AGUIDE TO THE COAST OF THE BALTIC SEA LATVIA











"A Guide to the Coast of the Baltic Sea. Latvia" is an excellent guide for your seaside holidays in Latvia. The coastline stretches for 500km and you can experience a great variety of landscape from splendid sandy beaches to rocky shores and steep banks. Seaside resorts near Rīga and Jūrmala ar full of life but out in the countryside there are quiet fishing villages and secluded areas for those enjoying privacy and nature. Make your holiday plans choosing from:

• 55 guest houses, self-catering cottages, hotels

Accommodations can be rented for one night if you plan to travel along the coast or for longer holidays if you prefer to enjoy beach holidays with occasional outings in the vicinity.

• 55 top attraction sites

The best nature and cultural heritage sites worth seeing.

• 28 touring routes: walking, cycling, boating, driving, bird and animal watching

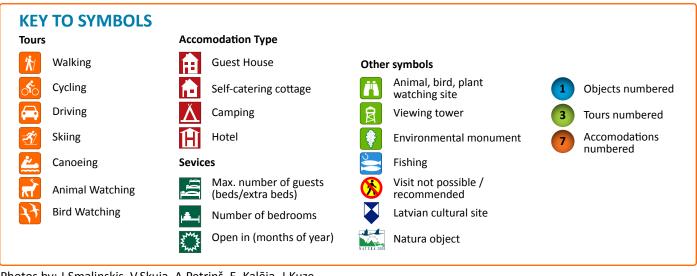
There are shorter and longer routes for all fitness levels. It is very likely that you will spot storks, foxes, roes on the roadside in rural areas, but it is still much more captivating to enjoy bird and animal watching tours with professional nature guides in beautiful nature surroundings. Brief descriptions are given in this guidebook with web links to detailed downloadable information.

If you need more information or assistance with arrangement of services, please contact us:



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Photos by: J.Smaļinskis, V.Skuja, A.Petriņš, E. Kalēja, J.Ķuze

WHAT KIND OF COASTLINE WILL YOU FIND ALONG THE SHORES of the bay of Rīga and the Baltic sea



A sandy beach along the Baltic Sea at Pitrags

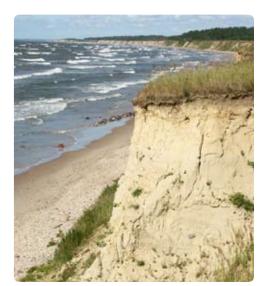
A rocky beach at Mersrags



Seashore meadows and lagoons (the Randu meadows) at Ainaži



Sandstone cliffs - The Veczemu cliffs



The Strante - Ulmale steep shore

Sandy beaches make up most of the Latvian coastline, which is approximately 500 km long. They are a "business card" of sorts for the coastline, and they offer some of the most important recreational values in the area. There are some beaches covered with gravel, and very few ones with pebbles. In locations where there are sand dunes, you will also find white dunes, gray dunes and forested seashore dunes, all of which are protected biotopes. Sandy beaches and various types of dunes are protected at the Piejūra Nature Park, the Kemeri National Park, the Slītere National Park, the Oviši, Ziemupe and Užava nature reserves, and the Bernāti and Pape nature parks.

Rocky beaches are uncommon, but the most impressive one in terms of appearance is the rocky because of Vidzeme – around 14 km long, with various kinds of fieldstones both on land and under the water between Meleki and Tūja. Shorter areas of the coast with smaller fieldstones can be found between Dunte and Zvejniekciems, at Mersrags, and along the Kurzeme coastline between Roja and Kaltene. The Vidzeme Rocky Seashore Nature Reserve has been established to protect this particular type of beach.

Seashore meadows are uncommon in Latvia. In terms of natural diversity, the most interesting and most important segment along the Vidzeme shoreline is between Ainaži and Kuiviži (5 km) and along the Kurzeme shoreline between Mersrags and Abragciems (17 km). Small areas with meadows can also be found at Kegulrags, Daugavgriva, to the South of Mersrags, and at the coast near Kaltene. The seashore meadows are protected in the Randu Meadows Nature Reserve and the Lake Engure Nature Park.

There are two kinds of **steep shores** along the Latvian coastline – those made up of basic sandstone cliffs, as well as those left over from the last Ice Age and made up of sediment from the Baltic Ice Lake.

- Devonian Era sandstone cliffs can only be found between Meleki and Tūja. The most impressive ones are the Veczemu cliffs and the Zivtinu cliffs, though seldom are the cliffs higher than just a few metres. These cliffs are part of the Vidzeme Rocky Seashore Nature Reserve.
- The most impressive steep shore, in turn, is found between Pavilosta and Ošvalki along the coast of the Baltic Sea (26 km). Most of the shore is made up of sediment such as sand, clay and gravel. At Jūrkalne and Ulmale, the shores are as much as 12 m high, and that is an impressive height for Latvia. Smaller segments of steep shores can be found elsewhere along the coast of the Baltic Sea and the Bay of Riga. Some are protected or in particularly protected NATURA 2000 territories - the Evažu steep shore in the Slitere National Park, the Staldzene steep shore, and the coastline between Strante and Ulmale. The latter two are protected geomorphologic natural monuments.

The Latvian seashore is freely accessible along all of its length, apart from the estuaries of major rivers, small ports, and the Randa meadows. In all of these areas, you will have to go inland to pass the blockage. All in all, however, the shoreline can be hiked along nearly all of its length.



THE EUROPEAN and BALTIC GREEN BELT

For nearly 40 years, the so-called Iron Curtain divided Europe into two parts – Eastern and Western Europe. Two decades have passed since the collapse of the wall, and in many places the environment – European-level biotopes and rare species of plants and animals – has taken over once-abandoned frontier territories and former military objects. We call this imagined zone the Green Belt, and it links the European landscape and human environment from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea. This is a global historical monument, too.

Our vision is to preserve the Green Belt as the backbone of interaction between the environment and the continent's culture and history – one which now links the parts of Europe which were once split apart. This is necessary so as to protect the fragile nature of the shoreline and frontier environments in Europe while, at the same time, ensuring balanced development of the territory's economic and social environment by providing for the sustainability of the relevant sectors.

The Green Belt along the shore of the Baltic Sea and its protection. Young people who have been born along the shores of the Baltic Sea find it hard to understand why juts 25 years ago people were only allowed to visit specified and limited beaches, why enormous spotlights were used to light up the seashore at night, and why the delicate sand of the beach was ploughed every night.

The coastal regime had its pluses, of course – few people lived along the shores of the Baltic Sea, and there was little in the way of economic activity there. This meant a relatively untouched territory of dune biotopes, forests, underwater algae "meadows," and other environmental treasures. Memories about the past are supported by former military bases, border guard towers, coastal defence batteries, and other objects which can now be seen as our joint heritage of the historical past.













By the sea

DISCOVER 55 OBJECTS

In this section we have taken the very essence of the most exiting natural, cultural and historical sites, as well as other objects of interest along the Latvian coastline.



"Vītolnieki" , 🖀 +371-3400-3322

Map Ref: C1

The Pape Koņi village is an unusual coastal populated area from the late 19th and early 20th century, with old and historical buildings and a layout that have been preserved in their primeval appea-rance. In the northern part of the village is a branch of the Open-air Museum, "Vītolnieki". There you will find an old fisherman's house, ancillary buildings and fishing equipment so as to get a good sense of how people once lived along the shores of the Baltic Sea. New buildings are being erected at this time between the village and the sea, and so

not much time is left to see the village as it has always been. We recommend the environmental process trail which leads along the seashore from Pape to Nīda (9.1 km there and back). There is also a bike route along the shore which continues in Lithuania, but absolutely is not meant for beginners. The location is in the Pape Nature Park.





The eastern shore of Lake Pape is the first place in Latvia where Konik-breed horses were released into the wild in the lake's wetland meadows so as to increase biological diversity there. The horses, like aurochs and the European bison, can be visited in the company or local guides. We recommend the area around Lake Pape as an outstanding place to spot birds during autumn migration. The location is in the Pape Nature Park.

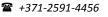




To the South of Bernāti is Cape Bernāti, and it is the westernmost place in Latvia. In 1988, a stone memorial, "Green Ray", was installed at the side of the road which leads to the sea from the centre of Bernāti to commemorate this fact. It is the work of sculptor Vilnis Titāns. The location is in the Bernāti Nature Park.

THE LIEPĀJA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Map Ref: C1



This church (Lielā Street 9) was built between 1742 and 1758 for a German congregation. Work on the 55-m steeple ended in 1866. The facade of the building is in the style of late Baroque, and the ornate interior is in the style of Rococo and Baroque. The church is known for its organ, which was built between 1773 and 1780. The instrument was rebuilt in 1855, and since then it has more than 7,000 pipes, 131 registers and four manuals. Until 1912, the organ was thought to be the largest in the world, and today it is known to be one of the largest in Europe. You may visit the church and climb up to the top of its steeple.





Map Ref: C1

Map Ref: C1



The Karosta prison, 🖀 +371-2636-9470

THE NORTHERN FORTS

The northern part of the Liepāja fortress includes Karosta, which has survived seven different armies and regimes. The territory of Karosta was mostly closed to civilians during the Soviet era - a city in a city. After the restoration of Latvia's independence, Karosta was opened up to the public, and there are many interesting things which can be seen here - the Northern Forts (see above), the No. 23 and No. 3 coastal defence batteries, the Orthodox Maritime Cathedral of St Nicholas, a water tower, a riding school, the Karosta prison, the Northern breakwater, and the Oskars Kalpaks bridge. We recommend hiking or biking around Karosta and its nearby surroundings.



🕿 +371-2636-9470

Located 4.5 km to the North of the Liepāja Karosta, at the end of Jātnieku Street, the Northern Forts were built together with the Liepāja fortress. Some of the buildings were blown up during World War I, and some of the fortifications have been washed into the sea. Some parts of the forts can still be seen inland, and popular stories tell of subterranean passages in the area. The forts can only be viewed from the outside (please be careful!), but there are Karosta guides who will lead you through the two levels of the buildings and allow you to take part in an attractive game - "Fleeing the USSR".



+371-2835-0899, 6345-3650

Cape Akmensrags, like Cape Kolka, has always been a dangerous place for shipping. The first signal light was lit here in 1879, and a 28-m wooden lighthouse was built 10 years later. A new stone lighthouse was built in 1911, and it was destroyed during World War I (1916). The current Cape Akmensrags lighthouse (height of 37.5 m) was built in 1921. The Soviet regime installed a hydrograph service and a sea observation point alongside the lighthouse. The ruins of former Soviet military buildings can still be seen in the nearby forest. The road to the lighthouse is not always traversable by car. During the winter and spring, this is a great bird watching place.



THE GRAY DUNE OF PĀVILOSTA



Latvia's largest gray dune (a nature reserve) is to the North of Pāvilosta. Gray dunes are important as habitats for many endangered plants and animals. Fishermen used to place their boats and dry their nets here, which is why the location is of cultural and historical value. There is a two-level viewing platform for visitors to the dune, and one of the largest sea stones in Latvia - the Pāvilosta Sea Stone - can be seen from it. We recommend a hike from Pāvilosta to Ošvalki (26 km).



A WOODEN BRIDGE **ACROSS THE RĪVA**

This bridge is the only wooden bridge of its type in Latvia. It was restored in 2008 after a previous renovation in the 1960s. The damaged structures of the bridge were completely replaced. The ruins of the old cardboard factory dam can be found alongside the bridge. In 2009, the old fish route was restored there.



THE BALTIC SEA STEEP SHORE



Map Ref: B1

The steep shore begins a few km to the North of Pavilosta and ends shortly before Ošvalki. The most impressive and unusual forms can be found between Strante and Ulmale. We recommend that you visit the area after powerful warms, because during the latter half of the summer, the cliffs, which are mostly made of sand and clay are usually less impressive in visual terms because of a lot of erosion and overgrowth. We recommend a hike from Pāvilosta to Ošvalki (26 km).











