# SIGHTSEEING IN AIZPUTE

# Livonian Order Castle Ruins

The Livonian Order built the fortifications in the 13th century. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, a residential house was built at its eastern wall, with cellars and a gallery; thus the fortifications were turned into a castle.



It served as a border fortification at the cross point of the territories of the Livonian Order and the Bishop of Courland (Latvian: Kurzeme). The river Tebra was the border: the Bishopric on the right bank and the Livonian Order on the left. Liepājas iela 9, Aizpute

### 🕖 Aizpute Local **History Museum**

The museum in the new castle manor introduces the history of the town, and you can visit an art exposition in the exhibition hall. Skolas iela 1, Aizpute, (+371) 29623284

 Church hill and Aizpute St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Until the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the church hill was a hillfort for the Curonians, the ancient tribe in Latvia, and the Beida castle of the ancient Curonians was located on it. When German crusaders invaded the hillfort, St. John's church was built in the place of the castle in the 13th century, and it is currently one of the oldest buildings in Courland



(Latvian: Kurzeme). Approximately 40 years after the building of the church – in 1295, when Bishop Burkhard governed – Aizpute became the capital of the Courland Bishopric and its monastery hosted the Domkapitel. The church holds an organ made by the well-known German producer Sauer in 1904.

The tombstone of the Bishop of Courland, H. Basedow, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century can be seen on the right side near the altar. Book your visit in advance. Admission for a donation.

Liepājas iela 3, Aizpute, (+371) 25907747, www.aizputesaeld.lv

### Beer brewery of the Manor



older household buildings of the castle. In the past, the building had also had a wool spinning area next to the beer brewery but, during Soviet times, it was used for the production of lemonade. A tractor machinery station was situated here in the late 1950s. Liepājas iela 12, Aizpute

## (5) Stone Bridge

The stone bridge is the oldest and the most massive bridge in Aizpute town and it links the banks of the river Tebra. The bridge was built in



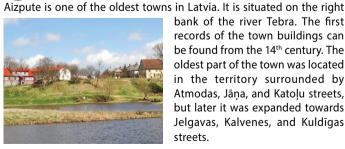
1907. Kazdanga Baron, Karl Wilhelm von Manteuffel, funded the construction of the stone railing so the central part of the railing has Manteuffels' coat of arms and the inscription of the year of construction.

# Liepājas iela, Aizpute

6) Watermill The solid masonry building with a tiled roof and built on stilts was built in the late 18th or early 19th century. The construction has a number of historic architectural details. In 1923, a metal turbine was installed in the mill instead of the previous wooden mill wheels.

The mill produced a variety of flour, semolina, groats and pearl barley. In the mid- 1960s the mill stopped working because collective farms made their own mills. A private entrepreneur established a small power plant in the watermill in 1998. Liepājas iela 10, Aizpute

## 7 Aizpute historical town



bank of the river Tebra. The first records of the town buildings can be found from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The oldest part of the town was located in the territory surrounded by Atmodas, Jāņa, and Katoļu streets, but later it was expanded towards Jelgavas, Kalvenes, and Kuldīgas

## Synagogues (Aizpute House of Culture)

In 1751, one of the first Jewish communities in Courland (Latvian: Kurzeme) was founded in Aizpute. In 1881, more than a third of the population was Jewish. Aizpute Synagogue is the oldest of the currently existing synagogues there and was built in 1751. The Small Synagogue

