



Slītere's Travellers'

DAY NEWSLETTER

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Līvōd Rānda!

So, this is how we travelled...

...grown-ups and children, on bikes and in baby strollers, accompanied by dogs and with photo cameras. This was a real travelling holiday: totally, in one day's time, around 600 travellers have visited different places, sights and routes in Slītere.

Despite the fact that the weather forecast was not favourable and very changeable, on the dawn of the Travellers' day we have woken up in a sunny mood and were ready to set out on an adventure.

Even though the typical Kolka's seashore's wind made us hold on to the ground, it has also protected us from mosquitoes and let us experience the most extreme sea waves.

Thank you all the brave, diligent and curious travellers, who have gone on routes all through the day, starting at 4:00 in the morning.

Some of them have woken up at one o'clock at night, to be able to get from Riga to Kolka in time to start the planned route.

Thank you all for recommending this event to your friends, for travelling with us during this day, as well as for your positive reviews and the photographs that you have sent.

We have found great satisfaction and delight in the fact that all the routes we had offered were well-visited and that you have shown great interest and trust in Slītere, the Countryside Traveller and the joy of travelling.

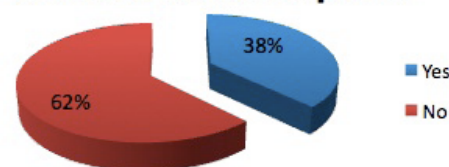
We will be waiting for you again at the events organised by Lauku ceļotājs (Countryside Traveller). It is more interesting to travel together!



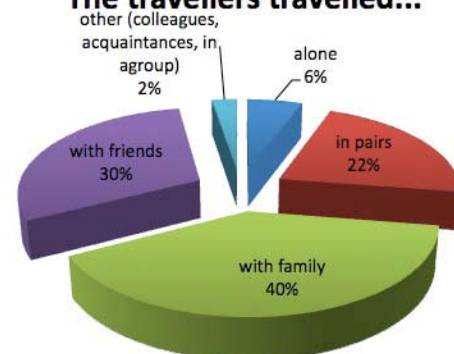
Photo by Lauku ceļotājs

? We asked you...

Was it the first time that you have visited Slītere's national park?



The travellers travelled...



The photo contest continues!

You are invited to participate in a photo contest devoted to Slītere Travellers' day by sending in the 3 most attractive photographs from Slītere. The photos must be sent till June 28th, 2010 to the email address: elina@celotajs.lv (in the email please note your name, surname and a contact phone number).

For your inspiration, here are some of the photos that we have already received.



Photo by Elita Ziemele



Photo by Ingrida Vigule



Photo by Ilze Vabole

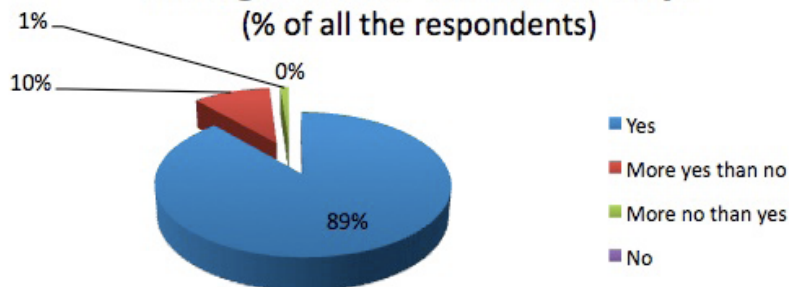


Photo by Dace Granta

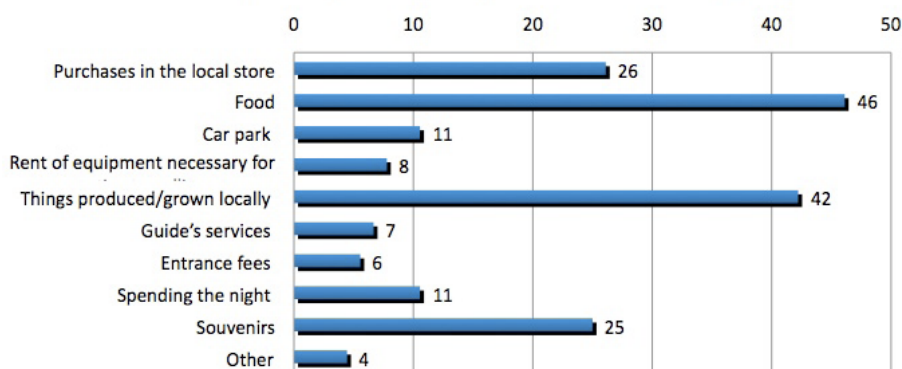
? We asked you...

Are you satisfied with your experience during Slītere's Travellers' day?

