

THE BIG CIRCLE AROUND LAKE RAIPALS



Download route in GPX format



Nr. 153 | 14,5 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. In addition to the Small Circle, the Big Circle includes Sauleskalns, which is the second highest hillock in the Alūksne Highland, and the landscape with wild horses (from the natural farm "Mauriņi") that form and maintain natural meadows and pastureland.

Direction of the route

Korneti – Bārdas Inn (Bārdaskrogs) – Sauleskalns Hill – Priest's Manor (Mācītājmuiža) and Lake Mācītājmuizas – Farmstead "Sapņiši" – Shelter of Our Most Holy Lady Orthodox Church of Veclaicene – Gaigalīca Cemetery – Mišu Honey Museum – Lake Raipals – Laknu Watermill – River Pērļupīte – Lake Trumulītis

Road surface

29% asphalt, 51% gravel, 20% forest paths

Recommended time

May – October

Length

~14,5 km

Duration

~2 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 "Ezerliči"

+371 26186570

ritameldere@inbox.lv

GPS: 57.5906, 26.9555

Holiday House "Džerves ezers"

+371 26391443

dzervesezers@gmail.com

GPS: 57.5871 26.9438

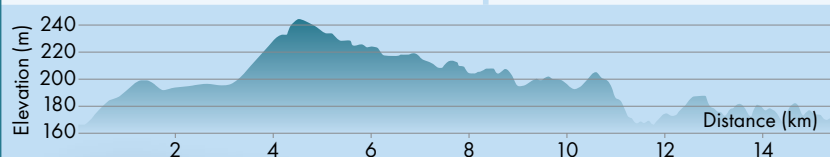


Photo: Linda Pastare



Photo: Linda Pastare



Photo: TIC arhivs



Photo: TIC arhivs

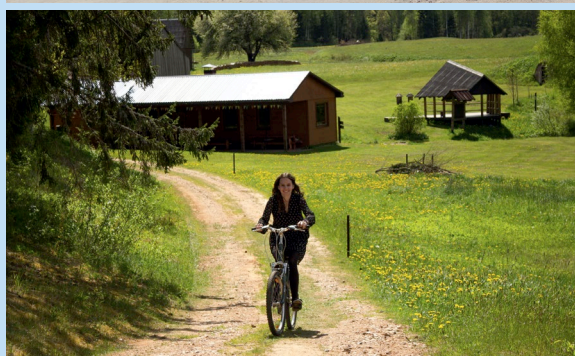


Photo: Linda Pastare

Alūksne
OLINKŠVA

Alūksne Tourist
Information Centre
25A Pils Street, Alūksne,
Alūksne region, LV-4301



Protected
landscape area
VECLAICENE

www.veclaicene.lv

+371 64322804, +371 29130280, +371 25442335

tic@aluksne.lv | www.visitaluksne.lv





Nr. 153 | 14,5 km

THE BIG CIRCLE
AROUND LAKE RAIPALS**1 Korneti**

Korneti is the administrative centre of the Veclaicene rural district. Travellers usually use the names "Korneti" and "Veclaicene" as synonyms. Several cycle routes and walking trails start here. Ascend the sightseeing tower on Dzērves 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 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-Velicaene, the construction of which began in 1859, crosses the hill.

GPS: 57.5632, 26.9359

* the visit must be booked in advance

4 Priest's Manor (Mācītājmuiža) and Lake Mācītājmuīžas

Throughout the centuries the manor and its buildings were inhabited by the Opekālns priests and their families. The Priest's Manor, which was built in 1766, owned land and serfs, but after the abolition of serfdom, the land was cultivated by peasants thus providing regular income for the manor. After World War II, the buildings were used by collective farmers. Nowadays we can see only the ruins of the household buildings from the historical manor next to the existing private house. The lake on the side of the road has the same name.

GPS: 57.5583, 26.9460

5 Organic Farm "Mauriņi"

The organic farm "Mauriņi" raises wild horses, ponies, ducks and hens. In the peaceful and picturesque countryside environment, excursions are offered for groups.

T.: +371 29488925

GPS: 57.5534, 26.9958

6 Farmstead "Sapniši"

Nowadays "Sapniši" is a cottage, which can be looked at only from the road, but the building has an exclusive history. In 1927, on Sauleskalns Hill, the Baptist parish started the construction of a wooden church. The church was consecrated in 1930. Due to the reconstruction of the Pskov Highway in 1951, the log building of the church was moved to the territory of the Veclaicene Manor and placed on the foundation of one of the manor buildings. During the years of the soviet regime, the building housed a kindergarten.

7 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

8 Gaigalnice 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

9 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

10 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

11 Laknu Watermill

About 1 km below the source of the River Pērlupīte, 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

12 River Pērlupīte

Lake Trumulis is the source of the River Pērlupīte (also called the Lakna, the Sveķupīte, or the River Slokas, Estonian: Päriljõgi). 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 Mustjēgi (the River Gauja basin) with a high average decrease in height: 2.37 m/km.

13 Lake Trumulis

The smallest and also the shallowest lake from the Korneti lake row is Lake Trumulis (also Lake Mazais, Lake Mazais Šķaunācītis). 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