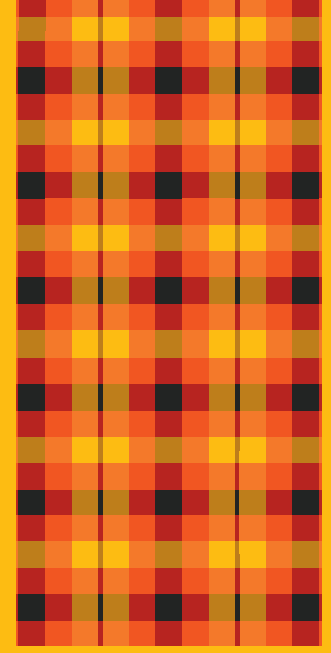


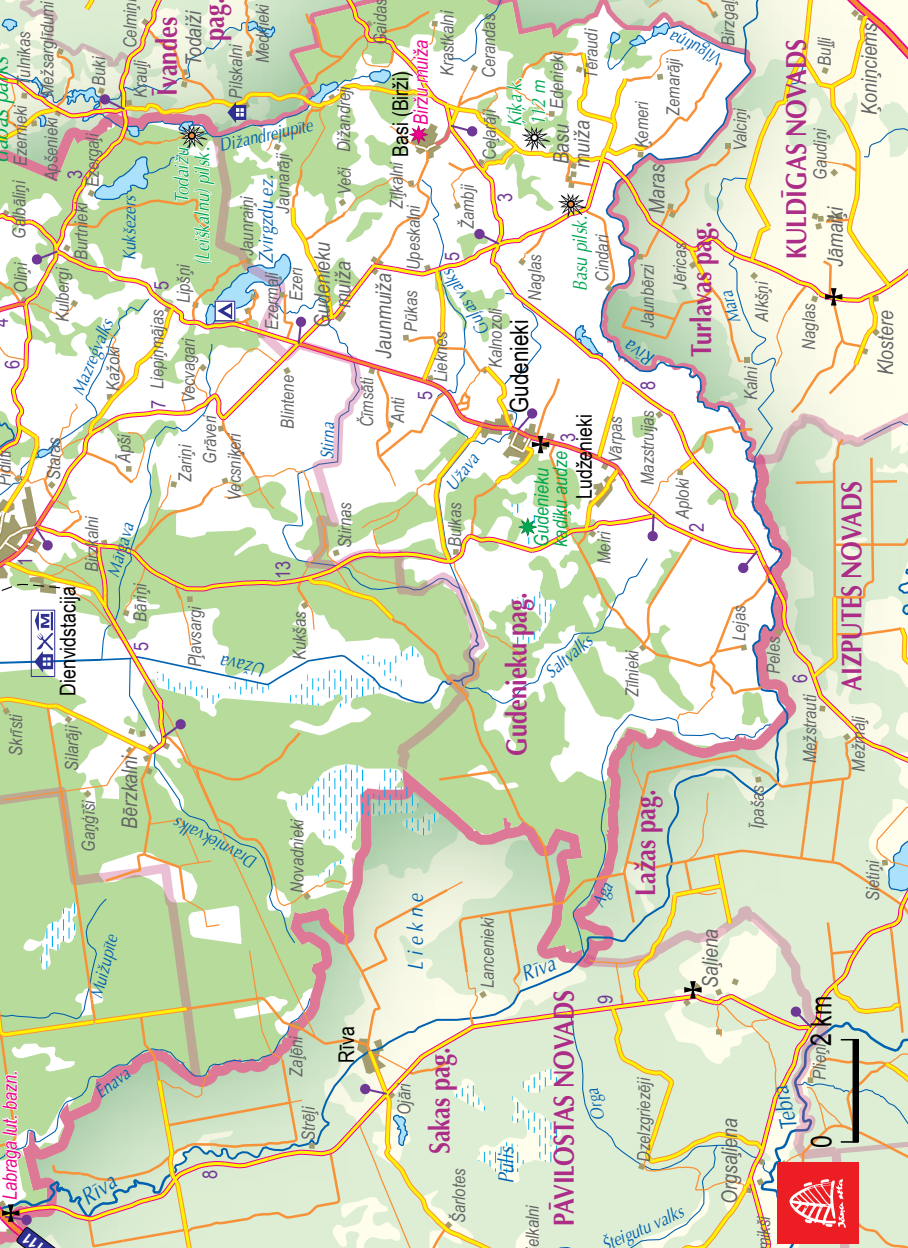
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SUITI



SUITI TRAVEL GUIDE



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LATVIA



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SUITI TRAVEL GUIDE

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This guidebook is for travellers who are interested in the rich culture and traditions of the Suiti people. These traditions are still alive and available to everyone. The guide has a brief description of the history of the region, interesting facts and 23 destinations where you can learn about the heritage of the region. There is a list of annual events along with a small Suiti language glossary. The Suiti people say that they have sharp tongues, but the region will always welcome responsible travellers who are interested in the past, present and future of the Suiti people. See you there!