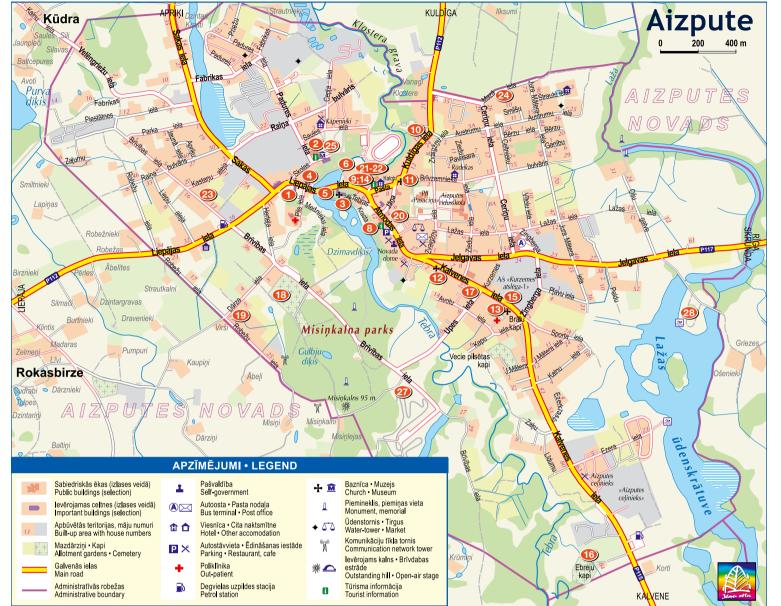


was built next to it in 1875. In 1941, all Jews dwelling in Aizpute were gathered together in the synagogue and brought to Kalvene in trucks where they were killed. After World War II, both buildings were joined together and used as the House of Culture from 1955. Atmodas iela 16, Aizpute



🧐 Valda Jēriņa Dolls room The exposition shows a collection of dolls created by national theatre actress Valda Jēriņa. There are more than 500 thematically dressed dolls in the collection: dolls in national costumes, school uniforms, theatrical and fantasy costumes. There is a children's playroom next to the

exhibition halls. Book your visit in advance. Katoļu iela 1, Aizpute, (+371) 28617307



## **10** Baptist Church

The first church was built in 1884; however 8 years later - in 1892 the Tsar's administration gave an order to demolish the church under



1893, the church parish decided to purchase a plot of land at 17 Kuldīgas street, for 750 roubles. The second church was built in the same year. The parish gathered in this building until 21 March 1937 when the building was destroyed by fire on Palm Sunday night. The parish built its third church according to a design

the pretence that the Baptist

church was too closely related

to the Orthodox church. In

by the Baltic German architect Alexander Schmeling, in a period of 11 months. The church was consecrated at Christmas in 1939. Kuldīgas iela 17, Aizpute

### 1 Catholic Church







On 15 November 2002, the foundation stone of the church was consecrated and a special capsule was installed in it, containing evidence of the consecration of the foundation stone, a medallion of St. Benedict and the rosary. On 18 April 2009, the new Aizpute church was consecrated. Kuldīgas iela 3, Aizpute

### 12 Aizpute Pentecostal House

The Aizpute Pentecostal congregation was registered in 1989. In the same year, the parish purchased a building at 12 Kalvenes street and rebuilt it into a church. Kalvenes iela 12, Aizpute

The Adventist church acquired their meeting house in 1993. Before that, the church building hosted Aizpute Orthodox church

# 14) Weavers' Studio "Kamolītis"

The workshop offers its visitors to see the process of different canvas being woven in the looms according to ancient methods and using traditional ornaments. Katolu iela 1, Aizpute, (+371) 22847115



(20) Centre of workshops and









The cemetery was founded in the late 18th century, and it still has the largest part of the gravestones. Some of them are truly unique: they are made of cast iron and have Hebrew letter-shaped inscriptions in German.

design of the main facade. It was

a local architectural monument

during the Soviet era, and it still

remains one today. The factory was

opened in 1890 for the production

of pharmacy boxes, small bags and

labels. The factory's products were

distributed across all the territory

# 🕧 Memorial plate of Latvian singer Mārtiņš Freimanis childhood house

In 2014 at the International Cast Iron Art Symposium, the sculptor Kārlis Alainis created and cast a memorial plate for the famous late Latvian musician. Kalvenes iela 30, Aizpute

#### (18) Memorial site for Latvian singer Mārtinš Freimanis

The musician, poet and actor Mārtiņš Freimanis (1977–2011) was born and raised in Aizpute where he also attended Aizpute secondary school. M. Freimanis was buried in Misiņkalns cemetery in Aizpute. The sculptor Uldis Zariņš is the author of the memorial stone

Brīvības iela, Aizpute

### 19) Māris Linde decorative garden The garden has many exotic and rare plants. Book your visit in advance. Robežu iela 21, Aizpute, (+371) 26017426



### 3 Seventh-day Adventist Church

parish.

Aizpute



11111

15 Lindenberg Cardboard Factory Building

This red brick three-storied house is a typical example of late 19th century

manufacturing building with extensively decorated architectural

of "Kurzemes Atslēga" is also spectacular and worth seeing.

