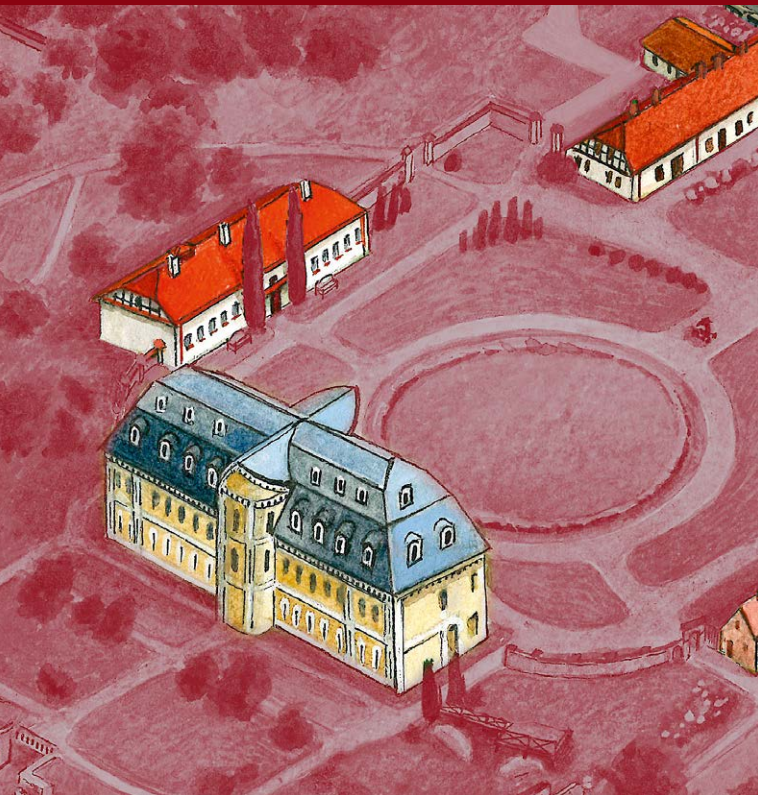


# Palace complex of Counts Platers



[www.kraslavaspils.lv](http://www.kraslavaspils.lv), [www.visitkraslava.com](http://www.visitkraslava.com)



## Kraslava Tourism Information Center (TIC)

Tourist information, guide services, route development, seminar room.



## Association "Latgale Culinary Heritage Center"

Souvenirs with the symbols of Kraslava and Latgale, degustation of local products (home-baked bread, smoked meats, cheese, cucumbers).



## The porcelain doll collection of Olga Gribule

The collection includes more than 2,000 dolls from around the world, several unique doll houses and doll carriages. There is a possibility to change into stylized costumes and take a photo.

Address: Pils iela 2, Krāsava, ph.: +371 656 22201, +371 29376090, +371 26395176, [tic@kraslava.lv](mailto:tic@kraslava.lv), [www.visitkraslava.com](http://www.visitkraslava.com), [www.kulinaraismantojums.lv](http://www.kulinaraismantojums.lv)

**Working hours:** During the summer season (May 15 – September 15): 9.30–18.00; Out of summer season (September 16 – May 14): on working days: 8.45 – 17.15; Saturday, Sunday: 10.00 – 15.00



## Kraslava museum of History and Art

Address: Pils iela 8, Krāsava, ph. +371 656 23586, [kraslavamuzejs@kraslava.lv](mailto:kraslavamuzejs@kraslava.lv), [www.kraslavaspils.lv](http://www.kraslavaspils.lv)

Permanent expositions, art exhibitions, excursions.

**Working hours:** During the summer season: (May – October)

Wed., Thu., Fri.: 10.00 – 17.00, Mon.– Tues. – a day off,

Sat.: 10.00 – 16.00, Sun.: 10.00 – 14.00

Outside of summer season: (November – April)

Tues., Wed., Thu., Fri.: 10.00 – 17.00, Mon.– day off,

Sat.: 10.00 – 16.00, Sun.– day off



## Kraslava Crafts Center

Address: Pils Street 10, Kraslava, ph. +371 26348644, [amatniecibascentrs@kraslava.lv](mailto:amatniecibascentrs@kraslava.lv)

The center has six craft workshops: pottery, woodworking, weaving / handicrafts, glass art, aroma and culinary heritage. Guided tours or demonstrations are available. Working hours: by prior arrangement.

