



GUIDE



BALTIC COASTAL HIKING *Southern part*

Long-distance hiking route
LITHUANIA (Nida) — LATVIA (Riga)



661 km

WWW.BALTICTRAILS.EU





BALTIC COASTAL HIKING IN FACTS AND FIGURES

The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route is part of the E9 European long-distance trail.

The E9 route starts at Cape St. Vincent in Portugal and ends in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. It runs along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, the English Channel, the coast of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. The E9 route crosses 10 countries: Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

THE BALTIC STATES

Starting point: Nida (Lithuania).

End point: Tallinn (Estonia).

Length: 1419 km,
including: 216 km **in Lithuania**,
581 km **in Latvia** and 622 km **in Estonia**.

Name in Lithuanian: Jūrų Takas,
in Latvian: Jūrtaka,
in Estonian: Ranniku Matkarada.

The route includes two old towns **listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** Riga, Tallinn.

The Curonian Spit National Park is also on the UNESCO list.

In Lithuania, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route crosses the Curonian Spit National Park, running through the seaside resorts of Palanga and Šventoji to reach the Latvian border. A second branch of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route in Lithuania starts on Rusnė Island and runs along the coast of the Curonian Lagoon to Klaipėda.

In Latvia, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route runs along the coast of the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga, crossing the coastal areas of Slītere and Ķemeri National Parks, and then running upwards along the rocky beaches of Vidzeme.

In Estonia, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route runs along Pärnu Bay, loops out around Matsalu Bay, and crosses Matsalu National Park. It then follows the jagged coastline of the Gulf of Finland to reach Tallinn. In Estonia, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route also includes various islands: Saaremaa, Hiiumaa, Muhu, Vormsi, Osmussaar, the Pakri Islands and Naisaar.



Route:

In Lithuania the route has two branches:

- 1) Nida – Juodkrantė – Klaipėda – Palanga – Šventoji.
- 2) Rusnė – Šilutė – Ventė – Kintai – Dreverna – Klaipėda.

In Latvia: Nida – Jūrmalciems – Liepāja – Ziemeupe – Pāvilosta – Jūrkalne – Užava – Ventspils – Oviši – Miķeļtornis – Mazirbe – Kolka – Melnsils – Ģipka – Roja – Kaltene – Upesgrīva – Mērsrags – Bērziems – Engure – Ķesterciems – Ragaciems – Lapmežciems – Bigauņciems – Jaunķemeri – Dubulti – Bulduri – Priedaine – Mežāres – Rīga – Vecāķi – Carnikava – Lilaste – Saulkrasti – Zvejniekiems – Tūja – Vitrupe – Svētciems – Salacgrīva – Ainaži.

In Estonia: Ikla – Pärnu – Audru – Tõstamaa – Varbla – Paatsalu – Virtsu – Saastna – Matsalu – Lihula – Penijõe – Kirbla – Haeska – Panga – Puise – Rohuküla – Haapsalu – Pürksi – Hara – Riguldi – Dirhami – Nõva – Vihterpalu – Padise – Paldiski – Kersalu – Kloogaranna – Lohusalu – Türi – Suurupi – Rannamõisa – Tallinn.

Full duration: ~ 70–72 days

More than 600 natural, historical and cultural sites and monuments to **be viewed**.

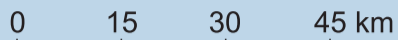
WHAT DOES THIS GUIDEBOOK COVER?

- This guidebook covers the **SOUTHERN PART OF THE BALTIC COASTAL HIKING TRAIL** – the route from **Nida and Rusnė in Lithuania, through Kurzeme (Courland) to Riga, Latvia**.
- The total length of the route is **661 km: 216 km** in Lithuania and **445 km** in Latvia.
- The route is divided into # **33** one- or two-day sections. Each section has a logical starting and end point and can be done as a stand-alone route in either direction. The guidebook provides a detailed description of each section.
- Hiking the southern part of the Baltic Coastal Hiking trail in full requires **33–35 days**.
- More than **260** natural, historical and cultural sites and monuments to be viewed along the route.
- Information: WWW.BALTICTRAILS.EU





1: 1 500 000



BALTIJAS JŪRA



Legend

- Main roads
- Regional roads
- Other roads
- Railway
- Ferries
- National boundary
- National capital
- Baltic Coastal Hiking One-day route



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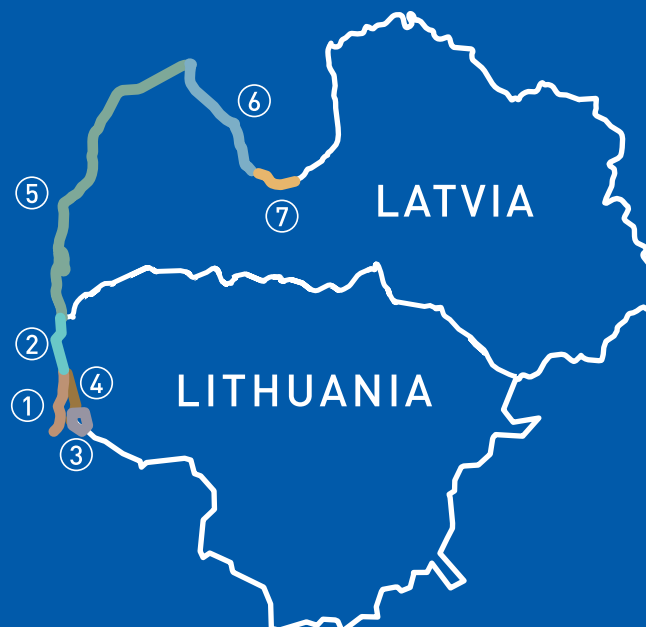
LITHUANIA

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USING THE GUIDEBOOK

In the guidebook, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route is divided into **7 regions** as follows:

1. THE CURONIAN SPIT
2. SEASIDE RESORTS
3. NEMUNAS DELTA
4. COASTLINE OF CURONIAN LAGOON
5. THE GREAT WAVE SEA
6. LITTLE WAVE SEA
7. JŪRMALA AND RĪGA

Each region is marked in a different colour in the guidebook.

The 661 km of the Southern part of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route is divided into # 33 sections. Each section can be done in one day, however, for longer sections the description includes recommendations on how to split it into a two-day hike.

THE DESCRIPTION OF EACH SECTION INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A MAP

with a marked Baltic Coastal Hiking Route

the starting and end points of the section

main places of interest to see under "Worth seeing" 1

services available on the section



and .

PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SECTION:

..... Length in kilometres.



Duration: approximate time required to complete the section.



Starting point: the location from which to conveniently begin the route.



End point: the location where to conveniently finish the route. The sections can be done in the opposite direction as well.



Course: the largest populated areas along the route.



Brief description of road surface



Difficulty:

easy



medium



hard



Obstacles: natural or man-made obstacles, recommendations on how to by-pass them.



Danger points: be extra careful here!



Keep in mind! Useful information.



Alternatives: other roads and trails to take in poor weather or other situations.



WORTH SEEING: the names and brief descriptions of the most interesting sites along the route and their GPS coordinates.



Specially protected conservation areas and Nature objects

SERVICES:

information with and coordinates for



and .

SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Information about services and infrastructure is available under the descriptions included in this guidebook and at baltictrails.eu

The availability of accommodation, including camp sites, differs by section of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route. Information on accommodation is provided in the description of each section. It includes the name of the accommodation establishment, GPS coordinates and . It is recommended to book accommodation in advance as establishments may be fully-booked during the summer (June–August). In turn, in winter some accommodation establishments may be closed for the season.

Availability of catering establishments differs by section of the trail. There are no such services available on some sections of the trail. Keep in mind that some places only work during the summer or at specific times, so check ahead by telephone before visiting.



There are over 40 public rest spots that may be used free of charge along the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route. These can be equipped with shelters, picnic tables, benches, rubbish bins, firepits and toilets (not available everywhere). Rest spots are also available next to accommodation sites, however, permission to use them has to be obtained from the owner. In the descriptions of the sections, this icon by the rest spot means that tents are permitted here. Bonfires and grills are permitted in places marked with this symbol: .



Stores are available in populated areas. Keep in mind that there are some sections of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route where stores are not available for one or more days of hiking. This information is provided in the description of each section.



Public transport is available in direct proximity or close by the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route (mostly buses, sometimes trains), however, timetables should be checked in advance.

In Latvia:

buses www.autoosta.lv,
trains www.pv.lv,
public transport www.1188.lv
Transport services in Riga:
www.rigassatiksmelv

In Lithuania:

buses www.autobusbilietai.lt,
trains www.traukiniobilietas.lt
Transport services in Klaipėda:
www.stops.lt/klaipeda

Maps provide information on




ATMs .

pharmacies .

while information about tourist information centres is available in the map and section descriptions.

In case of emergency: Call 112!

WALKING THE BALTIC COASTAL HIKING ROUTE

- The Southern part of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route is divided into # 33 separate sections which are described in the guidebook.
- The sections have been numbered in the order of their creation, thus the sections of the Southern part of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route from Nida to the Lithuanian-Latvian border go from 64 to 73, and from 1 to 23 in Kurzeme (Latvia).
- Each section can be done as a stand-alone route. In the guidebook,  marks the recommended starting and end point of each section. By linking several sections according to the time available to you, you can plan a route for several weeks or even months.
- The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route can be started at any point and done in either direction. The trail is marked in both directions.
- Based on interests and preferences, some sections of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route can be travelled using public transport rather than on foot. With some accommodation hosts it is possible to arrange transport services or sending luggage ahead to the next stop.
- Descriptions of each section of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route can be printed and their GPX files can be downloaded from www.baltictrails.eu.
- In nature the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route is easily followed by the markings  on trees and other objects. In populated areas, the trail is marked with Baltic Coastal Hiking stickers  on signposts and other objects. In the Curonian Spit, Slītere and Ķemeri National Parks, the Baltic Coastal

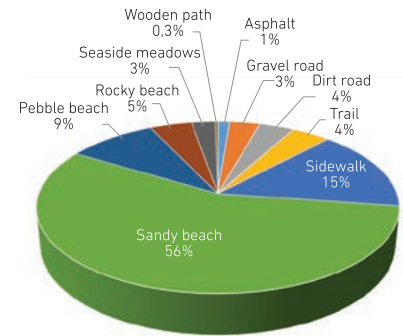
Hiking Route occasionally coincides with other pedestrian and cycling routes which are also marked with coloured markings on trees and other objects. Be careful to follow the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route markings here and use the GPX files.



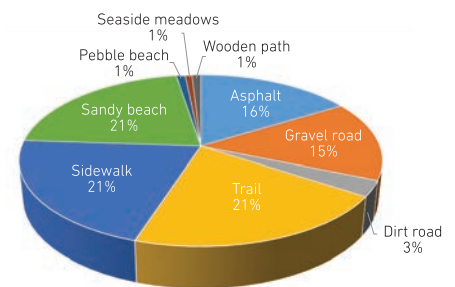
- Information posters have been placed at some spots along the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route, and these will help you navigate the surroundings.
- On the Curonian Spit the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route follows single-track trails along the Curonian Lagoon, while on the Baltic Sea side it mostly runs along the sandy beach or seaside forest trails. The branch of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route on Rusnė Island runs along polder dikes, small gravel and paved roads. On the eastern coast of the Curonian Lagoon the route follows small coastal roads, sometimes trails.
- Along the coast of the Baltic Sea in Kurzeme, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route mostly runs along the shore and its sandy beaches. Occasionally may also follow small forest roads. In cities, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route follows pedestrian lanes. The coast of the Gulf of Riga is diverse, therefore the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route runs along sandy beaches, which sometimes turn into a rocky shoreline, and briefly also — coastal meadows. As it approaches Riga, the trail follows small forest roads and pedestrian lanes.

- The maps included in the guidebook will help you walk the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route. GPX files can be downloaded from the homepage of the route www.baltictrails.eu. The route of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route is also available on the most popular map mobile apps, such as Balticmaps.eu, Nature Tourism, etc. You can also ask the local residents for directions, if necessary.
- The percentage per road surface of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route in Latvia and Lithuania:

in LATVIA



in LITHUANIA



HOW TO NAVIGATE THE BALTIC COASTAL HIKING ROUTE IF YOU LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE AT THE STARTING POINT

- It is possible to arrange transport services with the host of your accommodation in advance. Namely, the host can take you back to the starting point, drive out to meet you or transport your luggage if necessary.
- Hikers can also organise their own logistics by taking one car to the end point and leaving the other at the starting point. Having reached the end point, you can then drive back to get the other car from the starting point.

Where available, public transport can also be used for this purpose.

- If you are doing the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route in full, you will have to plan any use of public transport within one country or cross-border transport in advance. Buses run regularly between Riga and Klaipėda. A bus can be taken from Klaipėda to the Curonian Spit and Nida at the Lithuanian–Russian border. Two ferries run between Klaipėda and the Curonian

Spit. One transports only pedestrians and cyclists, the other also transports motor vehicles. Timetables of the ferries are available here: www.keltas.lt/en/timetable/. A boat can be taken from Ventė to Nida and back: www.ventaine.lt/en/ferrytonida/. A boat runs between Rusnė (Uostadvaris), Miniija Village and Nida on the Curonian Spit: www.mingeskaimas.lt/en/e-ticket.

HIKER-FRIENDLY LABEL



The Hiker-Friendly label is granted to tourism service providers in the Baltic States. The sign signifies that the business understands and respects the needs of hikers and that they are welcome. The business provides services important and necessary for hikers, such as information about the route, potable water, first-aid kits, charging of electronics, possibility to dry wet clothes and wash dirty clothes, boots and other personal items at the accommodation.

NATURE ALONG THE BALTIC COASTAL HIKING ROUTE

- The coastal **terrain** is mostly flat, and for the most part, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route is close to sea level.
- More distinctive terrain is at the **Curonian Spit** in Lithuania, where the height of the dunes reaches 50 m, and the highest peak is Vecekrugas dune with an altitude of 67 m above sea level. In order to stop sand from migrating, mountain pines *Pinus mugo* have been planted in many places and now cover a large part of the Curonian Spit.
- On the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route hikers can see various **dune biotypes** that are rare and protected at the European level, such as embryonic shifting dunes, white or foredunes, grey dunes and wooded seaside dunes.
- **Seaside cliffs** in Lithuania are located near the Karklė Village, reaching a height of 24 metres. In Latvia, seaside bluffs stretch along the coast from Strante to Ošvalki (12–16 m high) and near Staldzene (up to 8 m, with the height of the coastline reaching up to 29 m in the northern direction).
- The main **obstacles** on the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route are mouths of rivers (Šventoji River, Pape River, the Liepāja and Naval Port canals, Saka, Užava, Venta, Irbe and Roja rivers, Mērsrags Canal, Engure, Liepāja and Daugava rivers) and ports. The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route bypasses these obstacles by the nearest pedestrian bridge or road.
- **Smaller rivers** and streams can be crossed on foot during low water season. Pedestrian bridges or plankways will often be found near the mouths of small rivers.



- The Baltic Sea coast does not feature dangerous **natural elements**. Severe **storms** are rare, and usually occur during autumn and winter. During storms, waves crash against the coastal bluffs and they may collapse, therefore at such times the bluff sections of the trail must be bypassed inland.
- The dominant winds in Latvia and Lithuania are west winds. These are significantly stronger on the Baltic Sea coast of Latvia, therefore if you are planning a one-day or multi-day hike during heavy winds, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route can be done in the opposite direction — with a tailwind.
- There are no **high or low tides** on the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route that would restrict or compromise the safety of walking along the coastline. Be careful during thunder and lightning — seek safe shelter.
- **The coastline** changes and the same place may look completely different every time you visit. The coastal bluffs are washed off during storms, the beaches change — sandy beaches may be replaced with pebbles or even rocks, while at other times the pebbles and rocks may be covered in sand washed out by the sea or blown in by the wind.
- The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route and its surrounding forests are excellent places to observe **wildlife**. The second largest animal in Europe — the moose — can be seen here. If you walk quietly, you may be able to see roe deer, red deer, foxes, hares, martens, otters, red squirrels, and hedgehogs in the coastal forests. You may even see footprints left by wolves and lynx.





- The coast, the wetlands, marshes, shallow coastal lakes and seaside meadows are a bird-watcher's paradise. Mērsrags, Cape Kolka, Liepāja and Pape lakes, the Nemunas Delta and Vente Cape are excellent birdwatching locations during spring and autumn migration.

- On the coast you will see various plant species, the most easily recognisable being Sea-Rocket, Sea Sandwort, Lyme grass, European Marram Grass, the purple Marram, the *Petasites spurius*, Breckland Thyme, Goldmoss Stonecrop, Beach Pea, dark-red Helleborine, Meadow Pasqueflower, Sand pink. The latter four are protected species.

- Lithuanians and Latvians enjoy going to the coastal woods to gather the natural goods of the forest — mushrooms (chanterelles, russulas, boletus, etc.) and wild berries (bilberries, lingonberries, raspberries; in wet forests and marshes — cloudberry and cranberries). Wild plants are used for preparing herbal teas.



- The route can be done **throughout the year**. Each season offers certain benefits, as well as disadvantages:

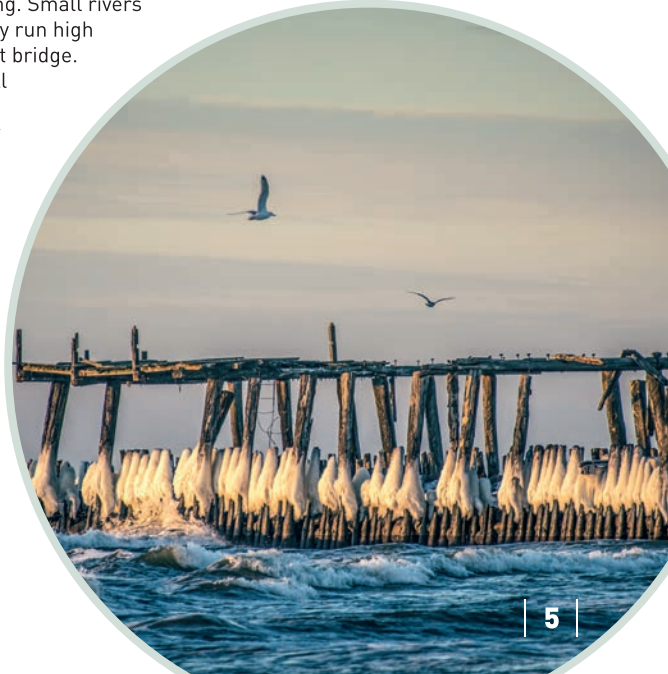
SUMMER (June — August) is tourist season in Lithuania and Latvia, so there are more people on the beach than during other seasons, and therefore accommodation near the seaside may be booked for quite some time ahead. In summer, the water temperature in the sea can reach + 18–20 °C or even more, so it is possible to go swimming. However, depending on the direction of the wind, even on the hottest summer day, the water in the sea could be icy cold. The sandy sections of the beach are nice to walk barefoot, easily crossing small rivers and streams flowing into the sea. There may also be longer periods of rain and lower temperatures (−/+13 °C), so it is definitely a good idea to check the weather report ahead of time.

IN AUTUMN (September — November) nature becomes more colourful with the leaves of trees turning, and the forest full of mushrooms, berries and nuts. Birds migrate. There are storms, during which amber is washed out from the sea. Some accommodation and catering establishments may be closed at this time, so book ahead.



The route may also be done **IN WINTER** (December — February), however, hikers must take into consideration that some services will not be available during this time. In case of prolonged periods of ice and snow, some sections, such as the Kurzeme (Courland) coast of the Gulf of Riga, can be done on skis. However, lasting snow cover is quite rare on the coast of the Baltic Sea, occurring only once or twice a decade. During cold winters, various ice formations and ice ridges can be observed. During autumn and winter, especially when snow is melting, the small rivers that can be easily crossed on foot during the summer will have a much higher water level. Hikers will thus need to find the nearest footbridge or road crossing the river.

DURING THE SPRING (March — May) hikers can witness nature awakening with the colour green taking over, lilacs perfuming the air and birds returning. Small rivers and streams that are easily crossed on foot during the summer may run high waters in spring, meaning hikers will have to search for the nearest bridge. The range of accommodation and catering services in spring is still limited. In spring, it is usually colder on the coast than further inland, as the sea has cooled during the winter and it takes longer for it to warm up.





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CURONIAN SPIT

- The coastal trails through the sandy dunes and forests of the Curonian Spit, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Colourful wooden buildings in the cosy resort settlements of the Curonian Spit
- Views over the Curonian Lagoon littered with historical Curonian boats
- Locally smoked fish
- Meal at any of the quaint coastal taverns
- The brilliant white sands of the beaches
- Waves of the Baltic Sea
- The modern Sea Museum in the old fortress

LITHUANIA

THE CURONIAN SPIT



THE CURONIAN SPIT NATIONAL PARK: THE HIGHEST DUNES IN NORTHERN EUROPE

Nida – Klaipėda: 59 km, #64-66

The Curonian Spit National Park is located on a long, sandy strip of land in between the waters of the Baltic Sea and the Curonian Lagoon. An almost 50 km long sandy beach stretches along the western side of the dunes of the Curonian Spit, the coastline of the Curonian Lagoon is mottled with shallow, reed-filled bays and the surrounding area is an important location for rest, feeding and nesting of birds. Through the ages, the wind-swept sands have occasionally buried homesteads and villages set on the seafront. Pine tree stands have been planted on the dunes in the hopes of stopping the migrating sands. Smiltynė is home to the popular Sea Museum and Dolphinarium.

The Story of the dunes of Curonian Spit

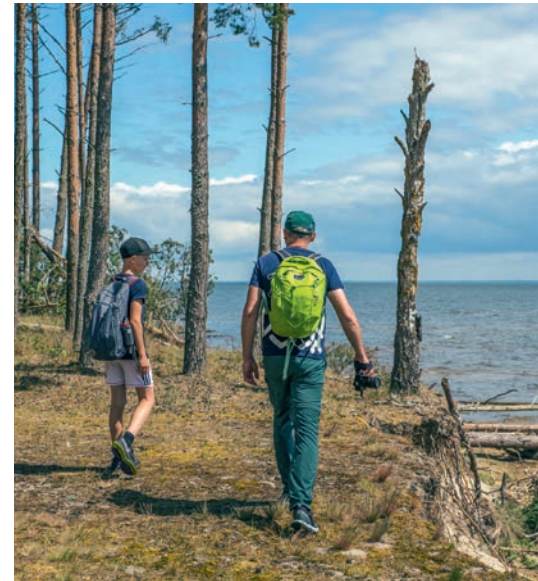
The dunes of the Curonian Spit hide the sad history of at least 14 sand-buried villages between the 17th and 18th century as the migrating dunes used to move 0.5 - 15 m a year. The residents tried to avoid the drifting sand by changing the location of the settlement. The last village left was Nagliai.








Nida – Pervalka

Along the coast of the Curonian Lagoon

The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route starts in the center of Nida, by the port. In Nida, the trail winds along the Curonian Lagoon walkway which offers beautiful views of the expansive waters all the way to Rusnė Island on the east coast of the Curonian Lagoon. Nida features the typical architecture of the Curonian Spit region — one-storey wooden buildings with tile or reed roofs and window shutters painted blue and white. From Nida to Bulvikis Cape (shortly before the cape there is an abandoned runway), the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route winds through single-track forest trails up and down the pine-covered dunes, occasionally coming out onto beachside meadows with scarce vegetation. Rest spots and bird watching towers are available along the trail. The next section features unique open seaside meadows covered in lichens and vegetation characteristic to the Curonian Spit. The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route follows the coastal walkway in the village of Preila. It then winds through forest trails, briefly also following a pedestrian/cyclist lane and coastal paths, eventually reaching Pervalka. This section leads through the Curonian Spit National Park.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- 18 km
-  4–6 h
-  Nida, Nida port
-  Pervalka
-  Nida – Preila – Pervalka
-  Easy



Cobblestones and pavement, pedestrian paths and beachside walkways in populated areas. Forest trails with natural surface elsewhere and sand in some places.



At high water (in early spring and late autumn), a short section of the trail between Nida and Preila may be flooded.



Be careful at the washed-out coastline as it can easily collapse!



Accommodation needs to be booked in advance in the summer season. In spring and early summer, various species of birds (such as the Common shelduck) nest in the Curonian Lagoon, therefore visitors are urged to be especially quiet so as not to disturb the birds during nesting and feeding.



The section can also be hiked along the sandy beaches lining the Baltic Sea.

WORTH SEEING!

- 1 **Writer Thomas Mann Memorial Museum and the Italian Landscape observation deck.** T: +370 46952260; GPS: 55.31347, 21.01348
- 2 **Bird watching towers.** You can find as many as 6 bird watching towers built near the lagoon to help you watch the waterbirds. GPS: 55.32539, 21.04481; GPS: 55.33864, 21.05273; GPS: 55.38689, 21.07446; GPS: 55.39228, 21.07644; GPS: 55.40183, 21.09359
- 3 **Vecekrugas Dune.** At the height of 67 meters, Vecekrugas Dune is the highest spot in the Curonian Spit. The observation deck on the top of the dune provides beautiful views of the sea and the lagoon. GPS: 55.35455, 21.03911
- 4 **Preila Dune.** Steps to reach the Preila Dune presenting some of the most picturesque views of the lagoon were built in 2020. GPS: 55.36835, 21.05298
- 5 **F. Labrenz House.** A historical display and exhibition hall are located in the recently renovated house of F. Labrenz, Senior Specialist of Preila. GPS: 55.36927, 21.05894
- 6 **Goat Cape** is the favorite resting spot of cormorants and other waterbirds. GPS: 55.38426, 21.07872
- 7 **Karvaičiai Dune.** Long ago, the shifting sand buried the Village of Karvaičiai underneath it. The Dune was tamed with the help of mountain pines. Mesmerizing views of the lagoon can be seen from the top of the Dune. GPS: 55.38870, 21.06471
- 8 **Skirpstas Dune.** GPS: 55.409301, 21.074855

SERVICES

 Accommodations

1. **Campsite "Nida"**, T: +370 68241150; GPS: 55.29874, 20.98227
 2. **Suites "Kopa"**, T: +370 61184244; GPS: 55.41604, 21.09976
 3. **Suites "Banga"**, T: +370 61184244; GPS: 55.41496, 21.09743
 4. **Guest house "Baltija"**, T: +370 65796990; GPS: 55.41540, 21.09813
 5. **Guest house "Dainava"**, T: +370 65907181; GPS: 55.41438, 21.09575
 6. **Leisure Suites**, T: +370 69820472; GPS: 55.41384, 21.09692
- More accommodation choices in Nida, Preila and Pervalka:
www.visitneringa.com
www.priejuros.lt

 Catering

1. **Cafe "Sakutis"**, T: +370 46952557; GPS: 55.30294, 21.00696
2. **Outdoor Cafe "Kaštonas"**, T: +370 60796609; GPS: 55.30314, 21.00785
3. **Cafe "Kuršis"**, T: +370 46952804; GPS: 55.30474, 21.00659

 Shops

- "Maxima" in Nida, GPS: 55.30433, 21.00586
- Grocery store in Preila, GPS: 55.37113, 21.06204
- Grocery store in Pervalka, GPS: 55.41664, 21.09858

 Pharmacies

1. "Euro vaistinė" in Nida, GPS: 55.30433, 21.00586
2. "Camelia vaistinė" in Nida, GPS: 55.30284, 21.00390

 ATMs

- "Swedbank", GPS: 55.30527, 21.00650



4. **Cafe "Kuršmarių vila"**, T: +370 68556317; GPS: 55.36843, 21.05767
 5. **Cafe "Lyra"**, T: +370 61246447; GPS: 55.37482, 21.06818
 6. **Snack Bar and Pub "Vėjopačio užgaida"**, T: +370 65690604, GPS: 55.41416, 21.09548
 7. **Pizzeria "La Pervalga"**, T: +370 65666265; GPS: 55.41542, 21.09727
 8. **Cafe "Marių akis"**, T: +370 61536306; GPS: 55.41416, 21.09550
- More places to eat in Neringa:
www.visitneringa.com

- "SEB", GPS: 55.30474, 21.00660
- "Citadele", "Šiaulių bankas", GPS: 55.30474, 21.00660

 Public transport

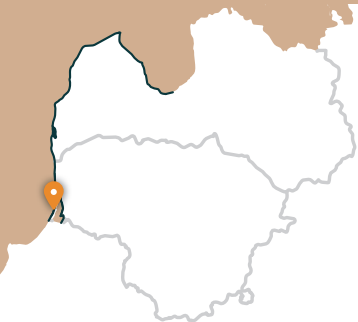
The bus runs from Nida to Smiltynė every hour in the summer season (from 7 AM to 9 PM every day) and four times per day in the off-season. Please note that not all of the buses will take you to Preila and Pervalka. Timetable: www.kopos.lt

 Rest areas

1. **Bulvikis**, GPS: 55.33528, 21.05218
2. **„Rožių Krūmas“**, GPS: 55.35746, 21.05360

TOURIST INFORMATION

-  **Neringa TIC „Agila“**, Nida bus station, Naglių st. 18E, Nida, www.visitneringa.com, T: +370 46952345; GPS: 55.30413, 21.00736
-  **Visitor Center of Curonian Spit National Park**, Naglių st. 8, Nida, <https://nerija.lrv.lt>, T: +370 67100872; GPS: 55.30199, 21.00651



Pervalka – Juodkrantė

Along the most majestic sand dunes in Northern Europe



Having departed Pervalka, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route follows a pedestrian path to cross the Curonian Spit in an east–western direction, arriving at the coast of the Baltic Sea. The next section of 13 km leads along a beautiful, sandy beach protected by high and steep sand dunes on the east. It is called the protective dune ridge and it has been man-made in order to protect the inland from the movement of sand. Entering Juodkrantė, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route turns eastward and crosses the Curonian Spit once again over wooded and steep dunes, to reach the Curonian Lagoon coast.

The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route briefly coincides with the Hill of Witches trail. It then follows the Juodkrantė beachside walkway to the port. This section leads through the Curonian Spit National Park.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

18 km

4–6 h

Pervalka

Juodkrantė port

Pervalka – Juodkrantė

Easy



Sandy beaches, single-track forest trails, paved pedestrian/cyclist lanes. Pavement and cobblestones in populated areas.



Accommodation needs to be booked in advance in the summer season. Visitors must stay exclusively on the established trails in the Nagliai Nature Reserve. The territory of the Nature Reserve can only be crossed on the pedestrian/cyclist lane or the wave-washed (wet) beach, going out onto the beach at Pervalka



and ending up at Juodkrantė. Services are available in Pervalka and Juodkrantė.

From Pervalka, it is recommended to take the circular nature trail (4–5 km) along the coast of the Curonian Lagoon to Horse Cape, which offers amazing views of the Nagliai Dune and the rest of the nature reserve consisting of sandy dunes. Without reaching the Nature Reserve, turn back and take another trail through the forest, returning to Pervalka.

WORTH SEEING!

- 1 **Horse Cape Lighthouse.** Built on an artificial island in 1900, this lighthouse is the only lighthouse of the Curonian Lagoon which does not stand on land.
GPS: 55.41968, 21.11445
- 2 **Bird watching tower.**
GPS: 55.41734, 21.10342
- 3 **Naglai Nature Reserve Educational Trail.** This is the only place in the whole Nature Reserve, where you can step into the kingdom of the Dead Dunes. Marvel at the desert-like sand dunes and discover the stories of sand-buried villages and rare species of animals and plants.
GPS: 55.44060, 21.07537
- 4 **Avikalnis.** A hiking trail with a new observation deck constructed on the highest spot of the Nida–Smiltynė road.
GPS: 55.51362, 21.11063
- 5 **Heron and Cormorant Colony.** A colony of over 3000 cormorants and 200 grey herons is one of the largest such colonies in Lithuania. GPS: 55.51868, 21.11199
- 6 **Hill of Witches.** An exposition of wooden sculptures depicting characters from Lithuanian folklore and mythical beings of the Curonian Spit. The exposition is located near the old promenades of the resort town. GPS: 55.53681, 21.11022
- 7 **Pamarys Gallery of the Lithuanian National Museum of Art.**
GPS: 55.53189, 21.11797
- 8 **Stone Sculpture Exhibition in Juodkrantė.**
GPS: 55.53544, 21.11865
- 9 **Historical Exhibition of Liudvikas Rėza Cultural Center.** GPS: 55.54217, 21.12145
- 10 **Historical Villas of Juodkrantė.** Juodkrantė was the first resort town of the Curonian Spit. Tourists would come here on steam boats from all over Lithuania and Germany. Luxurious villas built at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century remind of the golden age of Juodkrantė.
GPS: 55.54465, 21.12252

SERVICES

Accommodations

1. Suites "Už jūrų marių",
T: +370 61265082; GPS: 55.54350, 21.12129
2. Hotel "Juodasis kalnas",
T: +370 61101861; GPS: 55.53854, 21.11841
3. Hotel "Pas Jūratę", T: +370 61881849;
GPS: 55.54406, 21.12151
4. Guest House "Ažuolynas",
T: +370 64303939; GPS: 55.53281, 21.11691
5. Hotel "Eglių slėnis", T: +370 67093261;
GPS: 55.53763, 21.11661

More accommodation choices in Juodkrantė: www.visitneringa.com, www.priejuros.lt

Catering

1. Inn "Žvejonė", T: +370 65019520;
GPS: 55.53825, 21.11869
2. Fisherman's Inn "Žuvelė",
T: +370 68478707; GPS: 55.53316, 21.11842

3. Restaurant "Juodasis kalnas",
T: +370 67383893; GPS: 55.53861, 21.11839

4. Café "Pamaris takas",
T: +370 64064029, GPS: 55.53654, 21.11775

5. Restaurant–Café "Ažuolynas",
T: +370 64303939; GPS: 55.53211, 21.11674

More places to eat in Juodkrantė:
www.visitneringa.com

Shops

Grocery store in Pervalka,
GPS: 55.41664, 21.09858

Grocery store in Juodkrantė,
GPS: 55.53609, 21.11688

"Smilga" in Juodkrantė,
GPS: 55.54339, 21.12069

Pharmacies

"Camelia vaistinė" in Juodkrantė,
GPS: 55.53208, 21.11682

ATMs


Only in Nida and Klaipėda!


Public transport

The bus runs from Nida to Smiltynė every hour in the summer season (from 7 AM to 9 PM every day) and four times per day in the off-season. Please note that not all of the buses will take you to Preila and Pervalka.