(16) Jewish Cemetery

Kalvenes iela 27, Aizpute, (+371) 63448075, www.ka1.lv







Kalvenes iela 38a,

of Tsarist Russia until World War I. During World War II, the factory was used by the German army to fix-arms. Since 1960, the building has hosted the joint-stock company "Kurzemes Atslega - 1" which produces ironmongery, door locks, and other goods. The decor of the club rooms



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WWW.VISITAIZPUTE.LV

Aizpute

🕒 Liepāja

# SIGHTSEEING IN AIZPUTE COUNTY

# **KAZDANGA**

Kazdanga Castle and Manor

Kazdanga castle and manor was owned by the powerful Courland (Latvian: Kurzeme) barons von Manteuffels. Kazdanga castle was



built by the famous Western European architect J. G. Berlitz in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century in the classicist style. Currently, the castle houses a museum where visitors can explore the history of Kazdanga village and see an exposition of "Bojas" Forestry

Museum. Jaunatnes gatve 1, Kazdanga, (+371) 29103813, (+371) 28616717, www.kazdangaspils.com

### **(2)** Cavalier House and Granary

Kazdanga castle was built simultaneously with two granaries on its sides where one was later turned into a cavaliers' house. This building



preserves the peculiar baroque circular stairs that lead up to the attic. The interior is decorated by a genre mural "Kazdanga 1888. To the market." painted by two Latvian artists L. Gintere and F. Kirke in 1976 in the tempera technique. Classicism style parquet is preserved on the first floor of the building.

Jaunatnes gatve 1, Kazdanga, (+371) 29103813, (+371) 28616717, www.kazdangaspils.com

### Crypt of Barons Manteuffels

The crypt was first created in the period from 1903 to 1904, but the work was halted by World War I. The crypt had a marble monument, fountains, and graves were covered with heavy stone slabs with the life details of the deceased. Today, 12 stone memorial plates remain here, and there is an indication of the place intended to store zinc coffins.



# **4** Stone Bridge

The stone bridge, which was built, in 1840 leads to Kazdanga castle at the end of an alley of linden trees and crosses a ravine. The bridge is popularly called the bridge of sighs (Latvian: Vaidu tilts). Why sighs? It is because a lot of tears, sweat

and blood were shed when the bridge was built. The top of the bridge has small granite columns with iron chains and ornaments. Currently visible chains are said to have been used on ships. A fragment of a chain from the barons' period is on display in the museum.



5 Former manor pub building He pub building was erected in 1868. The pub owner and his family lived in the northern end of the building. The middle section was used as a pub but the southern end was used for accommodating travellers and their horses overnight. During the period

created by the Latvian artist Albins

Dzenis and wood sculptor Ernests

Treimanis by applying the national

style. Currently, the building hosts a

The mill was built in 1840. Later, it was

fully rebuilt, and only the façade gives

a small glimpse into its past. Visitors

can rent water bikes for recreation in

cultural centre and a library.

(+371) 26681805, (+371) 63497017

Pils gatve 4, Kazdanga,

Mill and mill lake

of Baron Karl Wilhelm, the pub was converted into a tea room. This building is a national monument of culture, and its main attractions and values are the facade, the old semi-circular arched windows and doors, as well as two iron wind indicators made in 1667. Liepu gatve 8, Kazdanga

# 6) Former manor horse stable (Kazdanga House of Culture)

Initially, the building was made as a house for servants in 1686. In 1914, it was converted into a horse stable, and then (1957-1959) the stable was rebuilt to use it as a house of culture. The interior decoration was



Liepu gatve 10, Kazdanga, (+371) 28616717, (+371) 29103813 8 Cave Kazdanga park with an area of 196 ha

the lake.

is a network of trails and bike paths. One of the biking trails winds along Dzirnezers lake and ends at the cave. Visitors can admire the beautiful scenery and attractive wooden sculptures. The cave built of field

stone in 1914 was a favourite leisure and resting place of the Baron.

## (9) Kazdanga Milk Factory "Elpa"

The limited liability company Elpa is the only milk processing factory in southern Courland (Latvian: Kurzeme). The company was founded on 1993, and its name originates from the first letters of Latvian words which stand for: organic farming and recycling association. The company offers excursions around the dairy plant as well as tasting organic dairy products. It can accommodate groups of up to 20 people. Booking in advance is required.