(% of all the respondents)

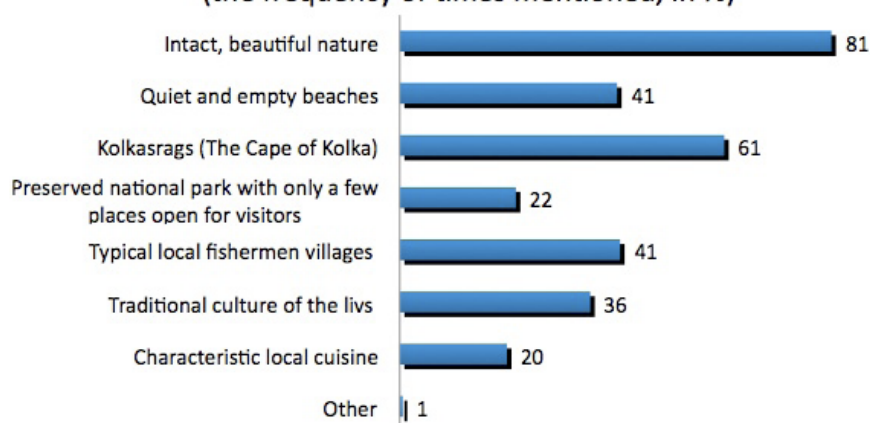


What did you spend money on in Slītere's national park? (the frequency of times mentioned, in %)



Your associations with Slītere

(the frequency of times mentioned, in %)



YOUR TOURIST GUIDE

Send in three best photographs of travelling in Slītere, participate in a photo contest!!

SLĪTERES NACIONĀLAIS PARKS

NEW !!!

Prizes

- ➔ An album of photos about livs' seashore „Green, white, blue”
- ➔ Master class with a professional photographer J.Mednis

PHOTO CONTEST

For more information: www.celotajs.lv/sliteresdiena



Follow the news of Lauku ceļotājs on www.celotajs.lv



[www.twitter.com/laukucelotajs](https://twitter.com/laukucelotajs)

WELCOME TO TRAVEL AROUND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES IN LATVIA

In order for a person to be harmonic, it is the most necessary, in my opinion, to have the sky and the earth. I relate to the sky as a symbol of spirituality and creativity, and to the earth as a place that brings stability and the feeling of home.

By inviting you to visit Slītere, I encourage you to sense your home, your land, to be with your own people. Even though, maybe, you have never been in Slītere, it is still your home, your environment, because you live in Latvia.

Be hospitable in your own home – while travelling around Latvia, bring along your foreign friends, bring along those who are close to you and who, maybe, don't even expect that their place of living is as beautiful and prosperous as Slītere.

Latvia's beauty is unusual and diverse. It seems like it is not possible to comprehend and learn it thoroughly in the course of one's life. One can enjoy it every passing day, so I am inviting you to spend this



Photo by Lauku ceļotājs

summer visiting other Latvia's sights as well. The Lauku ceļotājs will undoubtedly be of help to you in this area.

Of course, travelling is always an expense – you have to spend your spiritual and physical energy, money... but the most wonderful thing is the fact that your expenses will be repaid – for all the energy you've spent, you will receive new energy, but as for the money – you have invested it in your own home – in the development of Latvia. While travelling around Latvia you are, undoubtedly, the winners!

Have a good journey!

Raimonds Vējonis, Minister of Environment

Dear Traveller,

This year is significant for the field of tourism due to the establishment of a new tourism concept which invites everyone to relax in Latvia without rush. To enjoy every moment that is spent here, in our Latvia.

As summer comes, when nature around you flourishes and smells, when birds start to bustle, it is time for the traveller to welcome it all, to feel it through and to enjoy. Slītere would be the place to relish adventures and to explore the unknown and expose the unexposed.

From the Blue mountains of Slītere till Ģipka there lies a wonderful trekking route. While walking along the ancient banks of the once existed Baltic ice lake, which stretch in a semicircle along the northern border of Kurzeme, one can come into a broad view of the sea. It is even more enjoyable to spend a weekend here, knowing that not so many people have been here before – for the considerable amount of time this territory was closed and because of this it is possible to get to know even more protected plants typical for this area only.

Above that, this place is home for so many – for birds as well as ani-

mals. Slītere shows us the way how nature can understand the love of man, and man, in return, can live in harmony with nature. It can be shown even sooner if it is possible to explore different aspects of nature all at once – be it waterfronts or marshes, and to enjoy the magic of the forest.

Each one of us has a spirit of Christopher Columbus – at times when we want to discover something yet undiscovered and unnoticed by someone else – to receive it as a secret – for no one else has really heard anything about this place. Here Slītere offers one of such possibilities – to receive positive energy by starting summer run and again meet the new season with optimism and delight. For the place to be interesting and mysterious it is not necessary

for it to be known to others or bigger, wealthier, brighter, more outstanding – there are so many places in Latvia that attract you by their naturalism and simplicity!