WHO ARE THE SUITI?

The Suits are an ethnic Latvian group and a unique Catholic “island” in the centre of Kurzeme, where most people are Lutherans. The people have a history of nearly 400 years, and religious differences were the reason the Suits isolated themselves. Over the course of time, they have been creative and preserved unique and rich traditions that are listed on the UNESCO World List of Intangible Heritage. These traditions require immediate rescue!

SUITI SYMBOLS



The Coat of Arms of the
Alsunga Administrative District

The Coat of Arms of the
Jūrkalne Administrative District



The Coat of Arms of the
Gudenieki Parish



The Suiti **flag** is based on the red-white flag of the Bieron period of the Duchy of Courland, with the oldest church cross being part of the design.

Suiti **symbols** are part of the Coats of Arms of several administrative territories. The Coat of Arms of the Alsunga Administrative District has a red background and shows a Suiti golden bubble broach with four green gemstones. The Jūrkalne Parish Coat of Arms shows a sailing ship. Suiti people who lived on the coast and not the inland were fishermen and seafarers. The Gudenieki Parish Coat of Arms depicts a silver juniper bush against a purple background, because Gudenieki is known for wide fields of juniper. A nature trail passes through them.



WHERE DO THE SUITI LIVE?

The historical Suiti region stretches across three administrative territories - the Alsunga Administrative District, the Jūrkalne Parish, which is in the Ventspils Administrative District, and the Gudenieki Parish, which is in the Kuldīga District. The boundaries of the historical region do not coincide with the borders of these districts.



HOW MANY SUITI PEOPLE ARE THERE?

The cultural area of the Suietian people covers some 400 km² and has some 2,000 people of Suietian origin. That is a much lower number than during the early part of the 20th century, when there were some 10,000 people.



THE SUITI LANGUAGE

The Suiti language is a dialect of Latvian that is all but gone. It is based on the lost Courlandian and nearly lost Livonian language, also using words from the German and Polish languages. There are few written records of the language. The 2012 book “Suitijā” was written by Lidija Jansone, Ilga Leimane and Vilma Kalme, all of whom speak the Suiti dialect. The book correlates research about the dialect, its use and its grammar, and it also includes stories and legends in the Suiti dialect and the Latvian language. Very few people really speak the Suiti language today, and most of them are elderly. Words from the dialect can be heard as inserts in conversations. All of the ethnographic and folklore ensembles of the region sing songs in the Suiti dialect.



WHAT IS DRONE MUSIC?

The women of the Suiti region sing drone music with drawn out vowels. This is one of the oldest traditional vocal and instrumental music types, and it is found in the Balkan countries, the Carpathians, Georgia and the Iberian peninsula. In Latvia, it is heard in Bārta, Nīca and a few parts of Latgale. It is thought that this singing style dates back to the pre-Christian period. It was used at weddings and other celebrations. There are several variations of drone singing, but usually a soloist sings a sentence, and then the other singers repeat it as a drone song. Talented singers can improvise texts freely, based on the situation and the context. Drone songs can be heard at the Alsunga Museum, at various events where ethnographic and folklore ensembles from the Suiti community take part, and during an international drone singing festival that is held once every three years.

SUITI FOLK COSTUMES

Suiti folk costumes are very different than those of other regions, and Suiti people can be differentiated from others from a long distance. Colourful skirts, collars, shawls and belts are more than 100 years old and are handed down from generation to generation. Some elements of the folk costumes have remained unchanged for several centuries. The skill of sewing the costumes has never disappeared. Since 2008, these traditions have been revived very rapidly thanks to the “Austuve” creative workshop, and the number of people who take part in the process is on the rise, as well. Younger people learn the knowledge and traditions from their elders. The “Suiti” Ethnic Culture Centre also features the traditions of sewing folk costumes.