Routes and timetables: www.kopos.lt

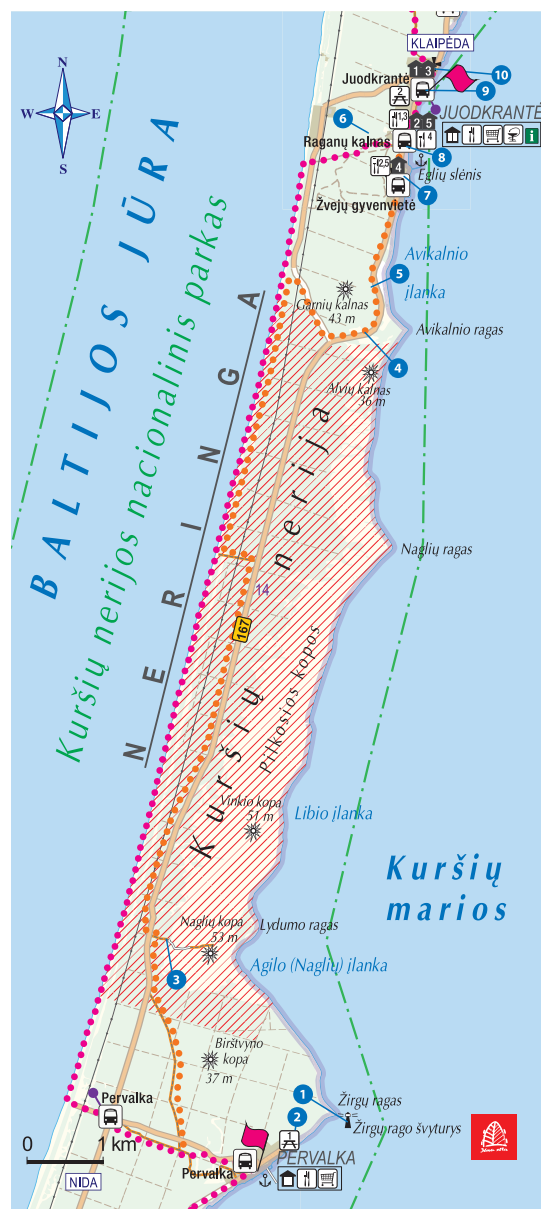
Rest areas

1. Rest area in Pervalka, 
GPS: 55.41730, 21.10306

2. "Sengirė" in Juodkrantė, 
GPS: 55.54150, 21.11566

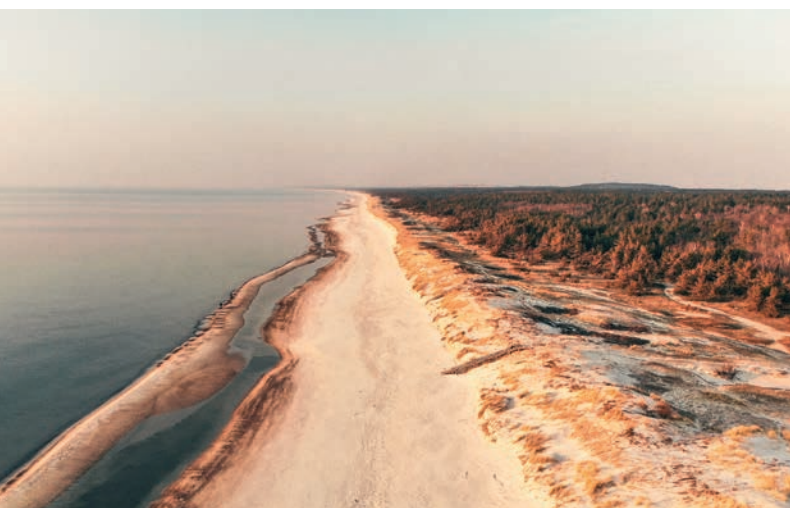
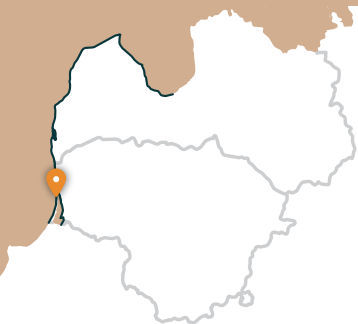
TOURIST INFORMATION

 Culture and Tourism Information Center "Agila", L. Rėzos st. 8, Juodkrantė,
www.visitneringa.com, T: +370 46953490;
GPS: 55.54217, 21.12145



Juodkrantė – Klaipėda

Klaipėda – Lithuania's gate to the sea



Having left the Juodkrantė beachside walkway, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route crosses the Curonian Spit in a southeast–northwest direction leading along single-track forest trails that wind through the steep, pine-covered dunes until it eventually comes back out onto the coast of the Baltic Sea. For the next 9 km, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route follows the coastline along sandy beaches. The steep foredunes on the eastern side protects the inland from the moving sand. After Alksnynė village (not seen from the beach), the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route turns eastward, crossing a hillock covered in *Pinus mugo* pines and a World War II German army base, eventually approaching the coast of the Curonian Lagoon. Then the trail winds across the ridges of pine-covered dunes, providing regular views of Klaipėda Port. The route between the New and Old Ferry Port first follows a single-track path, and later a beachside walkway. Having crossed the Curonian Lagoon from the Old Ferry Port, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route arrives in the center of Klaipėda where it follows Danė Street to the Birža Bridge. The section until Smiltynė leads through the Curonian Spit National Park.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

●●●●● 23 km

🕒 5–8 h

🚩 Juodkrantė port

🚩 Klaipėda, Birža Bridge

📍🚢 Juodkrantė – Alksnynė – Smiltynė – Klaipėda

🚗 Medium



Single-track forest trails and other trails, sandy beaches, paved beachside walkways.



Be careful when crossing the main road on the Curonian Spit (No. 167).



Accommodation needs to be booked in advance in the summer season. Check the ferry timetable in advance: www.keltas.lt
The New Ferry is used by vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians, while the Old Ferry



is available only to pedestrians and cyclists. Services available in Juodkrantė, Smiltynė and Klaipėda.

You can walk to the pier (an additional 2 km out and back) from the Sea Museum (1.5 km from the Old Ferry). If it is windy, you can take the old road from Juodkrantė to Alksnynė. It is a forest trail to the east of the protective foredunes.

WORTH SEEING!

- 1 Dendrological Trail (Bloksberg Promenade).** Formed in the 19th century, this promenade was the favorite spot for long walks in the historic resort town of Juodkrantė. The pathway has retained its name of Dendrological Trail due to the variety of non-local plants.
GPS: 55.54725, 21.11867
- 2 Sound Catcher.** Forget your daily troubles and spend a minute or two listening to the sounds of the forest with the help of a sound catcher placed in the old forest of Juodkrantė. GPS: 55.55486, 21.12006
- 3 Bloksberg (Witch's) Hill.** This is a place of legends and mysticism. Long ago, the entire Curonian Spit could be seen from atop of this hill. The Lighthouse of Juodkrantė stands here now. GPS: 55.55645, 21.11589
- 4 Amber Bay.** Amber was excavated here in the 19th century. GPS: 55.55236, 21.12670
- 5 Alksnynė Defense Complex.** This Defense Complex was built by the Germans to defend the City of Klaipėda against the Soviet artillery and air raids during the Second World War.
GPS: 55.65707, 21.12422
- 6 Kiaulės Nugara Island and Independence.** Kiaulės Nugara is the only island in the Curonian Lagoon. In 2014, the Independence LNG carrier was moored to the island. GPS: 55.66217, 21.13723
- 7 Sea Museum.** The museum is located in Kopgalis Fortress and has a large exhibition on the Baltic and other sea creatures. GPS: 55.71660, 21.09975
- 8 Former Klaipėda Castle.** The history of the City of Klaipėda began here in 1252. Historical exhibitions can be visited in the dungeons of the castle. GPS: 55.70555, 21.12946
- 9 Klaipėda Old Town.** Timber framed houses and the defensive fortifications dating back to the 17th-18th century are the highlights of the Old Town of Klaipėda. GPS: 55.70869, 21.13324
- 10 Birža Bridge and the Meridian ship.** This wooden sailing ship has already become a symbol of the City of Klaipėda. GPS: 55.71007, 21.13347
More places of interest in Klaipėda:
www.klaipedatravel.lt

SERVICES

Accommodations

- 1. Smiltynė Yacht Club Hotel,**
T: +370 66355550; GPS: 55.69729, 21.11933
 - 2. Hotel "Palva",** T: +370 61275134;
GPS: 55.70108, 21.11693
- More accommodation choices in Klaipėda:
www.klaipedatravel.lt

Catering

- 1. Restaurant "Nerija",** T: +370 67021952;
GPS: 55.70412, 21.11422
- 2. Restaurant "Meat lovers",**
T: +370 65221998; GPS: 55.70655, 21.12313

More places to eat in Klaipėda:
www.klaipedatravel.lt



Shops

- Grocery store in Juodkrantė,**
GPS: 55.53609, 21.11688
- "Smilga" in Juodkrantė,**
GPS: 55.54339, 21.12069
- "IKI" in Klaipėda Old Town,**
GPS: 55.70857, 21.13477
- "Maxima",** GPS: 55.71445, 21.12888



Pharmacies

- "Euro vaistinė",** GPS: 55.71445, 21.12888



ATMs

- "Luminor, "Šiaulių bankas",**
GPS: 55.71195, 21.13333
- "SEB",** GPS: 55.71358, 21.13015



Public transport

You can reach any place in the City of *Klaipėda* from the bus stop at *H. Manto* Street. The intercity bus station can be found at *Butky Juzės St. 9* (GPS: 55.71942, 21.13820). From here, you can take buses to *Palanga*, *Šilutė* and other towns. *Klaipėda* City public transport routes and timetables: www.klaipedatransport.lt
Intercity bus timetable: www.autobusubilietai.lt



Rest areas

- 1. "Prie švyturio" in Juodkrantė,** GPS: 55.56084, 21.11339
- 2. "Prie Šulinio" in Smiltynė,** GPS: 55.68832, 21.11132

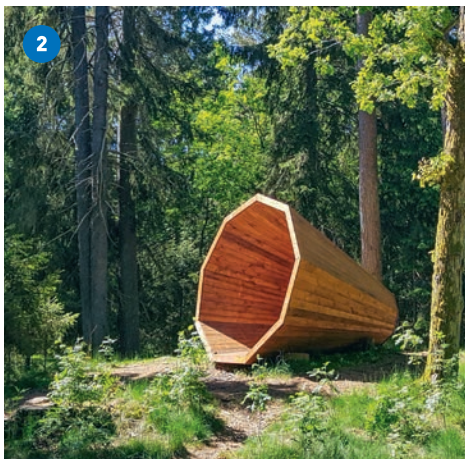
TOURIST INFORMATION



Smiltynė Visitor Center of the Curonian Spit National Park,
Smiltynės st. 11, Smiltynė, www.nerija.lrv.lt,
T: +370 68472641; GPS: 55.70777, 21.11068



Klaipėda Tourist Information Centre,
Turgaus st. 7, Klaipėda,
www.klaipedatravel.lt, T: +370 46412186;
GPS: 55.70825, 21.13358





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASIDE RESORTS

- An evening walk along the Danė River in the Old Town of Klaipėda
- Military heritage sites along the coast of the Baltic Sea
- 24 meters high coastal cliff
- The beautiful pine forests and dunes
- Views of the Baltic Sea from coastal cliffs
- The barefoot walk on the sandy beaches
- The meal on the main pedestrian street of Palanga
- A brilliantly colourful sunset at the old port of Šventoji

LITHUANIA SEASIDE RESORTS



SANDY BEACHES AND LIGHT-FILLED PINE FORESTS

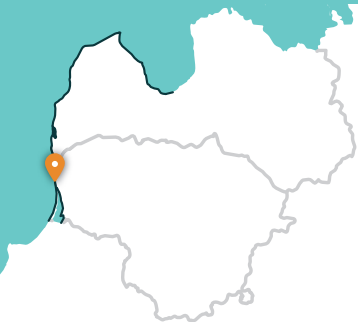
Klaipėda – Palanga –
Lithuanian-Latvian border:
48 km, #67-68

Klaipėda and Palanga are popular seaside cities with the atmosphere of a resort: with taverns, hotels, street-side cafes and musicians. Klaipėda is the only port city and the third largest city in Lithuania. The town of Šventoji located on the coast, where the Šventoji River runs into the Baltic Sea, is also a popular resort. Between Šventoji and Palanga, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route leads through the Seaside Regional Park. The Park was established in order to protect the coastal and maritime landscape, biodiversity and local cultural heritage. The best-known tourist attraction on the coast is the Dutchman's Cap, a bluff reaching more than 20 m that once served as a navigation mark for seafarers and fishermen. Historical heritage sites in the Park include authentic homesteads, as well as coastal defence batteries of the German army from World War II.

The Story of the Seaside resorts

By a legend, the goddess Jūratė fell in love with a young fisherman named Kastytis and took him to her beautiful amber castle under the sea where they were happy together. Perkūnas, the god of thunder, disapproved of her love with a mortal man. He struck the amber castle in rage and it fell apart in innumerable pieces. Since then, after storm, amber is washed ashore the Baltic Sea.





Klaipėda – Palanga

Through the Seaside Regional Park



Following H. Manto Street, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route leads out of the center of Klaipėda, traverses the Klaipėda Recreation Park, crosses a railway line by bridge and comes out onto the coast of the Baltic Sea in the southern part of Melnragė. The trail then winds through the dunes, for the protection of which wooden walkways have been installed, and continues on along a beautiful path through the coastal forest, following at a distance of about 10–20 m the pedestrian/cyclist lane through Antroji Melnragė to Giruliai. At Giruliai, it briefly comes out onto the beach, but from Kukuliškiai to the southern part of Karklė Village, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route first passes along the incredibly beautiful coastline of the former Littorina Sea covered in primeval forest, and later, along a scenic bluff, created by the washing of waves; there are several viewing points along the way (including the Dutchman's Cap). From the Village of Karklė for the next 11 km to the Palanga Botanical Park, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route leads across sandy and pebbly, occasionally rocky beaches. Through the coastal pathways in the western part of the Palanga Botanical Park, the trail leads over to Meilės avenue and then to the Palanga pedestrian bridge. Most of this section of the trail leads through the Seaside Regional Park.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 29 km

⌚ 8–10 h

🚩 Klaipėda, Birža Bridge

🚩 Palanga pedestrian bridge

📍 Klaipėda – Melnragė – Giruliai – Karklė – Palanga

●●●● Hard (in one day),
● Easy (in two days)



Mostly sandy or sandy/pebbly beaches and single-track forest trails, short section of wooden walkways. Pavement with hard surface in Klaipėda and Palanga.



Keep a safe distance from the seaside bluffs. They are soft and can easily collapse under you!



There are nudist beaches between Melnragė and Palanga.



It is worth devoting a day or at least half a day to see Palanga and its environs. The section can be split in half to be done in two days, spending the night at a camp site near Karklė Village.

In the Seaside Regional Park, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route runs along the beach, which is part of a nature reserve. It is prohibited to walk anywhere else than the beach. The territory of the reserve may also be by-passed by the pedestrian-cyclist lane from Karklė to Nemirseta (marked with a brown line on the map).

WORTH SEEING!

- 1 **Klaipėda University Building Complex.** The youngest Lithuanian university was established in the historical buildings of neogothic barracks built in the beginning of the 20th century. GPS: 55.72416, 21.12403
- 2 **Melnragė Pier and the Gates of the Sea.** This is the place where the Curonian Lagoon is connected to the open sea and the ships sail to the port. GPS: 55.73026, 21.08086
- 3 **Melnragė Educational Hiking Trail and Promenade.** In 2020, a new broad wooden trail was built across the dunes of Melnragė seaside. The trail has playgrounds, rest areas and information stands presenting the seaside plants and animals. GPS: 55.732505, 21.087045
- 4 **Memel Nord Military Fortifications.** The German artillery battery from the Second World War has been perfectly preserved. It houses a museum and offers educational programs. GPS: 55.77823, 21.07425
- 5 **Litorina Ecological Educational Trail.** The trail winds along the steep 15-meter-high shores of the sea, revealing beautiful views of the Baltic Sea. GPS: 55.79654, 21.06790
- 6 **The Dutchman's Cap.** You can marvel at the sea, its steep shores and pebble beaches from 24-meter-high cliffs. GPS: 55.79831, 21.06742
- 7 **Fred's Park.** Cairn sculptures in the sea-side. GPS: 55.84729, 21.05962
- 8 **Palanga Manor and Park.** The neo-renaissance manor of Tiškevičiai now serves as Amber Museum. Visitors can take walks in the Botanical Garden with ponds and the promenades among hundred-year-old trees, and visit the Birutė Hill Chapel, Guardhouse and the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes. GPS: 55.90750, 21.05620
- 9 **Palanga Pedestrian Bridge.** This 470-meter-long bridge is the most popular and largely visited spot in Palanga and has become its symbol. GPS: 55.92013, 21.04721
- 10 **J. Basanavičiaus Street in Palanga.** This is the central street and pedestrian boulevard of Palanga City. Many cafes and a variety of other entertainment options are available for visitors during the summer season. GPS: 55.91908, 21.05598

SERVICES

Accommodations

1. Campsite "Palangos kempingas", T: +370 60088811; GPS: 55.87648, 21.06595
2. "Surf hostel", T: +370 65764313; GPS: 55.92276, 21.09066

More accommodation choices in Palanga: www.palangatic.lt

Catering

Restaurants and Cafés in Palanga: www.palangatic.lt

Shops

"Maxima", GPS: 55.73724, 21.09337

Grocery store in Karklė, GPS: 55.80572, 21.07634

Grocery store in Karklė, GPS: 55.81469, 21.07113

More grocery stores and shopping centres are in Klaipėda and Palanga.

Pharmacies

Only in Klaipėda and Palanga.

ATMs

Only in Klaipėda and Palanga.

Public transport

You can reach Karklė from Klaipėda (Universiteto Bust Stop) by taking Bus 24. Timetable: www.trafi.com/lt/klaipeda

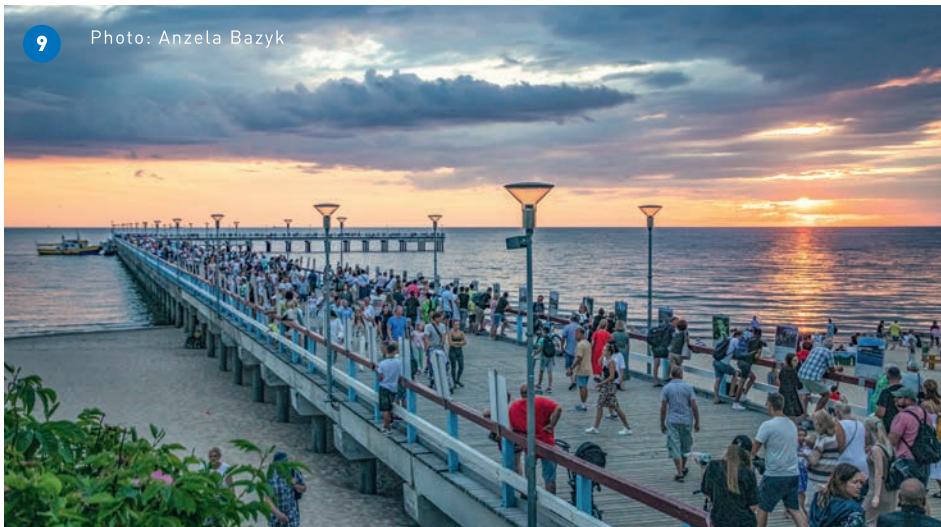
The buses connecting Klaipėda and Palanga run every 20-30 minutes. Timetable: www.naujapalangosautobusustotis.lt

Rest areas

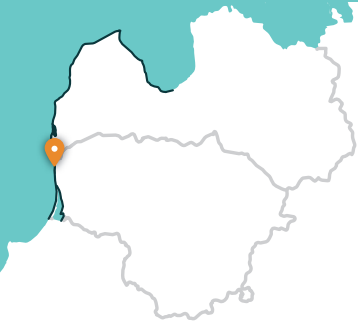
1. Camping and Guesthouse "Karkelbeck No. 409", GPS: 55.80166, 21.07066
2. Karklė Camping, GPS: 55.80651, 21.07163
3. Camp site "KarkleCamp", GPS: 55.80834, 21.07276

TOURIST INFORMATION

Seaside Regional Park Visitor Center, Placio st. 54, Karklė, www.pajuris.info, T: +370 46412483; GPS: 55.80698, 21.07347



9 Photo: Anzela Bazyk



Palanga - Latvia-Lithuania border (Šventoji)

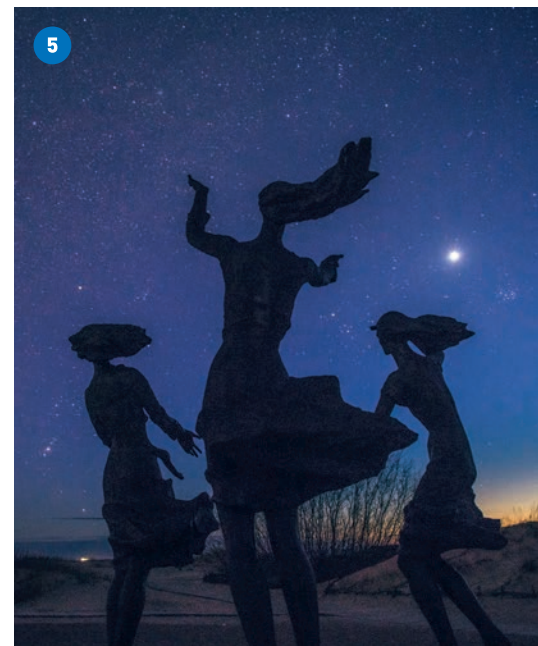
Through the most popular seaside resorts of Lithuania



Having crossed the small Rąžė River, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route follows the Labrytys pedestrian/runners' lane and exits out onto the beach at Kontininkų Street. For the next 9 km to the old Šventoji Pier, the trail leads across the sandy, sea-washed beach. Then it loops around the mouth of the Šventoji River, leads through the resort town, and at the end of Kopų Street it crosses the Šventoji River over a hanging footbridge to come back out onto the beach. At the Žemaičių Alka parking lot, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route makes another small loop "inland" and then follows the sandy beach to the Latvia-Lithuania border 3 km away.




Photo: Anzela Bazyk



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 19 km

 4-6 h

 Palanga pedestrian bridge

 Latvia-Lithuania border

 Palanga - Šventoji - Latvia-Lithuania border

 Easy



Mostly sandy beaches, narrow forest trails. Pavement with a hard surface in Palanga and Šventoji.



Accommodation needs to be booked in advance in the summer season. The accommodation closest to the border is located 2 km away from it

in both directions. The state border along the coastline can be crossed at any time; hikers must always carry valid personal identification documents. There are no services available near the border.



From Šventoji, there is a road (later — a trail) behind the dunes that leads to the state border and can be used in heavy winds.

WORTH SEEING!

- 1 **Palanga.** Palanga is a historical fishermen's village. Its residents made a living out of fishing and amber trade. In the 19th century, Count Tiškevičius and his family came to Palanga and built a manor with a large park and established the first resort health centers. Soon, Palanga became one of the most popular resorts in the Baltic States. GPS: 55.91966, 21.05249
- 2 **Active Leisure and Running Trail "Labrytys".** GPS: 55.92226, 21.05857
- 3 **Edge of the World.** This spot near the Ošupis flowing into the sea has long been called the Edge of the World. People used to believe this was where the world ended. GPS: 55.97892, 21.07146
- 4 **The Old Pier of Šventoji.** The 780-meter-long pier was built in the 1920s at the time that the Šventoji Port was established. GPS: 56.02943, 21.06765
- 5 **Fisherman's Daughters Sculpture.** This impressive composition of 4 meters in height was built in the dunes at the end of the Soviet Era. It depicts three fisherman's daughters who are watching the sea and waiting for their father to come back. The sculpture also has a hidden symbolic meaning as it represents the wait for freedom by the three occupied Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia). GPS: 56.02815, 21.07151
- 6 **Šventoji.** Šventoji is a part of the City of Palanga, an old fishermen's village turned resort town in the 20th century. Live music concerts and many tourist-focused entertainment are available here in the summer. GPS: 56.02983, 21.08122
- 7 **Hanging Bridge across the Šventoji River.** GPS: 56.03622, 21.07459
- 8 **Stone Age Sculpture Park by Health Center "Energetikas".** GPS: 56.03785, 21.07572
- 9 **Samogitian Sanctuary.** This is a pagan sanctuary that has been reconstructed near Šventoji. It has a paleo astronomical observatory and wooden totems of Baltic gods made by craftsmen. As the sun sinks into the sea, the totems show the Baltic calendar festivals. GPS: 56.04100, 21.07449

SERVICES

 **Accommodations**

1. **Summer recreation center "Energetikas",** T: +370 61125095; GPS: 56.03117, 21.07550
 2. **Hotel "Jūros vila",** T: +370 67527272; GPS: 56.02957, 21.08004
 3. **Hotel "Vila Tante",** T: +370 61314415; GPS: 56.03108, 21.08288
- More accommodation choices in Palanga and Šventoji: www.palangatic.lt

 **Catering**

1. **Restaurant "Du malūnai",** T: +370 69999174; GPS: 56.02975, 21.08356
 2. **Restaurant "Titanikas",** T: +370 69999174; GPS: 56.03054, 21.08031
 3. **Pizzeria "Pica pas Leo",** GPS: 56.03187, 21.07931
- More places to eat in Palanga and Šventoji: www.palangatic.lt

 **Shops**

- "IKI", GPS: 56.03000, 21.08483
- "Maxima", GPS: 56.02971, 21.08580
- "Aibė", GPS: 56.01674, 21.07857

 **Pharmacies**

- "Gintarinė vaistinė", GPS: 56.03000, 21.08483


 **ATMs**

- "SEB", GPS: 56.03000, 21.08483

 **Public transport**

The buses connecting Šventoji, Klaipėda and Palanga run 4 times a day. Timetable: www.autobusubilietai.lt
Šventoji – Palanga bus timetable: www.naujapalangosautobusustotis.lt

 **Rest areas**

1. **Rest area near Šventoji,**  GPS: 56.03682, 21.12195

TOURIST INFORMATION


-  **Palanga Tourist Information Center,** Vytauto st. 94, Palanga, www.palangatic.lt, T: +370 46048811; GPS: 55.918001, 21.067109



Photo: Anzela Bazyk



Photo: Anzela Bazyk



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEMUNAS DELTA

- Wildlife in the Rusnė meadows
- The polder dikes of the Nemunas Delta
- Colourful, richly decorated wooden buildings in the Village of Rusnė
- The light of the Uostadvaris lighthouse
- The ancient streets and bridges of the historical Town of Šilutė
- The wetlands of the Nemunas Delta featuring marshes and ponds
- Vast views of lowlands and waters at Kintai and Mingės village

LITHUANIA

NEMUNAS DELTA



BIRDWATCHING IN THE FLOOD-MEADOWS OF THE NEMUNAS DELTA

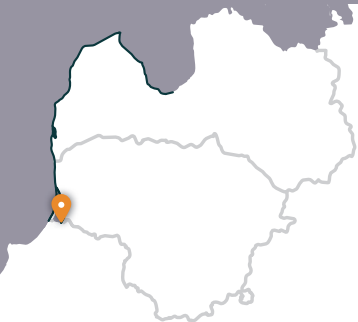
Rusnė – Ventė:
59 km, #69-71

Rusnė Island in the Nemunas Delta Regional Park is surrounded by the waters of the Nemunas River and its distributaries. Migrating birds stop to rest here, and it is home to a colony of great cormorants. The area of the island is 45 km², it is connected to the mainland by a bridge. Rusnė Island is famous in Lithuania for being located below sea level. The historical centre of Rusnė features authentic wooden architecture, brightly coloured buildings with multi-coloured window shutters and decorations. The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route leads through the village of Šilutė, which features the architectural style characteristic of East Prussia. From Šilutė to Kintai the trail follows a low flatland, which is protected from the floodwaters of the Nemunas Delta by polders — a system of dams and canals. Not far from Kintai, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route crosses the Minija River, the banks of which are home to an ethnographic village (Mingės). Here, a seaside lowland landscape expands before the eye with vast wetlands and ponds.

The Story of the Nemunas Delta

These lands are the lowest in Lithuania. The state drained the land plots in the 18th-19th century to establish farming colonies here. The people from Minor Lithuania historical region and Lithuania came here to get some land of their own and also people from Prussia (Germany) were sent here by the government to germanise this territory. These colonists, called “swamp people” had to work hard to fight huge floods every year.





Rusnė Island

Rusnė Island — excellent location
for wildlife observation



The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route starts in the village of Rusnė on Rusnė Island. The trail leads through Neringos Street and K. Jukštaičio Street out into Rusnė Village beachside walkway extending along the Pakalnė River — one of the biggest distributaries of the Nemunas Delta. The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route further leads through the small port of Rusnė snaking through the polder dikes of Rusnė over to the village of Pakalnė, providing wonderful views along the way of the colourful architecture of the island and the willow trees overhanging the Pakalnė waters. After the Village of Pakalnė, up until Uostadvaris Lighthouse, the route mostly follows the Rusnė polder dikes, which enclose and interweave the low island (there is a spot on the island that is below sea level) to protect it from flooding. From the lighthouse to the village of Rusnė, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route goes along the side of a paved road (except in the village of Uostadvaris, where the trail follows the polder dike on the bank of the Atmata River). In the village of Rusnė, the trail follows Kuršmarių Street and Taikos Street back to its starting point. Rusnė Island is located inside the Nemunas Delta Regional Park. The polder dikes are excellent for observing wildlife in the low flatlands — roe deer, elk and birds during spring and autumn migration can be seen here.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 23 km

🕒 5–8 h

🏰 Rusnė Evangelical Lutheran Church

📍 Rusnė – Pakalnė – Uostadvaris – Šyškrantė – Rusnė

🚶 Medium



Gravel roads and footpaths over the Rusnė polders. Approximately 10 km of paved road between the Villages of Uostadvaris and Rusnė.



Exercise caution when walking on the side of the road!




Observe the wildlife, but do not disturb it!



The route can be done in either direction. It is worth walking through the tiny streets of Rusnė Village to see its beautiful two-storey wooden buildings with tile roofs and elaborate ornaments. It is possible to travel from Uostadvaris to Nida on the Curonian Spit by boat: www.mingeskaimas.lt/en/

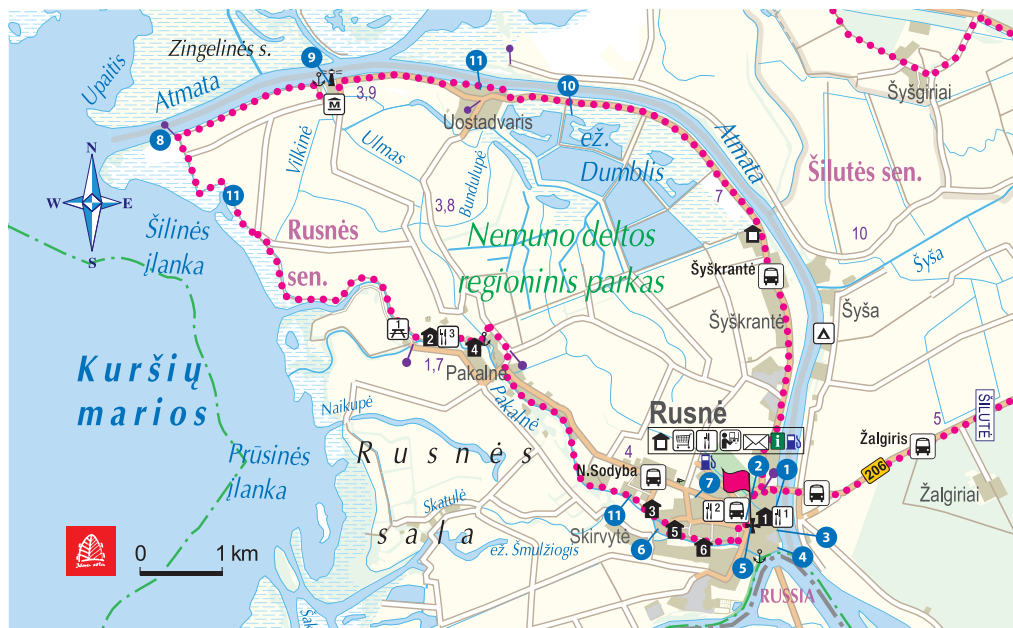
WORTH SEEING!

- 1  **Rusnė.** The Atmata and the Skirvytė are two arms of the Nemunas that surround Rusnė Island, where wildlife and migrating birds are abundant. Rusnė Town, established in the 15th century, is one of the oldest settlements in the Nemunas Delta. It is also the only Lithuanian town built on an island. GPS: 55.29805, 21.37457
- 2 **Rusnė Old Bridge and Pier Spot.** GPS: 55.29831, 21.38023
- 3 **Monument to Mahatma Gandhi and Hermann Kallenbach.** Hermann Kallenbach, born to a Jewish family living in Rusnė, was a loyal friend and comrade of Mahatma Gandhi. GPS: 55.29718, 21.38058
- 4 **The Panorama of the Russian Federation.** The Skirvytė is the arm of the Nemunas and also the border between Lithuania and Kaliningrad belonging to the Russian Federation. The other shore of the river is the territory of Russia. GPS: 55.29532, 21.38108
- 5 **Rusnė Evangelical Lutheran Church.** GPS: 55.29759, 21.37541
- 6 **Rusnė Hanging Bridge.** GPS: 55.29660, 21.35747
- 7 **Nemunas Delta Regional Park Visitor Center.** The Nemunas Delta is known for its spring floods, which attract many bird watchers and nature lovers. The Visitor Center presents the unique nature of this area. GPS: 55.30049, 21.36484
- 8 **Rusnė Observation Tower.** This 30-meter-high tower is built in 2022. GPS: 55.33704, 21.25949
- 9 **Uostadvaris Lighthouse.** The red brick lighthouse was built in the second half of the 19th century. GPS: 55.34411, 21.29146
- 10 **Aquaculture ponds.** This spot is a favorite of all water birds and a home to one of the largest colonies of white herons and cormorants in Lithuania. GPS: 55.34184, 21.33828
- 11 **Polder dikes.** The polder system of the Nemunas Delta was formed in the beginning of the 20th century to prevent flooding of the local settlements. GPS: 55.30046, 21.35245; GPS: 55.34423, 21.32082; GPS: 55.33120, 21.27357

SERVICES

 Accommodations

1. Guest house "Prie Peterso tilto", T: +370 61886260; GPS: 55.29810, 21.37940
2. "Rusne villa", T: +370 65297333; GPS: 55.31667, 21.31319
3. Homestead "Rusnietis", T: +370 69934193; GPS: 55.29867, 21.35662
4. Homestead "Pakalnės vingis", T: +370 68630530; GPS: 55.31582, 21.32137
5. Homestead "Žvejo sodyba Rusnėje", T: +370 69838245; GPS: 55.29659, 21.36092
6. Homestead "Skirvytėlė", T: +370 65230980; GPS: 55.29460, 21.36689

 Catering

1. Restaurant "Prie Peterso tilto", T: +370 61886260; GPS: 55.29810, 21.37940
2. Tavern "Rusnės užkandinė", T: +370 67248659; GPS: 55.29918, 21.37369
3. Restaurant "Rusne villa", T: +370 65297333; GPS: 55.31667, 21.31319

 Shops

- "Grizlis", GPS: 55.29898, 21.37357
 "Rusnelė", GPS: 55.29806, 21.37406

 Pharmacies

Only in Šilutė.