Excursions around Kraslava or the Count Plater Palace complex are booked at Kraslava Tourism Information Center (TIC) or Kraslava museum of History and Art!

The information was prepared by: Kraslava Tourism Information Center, 2023  
Illustrations: Agija Staka  
Cartography, design: "Jāņa sēta" Ltd., [www.kartes.lv](http://www.kartes.lv)

## Kraslava – the town within Bends of the Daugava River

Kraslava is one of the most beautiful small towns in Latvia and located in the southeast of Latgale. The largest part of the town is situated on the right bank of the river Daugava, smaller part on the left bank is called Priedaine. Two shores have been connected by a bridge.

**The coat of arms of Kraslava** town was approved in 1925. The blue field of the coat of arms shows a floating silver sail with five oars, which symbolizes the multinational environment of Kraslava. Every oar means one of the five main nationalities inhabiting Kraslava: Latvians, Russians, Jews, Poles and Belarussians.

The rapid development of Kraslava began in 1729, when Kraslava was purchased for 14,000 thalers by the Steward of Infantia and Daugavpils **Yan Ludwig Plater**. It remained the property of his family until the First World War. Counts Plater developed Kraslava as spiritual, commercial, cultural and educational center of Latgale. After the death of Ludwig Plater Kraslava went to the ownership of his son Constantine Ludwig Plater. The son continued the father's plan to develop the town. A magnificent palace, a church, a market square with a town hall, houses of craftsmen and other farm buildings were built. Craftsmen from Poland and Germany were invited to start making velvet, bagpipes, jewelry and oven tiles in Kraslava. The annual fairs brought together many traders and buyers.

Today no members of Platers' family can be met on the streets of Kraslava, but their achievements can be seen at every step.

The inhabitants of Kraslava are proud of the palace of Count Plater and Kraslava Roman Catholic Church of St. Ludwig. Historical objects fit into the overall image of the town and are the calling card of Kraslava Municipality. Kraslava was granted town rights in 1923.



## Accommodation in Kraslava

1. "Avenkrasti" (8 places), +371 28308083, Rīgas iela 37, Krāsava
2. "Forest B&B" (20 places), +371 29615751, Mednieku iela 11, Krāsava
3. "Krāsava" (26 places), +371 28715241, Celtnieku iela 4, Krāsava
4. "Priedaine" (30 places), +371 26430798, Klusā iela 2, Krāsava, [www.hotelpriedaine.lv](http://www.hotelpriedaine.lv)
5. "Saules māja" (6 places), +371 26869346, Sauleskalna iela 22, Krāsava
6. "Zive" (22 places), +371 29185835, Pārceltuves iela 14, Krāsava
7. Apartamenti "Draugu māja" (6 places), +371 26925821, Studentu iela 5, Krāsava
8. Apartment "Hannah" (4 places), +371 27034199, Baznīcas iela 17, Krāsava
9. Kraslava 2 Bedroom Lux Apartments (6 places), +371 25945277, Vienības iela 59, Krāsava
10. Apartment "Ziedu pasaule" (5 places), +371 28202637, Amatnieku iela 18, Krāsava
11. Apartment "Žanna" (2 places), +371 25633636, Raiņa iela 8–8, Krāsava

## Catering in Kraslava

1. Fast food "Circle K" gas station, Rīgas iela 165a, Krāsava
2. Cafe "Mārite", +371 20055716, Tīrgus iela 2, Krāsava
3. Cafe "Todes", +371 29166609, Rīgas iela 58, Krāsava
4. Kebab Bar, + 371 25404792, Vienības iela 56A, Krāsava

## Kraslava swimming pool

+371 62904553, Raiņa iela 25



## Revival of the Count Plater Palace complex

Many positive changes have taken place in Kraslava Palace complex, which is architectural monument of national importance. The Palace complex has already become a popular tourist and wedding destination and a place for walks for inhabitants of Kraslava.

Since 2004, the Kraslava Palace complex has been owned by the Kraslava Municipality, which is actively working to promote the development of the palace and park territory. The development concept of the palace complex has been prepared. The vision of the concept – Plater Palace complex is cultural and historical center of Kraslava, the pride of Kraslava and Latgale region, a widely visited and popular cultural, educational and tourism object. Kraslava Municipality implements various projects, which are funded by municipal, state and European Union programs.