So, the best way to travel is to make yourself tasty sandwiches and get on the road!

**Armands Slokenbergs,
Director of the State Agency
of Tourism Development**



Photo: From A. Slokenbergs private archive

Interesting facts about Slitere Travellers' day!

320 pancakes eaten



Photo by Lauku ceļotājs

Signe Dišlere, the mistress of the guest house Pītagi, has made 320 pancakes from 6 kg of cottage cheese and has fed 100 people. Finally, she ran out of cottage cheese and eggs and had to stop making pancakes. Her daughter has spent 7 hours by the stove and Signe herself – 4 hours.

275 sklandraušī* were sold

The sellers of sklandraušī sold all they had made. Elma Zadiņa's sklandraušī have been sold in just 1,5 hour-time. During the day all the other sellers managed to sell all the sklandraušī they had baked. We have already told you, that sklandraušī in Slitere are mighty tasty!

(sklandraušī - pies made of rye dough and filled with potato and carrot paste)



The organizers ended up without fish

At 19:00 p.m. the organizers of the event have finally completed all their duties and started to search for fish at the fishermen's. But around that time all the fish in Kolka has already been sold. So we will have to travel to Slitere again!

The adventures of sea voyagers

Among the first travellers who have travelled to Slitere on June 12th were those who wanted to go on a morning fishing trip together with the fishermen. As early as at 5 o'clock in the morning 15 travellers have gathered at the campsite Usi, in order to go to the sea on two boats. While at sea, the engine of one of the boats stopped working and the other boat had to drag the travellers back to the shore. Despite all the complications, the travellers met the fishermen, sailed over the sea waves and returned to the shore with a small share of the fishermen's catch.



Photo by Lauku ceļotājs

The preparation works went on till...

Preparation for the event went on till 3 a.m. While the route banner was being put, the weather blessed the organizers consequently with rain, thunder and lightning. There was nothing left to do other than use the banner as a roof!



Photo by Lauku ceļotājs

The most popular sights

During Slitere Travellers' day there were offered 19 different open sights in the area of Dundaga's administrative district, some for special entrance fee and some for free.

The travellers were most interested in the Cape of Kolka (600 visitors), Šlītere lighthouse (246 visitors), Kolka's Lutheran church (150 visitors), Vaide's museum of horns (106 visitors), Liv People's Centre in Mazirbe (100 visitors) and Dundaga's palace (100 visitors).

The most popular routes

All the 12 routes offered that day were quite popular with the travellers. The most visited were: a walking route „The ring of Kolka” (altogether visited by 110 travellers in three groups), a walking route „Košrags - Pitrags - Košrags” (75 travellers in two groups), a biking route „Košrags - Mazirbe - Košrags” (one group of 40 bikers), an expedition „Looking for the Longest Wooden Railroad Bridge” (39 travellers), a walking route „The diversity of nature in marshes and forests” (1 group of 37 travellers) and a walking route „Learn about Mazirbe” (1 group of 32 travellers).

It is necessary to mention that on most of the routes, which required limitation of the participants to a certain number, this number was reached to the maximum.

The Northern Rainforests were walked through by 7 travellers early in the morning; 20 travellers went on Animal-watching and 12 travellers were interested in Bird-watching. 22 travellers went Out to sea with the Fishing Boats and all in all 31 travellers have walked along the paths of Slitere.





The joint photograph of the toughest travellers, guides, the locals and the organizers

THE PHOTO GALLERY OF THE EVENT



Registration has begun...



For the wind not to blow away the materials, stones are put to use



The first travellers have arrived



Early in the morning all the travellers were in a good mood and ready to go on adventure



While registering, everyone received a tourist guidebook about Slītere



The participants choose the routes that suites them best



Sometimes decisions about the choice of a route were made in a bigger group



A nice route for walkers



Between the early observers of the fishermen there were also youngsters and children



Fans of sea boats went on to search for bigger waves



The bike route turned out to be a lot longer and wealthier sights-wise than planned



After watching the fishing, back to the shore with a mighty catch



The weather has blessed travellers with sunshine, blue skies and wool-pack clouds



The mistress of ŪŠI campsite and the Chairman of Dundaga's Administrative District's Council



At the market of local crafts and other products everyone could find sweet treats or souvenirs



The closing concert is led by Jānis Mednis and Dāvis Stalts



Asnāte Ziemeļe, Raimonds Vējonis, Aldonis Zumbergs and Dace Sāmīte



The Minister of Environment takes part in tasting the fish and in the guessing competition



Jānis Dambītis, or, as the locals call him – the Governor of Kolka



The audience of the concert sat in the grass or in small groups around the bonfires