 ATMs

Rusnė has no ATM but visitors can get cash at the local store "Grizlis".
 GPS: 55.29898, 21.37357

 Public transport

The buses connecting Šilutė, Rusnė and Uostadvaris run several times a day. Timetable: www.silutesautobusai.lt
 The bus connecting Klaipėda, Šilutė and Rusnė runs once per day. Timetable: web.trafi.com/lt/klaipeda
 A ferry is available from Uostadvaris to Nida during the summer season. Ferry tickets and timetable: www.mingeskaimas.lt/en

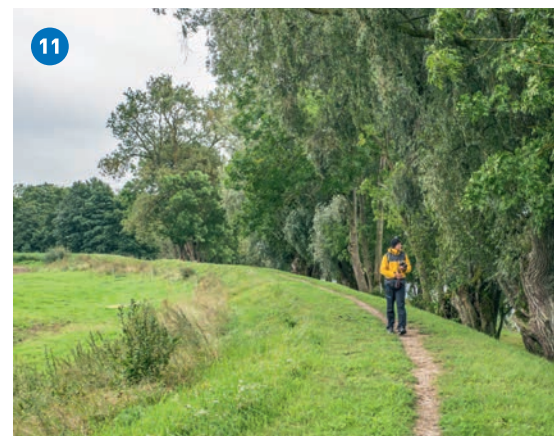
 Rest areas

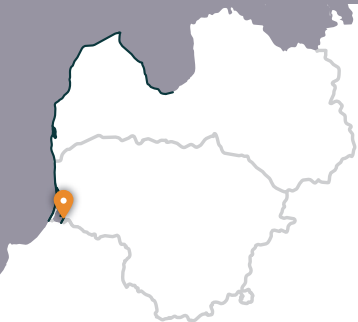
1. Rest area,  GPS: 55.31772, 21.30631

TOURIST INFORMATION

 **Nemunas Delta Regional Park Visitor Center,** Kuršmarių st. 13, Rusnė, www.nemunodelta.lt, T: +370 44175050; GPS: 55.30056, 21.36513

 **Island Ethnic Culture and Information Center,** Neringos st. 7, Rusnė, T: +370 44150010; GPS: 55.29623, 21.37756



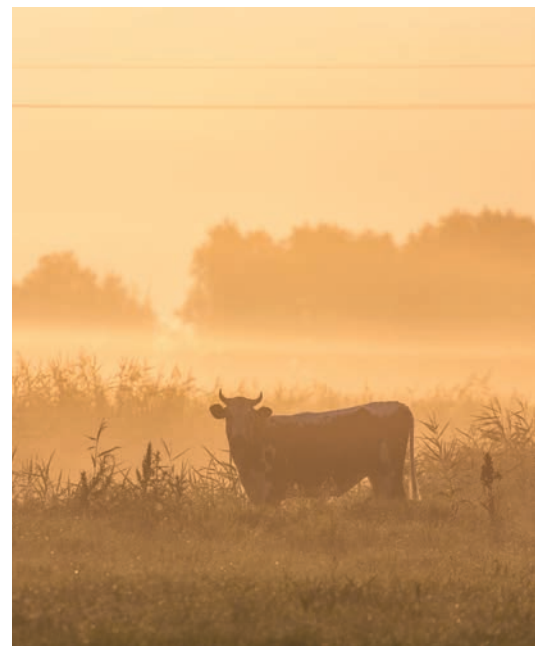


Rusnė – Šilutė

Šilutė – a charming authentic town



In the Village of Rusnė, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route follows Taikos Street and Kuršmarių Street, crossing the Atmata River, a distributary of the Nemunas Delta, over the Rusnė Bridge. Then the trail follows the side of the road as a separate lane, continuing on to Šilutė. Shortly before reaching Šilutė, hikers will have to walk on the side of the road. In Šilutė, you will cross the historical bridge over the Šyša River. Rusnė Street, which connects Rusnė Island and Šilutė, brings you right into the center of the town. Up until Šilutė, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route leads through the Nemunas Delta Regional Park where vast areas of the lower reaches of the Nemunas River flood in springtime — today these areas are agricultural land and swamp forests (Žalgiriai Forest).



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 9 km

⌚ 2–3 h

🚩 Rusnė Evangelical Lutheran Church

🚩 Tourist Information Office in the center of Šilutė

📍 Rusnė – Žalgiriai – Slažai – Šilutė

🟦 Easy

🚶 Mostly pedestrian lanes, all hard surface: pavement and cobblestones.

⚠️ Be careful when walking on the side of the road and crossing the Atmata River (an arm of the Nemunas Delta).

🚏 There is an intercity bus service between Rusnė and Šilutė.

🗺️ It is worth taking a walk around Šilutė to see its cultural heritage.

WORTH SEEING!

- 1 **Rusnė Bridge across the Nemunas (Atmata).** GPS: 55.30170, 21.38143
- 2 **Overhead road over flooded meadows.** In 2020, a new overhead road was opened above the meadows flooded in the Nemunas Delta. In springtime, flooded meadows and forests can be seen from here. GPS: 55.30782, 21.41006
- 3 **Žalgiriai Educational Trail.** Žalgiriai Village dating back to the end of the 19th century was the largest colony of marshland residents. The history of this unique settlement and interesting facts about local nature are presented in the 2-km-long trail. GPS: 55.31485, 21.43358
- 4 **Observation Tower.** GPS: 55.31950, 21.44767
- 5 **K. Grinius Bridge over flooded meadows.** The bridge was built in 1926 and named after the President of those times. It is one of the most complex and awe-inspiring bridges constructed during the interwar period in Lithuania. GPS: 55.32302, 21.45384
- 6 **Šilutė H. Scheu Manor and Museum.** The history of Šilutė started with this manor. GPS: 55.34069, 21.46018
- 7 **Secrets of Šilutė.** The walkway of Lietuvininkų Street hides unique glass-paned miniature rooms with fragments of the lives once passed in the historical houses of Šilutė from the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century. GPS: 55.34173, 21.46350
- 8 **Metal bridge across the Šyša.** The bridge across the Šyša River was constructed in 1914. It is an urbanistic monument of the Old Town. GPS: 55.34104, 21.45897
- 9 **Old Market Square.** This was the most important place of the entire town right until the Second World War. This is where weekly markets and fairs were held. The first tavern that started the expansion of Šilutė was built near the Market Square. GPS: 55.34252, 21.45813
- 10 **Šilutė Wall.** The entire history of the town is depicted on a 500-meter-long wall of a furniture manufacturing facility. It contains the most important events and prominent local figures. GPS: 55.34345, 21.45967

SERVICES

Accommodations

1. Hotel "Gilija", T: +370 44161641; GPS: 55.34229, 21.47379
 2. Hotel "Deims", T: +370 44152345; GPS: 55.34391, 21.47636
 3. Guest house "Liepa", T: +370 61603050; GPS: 55.34074, 21.46580
 4. Guest house "Verdainė", T: +370 634 68628; GPS: 55.33667, 21.50502
- More accommodation choices in Šilutė:
www.siluteinfo.lt

Catering

1. Canteen "Šyša", T: +370 44178326; GPS: 55.34240, 21.45949
 2. Bar "Klumpė", T: +370 44143402; GPS: 55.34962, 21.46552
 3. Restaurant "Gilija", T: +370 44161641; GPS: 55.34229, 21.47379
- More Restaurants and Cafés:
www.siluteinfo.lt

Shops

- "Čia market", GPS: 55.34387, 21.45719
 "Maxima", GPS: 55.34280, 21.46933
 "Lidl", GPS: 55.34407, 21.48453
 "IKI", GPS: 55.35045, 21.46197

Pharmacies

- "Euro vaistinė", GPS: 55.34280, 21.46932
 "Marių vaistinė", GPS: 55.34450, 21.47764
 "Gintarinė vaistinė", GPS: 55.35045, 21.46197


ATMs

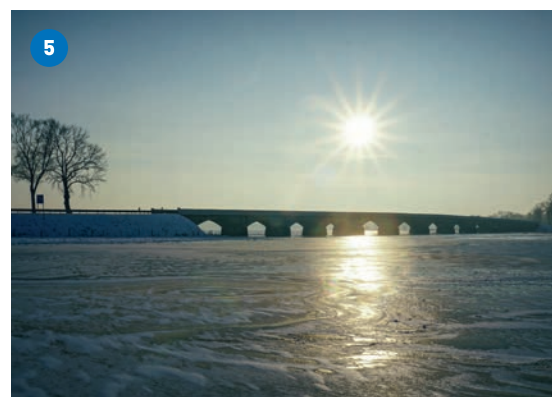
- "Luminor", GPS: 55.35045, 21.46197
 "Luminor", "Swedbank", GPS: 55.34309, 21.47213

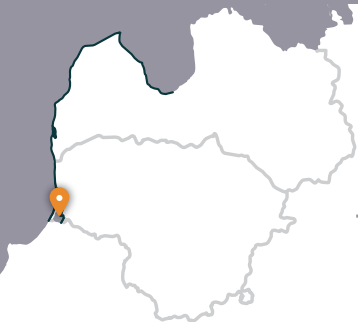
Public transport

Buses run from Šilutė Bus Station to Klaipėda and Rusnė.
 Timetable: <http://silutesautobusai.lt>

TOURIST INFORMATION

-  Šilutė Tourist Information Center,
 Lietuvininkų st. 4, Šilutė,
 www.siluteinfo.lt, T: +370 44177785;
 GPS: 55.34098, 21.46026





Šilutė – Ventė

Through Nemunas Delta Regional Park



Along Klaipėdos Street and Aukštumalės Street, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route leaves the town of Šilutė in the direction of Kintai (Road No. 4217), briefly following the top of the polder dike (offering a good view of the Nemunas Delta lowland which floods in springtime), it then snakes along a rural road and returns back on to Aukštumalės Street (Road No. 4217). After less than 6 km, at the intersection in the Village of Rūgailiai the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route loops leftward towards Minija, and after 1.5 km it bears right, returning back on to the Šilutė–Kintai road. The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route crosses the Minija River and the Kintai Carp Lakes over a high and long bridge. From here, you will have one of the most spectacular views of the Lithuanian coastline with an expansive panorama of lowlands and waters. Before reaching the Village of Povilai, the trail turns left, leading through agricultural land for about 5 km where birds can be observed during migration season. Then the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route turns on to a beachside road (Marių Street, Road No. 2201) which leads to the Ventė Cape 5 km away. This scenic section of the route offers expansive views of the Curonian Spit across the Curonian Lagoon (the width of the gulf here is 8–9 km). Hikers can also enjoy the former fishing villages with their colourful, decorated buildings. This section of the trail is part of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 27 km

🕒 7–9 h

🚩 Tourist Information Office in the center of Šilutė

🚩 Ventė cape

📍 🗺️ Šilutė – Šyšgiriai – Rūgailiai – Povilai – Stankiškiiai – Šturmai – Ventė

●●● Hard (in one day),
● Easy (in two days)



Mostly paved roads, also gravel roads



Exercise caution when walking on the side of the road!



The section can be split in half: reaching the Kintai Carp Lakes (16 km) or the Village of Minija (Mingė) on the first day, and continuing on to the Ventė Cape (11 km) on the next day. Minija village is known for its unique architecture and its main road, dubbed the “Venice of Lithuania”. It is possible to cross the river by boat (only in summer) to reach the other part of the village. The hike along the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route can be resumed on the following day.

WORTH SEEING!

- 1 Polder dikes.** The polder system of the Nemunas Delta was formed in the beginning of the 20th century to prevent flooding of the local settlements. GPS: 55.35157, 21.42359
- 2 Aukštumala Educational Trail.** The 1200-meter-long trail winds through Kūlgrinda (a hidden underwater stony road) dating back to the 18th century and connecting several marshland villages. Information stands and observation decks along the trail present interesting information about the raised bog telmological reserve. GPS: 55.38790, 21.35249
- 3 Krokai Observation Tower.** GPS: 55.37768, 21.31097
- 4 Bridge over the Minija.** GPS: 55.39787, 21.28688
- 5 Mingė Village.** This unique village in the Nemunas Delta has been dubbed the "Venice of Lithuania". Since long ago, people have used the river as the main road. Tours across the Nemunas Delta and the Curonian Spit and a ferry to Nida are available during the summer season. GPS: 55.36343, 21.28337
- 6 Kintai Carp Lakes.** The lakes are home to brooding terns and other water birds. White-tailed eagles can also be seen circling above the lakes. GPS: 55.39206, 21.26522
- 7 Ventė Cape Lighthouse and Ornithological Station.** One of the largest bird migration routes goes through Ventė Cape. About 200 thousand birds pass by Ventė every day. The Ornithological Station has bird traps that are the largest in Europe, including zigzag traps of original design. These traps are used to catch birds no matter the weather conditions all year

round. The staff of the Ornithological Station ring about 60 to 80 thousand birds per year. GPS: 55.34147, 21.19040

SERVICES

Accommodations

- 1. Camping, guest house "Ventainė",** T: +370 68670490; GPS: 55.35596, 21.20511
- 2. Suites "Ventės poilsis",** T: +370 63372325; GPS: 55.35817, 21.20747
- 3. Villa "Šturmų švityrys",** T: +370 65090139; GPS: 55.36384, 21.21278
- 4. Šturmų homestead,** T: +370 69453255; GPS: 55.36899, 21.21675
- 5. Guest house "Kintai",** T: +370 61672402; GPS: 55.39999, 21.28635

Catering

- 1. Restaurant "Ventainė",** T: +370 68670490; GPS: 55.35596, 21.20511
- 2. Restaurant "Šturmų švityrys",** T: +370 65090139; GPS: 55.36384, 21.21278
- 3. Summer Café,** T: +370 69453255; GPS: 55.36899, 21.21675
- 4. Restobar "Kintai",** T: +370 61672402; GPS: 55.39999, 21.28635

Shops

"Aibė", T: +370 44169067; GPS: 55.34528, 21.19372

Pharmacies

Only in Šilutė and Klaipėda.

ATMs

Only in Šilutė and Klaipėda.

Public transport

No public buses pass by Ventė Cape. However, a bus runs from Kintai to Priekulė twice a day. You can easily reach Klaipėda and Šilutė from Priekulė. Timetables: web.trafi.com/lt/klaipeda Ferries go from Ventė Cape (Ventainė) to Nida during the summer season. Route and timetables: www.ventaine.lt/en/ferrytonida Ferries also go from Minija Village to Nida and Rusnė Island during the summer season. Timetable: www.mingeskaimas.lt/en

TOURIST INFORMATION

Šilutė Tourist Information Center, Lietuvininkų st. 4, Šilutė, www.siluteinfo.lt, T: +370 44177785; GPS: 55.34098, 21.46026



HIGHLIGHTS OF COASTLINE OF CURONIAN LAGOON

- Birdwatching at Ventė Cape during spring or autumn migration
- Breath-taking views of the Curonian Spit sands across the Curonian Lagoon
- The small gulf ports and popular surfing locations
- Smoked fish huts along the coast of the Curonian Lagoon
- The historical King Wilhelm Canal
- The green parks of Klaipėda



LITHUANIA COASTLINE OF CURONIAN LAGOON



COASTAL LANDSCAPES, FISHING VILLAGES AND KLAIPĖDA

Ventė – Dreverna – Klaipėda:
50 km, #72-73

Ventė Cape is home to an ornithological station with a small lighthouse, from which the waters of the Curonian Lagoon can be seen. Tourism infrastructure is developing in the coastal towns as this is a popular wind-surfing location. The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route winds through Dreverna, a former fishing village with a marina and camp site. For the next 10 km the trail follows an industrial heritage site — King Wilhelm Canal built in the 1860s and 1870s and named in honour of then reigning German Emperor Wilhelm I. From Klaipėda hikers can take a ferry to the Curonian Spit where the popular Sea Museum and Dolphinarium is located. Klaipėda (historically called Memel) was once part of East Prussia and was thus influenced by German culture. Klaipėda old town is unique with the geometrical precision of its planning with all intersections being perfect right angles.

The Story of the Curonian Lagoon

To control the fishery in the Curonian Lagoon a system of signs was developed in the middle of the 19th century to identify the fishing boats. Wooden weathervanes were attached to the top of a boat's mast in order to show the district where the fishermen came from. Later the fishermen started to decorate weathervanes with other elements that represented their village, family or wealth. These weathervanes turned into a specific folk art that is a typical heritage of the Curonian Lagoon settlements.





Ventė – Dreverna

Along the eastern coast of the Curonian Lagoon



From the Ventė Cape the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route goes down Marių Street (Road No. 2201) towards Klaipėda. The coastal scenery comes to life with colourful buildings featuring abundant wood decorations. Some of these house accommodation and catering establishments. After 5 km, the trail turns off towards the Curonian Lagoon and continues on along a narrow coastal trail through a mire forest. There are rest spots and watchtowers providing beautiful views of the Curonian sand dunes about 8–10 km away. Having made a loop of about 3 km, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route returns to its previous course, and reaches the centre of the Village of Kintai in about 2 km, where it is worth taking the time to see its architectural heritage. After Kintai, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route leads through 5 km of beautiful, pine covered dunes. 3 km before the Village of Dreverna the trail crosses Svencelė, Lithuania's most popular wind-surfing and kite-surfing locale. The place is bustling with resort development as new, alternative tourist accommodations, camp sites and catering establishments are being built. In the Village of Dreverna, the trail turns off on Bangų Street. It is worth going down to the Dreverna port, from where the majestic Curonian Spit can be seen across the Curonian Lagoon.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

••••• 23 km

⌚ 6–8 h

🚩 Ventė Cape

🚩 J.Gižas ethnographic homestead in Dreverna

📍🚩 Ventė – Šturmai – Kintai – Svencelė – Dreverna

🟩 Easy

🌳 Mostly paved and gravel roads, single-track forest trails

⚠️ Exercise caution when walking on the side of the road!

⚠️ In the high season, you can take a boat from the Dreverna port across the Curonian Lagoon to Juodkrantė.



WORTH SEEING!

- 1** Kintai Forest Educational and Recreational Trail. The trail winding along the lagoon gives spectacular views of the stretching lagoon and the Curonian Spit on the other side. GPS: 55.38215, 21.22811
- 2** Kintai Observation Tower. GPS: 55.41697, 21.25009
- 3** Kintai. Kintai Village is renowned for its fishing and maritime traditions. An evangelical Lutheran church dating back to the 18th century can be found in the center of the town. The famous Lithuanian writer and philosopher Vydūnas lived and worked in Kintai from 1888 to 1892. GPS: 55.41952, 21.26272
- 4** Kintai Port. GPS: 55.42505, 21.25136
- 5** Svencelė is the favorite sport for kitesurfing and surfing. Here, people can relax, have meals and rest in campsites or small houses. GPS: 55.49338, 21.24724
- 6** Dreverna Observation Tower. GPS: 55.51616, 21.23370
- 7** Dreverna Wharf. GPS: 55.51773, 21.23664
- 8** J. Gižas Ethnographic Homestead. The renovated ethnographic fisherman's homestead of J. Gižas has an exhibition of the sailing boats, weathervanes, local customs and household items of the residents of the Curonian Spit. You can try your hand at using various tools of a ship builder or make yourself a unique weathervane. GPS: 55.51750, 21.24013
- 9** Dreverna. This historical town has been known since the 13th century as a fishermen's village and has deeply rooted fishing and maritime traditions. GPS: 55.51795, 21.24120

SERVICES

Accommodations

- 1. Hotel "Svencelė",**
T: +370 65514441;
GPS: 55.49350, 21.24595
 - 2. Tourist Camp "Surfhouse Summer Camp",** T: +370 65524355;
GPS: 55.49886, 21.24427
 - 3. Tourist Camp "Nendrių paslaptis",**
T: +370 60161898;
GPS: 55.51690, 21.23652
 - 4. Camping "Dreverna",**
T: +370 60480108;
GPS: 55.51630, 21.23391
- More accommodation choices:
www.klaipedosrajonas.lt

Catering

- 1. Kintai snack bar,**
T: +370 68123011; GPS: 55.42450, 21.26523
- 2. Bar "Meat Lovers",** T: +370 61318108;
GPS: 55.493603, 21.245746
- 3. Café–restaurant "Dreverna",**
T: +370 64833399; GPS: 55.51756, 21.23652
- 4. Cafe "Skalvija Dreverna",**
T: +370 64000285; GPS: 55.51990, 21.24662

Shops

- "Šilutės prekyba" in Kintai,
GPS: 55.41714, 21.26158
- "Aibė" in Dreverna,
GPS: 55.52010, 21.24634

Pharmacies

Only in Šilutė and Klaipėda.

ATMs

Only in Šilutė and Klaipėda.

Public transport

A bus runs from Kintai to Priekulė twice a day. You can easily reach Klaipėda and Šilutė from Priekulė. Timetables: web.trafi.com/lt/klaipeda

Rest areas

- 1. Kintai resting place,**
GPS: 55.45763, 21.26429
- 2. Rest area on the educational trail,**
GPS: 55.40093, 21.23861
- 3. Rest area on the educational trail,**
GPS: 55.38215, 21.22795
- 4. Kintai rest area,**
GPS: 55.43590, 21.26700

TOURIST INFORMATION

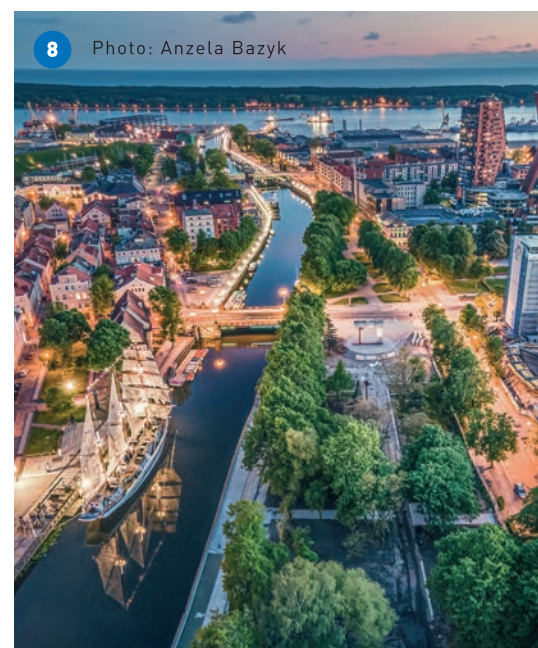
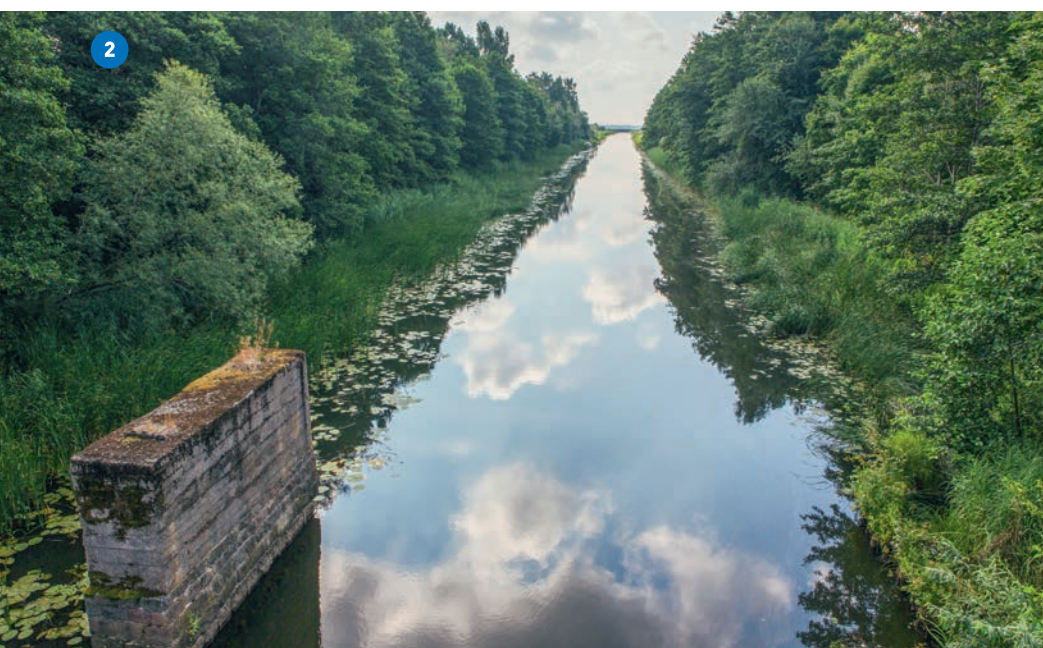
J. Gižas Ethnographic Homestead, Branch of Klaipėda District Tourist Information Center, Žvejų st. 13, Dreverna, www.klaipedosrajonas.lt, T: +370 64823198; GPS: 55.51750, 21.24013

Dreverna – Klaipėda

Along King Wilhelm Canal to Klaipėda



From the Village of Dreverna, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route follows the Priekulė Road (No. 2206) to cross the Dreverna River, the Klišupė River and the King Wilhelm Canal, after which it turns off to the left, and for the next 9 km it leads through a lush tree-lined lane along the eastern bank of the historical canal. Along the way there are various rest spots and tourist information stands explaining the diversity of the local natural environment. The trail reaches Kairių Street 4 km later, and the next section of the trail leads through an urban area. From Jūrininkų Prospektas to Baltijos Prospektas, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route leads through city parks, crossing the footpaths of Reform Movement (Sąjūdžio), Reykjavík, Friendship (Draugystės) and other parks. Having crossed Baltijos Prospektas, the trail follows the pedestrian lanes of Taikos Prospektas, reaching Birža Bridge 3 km later.





8 Photo: Anzela Bazyk


PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 27 km

 7–9 h

 J. Gižas ethnographic home-
stead in Dreverna

 Klaipėda, Birža bridge

 Dreverna – King Wilhelm
Canal – Klaipėda

 Hard



Paved, gravel and dirt roads.



Exercise caution when walking on the side of the road! Be careful when crossing streets and major roads!



There is a military site located in the northern part of the west bank of King Wilhelm Canal (nearer to Klaipėda) — this is a restricted access area, where visitors may only use specifically marked roads. Services available in Dreverna and Klaipėda.



Public transport and taxis may be used in Klaipėda. A tour of Klaipėda and the northern part of the Curonian Spit (Kopgalis), including the Sea Museum requires a full day. Pedestrians can take the Old Ferry from the city centre to the Curonian Spit (Smiltynė). From Dreverna, you can ferry across to Juodkrantė and continue on to Klaipėda along the Curonian Spit section of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route (1 day hike, see description of section No. 66).

WORTH SEEING!

- 1** Wilderness Hiking Trail.
GPS: 55.53731, 21.24796
- 2** Wilhelm (Klaipėda) Canal. The 27-kilometer-long channel was built from 1863 to 1873 and connected Klaipėda Port and Minija directly. GPS: 55.57385, 21.22091
- 3** Remains of drawbridge.
GPS: 55.61310, 21.19106
- 4** Klaipėda. This is the third largest city of Lithuania and a seaport, where the Curonian Lagoon connects with the Baltic Sea. GPS: 55.70678, 21.13911
- 5** Reform Movement Park. The Reform Movement (Lith. Sajūdižio) Park was established to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Reform Movement of Lithuania. In 2018, the park was renovated to suit the needs of active leisure lovers, e.g., roller skaters, skateboarders, gymnasts and runners. Cycling and hiking trails are available in the park. GPS: 55.66015, 21.18660
- 6** Friendship Park.
GPS: 55.67918, 21.18079
- 7** John's Hill. In 17th century, the city was fortified with Dutch-style fortifications: 3.5-meter-high ramparts and bastions were built, and defensive moats (fosses) were dug. Based on their size, these fortifications are categorized as a great royal fortress. GPS: 55.70872, 21.13814
- 8** Klaipėda Old Town. Here, you can discover architecture inherent to German towns and old stone-paved streets. GPS: 55.70869, 21.13324
- 9** Birža Bridge and Meridian. This wooden sailing ship moored on the left bank of the Dangė has already become a symbol of the City of Klaipėda. GPS: 55.71007, 21.13347
More places of interest in Klaipėda:
www.klaipedatravel.lt

SERVICES

Accommodations

- 1.** Klaipėda hostel,
T: +370 65594407; GPS: 55.71914, 21.13662
 - 2.** Guest house "Kubu",
T: +370 65052311; GPS: 55.71794, 21.12669
 - 3.** Hotel "Amberton Klaipėda",
T: +370 46404372; GPS: 55.71097, 21.13001
 - 4.** Hotel "Old Mill",
T: +370 46219215; GPS: 55.70662, 21.12668
 - 5.** "National hotel",
T: +370 46211111; GPS: 55.70853, 21.13133
 - 6.** Guest house "Simon Dach House",
T: +370 46311481; GPS: 55.71038, 21.12616
- More accommodation choices in Klaipėda:
www.klaipedatravel.lt

Catering

- 1.** Cafés, pizzerias and restaurants in shopping center "Akropolis",
GPS: 55.69238, 21.15443
- 2.** "IQ baras",
T: +370 69998540; GPS: 55.70815, 21.13596



Shops

Only in Dreverna and Klaipėda.



Pharmacies

Only in Klaipėda.



ATMs

Only in Klaipėda.



Public transport

The bus from Dreverna to Klaipėda runs only once per day on business days. Timetable: web.trafi.com/lt/klaipeda
More public transport routes to Klaipėda

- 3.** Restaurant "Meat lovers",
T: +370 65221998; GPS: 55.70655, 21.12313
 - 4.** Cafe-bar "Senamiestis",
T: +370 64414461; GPS: 55.70919, 21.13384
- More places to eat in Klaipėda:
www.klaipedatravel.lt



Rest areas

- 1.** Rest area, GPS: 55.61052, 21.19533
- 2.** Rest area, GPS: 55.53733, 21.24824

TOURIST INFORMATION



J. Gižas Ethnographic Homestead, Branch of Klaipėda District Tourist Information Center, Žvejų st. 13, Dreverna, www.klaipedosrajonas.lt, T: +370 64823198; GPS: 55.51750, 21.24013



Klaipėda Tourist Information Center, Turgaus st. 7, Klaipėda, www.klaipedatravel.lt, T: +370 46412186; GPS: 55.70825, 21.13358



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GREAT WAVE SEA

- Bluffs
- Sparsely populated areas
- Almost untouched nature
- Quiet beaches
- The white singing sand
- Amber
- Sunsets
- Fishing villages
- Lighthouses
- Liepāja, Karosta (War Port) in Liepāja and Ventspils
- Slītere National Park
- The heritage of the smallest ethnic minority in the world, the Livonians

LATVIA

THE GREAT WAVE SEA



THE WEST COAST OF LATVIA ON THE BALTIC SEA

Nida – Kolka: 270 km, #1-15

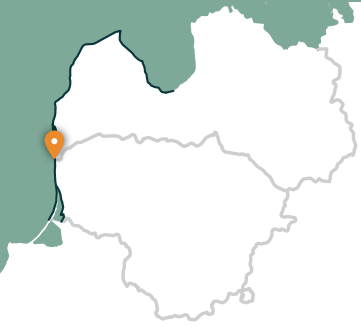
The Baltic Sea littoral on the West coast of Kurzeme is called the Great Wave Sea. From the Latvian-Lithuanian border until Cape Kolka, the coast is mostly sandy. While the Great Wave Sea section is the least populated coastal area in Latvia, at the same time, the third biggest city in Latvia, Liepāja, is also located there. Bluffs rise before your eyes on the seacoast between Pāvilosta and Sārnate.

The villages are quiet and sparsely populated, with the majority of their inhabitants only living there in the summer. In Slītere National Park, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route leads you along country and forest roads through historic Livonian fishing villages. In Mazirbe and Kolka, the local fishermen still put out to the sea and sell homemade smoked fish. The Great Wave Sea section ends at Cape Kolka which separates the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga.

The Story of the Great Wave Sea – the Green Beam

A few times in summer, a natural phenomenon called the Green Beam can be seen from the seashore during sunset. At the moment when the sun disappears beyond the horizon, a green line can be seen around it. Sunlight is refracted by the Earth's atmosphere, which functions like a soft prism and creates the colours of a rainbow. The upper part of the sun's disk appears like the band of a rainbow. This natural phenomenon is rare because it only occurs when the air is very clear.





Nida – Pape

The pebbliest beach in Latvia




The Latvian-Lithuanian border post is the starting point of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route in Latvia. It goes through the Pape Nature Park crossing a wide beach bathed by the Great Sea along beautiful foredunes overgrown with sand ryegrass and marram grass. This stretch is characterized by a pebbly beach, small peat outcrops and untouched wilderness. By taking a stroll near the Pape Canal you can see a typical landscape of the Piejūra lowlands with Lake Pape hidden in the reeds. The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route winds through Pape village and returns to the beach at the Pape Lighthouse.




PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 12 km

 4–6 h

 Nida, the border post on the Latvian-Lithuanian border

 Pape beach, opposite the Pūķarags recreation complex

 Nida – Pape Koņi village – Pape

 Easy



Sandy and pebbly beaches, occasionally fine gravel. Near Nida – several kilometers of pebbly beach. In places, the pebbles form outcrops of several tens of centimeters, created by the waves. In Pape, the roads are covered in gravel.



The Līgupe – Paurupe Canal (can be crossed via the bridge), the Pape Canal (via the Rucava-Pape road bridge).



You have to carry valid identity documents (frontier area). No catering is offered from Nida (included) to Pape. The closest shop is in Rucava (8,5 km from Pape).



Between Nida and the Pape village, there is a forest trail of 4 km stretching behind the foredunes that can be used in case of strong wind.

WORTH SEEING!