Breakwaters at the Ventspils port were built in 1905. A new access road was opened in 2011, and a well-appointed promenade for perambulations was established. The viewing tower was erected in 2003. This is a good place from which to see the Venta River estuary, the town's port, and the ships which use it.

that is unique in Latvia. The castle was built as a military and strategic object, and it has been used by various powers over the course of the centuries. There is a modern history museum in the building. Alongside the castle, along the right bank of the Venta River, there



Map Ref: B1

In Ošvalki, which is between Jūrkalne and Sārnate, there is a memorial to Latvian refugees who fled across the Baltic Sea to Sweden in fishing boats in 1944 and 1945. It is called "Sail of Hope" and is located in the dunes between the road and the sea.



***** +371-6369-9337

A MEMORIAL

The first lighthouse was located here in 1897, and the current one was built in 1925. The blindingly white tower is not too tall, but it is easily visible against the background of the steep seashore dunes, which have been strengthened with fortified concrete breakwaters. The lighthouse is in the Užava Nature Reserve.



🖀 +371-6362-4467

Work on the battery began in November 1939, and it once had positions for four B-13 cannons, along with a small military base. Men at the battery successfully defended the location against an attack by German torpedo cutters on June 24, 1941. Only a few days later, on June 28, the Soviet army blew up the cannons and withdrew from Ventspils. The cannon positions, distance viewing tower, water tower and some of the former military base can still be seen today, though the location has suffered much damage due to vandalism. The structures of the battery are publicly available and can be viewed from the outside. Please make sure that you are safe when visiting this area. The location is in Vasarnīcu Street, ~1 km to the S-SW from the Jūrmala Park.

THE PIEJŪRA OPEN AIR MUSEUM

The museum was opened in 1954, and it focuses on the historical and cultural environment of the coastline - fishermen's farms, granaries, windmills, smokehouses, net huts, etc. One of the most interesting attractions at the museum is a 3-km narrow-gauge rail line which was opened in 2011. A small tram runs along it. The largest collection of anchors in the Baltic States can be found in the nearby Jūrmala Park.



16

THE LIVONIAN ORDER CASTLE

THE SOUTHERN BREAKWATER

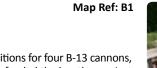
is the Ostas Street promenade with many monuments.

OF VENTSPILS



Map Ref: B1

Map Ref: B1 Known as the oldest Medieval fortress in Latvia, the building at Jāņa Street 17 was first mentioned in writing in the late 13th century. Despite the many damaging wars which have occurred since then, the Livonian Order castle has essentially remained intact - something















THE OVIŠI LIGHTHOUSE

2 +371-6360-0364, 2626-4616



Map Ref: A1

Oviši is an ancient Liv fishing village, and its population, like that of other fishing villages in the area, declined several times over during the course of the 20th century. The 38-m stone tower of the Oviši lighthouse (the light is at a height of 33 m) was built in 1814 and has operated without major changes ever since them. This is the oldest functioning lighthouse in Latvia. An exhibition dedicated to lighthouses in Latvia can be found here. The old Soviet military tank route can still be seen in the area as an open and sandy firebreak. The route led from Ventspils to Lūžņa. Opposite Oviši on the seashore is the distinct Cape Ovišrags, which is a good place to look for birds. The location is in the Oviši Nature Reserve.





THE MIKELTORNIS LIGHTHOUSE

Map Ref: A2

The tallest lighthouse in the Baltic States (~65 m) is amidst the dunes of Mikeltornis. The first stone lighthouse here was built in 1884. A metre thick, the tower suffered damage in World War I, and its remnants were torn down in 1932. A new tower was built in 1934, only to be blown up during World War II, in 1941. The current tower was built in 1957. The lighthouse can only be viewed from the outside.



THE LIV PEOPLE'S CENTRE



Map Ref: A2

The Liv People's Centre in Mazirbe was opened on August 6, 1939, and today it is a popular place for the annual Liv Festival and other events. It is also the main element in the cultural landscape of Mazirbe. Inside the building is an exhibition of photographs from the early 20th century which focus on Liv culture. The centre is in the Slitere National Park.





Map Ref: A2

Mazirbe was first recorded in writing in 1387. During the first period of Latvian independence in the first half of the 20th century, it was an important industrial, trade and transport area. During the Soviet era, the military took over the old Maritime School, and there was a border control facility along the Ventspils-Kolka road. In the dunes of Mazirbe you will find the Boat Cemetery which dates back to the 1950s and 1960s, when individual fishing was banned for local residents because of the border zone regime. The location is in the Slītere NationalPark.







Košrags is a monument to urban construction and is one of the newest Liv fishing villages. Its life began in the late 17th century. Several buildings in Košrags (Vāldamõ and Virgo) were built in the early 20th century as a part of new homesteads. Filmani and Silkalni are small buildings, and there are also ancillary farm buildings such as Norpiedagi. One the largest farms in the area is Anduli, and beginning in 1680, it was home to the village elder. The first reading school for Liv children was at Žoki in the mid-19th century. There are several buildings from the turn of the 19th century which have survived in Tilmači. The village is in the Slitere National Park.



Map Ref: A2

Vaide is an old Liv fishing village which was first mentioned in writing in the mid-1580s. The most interesting thing in Vaide is the collection of horns that can be found at the Purvziedu homestead (built in the 1920s and 1930s as a new homestead for a fisherman and farmer). The exhibition features more than 550 horns from European elks, bucks and deer, and these have all been collected by the Liv Edgars Hausmanis. The fence is typical of Liv villages. We recommend that you hike the old road which links Liv fishing villages from Vaide to Mazirbe (12 km). The whole area is part of the Slītere national Park.











Map Ref: A2

The Kolka lighthouse, which is out in the sea, sits atop an artificial island which was built between 1872 and 1875. In 1883, when the island had settled, the 21-m tower was built on it. Manufactured in St Petersburg, the tower was opened on July 1, 1884. Today the island has the building of the lighthouse supervisor, a variety of ancillary buildings, and an impressive fog bell that was once used when visibility was poor. A fire erupted on the island in 2011, but the lighthouse was not damaged. The lighthouse is in the Slitere National Park.





Known as Domesnes in the olden days, Cape Kolka was recorded on a rune stone in Sweden in 1040. Cape Kolka is the most distinct cape in Latvia, and it is the place where the Baltic Sea (the Big Sea) and the Bay of Rīga (the Little Sea) crash together. During storms, particularly with strong southerly winds, the waves can be as much as 7 m high. The cape continues as underwater shallows all the way to the Kolka lighthouse.

The sculpture on Cape Kolka is by Girts Burvis and is a monument to those who were "taken by the sea." You can see the wreck of a wooden ship (thought to be from the 19th century),

a rock called the Heart of Europe (Krišjānis Valdemārs considered Cape Kolka to be the centre of the continent), a series of information stands about Valdemārs, and a former Soviet coastal defence base. The Latvian Border Guard continue to use the base today. During migration season, Cape Kolka is a location for birds to gather and rest that is of Northern European importance. Bird watchers will love this place. Cape Kolka has a visitors centre and, during the summer only, a small cafeteria. The pines that have fallen on the beach are interesting - they have been washed away by the sea. Under the water around Cape Kolka is the largest ship cemetery in the Baltic Sea. The location is dangerous for swimmers because of shifting currents and sands. The ruins of the old lighthouse at the end of Cape Kolka date back to the 18th century. What you see there is the southern tower. The northern tower was washed away by the sea during the latter half of the 19th century. You can visit Cape Kolka at night, because the road from the car park is well lit with solar batteries. We recommend the circular route (3 km) along the seashore to and from the Cape Kolka Pine Trail, which will be fully restored in 2013. The cape is in the Slitere National Park.



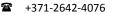
CAMPSITE ŪŠI - SKLANDRAUSIS TASTING T +371-2947-5692



Ūši is one of the oldest homesteads in Kolka, and it is home to the largest campsite in the Slītere National Park. Owner Dženeta Marinska welcomes families and tour groups to demonstrate the baking of a locally traditional food - the sklandrausis or carrot bun. You can order lunch complete with performances of folk music. We recommend that you hike along the seashore from Ūši to Cape Kolka (1.3 km). The campsite is in the Slītere National Park.

THE KOLKA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Map Ref: A2



The foundations for the church were laid by the onetime owner of the Dundaga Estate, Karl Ludwig Ferdinand von der Osten-Sacken, and work on the church began in 1885 under the leadership of builder Otto Sievert. The modern altar painting is by Helena Heinrihsone and is worth a look - no other painting of its type can be found in any other church in Latvia. The church is in the Slītere National Park.

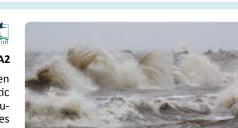




This trail leads along one of the few steep shores along the Bay of Rīga - the Ēvaži steep shore, which is around 15 m high and has a viewing platform to offer one of the loveliest views of the local bay and shoreline forests in the area. The steps which lead to the unusual beach were reinstalled after a 2005 storm. The beach is unusual because it is narrow and sandy, with black alders which all but grow in the water. During strong easterly winds, the beach and the trees disappear under the waves. The 300-m trail (one way) will take around 20 minutes to hike. We recommend that you hike from Evaži to Cape Kolka (10 km). The trail is in the Slītere National Park.







For more information www.countryholidays.lv



Man Poft A

Map Ref: A2

This is a wooden pathway that was installed to protect the dunes. It goes up and down the steep shores of the Pilsupe River, revealing beautiful views of three white sand cliffs (the White Dune is the largest of them). The surrounding dunes date back to the era of the Littorine Sea several thousand years ago. It will take around 20 minutes to hike the trail. Archaeologists have found evidence of Stone Age settlements in the area.



Map Ref: B2

Roja was first mentioned in writing as an ancient port all the way back in 1387. The exhibition at the Sea Fishing Museum focuses on the history of ship building, shipping and fishing in the area in the 19th and 20th century. If you have time, walk down to the start of the nearby Jomas Street. Out in the sea you will see the Roja Sea Rock.



THE ROCKY SEASHORE AT KALTENE

This is an atypical part of the coastline in Kurzeme – the segment between Kaltene and Roja is approximately six km in length and features small bays, capes and a beach covered with pebbles. In places there are small seaside meadows. We recommend a hike along the seashore from Kaltene to Roja.



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Map Ref: B2

Map Ref: B2

The trail is meant for hikers and bird watchers, and it starts at Cape Gaušrags in the southern part of Kaltene. The trail leads along the overgrown shoreline, where you will find a bird watching platform and tower. During the spring and autumn migration season you will see many types of geese, plovers and other birds. The 900-m trail will require between 20 minutes and one hour to hike.



This is one of the most distinct capes along the coastline of Latvia. At the end of it are fieldstones both above and below the water. The largest is the Velna Rock, which is 1.5 m high. To the South are seashore wetland meadows. The Mērsrags lighthouse which is at the end of the cape was built in 1875 and suffered much damage during World War I. The current appearance of the lighthouse, with a light that is at a height of 21.3 m, dates back to 1922, when the structure was restored. A plaque to commemorate the centenary of the lighthouse is alongside the entrance, and the remnants of a former Soviet military base are nearby. The cape is in the Lake Engure Nature Park.





Map Ref: B3

Along the banks of the Lāčupīte River between the Jūrmala-Tukums road and the seashore is an arboretum which was established by dendrologist Igors Mednis in 1959. The site features various foreign trees and shrubs. Mednis conducted experiments to see how such plants would adapt to local conditions. It's worth visiting the arboretum in May and June, when the rhododendrons are in bloom. The arboretum is home to some 60 types of coniferous and 350 types of deciduous trees, and it is open at any time.