Thanks to the wind, one could enjoy the concert without having to worry about mosquitoes



The main prize of the lottery is presented – an LC gift card worth 100 lats



The Sarma ensemble led by Inora Sprōģe performs the first



Kolka's brass band led by Viesturs Rērihs



The ensemble of Liv songs Lauja led by Dzintra Taunīga



The bravest travellers took part in the liv reading skills' contest



Liv young people's ensemble Nurmorkestor performed together with the singer Chilli

TRAVELLERS TOP



The earliest travellers

The first travellers set out on the road as early as 4 o'clock in the morning, in order to go on an Animal-watching route. They have seen deer and a special place where, in autumn, deer bouts take place. They have also seen beavers' dams, beavers' houses as well as other interesting places.



The craziest travellers

Despite the strong wind, which sometimes sent flying in the air materials, speakers of the stereo system, and even tents, some of the travellers set out in the direction of Cape of Kolka in sea boats, in order to search for even bigger waves and extreme emotions.



The youngest travellers

Even very young travellers took part in Slītere Travellers' day. Some of them slept in their strollers while riding around the market, but some have set out on routes together with their parents in order to get to know Slītere most beautiful landscapes.



The greatest researchers of nature

During the route on the Bažas swamp, the travellers have seen such interesting animals as smooth snake, sand lizard, wood grouse, golden eagle, the big pine borer, longhorn beetle, rare longhorn beetle, pine longicorn beetle and the traces of yellow robber-fly.



The most extreme crossings

Typically crossing Pitragupe is quite easy – it is a small river that can be simply jumped over. This time, due to the strong wind, it was overflooded and it was necessary to walk along the seashore, because it was shallower. So one traveller fell in the water, and the other had to carry a baby stroller in his arms. In the end, fortunately, everyone has made it through!



The most scholarly travellers

On the route "Looking for the Longest Wooden Railroad Bridge" there was found an oil can, which, according to the specialists present, has been preserved from the times, when there was a railroad there and which was used on the locomotive to store oil.



TRAVELLERS' REVIEWS

"Hello! First of all, I'd like to thank you for Slītere event. It was interesting to wander around the swamp for 6 hours and to observe bugs, snakes and lizards. I hope that to those, who are not great sports fans, this event didn't turn out to be a hassle. But, judging by the emotions upon coming out of the forest, everyone enjoyed it. It was really fun!:) We have caught those."



Jānis Viškers, Dripe Dizains LTD/ www.dripe.lv

"On June 12th this year there were all three of us - I, my wife and my daughter in Slītere park. Since we don't live near the sea, the wind seemed terrible and we took part only in one excursion led by guide Jānis. I really liked the interest Jānis took in telling us about the Cape of Kolka, all the territory around and about future holiday possibilities. We have also walked along Pine route. We have seen all the nearby sights - the lighthouse of Slītere, and have climbed up the observation tower. Now I know about the existence of the reserve of Slītere, what to do here and what are the possibilities I will be able to use in the future".

Mikus Timofejevs, Rīga

"I am from a team of 10 people, who, on June 12th at 5 o'clock in the morning took part in going out to sea on the fishing boats. In any case, despite the morning problems, we are thrilled about the event and if it becomes an annual one, we will definitely participate again. The expedition, during which we were searching for the wooden railroad bridge was superb, the place Ūši, where after that we could grill hotdogs on fire - also super! It's a pity though, that in order to make it to the fishing at 5 o'clock in the morning, we got up at 1:30 and so we had absolutely no strength to stay for the concert....Thank you very much!"

Lāsma Saulīte

"Hello! We- father, mother and two boys, 13 and 6 years old, have taken part in the Travellers' day organized in Slītere. Thank you for the lovely and interesting event!"

Elita Ziemeļe no Rīgas

"Thank you for the chance to see and experience a different Slītere!" **On behalf of the Department of Ministry of regional development and self-government issues – Dace**



TIENŪ! (THANK YOU) THANKS TO ALL OUR COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS!



VIDES



MINISTRIJA



THANK YOU FOR ACTIVE COOPERATION!

Dženeta Marinska, Ālanda Pūliņa, Andra un
 Andris Ratkeviči, Dace Sāmīte, Jānis Dambītis,
 Aldis Pinkens, Ilze Šteine, Inese Roze, Elmārs
 Pēterhofs, Signe Dišlere, Jānis Mednis,
 Aldonis Zumbergs, Dāvis Stalts, Smaida
 Šnikvalde, Edgars un Veronika Milleri, Inora
 Sproģe, Oskars Sproģis, Ilmārs Glegls, Luīze
 un Raivo Šulci, Vilnis Skuja, Ina Brauna,
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 Visvaldis Feldmanis, Ēriks Lihačevs,
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