



DRUSKU CASTLE MOUND NATURE TRAIL



Download route in GPX format



~1 h | 3.5 km

**Route**

**Trail for recreation and well-being.**

A walk with the challenge of climbing the steepest castle mound in Latvia, and receiving an award for it afterwards – scenic views and the opportunity to see the highest hill in the Baltics – Big Munamagi Hill (Estonian: *Suur Munamägi*). The Korneti Sightseeing Tower delights its visitors with picturesque views of the ancient valley and its lakes. At sunrise and at sunset this landscape provides a particularly romantic and unique atmosphere. Climbing the steep slopes and many steps will ensure both a lively spirit and strong cardiovascular system.

**Direction of the route**

Veclaicene History Depository – Lake Dzērves – Dzērves Hill and Sightseeing Tower – Drusku Castle Mound – Korneti Manor – Lake Ievas

<b>Road surface</b>	<b>Recommended time</b>
Forest roads, paths, asphalt and wooden stairs	Late April – October
<b>Length</b>	<b>Duration</b>
~ 3.5 km	~1 h

**Level of difficulty**

Moderately strenuous trail with steep slopes and stairs with a lot of steps

<b>Start point</b>	<b>Marking</b>
Parking place in the centre of Korneti at the Veclaicene Municipality Administration building GPS: 57.5901, 26.9480	A circular trail marked clockwise with orange rings

**Worth to know!**

Suitable trail running shoes are required to complete the route. Depending on meteorological and other conditions, there may be slippery trails, stairs and footbridges on certain sections of the route.

Everyone is responsible for their own safety during the route. Rescue services: 112  
Follow the principle "#Walking in nature. Leave no trace of your visit!"

**Service**

**Car and trailer parking place "Korneti"**  
**Self-service tourist information point**  
**Bezmaksas dzeramā ūdens uzpildes punkts**  
"Vaiņagi", Korneti, Veclaicene Parish,  
Alūksne Region  
GPS: 57.5899, 26.9480

**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: Ainars Gaidis



Photo: Linda Pastare



Photo: Linda Pastare



Photo: Linda Pastare



Photo: Linda Pastare



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



Protected  
landscape area  
VECLAICENE

www.veclaicene.lv



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tic@aluksne.lv | www.visitaluksne.lv

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## Korneti

Korneti is the administrative centre of the Veclaicene Parish. The locals use the names *Korneti* and *Veclaicene* as synonyms. Legend has it that the name *Korneti* may have originated from the crooked birch bark trumpets – horns used by the locals to communicate in the thick forests in ancient times. Several hiking and cycling trails start at Korneti.

GPS: 57.5899, 26.9483

### 1 Veclaicene History Depository

The historical Defenders' House (Latvian: Aizsargi – a paramilitary organisation in Latvia during the period between 1918 and 1939) houses the Veclaicene History Depository, which provides information about the history of Korneti and its surroundings, life on the Latvian–Estonian border and language peculiarities.

Ph. +371 29347398

GPS: 57.5894, 26.9476

### 2 Lake Dzērves, Lake Pilskalna and Lake levas

Streams of melting water under the ice sheets 10–15 thousand years ago formed deep depressions, and, after the melting of the ice, their lower parts became lakes with steep shores and great depths. Lake Pilskalna has the steepest shore (more than 60 m) of the 15 lakes which form a row of lakes.

GPS: 57.5883, 26.9421 GPS: 57.5884, 26.9189 GPS: 57.5898, 26.9537

### 3 Dzērves Hill and sightseeing tower "Korneti"

The highest point of Dzērves Hill is 203.5 metres above sea level. The 27-metre-high sightseeing tower "Korneti" on the top of the hill is open for visitors 24 hours a day. The tower provides an excellent possibility to enjoy the fantastic views both of the Alūksne Highland and the Haanja Highland in Estonia, the beautiful lakes of the Korneti–Pelji ravine, and, if the weather is good, it is even possible to see the highest hill in the Baltics – Big Munamagi Hill (*Suur Munamägi*) in Estonia.

GPS: 57.5902, 26.9395

### 4 Drusku Castle Mound

Drusku Castle Mound is the steepest castle mound in Latvia. Ernests Brasliņš, a researcher of castle mounds, has noted that the southern side of this castle mound is as steep as a roof (45°) and goes down to the lake for 90 metres. This is the only slope of its kind, so it surprises every visitor with its greatness. The panoramic view panel on the nearby Drusku Hill will help you understand which places you can see in the distance.

GPS: 57.5902, 26.9273

### 5 Korneti Manor (German: Schreibenshoff)

In the middle of the 18th century German barons chose the beautiful place between Lake levas and Lake Dzērves for the construction of the manor house. Nowadays we can see just the ruins of the ancient manor palace (5 decorative corner pillars of the building).

GPS: 57.5903, 26.9483