- 1** Latvia's centenary oaks.
GPS: 56.06946, 21.06521
- 2** The first Latvian border post No. 0001.
GPS: 56.06934, 21.06516
- 3** The Nida pebbly beach. A protected geological object with a total area of 8,2 ha. GPS: 56.09617, 21.05343
- 4** The Mikelis Golts' memorial site (house).
GPS: 56.07835, 21.06258
- 5** The Lookout platform in the Nida Bog. GPS: 56.11520, 21.04623
- 6** The Pape Koni village. A unique historic fishing village, it is one of the few that has been so well preserved to the present day. GPS: 56.14481, 21.03479
- 7** The Open-air museum "Vītolnieki",
T: +371 29262283;
GPS: 56.14072, 21.03804
- 8** The Pape Lighthouse The lighthouse is 22 m high. GPS: 56.15492, 21.02327
- 9** The Ornithological station. The station is open to visitors from mid-August to late October by calling in advance:
T: +371 29236300;
GPS: 56.16579, 21.01723
- 10** A large herbivore grazing area.
GPS: 56.19248, 21.08330

SERVICES



Accommodations

- 1.** Campsite "Zvejnieki",
T: +371 29235120; GPS: 56.09203, 21.05839
- 2.** Guest house "Skrablas",
T: +370 61061114;
GPS: 56.09482, 21.05535
- 3.** Tent area "Jauntīlībi",
T: +371 29897589; GPS: 56.13231, 21.0399
- 4.** Campsite "Mikjāni",
T: +371 26759199;
GPS: 56.13785, 21.03788
- 5.** Recreation center "Pūkarags",
T: +371 28378625;
GPS: 56.16482, 21.02127
- 6.** Guest house "Papes Čakstes",
T: +371 26402386, 370 65790213;
GPS: 56.16470, 21.02364
- 7.** Guest house "Stiebri",
T: +370 65980214, 65980211;
GPS: 56.17121, 21.01851
- 8.** Holiday home "Aulaukio Baltija",
T: +370 69973656, +370 65605061;
GPS: 56.17116, 21.02014
- 9.** Guest house "Jēkaupi",
T: +370 68111333;
GPS: 56.17491, 21.01649
- 10.** Guest house "Jurģi",
T: +370 67868148; GPS: 56.17260, 21.01747
- 11.** Guest house "Šalkoņi",
T: +370 61278816, +371 25852200;
GPS: 56.18283, 21.01282
- 12.** Guest house "Mežsargi",
T: +371 24954904;
GPS: 56.18273, 21.01222



Catering

- 1.** "Amber wind beach cafe" (in summer),
T: +371 26695777;
GPS: 56.15064, 21.03117



Shops

In Rucava, GPS: 56.15919, 21.16104



Public transport

There is a bus from Liepāja to Nida on weekdays, but the stop must be booked 24 hours before the journey by phone +371 63426334.



Rest areas

In the parking area next to the Pape Lighthouse, GPS: 56.15384, 21.02446

TOURIST INFORMATION

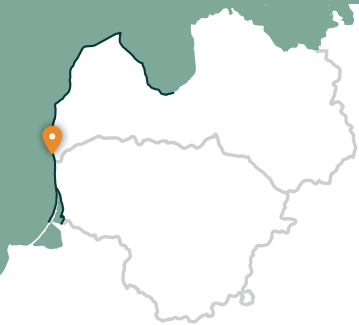


Pape TIP (1.06.-31.08.).
"Dzintarvēji", Pape, Dienvidkurzemes Municipality, www.rucava.lv,
T: +371 29134903;
GPS: 56.15054, 21.03086



Rucavas TIC, "Centra dzirnavas",
Rucava, www.rucava.lv, T: +371 29134903;
GPS: 56.15877, 21.16155





Pape – Bernāti

The Westernmost point in Latvia



Throughout this section, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route stretches alongside a beach. In the surroundings of Pape, the coastal side of the beach is surrounded by beautiful foredunes, while further away from the village it transforms into a washed away shore of nearly 10 km with broken pine trees lying across it. Gently sloping dunes reappear near Jūrmalciems. After passing Jūrmalciems, the wide silted beaches continue, but when coming closer to Cape Bernāti, an astounding bluff rises before your eyes which is overgrown with a pine forest and occasionally washed away.



WORTH SEEING!

- 1 **The Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jūrmalciems.**
T: +371 26461735;
GPS: 56.30651, 20.99406
- 2 **The Ancient windlass and watchman's lodge.** GPS: 56.30139, 20.98551
- 3 **Pūsēni Hill (37 m).** The highest dune in Latvia. GPS: 56.32671, 20.98758
- 4 **The exhibition "Jūrmalnieku senatne" (The Olden Times of Fishermen).**
T: +371 26461735;
GPS: 56.30149, 20.99786
- 5 **A Memorial stone in honor of the first president of the Republic of Latvia Jānis Čakste.** GPS: 56.37831, 20.98271
- 6 **Border stone Green Beam.**
GPS: 56.37700, 20.97848
- 7 **Nature park "Bernāti".** Themed trails, wooden and stone sculptures, viewing platforms and a viewing tower in the form of a boat. GPS: 56.37545, 20.98196

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 25 km

🕒 8–10 h

🚩 Pape beach, opposite Pūķi

🚩 Bernāti beach, opposite **P**

📍🚩 Pape – Jūrmalciems – Bernāti

🟡🟡 Medium



Sandy and pebbly beaches, occasionally soft sand, which makes walking difficult. There are wide sandy beaches around Jūrmalciems and Bernāti.



The only shops in the coastal area from the Latvian-Lithuanian border to Liepāja are located in Jūrmalciems.



Pape and Jūrmalciems are connected by a dense network of forest trails that can be used in case of strong wind.

SERVICES

🏠 Accommodations

1. **Campsite "Klajumi"**, T: +371 26114601, 26212997; GPS: 56.29912, 20.99270
2. **Country house "Jūrmaļi"**, T: +371 63454490, 26366206; GPS: 56.31850, 20.98700
3. **Holiday home "Laires stari"**, T: +371 29265619, 29494519; GPS: 56.34893, 21.00156
4. **Holiday home "Šķiperi"**, T: +371 26421276, 29125213; GPS: 56.35288, 21.00452
5. **Holiday home "Lavandas"**, T: +371 29144084; GPS: 56.36715, 20.98499
6. **Guest house "Smilgas"**, T: +371 29649583; GPS: 56.37132, 20.98956
7. **Campsite "Ērgļi"**, T: +371 29402272, 29295337; GPS: 56.37231, 20.99528

- 8. Country house "Pātari",**
T: +371 28379410;
GPS: 56.37382, 20.98890
- 9. Holiday home "Krēslīni",**
T: +371 28888432;
GPS: 56.37812, 20.98746
- 10. Holiday home "Sklandas",**
T: +371 26643815, 29237650;
GPS: 56.38480, 20.98756
- 11. Guest house "Chill Inn",**
T: +371 26425800;
GPS: 56.38469, 20.98836
- 12. Holiday home "Sīpoli Design",**
T: +371 29145753;
GPS: 56.38585, 20.9951848
- 13. Holiday home "Atmatas",**
T: +371 28807584, 26424299;
GPS: 56.38646, 20.98753
- 14. Campsite "Jūrmalējēkuļi",**
T: +371 29490769;
GPS: 56.38786, 20.98468



Catering

- 1. Cafe "Bernātu Dzintariņš",**
T: +371 28262321; GPS: 56.37898, 20.98616
- 2. Cafe "Paviljons",** T: +371 26326035;
GPS: 56.368833, 20.995625



Shops

In Jūrmalciems, GPS: 56.29994, 20.99668



Public transport

Not available in the Pape – Bernāti section. In the Rucava – Nīca section, runs ~ 2 times per day.



Rest areas

- The Jūrmalciems Berth,
GPS: 56.30139, 20.98551
- The parking area next to Pūsēni Dune,
GPS: 56.32884, 20.99294
- Rest area, GPS: 56.36621, 20.97665
- Next to the Green Beam,
GPS: 56.37700, 20.97848



TOURIST INFORMATION

- i** Pape TIP (1.06.-31.08.) "Dzintarvēji",
Pape, Dienvidkurzemes Municipality,
www.rucava.lv, T: +371 29134903;
GPS: 56.15054, 21.03086
- i** Rucava TIC, "Centra dzirnavas", Rucava,
www.rucava.lv, T: +371 29134903;
GPS: 56.15877, 21.16155
- i** Nīca TIC, Bārtas iela 6, Nīca,
www.nica.lv, T: +371 29458532;
GPS: 56.34698, 21.06632



Bernāti – Liepāja – Karosta (The War Port)

The city where the wind is born



From Bernāti to Liepāja, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route leads through a wide beach where initially the coast is formed by washed away shores, but as you approach Liepāja high foredunes covered in sand ryegrass and marram grass appear in sight. Later the trail winds through the old town of Liepāja and “New Liepāja”, crossing the Naval Port Canal to reach the Naval Port: a complex of military and fortification buildings the visitation of which is likely to take a half day. You should certainly try the special dish of Liepāja called *Liepājas mencīņi* made of smoked cod according to an ancient recipe from Southern Kurzeme.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 23 km

⌚ 8–10 h

🚩 Bernāti beach, opposite **P**

🚩 The North Pier of Karosta

📍🗺️ Bernāti – Liepāja – Karosta

🟡🟠 Medium

🌳🌳🌳 Sandy beaches. In the city, sidewalks with asphalt surfaces.

🏠🌊 Veckrūmi house in Bernāti, which is slowly being washed into the sea. There is a trail between the sea and the house that can be used in times of strong winds.

⚠️ The Oskars Kalpaks Bridge crossing the Karosta Canal may be opened for the passage of vessels 5 times a day: 01.00 – 03.00, 05.00 – 06.30, 10.30 – 12.00, 14.30 – 15.30, 19.30 – 21.00. The bridge may be closed to cars and pedestrians at the indicated times. For the latest information, check the live webcam: www.liepaja-sez.lv/tv/port/oskara-kalpaka-tilts. Detour to the other shore: ~ 7,5 km.

🚶🚶🚶 The center of Liepāja and Karosta is connected by city public transport (www.marsruti.lv/liepaja).



WORTH SEEING!

- 1** A monument to the sailors that perished in the sea. GPS: 56.509256, 20.991326
- 2** Installation The Ghosts' Tree. An impressive 6 m high tree made of 4000 little metal bars as a tribute to the famous Latvian rock band Līvi. GPS: 56.50657, 20.99553
- 3** Sculptures representing the characters in Liepāja's anthem. Along the entire length of Kūrmājas prospekts, there are bronze sculptures memorializing the characters of Liepāja's anthem called Pilsēta, kurā piedzimst vējš (The City Where The Wind Is Born).
- 4** "The Great Amber" concert hall. GPS: 56.51151, 21.01057
- 5** The Oskars Kalpaks Bridge. This swing bridge is one of the oldest metal construction bridges in Latvia and a technical monument. GPS: 56.54466, 21.00439
- 6** The Karosta prison. Go on an excursion, enjoy a reality show, try to get out of locked rooms, spend the night in a prison cell and take lunch in a Soviet cafeteria. T: +371 26369470; GPS: 56.54632, 21.02097
- 7** The St. Nicholas Orthodox Naval Cathedral. GPS: 56.55284, 21.01238
- 8** The North Pier. The total length of the pier is 1800 m, its width is 7,35 m. GPS: 56.55709, 20.99691
- 9** The Northern Forts. Part of the city's fortification system built at the turn of the 20th century. Artillery batteries that were not completely blown up and underground structures that are remained intact up to nowadays. GPS: 56.59090, 21.01502



SERVICES



Accommodations

- 1.** Guest house "Brakši", T: +371 29423291, 63469555; GPS: 56.41509, 21.00805
 - 2.** Recreation complex "Jūrnieka ligzda", T: +371 26596877; GPS: 56.42431, 20.99950
 - 3.** Recreation complex "Vērbeļnieki", T: +371 29138565; GPS: 56.42785, 20.99698
 - 4.** Guest house "Šķīlas", T: +371 25458444; GPS: 56.43423, 21.00534
 - 5.** Guest house "Janči", T: +371 22069094, 22057825; GPS: 56.43603, 21.00799
 - 6.** Holiday home "Eko Oāze", T: +371 29665999; GPS: 56.44773, 21.01367
- Accommodations in Liepāja www.liepaja.travel



Catering

- 1.** Cafe "Bernātu Dzintariņš", T: +371 28262321; GPS: 56.37898, 20.98616
- 2.** Cafe "Paviljons", T: +371 26326035; GPS: 56.36883, 20.99562
- 3.** Summer cafe "Siena šķūnis", T: +371 29138565; GPS: 56.42785, 20.99698

Catering companies in Liepāja www.liepaja.travel



Shops

In Liepāja



Public transport

Bus transport connects Bernāti and Liepāja (~ 16 times per day). www.lap.lv

TOURIST INFORMATION



Liepāja region Tourism information office, Rožu laukums 5/6, Liepāja, www.liepaja.travel, T: +371 634 80808, 29402111; GPS: 56.50770, 21.012117



Karosta Visitor centre, Invalīdu iela 4, Liepāja, www.karostascietums.lv, T: +371 26369470; GPS: 56.54630, 21.02102










Karosta (The War Port) – Ziemupe

Karosta – military heritage
on the coast of the Baltic Sea


The first four kilometers of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route may interest military history enthusiasts with the remains of many forts and coastal defense batteries, but in terms of walking, this is technically the most complicated section of Kurzeme seacoast. After crossing the Fortress Canal, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route winds through a coastal meadow for a short while, then darts onto a beach and continues as far as Ziemupe. The beach is wide, in times of stronger winds it gets narrower between the Lenkupe and Kārļupīte Rivers. In some places, there are small bluffs, the rest of the section is composed of high, occasionally washed away foredunes. It is said that a lot of ships have sunk in the depths of the Ziemupe River, one of them even had bronze cannons.




PRACTICAL INFORMATION


- 22 km
-  8–10 h
-  North Pier of Karosta, opposite **P**
-  Ziemupe beach, opposite **P**
-  Karosta – Saraiķi Manor – Ziemupe
-  Medium – Hard
-  Sandy and pebbly beaches, coastal trails, occasionally soft, silted sand, in some places there are stones and structures protecting against coastal erosion.
-  You have to go around the remains of fortifications by using forest trails or, when

the winds create an outflow of water, by using the beach. You can wade across the Fortress Canal, the small streams, brooks and ditches during low water. The Liepāja treatment plant can be passed via the beach. In case of strong winds from the sea, the Fortress Canal and the Wastewater treatment plant of Liepāja can be passed via Lībiešu and Viestura iela (~ 2,5 km). The coastal protection structures (concrete blocks) opposite Saraiķi can be bypassed via the beach or across the blocks in times of strong winds.

 Personal safety must be ensured in the surroundings of the fortifications. They are washed away by the sea and are not equipped with amenities. It is not recommended to wade through the sea as there are sharp and dangerous underwater objects. In Šķēde military training ground, hikers are only allowed to walk on the beach.

WORTH SEEING!

- 1** The memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. GPS: 56.59966, 21.02060
- 2** Kurzeme fishermen's homestead. T: +371 26540345; GPS: 56.65519, 21.02251
- 3** The Saraiķi Evangelical Lutheran Church. GPS: 56.66178, 21.07428
- 4** The Soviet army base. Some of the buildings are washed away into the sea, others have been turned into private houses. GPS: 56.74053, 21.06535
- 5** The Ziemupe Evangelical Lutheran Church. Among other churches of Kurzeme, this church is distinguished by its modest dimensions (25 x 11 m) and architectural simplicity because it does not even have a belfry. T: +371 26274155; GPS: 56.74080, 21.06803
- 6** A swordfish exhibit. The swordfish that was washed ashore was 2,08 m long and weighed 37 kg, its bill or "sword" was around 70 cm long. T: +371 29437166; GPS: 56.74865, 21.07607
- 7**  The Ziemupe juniper forest. Can only be visited on guided tours. T: +371 29437166; GPS: 56.742075, 21.067057
- 8** The Memorial site to the battleship "Moskva". GPS: 56.74499, 21.06176

 Near Saraiķi, there is no access to the sea for the public (private properties). No shops or catering are available from Karosta to Ziemupe.

SERVICES

Accommodations

Accommodations in Liepāja, Karosta
www.liepaja.travel

- 1. Guest house "Zariņi"**, T: +371 26540345; GPS: 56.66158, 21.07331
- 2. Guest house "Smiltņieki"**, T: +371 29122204; GPS: 56.69997, 21.06052
- 3. Campsite "Kalēji"**, T: +371 29141389, 63454562; GPS: 56.71158, 21.06234
- 4. Guest house "Indrāni"**, T: +371 63453560, 29393866; GPS: 56.71943, 21.06914
- 5. Guest house "Dvēseles veldzes dārzs"**, T: +371 22007874; GPS: 56.72749, 21.09286
- 6. Tent area "Ziemupes jūrmalas stāvlaukums"**, T: +371 29400470; GPS: 56.74499, 21.06176
- 7. Guest house "Kaijas"**, T: +371 29454425; GPS: 56.74581, 21.07256
- 8. Holiday home "Stumbrenieki"**, T: +371 29296551; GPS: 56.76013, 21.07873.
- 9. Guest house "Laikas"**, T: +371 29432314; GPS: 56.78145, 21.06333
- 10. Hotel "Ziemupes muiža"**, +371 26424119; GPS: 56.74925, 21.07616
- 11. Campsite "Kīcu orga"**, T: +371 26329215; GPS: 56.77692, 21.06384
- 12. Holiday home "Ziemupes Zaļkalni"**, T: +371 29420219; GPS: 56.73507, 21.07371
- 13. Guest house "Stellas"**, T: +371 29139169, 26989168; GPS: 56.74046, 21.06612

Catering

- 1. Restaurant "Ziemupes muiža"**, T: +371 26424119; GPS: 56.74925, 21.07616
- 2. "JūrCafe"**, T: +371 29400470; GPS: 56.74499, 21.06176

For catering possibilities, visit
www.liepaja.travel

Shops

In Liepāja, in Saraikī
GPS: 56.66351, 21.07806,
In Ziemupe
GPS: 56.74903, 21.07790

Public transport

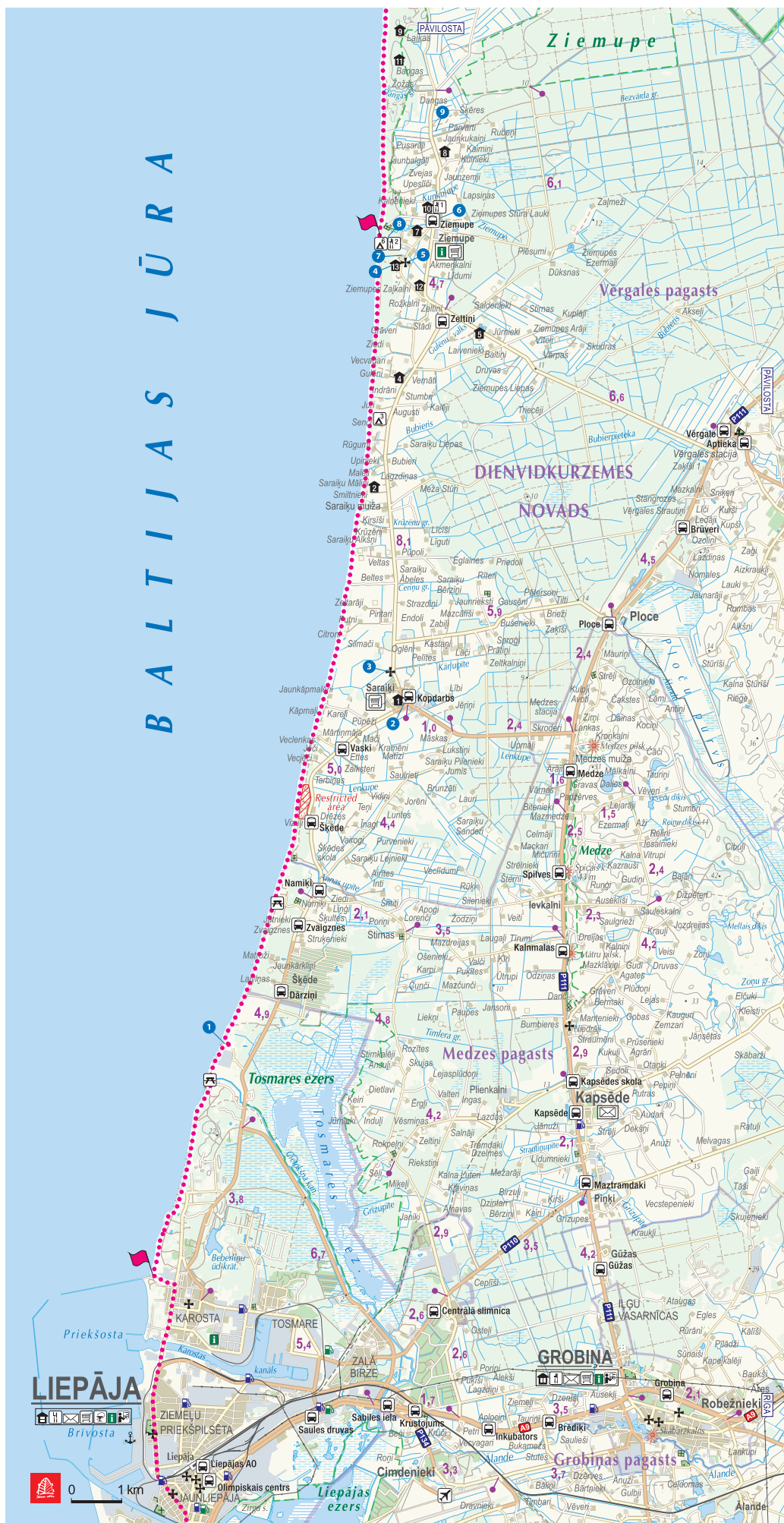
Bus transport connects Liepāja and Ziemupe (~ 2 times per day). www.lap.lv

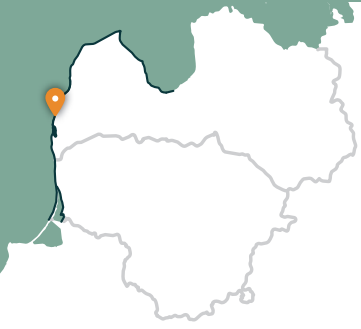
Rest areas

Next to where the Fortress Canal flows into the sea,
GPS: 56.59222, 21.01623
Rest area, GPS: 56.62447, 21.03519

TOURIST INFORMATION

- Vērgale / Ziemupe TIP**, Jūras māja, Ziemupe, T: +371 29437166; GPS: 56.74865, 21.07607





Ziemupe – Pāvilosta

The Singing Sand and Amber



This beach is rarely visited by people and you can gather pieces of amber and little stones with fossils and hear the singing sand beneath your feet. Near Ziemupe, beautiful bluffs appear, but further on near Akmenšrags and Pāvilosta there are beautiful, occasionally washed off foredunes overgrown with sand ryegrass and marram grass. In some places, you can see grey dunes. The Akmenšrags Lighthouse will serve as a good place to rest. Pāvilosta, with its provincial charm and the scent of the harbor and smoked fish will bring you back from wilderness to civilization.





1

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 21 km

 7-9 h

 Ziemupe beach, opposite **P**

 Pāvilosta TIC, **P**

 Ziemupe – Akmenšrags – Pāvilosta

 Easy



Sandy, pebbly (with little pebbles), occasionally wide (near Akmenšrags), occasionally narrower sandy beaches. In Pāvilosta, asphalt.



The Saka River can be crossed either via bridge (Meža iela) or at the port of Pāvilosta, it is possible to cross the river in a ferry boat. The boat must be pre-booked by calling +371 29409848, 29125521. You can wade across the small streams and brooks during low water.



There is no pedestrian sidewalk on Ostmalas iela.



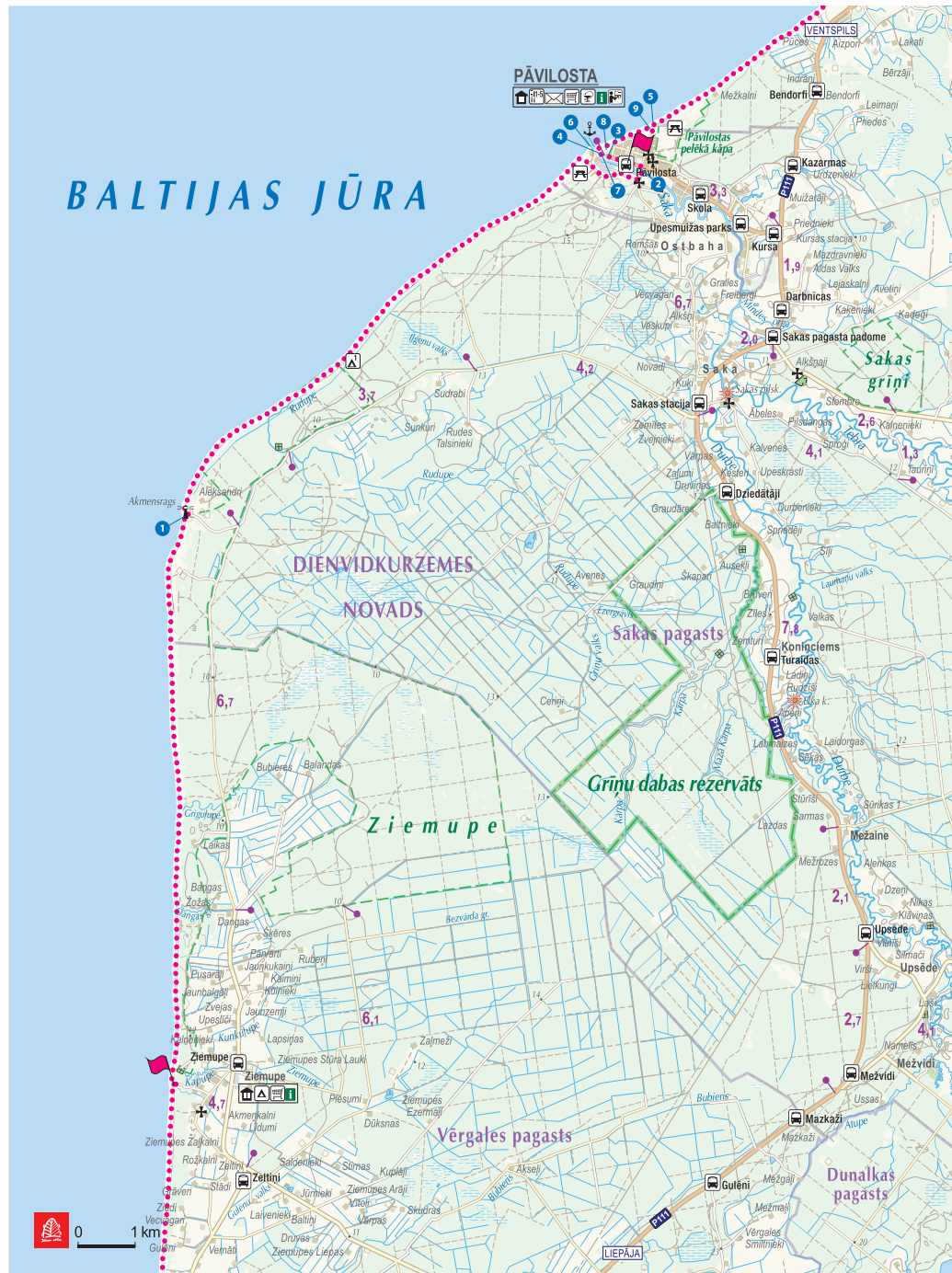
No shops or catering is available between Ziemupe and Pāvilosta.



In case of bad weather, you can go from Ziemupe to Akmenšrags and further on to Pāvilosta by using forest roads and trails.

WORTH SEEING!

- 1 Akmeņrags Lighthouse.**
T: +371 28350899; GPS: 56.83237, 21.05684
- 2 The ship Dole.** GPS: 56.88738, 21.18327
- 3 Ornament workshop and shop "Jūras rotas".** T: +371 29401273; GPS: 56.888964, 21.17324
- 4 Pāvilosta Local History Museum and Boat house.** T: +371 29226273; GPS: 56.88935, 21.17256
- 5 Jūrakmens (the Great Boulder).** 3,5 m high (1,5 m in the water), 15 m in girth. GPS: 56.89458, 21.18593
- 6 Former army watchtower at the Southern Pier.** The old Soviet era border guard watchtower has been restored, gaining a new life, it is open to visitors throughout the summer during daylight. The stationary binoculars at the top of the 20 m high tower allow visitors to observe ships and yachts at sea, and is also an excellent tool for birdwatching. Check the opening hours on the website of the Pāvilosta Tourist information centre: www.visitpavilosta.lv GPS: 56.8901, 21.16866
- 7 The Pāvilosta boardwalk.** A place made for leisurely family strolls or romantic relaxation while watching small fishing boats and majestic sailing boats come into port letting the fresh, salty sea air brush over you or bask in the soft rays of sun. The boardwalk is 200 m long. GPS: 56.88933, 21.17155
- 8 Observation tower by the museum.** A 12 m high tower providing views of the coast and the right bank of the Saka River. GPS: 56.89010, 21.17272
- 9 Viewing platform by the Grey Dune.** View the grey dune of Pāvilosta from a slightly elevated angle (7 m up). GPS: 56.89313, 21.18603



SERVICES

Accommodations

- 1. Campsite "Miera osta",**
T: +371 26444168, 20203073;
GPS: 56.85633, 21.10316
Accommodations in Pāvilosta
www.visitpavilosta.lv

Catering

- 1. Cafe "Laiva",** T: +371 29335575;
GPS: 56.88853, 21.17832
- 2. Cafe "Ākagals",** T: +371 29498899;
GPS: 56.88924, 21.17320
- 3. Cafe "Enkurs",** T: +371 29806884;
GPS: 56.88721, 21.18919
- 4. Cafe "Wonderfood",** T: +371 22589000;
GPS: 56.89286, 21.18511
- 5. Restaurant "Otto Hotel & Sun",**
T: +371 63451200; GPS: 56.88903, 21.17468

Shops

In Ziemeļkurzemes Novads, GPS: 56.74903, 21.07790, in Pāvilosta, GPS: 56.88351, 21.20362; GPS: 56.88442, 21.19937; GPS: 56.88720, 21.18917; GPS: 56.88882, 21.17925

Pāvilosta TIC, Pāvilosta, Dzintaru iela 2,
www.visitpavilosta.lv,
T: +371 63498229, 29121894;
GPS: 56.88817, 21.17914

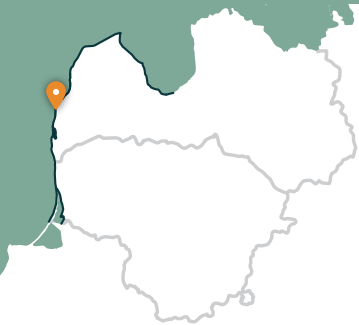
Public transport
Not available.

Rest areas
The parking area on Jūras iela,
GPS: 56.88818, 21.16708
The parking area on Kalna iela,
GPS: 56.89291, 21.18631

TOURIST INFORMATION

Vērgale / Ziemeļkurzemes Novads, Jūras māja,
Ziemeļkurzemes Novads, T: +371 29437166;
GPS: 56.74865, 21.07607





Pāvilosta – Jūrkalne

The most outstanding bluffs around the Baltic Sea



To the northeast of Pāvilosta, there are excellent views of the grey dunes, while only a couple of kilometers further you can see the beginning of one of the most beautiful sections the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route with outstanding bluffs continuing for more than 20 km. The most interesting bluff scenery is located near Strante and Ulmale villages and the estuary of the Rīva River. In many places, orchids bloom on the lower part of coastal landslides in summer. In Jūrkalne and in its surroundings, you can see “two sunsets”: the first one from the beach and the second one from the top of the bluff a couple of moments later.



5



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 20 km

🕒 7–9 h

🚩 Pāvilosta TIC, **P**

🚩 The viewing area of the Baltic Sea bluff, opposite Jūrkalne **P**

📍 Pāvilosta – Ulmale – Labrags – Jūrkalne

●●● Medium – Hard



Sandy, pebbly beaches (with pebbles of different sizes), beaches covered in small stones. Near Pāvilosta and Jūrkalne: wide sandy beaches.



A ~ 0,5 h walk from Pāvilosta, the beach narrows and is covered in stones. There are two locations under the bluffs with a length of 100 – 200 m where you may have to wade through shallow water in case of a heavy swell on the sea due to strong W, NW or SW winds or during storms. Then you have to go over the top of the bluff or take a bus. You can wade across the streams and brooks during low water. You can also wade across the Rīva River if there have not been strong rains. The Rīva River can be crossed via two bridges

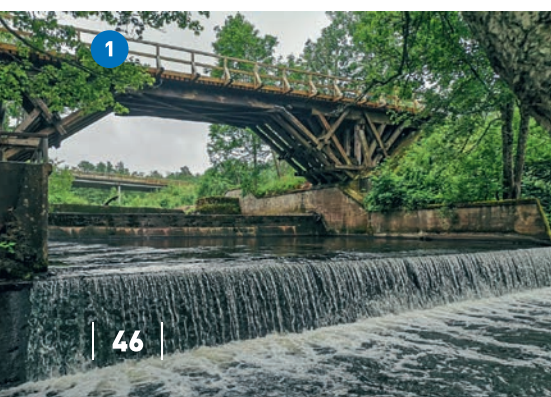
~ 1,5 km from the sea. The Saka River can be crossed in a small ship, which has to be booked in advance by calling +371 29409848, 29125521.



The bluffs collapse as the sea washes away the shore and the rain water washes out their slopes. You can come across landslides, landfalls, rockfalls, so the bluffs cannot be used for moving forward. To this end, stairs have been installed in many places. Landfalls mostly occur during storms or after them, as well as after heavy showers, but may also occur at other times.