Each building of the complex performs its own function, there can be found Kraslava museum of History and Art with various expositions, Kraslava Tourist Information Center, Olga Gribule porcelain doll collection and the Craft Center, which was opened in 2021. Various cultural events, exhibition openings, fairs, excursions take place in the complex.

There are some beautiful environmental objects in the palace park, for example, metal carriage, the sculptures of Count and Countess. The idea of metal carriage belongs to residents of Kraslava, but installation was financed by the municipality in 2015. The sculptures of Count and Countess, which are 2 meters high, were installed in 2020.

## Cultural, historical and natural objects in Kraslava

1. Count Plater Palace complex, +371 656 23586, Pils iela 6–10, Krāsava
2. The historical center of Kraslava, 18. Novembra laukums, Krāsava
3. Monument "Māte Latgale raud", Rīgas iela (next to the house No. 52), Krāsava
4. Monument to J. Karnickis, telescope, Augusta iela (behind house No. 28), Krāsava
5. Augusta stone, Augusta iela 12, Krāsava
6. Kraslava St. Ludwig Roman Catholic Church, +371 656 23939, Baznīcas iela 2a, Krāsava
7. St. Neva Alexander Orthodox Church, +371 26783660, Brīvības iela 30, Krāsava
8. Priedaine observation tower, Priedaine, Krāsava
9. Adamova Nature Trail (1.8 km), beginning of Augusta iela, Krāsava

## Environmental objects in the Count Plater Palace complex

Sculpture "Counts and Countess" (near the grotto). Large format photo wall "5 nationalities" (next to the TIC building). Metal carriage (in the courtyard).

## Other environmental objects in Kraslava

Fountain "Sailing boat with five oars", 18. Novembra laukums. Photo frames in Kraslava, Vidzemes iela, Ostas iela. Kraslava chair and photo wall "Daugava diggers" in Adamova castle mound. Kraslava Town Hall, near the house 54 on Rīgas iela. Stone chair, Kaplavas iela, on the bank of the Daugava.

## Souvenirs

Souvenir shop, Pils iela 2 (Count Plater Palace complex), Krāsava





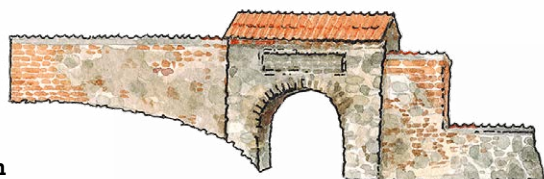
## 1 Counts Broel Plater Palace

The palace is 18<sup>th</sup> century architectural monument of national importance. The central building of the complex is the palace of Counts Broel Plater, which was built according to the project of the Italian architects Parako. Construction was completed in 1791. At first the palace had a baroque-style decor, but in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries it was rebuilt after the canons of classicism. The interior walls of the palace are painted with views of ancient Rome. When Plater left Kraslava during the First World War, the castle was plundered. From 1923 to 1972 the palace housed the school. Later, the school was moved to another building, the palace was empty and lost its attractiveness. Reconstruction of the palace began at the end of 20<sup>th</sup> century, but was not completed. In 2008 – 2011 the facades of Kraslava palace were preserved, but in 2016, the maintenance of the facades was carried out, illusory windows on the 1st floor were created. Currently, the palace can be seen only from the outside.



## 2 Former servants' house / Kraslava museum of History and Art

The museum is situated in former servants' house that was built in the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century. There are about 25 000 collected items that show the peculiarity and uniqueness of Kraslava and surroundings from the ancient times to nowadays – some archaeological objects, a big ethnographic collection, documents, photos and valuable books of 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The museum's art collection holds the works of various artists. The museum has two permanent exhibitions: "Five Oars" on a 17-meter improvised boat and "Count Plater's Notary Cabinet", which covers the period of Kraslava history from end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Every two months a new art exhibition is presented to the guests. Autumn exhibitions of Kraslava artists have become a tradition. The museum also regularly hosts thematic exhibitions from the museum's collections.



## 3 Arch

In the eastern part of the palace ensemble, several unusual architectural elements have been preserved – a stone arch, fragments of walls, a gate. Visitors have the opportunity to walk along the paths of the park, to enjoy the atmosphere of the 18<sup>th</sup> century – to see the brick gates created by ancient masters, to walk through a stone arch.



