

# THE SMALL CIRCLE AROUND LAKE RAIPALS



Download route in GPX format



Nr. 152 | 10,5 km

## Route

It has a lot of fantastic nature objects formed by the melting of glaciers and various cultural heritage objects characteristic of this area, which is located on the border of historical highways and two countries. The central object of the route is the deepest lake in the Korneti-Pelji ravine lake row – Lake Raipals, where nature and history cognition can be combined with swimming in the lake.

## Direction of the route

Korneti - Bārdas Inn (Bārdaskrogs) – Handicraft Workshop "Aguce" - Sauleskalns Hill - Shelter of Our Most Holy Lady Orthodox Church of Veclaicene - Gaigalīņa Cemetery - Mišu Honey Museum – Lake Raipals - Laknu Watermill – River Pērļupīte – Lake Trumulītis.

## Road surface

53% asphalt, 20% gravel, 27% forest paths

## Recommended time

May – October

## Length

~10,5 km

## Duration

~5 hours

## Level of difficulty

Medium (ascending hills can be a challenge for an inexperienced cyclist)

## Start point, finish point

Parking place in the centre of Korneti

GPS: 57.5894, 26.9476

## Marking

No marking in nature

## Worth to know!

Meteorological and other conditions can have an effect on certain sections of the route: poor road quality, sand, mud. The route leads along private properties, where there may be unchained dogs. Follow the principle "#Walking in nature. Leave no trace of your visit!"

Everyone is responsible for their own safety during the route. Rescue services: 112

