



SKIING
HIKING

Welcome to Ķemeri!



FROM JAUNĶEMERI TO KLAPKALŅCIEMS

The Ķemeri National Park, apart from its nature reserve zone is open to hikers, plant, animal and landscape watchers, berry and mushroom hunters, swimmers, sunbathers, bicyclists and boaters. Mechanised motor vehicles are allowed only on general use roads. Please let's make sure to nurture the values which led us to visit the park in the first place!



The Ķemeri National Park was established in 1997, primarily for the purpose of protecting wetlands – the shallow western shore of the Bay of Rīga, overgrown seaside lakes, extensive swamps, damp forests, and lowland meadows as important locations for plants (fully one-quarter of the endangered plants which are listed in the Latvian Red Book are found in the park) and animals (particularly nesting and migrating birds). The park territory also includes one of the largest swamps in Latvia – the Great Ķemeri Heath, as well as other fairly large swamps such as Raganu Swamp, Zalais Swamp, Čaukcīems Swamp and Sloka Swamp. Some of these were once used for peat extraction. The area around Ķemeri has long since been known as a source of sulphurous streams, and it remains an important location for obtaining sulphurous water and medicinal mud which at one time served as the foundation of the widely known Ķemeri Spa. Interesting historical objects in the park are completely linked to the seashore as a place where people could relax and recover their health. Today the territory of the national park includes educational nature trails (the Melnalkšņi Marsh trail, the Lake Sloka trail), bike routes, three bird-watching towers, etc. The administrative and informational centre for the park is found in the "Forest House" (Meža māja) in Ķemeri.

ROUTE

The territory of the Ķemeri 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 Jaunķemeri and Klapkalnciems, there are no obstacles for hikers or Nordic walkers. The route can be continued toward Rīga and Engure, depending on how much time you have. 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. Presumably, we will someday soon have "normal" winters again, and that means that cross-country skiers will also be able to use this route.

The table below shows the distance in kilometres between major populated areas. This will help you to plan the various segments of your route more easily.

We recommend that you plan a circular route which will return you to where you began. You can walk down the beach in one direction and via the streets of fishing villages in the other direction to make the route more varied. We don't recommend walking along the Jūrmala-Talsi highway (P 128), because it will be very busy, particularly during the tourism season. There will also be lots of cars parked on the side of the road, which will make hiking more difficult. The village centres of the populated areas are a few hundred metres from the sea. You can plan your route in accordance with bus route listings along the aforementioned highway – that will allow you to return to the starting point via public transport. You are responsible for your own safety and that of your children while on the route.

TOURISM SERVICES

Nearby accommodations:

- 🏠 „Stērštītes”, 29283162 🏠 „Nordes”, 63163563
- 🏠 „Monikas”, 26161247 🏠 „Melnais stārķis”, 26751543
- 🏠 „Jūras mols”, 27099099 🏠 „Lapmežciems”, 67298303
- 🏠 „Smaidas”, 29265552 🚧 „Ronīši”, 63143145

Leisure facilities: A small dining facility with benches and chairs on the beach at Ragaciems

Shops: In Bigauņciems, Lapmežciems, Ragaciems, Klapkalnciems

Dining: In Bigauņciems, Lapmežciems, Ragaciems

Train time schedule: www.pv.lv

Information: www.celotajs.lv, 67617600

www.visitukums.lv, 63124451 www.enguresnovads.lv

www.jurmala.lv, 67147900 www.daba.gov.lv, 67730078

Emergency services: 112



Fishing boats at Ragaciems

Distances (km) among villages between Jaunķemeri and Klapkalnciems

	Jaunķemeri	Bigauņciems	Lapmežciems	Ragaciems	Klapkalnciems
Jaunķemeri	0	2	4	7	15
Bigauņciems	2	0	2	5	13
Lapmežciems	4	2	0	3	11
Ragaciems	7	5	3	0	8
Klapkalnciems	15	13	11	8	0



Along the seashore



The Seashore in winter



Kitesurfing on the beach of Ragaciems

The Ķemeri National Park has several bike, water and automobile routes. Look for a list of routes on www.countryholidays.lv and for markings out in nature!

POINTS OF INTEREST

You can't see any of the listed objects (apart from Cape Ragaciems and the Ragaciems Lighthouse) from the sea, and it is worth stopping from time to time. You can visit them by car, as well, either from the beginning of the route or upon returning to the starting point when you have completed it.

1 The Great Pine of Bigauņciems outside the Dižpriede café

2 The Kupskalns Nature Trail – a wooden pathway leading from the road in Bigauņciems along the Siliņupe River to the sea. From the sea, an orienteering element is the remnants of the old Lapmežciems boat plank way.

