

# THE ROUTE FOR THE STRONG



Download route in GPX format



Nr. 156 | 40 km

## Route

The route covers most of the territory of the protected landscape area "Veclaicene". It leads along the highest hillocks of the Alūksne Highland, picturesque lakes and many cultural and historical objects. The route crosses the Valdaja-Pskov-Riga gas pipeline, which was built in the 1970s, the A2 highway, whose origins can be traced back to 1859, and goes through three architecturally and historically different rural district centres.

## Direction of the route

Korneti – Lake Palpiers – Lake Eniķis – Jaunlaicene – Beekeeping Farm "Auguļi" – Lake Rūcu – Hen Hill (Vistas kalns) – Māriņkalns – Farm "Saltupji" – Dēliņkalns Hill – Priest's Manor (Mācītājmuiža) and Lake Mācītājmuižas – Organic Farm "Mauriņi" – Farmstead "Sapniši" – Shelter of Our Most Holy Lady Orthodox Church of Veclaicene – Gaigalņica Cemetery – Mišu Honey Museum – Lake Raipals – Laknu Watermill – River Pērlupīte – Lake Trumulītis

## Road surface

38% asphalt, 51% gravel, 11% forest paths

## Recommended time

May – October

## Length

~40 km

## Duration

~4,5 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

Blue cycle route signs with number 156

## 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

### Jaunlaicene Manor Museum

"Dravnieki", Jaunlaicene

+371 29356277

jaunlaicenesmuzejs@aluksne.lv

GPS: 57.5276, 26.8725

### Nature House at Lake Raipals

+371 25442335, +371 29130280

tic@aluksne.lv | www.visitaluksne.lv

GPS: 57.5825, 26.9927,

### Nature House at Lake Palpiers

+371 25442335, +371 29130280

tic@aluksne.lv | www.visitaluksne.lv

GPS: 57.5791, 26.8613

### Nature House at Lake Eniķis

+371 25442335, +371 29130280

tic@aluksne.lv | www.visitaluksne.lv

GPS: 57.5746, 26.8317

### 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

### Farmhouse "Jaunrēveji"

+371 29287581

aigars.stafeckis@gmail.com

GPS: 57.5253, 26.8519



Photo: Alvis Grīnēks



Photo: Linda Pastare



Photo: Linda Pastare

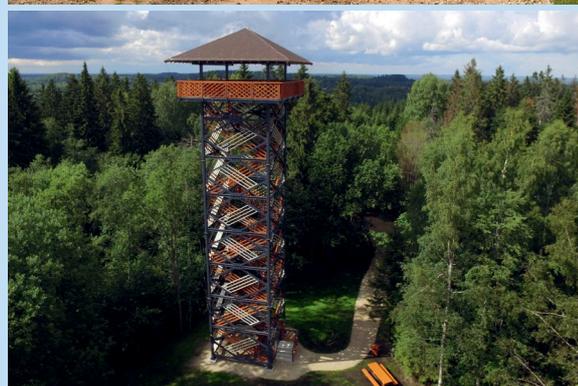


Photo: Alvis Grīnēks



Photo: Linda Pastare

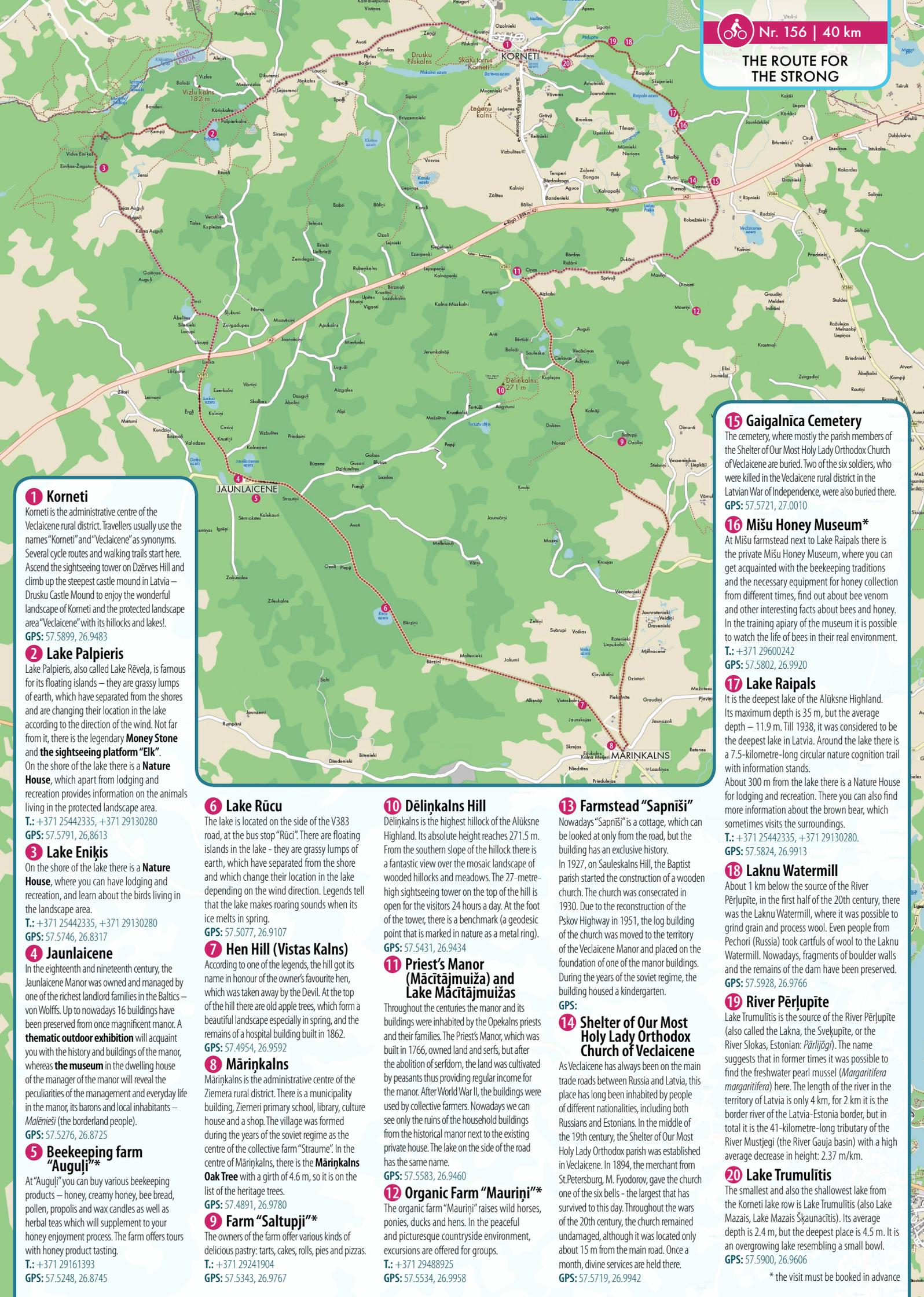


Alūksne Tourist Information Centre  
25A Pils Street, Alūksne,  
Alūksne region, LV-4301



Protected landscape area  
VECLAICENE





### 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 hills and lakes!

GPS: 57.5899, 26.9483

### 2 Lake Palpiers

Lake Palpiers, also called Lake Rēveļa, is famous for its floating islands – they are grassy lumps of earth, which have separated from the shores and are changing their location in the lake according to the direction of the wind. Not far from it, there is the legendary **Money Stone** and the **sightseeing platform “Elk”**. On the shore of the lake there is a **Nature House**, which apart from lodging and recreation provides information on the animals living in the protected landscape area.

T.: +371 25442335, +371 29130280  
GPS: 57.5791, 26.8613

### 3 Lake Eniķis

On the shore of the lake there is a **Nature House**, where you can have lodging and recreation, and learn about the birds living in the landscape area.

T.: +371 25442335, +371 29130280  
GPS: 57.5746, 26.8317