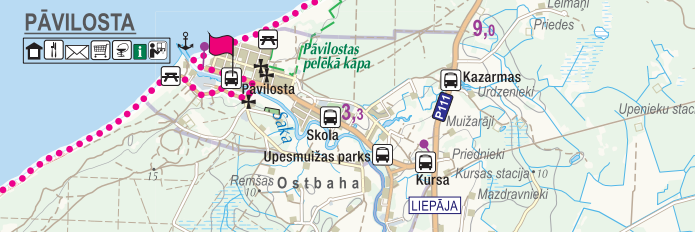
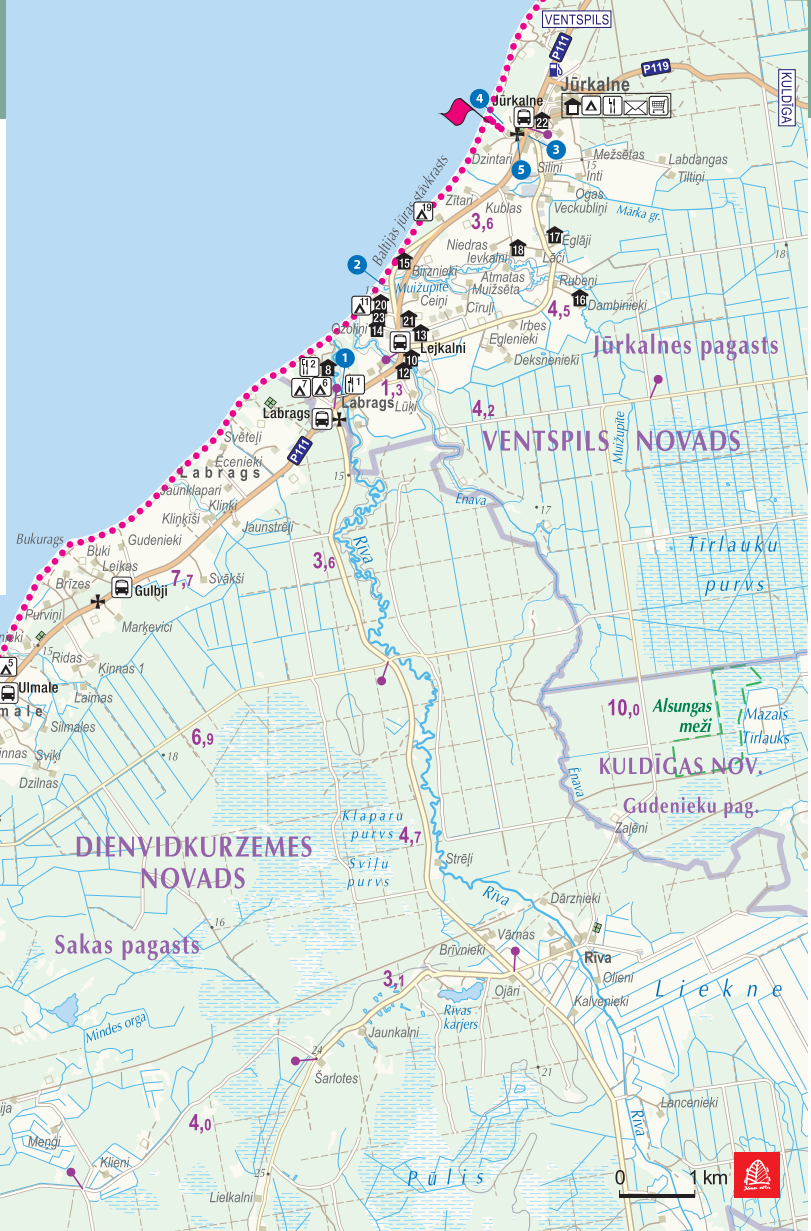
No shops are available between Pāvilosta and Jūrkalne. Suitable footwear is necessary, walking poles are advisable for support.



1

WORTH SEEING!

- 1** The wooden bridge across the Rīva River. One of the few wooden bridges in Latvia using a construction system with diagonal braces. GPS: 56.97336, 21.34875
- 2** The Aldaris beer brewery. The stone marking the 57°00 parallel. GPS: 56.98686, 21.35626
- 3** The Storm Museum. It tells the story of victims of the strength of the Baltic Sea together with presenting antiquities found on the beach and taken out of the depths of the sea. T: +371 29448883; GPS: 57.00539, 21.38661
- 4** The Nature recreation park. Wooden sculptures, Wind Fence, Windkeeper's House, Natural Concert Hall, a place for culture and leisure. GPS: 57.00644, 21.38190
- 5** The Jūrkalne St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church. A model of a sailing ship symbolizing a legend hangs from the ceiling. GPS: 57.00534, 21.38463



SERVICES

Accommodations

- 1.** Campsite "Baltmuiža", T: +371 26356527; GPS: 56.92321, 21.26141
- 2.** Holiday home "Sunset house", T: +371 29412343; GPS: 56.92885, 21.265325
- 3.** Guest house "Zālītes", T: +371 26661773, 26128650; GPS: 56.93590, 21.27516
- 4.** Guest house "Viļņi", T: +371 29101439, 22849848; GPS: 56.93643, 21.27529
- 5.** Tent area "Oši", T: +371 25544836, 22849848; GPS: 56.93888, 21.27866
- 6.** Campsite "Sīļi", T: +371 22086858; GPS: 56.9739922, 21.34391
- 7.** Campsite "Hortus", T: +371 26795690; GPS: 56.97357, 21.34143
- 8.** Guest house "Imantas", T: +371 29479335; GPS: 56.97567, 21.34410
- 9.** Apartments "Kapteinis Āķis", +371 29717777; GPS: 56.92753, 21.26411
- 10.** Guest house "Liedags", T: +371 26595202; GPS: 56.97761, 21.36265
- 11.** Campsite "Vēverlejas", T: +371 26149960; GPS: 56.98345, 21.35120

- 12.** Holiday home "Birztales", T: +371 26019461; GPS: 56.97572, 21.36217
- 13.** Holiday home "Priežkalni", T: +371 29714801, 22014687; GPS: 56.98019, 21.36527
- 14.** Guest house "Ozoliņi", T: +371 25998377; GPS: 56.98180, 21.35484
- 15.** Guest house "Četri vēji", T: +371 29131329; GPS: 56.98891, 21.36121
- 16.** Holiday home "Dambenieki", T: +371 29475099; GPS: 56.98507, 21.39983
- 17.** Farmstead "Eglāji", T: +371 26496400; GPS: 56.99277, 21.39353
- 18.** Holiday home "Ievkalni", T: +371 29211119; GPS: 56.99141, 21.38489
- 19.** Tent area "Kaiķu birzs", T: +371 28320219; GPS: 56.99482, 21.36502
- 20.** Holiday home "Salas", T: +371 29422111; GPS: 56.98286, 21.35477
- 21.** Campsite "Laukbaloži", T: +371 28662772; GPS: 56.98220, 21.36267

- 22.** "Lina apartamenti", T: +371 26307026; GPS: 57.00629, 21.38971
- 23.** Holiday home "Olīvas", T: +371 26112233; GPS: 56.98229, 21.35442



Catering

- 1.** Cafe "Rīvas krogs", T: +371 26140577; GPS: 56.97360, 21.34904
- 2.** Cafe "Zivju krogs", T: +371 29479335; GPS: 56.97555, 21.34446

For information about accommodations and catering in Jūrkalne, see the page in section 7.



Shops

In Pāvilosta (several shops) and Jūrkalne, GPS: 57.00537, 21.38668; GPS: 57.00501, 21.38643



Public transport

Bus transport connects Pāvilosta and Jūrkalne (~ 5 times per day).

TOURIST INFORMATION



Pāvilosta TIC, Pāvilosta, Dzintaru iela 2, www.visitpavilosta.lv, T: +371 63498229, 29121894; GPS: 56.88817, 21.17914

Jūrkalne – Sārņate







The place where people crossed
the Baltic Sea in boats



The astounding bluffs of the Baltic Sea continue in this section of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route. Near Ošvalki village, it descends turning into a steeper foredune covered in thick osier wreaths, while opposite to Sārņate village distinct bluffs reappear. Here in this comparatively short walking section you can see several impressive sceneries.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- 14 km
-  5–7 h
-  The viewing area of the Baltic Sea bluff, opposite Jūrkalne 
-  Sārņate Beach
-  Jūrkalne – Ošvalki – Sārņate
-  Easy



Sandy, pebbly beaches (with pebbles of different sizes) and sandy – beaches, in some places, small stones.



You can wade across the brooks.



The bluffs are formed (collapse) as the sea washes away the shore and also as the rain water washes out their slopes. You can come across landslides, landfalls, rockfalls. You must not use the bluffs to move forward in places where stairs have not been installed (they can be found quite



frequently) or approach them too closely from the top and the bottom. Landfalls mostly occur during storms (or after storms) and after heavy showers, but may also occur at other times.

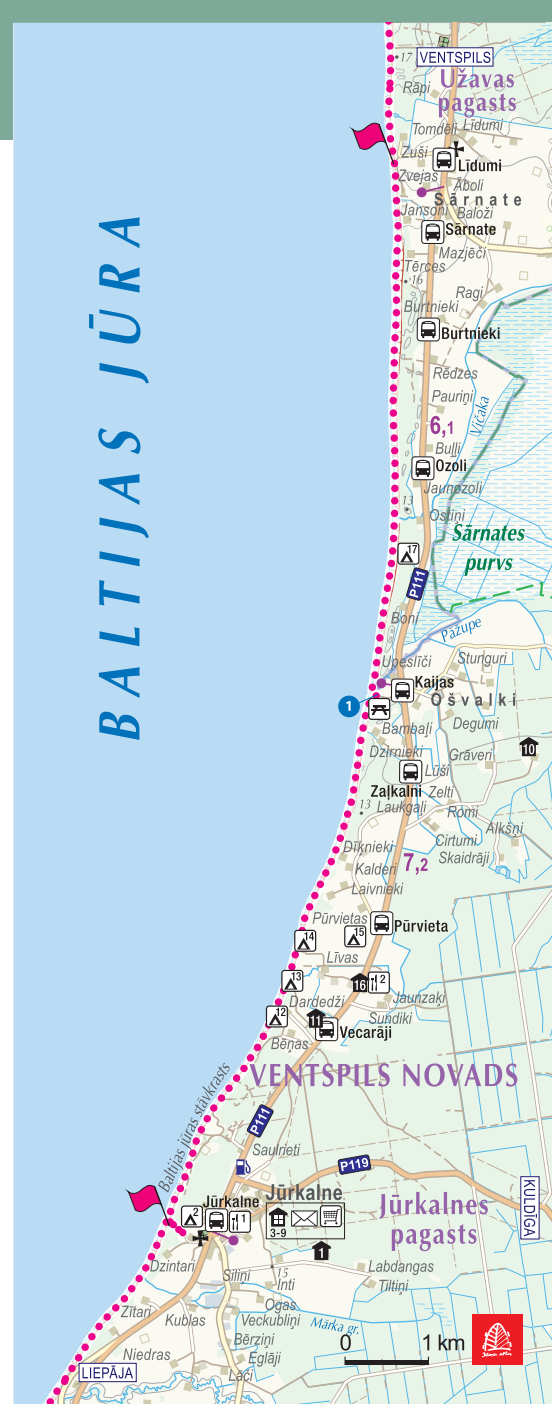
You have to shop in Jūrkalne as there are no shops in Sārņate. Walking poles are advisable for support.



Vigorous walkers can combine this section with the next day's one and finish the itinerary in Užava.



BALTIJAS JŪRA



WORTH SEEING!

1 Commemorative mark Sail of Hope.
The author of the project, sculptor Ģirts Burvis, has created this commemorative mark of a sail of hope as a symbol of remembrance of the Latvian refugees. In fear of Soviet terror, locals from Sārnate as well as from a lot of other coastal areas in Kurzeme crossed the Baltic Sea in fishing boats to seek refuge in Gotland located 150 km away. The split that you can see in the monument represents the tenseness of separation, the difficulties to overcome and the pain of the Latvian nation abroad.
GPS: 57.06456, 21.41572

SERVICES

Accommodations

- 1. Holiday home "Pirmie Zaļmeži",**
T: +371 29930568;
GPS: 57.00377, 21.40882
- 2. Campsite "Senči",**
T: +371 28335239;
GPS: 57.00749, 21.38145
- 3. Hotel "Pilsberģu krogs",**
T: +371 27436888;
GPS: 57.00750, 21.38541
- 4. Apartments "Jūrkalnes Šalkas",**
T: +371 27436888;
GPS: 57.00648, 21.38990
- 5. Holiday home "Avoti",**
T: +371 28320219;
GPS: 57.00595, 21.39325
- 6. Holiday home "Atvari",**
T: +371 27436888;
GPS: 57.00807, 21.39333
- 7. Holiday home "Kāpas",**
T: +371 28320219;
GPS: 57.00821, 21.3942015
- 8. Holiday home "Rozes",**
T: +371 26138337;
GPS: 57.00942, 21.3956311
- 9. Holiday home "Palmas",**
T: +371 26138337;
GPS: 57.01063, 21.39586

- 10. Apartments "Mežmalas",**
T: +371 28330977;
GPS: 57.05830, 21.44698
- 11. Campsite "Šāfliki",**
T: +371 26305790, 29242134;
GPS: 57.02942, 21.39887
- 12. Campsite "Zaki",**
T: +371 26452767;
GPS: 57.03253, 21.40110
- 13. Campsite "Ceriņi",**
T: +371 29204415;
GPS: 57.03703, 21.40279
- 14. Tent area "Nikke",**
T: +371 29296730;
GPS: 57.03831, 21.41313
- 15. Hotel "Zaķu krogs",**
T: +371 26133995;
GPS: 57.03305, 21.41541
- 16. Country house "Kaijas",**
T: +371 26405743;
GPS: 57.06367, 21.42369



Catering

- 1. Pub "Pilsberģu krogs",**
T: +371 27436888;
GPS: 57.007350, 21.38541
- 2. Pub "Zaķu krogs",** T: +371 26133995;
GPS: 57.03305, 21.41541



Shops

In Jūrkalne, GPS: 57.00537, 21.38668;
GPS: 57.00501, 21.38643



Public transport

Bus transport connects Jūrkalne and Sārnate (~ 4 times per day).



Rest areas

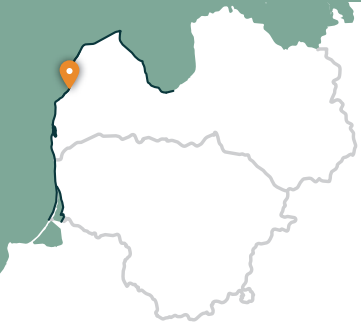
A rest area next to Cerību buras,
GPS: 57.06439, 21.41604

TOURIST INFORMATION



Ventspils TIC, Dārzu iela 6, Ventspils,
www.visitventspils.com,
T: +371 63622263, 29232226;
GPS: 57.39838, 21.56953





Sārņate – Užava

The most beautiful scenery of the Latvian seacoast




Near Sārņate, you can still see the bluffs of the Baltic Sea, which slowly become lower towards the North and is replaced by a washed away dam of foredunes. Between Venzavas village and the Užava Lighthouse, you can see coastal sceneries that are quite unusual for Latvia and that remind one of sandy and rocky deserts with sparse vegetation: it used to be a firing ground for the Soviet army. In this place and in the territories of former firing grounds located beyond the Užava Lighthouse, there are now grey foredunes. Getting closer to the estuary of the Užava River, the beach becomes wider and the dunes – lower. The most beautiful scenery of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route can be seen from the top of the romantic Užava Lighthouse.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 15 km


 5–7 h


 Sārņate beach located 0,6 km away from road P 111 connecting Liepāja and Ventspils.


 Užava beach next to where the Užava River flows into the sea, opposite **P**

 Sārņate – Užava


 Easy


 Sandy, pebbly beaches (with pebbles of different sizes).

 When you get to the Užava Lighthouse, you have to take a trail through the concrete breakwaters. You can wade across the Užava River during low water. There is a bridge located 0,3 km away from the mouth.

 The bluffs are formed (collapse) as the sea washes away the shore and the rain water washes away their

slopes. You can come across landslides, landfalls, rockfalls, so it is forbidden to walk on the top of the bluffs. For this purpose, use the stairs. Landfalls mostly occur during storms (or after storms) and after heavy showers, but may also occur at other times.

 The closest shop is located in Užava.

 Vigorous walkers can combine this section with the one from the previous day Jūrkalne – Sārņate and start in Jūrkalne.

WORTH SEEING!

- 1** The Užava beer brewery. You can get to know the history of the Užava beer brewery and the beer brewing process in a 50 min tour with tasting. In the beer brewery shop, you can buy beer and different types of snacks. T: +371 29219145; GPS: 57.19783, 21.44137
- 2** The Užava Lighthouse. This 21 m high cylindrical stone lighthouse was built in 1879. Its lamp flashes twice within a period of 10 seconds. In 1930, the dune at the bottom of the lighthouse was reinforced with juniper wicker baskets filled with pebbles and big boulders were placed next to them. In the 1970s, the shore was fortified with concrete blocks. T: +371 28341836; GPS: 57.20907, 21.41465
- 3** The Užava Lutheran Church. The only Lutheran church in Latvia without a belfry. The church has a four-slope roof, yet two bells are situated beneath the wooden roof near the main entrance. Two interesting weathercocks have remained from 1784; they have the letters PHC written on them meaning that the church was built at command of Duke Peter von Biron. GPS: 57.23230, 21.46119
- 4** The Užava Baptist Church. The Užava Baptist congregation is the oldest Baptist congregation in Latvia. It was established in 1861 when the first christening took place in the Užava River. The church was built in 1888. T: +371 26677141; GPS: 57.23003, 21.47143

SERVICES

- Accommodations**
- 1.** Holiday home "Sārnatorija", T: +371 29541777; GPS: 57.11503, 21.43454

- 2.** Guest house "Auseklītis", T: +371 29249019; GPS: 57.22707, 21.45581
- 3.** Country house "Tarzeri", T: +371 29786852; GPS: 57.22941, 21.44939
- 4.** Holiday home "Krikši", T: +371 26002049; GPS: 57.23305, 21.44098
- 5.** Holiday home "Upmalnieki", T: +371 26045928; GPS: 57.23352, 21.44051
- 6.** Holiday home "Ganības", T: +371 29474730; GPS: 57.23831, 21.43466
- 7.** Tent campsite "Saliņas", T: +371 29462898; GPS: 57.23993, 21.42784
- 8.** Guest house "Brieži", T: +371 29759460; GPS: 57.22771, 21.45226



Catering
Catering is not available.



Shops
In Užava, GPS: 57.22926, 21.45514



Public transport
Bus transport connects Sārnate and Užava (~ 4 times per day).

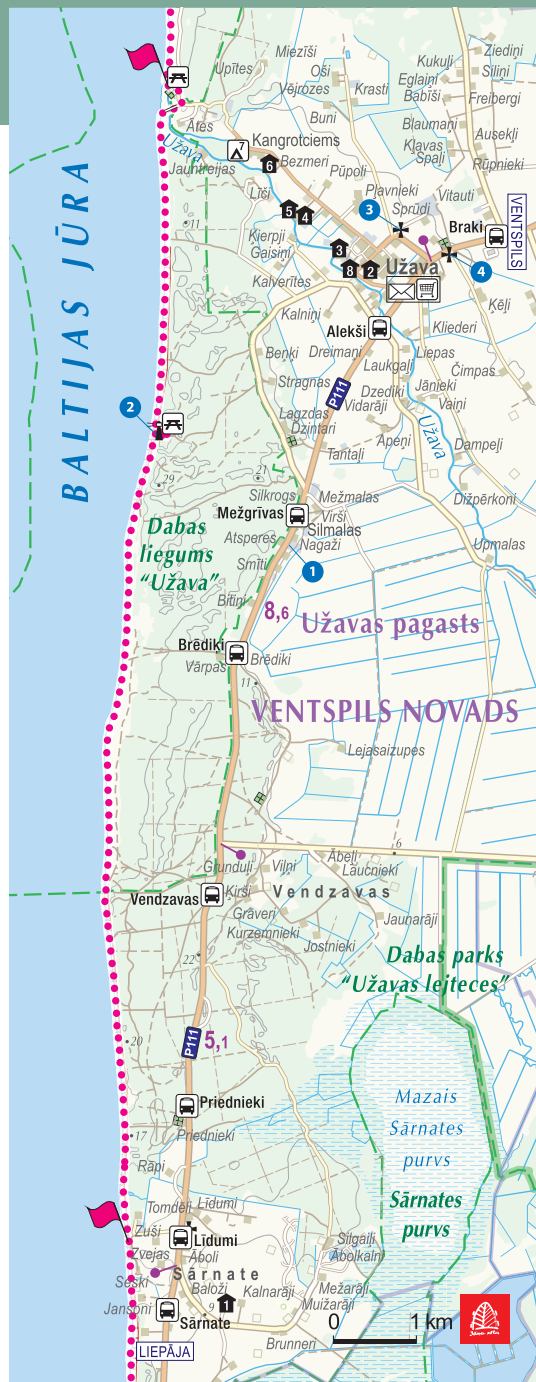


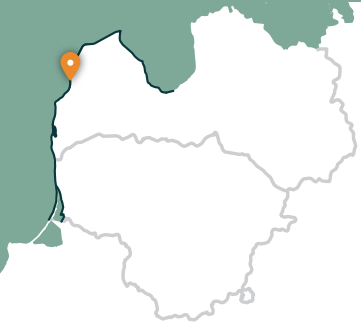
Rest areas
Next to the Užava Lighthouse, GPS: 57.20948, 21.41598
The mouth of the Užava River, GPS: 57.24702, 21.41474

TOURIST INFORMATION



Ventspils TIC, Dārzu iela 6, Ventspils, www.visitventspils.com, T: +371 63622263, 29232226; GPS: 57.39838, 21.56953





Užava – Ventspils

Gather your amber collection!





In this section of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route, the first 6 km are a lonely stretch of the coast with a wide beach and low foredunes, the tops of which are covered in silvery sand ryegrass and marram grass tillers. After passing the Medole brook, an impressive bluff (~ 19 m high) rises before your eyes with a narrow rocky beach beneath it. The bluff quickly shrinks and then rises again two kilometers further. Between the bluffs, there is a former firing ground for the Soviet army. The last five kilometers of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route to the South Pier in Ventspils lead through a wide sandy beach, the coastal side of which is delimited by the biotopes of grey dunes.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 20 km

 7-9 h

 Užava beach next to where the Užava River flows into the sea, opposite **P**

 The South Pier of Ventspils, opposite **P**

 Užava – Ventspils

 Medium



Sandy, pebbly beaches (starting from small to big pebbles), in some places, stones. The seashore undergoes noticeable change after storms: it can be seen in the washed away shore where pebble zones alternate with sand zones. Throughout a short section, there is some clay washed ashore. The sandy surface may be soft and difficult to walk on.



The bluffs: it is forbidden to climb them, as it can cause landslides and landfalls of sand and soil.




Near the coast between Užava and Ventspils, there are uninhabited places with no services available. In the Southern part of Ventspils beach, there is a nudist beach.



2,7 km before the border of Ventspils opposite Cirpstene village and alongside the sea, there is a former Soviet military road that can be used in case of strong wind.





WORTH SEEING!

- 1  **The Užava Nature reserve and the grey dune.** The wide, pebbly, desert-like landscape of the grey dune surprises anyone who sees it for the first time. In the fields of pebbles, which are several kilometers long and several hundred meters wide, you can see the Sand Pink (*Dianthus arenarius*), while the lichen form a yellow, green, grey and black lacy ornament that cannot be found anywhere else in Latvia, the pebble deserts found in the surroundings of Užava are the only site where the eleven lichen species grow. GPS: 57.24730, 21.41335
- 2 **The South Pier.** The promenade is ideal for taking walks and watching the setting sun, the might of the stormy sea, and huge ships calling at the port. GPS: 57.39808, 21.53262
- 3 **Ventspils Cow Parade.** In the city, you can see 24 natural-size cows made out of fiberglass and 3 big cows: the Sailor Cow, the Flower Cow and the Travelling Cow. They are 4 m high and 7 m wide.
- 4 **The Seaside Open-Air Museum.** You will find an extensive sea fishing boat collection and the largest anchor collection in the Baltics with more than 140 exhibits dating from the 17th century to present day. You can also enjoy little narrow gauge train running in the territory of the museum. GPS: 57.38501, 21.53788
- 5 **Ostgals.** A special and romantic spot with quiet cobblestone streets, attractive 19th century wooden buildings and ever present geraniums on the window sills. GPS: 57.39392, 21.54172
- 6 **The Anchor Trail.** At the Seaside Park, the biggest anchors found in the Seaside Open-Air Museum were used to create the Anchor Trail. You will find the largest anchor next to the Park's entrance; it weighs 23 tons and towers 6 m in height. GPS: 57.38901, 21.53644
- 7 **Contour mark of Latvia.** The access path to the platform is a rendition of the infinity symbol designed for Latvia's centennial. GPS: 57.39012, 21.53319


SERVICES

 **Accommodations**

1. Guest house "Spicīte", T: +371 29508200; GPS: 57.35710, 21.52758
 2. Guest house "Kāpsargi", T: +371 22020327; GPS: 57.35942, 21.53419
 3. Holiday home "Gatiņi", T: +371 26353588; GPS: 57.36292, 21.53410
 4. Tent campsite "Lībnieki", T: +371 27782586; GPS: 57.30564, 21.48762
- Accommodations in Ventspils
www.visitventspils.com

-  **Catering**
Catering companies in Ventspils
www.visitventspils.com
-  **Shops**
In Užava, GPS: 57.22926, 21.45514
and in Ventspils.
-  **Public transport**
Bus transport connects Užava and Ventspils (~ 4 times per day).
-  **Rest areas**
Rest area, GPS: 57.35520, 21.50033

TOURIST INFORMATION

 **Ventspils TIC, Dārzu iela 6, Ventspils,**
www.visitventspils.com,
T: +371 63622263, 29232226;
GPS: 57.39838, 21.56953



Ventspils – Staldzene

Through Ventspils




The itinerary goes through Ventspils and its surrounding forests. The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route winds from the South Pier through the historic Ostgals and the Old Town, crosses the Venta River and continues through the Pārventa District via a pedestrian and cyclist path in the direction of Staldzene where it circles the Ventspils Port and then returns to the seacoast. It is worth taking one “day off” and get to know the most interesting places in the city, as well as visit the Seaside Open-Air Museum.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 15 km


 5–7 h


 The South Pier of Ventspils, opposite **P**

 Staldzenes **P**, opposite the beach

 South Pier – Ostgals – Ventspils Old Town – Sarkanmuiža Fields – Venta Bridge – Pārventa – Talsu iela – Bangu iela – Staldzene

 Easy

 Asphalt (pedestrian and pedestrian – cyclist paths), cobbled roads.


 The bluff near Staldzene: it is forbidden to climb it, as it can cause landslides and landfalls of sand and soil. Bangu iela has no pedestrian sidewalk, so during the season with heavy traffic it is advisable to choose the alternative route.







You can reach the seashore earlier before reaching Staldzene: take a turn from Talsu iela onto the Vecais Staldzenes ceļš and then continue along the fence of the Ventspils Oil Terminal for 1,7 km until you reach the seashore at Pārventa Beach.




WORTH SEEING!

- 1** The Fishing boat "Azova" and "Grots".
GPS: 57.39761, 21.53319
- 2** The Giant Chain Chair.
GPS: 57.39722, 21.53368
- 3** Viewing tower.
GPS: 57.39662, 21.53297
- 4** Buoy exposition on the promenade of Ostas street. 14 buoys and markers along the bank of Venta, which have now been given a second life – to tell the story of seafaring. An information plate is placed next to each buoy, which explains the purpose of the particular type of buoy.
GPS: 57.39847, 21.56707
- 5** The Livonian Order Castle. The Livonian Order castle differs from other medieval fortresses with its interior, where the modern design of museum exhibits' stands harmonizes with the historic environment. T: +371 63622031;
GPS: 57.39614, 21.55875
- 6** The Ventspils Marketplace. The central object of the marketplace is a bell tower with a clock, catcher in the form of a big counting frame, as well as sculptor's Ģļebs Panteļejevs exhibition of weights, volumes and measures.
GPS: 57.39758, 21.56850
- 7** A Monument to the founder of Latvian seafaring, Krišjānis Valdemārs.
GPS: 57.39698, 21.56025
- 8** The Ship Watcher Fountain.
GPS: 57.39769, 21.56441
- 9** The Dune Pine Fountain.
GPS: 57.40389, 21.59078
- 10**  Staldzene Bluff. A bluff with a length of around 400 m with a height varying from 4 to 8 m.
GPS: 57.44539, 21.60438

SERVICES

-  **Accommodations**
in Ventspils www.visitventspils.com
-  **Catering**
Catering companies
www.visitventspils.com
-  **Shops**
In Ventspils.
-  **Public transport**
Bus transport connects Ventspils and Staldzene [around once per hour].
www.ventspilsreiss.lv

TOURIST INFORMATION

 **Ventspils TIC**, Dārzu iela 6, Ventspils,
www.visitventspils.com,
T: +371 63622263, 29232226;
GPS: 57.39838, 21.56953



Staldzene – Oviši

Destination – Cape Oviši




When climbing down to the beach of Staldzene, you can already see a bluff that is a couple of meters high and occasionally barren and that gradually becomes higher and higher (the peak point is Kokkalns, at 29 m). 3-4 km to the SE of Staldzene, a narrow section of beach with a bluff has formed, bathed by the waves during strong winds. After passing Liepene, the washed away coastline is slowly becoming lower and beyond Jaunupe, all the way to Cape Oviši, wide beaches have formed with the widest area situated at the tip of Cape Oviši.




PRACTICAL INFORMATION


..... 17 km  6–8 h

 Staldzenes **P**, opposite the beach

 **P** in the center of Oviši, 0,5 km from the beach

 Staldzene – Liepene – Jaunupe – Oviši

 Medium

 Sandy and pebbly beaches. You have to go across the pebbles when the sea level has “risen” in case of big waves. During

windless weather, sandy beaches appear. The coastline undergoes dramatic changes after storms, the sand can be soft and silted. Near the bluffs: clay washed ashore.



You can wade across the Jaunupe River during low water.



The bluffs: it is forbidden to climb them or to approach their upper part and base during storms and rain, as it can cause landslides and landfalls of sand and soil. 3–4 km to the SE of Staldzene, a narrow section of beach with a bluff has formed, bathed by the waves during strong winds

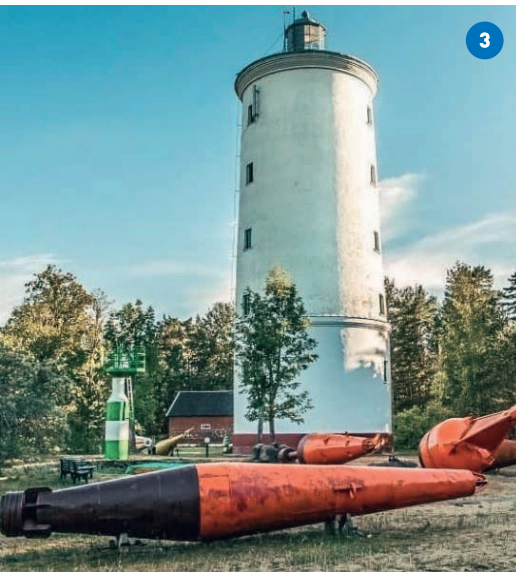
(+/- 10 m/s and more) from the NW, W, SW. In this case, you have to take Staldzenes iela in the direction of Liepene where it turns into a forest road and reaches Liepene in ~ 3,5 km. In Liepene, the road leads you back to the sea.



No shops available between Staldzene and Oviši. The previous shop is in Ventspils (Pārventa District), while the next one is only located in Mazirbe (so you have to stock up on food for a hike of three and a half days).



Jaunupe and Oviši are connected by forest roads and trails.



WORTH SEEING!

- 1** Oviši. During the independent interwar period in Latvia, there were 51 farmsteads in Oviši, but only 10 remain today. In some of them, ancient buildings and unusual fence systems have been preserved. GPS: 57.57085, 21.72471
- 2** The Austra tree in Oviši. It is 6,5 meters high and 5 meters wide. The Austra tree is positioned so that it can reflect the sunrise on the morning of Midsummer's Day. GPS: 57.56744, 21.71665
- 3** Oviši Lighthouse. Oviši Lighthouse is considered the first and oldest navigation building in Latvia (1814) preserved until today. The diameter of the stone tower is 11,5 m and it is 37 m high. From the top of it, you can see the newest lighthouse in Latvia - the Irbe Lighthouse in the sea - and the highest lighthouse in the country at Mīkelbāka. T: +371 26264616; GPS: 57.56872, 21.71592

SERVICES

Accommodations

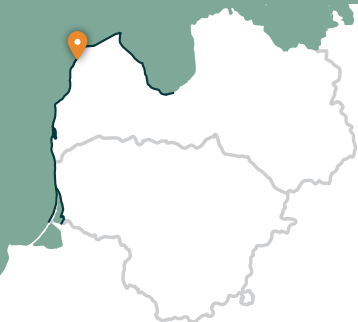
- 1.** Campsite "Videnieki", T: +371 29262139; GPS: 57.48716, 21.64973
- 2.** Campsite "Liepene", T: +371 29130012; GPS: 57.48942, 21.64773
- 3.** Recreation center "Vējciems", T: +371 26180479; GPS: 57.49158, 21.64756
- 4.** Tent campsite "Ovišu bāka" (Oviši Lighthouse), T: +371 26264616; GPS: 57.56877, 21.71594
- 5.** Campsite "Jēņi", T: +371 26382706; GPS: 57.57030, 21.71637
- 6.** Holiday home "Kadīki", T: +371 26163236, 29420236; GPS: 57.57011, 21.71707

- Catering**
Restaurant "Vējciems",
T: +371 26180479; GPS: 57.49158, 21.64756
- Shops**
There are no shops in this section.
- Public transport**
Bus transport connects Ventspils and Staldzene (around once per hour).
www.ventspilsreiss.lv

TOURIST INFORMATION

i Ventspils TIC, Dārzu iela 6, Ventspils,
www.visitventspils.com,
T: +371 63622263, 29232226;
GPS: 57.39838, 21.56953





Oviši – Miķeļtornis

Between Oviši Lighthouse and Miķeļbāka Lighthouse



The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route leads through the Oviši Nature reserve where the typical coastal scenery is formed by wide sandy beaches and dunes. Here, the materials naturally found on the beach, the pebbles and sand, create big natural mosaics. In Lūžņa village, military objects from different periods are of interest to visitors, yet near the estuary of the Lūžupe River the seasonal closure must be observed in order to protect the nesting birds: it is prohibited to go there from 01.04. to 15.07. You must go around this place by following the indications marked in the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route. The destination of the itinerary, the Miķeļbāka Lighthouse, can be seen from afar.





PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 18 km

 6–8 h

 Oviši Lighthouse

 Centre of Miķeļtornis Village next to the Lutheran church

 Oviši – Lūžņa – Miķeļtornis

 Easy



Mainly wide, sandy beaches with some pebbles mixed in.



