



## Location

Vecpiebalga region is located in the heart of Latvia, on the scenic Vidzeme upland, close to biggest hill of Latvia - Gaiziņš. Vecpiebalga region is rich with lots of lakes, woods, and hills but, most of all, the region characterizes water lilies, spinning-wheel, its cultural and historical heritage and also porcelain.



Vecpiebalga region – place you need to see, experience and enjoy!

The territory of Vecpiebalga region is 542,5 km<sup>2</sup> large. In the region there are five villages: Vecpiebalga – the centre of the region -, Inesi, Kaive, Taurene and Dzerbene. Vecpiebalga region is located in rural area of Latvia, about 120 km from Riga – the capital city of Latvia. The nearest cities are Madona, about 40 km from Vecpiebalga, and Cesis, about 50 km far. The region is dealing with bad infrastructure of national roads; it has influence in local development and inhabitants' opportunities to have a good connection to the nearest cities. The local government is working to manage this problem.

Vecpiebalga region has 4745 inhabitants, 93% of them are Latvians. The region is dealing with problems of migration – lots of inhabitants are going to live and work to big cities or other counties because of unemployment. That's the reason why number of inhabitants of the region is becoming more less.

The climate of the Vecpiebalga region is rough; we have long and cold winters, but at the same time very beautiful springs and autumns. Summer here is only three month long, when we can enjoy showers, rainbows and sunny mornings with beautiful sunrises, and calm evenings with bright sunsets going down in the lakes.

Vecpiebalga region is famous with its cultural heritage. From Vecpiebalga region are coming famous Latvian writers - Reinis and Matiss Kaudzites, Karlis Skalbe and Antons Austrīņš -, dramatist Pauls Putniņš, it is summer home for composer Imants Kalniņš. In Vecpiebalga region it is possible to visit three estates built some centuries ago, the oldest threshing barn in Europe, church built from the wood, rural exposition of ethnographic open-air museum of Latvia, three museums of writers and museum of very famous Latvian composer Emīls Dārziņš. It is also possible to see Water lilies' ponds and feed fishes from your hand and visit Piebalga Porcelain Company which is only one in Latvia.

In all five villages of Vecpiebalga region there is kindergarten, school, library, culture centre, at least one shop, there is possibility to buy medicine and have medical help. Vecpiebalga village, where is located the youth centre "Balgas Strops", has also 2 cafes.



## **Working conditions**

In the Youth centre there are computers with internet. There is also projector, home theatre and place for having a rest and have a break. Volunteers will be provided with their own working place and all necessary tools for working – including stationery, a computer, a desk, etc. Of course, for more comfortable use, we advise you to bring your own laptop.

## **Living conditions of EVS volunteers**

The volunteers will live in hostel. The place is located in the centre of Vecpiebalga village. There will be one room for two or three volunteers. The volunteer will share kitchen and shower with others.

## **EVS activities**

*The Talent show.* The main task for the volunteers will be the planning, organizing and realizing the Talent show. The Talent show is the event which the youth centre “Balgas Strops” already made last winter. It was made by long term EVS volunteers. The event was very successful, so we decided to make it next year and make it more international with the help of short term EVS volunteers. There will be some tasks of each volunteer – making the programme, decoration, going to the stage and show their own talents and document the event. The persons who are able to show their talents on the stage will have preference to be selected for participation in the project.

*Workshops and fun activities with local children and youth.* Each day in the youth centre there are coming lots of local children and youth who is interested to participate in different workshops (crafts and arts, etc.) and activities (common table and sports games, team building activities, etc.) and have fun. The volunteers should plan afternoon with activities for local youth.

*International evenings.* In the month of the project there will be planned national evenings for each country. The volunteers will be responsible to plan their own national evenings and present their cultures to local youth.

*Visiting local kindergarten in Vecpiebalga, Inesi school and Dzerbene youth centre.* To spread the information about the project and to involve more youth and children, there will be some activities made by volunteers in some others institutions of municipality. It will be opportunity for volunteers to see not only Vecpiebalga, but some other villages of Vecpiebalga County.

*Movie “International snowfall”.* Whole month of the project will be documented in photos and videos. In the end of the project volunteers should make a movie about their month of volunteering in Vecpiebalga County.

*Place for your own initiatives.* The Youth centre “Balgas Strops” will be always happy to see some new ideas and initiatives from the volunteers. There will be free space for planning activities they want in the frames or the project’s programme.

## **Contacts:**

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