### 4 Jaunlaicene

In the eighteenth and nineteenth century, the Jaunlaicene Manor was owned and managed by one of the richest landlord families in the Baltics – von Wolffs. Up to nowadays 16 buildings have been preserved from once magnificent manor. A **thematic outdoor exhibition** will acquaint you with the history and buildings of the manor, whereas the **museum** in the dwelling house of the manager of the manor will reveal the peculiarities of the management and everyday life in the manor, its barons and local inhabitants – *Malēnieši* (the borderland people).

GPS: 57.5276, 26.8725

### 5 Beekeeping farm “Auguļi”\*\*

At “Auguļi” you can buy various beekeeping products – honey, creamy honey, bee bread, pollen, propolis and wax candles as well as herbal teas which will supplement to your honey enjoyment process. The farm offers tours with honey product tasting.

T.: +371 29161393  
GPS: 57.5248, 26.8745

### 6 Lake Rūci

The lake is located on the side of the V383 road, at the bus stop “Rūci”. There are floating islands in the lake – they are grassy lumps of earth, which have separated from the shore and which change their location in the lake depending on the wind direction. Legends tell that the lake makes roaring sounds when its ice melts in spring.

GPS: 57.5077, 26.9107

### 7 Hen Hill (Vistas Kalns)

According to one of the legends, the hill got its name in honour of the owner’s favourite hen, which was taken away by the Devil. At the top of the hill there are old apple trees, which form a beautiful landscape especially in spring, and the remains of a hospital building built in 1862.

GPS: 57.4954, 26.9592

### 8 Māriņkalns

Māriņkalns is the administrative centre of the Ziemeņa rural district. There is a municipality building, Ziemeņa primary school, library, culture house and a shop. The village was formed during the years of the soviet regime as the centre of the collective farm “Straume”. In the centre of Māriņkalns, there is the **Māriņkalns Oak Tree** with a girth of 4.6 m, so it is on the list of the heritage trees.

GPS: 57.4891, 26.9780

### 9 Farm “Saltupji”\*\*

The owners of the farm offer various kinds of delicious pastry: tarts, cakes, rolls, pies and pizzas.

T.: +371 29241904  
GPS: 57.5343, 26.9767

### 10 Dēļiņkalns Hill

Dēļiņkalns is the highest hillock of the Alūksne Highland. Its absolute height reaches 271.5 m. From the southern slope of the hillock there is a fantastic view over the mosaic landscape of wooded hills and meadows. The 27-metre-high sightseeing tower on the top of the hill is open for the visitors 24 hours a day. At the foot of the tower, there is a benchmark (a geodesic point that is marked in nature as a metal ring).

GPS: 57.5431, 26.9434

### 11 Priest’s Manor (Mācītājmuiza) and Lake Mācītājmuizas

Throughout the centuries the manor and its buildings were inhabited by the Opekalns 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

### 12 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

### 13 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.

GPS:

### 14 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

### 15 Gaigalnica 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

### 16 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

### 17 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

### 18 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

### 19 River Pērļupīte

Lake Trumulītis is the source of the River Pērļupīte (also called the Lakna, the Svekupīte, 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 Mustjegi (the River Gauja basin) with a high average decrease in height: 2.37 m/km.

### 20 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