SUITI FOLKSONGS

Despite the small number of Saiti people, 52,813 folksongs have been recorded by the Latvian Folklore Compendium. Alsunga was the last place in Latvia where bagpipes, the kokle and animal horns have been played in a live environment. Most Latvian melodies are played with these instruments.



SUITI WEDDING TRADITIONS

The Suito are famous for their ancient and very ornate wedding traditions. Such weddings have not been held for the last couple of decades, but the process has been recorded faithfully in written sources and in the 1935 film “Motherland is Calling.” The Suito ensembles often perform elements of these traditions on stage and at actual weddings.



SUITI CUISINE

The things that Suieti people eat are similar to what is eaten elsewhere in Kurzeme, but they do not eat bread together with soup. Instead, they eat meat that is taken out of the soup pot while on the bone and is placed on a separate plate. Typical dishes include carrot pies, fermented porridge, oat porridge, blood sausage, milk soup with dumplings, dumplings with meat, coal-roasted herring, grey peas with bacon, a porridge made of groats and potatoes, barley beer with cream and sugar, farmer's breakfasts, sweet soup, poor people's soup, fresh fish in milk, etc. The "Spēlmaņu krogs" saloon in Alsunga serves traditional Suieti dishes and holds master classes on preparing them. Saloons in Jūrklane also serve these delicacies. Visit the "Suietu ķēķis" creative workshop in Alsunga to learn about this process.



SUITI ETHNOGRAPHIC ENSEMBLES

Everyone knows the Suiti from Gudenieki, but few people know that they sang on stage for the first time in 1924 at the initiative of Lutheran pastor and teacher Ludis Bērziņš. One year later, encouraged by the composer Emilis Melngailis, the Suiti performed in Rīga. The “Suitu sievas” ensemble from Alsunga, however, was established in 1955, when the ensemble appeared at a song festival in Aizpute, led by Veronika Porziņģe. Today these women appear all over Latvia and beyond its borders. Other Suiti folk groups: “Maģie suiti”, men’s group “Suitu vīri”, “Suitu dūdenieki”, “Basu suiti”, “Suitiņi”.



CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUITI

The Suiti are seen as the most spiteful and conservative residents of the historical region of Kurzeme. Back in the day they were known for fighting, for not accepting anything new, and for blocking the paths of others, including Lutherans. Some of these characteristics are still present today. The Suiti have sharp tongues, but they are also very hospitable.

THE DISTANT PAST

- Before the invasion of the Christian crusaders, the Alschwangen (Alsunga) region belonged to Couronian land Bandava.
- The word “Alschwangen” was recorded in writing for the first time on December 28, 1230, in an agreement signed by the deputy representative of the pope and the Cours, by which the Cours promised to accept Christianity.
- It is thought that the Livonian language was spoken in the Alschwangen region until the 14th century, and that is seen in toponyms and in the Suiti dialect.
- On April 4, 1253, the crusaders finished their occupation of Couronian lands, and Alschwangen was listed as a territory that belonged to the Livonian Order.
- In 1561, the first duke of Courland, Gotthard Kettler, converted to Lutheranism and banned Catholicism, the ban staying in place until 1617.



THE AGE OF THE SCHWERIN DYNASTY

- In 1573, Friedrich von Kanitz sold the Alschwangen district to Jacob von Schwerin, who was the son of an advisor of the duke of Prussia and was the marshal of Courland and Semigalia. He extended the boundaries of the territory to the sea.
- Before his marriage in 1623 to Barbara Konarsky from Poland, von Schwerin's son, Johann Ulrich (locally known as "Svirinš"), converted to Catholicism against the opposition of his father.
- After his father's death, Johann Ulrich von Schwerin returned to Alschwangen and became a fanatic who urged local residents to accept Catholicism. In this, he was helped by Jesuits whom he invited to take part in the process.
- Local noblemen detested von Schwerin's activities, and in 1637 he was inveigled into visiting the Reģi Estate, where he was poisoned.
- Because of this fanaticism, Alšvanga's economy fared poorly throughout the 17th century.
- The Alschwangen castle suffered damage during a war between Poland and Sweden.
- The economic development of the village of Alschwangen recovered when the von Schwerin family stopped its policies related to religious denominations



THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE AND WORLD WAR I

- In 1795 the Duchy of Courland was absorbed into the Russian Empire.
- In 1817 indentured serfdom was abolished in the Courland province.
- The first theatrical performance in Alschwangen was in 1871. The play was called "Poor Man of the Parish."
- The school in Gudenieki was opened in 1883.
- In 1905, a strike among servants at the Almāle Estate launched the revolution, with a punitive expedition arriving there one year later.
- On April 24, 1915, during World War I, the German army occupied Kuldīga.



