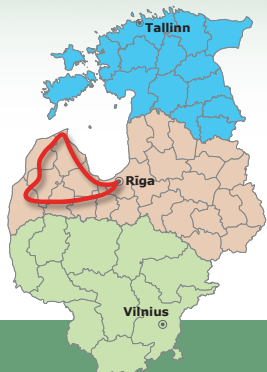


Mushroom Tour at Kurzeme Region



This is for people who enjoy forests, wildlife, local traditions and has a specific interest in the different species of fungi. Everyone could try their hand at mushrooming, identification and by the end of the day together with guide sort out the collected mushrooms. The tour passes several national parks and late back villages. The group will also visit to one of shitake mushroom growers for comparison reasons.

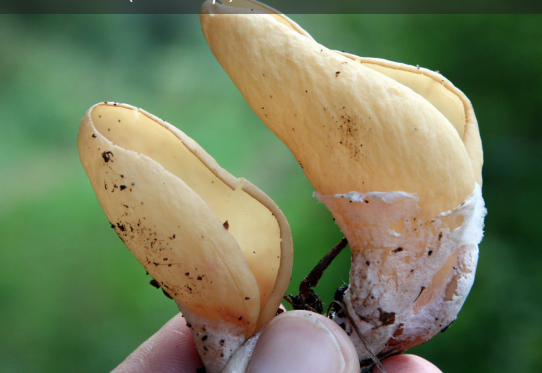


(6 days)

Chantrelles & Horn of Plenty (*Cantharellus* & *Craterellus cornucopioides*)



Hare ears (*Otidea* sp.)



Coral fungus (*Ramaria* sp.)



Day 1 Arrival in Rīga

Transfer to the hotel.

Meeting with the guide at Nature History Museum and introduction with the tour. Walk to the Central Market to see mushrooms for sale. Free time. Accommodation in Rīga.

Day 2

Rīga – Sloka – Ķemeru nacionālais parks – Lapmežciems – Antiņciems – Valguma ezers – Milzkalns – Apšuciems – Rideļi

Breakfast. Mushrooming around Antiņciems at pine-tree forests as well as damp forests. Possible to find King Boletus (*Boletus edulis*), Orange Aspen Boletus (*Leccinum rufum*), Orange Birch Boletus (*Leccinum versipelle*).

Lustūzis – the highest hill at the Ķemeri National Park, rolling landscape, varied types of forests and rich world of mushrooms. Among many others, possible to find Golden Chanterelle (*Cantharellus tubaeformis*), Horn of Plenty or Dead Man's Fingers (*Craterellus cornucopioides*), Common Stinkhorn (*Phallus impudicus*), Golden Larch Boletus (*Suillus grevillei*), edible Sheeps Polypore (*Albatrellus ovinus*), deadly poisonous Death Cap (*Amanita phalloides*).

Mushrooming at the coastal pine-forests near Apšuciems: traditional eatable mushrooms – Common Chanterelle (*Cantharellus cibarius*), Variegated Boletus (*Suillus variegatus*) and others. Then mushrooming at Rideļi for different species of Russule Russula as well as Boletes.

In the evening opportunity to go through gathered mushrooms with the guide

and cook them in the meal. Accommodation near Rideļi

Day 3

Rideļi – Engure – Šķēde – Talsi – Valdemārpils – Lube – Tiņģere – Dundaga

Breakfast. Šķēdes beeches growth with some rare for Latvia mushrooms. Visit local wine maker at Lauciena.

Then we'll follow Botanical trail along Krovalki house located at Talsi down nature park. Possible to find Red-Cracking Boletus (*Boletus pascuus*) and other mushrooms.

Walk through picturesque Old Town of hilly Talsi located by two lakes.

On the way we'll stop at Valdemārpils Idol linden tree and then gather mushrooms along the banks of the river Roja. Here possible to find such valuable eatable mushrooms as Deer Truffle (*Elaphomyces* sp.) with parasitic Slender Truffle-Club (*Cordyceps ophioglossoides*) as well as Orange Caterpillar-Fungus (*Cordyceps militaris*) which emerges from larvae or pupae of moth. Accommodation near Dundaga

Day 4.

Dundaga – Pāce – Ance – Ugāle – Zlēkas – Kuldīga

Breakfast. Excursion to Dundaga Castle which is the largest well preserved castles at Kurzeme region. It's history dates back to 13th century and its surrounded with lots of legends. At the Dundaga Park we might find Hen-of-the-Woods (*Grifola frondosa*) and Ceramic Parchment Fungus (*Xylobolus frustulatus*)

...everything about mushrooms: from picking to preparation!

TRIP DETAILS

Package price per person:
from EUR 540.00

INCLUDES:

- Accommodation based on shared DBL room with breakfast
- Bus transfers
- Guide/mycologist
- Four dinners
- Visit to shiitake grower
- Information pack

EXTRA COSTS:

- Single supplement
- Other meals
- Possible fees

TOUR GUIDE:

Diāna Meijere, mycologist

PERIOD OF TRAVEL:

Mid Aug-First half of Oct

WALKING:

Easy short walks in woods from 1 to 2 hours combined with bus drives. Waterproof boots, hats and mosquito repellent recommended.

while on the banks of Pāce Lake is a chance to find Chesnut Bolete (*Gyroporus castaneus*). Lonaste and Raķupe ancient oak where we look for Saffron Yellow Polypore (*Hapalopilus croceus*) and other typical oak mushrooms. At the largest array of forest between Ugāles – Zlēku is possible to find Cauliflower Fungus (*Sparassis crispa*). Accommodation in Kuldīga district.

Day 5.

Kuldīga – Aizpute – Rudbārži – Rīga

Breakfast. We'll start a day with excursion through charming Old Town of Kuldīga with its widest waterfall of Eu-

Walking Kemerī nature trail



View to Talsi town



In the forest with mycologist



rope, well preserved wooden buildings and 19th century brick bridge across the river Venta. Then continue to Tebra oak growth where possible to see the strange Hen-of-the-Woods (*Grifola frondosa*), Hare's Ear (*Otidea onotica*) and other unusual looking mushrooms. Visit to shiitake mushroom growers at Garīkas. At Rudbārži park possible to find Lingzhi (*Ganoderma lucidum*) which widely used in Chinese traditional medicine. Returning to Rīga. Accommodation in Rīga.

Day 6. Departure

Breakfast. Transfer to the airport.

Scarlet elf cup (*Sarcoscypha austriaca*)