There are brooks that you can wade across during low water.



The former Soviet military base in Lūžņa Village.

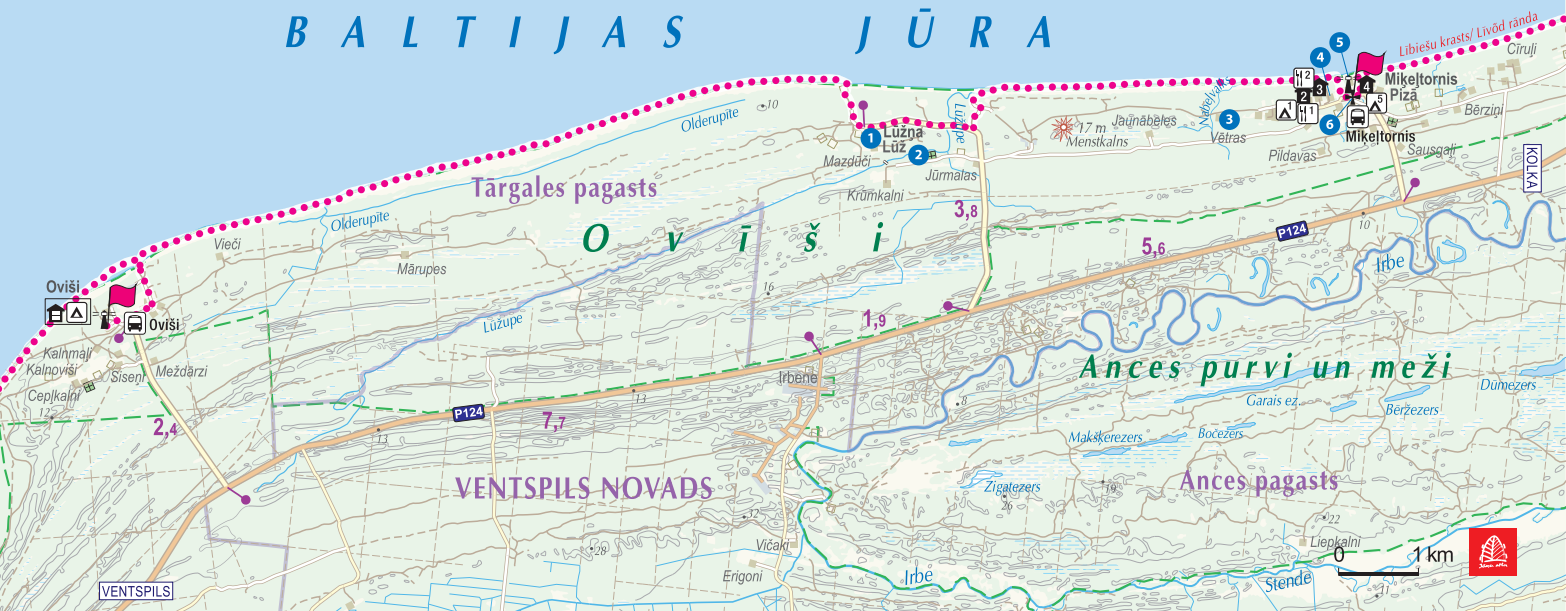


A seasonal closure is in force at the estuary of Lūžņa (the Lūžupe River) opposite Lūžņa village. Entering the territory is prohibited from 01.04. to 15.07. Here, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route turns towards Lūžņa Village. You have to go through it and at the place

where the gravel road turns South (to road P124), turn left and return to the beach through the former military base (follow the marks in the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route) in the direction of Miķeļtornis village. No shops are available between Ventspils (Pārventa District) and Mazirbe.



For 4,5 km, Lūžņa village and Miķeļtornis village are connected by small forest trails that can be used in case of strong wind.



WORTH SEEING!

- 1 Lūžņa village.** Lūžņa is a village that is several kilometers long and is located on both sides of the Lūžņa River. In 1937, there were 36 houses and 2 piers. During the Soviet occupation, a military base belonging to the Soviet army was located near Lūžņa; the remains of its buildings can still be seen today. GPS: 57.59357, 21.87273
- 2 Lūžņu Cemetery.** Here lies the last person to speak the Western dialect of the Livonian language Lizete Švanberga (1902 – 1987). GPS: 57.59084, 21.88759
- 3 Nabeļkalns Hill.** Also known as border hill. It is a state protected archaeological monument located between two municipalities. The Vecnābeles River, also called the Lūžupe River or the Nabeļupe River, flows along the hill. The hill is located ~ 0,3 km in the SW direction from the Vētru (Storm) House. GPS: 57.59643, 21.94717
- 4 Mīķeltnoris (Tower of Mīķelis).** This place got its current name (before it was Pize, Pizā in the Livonian language, meaning "osier twig" in Latvian) from the lighthouse built during the times of Russian Empire, which was named *Mihailovskij majak* after the nephew of the old Emperor Alexander II. GPS: 57.59906, 21.97488

- 5 Mīķelbāka (The Lighthouse of Mīķelis).** Mīķeltnoris or Mīķelbāka is the tallest lighthouse in the Baltics, it is 59 m high. The lighthouse can only be viewed from afar. GPS: 57.59975, 21.97445
- 6 The Mīķeltnoris Lutheran Church.** The Mīķeltnoris (Pize) Church was built in 1883 of red bricks replacing the old Lutheran log building. The interior decoration contains ancient ornaments. From 1963 to 1989, the parish was inactive and the building was used as a pioneer camp club. The church can only be viewed before and after services which take place during major religious holidays. GPS: 57.59892, 21.97543

SERVICES



Accommodations

- 1. Campsite "Mīķelbāka",** T: +371 27884438; GPS: 57.59724, 21.96463
- 2. Holiday home "Prinči",** T: +371 29333854; GPS: 57.59840, 21.96635
- 3. Guest house - Camping "Pizā,"** T: +371 23308622; GPS: 57.59972, 21.96863
- 4. Holiday home "Tālrīti",** T: +371 29272226; GPS: 57.59935, 21.97681
- 5. Tent campsite "Lību ligzda",** T: +371 26131413; GPS: 57.59894, 21.97820



Catering

- 1. Cafe "Mīķelbāka",** T: +371 27884438; GPS: 57.59734, 21.96565
- 2. Cafe "Pizā",** T: +371 23308622; GPS: 57.59972, 21.96863



Shops

No shops available in this section.



Public transport

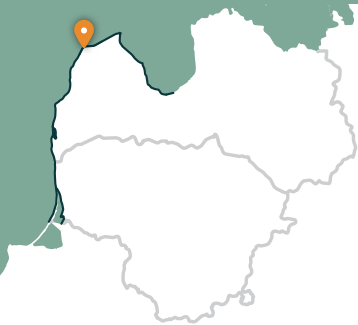
Not available.

TOURIST INFORMATION



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www.visitventspils.com,
T: +371 63622263, 29232226;
GPS: 57.39838, 21.56953





Miķeļtornis – Sīkrags

Destination – Slītere National Park




Starting from Miķeļtornis up to the turn towards the cable bridge over the Irbe River, a wide beach with low, sparse foredunes lays before your eyes. For ~ 4,5 km, the itinerary goes around the estuary of the Irbe River where a seasonal closure is in force in order to protect nesting birds and where it is forbidden to enter from 01.04. to 15.07. By taking a detour, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route passes through a beautiful pine forest with high dunes the slopes of which are rich with mushrooms and berries. After passing the estuary of the Irbe River and as far as Sīkrags village, you will find a stretch of wide sandy beach and ~ 1 km before reaching Sīkrags you will see the Ķikans brook crossing the beach and marking the border of the Slītere National Park.




PRACTICAL INFORMATION

19 km  6–8 h

 Centre of Miķeļtornis Village next to the Lutheran church

 Sīkrags , opposite the beach

 Miķeļtornis – Lielirbe – Jaunciems – Sīkrags

 Easy



Sandy beaches, forest trails (in some places, loose sand).



The Ķikans brook that you can wade across during low water. During high water, you can use the bridge located 0,5 km away from the sea.



None.



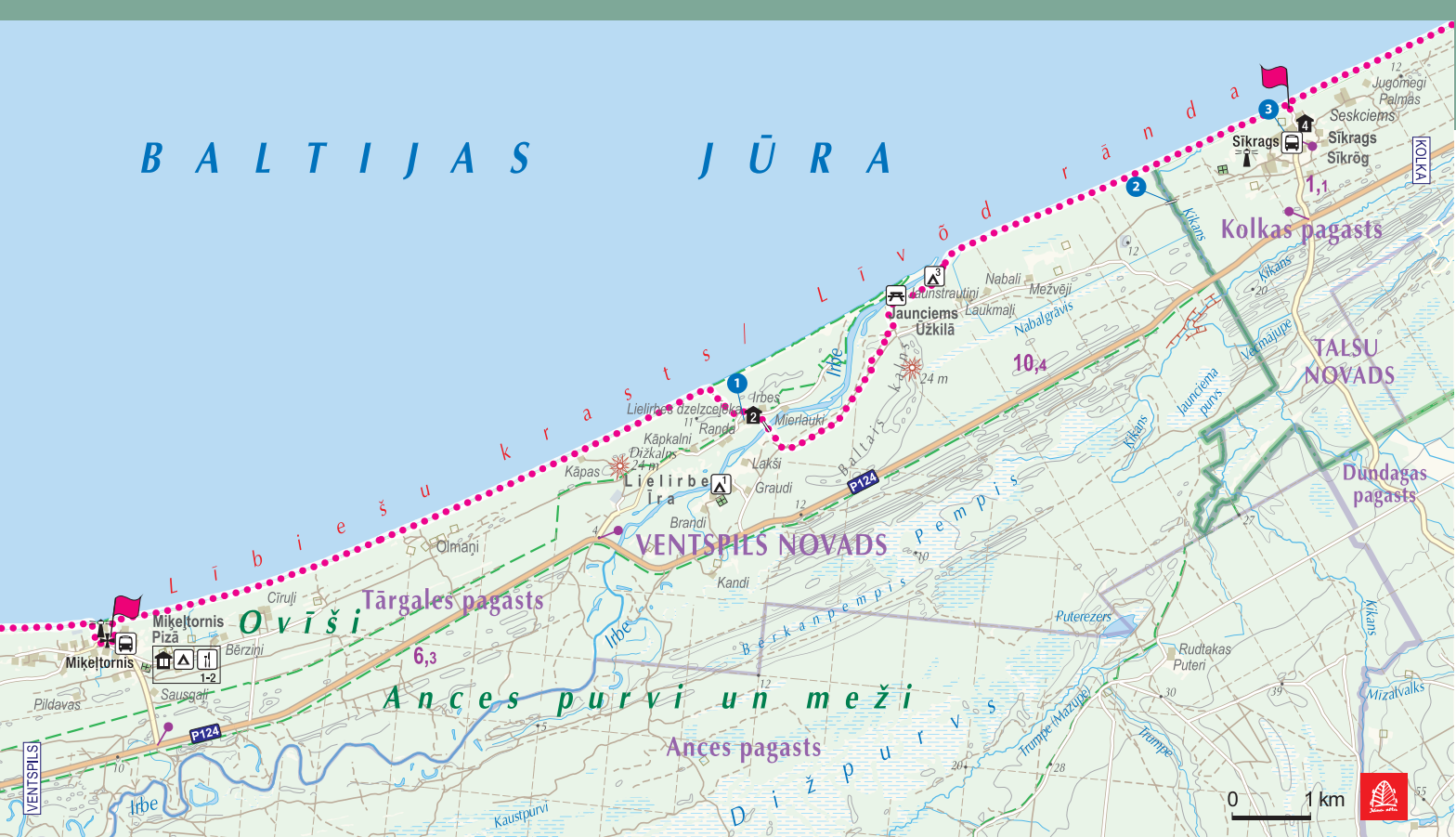
A seasonal closure is in force at the estuary of the Irbe River (the territory around its mouth). Entering the territory

is prohibited from 01.04. to 15.07. No shops are available between Ventspils (Pārventa District) and Mazirbe.



A lonely forest road stretches through the forest and alongside the seacoast between Miķeļtornis and the Irbe River, Lielirbe village and Sīkrags village in the place where there used to be a narrow-gauge railway line connecting Mazirbe and Ventspils. It can be used in bad weather.

BALTIJAS JŪRA



WORTH SEEING!

- 1 **Lielirbe.** The village is situated on both banks ("jūrspuse" or "seaside" and "zemspuse" or "landside" in the dialect of the Western part of Latvia) of the Irbe River (also called Dižirve, Īra) extending for 6 km around where the river flows into the sea. In 1939, there were around 300 inhabitants and more than 70 houses in the village. A little narrow gauge train used to run through the village, connecting it with the center of the district, Ventspils, and Dundaga, Stende and further on to Riga. At the estuary of the Irbe River, there used to be a port of the ancient Livonian seafarers. This seacoast that is now so quiet with only 10 houses used to be an active timber trade and transport center at the end of the 19th century. GPS: 57.62664, 22.11036
- 2 **The Pedestrian bridge across the Ķikans Brook.** The pedestrian bridge crosses the Ķikans Brook in a place where the narrow gauge railway used to run connecting Ventspils, Mazirbe and Stende; the locals call it the narrow gauge track. The railway was active up until 1963. When going via the track and the unpaved road by bike or on foot, you can even reach the bridge across the Irbe River on the road connecting Ventspils and Kolka. GPS: 57.65303, 22.20040
- 3 **Sīkrags village.** One of the oldest Livonian settlements, first mentioned in written records in 1387. One of the most important small ports of the North Kurzeme coast was established here in the 17th century. Back then Sīkrags was a larger village than Mazirbe. During the first period of independence of Latvia, Sīkrags was a bustling Livonian fishing village with about 60 active fishermen. The village was a stronghold of the Livonian language. 85 of the 193 residents (44%) of Sīkrags were Livonian. In 1922, the first Livonian choir was created here. GPS: 57.66078, 22.22574

SERVICES



Accommodations

1. Campsite "Airē pats", T: +371 26405065; GPS: 57.61887, 22.10508
2. Holiday home "Dzelzceļa ēka", T: +371 27474822; GPS: 57.62665, 22.11056
3. Tent area "Irbes ieteka", GPS: 57.64114, 22.14279
4. Country house "Jaunklāvi", T: +371 29469614; GPS: 57.66170, 22.22832



Catering

1. Cafe "Miķeļbāka", T: +371 27884438; GPS: 57.59734, 21.96567
2. Cafe "Pizā", T: +371 23308622; GPS: 57.59972, 21.96863



Shops

No shops available in this section.



Public transport

Not available.



Rest areas

At the mouth of the Irbe River, GPS: 57.64114, 22.14279

TOURIST INFORMATION

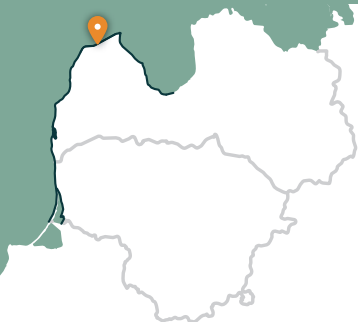


Ventspils TIC, Dārzu iela 6, Ventspils, www.visitventspils.com, T: +371 63622263, 29232226; GPS: 57.39838, 21.56953



Dundaga TIC, Pils iela 14, Dundaga, www.visit.dundaga.lv, T: +371 29444395, 63232293; GPS: 57.51044, 22.35528





Sīkrags – Saunags

The Livonian Coast



A wide sandy beach stretches from Sīkrags village up to Mazirbe beach which is crossed by the Mazirbe Stream. The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route leads out to the center of Mazirbe village where you can see the Livonian National House. Continuing through small forest and country roads past the former Mazirbe Naval school, it winds through small coastal Livonian villages: Košrags, Pitrags and then Saunags. The Livonian Coastline is the only place where you can learn about the cultural heritage of the other indigenous nation of Latvia. In this section, the indicating signs are in both the Latvian and Livonian language.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 16 km

🕒 5–7 h

🚩 In Sīkraga **P**, opposite the beach

🚩 The center of Saunags Village

🟢 Easy



Sīkrags – Mazirbe – Košrags – Pitrags – Saunags



Sandy beaches, forest trails and gravel roads. In Mazirbe Village, asphalt.



You can wade across the small Mazirbe River during low water (there is a bridge ~ 0,5 km away from the sea).



The only shop in the section from Ventspils to Cape Kolka is located in Mazirbe village. The itinerary goes through Slītere National Park.



The distance between Mazirbe village and Saunags village can be covered via the beach. Vigorous walkers can combine this section with the one from the next day and finish in Cape Kolka.

BALTIJAS JŪRA



WORTH SEEING!

- 1** **Mazirbe village.** During the first period of Latvia's independence, Mazirbe was a rapidly developing village and became the center of Livonian social and cultural life. GPS: 57.68295, 22.31733
- 2** **The fishing boat cemetery in Mazirbe village.** Boats ended up in the Mazirbe coastal forest as a result of fleet changes — having served their time and being replaced with new ones, the old boats were abandoned in the woods. GPS: 57.69014, 22.31978
- 3** **A collection of household items in the "Stūrīši – Branki" household in Mazirbe village.** Stories about the Livonians and the Taizeļi family. Lunch, snacks, tastings. Everything here is historical and authentic. T: +371 29469165; GPS: 57.68345, 22.31685
- 4** **The Livonian National House.** +371 28603233; GPS: 57.68363, 22.31784
- 5** **20 types of ancient fences in "Pie Andra Pitragā".** T: +371 26493087; GPS: 57.70172, 22.38596
- 6** **Košrags village.** Considered to be the newest Livonian seaside village, established in the 17th century. The historical houses ("Anduļi", "Žoki", "Kinne", "Tillemači") have been preserved and make up the central part of the village. GPS: 57.69787, 22.36071
- 7** **Pitragi village.** The village is first mentioned in historical documents from the 16th century. Similarly to other villages, fishing was the main source of income in Pitragi. There were several sprat processing workshops in the village;

a pier was built in 1938 to collect sea manure. GPS: 57.70386, 22.3876036

- 8** **Saunags village.** The village is first mentioned in written records as early as 1310. Today, only a few houses have year-round residents, they are neatly maintained, newly built buildings fit organically into the traditional architecture. GPS: 57.72090, 22.44356

SERVICES

Accommodations

- 1. Holiday home "Upeskalni",** T: +371 29259510, 26464483; GPS: 57.68083, 22.30647
- 2. Holiday home "Vecvalgani",** T: +371 26159870; GPS: 57.68582, 22.31583
- 3. Holiday home "Stūrīši – Branki",** T: +371 29469165; GPS: 57.68367, 22.31525
- 4. Holiday home "Kastulgi",** T: +371 22423294; GPS: 57.68447, 22.31442
- 5. Campsite "Jūrmalniēki",** T: +371 22334904; GPS: 57.68277, 22.31679
- 6. Accommodations "Mazirbe.lv",** T: +371 29321000; GPS: 57.67675, 22.31865
- 7. Holiday home "Jūras māja – Dzelmes",** T: +371 20139070; GPS: 57.69041, 22.33004
- 8. Holiday home "Jūvgumegi",** T: +371 29512566; GPS: 57.68810, 22.32773
- 9. Campsite "Kalēji",** T: +371 28829474; GPS: 57.68194, 22.31873
- 10. Campsite "Strautmaļi",** T: +371 28870099; GPS: 57.67851, 22.36235
- 11. Country house "Jauntilmači",** T: +371 29412974; GPS: 57.69903, 22.35935

- 12. Campsite "Place to relax Liblabi",** T: +371 29212610; GPS: 57.69725, 22.35301
- 13. Campsite "Pitagi",** T: +371 29372728; GPS: 57.69540, 22.36213
- 14. Campsite "Pie Andra Pitragā",** T: +371 26493087; GPS: 57.70172, 22.38596
- 15. Country house "Upes",** T: +371 27824661; GPS: 57.70436, 22.38539
- 16. Holiday home "Alpi",** T: +371 22066233; GPS: 57.70540, 22.39132



Catering

- 1. Summer café "Dižjūra",** T: +371 28658791; GPS: 57.68363, 22.31784
- 2. Livonian cuisine in "Stūrīši – Branki",** only upon previous reservation, T: +371 29469165; GPS: 57.68367, 22.31525
- 3. Cafe "Pie Andra Pitragā",** T: +371 26493087; GPS: 57.70172, 22.38596



Shops

In Mazirbe, GPS: 57.68299, 22.31722



Public transport

Not available between Sīkrags village and Saunags village. Runs twice per day between Mazirbe village and Saunags village.



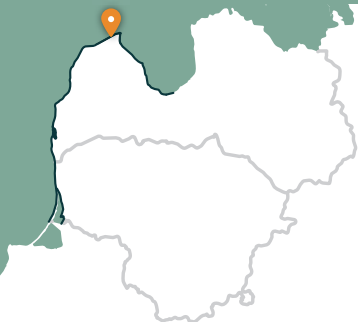
Rest areas

Next to the shop in Mazirbe village, GPS: 57.68309, 22.31723

TOURIST INFORMATION



Dundaga TIC,
Pils iela 14, Dundaga,
www.visit.dundaga.lv,
T: +371 29444395, 63232293;
GPS: 57.51044, 22.35528



Saunags village – Kolka

The heart of Europe: Cape Kolka



The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route winds through small country and forest roads from Saunags village to Vaide village where it returns to the seacoast again. Wide sandy beaches stretch up to Cape Kolka turning into low sparse foredunes; wooded seaside dunes continue behind them. For around 2 km, there are washed away dunes followed by the Dumbrkalni Hills. Cape Kolka, the point where the Great Sea meets the Little Sea, is one of the most popular bird-watching sites on the Baltic seacoast.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 13 km

⌚ 5-7 h

🚩 The center of Saunags Village

🚩 Cape Kolka, opposite the Kolkasrags Information and Visitors center **P**

📍 Saunags – Vaide – Cape Kolka

📷 Easy

🌳 Gravel roads, sandy beach.

🚧 You can wade across the Vecročupe River during low water.

⚠️ The itinerary goes through Slītere National Park.

📍 The distance between Saunags village and Vaide village can be covered via the beach. You can go from Vaide village to Kolka via a forest trail (marked on the trees with yellow paint or with cycle route markings No 558). Experienced walkers can combine this section with the one of the previous day and start in Sīkrags village.



WORTH SEEING!

- 1** **The Horn collection in Vaide village.** More than 550 horns and exposition about nature protection. T: +371 29395624; GPS: 57.72684, 22.45993
- 2** **The Pine Nature Trail.** The trail (1.2 km) leads through the dune forest to the seaside. When the pine trees are in blossom, the terraneous branches of the pines form fascinating flowering carpets over the ground. You can see the "Mother of Pines" which could possibly be one of the oldest coastal pines deeply covered in sand. According to biologists, it could be around 200-300 years old. GPS: 57.75708, 22.59076
- 3** **The Bird observation tower.** 20 m high. GPS: 57.75683, 22.59124
- 4** **The Old Kolka Lighthouse.** The only remains of the lighthouse are its ruins, reaffirming the mightiness of the sea, wind and currents at Cape Kolka. GPS: 57.75891, 22.60471
- 5** **The Kolka Lighthouse.** The only lighthouse in Latvia built on an island that was artificially created 6 km from the shore. GPS: 57.80238, 22.63398
- 6** **A Monument to the ones taken by the sea.** Erected to commemorate lives and vessels lost at sea, as well as the Land of the Livonia's. GPS: 57.75829, 22.60278
- 7** **Cape Kolka.** The Northernmost point of the Kurzeme (Courland) peninsula. Its ancient name Domesnes was first mentioned on the Mervalla Rune Stone in Sweden around 1040. The shelf of Cape Kolka stretches into the sea for 6 km and it is bathed by the sea at a depth of 0,5-3 km. The waves of the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga meet on its shelf. During storms waves can reach a height of 7 m. GPS: 57.75847, 22.60447
- 8** **The Livonian center "Kūolka".** The Livonian Community Centre at Kolka. Provides an insight into the Livonian culture of North Kurzeme, traditional trades, the sound of the language and the cultural heritage of the coastal community. Culture events,

seminars, courses, exhibitions, tourist information. T: +371 29198596; GPS: 57.74306, 22.58509

- 9** **The Kolka Sea Star Virgin Roman Catholic Church.** T: +371 29644609, 29793759; GPS: 57.73838, 22.58311

SERVICES

Accommodations

- 1. Holiday home "Zemeņlauki",** T: +371 26376974; GPS: 57.72026, 22.43500
- 2. Holiday home "Vecvalki",** T: +371 28478789; GPS: 57.71913, 22.43122
- 3. Holiday home "Nītaigā",** T: +371 25915787; GPS: 57.72046, 22.43623
- 4. Campsite "Purviedi",** T: +371 29395624, 63200179; GPS: 57.72686, 22.45994
- 5. Campsite "Saules mājas",** T: +371 28368830, 26322972; GPS: 57.75852, 22.60015
- 6. Holiday home "Ūši",** T: +371 29475692, 63276507; GPS: 57.74822, 22.59502
- 7. Holiday home "Mežalauki",** T: +371 26536887; GPS: 57.74794, 22.58908
- 8. Holiday home "Vārpas",** T: +371 26404053; GPS: 57.74769, 22.58892
- 9. Holiday home "Kolka",** T: +371 26404053; GPS: 57.74764, 22.58802
- 10. Recreation center "Krogī",** T: +371 29195587, 29450413; GPS: 57.74629, 22.59153
- 11. Apartment "Dzintarkrasti",** T: +371 20347286; GPS: 57.74307, 22.59132
- 12. Guest house "Vītoli",** T: +371 29135764; GPS: 57.74003, 22.58265
- 13. Campsite "Piejūras namiņš",** T: +371 20212109, 28268665; GPS: 57.73832, 22.58868
- 14. Hotel "Zītari",** T: +371 29808111, 20019608; GPS: 57.73810, 22.58163
- 15. Tent area "Pūpoli",** T: +371 28311813, 27650997; GPS: 57.72784, 22.58058

Catering

- 1. Cafe "Divjūriņas",** T: +371 28658791; GPS: 57.75635, 22.60022
- 2. Livonian dishes "Ūši",** T: +371 29475692; GPS: 57.74836, 22.59503



Livonian dish, sklandraušī. Only by prior appointment.

- 3. Cafe "Zītari",** T: +371 20019608, 29808111; GPS: 57.73810, 22.58163

Shops

In Kolka, GPS: 57.74371, 22.58672; GPS: 57.73784, 22.58172

Public transport

Bus transport connects Saunags and Kolka (~ 2-4 times per day).

Rest areas

Next to Vaide ponds, GPS: 57.73051, 22.48136

At the Pine Nature Trail, GPS: 57.75683, 22.59124

Next to the Kolkasrags Information and Visitors center, GPS: 57.75650, 22.60046

Parking lot, GPS: 57.75083, 22.59550

TOURIST INFORMATION

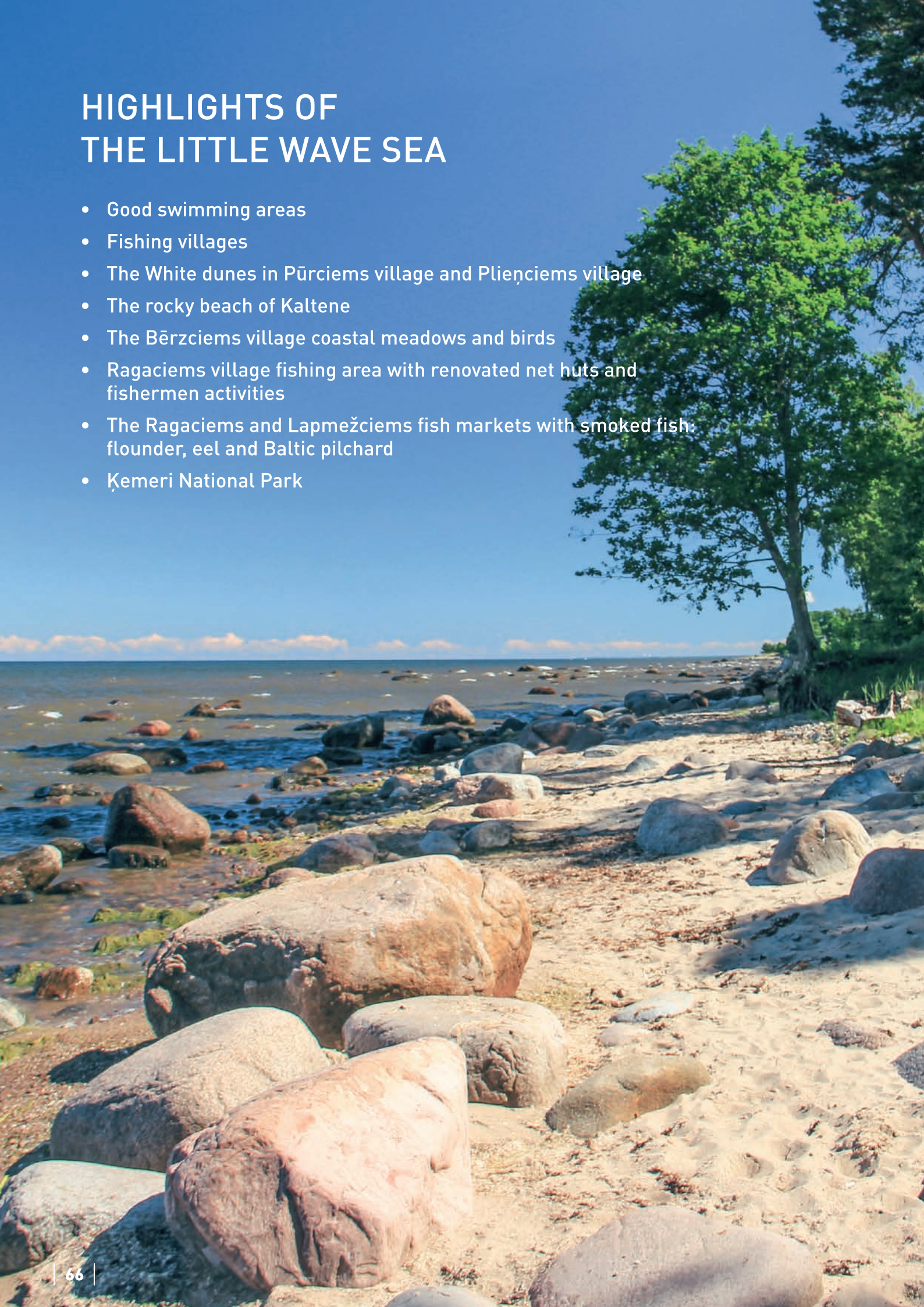
i **Kolkasrags Information and Visitors center,** Kolkasrags, Kolka, www.kolkasrags.lv, T: +371 29149105; GPS: 57.75650, 22.59991

i **Dundaga TIC,** Pils iela 14, Dundaga, www.visit.dundaga.lv, T: +371 29444395, 63232293; GPS: 57.51044, 22.35528

i **Livonian Community Centre,** "Pastnieki", Kolka, T: +371 29402093; GPS: 57.74208, 22.58485

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LITTLE WAVE SEA

- Good swimming areas
- Fishing villages
- The White dunes in Pūrciems village and Plienčiems village
- The rocky beach of Kaltene
- The Bērzciems village coastal meadows and birds
- Ragaciems village fishing area with renovated net huts and fishermen activities
- The Ragaciems and Lapmežciems fish markets with smoked fish: flounder, eel and Baltic pilchard
- Ķemeri National Park



LATVIA

LITTLE WAVE SEA



THE WEST COAST OF THE GULF OF RIGA

Kolka – Ragaciems: 115 km, #16-20

The Little Wave Sea is the name given to the Western coast of the Gulf of Riga by the natives of Kurzeme. The Little Wave Sea section starts at Cape Kolka, in the Slītere National Park which is crossed by the migration routes for birds travelling from the White Sea to the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Coastal Hiking Route leads you along the seacoast of the Gulf of Riga up to Jūrmala. The itinerary contains a lot of sandy beaches, in some places, coastal meadows, short sections of rocky seashore notched by small coves near Kaltene where swans spend the summer. On the coast, present-day fishing villages and small yacht ports are located one after another. Here, industrial fishing is carried out and fish processing plants operate in some places. Freshly smoked fish can be bought in the markets and shops of the coastal villages and from the local fishermen.

The Story of the Little Wave Sea

The Baltic Sea is one of the fiercest and most dangerous seas in the world and the surroundings of Cape Kolka is one of the biggest ship graveyards in the Baltic Sea, where ships dating back to the Viking Age sleep in peace. At the seacoast, sailing ship wrecks can still be found washed ashore after storms or the remains of wrecks can be seen on the beach or in the shallow coastal waters.





Kolka – Ģipka

Along the “Closed Coast”



At Cape Kolka, when turning towards the Gulf, you can clearly see the difference between the “Great Sea” and the “Little Sea”. The first 10 km of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route lead through the coastal area of the Slītere National Park: first, past pine trees that are washed into the sea, past the building of a former fishing kolkhoz, a ship berth and Ēvaži Bluff which is surrounded by an unusually narrow sandy beach with overhanging black alders. The next section of the trail leading to Ģipka also has a narrow sandy beach with pools created by the rich springfens and the mouths of small streams that are shallow in summer. During Soviet times, the seacoast of the Slītere National Park was a closed territory for two reasons: it was a frontier zone and a nature reserve.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 24 km

🕒 8–10 h

🚩 Kolkasrags Information and Visitors center, **P**

🚩 Ģipka

📍🗺️ Kolka – Melnsils – Pūrciems – Ģipka

🟡🟡 Medium

🌲🌲 A hard sandy beach, a forest trail next to the pine trees washed into the sea.

🌊 You can wade across the brooks, the Melnsilupe River (a bridge around 1,3 km away from the sea) and the Pilsupe River (a bridge 0,3 km away) during low water.



In case of strong NE and E winds, the coast may be bathed by the waves in some places. Then it is necessary to choose alternative forest trails. There are no ATMs in Kolka.



Between the Melnsilupe River and the Pilsupe River a forest road-trail stretches for 6 km alongside the sea.



WORTH SEEING!