INDEPENDENT LATVIA

- In 1924, Lutheran pastor and teacher invited the Suiti to perform their songs and demonstrate their wedding traditions in Rīga.
- A narrow-gauge rail line between Alšvanga and Liepāja was installed in 1929 and 1930.
- A large choral festival was held in Alšvanga in 1933 in honour of the 60th anniversary of the Latvian Song and Dance Festival.
- A movie about Suiti weddings, “Motherland is Calling,” was released in 1935. There was only one motorcar in Alšvanga at that time.

WORLD WAR II AND THE SOVIET OCCUPATION

- 52 people from 15 families were deported to Siberia on June 14, 1941, from the Alschwangen, Gudenieki and Basi parishes. 13 preschool age children were among them.
- The broad-gauge rail line between Liepāja and Ventspils was ready in 1944.
- On March 25, 1949, 379 people from 122 families were deported from the aforementioned parishes, including 30 small children. The last person returned from Siberia in 1964.
- Nationalisation of private properties and the age of collective farms began after World War II.
- An ethnographic ensemble in Alsunga began its work in 1955, and it became known as the “Women of Suiti” after the release of the film “Blow, O Wind!” in 1973.
- Oil was discovered in Gudenieki in 1963.
- A new cultural centre was built in Alsunga in 1967.
- The Suiti women appeared in Moscow in 1977, when a school of music was opened in Alsunga.

THE AWAKENING AND THE PRESENT DAY

- The red-white-red Latvian flag was raised for the first time since the beginning of the occupation over the Alsunga castle in 1989.
- The newspaper *Suitu vēstis* was first published in 1993.
- Discussions about the establishment of a Suiti Administrative District began in 2000.
- The Suiti ethnic culture centre organisation was established in 2002.
- The first international drone singing festival was held in 2004 and then repeated in 2007, 2007, 2010, 2014 and 2017.
- The Ugunsplāva nature and leisure park in Jūrkalne were opened in 2007.
- A tragic fire consumed a senior citizens' home in Reģi in 2007.
- The Suiti culture was listed on the UNESCO list of intangible cultural values that required urgent rescuing on October 1, 2009.
- In 2010 and 2016, memorandums were signed by the Latvian Ministry of Culture, the Latvian National Commission of UNESCO, the Latvian National Culture Centre, local governments where the Suiti community lived, and the Suiti ethnic cultural centre association on preserving the cultural space of the Suiti people.
- A catalogue, “Suit’drān’s,” was released in 2014 and again in 2017.



- A folklore ensemble of Suiti bagpipe players was established in 2014.
- A collection of ancient items, articles and photographs was opened in Jūrkalne in 2014.
- A collection focused on the heritage of the Suiti people was established in 2015.
- A free time centre was opened in Jūrkalne in 2015.
- The film “Ručs and Norie” about Suiti woman Marija Steimane and Japanese student Norie Tsuruta was released in 2015.
- In 2017, an exhibition, “Storm Museum,” was opened at the Jūrkalne Community Centre to focus on the cultural and historical heritage of underwater Latvia.



INTERESTING FACTS

What is the origin of the name of Alsunga? Presumably the old name Alšvanga is made up of two components, Alš -vanga (of Ancient Prussian and Livonian origins), with the first word meaning alder, and the other meaning a meadow, swamp or prairie. The two words existed in parallel until 1950.

How did the Suiti get their name? The attitude of Lutherans in Kurzeme was most intolerant when it came to residents of Alšvanga, irrespective of whether they were noblemen or indentured servants. They eventually became known as the “Schwerin Suite.” Over the course of time, the word changed into Suiti.

The apparel of Suiti people. To differentiate between Catholics and Lutherans, the nobleman declared that farmers could not wear folk costumes, insisting that they wear special uniforms and costumes, remains of which are still seen in the clothing that Suiti people wear today. Women wore vividly red, green and blue skirts, while men wore grey jumpers with two rows of buttons.

