



WELCOME TO CANOEING FROM TŪJA TO SALACGRĪVA



In the nature reserve you are free to hike, watch birds and animals, hunt for mushrooms and berries, take a sunbath and use rowboats in the sea. You may drive a car only along the roads. Tenting and campfires are permitted only in improved locations that have been set up for that purpose – at the Veczemes cliffs and where campsites and tourist accommodations are available.



From the perspective of water tourism, Latvia's seashore is a natural resource that has not been used very much at all. It offers a completely different view of places and objects that people have perhaps seen before from other locations. A different boat, and a different experience that may prove to hook the traveller. It's high time to check out the seagoing rowboats – if not here, then along any other part of the Bay of Riga or Baltic Sea shoreline.

THE ROUTE

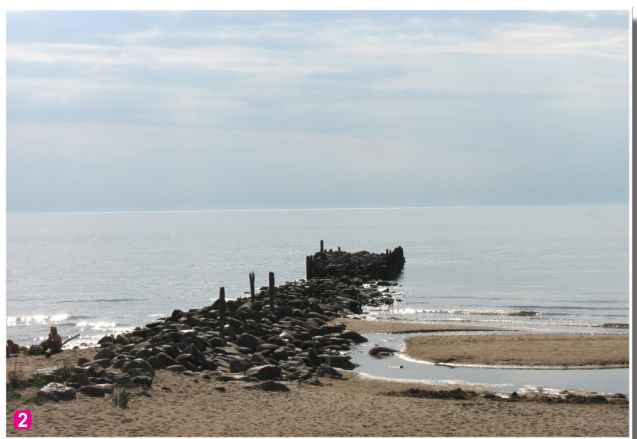
This is a route that does not have the obstacles which boaters often face – no need to carry the boat anywhere, and no other problematic situation. The speed of the trip will largely depend on wind direction and strength and the nature of waves in the sea. We recommend that you put the boat to sea when you have a backwind or at least a side wind. That means that you can take the route in the opposite direction if there is a northerly, north-easterly or north-westerly wind. Be very careful that you do not get pushed out into the sea.

- Season:** All year, but best in summer
- Boat:** Sea kayaks
- Beginning:** The car park at Tūja
- End:** The beach at Salacgrīva
- Length:** 30 km – one day or two days with overnight accommodations
- Duration:** ~ 7 h (without stopping to look at points of interest)
- Difficulty:** Depends on wind speed, the direction of the wind and the height of waves in the sea. It will be an easy or moderately difficult route, but beginners should take it only when the sea is calm and the wind is slow.
- Distance from Rīga:** 75 km
- Logistics:** You can leave your car at the car park in Tūja and return from Salacgrīva on public transportation. Alternatively, you can leave a second car in Salacgrīva.
- Alternatives:** You can continue the route to Ainaži, or you can sail in the other direction from Tūja – to Saulkrasti or even Rīga.
- Note!** 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. Never go too far away from the shore. A seagoing boat is much heavier than a canoe, so you need to end up somewhere close to where the transport for the boat is located. Think about your strength, the weather, and other factors – the fact is that you'll expend more energy out at sea. Don't go alone – bring others in other boats so that there is assistance in an emergency situation. At the estuary of the Salaca River, make sure that you observe shipping rules. You are responsible for your health and that of your children!

Emergency services: 112

TOURISM SERVICES

- Nearby accommodations:**
- 🏠 Korķi, 29239788
 - 🏠 Vējavas, 64071667
 - 🏠 Brīze, 64071717
 - 🏠 Jafa Tūja, 25807788
 - 🏠 Olnieki, 29111919
 - 🏠 Kūrmrags, 29113777
 - 🏠 Klintskalni, 29212885
 - 🏠 Jūras bura, 29847299
 - 🏠 Saules ligzda, 29445465
 - 🏠 Rakari, 64071122
 - 🏠 Jūrasdzeņi, 26550574
 - 🏠 Bērziņi, 29425352
 - 🏠 Roķi, 29218952
 - 🏠 Kapteiņu osta, 64024931
- Accommodations for water tourists:** None. You can spend the night at tourist accommodations and campsites that are along the shoreline.
- Leisure facilities:** Pie Vezcemju klintīm ir labiekārtota atpūtas, piknika un telšu vieta
- Shops:** In Tūja and Salacgrīva
- Dining:** In Tūja and Salacgrīva
- Boat rental:** www.campo.lv, 29404049; www.seakayak.lv, 29464901
- Information:** www.celotajs.lv, 67617600; www.visitlmbazi.lv, 64070608; www.salacgriva.lv, 64041254