- 1** Ēvaži nature trail and steep coast. The trail (0.3 km) leads through a dry pine forest to one of the few steep coast of the Gulf of Riga, which is 8–15 m high. GPS: 57.67766, 22.56872
- 2** Melnšils. Melnšils is the last village in the range of the Livonian seaside settlements in Northern Kurzeme where the Livonian still lived in the middle of the 20th century. In the 19th century, all of the homesteads on the coast of the Gulf of Riga starting from Zēņi village (located around 3 km away from Kolka in the direction of Melnšils) up to Melnšils village was called Krustes village. GPS: 57.65267, 22.57335
- 3** The White Dune of Pūrciems village. A 20 m high dune. A 900 m trail has been created along the banks of the Pilsupīte River to view it. GPS: 57.57663, 22.62983
- 4** The Ģipka Evangelical Lutheran Church. There was a time when the church was used as a navigation object for ships to determine their location. Exposition "The Story of the Ģipka Church" can be seen in the church tower. T: +371 29212933, 29432899; GPS: 57.56003, 22.65616

SERVICES

Accommodations

- 1.** Campsite "Melnšils", T: +371 28605606; GPS: 57.65252, 22.58092
- 2.** Holiday home "Kāpas", T: +371 29128403; GPS: 57.64619, 22.57435
- 3.** Campsite "Trommeļa brīvdienu mājiņas", T: +371 23884797; GPS: 57.65259; 22.57482
- 3.** Guest house "Brālītūrumi", T: +371 29440276; GPS: 57.583729, 22.63090

- 4.** Campsite "Plaucaki", T: +371 26445124; GPS: 57.58303, 22.63072
- 5.** Holiday home "Joki", T: +371 26429973; GPS: 57.57042, 22.65331
- 6.** Guest house "Klētņieki", T: +371 26234377; GPS: 57.56672, 22.65432



Catering

- 1.** Pub "Melnšils", T: +371 28605606; GPS: 57.65252, 22.58092
- 2.** Summer cafe "Smilšu krupīts", T: +371 29297797; GPS: 57.67806, 22.56791



Shops

In Kolka, GPS: 57.74371, 22.58672; GPS: 57.73784, 22.58172 in Melnšils, GPS: 57.65291, 22.57352 and in Ģipka, GPS: 57.56990, 22.65008



Public transport

Bus transport connects Kolka and Ģipka (~ 4-6 times per day).



Rest areas

Zēņu pond resting place, GPS: 57.72217, 22.57742

TOURIST INFORMATION



Kolkasrags Information and Visitors center, Kolkasrags, Kolka, www.kolkasrags.lv, T: +371 29149105; GPS: 57.75650, 22.59991



Dundaga TIC, Pils iela 14, Dundaga, www.visit.dundaga.lv, T: +371 29444395, 63232293; GPS: 57.51044, 22.35528

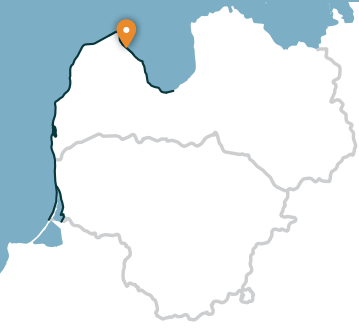


Roja TIC, Selgas iela 14e, Roja, www.roja.lv, T: +371 28630590; GPS: 57.50393, 22.80762



Livonian Community Centre, "Pastnieki", Kolka, T: +371 29402093; GPS: 57.74208, 22.58485





Ģipka – Kaltene

The rocky beach of Kurzeme










A sandy beach that is not too wide and has beautiful dunes and coastal pine forests stretches from Ģipka to Roja, but before reaching Roja it is overgrown with reeds. Conversely, the section between Roja and the Kaltene Church is one of the most extraordinary parts of the seashore of Latvia, where the coast is notched by small capes and coves with a very narrow beach. All over the coast, there are piles of boulders of different sizes with the green foliage of black alders hanging over them. In some places, the large gnarled root systems of the trees washed ashore rise before your eyes. In some places, an unpaved road goes right along the coast and a lot of former fishermen homesteads are aligned next to it.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

-  20 km
-  7-9 h
-  Ģipka
-  The Kaltene Lutheran Church

-  Ģipka – Žocene – Roja – Kaltene
-  Easy up to Roja.
-  Up to Roja, there are mainly sandy beaches with reedy and grassy coasts appearing shortly before reaching the town. Further on there is a forest trail and asphalt in Roja. After passing Roja, a gravel road and a beach with pebbles, sand and gravel of different sizes, as well as the grassy part of the seacoast. In Kaltene: a gravel road.
-  Hard between Roja and Kaltene.

-  In some places, the beach becomes narrower (when the winds create an inflow of water), but it can be bypassed via the nearby road. You can wade across the brooks during low water.
-  You have to be careful when walking across the rocky beach as the stones can be damp, slippery (overgrown with seaweeds) and can move.
-  In case of strong NE and E winds, the coast may be awash with waves in some places. Then it is necessary to take forest trails or coastal roads. Suitable (closed) footwear is necessary, walking poles are advisable for support.





Rest areas

On Roja beach,
GPS: 57.51015, 22.80094

TOURIST INFORMATION



Roja TIC, Selgas iela 14e, Roja,
www.roja.lv,
T: +371 28630590;
GPS: 57.50393, 22.80762

WORTH SEEING!

- 1 The Craftsmen's market. You can buy local products, seasonal berries, fruits and vegetables. GPS: 57.50560, 22.80355
- 2 Fish shop in Roja. T: +371 22432497; GPS 57.50463, 22.80643
- 3 The Roja Marine Fisheries Museum. T: +371 29432899; GPS: 57.50142, 22.81486
- 4 The Giant Sea Boulder of Roja. GPS: 57.50058, 22.82087
- 5 An exhibition showing the cultural history heritage of the Kaltene fishing village. T: +371 29432899; GPS: 57.46388, 22.88122
- 6 The Memorial house of the flamenco guitarist Andrés el Letón. T: +371 26623781; GPS: 57.45958, 22.88431
- 7 The Birdwatching tower in Kaltene. GPS: 57.44563, 22.90578
- 8 Tasting of treats from the "Cīrulīši" homestead. T: +371 28308124; GPS: 57.45939, 22.88031
- 9 The Fish salad factory "Kaltenes zivis", T: +371 20201250; GPS: 57.45133, 22.88606

SERVICES



Accommodations

1. Recreation and sports complex "Dzintarkrasts", T: +371 28600600, 28606060; GPS: 57.54112, 22.70901
2. Guest houses "Green Valley", T: +371 27056622; GPS: 57.53587, 22.69449
3. For accommodations in Roja visit www.roja.lv
4. Guest house "Vecmuižas", T: +371 29244537, 29343119; GPS: 57.48387, 22.85292
5. Hotel "Rēderi", T: +371 63220558, 29238929; GPS: 57.47349, 22.86660
6. Guest house "Vanataurs", T: +371 26441722; GPS: 57.47403, 22.86879
7. Guest house "Vīnkalni", T: +371 26596275; GPS: 57.46500, 22.87968
8. Guest house "Akmens stāsti", T: +371 20347286; GPS: 57.46074, 22.87720
9. Guest house "Zivtiņi", T: +371 29231907; GPS: 57.45026, 22.89868



Catering

1. Restaurant "Dzintarkrasti", T: +371 29105411; GPS: 57.54111, 22.70918
2. Cafe "Beach bus", T: +371 28808159; GPS: 57.51092, 22.80043
3. Cafe "Caurlaide", T: +371 22041007; GPS: 57.50874, 22.80044
4. Restaurant "Otra puse", T: +371 63232226, 29477602; GPS: 57.50805, 22.79861
5. Restaurant "Mare", T: +371 28328599, 29169490; GPS: 57.50614, 22.80208
6. Cafe "Ķipītis", T: +371 63291658, 26373806; GPS: 57.50521, 22.80273
7. Cafe "Čiekurs", T: +371 28317997; GPS: 57.50494, 22.80291
8. Cafe "Rēderi", T: +371 63220558, 29238929; GPS: 57.47335, 22.86676
9. Restaurant "Akmens stāsti", T: +371 20347286; GPS: 57.46074, 22.87720



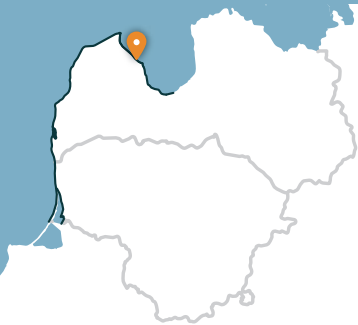
Shops

In Ģipka, GPS: 57.56990, 22.65008, in Roja (several shops), in Kaltene, GPS: 57.45228, 22.89146



Public transport

Bus transport connects Ģipka and Kaltene (– 4 times per day).



Kaltene – Mērsrags

The multifarious coast



A truly multifaceted section of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route in terms of nature, cultural history and scenery. Near Kaltene village, the seashore is speckled with small coves with rocky beaches followed by a thickly overgrown coast where a narrow trail winds its way through reeds and lush vegetation. Further on, the seacoast covered in stones is only a couple of meters wide, in some places it has layers of clay, fields of reeds, in other places, it is carpeted with the algae washed ashore. Sandy beaches with shoals in the sea reappear between Valgalciems village and Mērsrags village. After passing Mērsrags village, the itinerary continues on a road, but when you reach the Lutheran church it turns towards the sea and goes through the coastal meadows as far as the center of Mērsrags village.





PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 24 km  8–10 h


 The Kaltene Lutheran Church


 Mērsrags Tourism information center, 


 Kaltene – Valgalciems – Upesgrīva – Mērsrags


 Near Kaltene and Valgalciems village, there are rocky bays with seaweeds washed ashore, in many places, reeds and seacoast covered in rich vegetation (surpassing the height of a person). When you reach Valgalciems village, there are sandy and rocky beaches, gravel beaches, in places, clay. In the surroundings of Upesgrīva village, the beaches are covered in sand and (fine) gravel. A short section of the road in


Mērsrags village is covered in asphalt, further on: coastal meadows (trails).


 Hard up to Valgalciems village

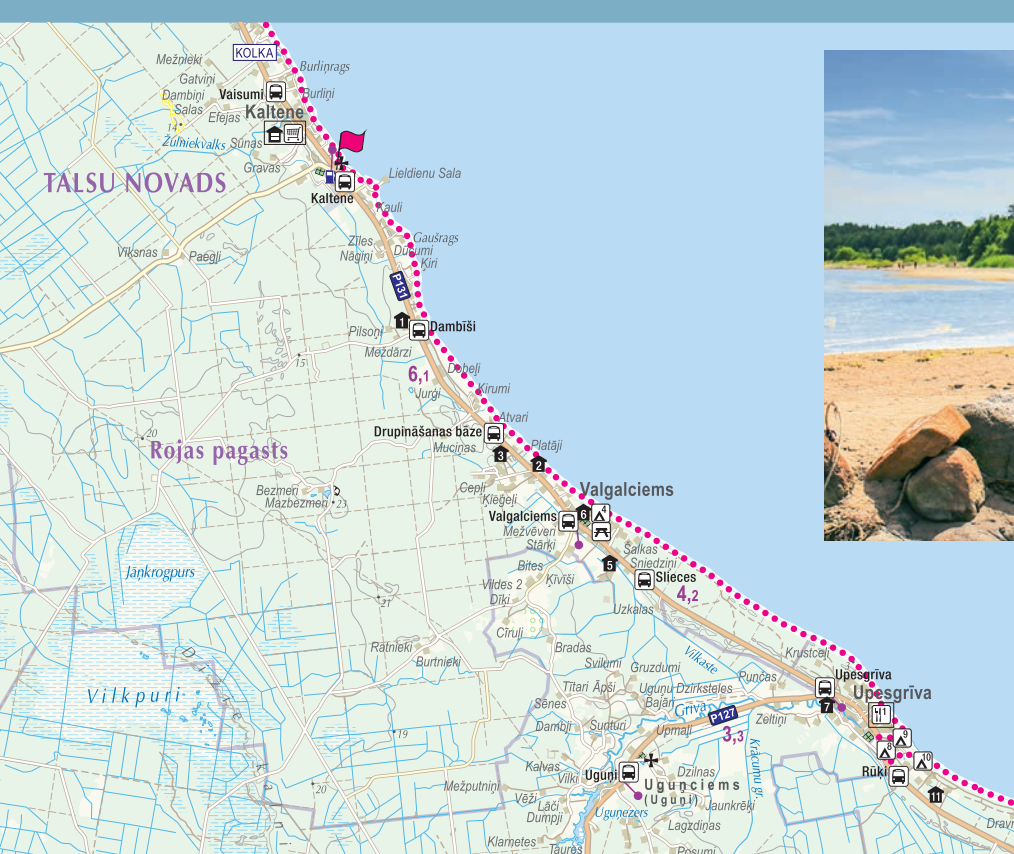
 Easy from Valgalciems to Mērsrags.

 In some places, the beach becomes narrower (when the winds create an inflow of water), but it can be bypassed. You can wade across the brooks and the Grīva River (a bridge around 0,4 km away from the sea) during low water. In the meadows of Mērsrags, you have to cross a ditch over a plankway.

 You have to be careful when walking across the rocky beach as the stones can be damp, slippery (overgrown with seaweeds) and can move.

 In case of strong NE and E winds, the coast may be awash with waves in some places. Then it is necessary to choose alternative forest trails or coastal roads. A lot of algae is washed ashore and rotting. Suitable (closed, water resistant) footwear is necessary, walking poles are advisable for support. You should avail yourself of binoculars for bird watching.

 Between Valgalciems village and Upesgrīva village several trails stretch for ~ 3 km in the forest alongside the sea. For ~ 6 km, Upesgrīva and Mērsrags are connected by a forest road and trails that can be used in case of strong wind.



WORTH SEEING!

- 1 Mērsrags Lighthouse. T: +371 63237704; GPS: 57.36547, 23.12011
- 2 Viewing towers. GPS: 57.36544, 23.12241; GPS: 57.34436, 23.12376
- 3 The Mērsrags Evangelical Lutheran Church. GPS: 57.35391, 23.12430
- 4 Museum Saieta Nams. T: +371 63235995; GPS: 57.34878, 23.12146
- 5 The North Pier of Mērsrags Port. GPS: 57.33529, 23.14123

SERVICES

Accommodations

1. Holiday home "Raudiņi", T: +371 26345921; GPS: 57.43400, 22.90746
2. Holiday home "Lettland", T: +49 651 689101; GPS: 57.41640, 22.93776
3. Guest house "Lēveri", T: +371 29235485, 29481598; GPS: 57.41751, 22.92952
4. Campsite "Vasaroši", T: +371 22409683; GPS: 57.41066, 22.94921
5. Holiday home "Birzītes", T: +371 26538894; GPS: 57.40414, 22.95508
6. Holiday home "Sniedziņi", T: +371 26536652; GPS: 57.41010, 22.94851
7. Holiday home "Audas", T: +371 29285404; GPS: 57.38756, 23.00629
8. Campsite "Stieres", T: +371 29408291, 26583075; GPS: 57.38278, 23.01834
9. Tent area "Kraštīņi", T: +371 26812119; GPS: 57.38361, 23.02129
10. Tent campsite "Knaģi", T: +371 26842413; GPS: 57.38066, 23.02688
11. Guest house "Bērzejās", T: +371 27523691, 29241417; GPS: 57.37663, 23.03021
12. Campsite "Noras", T: +371 20037000, 20038000; GPS: 57.36553, 23.12038
13. Guest house "Cerību liedags", T: +371 29264207; GPS: 57.35732, 23.10243
14. Campsite "Saules kempings", T: +371 26126205; GPS: 57.35784, 23.12956
15. Holiday home "Jaunbodnieki", T: +371 28866784, 29761167; GPS: 57.34552, 23.11498
16. Holiday home "Piparmētras", T: +371 26385967; GPS: 57.34641, 23.10616
17. Guest house "Vētrasputns", T: +371 29717383; GPS: 57.33964, 23.11814
18. Yacht center "Mērsrags", T: +371 29409290; GPS: 57.33434, 23.13347
19. Guest house "Zālītes", T: +371 29421069; GPS: 57.32850, 23.09851
20. Holiday home "Sauleskrasti", T: +371 27727772; GPS: 57.32552, 23.10034
21. Tent campsite "Auči", T: +371 26300016; GPS: 57.32729, 23.13041
22. Campsite "Bebri", T: +371 29264008; GPS: 57.31886, 23.09266
23. Campsite "Ragakrasts", T: +371 28878623; GPS: 57.34044, 23.12329
24. Guest house "Amoliņi", T: +371 28333333; GPS: 57.33053, 23.09501

Catering

1. Cafe "Stieres", T: +371 29408291, 26583075; GPS: 57.38265, 23.01821
2. Cafe "Vētrasputns", T: +371 29717383; GPS: 57.33976, 23.11793



3. Cafe "Kreses", T: +371 26511167, 29278642; GPS: 57.33713, 23.12351

Shops

In Kaltene, GPS: 57.45228, 22.89146, in Mērsrags, GPS: 57.33868, 23.12107; GPS: 57.33688, 23.12294; GPS: 57.33630, 23.12262

Public transport

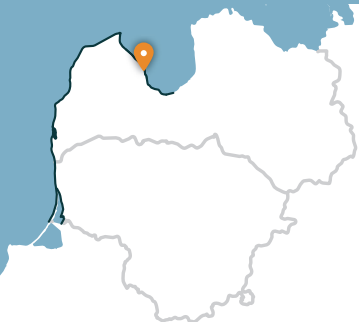
Bus transport connects Kaltene and Mērsrags (~ 5 times per day).

Rest areas

In Valgalciems village, GPS: 57.40934, 22.95126
 Next to the Mērsrags Lighthouse, GPS: 57.36668, 23.12022
 In Jēgerleja, GPS: 57.34430, 23.12292

TOURIST INFORMATION

i Mērsrags TIC, Zvejnieku iela 2, Mērsrags, www.mersrags.lv, T: +371 63237704; GPS: 57.33665, 23.12287



Mērsrags – Engure

In the Engure Nature Park




A forest trail surrounded by pine trees leads you from the center of the village to the beach. Next, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route meanders between a rocky seacoast richly overgrown with reeds and other grasses on one side and wooded seaside dunes on the other side. In some places, the beach is paved with small round stones, in other places you can see grey dunes with a rich variety of plants. Near Bērzciems village, there are large coastal meadows with shoals appearing far away in the sea that are suited for birdwatching. Overgrown seacoast continues up to Abragciems village, while from Abragciems to Engure there is a beach.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION


22 km  7–9 h


 Mērsrags Tourism information center, 

 The center of Engure, the intersection of Jūras and Ostas iela, 

 Mērsrags – Bērzciems – Abragciems – Engure

 Medium

 Beaches covered in sand and fine gravel, coastal meadows, small trails, forest roads. Asphalt in the villages, a small section of gravel road.

 The coastal meadows can be bypassed using the roads and trails in the villages. The Engure River can be crossed via bridge.



You should avail yourself of binoculars for bird watching, suitable (closed) footwear and walking poles for support.



Between Mērsrags village and Abragciems village throughout the whole length of the seacoast small roads and trails stretch between the sea and the road (P 131) alongside the coast, they can be used in case of strong wind.

WORTH SEEING!

- 1** Fisherman's homestead "Dienīnas". A domestic theatre in the local dialect, the process of smoking fish, a feast of fish. T: +371 26676283; GPS: 57.24489, 23.17317
- 2** The Engure Local community center. A commemorative exhibition to the Engure Naval School park. T: +371 26323201; GPS: 57.17069, 23.22087
- 3** The Engure Evangelical Lutheran Church. T: +371 29177920; GPS: 57.15978, 23.23001
- 4** Zušuciems (Eel Village) Park. GPS: 57.16261, 23.22721
- 5** Engure Port. GPS: 57.16273, 23.23106
- 6** Magnolia garden T: +371 29424424; GPS: 57.15562, 23.22897

SERVICES

 Accommodations

- 1.** Holiday home "Branguļi", T: +371 29676126; GPS: 57.256135, 23.172070
- 2.** Holiday home "Tiny Village", T: +371 26100923; GPS: 57.25482, 23.17264
- 3.** Holiday home "Lauri", T: +371 28657250, 28356109; GPS: 57.25361, 23.17365
- 4.** Holiday cottage "Paisumi", T: +371 28759707; GPS: 57.25131, 23.17467
- 5.** Holiday home "Mercenes", T: +371 28345289; GPS: 57.24570, 23.17344
- 6.** Country house "Dienīnas", T: +371 63154331, 26676283; GPS: 57.24489, 23.17317
- 7.** Guest house "Mazā kaija", T: +371 26690952; GPS: 57.24462, 23.17495
- 8.** Guest house "Zušu sēta", T: +371 29130223; GPS: 57.24109, 23.17336
- 9.** Guest house "Vizbuļi", T: +371 29424934, 28254749; GPS: 57.23781, 23.17362
- 10.** Rest area "Pērle", T: +371 29105903; GPS: 57.21184, 23.19744
- 11.** Holiday home "Mikas", T: +371 29243197, 29244198; GPS: 57.20076, 23.20450
- 12.** Campsite "Abragciems", T: +371 63161668, 26110738; GPS: 57.19673, 23.20705
- 13.** Guest house "Villa Elizabete", T: +371 29117510; GPS: 57.16568, 23.22504
- 14.** Youth hostel "Engures vidusskolas internāts", T: +371 29544650; GPS: 57.16245, 23.21917
- 15.** Guest house "Stagars", T: +371 29628101; GPS: 57.16256, 23.22888

- 16.** Holiday home "Gundegas", T: +371 29529880; GPS: 57.1612467, 23.22001
- 17.** Guest house "Klāņas", T: +371 26444123; GPS: 57.15326, 23.22974
- 18.** Guest house "Neiļu nams", T: +371 26431483, 27414559; GPS: 57.15724, 23.21202
- 19.** Guest house "Priedes", T: +37129 228560; GPS: 57.16442, 23.21512
- 20.** Holiday home "Lilia", T: +371 29419656, 28334105; GPS: 57.15810, 23.22931
- 21.** Holiday home "Magnolia park", T: +371 29424424; GPS: 57.15528, 23.22797
- 22.** Holiday home "Martz Engurē", T: +371 29493245; GPS: 57.16067, 23.21266

 Catering

- 1.** Cafe "Mazā kaija", T: +371 20692525; GPS: 57.24454, 23.17480
- 2.** Cafe "Vizbuļi", T: +371 29424934, 28254749; GPS: 57.23780, 23.17357
- 3.** Cafe "Abragciems", T: +371 631616688; GPS: 57.19673, 23.20705
- 4.** Rrestaurant "Kapteinis&Grants", T: +371 26565680; GPS: 57.16598, 23.22498
- 5.** Cafe "Būda", T: +371 29179184; GPS: 57.16524, 23.22460
- 6.** Cafe "Mežābele", T: +371 29256041; GPS: 57.16236, 23.22847
- 7.** "Engure Cafe", T: +371 28368868; GPS: 57.16047, 23.22947
- 8.** Pizzeria "KAFFF", T: +371 29355558; GPS: 57.16030, 23.22918
- 9.** Bakery "Ku Kul", T: +371 29419656; GPS: 57.15865, 23.22905

 Shops

In Mērsrags village (several shops), in Bērziems village, GPS: 57.24621, 23.17302, in Engure, GPS: 57.16450, 23.22515; GPS: 57.16250, 23.22865; GPS: 57.16111, 23.22920; GPS: 57.16081, 23.22909; GPS: 57.16086, 23.23021

 Public transport

Bus transport connects Mērsrags and Engure (~ 5 times per day).

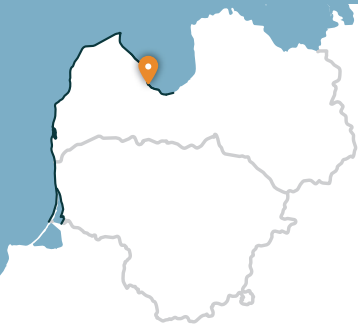
 Rest areas

Pasaku kalniņš (Fairytale Hill), GPS: 57.32645, 23.12973
In Engure, GPS: 57.17248, 23.22522; GPS: 57.167954, 23.228709



TOURIST INFORMATION

-  Mērsrags TIC, Zvejnieku iela 2, Mērsrags, www.mersrags.lv, T: + 371 63237704; GPS: 57.33665, 23.12287
-  Engure TIP, Jūras iela 114, Engure, www.enguresnovads.lv, T: +371 24400170; GPS: 57.17068, 23.22087



Engure – Ragaciems

Fishing villages and smoked fish



At first, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route winds through Engure village, then leads through a comparatively narrow beach on one side and beautiful woody seaside dunes on the other side reaching Pliņciems Dune after which the sandy beach becomes increasingly wider and large shoals appear in the sea. On the coast, overgrown bluffs equipped with stairs and plank-ways rise before your eyes and stretch as far as the road connecting Kolka and Tukums. You have to take into consideration that on warm summer days a lot of holidaymakers come here. The last third of the itinerary is located in Ķemeru National Park.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 25 km

🕒 8–10 h

🚩 The center of Engure, the intersection of Jūras and Ostas iela, **P**

🚩 The beach next to the Ragaciems Lighthouse

📍 Engure – Ķesterciems – Pliņciems – Apšuciems – Klāpkaļnciems – Ragaciems

🟦 Easy



Pavements with an asphalt surface in Engure. Rocky seacoast near Engure. Up to Ķesterciems village and Pliņciems village, there are sandy beaches with a zone of fine gravel at the very edge of the coast. In the surroundings of Apšuciems village and as far as Ragaciems village, there are sandy beaches liked by holidaymakers.



You can cross the brooks and the small Lāčupīte River (a bridge ~ 0,2 km away from the mouth) during low water.



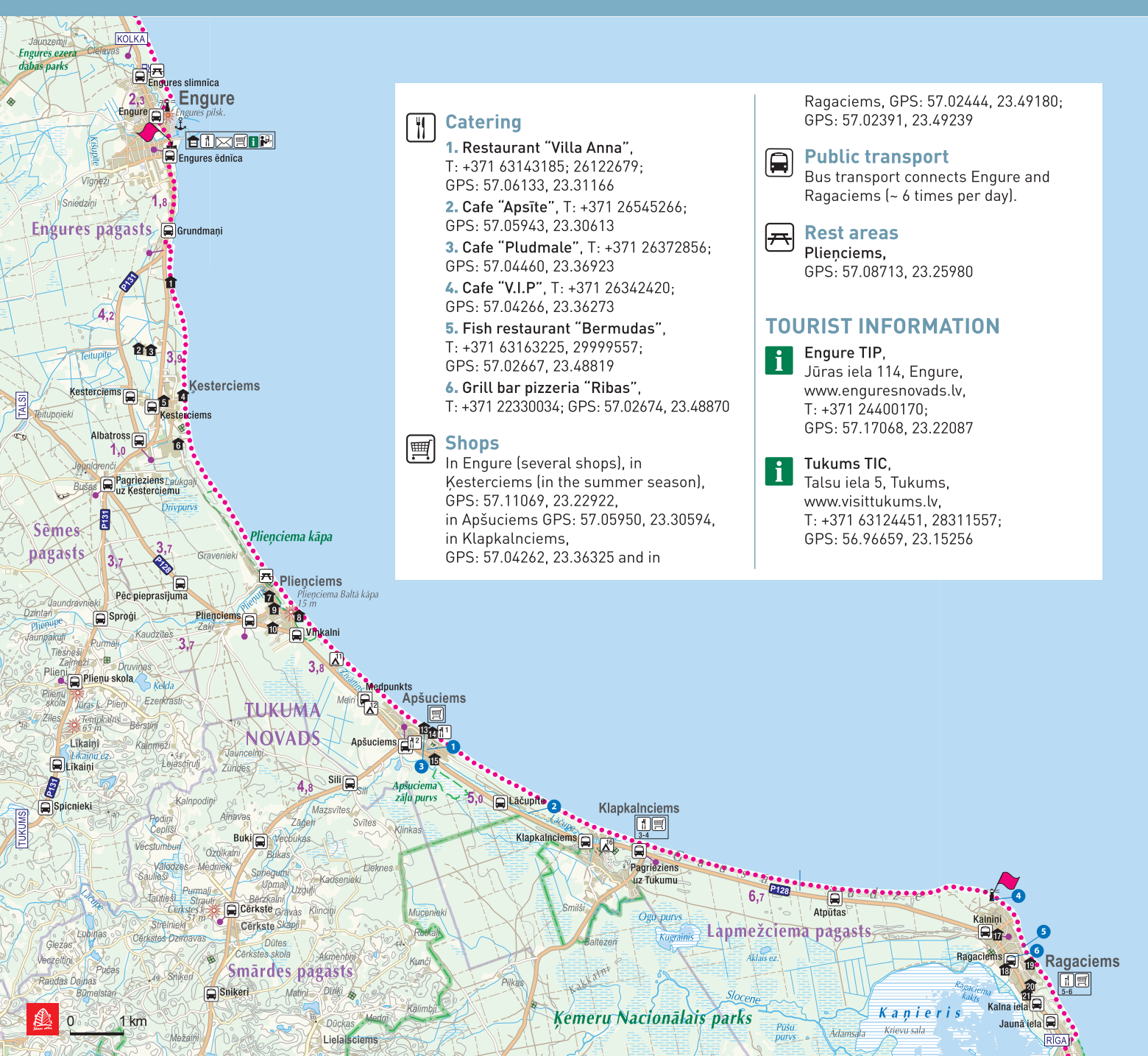
Be careful when crossing Jūras iela in Engure.



Near Engure, you should avail yourself of binoculars for bird watching.



Between Engure and Pliņciems village forest roads and trails stretch behind the dunes alongside the sea.



Catering

1. Restaurant "Villa Anna", T: +371 63143185; 26122679; GPS: 57.06133, 23.31166
2. Cafe "Apšīte", T: +371 26545266; GPS: 57.05943, 23.30613
3. Cafe "Pludmale", T: +371 26372856; GPS: 57.04460, 23.36923
4. Cafe "V.I.P.", T: +371 26342420; GPS: 57.04266, 23.36273
5. Fish restaurant "Bermudas", T: +371 63163225, 29999557; GPS: 57.02667, 23.48819
6. Grill bar pizzeria "Ribas", T: +371 22330034; GPS: 57.02674, 23.48870

Shops

In Engure (several shops), in Ķesterciems (in the summer season), GPS: 57.11069, 23.22922, in Apšuciems GPS: 57.05950, 23.30594, in Klapkalnciems, GPS: 57.04262, 23.36325 and in

Ragaciems, GPS: 57.02444, 23.49180; GPS: 57.02391, 23.49239

Public transport

Bus transport connects Engure and Ragaciems (~ 6 times per day).

Rest areas

Pliņciems, GPS: 57.08713, 23.25980

TOURIST INFORMATION

i Engure TIP, Jūras iela 114, Engure, www.enguresnovads.lv, T: +371 24400170; GPS: 57.17068, 23.22087

i Tukums TIC, Talsu iela 5, Tukums, www.visittukums.lv, T: +371 63124451, 28311557; GPS: 56.96659, 23.15256

WORTH SEEING!