## Service

### Self-service tourist information point

### Free drinking water refill point

### Car and trailer parking place "Korneti"

"Vaiņagi", Korneti, Veclaicene Rural District, Alūksne Region

GPS: 57.5899, 26.9483

### Nature House at Lake Raipals

+371 25442335, +371 29130280

tic@aluksne.lv www.visitaluksne.lv

GPS: 57.5825, 26.9927

### Holiday House "Ezerlīči"

+371 26186570

ritameldere@inbox.lv

GPS: 57.5906 26.9555

### Holiday House "Dzērves ezers"

+371 26391443

dzervesezers@gmail.com

GPS: 57.5871 26.9438



Photo: Linda Pastare



Photo: Linda Pastare



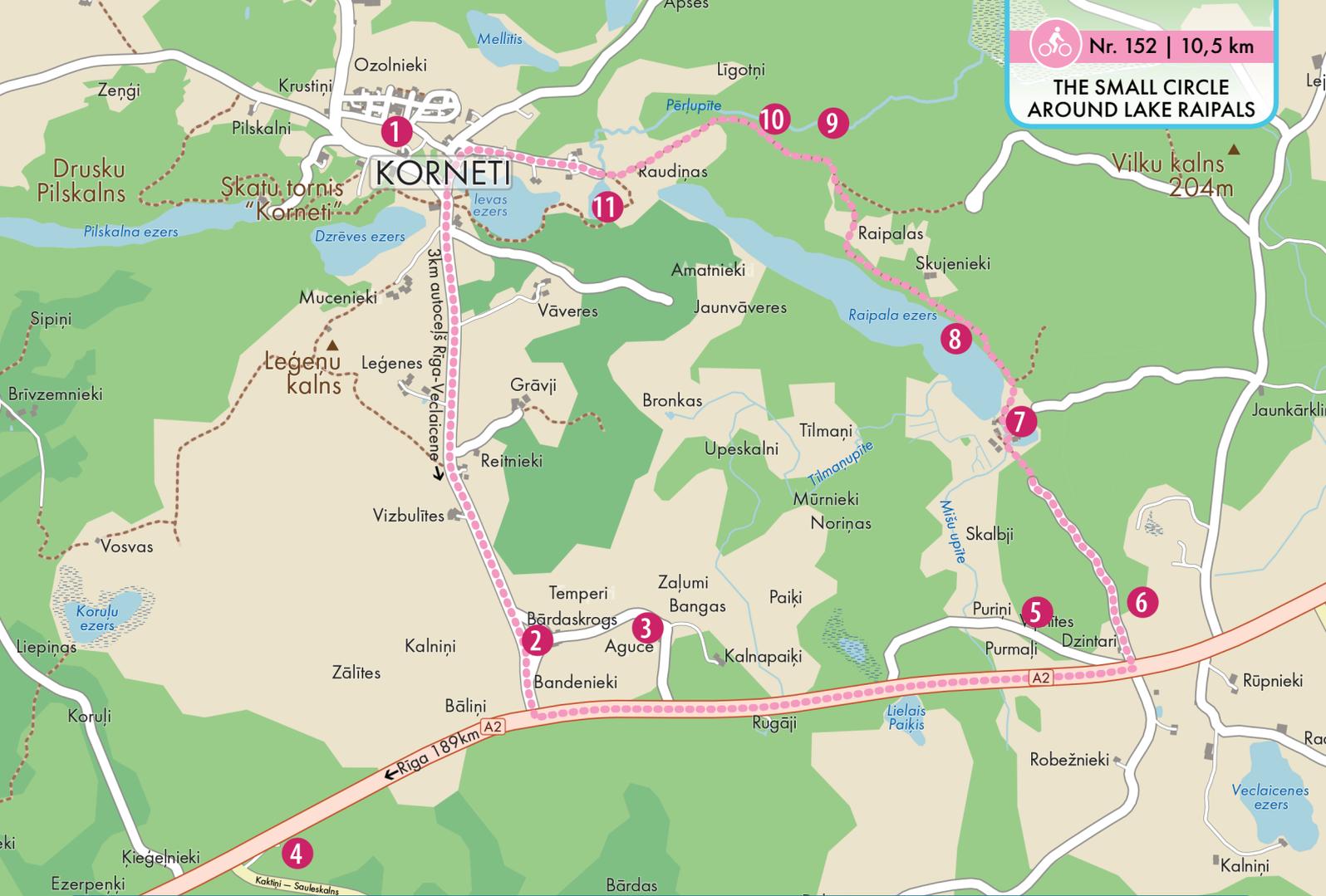
Photo: Linda Pastare



Photo: TIC arhivs



Photo: Linda Pastare



### 1 Korneti

Korneti is the administrative centre of the Veclaicene rural district. Travellers usually use the names "Korneti" and "Veclaicene" as synonyms. In the middle of the 18th century German barons chose the beautiful place between Lake Levas and Lake Džērves for the construction of the manor house. Nowadays we can see just the ruins of the ancient manor palace: just 5 decorative corner pillars of the building have remained. Visit the **Veclaicene History Depository**, which is located in the historical Guards' House (a paramilitary organisation in Latvia between 1918 and 1939), to find out more about the history of Korneti and its surroundings. Several cycle routes and nature trails start here. Ascend the sightseeing tower on Džērves Hill and climb up the steepest castle mound in Latvia – Drusku Castle Mound to enjoy the wonderful landscape of Korneti and the protected landscape area "Veclaicene" with its hillocks and lakes!

GPS: 57.5899, 26.9483

### 2 Bārdas Inn (Bārdaskrogs)

The inn was built in the middle of the nineteenth century when the construction of the Riga-Pskov highway was finished. It was the place where to feed and rest the horses after the long way. The travellers could have meals and lodging there as well. During the years of the soviet regime the Bārdaskrogs was used as a grocery, a household goods shop, a post office and a storehouse for a supply point. A section of the old highway with historical road marker posts is still there next to the inn.

GPS: 57.5717, 26.9555

### 3 Handicraft Workshop "Aguce"\*

Going on a trip along the historical highway you will reach the handicraft workshop "Aguce", where handicraft is made using various techniques. The hand crafter is particularly fond of non-traditional, skilfully experimenting with unusual materials. In the workshop you can watch the process of making handicrafts and buy finished ones that will remind you about the visit to the protected landscape area "Veclaicene".

T.: +371 22413373

GPS: 57.5718, 26.9653

### 4 Sauleskalns Hill

The second highest hillock of the Alūksne Highland – 267 m above sea level. A spring bubbles up out of the southern slope of the hill. It is the place where the travellers replenish their drinking water supplies. The A2 highway Riga-Veclaicene, the construction of which began in 1859, crosses the hill.

GPS: 57.5632, 26.9359

### 5 Shelter of Our Most Holy Lady Orthodox Church of Veclaicene

As Veclaicene has always been on the main trade roads between Russia and Latvia, this place has long been inhabited by people of different nationalities, including both Russians and Estonians. In the middle of the 19th century, the **Shelter of Our Most Holy Lady Orthodox parish** was established in Veclaicene. In 1894, the merchant from St. Petersburg, M. Fyodorov, gave the church one of the six bells – the largest that has survived to this day. Throughout the wars of the 20th century, the church remained undamaged, although it was located only about 15 m from the main road. Once a month, divine services are held there.

GPS: 57.5719, 26.9942

### 6 Gaigalņica Cemetery

The cemetery, where mostly the parish members of the Shelter of Our Most Holy Lady Orthodox Church of Veclaicene are buried. Two of the six soldiers, who were killed in the Veclaicene rural district in the Latvian War of Independence, were also buried there.

GPS: 57.5721, 27.0010

### 7 Mišu Honey Museum\*

At Mišu farmstead next to Lake Raipals there is the private Mišu Honey Museum, where you can get acquainted with the beekeeping traditions and the necessary equipment for honey collection from different times, find out about bee venom and other interesting facts about bees and honey. In the training apiary of the museum it is possible to watch the life of bees in their real environment.

T.: +371 29600242

GPS: 57.5802, 26.9920

### 8 Lake Raipals

It is **the deepest lake of the Alūksne Highland**. Its maximum depth is 35 m, but the average depth – 11.9 m. Till 1938, it was considered to be the deepest lake in Latvia. Around the lake there is a 7.5-kilometre-long circular nature cognition trail with information stands. About 300 m from the lake there is a **Nature House** for lodging and recreation. There you can also find more information about the brown bear, which sometimes visits the surroundings.

T.: +371 25442335, +371 29130280.

GPS: 57.5824, 26.9913

### 9 Laknu Watermill

About 1 km below the source of the River Pērļupīte, in the first half of the 20th century, there was the Laknu Watermill, where it was possible to grind grain and process wool. Even people from Pechori (Russia) took cartfuls of wool to the Laknu Watermill. Nowadays, fragments of boulder walls and the remains of the dam have been preserved.

GPS: 57.5928, 26.9766

### 10 River Pērļupīte

Lake Trumulītis is the source of the River Pērļupīte (also called the Lakna, the Sveķupīte, or the River Slokas, Estonian: *Pärlijõgi*). The name suggests that in former times it was possible to find the freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) here. The length of the river in the territory of Latvia is only 4 km, for 2 km it is the border river of the Latvia-Estonia border, but in total it is the 41-kilometre-long tributary of the River Mustjegi (the River Gauja basin) with a high average decrease in height: 2.37 m/km.

### 11 Lake Trumulītis

The smallest and also the shallowest lake from the Korneti lake row is **Lake Trumulītis** (also Lake Mazais, Lake Mazais Šķaunacītis). Its average depth is 2.4 m, but the deepest place is 4.5 m. It is an overgrowing lake resembling a small bowl.

GPS: 57.5900, 26.9606

\* the visit must be booked in advance