Bourdon or bourbon? People sometimes mix up these similar words. Bourdon refers to the singing of Suiti women, while bourbon is American whiskey.



Catholic privileges. During the rule of the Schwerin dynasty, Catholics had special privileges. They were allowed to push carts in which Lutherans were riding into the ditch, and they were also allowed to beat up Lutherans. Land was gifted to the Catholic Church.

To preserve their **identity**, the Suiti have **isolated themselves**. Marriages with representatives of other denominations were considered to be sinful, and that means that all Suiti people are related to one another. If two of them start to talk about their ancestors, then it is most likely that they will find relatives whom they have in common. Even today there are certain differences of opinion between Catholics and Lutherans in the Suiti territory.

Porziņģis comes from the Suiti people! The sister of the great grandmother of the famous Latvian basketball player Kristaps Porziņģis was Veronika Porziņģe, a well-known Suiti storyteller and singer.

The Suiti lebediks is a celebration of pies “Sklandraušī”. Suiti people, like other people in Kurzeme, bake carrot pies. During this festival, which takes place during the last Saturday of the month of May, pies are baked. Visitors can examine Suiti folk costumes and learn about their traditions.

Suiti people manufacture not just practical things, but also very beautiful muffs. This is an excellent souvenir to bring home from the Suiti territory.



ALSUNGA AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

1. Alsunga. This populated area was first cited in documents in 1230 as Alschwangen in an agreement between a representative of the pope and the Couronian tribes. The Livonian Order ruled Alschwangen until 1561, and from 1573 to 1738, the castle belonged to the von Schwerin dynasty of noblemen who had come from Pomerania. During this period, St Archangel Michael was honoured by building a brick church and turning all residents into Catholics. Alsunga became the centre for all Catholics in Kurzeme, and the residents became Suiti (the so-called Schwerin Suite). Today the Alsunga Administrative District covers 190 km² of land and has some 1,600 residents.





- 2. The Livonian Order castle in Alsunga** was built gradually between the 14th and 18th centuries and has been rebuilt several times. It is known that there was a fortified house in Alschwangen in 1341, and in 1372, work began on a square castle made of rocks. It was the residence of a senior representative of the Livonian Order. Initially the eastern wing was used as a residence, while the southern wing was used for household needs. Defensive towers and other elements of the church were built between the 15th and 18th centuries. The Baroque castle with two towers is very impressive. The Alsunga castle is unique in that it is one of few Medieval buildings in Europe that have preserved their historical appearance. Renovation of the castle began in 2018, and it is closed to visitors. Still, you can look at its exterior and tour its garden.

+371-2642-5015, muzejs@alsunga.lv,

GPS: 56.98166, 21.56711.



- 3. Dižgabalkalns** is an ancient Couronian castle hill and is found in the very centre of Alsunga. It was named in 1659 when General Berg from Kurzeme put cannons on it to attack Swedish forces that had fortified themselves in the Alsunga castle. The hill is 8 to 10 metres high and 24 x 54 metres wide, offering a lovely view of the St Michael Roman Catholic Church, as well as the Alsunga windmill lake that is alongside it. There is a distinct terrace around the hill, and it once was the foundation of wooden defensive structures. On the other side of the street, to the West of the castle hill, is a cemetery with fire graves of Cours that date back to the 11th to 13th century. Archaeologists examined the area during the middle part of the last century. The Suiti celebrate Easter and other holidays on the hill. *GPS: 56.98082, 21.56933.*



- 4. The St Michael's Roman Catholic Church of Alsunga** was built around 1625. For several centuries it was the main worship place for the Suiti community, supporting the community's spirituality and identity. In 1882 the church was expanded into the form of a cross that is seen today. Inside the church you can see work done by the Dutch wood carver Johann Mertens around 1715. The organ was built by F. Weisenborn in Jēkabpils in 1893, and the altar painting dates back to 1910. The bricked graveyard of the Schwerin dynasty is under the church. Contact it in advance if you wish to see its interior. *+371-2642-5015, GPS: 56.97960, 21.57043.*



- 5. The retail shop and creative workshop Pūralāde** features vivid woven Suito textiles and offers master's classes. You can also purchase souvenirs. Contact the workshop in advance if you want to take part in the classes. *Skolas Street 6-3A, Alsunga, +371-2020-3115. GPS: 56.97925, 21.56810.*