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A MEMORIAL TO FINNISH BATTLES



Map Ref: B3

1.5 km before the Klapkalnciems shore, when travelling from Ragaciems, you will find a memorial stone to Finnish soldiers who fought battles in the area. The stone was unveiled on December 9, 1997, and it comes from south-eastern Finland where, in 1940, it was part of anti-tank fortifications. We recommend hikes of various distances along the seashore and in the direction of Ragaciems or Plienciems. The location is in the Kemeri National Park.





Map Ref: B3

Map Ref: B3

Along the coastline of Kurzeme, you can still see interesting monuments to the history of fishing – piers where fishermen once built huts to store their inventory. These facilities were also of social importance. Men came together to discuss their work, while women and children kept fishing nets in good repair. The huts at Bigaunciems were eventually washed into the sea, and the ones at the Ragaciems have been badly damaged over the course of time. The facility at Lapmežciems is in the best shape. One net hut has been restored, while the others remain in very poor condition. The location is the Kemeri National Park.



THE LAPMEŽCIEMS MUSEUM

Located at Liepu Street 4, the Lapmežciems Museum features exhibits about the history of the parish, the local school and the area's fishing industry. There are also materials about battles waged by Finnish troops in the area of Klapkalnciems. The museum often installs thematic exhibitions. Alongside the building is a memorial stone to politically repressed people. Guides at the museum have all kinds of interesting information about the history of fishing villages in the area. The museum is located in the Kemeri National Park.

37 THE JŪRMALA SPA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Jaunkemeri was developed as a populated area thanks to the development of the Kemeri spa. In 1912, an electric tram line was installed between Kemeri and Jaunkemeri, and that made it easier for patients and holidaymakers to get to the sea. During the Soviet era, two large spas were built in Jaunkemeri – the Jaunkemeri spa rehabilitation centre (1967) and the Yantarniy bereg sanatorium in 1972. Both remain open today. The latter (Zvīņu Street 2) became home to the Jūrmala Spa Museum of History in 2009. The exhibition features information about the development of the spa over the course of time. The museum is in the Kemeri National Park.



Map Ref: B3

This is one of the oldest and most popular streets in Jūrmala. It is a pedestrian walkway between Dzintari and Majori, and it is 1.1 km long. The saloons and summer cafeterias of Jomas Street are very popular during the summer.





Map Ref: B3

Until the 18th century, the Lielupe River emptied out into the Daugava. The 9.5 km Bullupe River now flows through the former bed of the Lielupe. The Lielupe broke its way into the sea during the first half of the 18th century, and water purification systems are located there at the so-called Ziemelupe River. The current Lielupe estuary dates back to 1775. It is yet another major river in Latvia with a natural and unregulated estuary at the Bay of Rīga. We recommend bird watching during the season. The location is in the Piejūra Nature Park.













A BIRD WATCHING AND LANDSCAPE OBSERVATION TOWER



Along the path which leads from the final stop of the No. 3 bus to the sea, there is a twolevel viewing platform from which you can get an all-encompassing view of surrounding fields of reeds, seashore meadows and small overgrown lakes. This is a great place to look for birds during the spring and fall migration seasons. The location is in the Daugavgrīva Nature Reserve.



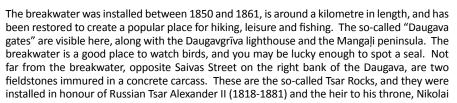
THE DAUGAVGRĪVA LIGHTHOUSE



The Daugavgrīva Lighthouse was built in 1957 to replace a temporary wooden tower which dated back to 1945. The previous lighthouse was blown up by the German army in 1944. The 900-metre Daugavgrīva breakwater starts at the lighthouse, and it is not in particularly good shape today. Beyond the frontal dune on the way to the lighthouse you can see the remnants of the Kometfrots defensive batteries. The Daugavgriva Island is the largest island in Latvia, and it is between Latvia's two largest rivers - the Daugava and the Lielupe. We recommend hiking or skiing across Daugavgrīva Island to the bird watching platform, or along the seashore to the Lielupe estuary. The site is in the Piejūra Nature Park.



THE AUSTRUMU BREAKWATER

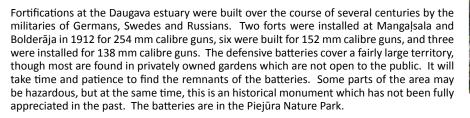


Aleksandrovich (1843-1865). Both of them visited the Daugavgrīva fortress and the fortifications of the banks of the Daugava in 1856 and again in 1860. We recommend that when the weather is nice (i.e., not when it is stormy outside), you walk to the end of the breakwater. The whole area is in the Piejūra Nature Park.



Map Ref: B3

Map Ref: B3







This wreck, which relates to a variety of contradictory legends, is approximately 200 m from the coast in the sea. It is found 1.3 km to the East of the Daugava River estuary and can be seen from the Austrumu breakwater. There are various stories about how and when the ship perished. The "artificial island" is popular among cormorants, and so the wreck (which is more than 50 years old) is the site of a large colony of birds during the nesting season. We recommend hiking or skiing from Vecāķi to the Daugava estuary (5 km). The site is in the Piejūra Nature Park.





For more information www.countryholidays.lv







Map Ref: B3

Map Ref: B3

This is the estuary of the most beautiful river in Vidzeme. There are no hydro-technical structures or ports here, so the estuary is just as "natural" as the river itself. The estuary is accessible from the left bank (Carnikava) and the right bank. We recommend hikes (or cross-country skiing during the winter) along the beach toward Saulkrasti or Vecāķi. You can also look for birds. The estuary is in the Piejūra Nature Park.

The collection at this museum (Rīgas Str. 44) features bicycles used by various armies at various point in history in Latvia. The most interesting ones include a bike from the tsarist army of Russia that was used during World War I, a bicycle from the Latvian National Armed Forces, as well as two World War II military bikes used by Germans. There is a Monark bicycle from Sweden which was used by the Latvian military after the restoration of the country's independence in the 1990s. There are insignia, awards, as well as information about the bicycling teams of the Latvian Home Guard.



46

THE SUNSET TRAIL

On the right side of the Inčupe River estuary is the White Dune – a lovely dune created by the wind, the sand and the sea on the shore of the bay. For centuries, it was used by fishermen as a reference point. A pathway and viewing platform have been installed to preserve the dune while allowing visitors to see it. The trail is around 800 m long, and you'll need 20 minutes to one hour to hike it. During snowy winters, there is a cross-country trail around the White Dune. We recommend hikes of various lengths toward Lilaste or Zvejniekciems.



THE LAUČU ROCKS

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The Great Lauču rock is the most visually expressive and impressive fieldstone on the shores of the Bay of Rīga because of its location on the beach and its unusual oval form. Not far from it is the less impressive Small Lauču rock. The rocks can be found on the beach opposite Lauči. We recommend that you take hikes of various distances along the coastline toward Zvejniekciems or Tūja.



POTTERY WORKSHOPS

There are two pottery workshops in Dunte. Ingrīda Žagata works at the "Cepli" workshop, while Arnis Preiss can be found at the local ceramics salon. In both locations you can watch potters at work, buy the resulting products, try out your own hand at pottery, take part in the opening of the kiln, etc.



🖀 +371-2657-6056

One of the most popular tourism destinations on the Vidzeme coastline focuses on the life of the legendary Baron Munchhausen. There is a collection of wax figures, as well as 4.5-km nature trail. Children will love the attraction ship which is the largest object of its kind in the Baltic States.









The owners of the "Vējavas" campsite offer opportunities to watch lamprey fishing at a location that was established on the Svētupe River a few years ago. You will learn about these unusual animals, their way of live and their migration. The owners will tell you about old recipes for preparing lampreys, you'll be able to watch how lampreys are prepared, and you will be offered a chance to taste some delicious fish soup. Early in the morning you can take a boat ride to watch fishing in the bay (during the permitted season). Lamprey-related activities are on offer from August 1 until February 1, and fishing is banned during the rest of the year.

This is one of the most beautiful locations along the Bay of Rīga, full of fieldstones, capes and bays. The area stretches for around 13 km from Tūja and Meleki and is in a nature reserve. This is the only place in Latvia where Devonian Era sandstone cliffs that have been washed by the waves and are 3 to 4 m high can be seen. The most popular are the Veczemu cliffs, which are ~500 m long. Five km to the South is Cape Kurmrags, at the end of which there used to be a lighthouse at the top of the steep shore around 20 years ago. We recommend

A SYSTEM OF LAMPREY CREELS

1 +371-6404-1254, 2926-8299

THE RANDU MEADOWS

can be biked during the summer and skied during the winter.

CAMPSITE VĒJAVAS +371-6407-1667, 2646-3252

This is a unique "monument" to fishing in a sense. Here you will be able to observe ancient traditions related to lamprey fishing. There are three places where lamprey creels are located on the Salaca River in Salacgrīva, upriver from the VIA Baltica bridge. You can observe the fishing and the preparation of lampreys, as well as watch a video about lamprey fishing.

Richly covered with vegetation, these seaside meadows, lagoons, swampy lakes and sandy shallows run along the shore of the Bay of Rīga between Ainaži and Kuiviži (as part of a nature reserve). The distance is around 5 km, and this is an important place for both birds and animals (some 500 types in all). There is a nature trail (~4 km), along with a bird watching tower.

THE AINAŽI MARITIME SCHOOL MUSEUM

2 +371-6404-3349

This museum (at K. Valdemāra Street 47) was opened in 1969 in the building of a maritime school which was established in 1864 at the suggestion of Krišjānis Valdemārs. More than 1,000 sea captains and helmsmen were educated here during the period when the school existed. The exhibition focuses on the work done by the first Latvian maritime school, as well as on the building of sailing ships on the Vidzeme shoreline from the latter half of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century. In the garden of the museum is a col-

lection of anchors, as well as the restored upper part of the Ainaži lighthouse which was washed away into the sea in the past. We recommend that you hike through Ainaži to see the most interesting objects in the town. The museum and the next six destinations on the list are all in the Northern Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve.















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Along the coast **EXPERIENCE 5 TOURS**

In this section there are longer tours which starts and ends in Riga. Here are several suggestions how to discover the beauty of our coastal area - either your passion is cycling, walking, canoying or birdwatching.



Walking Along the Baltic Sea Coast

The tour begins in Latvian capital Rīga. Then proceeds along the Baltic Sea coast and pass different landscapes - white sandy beaches, coastal meadows, dunes with pine forests and steep banks. The route leads through ethnographic fishermen villages and two important port towns – Liepāja and Ventspils. On the way back it goes through pretty provincial town Kuldīga. Tour goes through two national parks – Slītere and Kemeri.

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Map Ref: B3, Walking ~5-15 km daily (7 days)





The widest waterfall in Europe at Kuldīga



Seashore with steep sandy banks

General Route: Rīga - Nida - Pape - Liepāja - Pāvilosta - Jūrkalne - Ventspils -Kolka - Roja - Ķemeri - Rīga

Day 1

Arrival in Rīga

Optional: Private transfer from airport to the hotel. Overnight in Rīga.

Day 2

Rīga — Liepāja

Breakfast. 09:00 meeting with the tour guide at the hotel lobby. Rīga sightseeing tour. Half-day city tour featuring medieval Old Town and Art Nouveau area. Afternoon: coach transfer Rīga – Liepāja (~250 km). On the way stop for a walk at Cena Heath trail (~5 km, 2 h). Sightseeing of Liepāja, famous for its nice beach, cozy pubs and restaurants, music festivals, interesting history, military heritage and one of the oldest church organs in Europe. Overnight in Liepāja.

Day 3

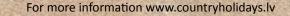
Liepāja – Pape – Pāvilosta

Breakfast. Bus transfer: Liepāja – Nida (~65 km). Walkig: Nida - Pape (~ 8 km, 2,5 h). Walking along the Baltic Sea coast area. Access to this territory was strongly restricted in the Soviet times. Trail passes Pape Lake (the former sea lagoon) nature park. Its a place for great diversity of nesting birds. Marked nature trail goes along the lake, leading through some late-back ethnographic fishermen villages. Possibility to visit the Nature House, the bird observation tower, and to watch wild horses in their enclosed area. Coach transfer: Pape – Liepāja – Pāvilosta (~110 km). Sightseeing of Pāvilosta, the capital of windsurfers, Grey Dune with viewing tower. Overnight in Pāvilosta.