# 10) Valāta Castle Hill Valāta castle hill is situated 3 km from the

centre of Kazdanga, between Vecpils and Valāta. It is one of the largest castle hills in the ancient Curonia state (Latvian: Kursa). The castle hill is naturally protected on three sides with two ramparts and two ditches on the northern side. The ancient town of several hectares was situated behind them.

🕕 Boja Manor

The castle hill is one of the most beautiful in the whole of Courland (Latvian: Kurzeme). It is believed that Laža castle, which was mentioned in the ancient Rhyme Chronicle and was destroyed by fire by Germans in 1263, was situated on the hill.







the manor focused on its spatial solution. There is a park with two ponds and plantations of European fir trees next to the manor. The manor building currently houses the Southern Courland Forestry of "Latvia's State Forests". Bojas, Kazdangas pagasts

s represented by a Latvian villa-

# 12) Rokaiži Manor

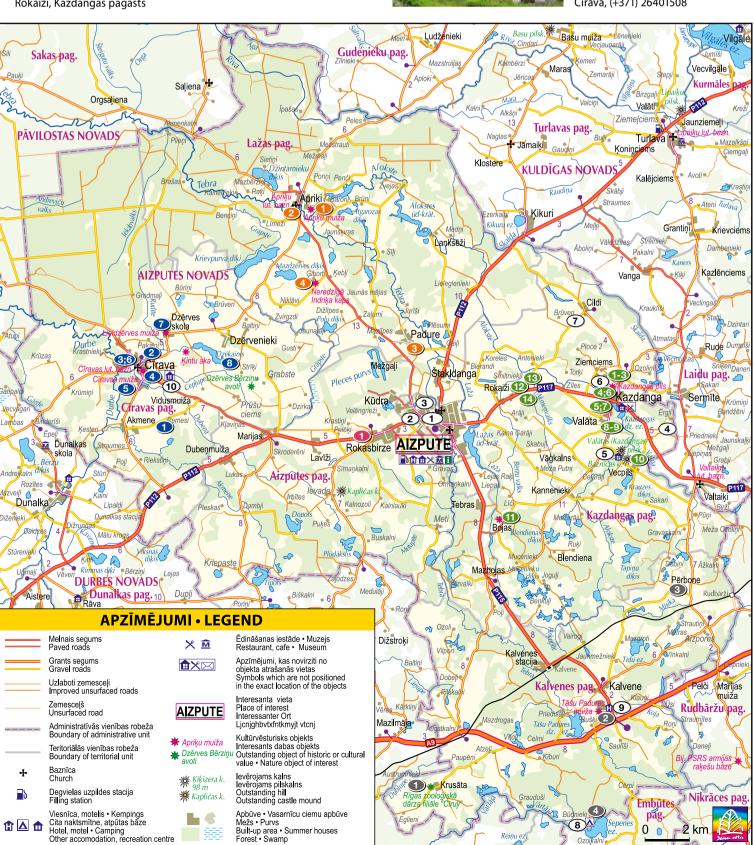
Built as a manor house, it now hosts "Rokaiži" retirement home, which opened in 1946. Rokaiži, Kazdangas pagasts

13 Monument of Juris Zinbergs The monument to the teacher and one of the main organisers of the unrest in 1905 the revolutionary Juris Zinbergs - was unveiled in 1926, at the place of his death, on one side of the road to Rokaiži Manor. Rokaiži, Kazdangas pagasts

#### Image: Seriv Serivzemnieks' memorial stone

Opposite the execution place of the national revolutionary J. Zinbergs, there was a pub building - the birth place in 1846 of folklorist Fricis Brīvzemnieks (Treilands). His father was a saddler who rented the Rokaiži

pub temporarily from the Baron. The memorial stone to the poet and folklorist Fricis Brīvzemnieks (1846–1907) was unveiled in 1982. Rokaiži, Kazdangas pagasts







**CĪRAVA** 



Monument to the

**Revolutionaries of 1905** Almost 100 fighters perished here in 1905. They had been surrounded on three sides when the baron and Russian army fired at them. The events of 16 December 1905 in Aizpute are commemorated with the stone monument in Rokasbirze, and it has the flag of Latvia and the names of the victims engraved on it. Nearby is another monument of a height of several