- 6. The Alsunga Administrative District Museum** has a permanent exhibition that features a Suito living room and kitchen and liturgical apparel worn by Catholic priests. In the exhibition hall there are changing exhibitions related to the history and present of the Suito Women ethnographic ensemble. A special offer involves performances by Suito women, Suito men and Suito bagpipe players. Also in the building are the **Alsunga Tourism Information Centre**, as well as **ceramics and weaving workshops**. Contact the museum in advance to arrange for performances and master's classes. *Skolas Street 11A, Alsunga, +371-2642-5015 (Inga Bredovska). GPS: 56.97802, 21.56427.*



7. The “Austuve” creative workshop is in the building of the Alsunga Administrative District Museum. You can see how Suiti folk costumes and elements thereof are produced, learn more about weaving traditions and learn about the colourful apparel of the Suiti people. Experienced masters will help you to engage in the process yourself. Alongside the workshop is the “Suiti kitchen,” where you can learn about the culinary heritage of the Suiti people by working together with experienced cooks. *Skolas Street 11A, Alsunga*
+371-2922-2103 (*Dace Martinova*). GPS: 56.97802, 21.56457.
Contact the venue in advance.



8. The “Suiti” ethnic cultural centre offers a permanent exhibition of Suii folk costumes. You can learn about the history of the costumes and try them on. If you want to sew your own folk costume, you will receive valuable advice and consultations. *Ziedulejas Street 1*
+371-2922-2103 (*Dace Martinova*). GPS: 56.98212, 21.56619.
Contact the centre in advance.



9. The “Rija” Suiti craftsmanship and art space is in the threshing barn of an old estate in Alsunga. There is a souvenir shop where you can purchase practical items such as shawls, gloves, stockings, dishes, herbal teas, etc. Creative workshops are available here for children, and if you contact the venue in advance, you can meet with Suiti women to learn about traditions and to sing and play games. The centre has been awarded the “Latvian heritage” cultural sign.

Ziedulejas Street 3, Alsunga, +371-2944-6594 (Inga Šēna-Laizāne to discuss workshops and the Suiti women).

GPS: 56.98224, 21.56542.



10. The Ziedulejas Park features an open-air stage in a lovely place. During the summer there are concerts, theatrical performances, parties, Summer Solstice celebrations, etc. The International Bourdon Festival is held once every four years, and the next one will be in 2020. This brings together bourdon singers from many countries in the world.

GPS: 56.98474, 21.56179.



11. The Žigraba nature trail is 2.5 km long and weaves along the Kauliņupe River valley. The shores are covered with trees that are as much as 15 m high. There is a wide diversity of nature along the shores of the little river.

GPS: 56.98295, 21.57325.

12. The Old Suiti road (V-1279) linked Kuldīga and Alsunga before a new road was built. The lovely gravel road weaves through forests and farmland. During appropriate weather, it can be used as an alternative road to learn about the landscapes of the Suiti region. You can also bike down the road.



13. Three meeting places for Suiti people. The idea of organising outdoor cultural spaces in Gudenieki, Alsunga and Jūrkalne emerged in 2013, when an international plenary art session in Jūrkalne organised the first “**Suiti meeting place**” at the Kalniņi homestead meadow by the place where the Gudenieki-Ēdole and Alsunga-Basi roads cross. The second place was at the crossing of the Kuldīga, Alsunga and Jūrkalne roads. The third was along the Ventspils highway in Jūrkalne near Liepāja. On the other side of the road is the Pilsberģi saloon. The organiser of these meeting places was the musician Igo, while outdoor objects were sculpted by Ivars Miķelsons, Didzis Grodza and Juris Krafts. The project was organised by the “Wind Homestead” organisation. *GPS for the three locations: 56.924611, 21.630833; 56.979694, 21.552000; 57.006972, 21.388222.*



GUDENIEKI AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

14. Gudenieki emerged after World War II as a larger populated area not far from the old parish building. Today the village has a Catholic church, a cultural centre, a library, the parish local government and a post office. This is a clear place for the cultural space of the Suiti people.

GPS: 56.88719, 21.60245.



15. The Gudenieki St John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church was built between 1930 and 1947. On both sides of the altar are sculptures of angels that date back to the late 17th century and were sculpted in Subate. They are the only elements of this kind in the Baroque decorative sculpture in churches in Kurzeme. It may be that the figure of the Saviour on the cross with a sleeping lamb at his feet was produced by the same artists. No one knows how the artworks arrived in Subate. The organ with its wooden pipes was manufactured by Juris Bokums. During the season, the interior of the church can be toured, and if you contact the church in advance, you can arrange for organ music performances. +371-2632-1397 (*Dace Nasteviča*). GPS: 56.88243, 21.60130.