Day 4

Pāvilosta – Jūrkalne - Kuldīga - Jūrkalne

Breakfast. Bus transfer: Pāvilosta – Ulmale. Walking: Ulmale - Jūrkalne (~12 km, 3 h). From Pāvilosta, hiking in one of the most beautiful parts of the Baltic sea coast where there are 10-15 m high steep sandy banks. These beaches are quiet and nice for swimming. In Jūrkalne it is possible to see the "blue" cows – a very





typical breed for the region. In the afternoon bus transfer: Jūrkalne – Kuldīga (~45 km). Sightseeing of Kuldīga – the ancient town of Courland (Kurzeme) with the widest waterfall in Europe (240 m) and old brick bridge across the river. Visiting of Riežupe sand caves which has been artificially made escavating sand for glass making. Bus transfer: Kuldīga – Jūrkalne. Overnight in a guest house in Jūrkalne.

Day 5

Jūrkalne - Ventspils – Kolka - Roja

Breakfast. Coach transfer: Jūrkalne Ventspils (~45 km). Sightseeing of Ventspils with its renovated convent type castle, Old Town, market place and promenade along the sea. Coach transfer: Ventspils - Slītere lighthouse (~ 70 km). Walking in the Slītere National Park on a special hiking trail near the Slītere lighthouse (1,5 km, 0,5 h). Coach transfer: Slītere lighthouse -Mazirbe (~ 10 km). Walking: Mazirbe – Košrags – Pitrags - Saunags (~10 km, 3 h).Walk through the Slītere National park through old fishermen villages where lives one of the smallest ethnic group the Livs, decents from ancient Finno-Ugric tribe. Coach transfer: Saunags -Kolka – Roja. Stop at Kolka – visit Kolka horn where the Baltic Sea meets the Rīga gulf and the waves are crossing forming a long dune. Stop at Purciems -walking (1 km, 0,5 h) hiking trail to the White Dune. Overnight in Roja.

Day 6

Roja – Jūrmala - Rīga

Breakfast. Hiking: Roja – Kaltene (~8 km, 3 h). The route leads along the coasts of the Rīga gulf through a very attractive stony area – the beach is studded with many stones of different size. Bus transfer: Ka-Itene – Ķemeri. Stop at Mērsrags - possibility to visit the bird observation tower. Walking at the Ķemeri National Park - it is possible to walk Dumbrāju trail and visit the historic sulphur spring from where the history of Jūrmala as a spa resort started. Bus transfer: Jūrmala – Rīga. On the way stop at Jūrmala, resort town. End of guide services. Overnight in Rīga.

Day 7

Rīga

Breakfast. Optional: Private transfer from the hotel to airport or extra days in Rīga or in the countryside. Individual or group departure.



Seashore with steep sandy banks



Seashore and a fisherman's boat near to Roja



Walking at the Kemeri National Park



The route gives a chance to enjoy one the most beautiful and diverse parts of the Baltic Sea coast. You will pass white sandy beaches, wild beaches with big rocks and steep banks. The route goes along several national parks and protected nature territories as well as traditional fishermen villages and lively cities of Liepāja and Jūrmala.



Map Ref: B3, Cycling: ~20-60 km daily, (10 days)

General Route: Rīga – Liepāja – Ziemupe – Pāvilosta – Jūrkalne – Ventspils – Maz-

Transfer to the Hotel. Receive from the hotel reception the tour information pack with maps and detailed description of the routes, sites and accommodation. Over-





The Waterbreak at Liepāja



Cycling along the authentic Livs' village



Lighthouse of Cape Kolka

Day 2

Day 1 Arrival in Rīga

Rīga - Liepāja

night in Rīga.

Breakfast. Receive bicycles delivered to the hotel. Free time in Rīga. Train: Riga, Central Railway Station – Liepāja. Liepāja – Many nice cafes, nice beach and a park by the sea, a harbor, naval fortification and former Soviet military town Karaosta. Overnight in Liepāja.

Day 3

Liepāja – Saraiki – Ziemupe – Pavilosta (~60 km, 50% gravel road and forest road)

irbe – Kolka – Roja – Engure – Jūrmala – Rīga

Breakfast. In Liepāja, route leads through the Karosta district – the former Soviet military town and submarine harbor. The territory earlier was closed. There are military and residential buildings, a park and an impressive Russian Orthodox cathedral. Further, the 1st option offers a ride along the coast, stopping to see the Saraiķi estate on the way. The 2nd option offers an easier ride on an inland tarmac road. Overnight in Pāvilosta.

Day 4

Pāvilosta - Jūrkalne (~21 km, tarmac)

Breakfast. Leisure time till noon to explore the steep banks and the scenic seashore of Jūrkalne. It's a place were famous blue cows grazing coastal meadows – a very typical breed for the region. Overnight in Jūrkalne.

Day 5

Jūrkalne – Ventspils (~50 km, tarmac)

Breakfast. On the way, can have a look at the Uzava church. In the afternoon, leisure time at Ventspils. The best maintained town in Latvia. Places of interest include the castle, central promenade, open-air museum and excellent beach facilities. Excellent live beer is brewed at Uzava brewery. Another option is to take an inland tarmac road to Ventspils. Overnight in Ventspils.

Day 6

Ventspils – Mazirbe – Kolka (~64 km)

Breakfast. Places of interest include Slitere lighthouse and boardwalk through



marsh, fisherman villages around Mazirbe and a ride through the forests of Slitere National Park. The territory is also a home of the smallest ethnic group in the world called The Livs. Overnight in Kolka.

Day 7

Kolka – Roja (~34 km tarmac)

Breakfast. The Cape of Kolka where the Gulf of Rīga meets the open sea and waves cross. Especially impressive during strong winds. Overnight in Roja.

Day 8

Roja - Mērsrags – Engure (~47 km, tarmac)

The route goes through fishermen villages with three different types of the seashore – coast dotted with boulders at Kaltene, the sandy beach at Upesgriva and coastal meadows near Engure. Attractions also include bird watching towers, wild horses grazing the meadows by the lake. Overnight in Engure.

Day 9

Engure - Lapmežciems – Jūrmala (~ 54 km, tarmac)

Route goes through Ķemeri National Park. It is possible to walk Dumbrāju trail and visit the historic sulphur spring from where the history of Jūrmala as a spa resort started. By train: Jūrmala – Rīga or cycling: Jūrmala – Rīga (~25 km, a cycling road). In the evening, the hired bicycles shall be returned at the hotel. Overnight in Rīga.

Day 10

Rīga

Breakfast. Transfer to the airport. Individual departures.



Promenade at Ventspils



Dundaga Castle



Dundaga Castle



Spring Birdwatching Tour

Latvia is among one of the world's three most important bird migration paths, and during migration seasons tens of thousands birds can be seen at one place. The tour will spent significant time along the sea coast in order to catch the highlights of migration. In spring time also flood-lands become alive with activities of thousands of birds and provide great atmosphere for birdwatchers. This tour explores different biotops to get the best impressions of the spring time migration.

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Map Ref: B3, (10 Days)

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Pygmy owl (Glaucidium passerinum)



Great Bittern (Botaurus stellaris)



The Greater White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons)

Selected species: These territories are essential for migrating geese, different plovers, also Great Snipe, Corncrake, Lapwing and Curlews. Artificially made fish breeding ponds are great places to spot not only different types of ducks and waders but also predators like Sea Eagle, Marsh Harrier and others.

General Route: Rīga - Jelgava - Jaunmokas - Engure - Kolka - Ventspils - Liepāja -Saldus - Bauska - Rīga

Day 1

Arrival in Rīga. A tour of the Latvian capital of Rīga and its Old Town. Overnight in Rīga

Day 2

Rīgā - Jelgava - Svēte - Jelgava -Slampe–Dunduru Wiese - Smārde - Jaunmokas (~160km)

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: The Svēte flood-lands: a majorsirte of migrating geese, ducks and different plovers; Jelgava Palace's island (reserve); The Dunduri Meadows are an important part of the forested area of the Kemeri Heath along the curvy shores of the little Slampe River. There is a birdwatching tower, as well as so-called Throat of Melnragi -wetlands flooded by beavers; The Jaunmokas Manor Park; Overnight in Jaunmokas.

Day 3

Jaunmokas - Ķemeri - Sloka - Odiņi - Lapmežciems - Jaunmokas (~100 km) Jaunmokas - Ķemeri (~30 km)

Breakfast. A wetland path near a forest hut and the damp forests whish surround it. The short Path takes one through the black alder wetlands of the Vēršupīte River, as well as the wetlands between the Forest House and Lake Sloka; A visit to the visitors centre; Overnight in Jaunmokas.

Day 4

Jaunmokas-Bērciems-Engure-Bērciems-Mērsrags-Ģipka-Kolka-Košrags (~195 km)

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: an overgrown seashore with reefs - ideal places to watch wading and water bird; Lake Engure, a pasture of wild horses and cows and a birdwatching tower (the Lake Engure Nature Park); Mērsrags seashore meadows and Pekrags. A complex of lagoon-type biotopes, including meadows, areas of reeds, a rocky seashore, shoals and bird watching tower. This is a small area of wetlands located where a lagoon from the ancient Litorine Sea once was. Overnight in Košrags.

Day 5

Košrags - Kolka - Pūrciems - Dundaga-Slītere - Mazirbe - Košrags (~74km)

Breakfast. Sites en route: Cape Kolka is one of the best places for birdwatching when it comes to the diversity of species during the spring migration – nearly all



of the species that are present in Latvia can be found here at the right time; The Pēterezers Nature Trail (3,5 km), which offers a set of dunes with high swamps and a samp lake that are unique at the European level; The wetlands of Ģipka; Slītere National Park - the former coast line of the ancient Baltic Ice Sea. Overnight in Košrags.

Day 6

Mazirbe-Oviši-Ventspils-Užava-Labrags (~140 km)

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: The Irbene radar station, The coastline of Ovīši, a sandy seashore, The Užava Estuary, with a restricted area to protect a biotope which includes the grey dunes - rare in Europe; The meadows and polders of the lower reaches of the Užava River; The steep shores of the little Muižupīte River. Overnight in Labrags.

Day 7

Labrags-Liepāja-Nīca-Grobiņa-Durbe (~130 km)

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: the cape of Labrags; The Liepāja port, Lake Liepāja, village of Nīca, the Old Durbe School. Overnight in Durbe.

Day 8

Durbe-Līguti-Vītiņi-Skrunda-Saldus (~175 km)

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: The Līguti Estate park; The Vītiņi Meadows on the eastern shore of Lake Liepāja are the largest area of damp meadows in Latvia. The last nesting place for the dunlins. Pastures of wild horses and cows. The fish ponds of Skrunda; Lunch in Skrunda. Overnight in Saldus.

Day 9

Saldus - Pilsrundāle (~85 km)

Breakfast. Sites and atttractions en route: The Sātiņi fish ponds are an important place for water birds to feed and rest (Northern swans, waders). The territory can be viewed from different locations; Lunch in Saldus; Zvārde – former military base; The Tērvete Park, river valley.Overnight in Pilsrundāle.

Day 10

Saldus-Sātiņi-Saldus-Kokmuiža-Tērvete-Pilsrundāle - Rīga (~140 km)

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: The Rundāle Palace Park and the palace itself; The Cena Heath, Getliņi; Departure.



Nature trail at Kemeri National Park



Pine forest at Slītere National Park



Birdwatching days at the Lake Engure Nature Park



Migration passion, Owls and Woodpeckers

Latvia is located on the way of one of the world's main migration paths of the birds. Wherewith during migration period a big concentration of the passerine birds followed by raptors and in wetlands by thousands of waterfowl travelling through the country is seen here. There are excellent opportunities for birdwatching, including a chance to catch owls night migration.