1. Ceramic salon-workshop "Grašu māja". T: +371 26369362; GPS: 57.05878, 23.31125
2. The Lāčupīte River Arboretum. In May and June, rhododendron plantations are blooming exquisitely. GPS: 57.04458, 23.35587
3. Fishing and maritime heritage center. T: +371 26132761; GPS: 57.06140, 23.30977
4. Ragaciems Lighthouse. GPS: 57.03447, 23.48639
5. Ragaciems village fishing area with net huts. A place where fishermen berthed their boats, organized meetings and stored fishing tackle in net huts. T: +371 26451024; GPS: 57.02631, 23.49563
6. Ragaciems village fish market. GPS: 57.02436, 23.49178

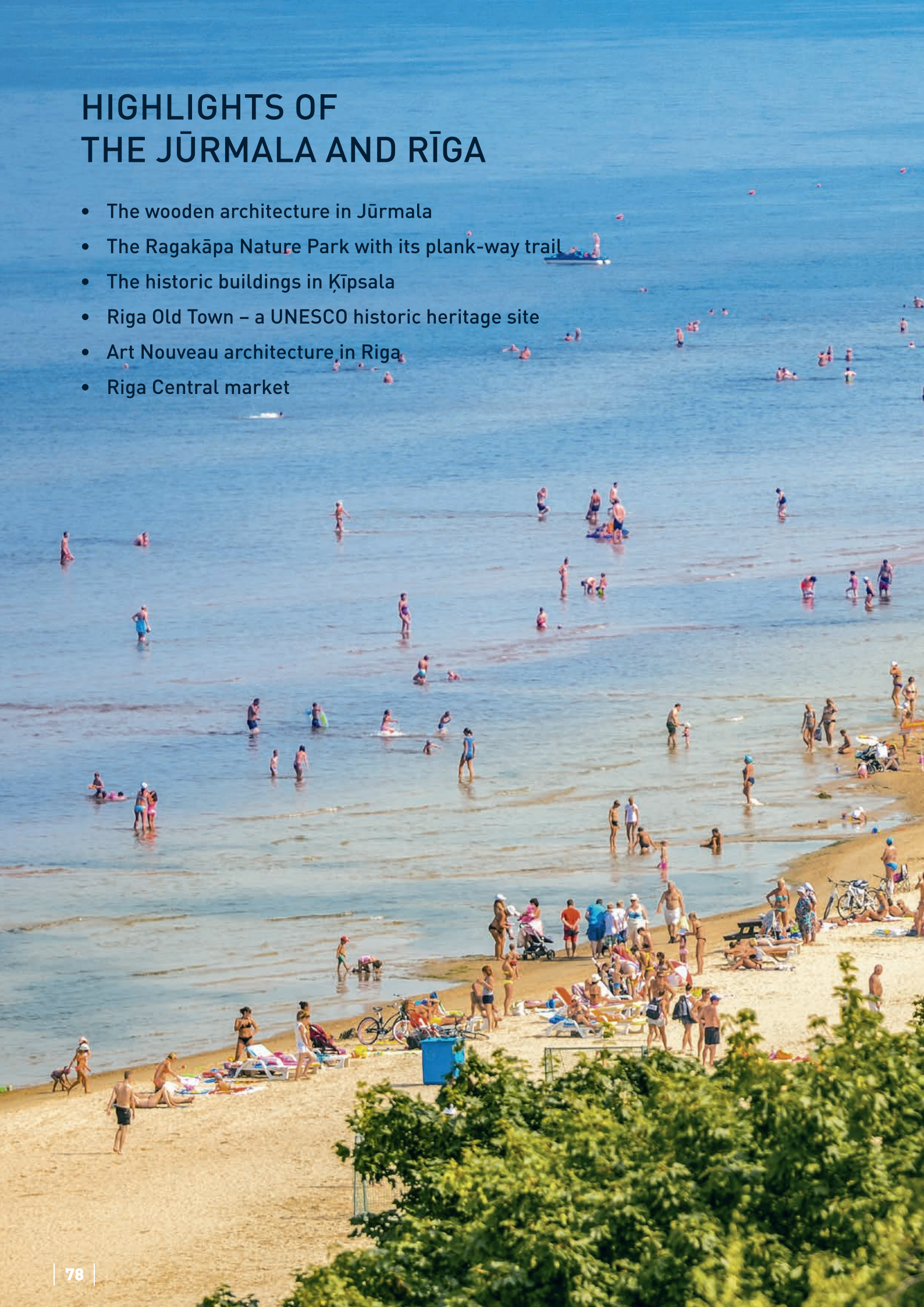
SERVICES

Accommodations

1. Campsite "Saules kempings", T: +371 29461436; GPS: 57.13657, 23.22963
2. Holiday home "Holandieši", T: +371 26771441; GPS: 57.12547, 23.22098
3. Guest house "Piejūras nams", T: +371 26435515; GPS: 57.12467, 23.22509
4. Youth hostel "Pludmalis", T: +371 29287271; GPS: 57.11744, 23.23339
5. Guest house "Rīteņi", T: +371 29142764; GPS: 57.11669, 23.22789
6. Youth hostel "Albatross", T: +371 26103435; GPS: 57.10942, 23.23261
7. Guest house "Strautiņi", T: +371 26163064; GPS: 57.08398, 23.26176
8. Campsite "Baltā kāpa", T: +371 29212821; GPS: 57.08101, 23.27072
9. Guest house "Riekstnieki", T: +371 29279728; GPS: 57.08164, 23.26379
10. Guest house "Pļava", T: +371 26561500; GPS: 57.07871, 23.26307
11. Tent campsite "Zivartiņš", T: +371 28234099; GPS: 57.07296, 23.28295
12. Tent campsite "Čiekuri", T: +371 26527168; GPS: 57.06572, 23.29334
13. Youth hostel "Apšuciema skola", T: +371 29544650; GPS: 57.06138, 23.31010
14. Hotel "Villa Anna", T: +371 63143185, 26122679; GPS: 57.06133, 23.31166
15. "Hotel SPA Arkadia", T: +371 63143130; GPS: 57.05675, 23.31353
16. Campsite "Ronīši", T: +371 26305551; GPS: 57.04270, 23.36666
17. Guest house "Arnicanī", T: +371 29193503; GPS: 57.02804, 23.48799
18. Guest house "Smaidas", T: +371 29265552; GPS: 57.02303, 23.49051
19. Rest house "Lauri un Nordes", T: +371 25660353, 27000400; GPS: 57.02312, 23.49810
20. Guest house "AAK Service", T: +371 29118209; GPS: 57.01890, 23.49826
21. Guest house "K.V.N.", T: +371 20268864; GPS: 57.01825, 23.49718

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JŪRMALA AND RĪGA

- The wooden architecture in Jūrmala
- The Ragakāpa Nature Park with its plank-way trail
- The historic buildings in Ķīpsala
- Riga Old Town – a UNESCO historic heritage site
- Art Nouveau architecture in Riga
- Riga Central market



LATVIA JŪRMALA AND RĪGA



THE MOST POPULAR RESORT CITY AND THE CAPITAL OF LATVIA

Ragaciems – Rīga: 60 km, #21-23



This section of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route goes through the resort city Jūrmala and the capital of Latvia, Riga. In Jūrmala, sandy beach stretches along the coast, but hikers may go through the centre of Jūrmala and see Jomas iela. This city is liked by summer holidaymakers and has a lot of SPA hotels, cafés and live music on summer evenings. Jūrmala is characterized by unusual wooden architecture in the historic seasonal dwelling area and also by mansions and villas built in the modern era. The coastal dune forests are permeated with a dense web of trails suitable for walking and stick-walking. Jūrmala and the forests of the Pierīga region on the outskirts of the capital are separated by the Lielupe River. To get from Priedaine to Riga, go through the Kleisti forest roads and trails and take the suburban streets to reach the Daugava River which you will have to cross to get to the very heart of Riga: the Town Hall Square. You can walk through Riga on foot and get to know different neighbourhoods located in the city or you can use public transport, namely train or bus.

The Legend of Rīga

Once upon a time a ferryman lived on the bank of the Daugava River, who was called Great Kristaps because he was big and brawny. When people had to get from one side of the river to the other, they called him for help. One night Kristaps heard a child crying on the riverbank. Kristaps did not really want to cross the river, yet he took the child and carried him to the boat. The child became heavier with each step until Kristaps no longer had the strength to get to the boat. Deep darkness had already descended and the child seemed to have fallen asleep. Kristaps thought that he would take the child across the next day. So Kristaps took him, brought him to his hut and put him to bed. The man laid down on the floor beside him to take a nap. When Kristaps woke up in the morning, he got up and went to the bed to take the child and carry him across the river. Yet by a miracle the child had disappeared!

However, in the place where the child had slept, Kristaps found a large pile of money. He used the money to buy all of Riga as at the time Riga was so small, a wolf could easily run through it. Now you can see a statue of the Great Kristaps on the bank of the Daugava River opposite the Riga Old Town.



Ragaciems – Dubulti

The historic resort of Jūrmala



In Ragaciems village, you can clearly see the whole length of the Jūrmala coast. The first third of this day's itinerary is part of the Ķemeri National Park where you can get to know historic fishing villages, the Ragaciems village fishing area with net huts and a fish market, dune habitats, as well as watch birds in the estuary of the Starpiņupe River. Starting from Jaunķemeri to Dubulti, the walk takes you across the widest sandy beach of the Gulf of Riga through the historic resort in Jūrmala and the longest city in Latvia.

Keep in mind that on warm and sunny summer days there will be a lot of beachgoers.



Photo: Jānis Salins



Photo: Artis Veigurs

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 22 km

🕒 7–9 h

🚩 The beach next to the Ragaciems Lighthouse

🚩 Dubulti beach, opposite **P**

📍🚩 Ragaciems – Lapmežciems – Bigauņciems – Jaunķemeri – Kaugurciems – Vaivari – Pumpuri – Jaundubulti – Dubulti

🟢 Easy



In the surroundings of Ragaciems village: small pieces of dolomite, some boulders, gravel. Next to the small Starpiņupīte River, there is seaweed washed ashore. Sidewalks with asphalt surfaces in Lapmežciems. Wide sandy beaches from Kauguri to Dubulti.



The small Starpiņupīte River: there is a sluice that is around 150 m from the sea and that can be used to cross the river (you can wade across it during low water). After the Starpiņupīte River, there is a narrow section of the beach that you can cross along the coast

when the weather is calm. In case of strong winds, you have to go through Lapmežciems village. You can wade across the Siliņupe River during low water.



Be careful when crossing Jaunā iela (P128) in Ragaciems and Lapmežciems.



In the estuary of the Starpiņupe River, you should avail yourself of binoculars for bird watching.



You can cover the distance between Kaugurciems and Dubulti by taking the roads, streets and trails going parallel to the sea.



Rīgas jūras līcis

WORTH SEEING!

- 1** The Fish company "Reiņa zivis" in Lapmežciems. Visitors are offered to taste smoked fish. T: +371 29219491; GPS: 57.00011, 23.50783
- 2** Lapmežciems Museum. T: +371 27000380; GPS: 57.00074, 23.51220
- 3** The Old Lapmežciems Pier and Kupskalni Nature Trail. GPS: 56.99210, 23.52864
- 4** Jaunķemeri. Adapted for people with special needs. In the pine forest located on the seacoast of Ķemeri National Park, there are sanatoriums offering a wide range of therapeutic procedures. GPS: 56.97580, 23.56825
- 5** The Jūrmala Resort History Museum. Visitors can look at old medical equipment, interesting accessories, photographs and documents. Visits have to be booked in advance: T: +371 67735850; GPS: 56.97107, 23.57304
- 6** Kaugurciems. An ancient fishermen's village. GPS: 56.96934, 23.60670
- 7** The Kauguri Giant Oak. 17,20 m high with the diameter of 4,30 m. GPS: 56.96248, 23.62162
- 8** Vaivari beach. Adapted for people with special needs. The historic Kāpu iela adorned with both ancient wooden architecture and modern mansions snakes behind the dunes. GPS: 56.96119, 23.662996
- 9** The Asari cemetery and Monument To Those Fallen in World War I. GPS: 56.96335, 23.69549
- 10** Melluži Park and Music hall. GPS: 56.96245, 23.72739
- 11** Rainis' pine trees and a sculpture of "Rainis' pine trees". GPS: 56.96659, 23.74506

SERVICES

Accommodations

- 1.** Guest house "Kronkalniņi", T: +371 20173303; GPS: 57.01412, 23.50867
- 2.** Family house "Lapmežciems", T: +371 29459540, 29224178; GPS: 57.00778, 23.50593
- 3.** Rest house "Kamenes", T: +371 26162212; GPS: 56.99861, 23.51568
- 4.** Guest house "Monikas", T: +371 26161247; GPS: 56.99666, 23.51600
- 5.** Recreation Complex "Nornuciši", T: +371 24856117; GPS: 57.00221, 23.50497
- 6.** Guest house "Valery Guest House", T: +371 27049171, 27279599; GPS: 56.98665, 23.53304
- 7.** Holiday home "Relax Port", T: +371 28301853; GPS: 56.98410, 23.53701
- 8.** Holiday home "Atpūta pie jūras", +371 28272223; GPS: 56.98607, 23.54018
Accommodation in Jūrmala
www.visitjurmala.lv

Catering

- 1.** Cafe "Nostalgj", T: +371 28458855; GPS: 57.00310, 23.51359
- 2.** Cafe "Stallis", T: +371 29181014; GPS: 56.99983, 23.51663
- 3.** Cafe "Dižpriede", T: +371 28756095; GPS: 56.98585, 23.53765
- 4.** "Gardo zivju namiņš", T: +371 26553881; GPS: 56.99490, 23.52179
- 5.** Restaurant "Neptūns", T: +371 29999319; GPS: 56.97532, 23.55681
- 6.** "Kūriņš" tavern, T: +371 26529539; GPS: 56.96678, 23.61057

Jūrmala offers a very wide choice of restaurants and cafés. For more information: www.visitjurmala.lv

Shops

In Ragaciems, GPS: 57.02444, 23.49180; GPS: 57.02391, 23.49239, in Lapmežciems, GPS: 57.00217, 23.51402; GPS: 56.99381, 23.52202 and in all the territory of Jūrmala.

Public transport

Bus transport connects Ragaciems and Dubulti (~ 16 times per day). Intercity bus transport on the Talsi – Riga and Roja – Riga routes (around 15 times per day, www.autoosta.lv.)

TOURIST INFORMATION

- i** Engures TIP, Jūras iela 114, Engure, www.enguresnovads.lv, T: +371 24400170; GPS: 57.17068, 23.22087
- i** Tukuma TIC, Talsu iela 5, Tukums, www.visittukums.lv, T: +371 63124451, 28311557; GPS: 56.96659, 23.15256
- i** Jūrmalas TIC, Lienes iela 5, Majori, www.visitjurmala.lv, +371 67147900; GPS: 56.9715756, 23.7980068

Photo: Jānis Salins



Dubulti – Lielupe – Bulduri

The most popular beaches in Latvia



The widest sandy beach of the Gulf of Riga stretches from Dubulti to the Lielupe River. It is the main asset of the Jūrmala resort offering many beach cafés and different recreational possibilities. The coastal dune forests are permeated with a dense web of trails suitable for walking and stick-walking. The part of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route located between the beach of the Lielupe River and Jūrmala beach is part of the Ragakāpa Nature Park. From here, you can easily get back to Bulduri by taking Bulduri prospekts and the 5th line.



Photo: Jānis Salins

10

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 15 km

🕒 5–7 h

🚩 Dubulti beach, opposite **P**

🚩 Bulduri railway station

📍 Dubulti – Majori – Dzintari – Bulduri – the Lielupe River – Bulduri railway st.

🟦 Easy



Sandy beaches, forest roads, trails, pavements with asphalt surfaces.



None.



The wooden parts of the Ragakāpa Nature Trail can be slippery in damp weather.



The estuary of the Lielupe River is a good place for bird watching.



Throughout the whole section, streets, pedestrian roads and forest trails stretch behind the dunes alongside the sea. If you are interested, you can go see the place where the Lielupe River flows into the sea (~ 1 km from the main itinerary.)

Rīgas jūras līcis



WORTH SEEING!

- 1** **Art station "Dubulti".** The only modern art space in Europe installed in a currently functioning railway station. T: +371 29548719; GPS: 56.97116, 23.77761
- 2** **"Aspazija's House".** It includes an authentic early 20th century interior and household items, but also projected holograms and interactive educational games. T: +371 67769445; GPS: 56.97144, 23.78113
- 3** **Aspazija in the Dunes sculpture.** Dedicated to the distinguished Latvian poet and playwright Aspazija. GPS: 56.97292, 23.77893
- 4** **Majori.** The central part of Jūrmala. Beach with an illuminated walking path along the dunes.
- 5** **The Sea Pavilion and the Turtle sculpture.** At the beginning of 20th century, this Art Nouveau pavilion historically housed a restaurant and a prominent dance hall with a swing-floor. It is now a dwelling house. GPS: 56.97620, 23.79826
- 6** **The Emīlija Rācene Swimming Establishment** The building was erected at the beginning of the 20th century. It is now a dwelling house. GPS: 56.97700, 23.80086
- 7** **Jūras iela.** Here you can see almost all of the architectural styles characteristic to Jūrmala, which are represented by 23 architectural monuments of national and local importance. GPS: 56.9754656, 23.8009798
- 8** **Jomas iela.** Since 1987, it is a pedestrian street with most of the buildings being architectural monuments. GPS: 56.97300, 23.80110
- 9** **Jūrmala City Museum.** Entrance is free. T: +371 67761915; GPS: 56.97123, 23.80139
- 10** **Dzintari.** Behind the dunes you will find the legendary Dzintari Concert Hall where you can enjoy music concerts all year round. GPS: 56.97584, 23.81917
- 11** **Lielupe.** One of the quietest beaches in Jūrmala; there is a nudist beach closer to the estuary of the Lielupe River. GPS: 57.00548, 23.92705
- 12** **Ragakāpa Nature Park.** Ragakāpa Nature Park is a specially protected nature territory established in order to preserve the dunes covered with ancient pine forests and the biodiversity on the sea coast. GPS: 56.99613, 23.91551
- 13** **Jūrmala Open-Air Museum.** The setting of a fishermen's homestead in Jūrmala at the turn of the 20th century. Entrance to the museum is free of charge. T: +371 67754909; GPS: 56.99653, 23.91645
- 14** **Yacht club "Jūrmala".** Here you can rent SUP boards and row boats to reach the White Dune located on the other bank of the Lielupe River. T: +371 29629947; GPS: 56.98136, 23.87521

SERVICES



Accommodations

In this section, there are many accommodation possibilities. For more information: www.visitjurmala.lv



Catering

In this section, there are many catering possibilities. For more information: www.visitjurmala.lv



Shops

All over Jūrmala.



Public transport

Trains to Riga, Sloka, Tukums run around every 20 min. www.pv.lv
City bus and minibus transport www.marsruti.lv/jurmala
To get to Vakarbuļi, the Lielupe River can be crossed by the raft SolVita, T: +371 29549910

TOURIST INFORMATION



Jūrmala TIC, Lienes iela 5, Majori, www.visitjurmala.lv, T: +371 67147900; GPS: 56.9715756, 23.7980068



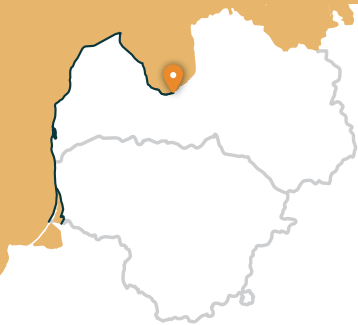
Photo: Ojārs Martinsons



Photo: Ivars Kezbers



4
Photo: Jānis Salins



Bulduri – Riga City Center

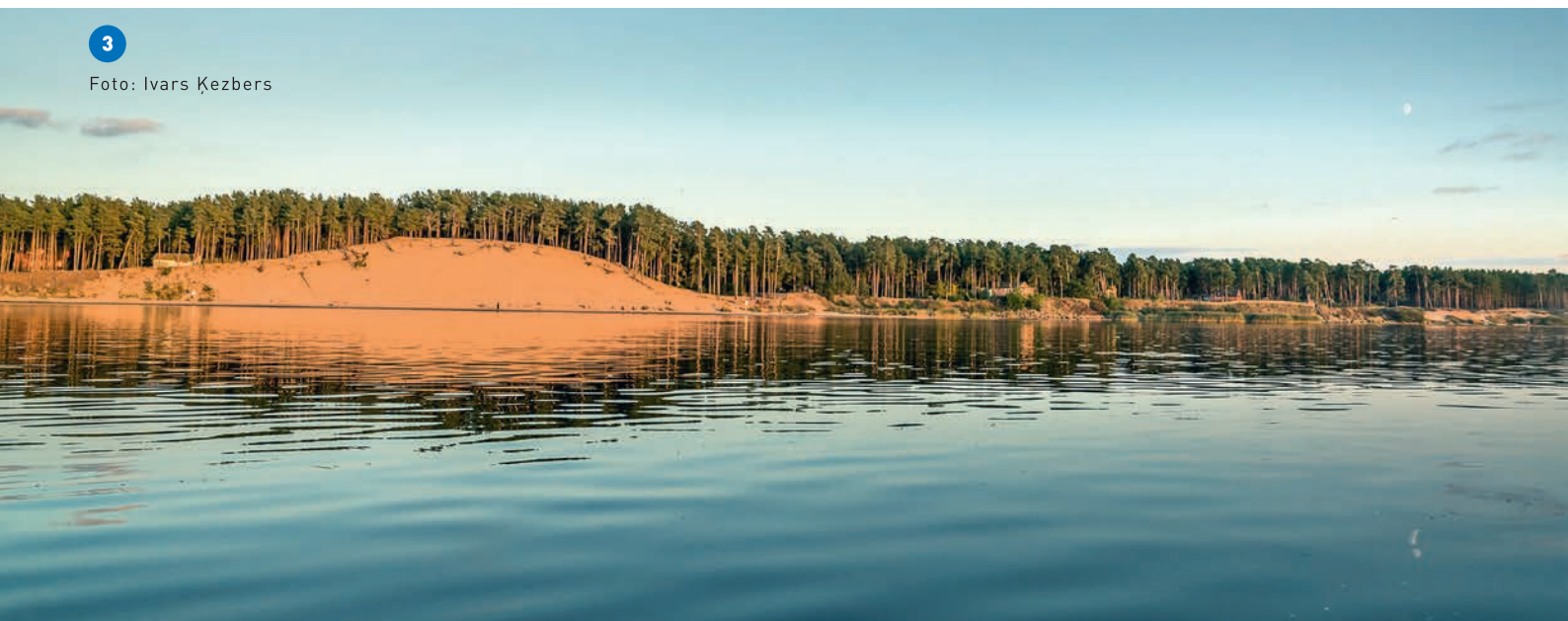
Through the forests to Riga









The itinerary is an alternative way to get from Jūrmala to Riga by going through the forest. After passing the bridge across the Lielupe River, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route snakes through Priedaine with its wooden buildings, goes along the right bank of the Lielupe River, then turns towards the Southern part of Bolderāja Dune and crosses Kleisti forest past Lāčupe Cemetery. Next, it goes along the historic roads of Pārdaugava on the West bank of the Daugava River, namely, Buļļu and Daugavgrīvas iela, through Dzegužkalns Hill, passing the Zunda Canal and Āgenskalns bay until reaching the Daugava River, which the route crosses via the Stone bridge and then stops at Town Hall Square.

3

Foto: Ivars Kezbers



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

-  23 km
-  8–10 h
-  Bulduri railway station
-  Riga Town Hall Square next to the Riga tourism information center.
-  Bulduri – Priedaine – Liepezers – Lāčupe – Ilģuciems – Riga Old Town
-  Medium



Mostly asphalt, (sandy) forest trails, cobblestones, in some places, gravel roads.



Vārnukroga road is winding and has no pedestrian sidewalk (be careful!). The intersection of Kleistu and Buļļu iela (a controlled pedestrian crossing is planned).

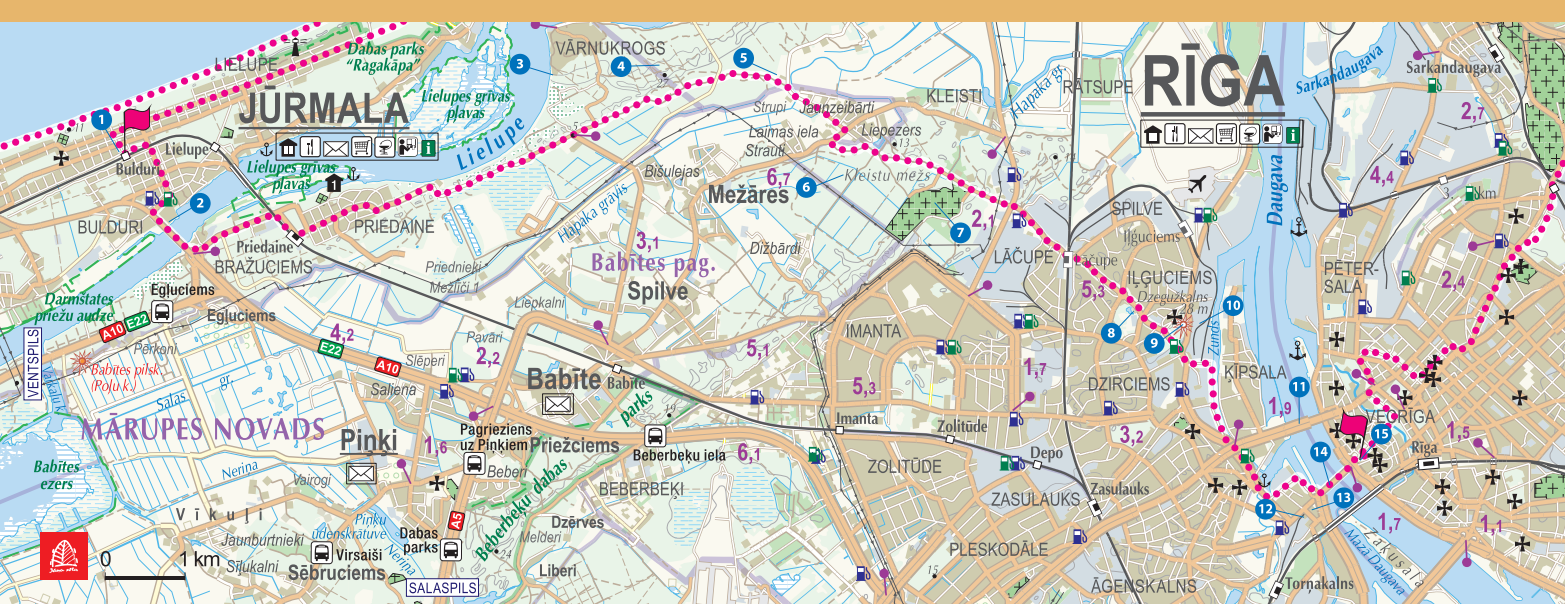


In the forests, there can be sandy or muddy (in case of wet weather) roads. When using streets/roads, road traffic regulations must be observed.

No services are available from Priedaine to Lāčupe. When on a road for pedestrians and cyclists, you have to stay in the lane meant for pedestrians. Be careful when crossing the bicycle lane.



Riga public transport runs from Liepezers, Kleisti and Lāčupe Cemetery (timetables: www.rigassatiksme.lv) You can cover the distance from Bulduri and Priedaine to Riga by train (www.pv.lv). Next to the Līvu akvaparks water park, there is a bicycle rental from which you can reach Riga by using the bicycle lane (~ 16 km).



WORTH SEEING!

- 1** **Bulduri.** A 19th century Lutheran church is located nearby beach. When coming from the beach, the road leads you through a prestigious residential area with historical and modern buildings. You can visit the exhibition halls in the Jūrmala Artists' House. GPS: 56.98156, 23.85076
- 2** **The Līvu akvaparks water park.** One of the biggest water parks in Northern Europe. T: +371 67147240; GPS: 56.97387, 23.86020
- 3** **The White Dune.** A 15-17 m high dune outcrop formed in the middle of the 18th century on the right bank of the Lielupe River near the Bulupe River. GPS: 56.99033, 23.93989
- 4** **The Bolderāja Dune.** The biggest dune ridge in Pārdaugava (the West bank of the Daugava River). GPS: 56.99138, 23.96206
- 5** **8. A Memorial site to the Daugavpils Infantry Regiment** in honor of the soldiers that fell in the Latvian War of Independence in 1919. GPS: 56.98904, 23.98634
- 6** **The Kleisti forest.** GPS: 56.97940, 23.99917
- 7** **The Lāčupe Cemetery or Lācars Cemetery** was opened at the end of the 19th century. GPS: 56.97616, 24.02042
- 8** **The Nordeķi Manor.** One of the most exceptional baroque style wooden buildings in Riga that was first documented in the 16th century. GPS: 56.96364, 24.06036
- 9** **Dzegužkalns.** The highest hill in Riga situated 28 m above sea level. GPS: 56.960914, 24.068169
- 10** **The territory of the historic Zunda Village** is located between Daugavgrīvas iela and the Zunda Canal. The biggest and the most ancient settlement of the area since

the 17th century.
GPS: 56.96197, 24.07268

- 11** **Vanšu (Cable-stayed) Bridge.** It is 560 m long with a 312 m steel span and one load bearing pylon made out of reinforced concrete. Opened in 1981. GPS: 56.94808, 24.07976
- 12** **The Railway Museum.** Here you can find out how the train movement is controlled and how different devices work, as well as take a look at different locomotives and railcars. GPS: 56.94089, 24.09456
- 13** **The Latvian National Library (LNL).** The building was opened to visitors in 2014 and the people have renamed it the Castle of Light, referring to the poem written by the Latvian poet Auseklis (1850-1879) that stands for a repository of wisdom. The idea underlying the exterior of the building stems from the play The Golden Horse written by Rainis (1865-1929) where the author depicts a glass mountain with a sleeping princess and only the pure-minded Antiņš can ride up the hill and wake the princess. GPS: 56.94112, 24.09649
- 14** **The Stone Bridge.** A 503.12 m long granite and metal bridge connecting Pārdaugava on the West bank of the Daugava River and Riga Old Town on the East bank. GPS: 56.94321, 24.09832
- 15** **Town Hall Square.** In Medieval times, it was the central square of the town and the economic and administrative center of the town until the 19th century. The square was destroyed during World War II. In 2003, Town Hall Square was fully rebuilt, as well as the House of the Blackheads and the statue of Roland. Next to it, there is a Soviet-style building erected in 1970 that housed the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia; during its renovation the museum's exhibits can be found on Raiņa Boulevard 7. GPS: 56.94751, 24.10651



SERVICES

Accommodations

- 1. Recreation complex "Follow the sun in Jūrmala",** T: +371 29549910; GPS: 56.97760, 23.89482

Riga City offers many possibilities for accommodation.

Catering

In Riga, there are very many catering possibilities.

Shops

Available throughout the whole length of the itinerary.

Public transport

Train: Bulduri – Riga www.pv.lv
Babīte station-city center-Preču 2 (bus No. 13); Lāčupe Cemetery-city center-Abrenes iela (bus No. 39)
Public transport in Riga:
www.rigassatiksmelv.lv

TOURIST INFORMATION

- i** **Riga TIC, Town Hall Square,** Rātslaukums 6, Rīga, www.LiveRiga.com, T: +371 6703 7900; GPS: 56.947260, 24.107069



USEFUL INFO




MONEY AND DOCUMENTS

- It is recommended to bring cash with you (EUR), as payment cards are not accepted at all establishments and ATMs are not available everywhere.
- When crossing the Lithuania – Latvia border, hikers must carry valid personal identification documents suitable for travelling.

EQUIPMENT

- Appropriate footwear.
- Water and wind resistant clothing will also come in handy.
- Bringing a first-aid kit, band-aids, especially for novice hikers, is certainly recommended.

TENTS AND BONFIRES

- In Latvia:
 - in specially protected nature areas  (national parks, nature parks and nature reserves) — only in designated public rest spots;
 - outside specially protected nature areas, on beaches (the area from the waterline to the first dunes, where land vegetation begins) — if not prohibited by local regulations. These regulations are available from the local .
- In Lithuania: only in specially designated areas. It is prohibited to pitch tents and burn bonfires on the beach.
- Places where tents and bonfires are allowed are indicated in the descriptions of the sections. Additional information can be sought from the local .
- If there is no firewood, you will have to collect fallen, dry wood. You must make sure the fire is completely out when you are done.
- Bonfires are prohibited during periods of high-risk for wildfires, usually — in summer. Information about the level of fire hazard in Latvia is available at: www.lvghmc.lv; in Lithuania: www.meteo.lt/lt/misku-gaisringumo-klases-prognozes. Make sure that going out into the forest is not prohibited based on the level of fire hazard (in Latvia, check www.vmd.gov.lv, in Lithuania: www.vivmu.lt).
- In case of fire, in Latvia call emergency services at 112 or the relevant forestry office (contact information available at www.vmd.gov.lv, www.vivmu.lt). On the Curonian Spit, in places where bonfires are permitted there are information posters with the phone numbers to call in case of a fire.
- In Latvia and Lithuania, portable gas stoves may be used to cook food and beverages, as long as fire safety precautions are adhered to.


ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TRAVELLING

- Tap water is safe to drink in Latvia and Lithuania. It is recommended to use a refillable water bottle.
- While out in nature, behave quietly so as not to disturb the animals living there.
- The relevant rules of conduct must be adhered to while inside specially protected nature areas. More information available here: www.daba.gov.lv. Tips for eco-friendly travelling through protected nature areas are available.

SAFETY AND COMMUNICATIONS

- In case of queries about the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route, contact information is available at www.baltictrails.eu.
- Network coverage may not be available in some places along the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route.
- Most accommodation and catering establishments offer Wi-Fi.
- The coastal bluffs and outcrops are made of unstable sediments. They are prone to landslides and landfall.
- In warm weather, bug spray (against mosquitos/ticks) may be useful. There can be ticks in the grass and bushes.
- There are no poisonous or dangerous plants and animals (incl. jellyfish) in the salt and fresh waters of the Baltics. The common European viper is the only poisonous snake found in the Baltic States. It will usually not attack unless threatened. The common European viper lives in clearings overgrown with grass and bushes, as well as on the edges of the forest, in swamps, sparse pine forests where heathers and forest berries grow. The snakes may sunbathe out on trails.
- To reach the police, call  112.

TRAVELLING WITH A DOG

- Each municipality has its own rules as to where dogs are permitted — on or off-leash. These rules may change over time, so it is recommended to check with each municipality ahead of time, by calling the local .
- In most cities and villages dogs must be on-leash when outside any confined area. The dog owner must ensure that their dog will not cause harm or damages to other people, animals or property.
- It is prohibited to bring dogs into children's playgrounds, sports grounds and entertainment sites, specially established beaches and anywhere where such a prohibition is indicated by signs (with the exception of guide-dogs).
- In the rest spots noted in the guidebook, dogs must be kept on-leash.
- On ferries, dogs must be on-leash and muzzled.
- On the beach and surrounding areas, the owner must make sure that their dog doesn't disturb birds' nests, resting birds and other wildlife, including seals and seal pups on the beach.
- Beaches near populated areas have specially designated areas where animals are permitted. It is prohibited to take dogs to certain areas of the beach, it is advisable to bypass these in summer. Locations of dog-friendly beaches: in Nida [GPS: 55.32511, 20.99223], Juodkrantė [GPS: 55.54094, 21.09848], Smiltynė [GPS: 55.71176, 21.09525], Nemirseta [GPS: 55.86966, 21.06346], Ventspils [GPS: 57.378839, 21.517392 to GPS: 57.382166, 21.520697], Liepāja [GPS: 56.509326, 20.990846 to GPS: 56.520494, 20.9826140].

The information and GPX files are up to date for 2021. When using GPX files, take into consideration that in forests, cities and populated areas, near bluffs and elsewhere, there may be a certain margin of error from the actual route of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route.

WWW.BALTICTRAILS.EU

Project LLI-448 “Development of Forest trail In Latvia and Lithuania and expanding the Baltic Coastal Hiking route in Lithuania” (Hiking project) is implemented with the support of the European Union Interreg V-A Latvia-Lithuania Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2014–2020.

THE AIM OF THE PROJECT is to create and promote two joint cross-border long-distance hiking trails crossing the territory of Latvia and Lithuania, thus increasing the number of tourists in the region.

PLANNED RESULTS OF THE PROJECT:

- Development and promotion of the Forest Trail in Latvia and Lithuania and Coastal Hiking route in Lithuania. Both routes will be connected to the existing long-distance hiking routes in Latvia and Estonia, using common names and marking schemes
- Maps and guides will be developed to promote the routes, and the information will be available on the project website www.baltictrails.eu

Total costs of the project are 788 104 EUR.

Co-funding of the project from the European Regional Development Fund is 669 888 EUR.

LEAD PARTNER:



Kaunas Regional Development Agency

PROJECT PARTNERS:

LATVIA



Latvian Country Tourism Association “Lauku ceļotājs”



Kurzeme Planning Region



Kuldīga County Council

LITHUANIA



Lithuanian Countryside Tourism Association



Žemaitija National Park Directorate



Curonian Spit National Park Directorate



LATVIA
Jurtaka



LATVIA
Jurtaka



LITHUANIA
Baltictrails LT: Miško takas - Jūrų takas



LITHUANIA
baltictrailslt

Photos used: “Lauku ceļotājs”, the partners of the Hiking project, tourism information centres and others.





BALTIC COASTAL HIKING



Over the course of more than 1,400 km, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route runs along sandy beaches, rocky and pebble covered shores, occasionally winding through coastal forests or stopping in small fishing villages. Known as Jūry takas in Lithuania, the trail crosses the majestic Curonian Spit, following the entirety of the Baltic Sea coast of Latvia - known as Jūrtaka, and in Estonia it becomes Ranniku Matkarada where winds through juniper stands and coastal meadows. The sea and seagulls, the sun and wind accompany hikers from the Curonian Spit all the way to Tallinn. Join the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route wherever you prefer, leave whenever you like and return when you miss it, because the trail will always be waiting for you.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNTRIES

Lithuania's official tourism website www.lithuania.travel

Latvia's official tourism website www.latvia.travel

Lithuanian Countryside Tourism Association www.atostogoskaime.lt

Latvian Country Tourism Association "Lauku ceļotājs" www.celotajs.lv

WWW.BALTICTRAILS.EU

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