16. The Birži Estate is in Basi in the Gudenieki Parish, 20 km from Kuldīga. The estate was built during the 19th century, burned down during the 1905 Revolution and then restored. Today the estate has a former home for servants, an ancient magazine granary and a 4.5 ha park. This is a cultural monument of local importance. The granary was restored in 2009 and 2010 and is now the home of the Basi Community Centre. It offers educational and cultural events, concerts, exhibition, etc. In 2019, there is to be an interactive exhibition about Sui events in Gudenieki -- baptisms, weddings, funerals, etc. +371-2562-3832 (*Olita Ulmkalne*). GPS: 56.90431, 21.69586.



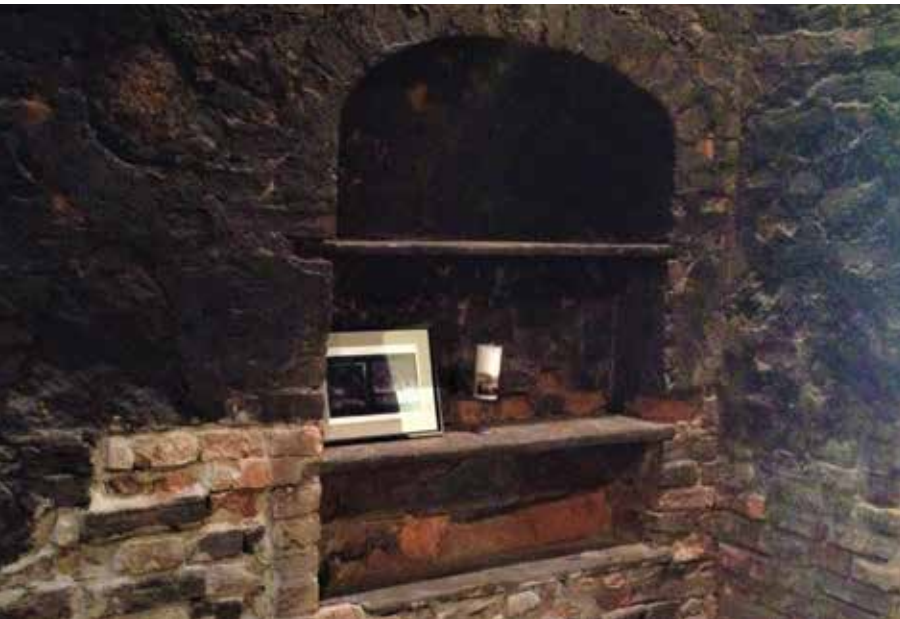
JŪRKALNE AND THE SURROUNDING TERRITORY

17. Jūrkalne. Ancient legends say that a ship sank in the sea near the old cemetery during a storm and during a worship service. The pastor and members of the congregation volunteered to use a rowboat to save the crew of the ship. Some of the men were rescued, while others were washed ashore. In honour of this tragic, but also happy solution, the captain called the place **Feliksberga**, or the Lucky Shore. Later it became known as Pilsberga, and it was renamed Jūrkalne only in 1925.

18. The steep shores of Jūrkalne are one of the most popular tourist destinations in Kurzeme. The shores are up to 20 m high, washed by the waves and mostly made of sand and narrow bands of pebbles and stones. Opposite the centre of Jūrkalne is a viewing platform and a set of stairs that lead to the sea. The shore continues in the direction of Pāvilosta and Ventspils. *GPS: 57.00700, 21.37852.*



19. The Jūrkalne Catholic Church, according to legend, was washed into the sea because of collapsing shores along with other buildings and the old road. The church was built in 1862 and has an altar painting from the late 19th century, “Mother of God,” along with an organ. The metal elements of the building’s doors are interesting. Hanging from the ceiling of the church is a sailing ship that has to do with the rescue of the crew of the sunken ship. *GPS: 57.00531, 21.38444.*



20. The Jūrkalne Community Centre is the main gathering place for Suiti people and is in a former saloon that was built around 1875. Major restorations were conducted in 2011. The centre offers various events, there is an exhibition hall for visitors, and the “Maģie Suiti” ethnographic ensemble and other amateur ensembles are active there. If you want to meet the Suiti and learn about their traditions, contact the centre in advance. +371-2626-1884 (*Kristīne Skrulle*). *GPS: 57.00543, 21.38648.*



21. The Storm Museum is in the Community Centre and features an exhibition which visualises the subterranean world - the deck of a ship that has sunk into the sea. The exhibition speaks to the historical and cultural heritage of underwater Latvia, allowing visitors to learn about the history of shipping, evidence from the era of sailing ships and steamships, and various things that have been found in the sea or have been washed ashore.