3 A Stone Age site at Lapmežciems. There was a fishing and hunting settlement here during the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC. The informational memorial rock was sculpted by O.Skarainis.

4 A memorial stone to Augusts Muižulis, a recipient of the Lāčplēsis Military Order is found at the edge of the P 128 road at the marker for the 9th kilometre. Muižulis (1893-1941) was a lieutenant colonel in the No. 4 Valmiera Infantry Brigade.

5 The Lapmežciems Museum features information about the history of the local parish, its school and its fishing industry. There are also exhibits featuring World War I battles near Klapkalnciems which involved Finnish soldiers. The museum also organises theme-based exhibitions. Alongside it is a memorial rock for the politically repressed.

6 The Lapmežciems People's Centre was built in 1957 and is home to the local administrative district's council at this time.

7 Kaņieris is a seriously overgrown and shallow seaside lake. Its water level was adjusted several times during the 20th century so as to obtain agricultural lands. The lake has 14 islands, among which nine are natural and the rest are artificial and aimed at attracting nesting water birds. Lake Kaņieris has one of the richest diversities of birds in Latvia. An ornithological nature reserve was established here in 1964. In 1989, the lake was placed on the list of major birding locations in Europe, and in 1995 it was put on the list of the Ramsar Convention. At the south-eastern shore of the lake is a boating facility (only rented boats are permitted on the lake). **A bird-watching tower** was erected on the Riekstu peninsula in 2009.

8 Starpiņupīte is an artificial canal between Lake Kaņieris and the Bay of Rīga. It helps to regulate the water level in the lake with a system of locks. This is a fine place for bird-watching in the spring and autumn. From the sea, the location can be identified via the place where the little river flows into the sea.

9 The Ragaciems Fish Market sells smoked fish.

10 Cape Ragaciems – a promontory from the western shore of the Bay of Rīga which ends with a shallow and rocky submarine shallows reaching several hundred metres into the sea. **The Ragaciems Lighthouse** is at the tip of the cape.

11 The Slow Mile – a route that is around 6 km in length and is quite isolated, it stretches between Ragaciems and Klapkalnciems. Robbers used to attack travellers in the olden days here.

12 A memorial to Finnish soldiers in Klapkalnciems – five such soldiers from World War I are buried here. The memorial was first installed in 1929, but it was destroyed by the Soviet authorities. It was recreated in May 2004. The Lapmežciems Museum features photographs and more information about the Finnish soldiers.



1 The Great Pine of Bigauņciems



7 The Bird-watching tower at Lake Kaņieris



Starpiņupīte



Skier at River Starpiņupīte



A beach cafe



Swans at Klapkalnciems seashore



10 The Ragaciems Lighthouse



Fishermens boat at Ragaciems



9 The Ragaciems Fish Market



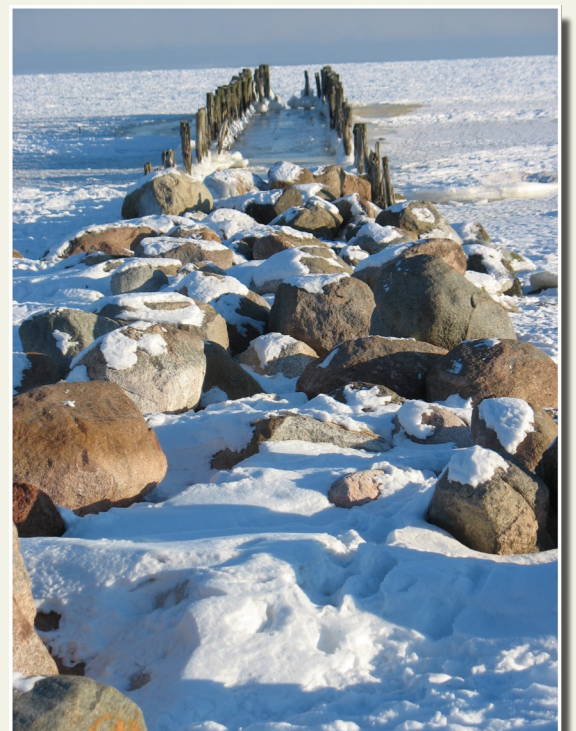
Active leisure at Klapkalnciems beach



The common cockle, *Cardium edule*



Sand castles at seashore of Klapkalnciems



Breakwater at Lapmežciems



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Photo: Lauku ceļotājs (Juris Smajņinskis)

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