

HIKING ROUTE ALONG THE SEASHORE AND COAST

Welcome to Slitere!

The territory of the Slitere National Park has a sandy beach that is around 40 kilometres long and is appropriate for short hikes or ones that take several days. There are no insurmountable obstacles for people on foot between Melsnīls and Sīkrags. When planning your route, remember that the average distance which one can cover on foot in one hour is between four (moderate pace) and six (rapid pace) kilometres.

Plan a circular route which leads back to the point of origin. To make the route more interesting, you can walk along the Kolka-Mazirbe-Sīkrags route in the Slitere National Park. It passes through small Liv villages and lovely pine forests with lots of natural elements including impressive dunes. Remember that this is a longer route than the one which runs along the seashore. For instance, the distance between Košrags and Vaide is 7.5 km along the seashore, while the bike route is around 9 km long. Add the 2 km from the sea to the aforementioned villages, and the overall route will be around 18 kilometres in length.

The village centres are as far as one kilometre from the sea.

Hikers can also have other options:

- Correlate your route with the bus that travels between Mazirbe and Kolka so that you can return by bus (just remember that it will take some time to get to the bus stop);
- In some cases you can find accommodations owned by someone who will pick you up at the end of your route;
- Break up into two groups and go in opposite directions, exchanging car keys at the middle if you have left cars at both ends;
- If bikes can be rented at your final destination, then you can return to your starting point by bike.

Here are a few hiking routes:

- Mazirbe-Vaide
- Vaide-Kolkasrags
- Sīkrags-Kolkasrags (two days, spending the night at Košrags or Vaide)
- Melsnīls-Kolka

TOURIST SERVICES

Nearby accommodations:

- Upeskalni 29259510, Dzintariņi 26173009
- Mazirbes Kalēji 28829474, 29213412
- Pītagi 29372728; www.pitagi.lv
- Jauntilmači 29412974; Krūmiņi 29452512
- Purvziēdi 63200179, 29395624
- Ūši 63276507, 29475692; www.kolka.info

Resting places: In Kolka, in Vaide at the Vaide pond, by the Ēvažu nature trail

Shops: In Mazirbe, in Kolka, in Melsnīls

Dining: In Mazirbe, in Košrags and at Pītagi guest house (only groups, by prior arrangement), at the Kolkasrags car park (seasonal), at the cafe „Zitari” (seasonal)

Bike rentals: The Ūši, Pītagi and Mazirbes Kalēji guesthouses

Information: www.talsurajons.lv 63224165;

www.kolkasrags.lv 29149105;

www.ziemeļkurzeme.lv 63232293, 29444395;

www.countryholidays.lv 67617600; www.livones.lv

Emergency services: Ring 112



Kolkasrags



Amber

The Slitere National Park (established in 1999 as a strict nature reserve) is known, with good reason, as an open-air museum which shows the historical development of the Baltic Sea. Nowadays evidence of geological events is seen in the Blue Hills of Slitere, which stand 20 to 30 metres high above what was the shore of the Baltic lake of ice 10,000 years ago. The Stiebrī hills were former Europe's largest set of dune ramparts and damp hollows between those ramparts. This occurred between 4,000 and 7,000 years ago. The gentle climate of Northern Kurzeme is the reason why so many rare plants are found in the park – some 860 in all including Common Yew (*Taxus baccata*) and Baltic Ivy (*Hedera helix var. baltica*). Of certain value in the preservation of these treasures was the Soviet military machine, which has left behind army bases and other military objects in the area. The presence of the military meant that the area of what is now the Slitere National Park remained largely undisturbed for 50 years. The park includes one of the most popular tourist destinations in Latvia – the Cape of Kolka, which is visited by more than 50,000 travellers each year. During the spring migration of birds, tens of thousands of birds fly over the cape within one hour. Along the shore of the Baltic Sea is the so-called Livonian coast, which stretches from Kolka to Sīkrags and Oviši. Fishing villages and other cultural objects established by the world's smallest ethnic minority, the Livonians, can be found here. Tourists will enjoy interesting four nature trails, bicycling routes, viewing tower, and the Slitere lighthouse which is open for visitors.



A walk along the shoreline



Smoked fish



The sea at Košrags



By the sea

The Slitere National Park features several other hikes, as well as bike, water and auto routes. Look for a list of routes on www.countryholidays.lv and for markings out in nature.

Photo: Lauku Ceļotājs (Juris Smajņskis), from the archives of the Talsi tourist information centre, from the "Krāces" open farm.

