.00** Pick up of guests from hotel and beginning of the trip.

## **11.00 Arrival at Cesis-**

The name of Cesis (Wenden) in the historical sources first appeared in 1206, but Cesis as a city in documents was mentioned only in the year 1323. Until the Livonian war (1558-1582) Cesis stood out among the other small towns of Livonia. In the castle periodically in the 13-15th centuries and constantly from the year 1481, the residence of the master of the Livonian Order – the feudal lord of the city – existed. Cesis was a member of the Hanseatic League, bells and cannons were made here, in turn from the second half of the 15th century there was a mint of the master of the Livonian Order.

Cesis is characterized as a typical European medieval town and you can see it strolling around the old town.



## **11.30 Follow tour to Cesis Castle.**

The emergence of Cesis can be found in the distant past 800 years ago. Its origins are connected to the Cesis Medieval castle, around which in the 13th century a town was built. Over the centuries the castle shared its destiny with the city of Cesis in battles with Russian, Polish and Swedish troops. Repeatedly rebuilt and expanded the castle got its present architectural appearance at the beginning of the 16th century.

Today the castle is the most impressive eyewitness of local history, and also attracts many guests with its romantic charm of the medieval architecture.



## **13.00 Arrival at Sigulda- Latvian Switzerland**

Sigulda and its surroundings is the most popular tourist area where you can enjoy a rare combination of medieval castles, picturesque hilly landscapes (with a river running amidst sandy caves), a sculpture park and flowers that are already extinct in most countries of Europe. Sigulda is attractive in all seasons. It is the centre of downhill skiing in the winter. In summer, it is a popular place for boating. You must visit the Gauja National Park where several walking and cycling trails are made. Both banks of the Gauja primeval valley are connected by a cable car in Sigulda. Here you can enjoy a ride on the cable car 40 meters above the valley. Well-known European bobsled route is situated in Sigulda. The Gauja National Park is particularly beautiful in the golden autumn.

## **13.30 Cross valley with cable car.**



## **14.00 Arrival at Turaida Castle**

Specially protected cultural monument Turaida Museum Reserve is located 50 km to north from Riga, the capital of Latvia in Turaida – in the place which is well known with its beautiful environment and significant historical experience. Turaida in the language of Livs, ancient inhabitants, means “Garden of God”. Everybody who arrives in Turaida is convinced of the harmony of nature and creative work of the man and its inimitable impression. The territory of 42 ha of Museum Reserve is rich in the monuments of archeology, architecture, history and art which tell us about the events in the course of 1000 years starting with 11th century.



**15.00** Returning to Riga.

**16.00** Approximate arrival in Riga