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Map Ref: B3, (6 Days)

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White-backed woodpecker (Dendrocopos leucotos)



Pygmy owl (Glaucidium passerinum)



Red Fox (Vulpes vulpes)

Selected species - most likely to be observed: great numbers of geese species: Tundra and Taiga Bean Goose, White-fronted Goose, Tundra Swan and diverse waterfowl, including Ducks, Scooters, Divers and Mergansers; Woodpecker species: Greyheaded & Black, Three-toed & White-backed, Little & Middlespotted Woodpecker; Raptors: Rough-legged Buzzard and orthern Goshawk, Whitetailed Eagle, Pygmy Owl, probably engmalm's Owl and also Hazel Grouse, Marsh and Coal Tit, Nutcracker. Good possibilities to see the mammals, like Red Fox, Roe-deer, Yellow-throated Marten, Moose and others.

General Route: Rīga - Ķemeri National Park - Slītere National Park - Ventspils - Pāvilosta - Liepāja - Pape - Rīga

Day 1

Rīga - Ķemeri (56 km)

Arrival in Rīga. Meet and greet in the airport and go for dinner and accommodation in Ķemeri National Park

Day 2

Ķemeri - Slītere National Park (130 km)

Breakfast. Birding in Ķemeri National Park, including wet-forest areas and local places around Lake Kaņieris & Ķemeri village. Lunch in Lapmežciems. W coast of Riga Bay with some small stops and longer walk (around 3 km) at Mērsrags. Dinner and accommodation in Slītere National Park.

Day 3

Slītere National Park - Ventspils (120 km)

After early breakfast live towards Cape Kolka at be there until lunch (sea & migration watching or if prefer – small walks in surrounding). Lunch in Kolka. Afternoon: Slītere National Park, visiting the broad-leaf forests around ancient coast of Baltic Ice Lake. Dinner and accommodation in Ventspils.

Day 4

Ventspils - Pape or Liepāja (140 - 190 km)

Early morning sea-watching from Ventspils breakwater (1.5 hrs) for interested ones. Return to the hotel for breakfast. Drive through Užava floodplain fields. Lunch in Pāvilosta. The western most point – Akmeņrags near Ziemupe. Dinner and accommodation in Liepāja or Pape. Best option is to stay in Pape because of possible owls night migration, if started.



Day 5

Pape or Liepāja

Breakfast. Birdringing station & lake Pape Liepāja and surrounding. Two options – stay the whole day at the ringing station or take a drive of nearest surrounding – can be decided on the spot. Dinner and accommodation in Liepāja or Pape.

Day 6

Pape - Liepāja - Rīga (260 km)

Breakfast. Transfer Pape-Liepāja-Rīga airport (260 km) with lunch on the way. According to the flight time - drive through Zvārde wooded area and some small other stops. Departure.



Kolka Cape



Landscape of Ķemeri National Park



Birdwatching tower at Lake Kaņieris



Stony sea coast at Mērsrags



Canoeing in Kurzeme Western part of Latvia

The route covers spectacular ancient Abava river valley. The territory is interesting with its biological diversity as well as natural and historical monuments and scenic landscapes. The ancient cult places, settlements, famous Sabile wine hill, Pedvale open-air art museum - are only few attractions on the route. The small Abava river fall provides extra excitement for boating experience.



The old brick bridge in Kuldīga



Kandava town



Sabile town

General Route: Rīga - Tukums - Renda - Kuldīga

Day 1

Arrival in Rīga. Transfer from the airport to the hotel. Overnight in Rīga.

Day 2

Rīga - Tukums

Breakfast at the hotel. Leisure time in Rīga. Attractions in Rīga include beautiful medieval Old Town, Art Nouveau district, boat trip along the Riga canal and the river Daugava as well as impressive Central Market. Train Rīga – Tukums (~1 hour, 30 minutes). Dinner and overnight near Tukums.

Day 3

Tukums - Renda

Breakfast at the guest house / Take the prepared lunch boxes. Transfer to the river. Canoe tour along the picturesque river Abava, Abavas Rumba (waterfall) – Renda (20 km). There are several swift sources, especially at the places where are dolomite outcrops. Sometimes there are small rapids, however during spring floods those might disappear all together. The course can be done without getting out of the boat until Abavas Rumba. Beginners better take a boat around its side. Sites en route: the windmill of Svente, different sand stone cliffs and outcrops. Dinner and overnight near Renda

Day 4

Renda - Kuldīga

Breakfast at the guest house / Take the prepared lunch boxes. Transfer to the river. Canoe tour along the river Abava, Renda – "Seržu valks" (20 km). Its beautiful and tranquil course with some small rapids, fords and swift sources. There is no much civilization and facilities along the way but good chance to observe some wildlife along the river banks. Sites at Renda: Tvande waterfalls, tiny but nice. Dinner and overnight near Kuldīga.

Day 5

Renda - Kuldīga

Breakfast at the guest house / Take the lunch boxes. Canoe tour in the river Abava, "Seržu valks"— the river Venta (16 km). During this course there is no much civilization and access to the river from outside is rather limited. Dinner and overnight in Kuldīga.

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Map Ref: B3, (7 Days)



Day 6

Kuldīga - Rīga

Breakfast at the guest house. Leisure time in charming Kuldīga – the capital of the former Duchy of Kurzeme (16-18th cent), Old Town with well preserved wooden architecture, the Ventas rumba – one of Europe's widest waterfalls (249 m) and the old brick bridge across the river.

Collection of the boat. Public bus transfer Kuldīga – Rīga (3 hours). Overnight in Rīga.

Day 7

Rīga

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport. Departure.



Road to Medieval Historical Centre of Kuldīga



Near the the Abava river fall



Canoe tour in the river Abava



The Abava River

Along the coast **EXPLORE 22 ROUTES**

In this section you will find different routes from 1 hour to 2 days long. Either your interest lies in exploring local cultural heritage, military heritage, natural sites and wildlife - here are several ideas if you happen to be in the area.







Route: Mazirbe – Košrags – Pitrags – Saunags – Vaide, then the P 124 road back to Mazirbe

This route is appropriate for active tourists who are interested in coastal landscapes and the culture of the Liv people. The old forest road passes through five Liv villages: Mazirbe, Košrags, Pitrags, Saunags and Vaide. Some trace of the old days and fishermen lifestyle is still found here. Returning by the Ventspils – Kolka road.





(go to detailed tour)



Route: Dundaga – Šlītere – Sīkrags – Mazirbe – Košrags – Pitrags – Saunags – Vaide – Kolka – Melnsils – Vīdale – Dundaga

This route will allow you to learn about the diverse environmental and cultural heritage of northern Kurzeme peninsula. You will also find the loveliest views in the Slītere National Park. You can drive down the route, or you can ride a bicycle. If you're driving, we recommend that you take two days if you want to take a detailed look at everything that you want to see and if you hike all of the trails.

Route starts map Ref: A2 / Length: ~ 90 km (1-2 days) Difficulty: medium / Season: April-October



SLĪTERE CIRCLE

(go to detailed tour)



Route: Kolka – Vaide – Saunags – Pitrags – Košrags – Dūmele – Ezermuiža – Melnsils – Kolka

This route is appropriate for active tourists who are interested in coastal landscapes and the culture of the Liv people. The old forest road passes through five Liv villages: Mazirbe, Košrags, Pitrags, Saunags and Vaide. Some trace of the old days and fishermen lifestyle is still found here. From Košrags the route takes the "Apakšceļš" – a lonely old forest road between Košrags and Dūmele passing the Bažu bog. After Dūmele the route returns to Kolka.





Route: Kolkasrags visitor centre – Kolkasrags – the Kolkasrags Pine trail – firing range – Kolkasrags visitor centre

This route is meant for hikers who want a bit more than just a stroll from the car park to a popular destination. This is an interesting way to look at the Kolkarsags promontory (the Cape of Kolka) from different viewpoints.



For more information www.countryholidays.lv

- 27 -

🏌 LEARN ABOUT MAZIRBE

(go to detailed tour)



Route: Mazirbe church – Mērakmeņi – Liv People's Hall – Boat Cemetery – Baltic Sea shoreline – Mazirbe church

This is a route for active hikers, and it covers Mazirbe and its surroundings. Here you will find information about the Liv people and their culture. The Liv nation has lived on the shores of the sea in this region for many centuries.







Route: Around the Kolka lighthouse. Boat: Seakayaks.

The first 1.5 kilometres of the route are along the western shore of the Gulf of Rīga. At the Kolka shallows, it turns toward the Kolka lighthouse. After an hour, the boat sails around the artificial island then the returns to its initial departure point. This route involves boats that are meant for this specific purpose. They are stable and seaworthy. The tour can be taken under different weather conditions, but only if the windspeed is no more than 4-5 m/s. You should preferably have a guide with you.



Popular bird-watching locations at the SNP: the Ēvaži, Pēterezers, pines of Cape Kolka, Šlītere nature trails, on the seashore by the village of Vaide and at Cape Kolka.

Of the 338 species of birds ever registered in Latvia, 261 have been spotted at the SNP. The spring is the best time to bird-watch at Kolka – the birds fly North along the coast, and there are both land and water birds – loons, ducks, gulls and terns which see the cape as a boundary along which there are very clear streams of migration. Not all species of birds travel at the same time. In the autumn, there are different species and fewer birds – fewer predatory and more wading birds.

Season: April - May and October Bird-related events in the SNP you can monitor at: www.daba.gov.lv

AROUND LIV VILLAGES (go to detailed tour)



Route: Vaide – Saunags – Pitrags – Košrags – Mazirbe

Kurzemes pussala, īpaši tās ziemeļdaļa ir pazīstama ar daudz maigākiem un vienmērīgākiem klimatiskajiem apstākļiem nekā pārējā Latvijas teritorijā. Likumsakarīgi, arī ziemas šeit ir siltākas un nereti bez noturīgas sniega segas. Taču tad, kad ir sniegs, šī iespēja nekavējoties ir jāizmanto! Un kas var būt lieliskāks par slēpojienu ar distanču slēpēm cauri lībiešu ciemiem – vienīgo vietu, kur vienkopus saglabājies lībiešu kultūrvēsturiskais mantojums un ainava. Kā stāsta vietējie iedzīvotāji, sniegotas ziemas atkārtojas aptuveni pēc pieciem gadiem.





Route: Rīga – Dobele – Īle – Zvārde – Saldus – Skrunda – Vaiņode – Liepāja – Ziemupe – Ventspils – Irbene – Tukums – Rīga

This is a route for active hikers and bicyclists who like to look at natural and human landscapes and are interested in the twists and turns of Latvian history. During the Soviet era, Latvia was the western border of the USSR, and that made it a strategic location in which lots of military resources were concentrated. It was just 20 years ago that people were allowed to be on the beach only during sunlight and in very limited areas. Several unique objects have survived since the Soviet era.



Route: Set by the guide.

Animal-watching at the Slitere National Park is only possible in the presence of a guide, and only for small groups of one to five people. The process involves sitting around in special towers for several hours. If you learn to be quiet and careful while looking at the lives and habits of forest denizens, you have every opportunity to hear hooting owns, rooting bucks and howling wolves. You may smell a racoon dog, run into a doe with her fawns, watch a beaver building a home, or spot a group of stags swimming in a lake during the foggy morning.





(go to detailed tour)





Route: Kemeri – Jaunkemeri – Bigaunciems – Lapmežciems – Ragaciems – Klapkalnciems – Smārde – Kūdra - Ķemeri

This is a route for active and athletic people. It encircles the perimeter of the Kemeri National Park, offering a very good idea of the natural, cultural and historical treasures that are found in the park. This is a diverse route in terms of what can be seen, but also in terms of biking conditions.