Introduction to the life of bees Training beehive site of beekeeper Baiba Tikuma welcomes its visitors in summer to explore the life of bee colonies and to try beekeeping, to participate in the breeding of queen bees and to taste the products of these hardworking little insects. Book your visit in advance. "Cīravas Ķēniņi", Cīravas pagasts, (+371) 26446701, www.cirava.lv

**2** Cīrava antiquities storehouse The museum building was built in the 1920s as the headquarters of a credit union (bank). An exposition of the storehouse has many reference materials

and photographs, church books, magazines, albums, a variety of household objects (kneading boards, butter making tools, irons), shoemaker and hatter tools, harnesses, gramophones, and other very interesting items. "Atbalsti", Cīrava, (+371) 25435898, www.cirava.lv

## **3** Cīrava Lutheran Church

The church was built in Sudmalkalns in 1780–1781 upon an order of Baron H. F. von Behr and his wife J. E. von Behr. The church has preserved an old church bell and an organ from the 18th century. National art



pulpit and the bench for Barons, with decorated interior. A portrait of Baroness J. E. von Behr in white marble is displayed in the church. Admission for a donation. Book your visit in advance. Cīrava, (+371) 26401508

**APRIĶI** 







meters.









# **4** Cīrava Castle

Cīrava castle manor was built in 1752 for the von Manteuffels family as a hunting house. It was rebuilt in a neogothic style during the 1960s. The manor has partially preserved interior decoration from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including eclectic ceiling paintings and stucco ornamentations. The manor viewed from the outside.

### 5 Cīrava forest park

For those who enjoy strolls and beautiful scenery - a hiking trail with benches and bridges has been created in Cirava forest park. Most of

the trail leads along the banks of the river Durbe and has views of the many curves of the river and obstructions made by beavers. There are hornbeam, birch, aspen and pine groves along the trail.

### 6 "Cita Abra" in Cīrava Watermill

The Watermill of Cirava Manor is an architectural monument under the state's protection. In 2002, the Watermill was included among the 100 greatest industrial heritage monuments in Latvia and represented the Latvian cultural heritage at the events organised for the European

> Heritage Days. Cīrava Watermill was built in 1881. Currently, it hosts the centre for non-formal education centre and artists' residence and culture called "Cita Abra". The centre is open for visitors in summer. Cīrava, (+371) 22589000

## Dzērve Manor and park

Dzērve Manor house was built in the early 19th century. It was destroyed by fire during the revolution in 1905, but later (1906–1912) was rebuilt according to a design by architect G. Berchi in a neo-classicist style. Large white tile fireplace, stairs with handrails and the

20<sup>th</sup> century interior decorations are still well-preserved from the old period of the ruling barons. The Manor also includes a large landscape park of 6.7 ha created according to the English style of Courland. The Manor currently houses Dzērve primary school.

Dzērve, Cīravas pagasts

8 Recreation area at lake Dzēkainis The recreation area is fully equipped for swimming (changing rooms, WC, tables and

benches), there is a children's playground, camping places for tents, and visitors can rent one of the two boats, as well as enjoy fishing (fees apply to fishing).

Dzēkaiņu dīķis, Cīravas pagasts, (+371) 29167232

## 🐌 Apriķi Manor – Museum

The baroque-style development of the Manor first appeared at the river Alokste in the early 18th century when a manor house, a granary and a housekeeper's house were built around the yard. The manor house was

completed by 1742, and a three-story octagonal neo-gothic tower was added to it in the 19th century. Most of the other buildings - a cattle

shed, a brewery, and a mill - were built in the late 19th century, and a small landscape park was created in the same period. Apriki Manor had been the property of the von Osten-Sackens' family since the 16th century, but later was owned by the von Corfu family from 1790 to1852. The building now houses Apriķi primary school and the Apriķi Museum, which includes exhibits evidencing the history of the region. A large family of dwarves have found their home in the Museum, too! Apriķu skola, Lažas pagasts, (+371) 29184684

#### 2 Apriki Lutheran Church

The church was built in the mid-17th century and it is one of the most splendid examples of religious art in Latvia. The interior (made in rococo with baroque influences) forms a unified group of woodcarving work.