+371-2626-1884. GPS: 57.00543, 21.38648.



22. The “Ancient Property, Text and Photography Chamber” of a regional research space is on the second floor of the Jūrkalne library, featuring traditional objects from Jūrkalne and the Suiti people, as well as several looms where locals organise creative workshops. Contact the chamber in advance to arrange for a guide who will tell you all about the culture and traditions of the Suiti and present a film about them.

+371-2869-6228 (*Ligita Kalniņa*). GPS: 57.00759, 21.38599



23. The “Rīvas loki” nature trail begins at the Ulmale-Labragas Lutheran church and then stretches up and down the lovely valley of the lower reaches of the Rīva River. It is 3 km long. The river flows through something of a canyon that is up to 12 m deep. It is surrounded by vast forests. The path is partly available with assistants and is marked with the green colour. +371-2546-3928, 26556612. *GPS: 56.97042, 21.34794.*



Early February

EVENTS DEDICATED TO METEŅI DAY

Alsunga Culture Centre / Annija Macpane +371-2320-5690

Late March, early April

EASTER ON DIŽGABALKALNS / Dižgabalkalns Hill

(Alsunga) / Gunta Matēviča +371-2786-7749

Third weekend in May

MUSEUM NIGHT / Alsunga Museum

Inga Bredovska +371-2642-3163

Last Saturday in May

THE SUIŅI LEBEDIKS FESTIVAL / Alsunga Culture

Centre / Annija Macpane +371-2320-5690

Third week in June

GRASS DAY / Zieduleja stage

Inga Bredovska +371-2642-3163

Third week in June

SUMMER SOLSTICE / Zieduleja stage

Annija Macpane +371-2320-5690



Last weekend in September

ST MICHAEL'S DAY / Alsunga

Annija Macpane +371-2320-5690

2020

6TH INTERNATIONAL BOURDON FESTIVAL / Alsunga

Learn more about all of these events at the Alsunga Tourism Information Centre.



A BRIEF ENGLISH-SUITI DICTIONARY

OLD NAMES OF SUITI PEOPLE

Dižie suiti - residents of the Alsunga and Gudenieki Parish

Krētainie suiti - residents of Basi and the Birži Estate

Maģie suiti - residents of the Jūrkalne Parish

WINDS

Vasaris - southern wind

Zemnieks - eastern wind (blows from the lands)

Jūras vējš - western wind

Ziemeļis - northern wind

NAMES FOR SUITI SHAWLS

Govkuņģis, kanisers, zīdstrīpa, garpraņa,
kuģenieks, zīdenis, cēbers

A FEW SUITI BELIEFS

When you knead bread, speak vulgar things
so that the dough rises in a better way.

You must not step over a dog, because if you do, you are lazy.

A FEW EXPRESSIONS

Bi gaišs ta ka diene - It was as light as daytime

Caur slapjš ta ka šorks - Thoroughly wet

Ēd, la māg brīnās - Eat so that your tummy is surprised

Ka no migs izlīduš - As if just gotten out of bed

Ka ūdene iekritis - Disappeared in water

Ko diersīs, ka nau ēds - What to do if you have not eaten?

Ko nu velkās līdz ka aste - Why is it dragging along like a tail?

Līst ka no spaņņim - It's raining cats and dogs

Līst ta ka cīkst - Breaking and squeaking

Meit ka og - A pretty girl

Tais živai! - Hurry up!

Velkās ta ka ut pa bārd - Being very slow.

THINGS TO DO IN THE SUITI TERRITORY

- Visit one of the Suiti meeting places
- Listen to the songs of Suiti women
- Visit the castle of the Livonian Order and the Alsunga Administrative District Museum
- Purchase souvenirs
- Taste Suiti foods
- Watch the sunset from the steep shores of Jūrkalne





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