Route starts map Ref: B3 / Length: ~ 80 km (~ 1-2 days) Difficulty: Medium (2 days), hard (1 day) / Season: April-October

K ALONG THE GREEN DUNE



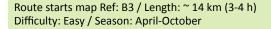
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Route: Kemeru railway st. – Brocēnu str. – Partizānu str. – Green Dune – Antiņciems – Kemeri road – Robežu str. – E. Dārziņa str. – Kemeru railway st. The route covers the western part of the town of Kemeri, as well as the Green Dune, which is one of the most interesting aspects of the Kemeri National Park. The Green Dune is an impressive barrier of dunes which stretches at a length of several kilometres, crossing a virginal swamp and passing through a forest of coniferous trees. The Raganu swamp can occasionally be espied on the eastern side of the Green Dune, while the Zaļais swamp is on its western side.



THE GREAT KEMERI CIRCLE (go to detailed tour)



Route: KNP bondary – Kūdra – Ķemeri – Jaunķemeri – Bigauņciems – Lapmežciems – Ragaciems – Klapkalnciems – Smārde – Ozolpils – Slampe – Lancenieki – Kaļķis – Kūdra – KNP bondary

Route circles perimeter of the Kemeri National Park, offering a very good idea of the natural, cultural and historical treasures that are found in the park. Route passes through Kemeri and seashore fishing villages. Then route leaves the park territory, but does offer a look at some of the most interesting points of interest in the former Slampe Parish. At Kaļķis, you will return to the Kemeri National Park. You will cross the Krāču Hills (Krāckalni) to return to your starting point.

Route starts map Ref: B3 / Length: 120 km (1-2 days) Difficulty: Easy / Season: Year-round, best April-October





Route: The Forest House – Karogu str. – Robežu str. – Tukuma str. – Brocēnu str. – E. Dārziņa str. – Sēravotu str. – Tūristu str. – The Forest House

For several centuries, Kemeri was a flourishing spa of international importance. In Soviet times, Kemeri was a spa of pan-Soviet importance, and it shut down when the Soviet system collapsed in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The ruins of hotels and the former swimming facility have now turned into a small and quiet little town with a certain sense of abandonment. The careful eye, however, will notice many important treasures, and it will be worth spending at least half a day in examining these.



FROM JAUNKEMERI TO





(go to detailed tour)

Route: Jaunķemeri – Lapmežciems – Bigauņciems – Ragaciems – Jaunķemeri – Klapkalnciems

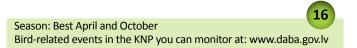
The territory of the Kemeri National Park includes a 17-kilometre stretch of the western shore of the Bay of Rīga. The sandy beach is fine for brief strolls or longer hikes which take half a day. Between Jaunkemeri and Klapkalnciems, there are no obstacles for hikers or Nordic walkers. When planning the route, count on the fact that the average person will walk four kilometres an hour, while a quicker person will walk six kilometres an hour, in both cases without stopping to look at any points of interest.





Popular bird-watching locations at the KNP: Lakes Kaņieris, Sloka, the Dumbrāji trail, the Dunduri Meadows, the Lapmežciems seashore where the tributary of the Starpiņupe River flows into the sea, fields of Slampe, the Raganas Swamp along the Kemeri-Antinciems road.

Nearly 260 of the 342 species of birds that have ever been spotted in Latvia have been seen at the KNP. There are both nesting and migratory birds in the park's forests, meadows and waterways. Many species are uncommon and protected. In the autumn and spring, thousands of migrating geese and cranes use the park to rest and spend the night.



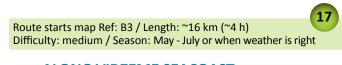
(go to detailed tour)





Route: Jaunķemeri - Klapkalnciems. Boat: Seakayaks.

This route involves special "SitOnTop" boats which are stable and appropriate for travel on the sea, or sea kayaks. Route passes along the former fishing villages. From the sea, a very different and unseen image of the villages can be found. The trip can be ended at the place where the Lāčupīte River flows into the sea. There is a bridge and a car park nearby. This route is appropriate for all kinds of people, particularly if the wind is relatively slow (3-4 m/s).



ALONG VIDZEME SEACOAST: AINAŽI – DUNTE (go to detailed tour)





Route: Ainaži – Kuiviži – Salacgrīva – Svētciems – Vitrupe – Mantiņi – Tūja – Dunte.

The route is intended for those who mostly like to travel by car, but at the same time like to take small radial hikes in the vicinity. Vidzeme seaside is rich in various natural and cultural historical monuments. The stretch along Vidzeme stony seashore, which was essentially transformed by the hurricane in 2005, is particularly attractive and popular. That is also the reason for visiting the place once again – in case you have already been there.

Route starts map Ref: A3 / Length: 100 km (1 day) Difficulty: Easy / Season: Year-round

BIRDS AT VIDZEME SEASIDE (go to detailed tour)





Route: Ainaži – Treimaņi – Kābli – Hēdemēste – Randu pļavas – Salcgrīva – Vitrupe.

Vidzeme sea shore is the eastern coast of Riga gulf, which is better known to the bird observers from Skulte port to Ainaži coast. The route is intended for bird observers who drive cars. It is very suitable for the most demanding (in terms of convenience and availability of additional services) and the experienced bird observers. At the same time, this is the right place for starting or improving the hobby of bird watching, as birds are there in large numbers. The route may have various alternatives for fellow-travellers, in case if bird watching is not their calling.

Route starts map Ref: A3 / Season: April - may, august - october Bird-related events you can monitor at: www.daba.gov.lv



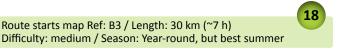
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FROM TŪJA TO SALACGRĪVA



Route: Tūja – Salacgrīva. Boat: Seakayaks.

This is a route that does not have the obstacles which boaters often face – no need to carry the boat anywhere, and no other problematic situation. The speed of the trip will largely depend on wind direction and strength and the nature of waves in the sea. Rowing on the sea is not the same thing as canoeing, even if the sea is completely still. At sea, you always have to keep an eye on the weather. These are not trips that can be planned far in advance – monitor weather forecasts.



ALONG THE ROCKY SEASHORE OF VIDZEME

(go to detailed tour)



Route: Vitrupe – Mantupe – Kurmrags – Tūja

The route is a route for active tourists who are not afraid of a very rocky seashore with unique coastal landscapes with hornes and lovely sandstone cliffs. This is an excellent place to start a trip around Latvia. The great storm of 2005 changed this part of the shoreline very substantially, indeed. If you were there before 2005, that's a reason to go and take a look at it again. During the winter, when the snow is thick, cross-country skiing is possible in this part of Latvia.



coast is very fragmented and sometimes even nonexistent, therefore it is very difficult to set up and go through continuous bicycle routes at this stage. Nevertheless, there are places that are picturesque and otherwise attractive for bikers, therefore see the coastal stages described below that you can choose in accordance with your abilities and wishes.

Route starts map Ref: A3 / Length: ~ 56 km (1-2 days) Difficulty: Easy, medium / Season: June - July

By the sea **ENJOY 50 ACCOMODATI**

(go to information)

In this section you will find a list of different type and standard accomodation places. All are located no further than 5 km from the sea. Here are self-catering cottages ideal for families, comfortable guest-houses, villas with the sea views, spa hotels, friendly campings as well as city accomodation places in coastal towns.

JŪRMAĻI

Jūrmalciems, Nīcas pag., Nīcas nov., LV-3472 Ph: +371 63454490



A farmstead between the open sea and a pine forest. Thrashing in the sauna with birch boughs.

Map Ref: C1 / Distance to the sea: 300 m GPS. Lon: 20.9866608, Lat: 56.3186663



Klapmju ciems, Nīcas pag., Nīcas nov., LV-3416 Ph: +371 26421276, 29125213 skiperi@inbox.lv www.skiperi.celotajs.lv

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Unique building with antique chimney. The 1st floor contains a large living room, well equipped kitcchen, shower/WC. Bedroom on the 2nd floor. 2 cottages nearby. (No. 132, 182, 413).

Map Ref: C1 / Distance to the sea: 2 km GPS. Lon: 21.0042337, Lat: 56.3528478

SĪPOLI

"Sīpoli", Bernāti p/n, Nīcas pag. Liepājas raj., LV 3473 Ph: +371 29590033, 63430532 E-mail: ina@sipoli.eu



3 cottages near the sea, 12km fromLiepāja. All together includes bedrooms, kitchen, sauna, terrace with a barbecue. By the pond. Country sauna in a separate building. Children playground, sports grounds, barbecue spots. Fishing in the river Bārta and in the lake Papes, in the sea. (Next to . No.252 (4 beds (2 extra), 1 bedroom) and . No.99 (2 beds (2 extra), 1 bedroom). 5

Map Ref: C1 / Distance to the sea: 900 m GPS. Lon: 20.9952109, Lat: 56.3858177





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KALNENIEKI

Nīcas pag., Nīcas nov.

Ph: +371 63469214

LV 3473



(go to information)

(go to information)

At the place where two rivers flow together, near the centre of Nīca and the sea - a cottage for eighth with fireplace room, kitchen and two bedrooms. One room for accommodations in the owners' home. Room for tents and trailers. Popular fishing spots on the Barta and Tosele rivers.

Map Ref: C1 / Distance to the sea: 4,2 km GPS. Lon: 21.0397485, Lat: 56.3548074

SMILGAS

"Smilgas", Nīcas pagasts, Bernāti, Nīcas nov., LV – 3471 Ph: +371 63430589;29649583 E-mail: ardy@navigator.lv



Fisherman's house built in 1930, 20 km from Liepāja. Separate entrance for guests. Double, triple and four-bed bedrooms. Country sauna with summer lean-to. Open sea nearby. Tenting, two trailer connections.

Map Ref: C1 / Distance to the sea: 700 m GPS. Lon: 20.9861949, Lat: 56.3776972

BRAKŠI

Liepāja, Nīcas pag., Nīcas nov., LV-3416 Ph: +371 63469555, 29423291 E-mail: braksi@inbox.lv www.braksi.lv



A country home between the sea and Lake Liepāja, 7 km from Liepāja. Four guestrooms in a separate house, with WC, shower and small kitchen. Two party rooms in adjoining buildings, with kitchen and country sauna. Commercial fishing - tench and carp in a pond alongside the house.

Map Ref: C1 / Distance to the sea: 1,1 km GPS. Lon: 21.0081517, Lat: 56.4150133





For more information www.countryholidays.lv

VĒRBELNIEKI - BALTĀ MĀJA (go to information)

Nīcas pag., Nīcas nov., LV-3473 Ph: +371 + 371 29138565 verbelnieki@inbox.lv www.verbelnieki.lv



A guest house in the dunes, just 5 km from Liepāja. On the first floor separate entrances in two parts of the building - a party room for 60, fireplace room for 20, sauna. Bedrooms with shower/WC on the 2nd floor. A hot tub on the open terrace by the house. Campsite nearby with room for tents and connections for 10 trailers. (Next to 🌉 No.78). Tasty meals in the summer cafe "The Hey Barn".

Map Ref: C1 / Distance to the sea: 200 m GPS. Lon: 20.9980990, Lat: 56.4275440

(go to information)

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Saraiķi, Vērgales pag., Pāvilostas nov. LV 3465 Ph: +371 26540345, 63453504 E-mail: zarini.ir@one.lv www.zarini.no.lv/

ZARIŅI



2 cottages 15 km from Liepāja, close to the sea. Party or seminar rooms for 15 and 50 people. Picnic sites, playground, miniature golf, sauna and country sauna.

Map Ref: B1 / Distance to the sea: 1,2 km GPS. Lon: 21.0676939, Lat: 56.6639094



Jūrkalnes pag., Ventspils nov. LV - 3626 Ph: +371 26795690 juris.sili@inbox.lv www.labrags.lv



Campsite on the sea, right on the steep bank. Accommodations for 76 guests in 4-person cabins with WC and shower. A good location for company sports events. There is a hall for parties, sauna, leanto, sports grounds. A large tenting site accommodation up to 3000 people.

