

## Cultural life of Ozersk

From the very beginning when Ozersk appeared, there was a strong need in places of culture or entertainment. Population's high intellectual level determined the unique structure of town's culture.

The first theatre season was open in 1948 in one of the Palaces of Culture. And two years later in 1950 the drama theatre house (currently known as «Our Home») was put into operation. Nowadays it is one of the most unique theatre buildings in Russia. There are 5 new productions every theatre season. Since 2010 “Our Home” has been spending the action “Night in the Theatre”. More than 10 theatres of the Ural region take part in this action every year.



One by one in early 1950s new cultural institutions were established. In October 1950 the first musical school opened its doors for young lovers of music. In February 1952 the Puppet theatre “Zolotoy Petushok” began its first season and welcomed its first spectators. Since then the theatre has been one of the most favourite places for little children and their parents. In 2008 Theatre Festival took place in Ozersk. As a result, our town was awarded honorary title of “Theatre Capital of Rusatom”.

In 1971 the musical colleague (Art Colleague nowadays) was established. About 1,500 children attend Musical school and Art colleague, as well as Art school, which play an active part in musical and artistic education of the population. The students of regional arrangements. They and international contests and festivals.



Art colleague is famous for its Pupil's Philharmonic Society and wonderful weekly “Musical Wednesdays” – free concerts of classical, jazz and folk music performed by talented students and their skillful teachers. These concerts always gather a lot of audience of all ages.

Art school was founded in 1994. There are three departments at school: preparatory (for children from 7 to 10), basic (from children from 11 to 17) and aesthetic (for children of schools providing general education and under school age children). Most teachers in Art school are professional artists. At present there are 15 different cultural institutions in the town where 1,000 highly qualified specialists work.

There are two library systems in Ozersk: for adults and for children, where there are more than 1,000,000 volumes of books. Every second citizen of the town attends libraries, 99,8% of school students are readers. Some of the libraries were granted by «Open Society» and since 1998 are members of International Internet Network. Children’s Library takes an active part in different regional and town projects, for example “Reading Urals – the Real Russia”, “Ozersk Youth”.

Literature Club “Sinegorie” has been around in the town for more than 40 years resulted in publishing of the books written by local writers, poets and philosophers.



Visiting cinemas is quite popular with citizens, however few years ago there was a less of interest observed. Nowadays the situation has changed for the better, as municipal enterprise “Screen” plays an active role in keeping cooperation with the leading Russian film organizations. There are two cinemas in Ozersk: “October” and “Aivengo”. The biggest cinema “October” was reconstructed and upgraded suitable for “Dolby System”, which enables Ozersk citizens to watch the films at the same time when they are on in Moscow and St. Petersburg. The students and pensioners are provided with some advantages when they go to the cinema. There is a children’s cinema club in the town where they arrange different kinds of activities for the school children.

There are four Palaces of Culture in Ozersk where there are about 120 different hobby clubs attended by a lot of participants.



One of the most favourite places of our citizens is the Local Park which consists of two parks: Children’s Park, located in a wood between old and new parts of Ozersk and Central Park of Culture and Recreation which is a part of a large forest area on the lakeside of Irtyash. They have recently been reconstructed and rearranged. Little kids are fond of fantastic attractions available at the Children’s Park. Besides they like to come here with their mums and dads to see cheerful woodpeckers and lively squirrels and bring them food.





Park of Culture and Recreation is also popular with locals and visitors in any season. They love walking here enjoying the view of the beautiful sunsets and mountains and their wonderful reflection in the waters of the lake, lots of fresh air, peace and quiet of the place. The park also provides dwellers with a wonderful opportunity for various activities. In summer people can swim in the lake, sunbathe on a sandy beach, watch birds, feed wild ducks, go boating or cycling. In winter they enjoy skiing and skating. The park is also used as a place of annual town celebrations and sports events. There is a stadium and several courts.



So, there are a lot of places worth seeing and plenty of interesting activities worth doing in Ozersk. Cultural life in our town is a real celebration of diversity.



### Tasks to the text

1. Look at the pictures carefully. Write captions for the pictures using the text. Compare your captions with other students.
2. Read and say if the following sentences are true:
  - a) The first theatre season was open in 1965 in one of the Palaces of Culture.
  - b) At present there are 51 different cultural institutions in the town where 1,000 highly qualified specialists work.
  - c) Art school was founded in 1994.
  - d) There aren't Palaces of Culture in Ozersk.
  - e) Most teachers in Art school aren't professional artists.
3. Read and translate the word combinations. Use them in your own sentences.
  - a) the theatre season
  - b) take part in the action
  - c) the Puppet theatre
  - d) was awarded
  - e) was founded
  - f) worth doing
  - g) provide smb with smth
  - e) annual celebrations
3. Say what place you would like to visit in Ozersk and why.

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