The rock pier and plank-ways for boats



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The rocky seashore of Vidzeme is covered with rocks of different sizes, and there are different little capes and bays along this phase of the eastern shore of the Bay of Rīga. Between Tūja and the estuary of the Vitrupe River, you will find the only place in Latvia where the abrasive waves of the sea have unveiled Devonian sandstone cliffs that are several metres high. One of the best examples of this are the Veczemes cliffs, which are a bit less than 500 kilometres long and up to four metres high. The area around the cliffs has been improved. The shoreline is very variable and dynamic here, particularly after big storms. The Rocky Vidzeme Seashore Nature Reserve has been established to protect the area. The territory is part of the Northern Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve.



The Veczemes cliffs

Look for a list of active tourism routes on www.countryholidays.lv!



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POINTS OF INTEREST

1 The Tūja brick factory, now abandoned, can be seen on the left side of the road as you travel to the starting point for the route. There was a brick kiln in Tūja in 1935, and clay from the Devonian era was used there. The new factory was built in 1936. It produced high-quality bricks for structures such as the Gunpowder Tower in Rīga. The factory remained open, with some interruptions, all the way until the late 1980s.

2 The Tūja breakwater and pier was built in the summer of 1938. There was a brick factory here, and a railroad spur was installed for the transportation of high-quality bricks. After World War II, a fish processing plant was opened here. There was a pipe running across the breakwater and into the sea which was used to transport fish from ships that were at the pier. The fish processing plant was closed down in the late 1980s.

3 Cape Kūrmrags is the first distinct cape that you will see when departing from Tūja. You will recognise it because of the **navigation lighthouse** that is on the beach now, but used to be up on the cliff. This is a dangerous place for ships. In 1924, a ship crashed here, and 22 people died. The bay that is next to the cape is known as a smugglers' bay. The story is that there were Estonian alcohol smugglers who were active here at one point.

4 The Ežurgi cliffs which are beyond Cape Kūrmrags are a few metres high and are made of sandstone. The cliffs will continue on and off all the way to Zivtiņas. After a major storm in 2005, the so-called **Zivtiņas cliffs** emerged.

5 Cape Rankuļrags is the next notable cape. Beyond it are the lovely and expressive **Veczemes cliffs**. There are leisure and tenting facilities at the cliffs.

6 Cape Kutkāji is approximately 1.5 km to the North of the Veczemes cliffs. It's small, but very interesting and covered with large rocks. The **Meleki Bay** begins beyond it. The border of the nature reserve is at Meleki.

7 Historical buildings on the Vidzeme shoreline. Between the Meleki Bay and Cape Kutkāji, there are several historical homesteads that can be seen from the sea. **Lielkalni** is the farm of a family of seafarers, and **Dzeņi** belonged to the Graši family, which owned sailing ships. The house that has been preserved was built in 1866. There are old farm buildings, as well. At **Kutkājas**, the main house was initially built for servants. One of Latvia's largest **shipbuilding facilities** once was found between the Lielkalni and Dzeņi homesteads. Nothing of it is left, but 28 ships were built there between the 1860s and 1929.

8 The Svētciems island is not really an island, it's just a set of big rocks offshore a bit. If the waves are high, only some of the largest rocks can be seen.

9 The Kraujas island, unlike the previous one, is a far more distinct island. When the water is calm, you can get out of the boat there. When the tide is out, as many as 200 large rocks will appear. During strong winds, only the biggest ones will be visible. The island is approximately 200 metres from the shore.

10 The Great Kraujas rock is the latest known rock in the sea in Latvia – around 67 m³ in size. It's approximately 100 metres from the shore, opposite the Kraujas homestead. The top of the rock can be seen even when the waves are high.

11 The Salaca River is important for salmon breeding and the second most popular water tourism route in Vidzeme (see the Salaca route). **Salacgrīva** is at the lower end of the river.



Starting the trip on the beach at T ja



The Veczemes cliffs



The Great Kraujas rock



The T ja cliff



The Vitrupe River estuary



Rocks along the seashore



"Lauku ceļotājs"
40, Kalnciema str., Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia
T: +371 67617600, F: +371 67830041
lauku@celotajs.lv, www.celotajs.lv

Photo: Lauku ceļotājs (Juris Smalīnskis)

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