Map Ref: B1 / Distance to the sea: 450 m GPS. Lon: 21.3440075, Lat: 56.9739891

UPESKALNI

Mazirbe, Kolkas pag. Dundagas nov., LV 3273 Ph: +371 29259510 dzinahr@inbox.lv



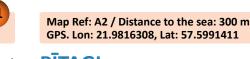
A separate cottage at Mazirbe, surrounded by the pine forest. The 1st floor contains a 3-bed room, a kitchen corner, WC/shower, a terrace. On the 2nd floor - DBL rooms, a living room with a balcony, a kitchen, WC/shower. Each floor has a separate entrance. Wild animal watching from the viewing tower.

Map Ref: A2 / Distance to the sea: 650 m GPS. Lon: 22.3065706, Lat: 57.6808521









Košrags, Kolkas pag., Talsu raj., LV 3275 Ph: +371 29372728 E-mail: pitagi@pitagi.lv www.pitaqi.lv



At Košrags village, 800m from the sea, a new guest house and camping. There are 4 bedrooms (one of them en suite, others with shared washing and toilet facilities). Another en suite bedroom with a kitchen and separate entrance. 6 cabins, tent sites and 3 connections for trailers. Showers and WC in an outbuilding. A sauna.

Map Ref: A2 / Distance to the sea: 800 m GPS. Lon: 22.3620144, Lat: 57.6954445

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A 100 year old wooden house with all modern conveniences retaining its cosy aura after renovation. 3 rooms, a large, convenient kitchen and a veranda on the 1st floor. 2 large 5-bed mansard apartments and a kitchen on the 2nd floor. The interior is elaborated with special caring attitude and artistic touch. Car parking in the yard. It is nice to spend mild summer evenings in the yard under the large chestnut-tree.

Map Ref: C1 / Distance to the sea: 900 m GPS. Lon: 21.0100197, Lat: 56.5012825

1-12

PĀVILOSTA MARINA

Ostmalas iela 4, Pāvilosta, Pāvilostas novads, LV-3466 Ph: +371 +371 63498581 pavilosta@pavilostamarina.lv

www.pavilostamarina.lv

EZERA MĀJA

Ezera iela 39, Liepāja

Ph: +371 26488200

kalejamaja@inbox.lv

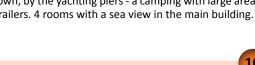
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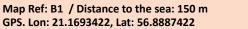
http://www.ezeramaja.et.lv

LV-3401



In Pāvilosta town, by the yachting piers - a camping with large area for tenting and trailers. 4 rooms with a sea view in the main building.





with amenities, kitchen, living room, sauna in house.

ZAKU JŪRAS MĀJA

Tārgales pag., Ventspils nov. Ph: +371 29410163, 65152389 linda.zaki@inbox.lv www.pavilostamarina.lv



A new cottage 30 km from Ventspils, in a lightly populated location near Mikeltornis. The open sea behind the dunes. Double bedrooms



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ŪŠI

Kolkas pag., Dundagas nov. LV-3275 Ph: +371 63276507, 29475692 dzenetam@gmail.com www.kolka.info





The Horn of Kolka itself! The sea right beyond the windows. Separate flat for visitors with shower and WC in a country home. Firewood stove in the kitchen. Lots of room for tents. Owners lease bicycles for local tours.

Map Ref: A2 / Distance to the sea: 100 m GPS. Lon: 22.5949992, Lat: 57.7482216

BRĀLTĪRUMI 2

Pūrciems, Rojas pag., Rojas nov., LV-3264 Ph: +371 63254970, 28680133 rande.valdis@inbox.lv www.braltirumi.lv



2 km from Gipka. 2 well-appointed flats on the 2nd floor. Sauna and fireplace room on the 1st floor. Large yard and playground for the children. A second cottage alongside (Nex to 🏠 No.239).

Map Ref: A2 / Distance to the sea: 400 m GPS. Lon: 22.6306698, Lat: 57.5836617

DZINTARKRASTS

Žocene, Rojas nov., LV - 3264 Ph: +371 28600600 info@dzintarkrasts.lv www.dzintarkrasts.lv



3 1-12 هم (68) 📥 54 گر

A holiday village on the seashore. The complex contains: a guest house with 12 rooms, a restaurant (60 pers.), 9 family log cottages with DBL and SGL beds for 6 persons, a family cottage "de luxe" with a sauna an Jacuzzi in open air. A house for festivities, conferences (70 pers.) with 2 saunas, a pool and 7 DBL rooms. Sports grounds, tent sites, caravan site, children playgrounds, a roofed open air stage.

Map Ref: A2 / Distance to the sea: 200 m GPS. Lon: 22.7099800, Lat: 57.5412575

RĒDERI

"Vējkalni", Kaltene, Rojas nov., Rojas pag., LV-3264 Ph: +371 63220558, 29238929 hotelrederi@inbox.lv www.hotelrederi.lv



Just 3km from Roja, on the rocky seashore in Kurzeme region, there is a hotel with 11 well appointed rooms opened in June, 2007. Healthy meals in the restaurant and relaxation in the sauna complex. The hotel is suitable for families with children, young as well as elderly people, and people with restricted mobility.

Map Ref: B2 / Distance to the sea: 200 m GPS. Lon: 22.8666738, Lat: 57.4737940



For more information www.countryholidays.lv

(go to information)

ZIEDKALNI

Dūmele, Dundagas pag., Dundagas nov., LV-3264 Ph: +371 29417229 kolazas@hotmail.com



A cottage is located in Dundaga region in Dumele next to Slitere national park. It offers a relaxation for your body and mind in a serene environmet. 4 rooms, sauna, SPA treatments.

Map Ref: A2 / Distance to the sea: 5 km GPS. Lon: 22.4948740, Lat: 57.6511323

KLETNIEKI

Ģipka, Rojas pag., Rojas nov. LV 3264 Ph: +371 26414763, 63200198 vmkletnieki@inbox.lv www.kletnieki.1w.lv





A cosy home in an ancient Livonian village. The historical "Livonian shore", the Horn of Kolka. Two bedrooms, living room, kitchen and amenities on the first floor. Simple bedrooms on the second floor. Country sauna with accommodations. Room for tents.

Map Ref: A2 / Distance to the sea: 400 m GPS. Lon: 22.6542589, Lat: 57.5667560

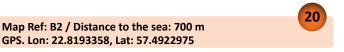
DANA

Raudu iela 3, Roja, Rojas nov., LV-3264 Ph: +371 63260234; 29927556 nadezdaludmili@gmail.com



3 1-12 A guesthouse near Roja - 3 bedrooms on the first floor, common use

amenities. On the second floor - 5 bedrooms with separate amenities. Sauna with party room. Alongside the forest.



VANATURS

Kaltene, Rojas pag., Rojas nov., LV-3265 Ph: +371 63220202, 26441722 vanaturs@gmail.com

10 (7) **–** 5 5-10

A guesthouse with a view of the sea on the stony seashore of northern Kurzeme. Five double rooms, dining room, hall and fireplace room for small parties. Quiet garden, a fine beach, volleyball facilities.

Map Ref: B2 / Distance to the sea: 100 km GPS. Lon: 22.8688824, Lat: 57.4740924









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LĒVERI

Valgalciems, Rojas novads Ph: +371 29235485 vindeks@e-apollo.lv www.leveri.lv



A log cottage 14 km to Roja town. 4 rooms with four double beds available for guests, also a hall, a kitchen and shower with massage.

Map Ref: B2 / Distance to the sea: 900 m GPS. Lon: 22.9429678, Lat: 57.4060373

SAULES KEMPINGS

Bākas iela 28, Mērsrags Talsu nov., LV-3284 Ph: +371 27797555 info@sauleskempings.lv www.sauleskempings.lv



A camping site in Mersrags offers houses for two or four people, places for tents and trailers (without connection) and other opportunities for rest and activities. At the site one can find a pond, a volleyball playground, a place for the campfire. The distance from each of the houses to the facility house (2 shower rooms and 2 WCs) is 50 m. It is also possible to buy drinks (lemonade, juice, water) and ice-cream.

Map Ref: B2 / Distance to the sea: 100 km GPS. Lon: 23.1289280. Lat: 57.3578445

LIELĀS MIKAS

Abragciems, Engures pag., Engures nov., LV-3113 Ph: +371 29243197, 29244198 em@em.lv http://www.viesumaja.lv



8 🛃 4 🎇 1-12

In Abragciems, on the shore of the sea, 3 rooms with a view of the sea. Common use amenities. Second cottage alongside (No. 🔂 137). It contains a country sauna, WC/shower, a kitchen.

Map Ref: B2 / Distance to the sea: ??? km GPS. Lon: 23.2043140, Lat: 57,2007718

PIEJŪRAS NAMS

Lauku 2a, Ķesterciems, Engures pag., Engures nov., LV-3113 Ph: +371 29456073, 26435515 piejurasnams@apollo.lv www.piejurasnams.lv



A guesthouse for recreation or small celebrations - bathhouse, oak tub, banquet hall, five facilitated rooms and summer house of wood. Summer house renovated in 2010. Suitable for a romantic recreation for families or couples. Terrace on first floor, one room with 1 DBL beds on the second floor.

Map Ref: B2 / Distance to the sea: 550 m GPS. Lon: 23.2232194, Lat: 57.1249550



(go to information)

STIERES

Upesgrīva, Rojas nov. IV-3284 Ph: + 371 29408291, 26513692 info@stieres.lv www.stieres.lv

50 (40)

Campsite in Upesgrīva. Eight 4-bedded cabins, tent and caravan sites. A cafe. WC and shower in service building. The Engure lake nature park is nearby.

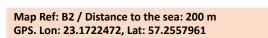
Map Ref: B2 / Distance to the sea: 400 m GPS. Lon: 23.0135418, Lat: 57.3855162

BRANGULI

Bērzciems, Engures nov. LV 3112 Ph: +371 63154373, 29676126 trusis16@gmail.com



Attractive summer cottage with thatched roof, bedroom in the roof of the structure. On the first floor - living room, amenities, small sauna. Fishing and rental of boats on Lake Engure, 3 km away. The house rent does not include charges for electrical power consumption.



VILLA ELIZABETE

Jūras iela 88. Enaures paa. Engures nov., LV-3112 Ph: +371 63161421, 29117510 viesunams@villaelizabete.lv http://www.villaelizabete.lv



Guesthouse in a fishing village, Engure, by the sea. Double rooms and family rooms - two-floor room. Sauna and country sauna, outdoor pool, pergola. Rental of bicycles with child seats, fenced yard. Restaurant, 2 separated bungalows.

Map Ref: B2 / Distance to the sea: 400 m GPS. Lon: 23.2255872, Lat: 57,1649610

SKUJNIEKI

Skujnieki, Ķesterciems, Engures pag., Engures nov., LV-3113 Ph: +371 29109466, 26559668 <u>skujnieki@gmail.com</u> http://www.skujnieki.lv

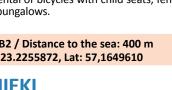


A cottage in the sand dune area at the seaside, for relaxation or a fun holiday in the circle of close friends or for families. At your disposal you will find: a hall with a fireplace, a sauna, a well-equipped kitchen, a hot/cold tub, a picnic place, a basketball basket, the roar of the sea and the smell of pine trees during the walks along the sea, and for sweet dreams - four bedrooms. Five places for tents.

Map Ref: B2 / Distance to the sea: 200 m GPS. Lon: 23.2313319, Lat: 57,1191883



30



- 34 -

(go to information)

24

(go to information)

(go to information)

28



25

(go to information)

23

STRAUPES

Saulkrastu I. t., Bātciems, Saulkrastu nov., LV-Ph: +371 29188277 straupes@one.lv www.straupes.et.lv





The cottage is surrounded by pine trees, 25 km from Rīga. A pond in the yard, a terrace with an outdoor fireplace, sports grounds. Behind the dunes - the sea. All amenities in the house. On the 1st floor - three bedrooms, a large kitchen, a hall with a fireplace, a sauna. On the 2nd floor - a sleeping area with 3 beds, shower, WC.