## 4 Former stables/ Expositions of Kraslava museum of History and Art

The former stables were built in early 19<sup>th</sup> century as a one-storied, 42-meter-long brick farmhouse that had two or three one-storey enclosures surrounded by a courtyard. In the eastern block was a stable with master's workshop. There were sheds in the north and west blocks. Since 2018 in the stables building is placed a unique exhibition of Kraslava museum of History and Art "Pi vina golda", which tells about the culinary heritage traditions of five nationalities living in Kraslava Municipality. In 2019 in the stable building were also opened two new exhibitions "Workshop of the artist Valentin Zlidnis" and the collection "The heritage of the sculptor Vanda Zevalde". In 2021 the collection "The Story of an Old House" was opened. The collection shows the variety of household items and the layout of living space from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. This is a story about the lifestyle, traditions and culture of previous generations.

## 5 Sculpture "Count and Countess"

Complementing the Count Plater Palace complex with suitable and thematic environmental objects, in the summer of 2020 two large sculptures of the Count and the Countess were installed, which harmoniously fit into the landscape of the palace park and become one of the most recognizable elements of the palace complex.



## 6 Former household building / Kraslava Craft Center

In the summer 2021, a Craft Center with four workshops was opened in the part of the building where the barns used to be. This is a place where you can learn about ancient crafts, not only by observing and listening to the stories of the masters, but also by participating in master classes. There are six workshops in the center. Under the guidance of experienced artisans, you can experience the exciting world of pottery, woodworking, weaving, glass art, aroma and other textile crafts, as well as taste a culinary heritage. In each workshop, visitors are greeted by skilled and sincere masters who will be happy to show how they work and allow visitors to participate and experience the fascination of the world of creativity.

## 7 Courtyard of the palace

Entering the central gate from the side of Pils Street, there is a view of the inner courtyard of the palace complex. Its most noticeable object is a manor house – a palace. The courtyard is bordered by outbuildings and a palace park. On the right side of the courtyard is the former stable (currently the museum's exposition), then the servant's house (now Kraslava museum of History and Art). To the left of the central gate is the palace manager's house (currently TIC), next to it is the barn-gardener's house, and on the left side of the courtyard next to the palace, visitors can see the town and the Daugava from the observation platform. The palace complex is surrounded on all sides by a park. During the renovation of the palace complex, the courtyard paths were restored according to their historical planning. Since 2015, the courtyard of the palace is decorated with a metal carriage, which is a popular place for photography.



## 8 Former governor's house / Kraslava TIC

The exact time of construction of the building is unknown, possibly it was built from 1820 to 1840. Initially, it was a 42-meter, one-storey household building, which was built of clay loam and boulders. Kraslava Municipality Tourism information and International Culinary Heritage Center, souvenir shop, collection of porcelain dolls, seminar room are located in the building.



## 10 Kraslava Palace Landscape Park

Around the palace on the slopes of the Daugava valley was built a landscape park of about 22 ha. The park's dendrological composition is very diverse – 70 species of trees and shrubs. There still live snails that were brought from Spain. There was a pheasant farm near the park and pheasant caretaker was brought from Germany for its maintenance. The very first Kraslava Park was started in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century near the building of Counts Broel Plater Library. The created baroque garden, like the Tsar's Garden in Riga, was a so-called public garden – accessible to all free townspeople. It was a significant and very progressive innovation at the time. Part of the old baroque park called "Linden tree garden" is still preserved.



## 11 Granary – gardener's house

Granary – gardener's house is located on the right side of the building. The exact time of construction of the building is unknown, but the red bricks and brick turrets in the corners indicate that it was built in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the middle of the granary was a long corridor which had storage for various belongings and products on both sides. It is known that salt was stored in one of the brick turrets. At present, the type of further use of the building has not been determined. A conservation project has been developed. Roof replacement works have been carried out at the beginning of 2017.