www.countryholidays.lv

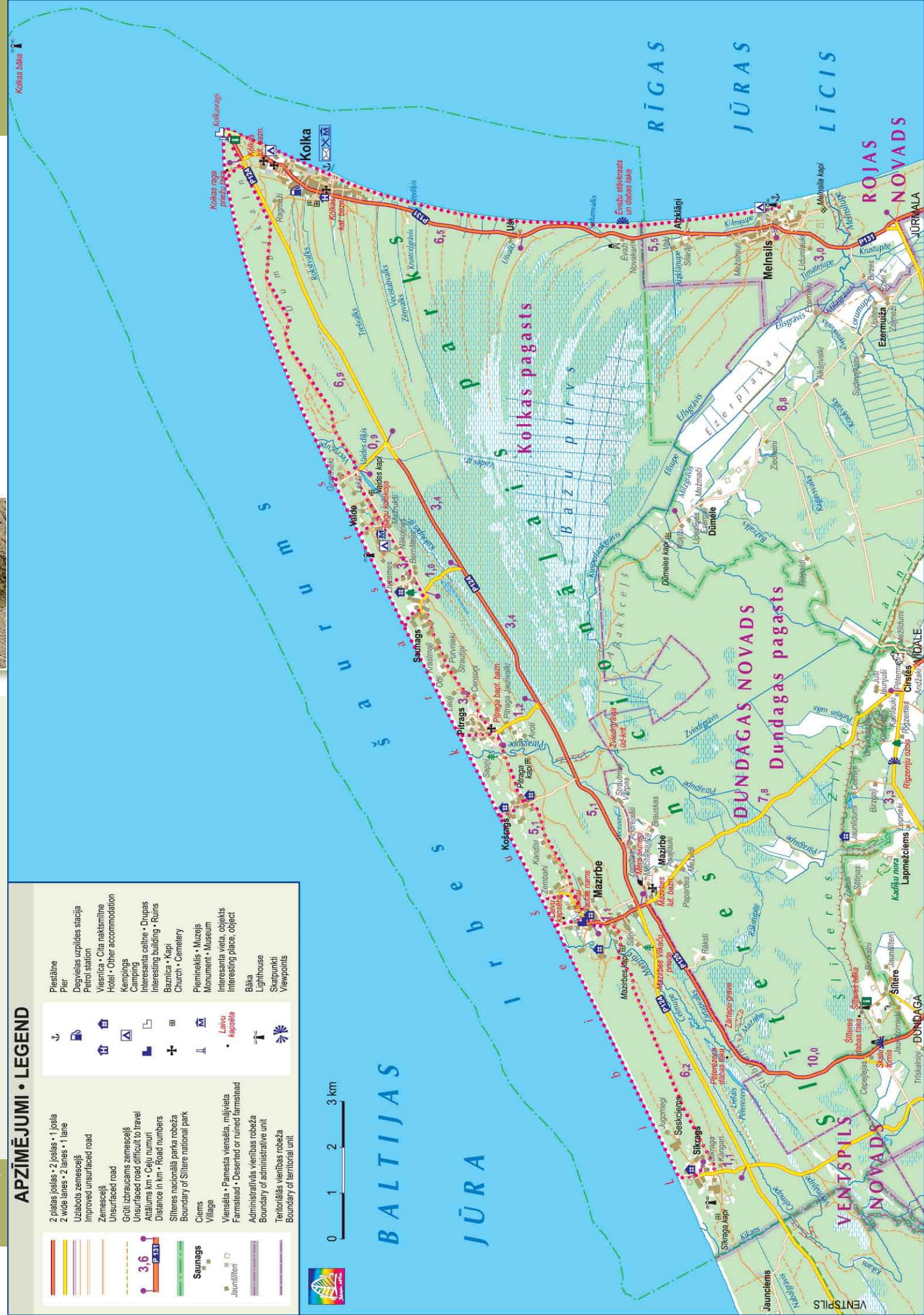


Lauku Ceļotājs

40, Kalnciema street, LV-1046, Latvia
Phone: +(371) 67617600 • Fax: +(371) 67830041
lauku@celotajs.lv • www.countryholidays.lv



With the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia. POLPRPOP-NATURA (Nr. LIFE07ENV/LV/000981)



APZĪMĒJUMI • LEGEND

- 2 plašas joslās • 2 joslas • 1 josla
- 2 wide lanes • 2 lanes • 1 lane
- Uzlabots zemesceļš
- Improved unsurfaced road
- Zemesceļš
- Unsurfaced road
- Grūti izbraucams zemesceļš
- Difficult to travel
- Atālamis km • Ceļu numuri
- Distance in km • Road numbers
- Slīteres nacionālā parka robeža
- Boundary of Slitere national park
- Ciems
- Village
- Viensēta • Pamesta viensēta, mājvieta
- Farmstead • Deserted or ruined farmstead
- Administratīvās vienības robeža
- Boundary of administrative unit
- Teritoriālās vienības robeža
- Boundary of territorial unit
- Piestāine
- Pier
- Degvielas uzpildes stacija
- Petrol station
- Viesnīca • Cita naktsmitne
- Hotel • Other accommodation
- Kempings
- Camping
- Interesanta celīne • Droņags
- Interesting building • Ruins
- Baznīca • Kapli
- Church • Cemetery
- Pieminekis • Muzejs
- Monument • Museum
- Interesanta vieta, objekts
- Interesting place, object
- Bāka
- Lighthouse
- Skatpunkti
- Viewpoints
- 2 plašas joslās • 2 joslas • 1 josla
- 2 wide lanes • 2 lanes • 1 lane
- Uzlabots zemesceļš
- Improved unsurfaced road
- Zemesceļš
- Unsurfaced road
- Grūti izbraucams zemesceļš
- Difficult to travel
- Atālamis km • Ceļu numuri
- Distance in km • Road numbers
- Slīteres nacionālā parka robeža
- Boundary of Slitere national park
- Ciems
- Village
- Viensēta • Pamesta viensēta, mājvieta
- Farmstead • Deserted or ruined farmstead
- Administratīvās vienības robeža
- Boundary of administrative unit
- Teritoriālās vienības robeža
- Boundary of territorial unit