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 900 m GPS. Lon: 24.3588144, Lat: 57,1950362

STERSTITES

Ragaciems, Engures nov. LV - 3118 Ph: +371 29283162 ingavilde@inbox.lv



Guest-house by the sea and near Lake Kaņieris in Ragaciems. Comfortable bedrooms, dining room, and guest room with a fireplace. Sauna with a cooling-off pool. Picnic spot.

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 400 m GPS. Lon: 23.4977774. Lat: 57.0180797

JŪRAS MOLS

Bigauņciems, Lapmežciema pag., Engures nov., LV-3118 Ph: +371 27099099 info@mol.lv www.jurasmols.lv



In Bigaunciems village, near to the sea. A well laid trail leads through a park to the old pier. A nice living room with a fireplace and home cinema can be used for small celebrations. A sauna with a pool and a kitchen for guests' use. En suite rooms.

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 200 m GPS. Lon: 23.5264518, Lat: 56.9895243

MEDZĀBAKI

Medzābaki-2, Lilaste, Carnikavas nov., LV-2163 Ph: +371 6714 7070 hotel@medzabaki.lv http://www.medzabaki.lv



The hotel is located in the Riga-Tallinn road, by the lake Lilaste. The building is one of the largest log constructions in the Baltics and Scandinavia. A cosy restaurant, playground for kids, a swimming spot on the lake. Free fitness room and infra-red sauna for hotel guests. Rooms also in 14 cottages. Each of them accommodates 4 people, and has bedrooms, a kitchen, shower and WC.

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 1 km GPS. Lon: 24.3458626, Lat: 57,1850022



GPS. Lon: 23.3131325, Lat: 57.0565701 MONIKAS

Apšuciems, Engures pag.

Engures nov., LV - 3116

Ph: +371 63143130

mail@hotelarkadia.lv

www.hotelarkadia.lv

180

(8)

pool and a hall for up to 40 pers. for private parties.

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 400 m

Stadiona iela 10, Lapmežciems Lapmežciema nov., LV-3118 Ph: +371 26161247 kaijamonika@inbox.lv





Guesthouse is situated 40 km from Riga and 1 km from Kanieris lake in a fishing village Lapmežciems. Calm place with cosy and comfortable rooms, kitchen and open-fire hall. Internet and washing machine available. Enclosed garden with swing, grill, tent area and place for trailers. Bicycles and tennis courts for rent, possible boat rides in the sea. Natural herbal teas, freshly fried fish, solarium available.

A cosy hotel Arkadia in Apšuciems - not far from the sea, next to the

serpentine Lāčupīte River, a cosy hotel Arkadia with 80 well appointed rooms, a restaurant seating 300, bistro, a Spa centre, a room for chil-

dren and a holiday house with eight separate rooms, sauna, swiming

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 300 m GPS. Lon: 23.5161388, Lat: 56.9966988

NIEDRAS

Jūrmala, Priedaine, LV-2010 Ph: + 371 29549910, 67751570 guntars.anspoks@inbox.lv



A cottage in Jūrmala, by the river Lielupe, on a sandy beach. From balcony, there is a view of the river and the White Dune. Nearby a pine forest. 2km to the Līvu water attraction park. In the vicinity, there is the bicycling track Rīga-Jūrmala. Seasonal activities - river ship boating, water skiing, fishing, skiing.

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 2 km GPS. Lon: 23.8935988, Lat: 56,9774969

VILLA ANNA

Apšuciems, Enqures pag. Engures nov., LV 3116 Ph: +371 26122679, 63143185 mail@villaanna.lv www.villaanna.lv





A small villa in sand dunes by the sea at Apšuciems village. SGL, DBL, family and "de Luxe" rooms. Cocktails on the terrace, dinner by candlelight, home cuisine.

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 30 m GPS. Lon: 23.3115130, Lat: 57.0612328







(go to information)

PIE MAIJAS

Murjāņu 3, Saulkrasti Saulkrastu nov., LV 2160 Ph: +371 67951372, 29405480 hotelmaija@gmail.com http://www.hotelmaija.lv



Rooms with a separate entrance on the second floor of the host's home. Kitchen, whirlpool, infrared heat sauna. (Next to 🚹 No.61, no.121 and no.238).

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 350 km GPS. Lon: 24.4142500, Lat: 57,2569946

VIDLAUČI

Zāles, Skultes pagasts,

(go to information)

Limbažu nov., LV-4025 Ph: +371 29239197, 64065570 laucakmens@inbox.lv



Right on the seashore, 10 km from Saulkrasti. There are 5 spaceous, comfortable rooms with a sea view. A partying room for 40 persons. A sauna and a partying room also in a separate cottage.

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 30 m GPS. Lon: 24,4021873, Lat: 57.3668990

EVELBENKI

Skultes pag. Limbažu raj., LV-4025 Ph: +371 26552626 evelbenki@gmail.com www.evelbenki.lv

by car. Forests nearby.



12 (5) 3 1-12 A cottage 7 km from Saulkrasti. Country sauna, a fireplace room, a kitchen and a bedroom with a separate entrance on the first floor, 4 bedrooms on the second floor. A country sauna and smoke sauna in a separate building. A beach on the sea, 2 km away if walking or 5km

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 2 km GPS. Lon: 24.4314163, Lat: 57.3854154

DUNTES URDZINAS

Dunte, Skultes pag. Limbažu raj., LV 4025 Ph: +371 29234705 jurasmaja1@inbox.lv www.duntesurdzinas.celotajs.lv



- 36 -

Near Dunte, on the shore of the sea. A separate building with a fireplace, shower, WC and kitchen. A bedroom on the roof floor. A second bedroom with a separate entrance, shower and WC. A fine country sauna in a log building with a fireplace and kitchen. Additional sleeping facilities in the sauna and a summer cottage - the windmill tower. On the beach - a weekend house.

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 70 m GPS. Lon: 24,4009865, Lat: 57,3987018



SAULRIETI

Raiņa iela 11, Saulkrasti, Rīgas raj., LV - 2160 Ph: +371 67951400, 29407267 saulrieti@e-apollo.lv

1-12

Rest and recreation right on the seashore at Saulkrasti: a bar, party and conference rooms, 20 comfortable and cozy bed places, sauna, playing field and children's playground, parking lot. Steam sauna, jaccuzi, trampoline.

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 50 m GPS. Lon: 24.4101459. Lat: 57.2620747

LAUČU AKMENS

Skultes pag., Limbažu nov., LV - 4025 Ph: +371 64065423, 26350536 <u>lauci@latnet.lv</u> www.laucakmens.lv



On the Vidzeme seashore, 60km from Riga and 8km after Saulkrasti, a gues thouse/camping site right by the sea. A beach, well appointed accommodations, parking for caravans, a sauna, cafe, catering for seminars and parties up to 40 pers., car parking, children playground.

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 30 m GPS. Lon: 24,4025908, Lat: 57,3673109

JŪRAS MĀJA

"Duntes Urdziņas" Dunte, Skultes pag.Limbažu raj., LV 4025 Ph: +371 29234705 jurasmaja1@inbox.lv



At Dunte - the smell of the sea and the crashing of waves beyond the window. The house, right on the beach, has a living room, amenities and a bedroom. Meals can be prepared on the kitchen lean-to. In the yard of the owners, a second weekend house (No. 31). A fine country sauna in a log building.

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 70 m GPS. Lon: 24,4009865, Lat: 57,3987018

KURMRAGS

Liepupes pag., Salacqrīvas I.t., LV-4022 Ph: +371 29113777, 29214438 daina.sudraba@latnet.lv



Historical fishermen house just 50 m from the beach, about 7 km from Tūja. Guesthouse with separated house with bedroom, WC/shower, kitchen and hall with open-fire. Hot tub in the garden. (Next to cottage Kurmrags 2).

Map Ref: B3 / Distance to the sea: 50 m GPS. Lon: 24,3657708, Lat: 57,5448560





(go to information)

(go to information)







(go to information)

43

ACCOMODATIONS BY THE SEA

KORĶI

KOSĪŠI

Salacgrīvas pag., Salacgrīvas nov., LV-4033 Ph: +371 29239788 <u>korki@korki.lv</u> <u>www.korki.lv</u>



Holiday house for calm rest on the beach. Sauna, shower, WC on first floor, living room, boudoir, bedroom, kitchen and WC on second floor. Nordic walking, volleyball, street ball, fireplace, pond.

(Next to no.224, hall with open-fire, kitchen, shower, WC on the first floor, bedrooms located on second floor).

Map Ref: A3 / Distance to the sea: 400 m GPS. Lon: 24,3798828, Lat: 57.6406612



(go to information)

Svētciems Salacgrīvas pag. Salacgrīvas nov., LV-3113 Ph: +371 29479426 <u>info@kosisi.lv</u>



The guest house is a two-storey building, where the guests are offered either single or double rooms (altogether for 22 people), as well as a small hall with a fireplace which can be used either as a living room or a room for celebrations or seminars (till 40 people). Nearby there is a cottage with sauna, especially suitable for the recreation of friendly families, as well as for summer camps and seminars.

Map Ref: A3 / Distance to the sea: 150 m GPS. Lon: 24.351797, Lat: 57.696739



VĒJAVAS

Salacgrīvas l.t., Salacgrīvas nov., LV 4033 Ph: +371 64071667, 26463252 veejavas@inbox.lv

Holiday house "Vējavas" has rooms for guests in separated houses. Shared rustic bathhouse with a hall and open-fire and small kitchen. Summer arbour for celebrations of up to 60 persons available. Camping. Parking.

Map Ref: A3 / Distance to the sea: 400 m GPS. Lon: 24,3643869, Lat: 57,6873002

BRĪZE

Valmieras iela 7, Salacgrīva, Salacgrīvas nov., LV - 4033 info@brize.lv http://www.hotelbrize.lv



(43)



A comfy hotel in Salacgrīva. Conference services. WiFi. A restaurant, bar and a winter garden. Banquets and accommodation for up to 80 pers. A sauna and Jacuzzi. Spa care. Fishing oppurtunities.

Map Ref: A3 / Distance to the sea: 700 m GPS. Lon: 24,3601078, Lat: 57,7496161

www.tours.countryholidays.lv

More than 70 ideas for travelling...

individual and group tour descrioptions in Baltic countries (maps, photos, services of infrastructure and tourism)



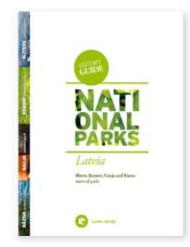
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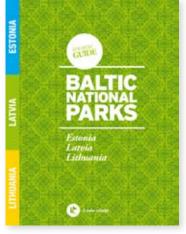
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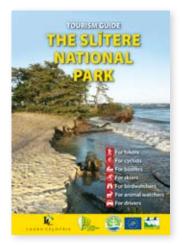
Our publications in English: maps and travel guides for touring Latvia or Baltics by car, bike, boating or hiking offer practical information and are most useful to plan and experience your holidays in Baltics. We have inspected all sites and tested all routes which are described.



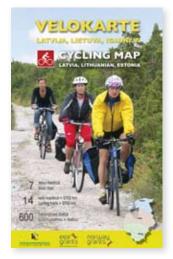
National Parks in Latvia Tourism Guide (go to information)



Baltic National Parks Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

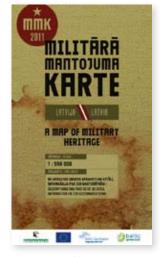


The Slītere National Park Tourism Guide (go to information)



The Cycling map Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia

(go to information)



Map of Military Heritage



Nature Holidays Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia (<u>go to information</u>)