The church has original ceiling vales of wood construction and with decorative elements. There are also paintings by the Prussian artist I. F. Rode. Admission for a donation. Book your visit in advance. Apriķi, (+371) 26811417

# 🜖 Laža-Padure Manor

Renovation works of the manor house were carried out in the 1970s when a park and an artificial pond were also made. The park has several rare tree species. After the agrarian reform of the first independence of Latvia, the land plot of the Manor was distributed in 1920 to farmers who were fighting for the freedom of Latvia but

the castle remained without its owner. In 1929, it was reassigned as a school. In 1969, a special boarding school was opened here. "Lažas internātskola", Lažas pagasts

### 4 Neredzīgais Indriķis ("Blind Indriķis") memorial

A couple of kilometres away from Aprini, towards Aizpute, there is the Giborti cemetery where the Latvian peasant-poet and song-writer Neredzīgais Indriķis ("Blind Indriķis", 1783–1828) is buried. Although Indrikis was illiterate and lost his eyesight at the early age of 5, he was inspired by church songs of G.F.Stender. He was the first Latvian whose collection of poems was published for the public (in 1806). Ģibortu kapi, Lažas pagasts

# **KALVENE**



### Riga Zoo branch "Cīruļi"

The zoo's spacious enclosures hosts 38 species of wild animals: kiangs, bears, lynxes, wolves, wild boar, elks, squirrels, birds of prey, as well as a wide range of domestic animals like the Latvian Blue, Highland and Galloway cows, Romanov sheep, Vietnamese pigs; ducks, geese, turkeys, and others. Very attentive visitors will possibly see the rare European tree frogs in the ponds of the park. "Cīruļi" in Kalvene parish is a great, wonderfully relaxed place of recreation in a country environment while learning about wildlife.

Cīruļi, Kalvenes pagasts, (+371) 26527549, (+371) 29386963, http://rigazoo.lv/public/28755.html

#### Tāši-Padure Manor

The Corfu family castle, which was built in the early 19th century, was acquired into the property of the Keyserlingks family in 1852. The hunting house of Count Keyserlingk is a splendid example of late classicism and was used as his summer house. The interior preserves



several fragments of the old interior's finishing. After the completion of the Manor house, a park of more than 10 ha was built around it with a number of species of foreign trees. Currently the Manor house hosts Kalvene primary school.

Skolas iela 1, Kalvene, (+371) 63497147, (+371) 29577075

#### Horse riding

This small cosy and peaceful farm s located in the countryside. It gives a perfect opportunity of peaceful and relaxing interaction and work with horses in a natural environment. The farm offers horse-riding with their two

horses and organises horse cart races. Boarding for horses is offered in summer. Book your visit in advance. Pērbone, Kalvenes pagasts, (+371) 26159219

### 💶) "Kurzemes pērle"



Leisure, recreation and an overnight stay at Sepene lake where visitors can enjoy summer baths at a wellequipped swimming area, enjoy a good picnic or sauna. Visitors can rent water bikes and rowing boats. There are sportsfields, a tennis court and hiking trails for walks in the forest (in summer season)

"Būdnieki", Kalvenes pagasts, (+371) 28658466, www.kurzemesperle.lv

# ACCOMMODATION AIZPUTE

(1) Guest house "Mētras māja", Pasta iela 1a, Aizpute,

- (+371) 29545975, www.metra-a.lv
- 2 Guest house, Liepājas iela 19, Aizpute, (+371) 26519381
- **3** Hostel (in summer season!), Saules iela 3a, Aizpute, (+371) 29697177

## **KAZDANGA PARISH**

- (4) "Lauku kūrorts", Ūdensrozes, Kazdangas pag., (+371) 26706009, www.laukukurorts.lv
- **5** "Lilijas", z/s "Lilijas, Kazdanga,
- (+371) 29100175, (+371) 63440460
- **6** Kazdanga apartaments, Pils gatve 2, Kazdanga, (+371) 26421640, (+371) 63497017
- (7) "Lejiņas", Cildi, Kazdangas pagasts, (+371) 26559222, (+371) 29197788

# **KALVENE PARISH**

- 8 Leisure complex "Kurzemes pērle" (in summer season!), "Būdnieki", Kalvenes pagasts,
- (+371) 28658466, www.kurzemesperle.lv (9) Hotel "Spāres", Skolas iela 8, Kalvene,
- (+371) 29104657; (+371) 63497001, www.hotelspares.lv

# **CIRAVA PARISH**

(10) Ciravas professional school dorms, Ciravas pagasts, (+371) 26488379; (+371) 63448485

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