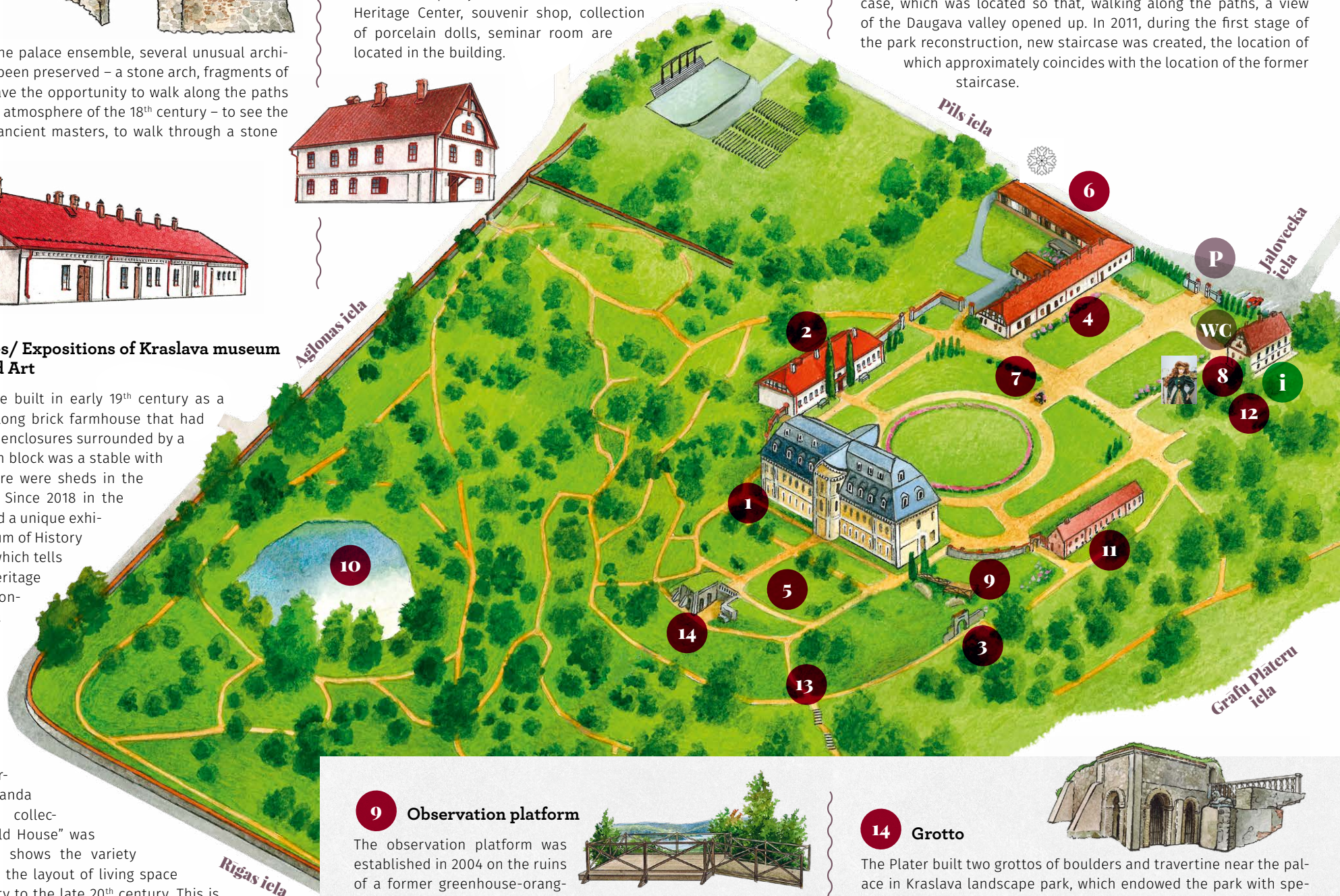
## 12 "Forest trail" for children

There are many children among the visitors of the Count Plater Palace complex in Kraslava. To make the visit of small visitors even more exciting, a small obstacle course was opened in 2021 behind the former governor's house building. "Forest trail" is freely accessible to children under 12 years.



## 13 Stairs

During the reconstruction of Kraslava Park at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> – the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many paths were created on different levels of the hill. In two places they were connected by a staircase, which was located so that, walking along the paths, a view of the Daugava valley opened up. In 2011, during the first stage of the park reconstruction, new staircase was created, the location of which approximately coincides with the location of the former staircase.



## 9 Observation platform

The observation platform was established in 2004 on the ruins of a former greenhouse-orangery where grapevines, apricots, pineapples and other warm-earth plants were grown during the Broel Plater times. The observation platform offers a beautiful view of the nature park "Daugavas loki", which was included into the Latvian national list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. In 2016 the observation platform was fully renovated.



## 14 Grotto

The Plater built two grottos of boulders and travertine near the palace in Kraslava landscape park, which endowed the park with special romance and melancholy. At present, one of the grottos with an „underground passage" and the lion statue is well – preserved and accessible to residents and tourists. The grotto was built in 1843. It is time, when an ambitious reconstruction project took place in Kraslava Park.

