









Alūksne Tourist Information Centre
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www.visitalusne.lv
www.veclaicene.lv

Symbols used on the map

-  Cycle routes
-  Nature trails
-  Lodging
-  Swimming place
-  Trailer parking lot
-  Self-service tourist information points

Alūksne
Oļņkšua



VECLAICENE

INSPIRATION TRAVEL GUIDE
AROUND THE PROTECTED
LANDSCAPE AREA
"VECLAICENE"

Enjoy the hilly Veclaicene landscape dimbing the steep Drusku castle mound to admire the beautiful view of Munamägi Hill or watch the Baltic hillocks from the sightseeing towers on Dzērves Hill or Dēliņkalns while walking along the Kometi hiking trails or staying in the newly built Nature Houses.

The protected landscape area is one of the nine exclusive territories in Latvia. It is located in the Vedaicene, Jaunlaicene, Ziemera, Mārkalne rural districts of the Alūksne region and in the Ape region. It includes three nature reserves – “Dēliņkalns”, “Kometi-Pelji” and “Avotu mežs” with the total area of 20 892 hectares.

FOR NATURE AND RECREATION LOVERS

For those who love the symbolic landscape of Latvia, five recreation and information places – the Nature Houses – have been constructed in the territory of the protected landscape area “Veclaicene”. The Nature Houses are located at five beautiful lakes and each house provides information on a specific topic – waters, fishes, wild animals, birds and nature.



1 Nature House at Lake Vaidava

GPS: 57.5552, 27.1105

2 Nature House at Lake Raipals

GPS: 57.5824, 26.9913

3 Nature House at Lake Palpiers

GPS: 57.5791, 26.8613

4 Nature House at Lake Ilgājs

GPS: 57.5904, 26.8616

5 Nature House at Lake Eņiķis

GPS: 57.5746, 26.8317

Tel. +371 29130280, +371 25442335

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6 Drusku Castle Mound

One of the highest and steepest castle mounds in Latvia. It reaches the height of 247 meters above the sea level revealing beautiful landscape views of the Alūksne Highland and the highest hill in Estonia – Munamägi. Kometi, Veclaicene rural district

Tel. +371 29347398

GPS: 57.5902, 26.9273

7 Dēliņkalns Sightseeing Tower

To reach the highest hill of the Alūksne Highland, leave the Vidzeme Highway and turn into the local road V385 “Kaktiņi–Sauleskalns”, or drive from Alūksne through Māriņkalns following signs “Dēliņkalns”. The sight from the hill reveals picturesque mosaic landscape of meadows and wood-covered hillocks.

The height of Dēliņkalns is 271.5 m above the sea level. On the top of it, there is the 27-metre-high sightseeing tower, which is open for the visitors 24 hours a day.

Tel. +371 25442335

GPS: 57.5431, 26.9434



8 Sightseeing Tower “Kometi”

In the territory of the nature reserve “Kometi-Pelji”, on the top of Dzērves Hill, there is the 27-metre-high Kometi sightseeing tower. From its upper platform everybody can enjoy the beautiful views both of the Alūksne Highland and the Haanja Highland in Estonia, the picturesque nature, lakes, hillocks and farmsteads. The top of Dzērves Hill is 203.5 m above the sea level. Kometi, Veclaicene rural district

Tel. +371 29347398

GPS: 57.5902, 26.9395

9 Kometi-Pelji Glacial Valley

The valley is rich with 15 narrow and deep steep-slope lakes. It stretches in the length of 25 kilometres, and more than half of it (14 km) are in the territory of Latvia.

GPS: 57.5898, 26.9480



10 God's Hill

The hill rises 50 metres above the surrounding area. It is one of the few sacred hills on the top of which there are mysterious stones of culture and historical value which have been mentioned in several legends.

GPS: 57.5780, 26.9177



11 Māra's Footprint Stone

It is a 2.7-metre-long, 2.3-metre-wide and 0.7-metre-high stone with traces of fire on its surface. The stone is considered to have been an ancient pagan cult site.

GPS: 57.5780, 26.9177

12 Money Stone

3.6-metre-long, 3-metre-wide and 2.3-metre-high stone at Lake Palpiers. There are several legends about the stone and its location.

GPS: 57.5780, 26.8613

13 Grūbe Dolomite Rock Outcrop

Its total length is 115 m, and it is located on the 10-metre-high right bank of the river Vaidava below the Grūbe hydroelectric power station sluice. One of the highest waterfalls in Latvia has formed here crossing the layers of the dolomite rock and springs. The height of its two-level drop is 4.3 metres, but its width is 12 metres.

GPS: 57.5262, 26.7788

FOR CULTURE AUTHENTICITY SEARCHERS

14 Jaunlaicene Manor Museum*

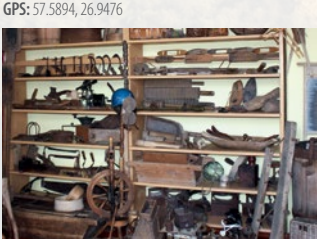
In the 18th and 19th centuries the owners of the Jaunlaicene Manor were the family of the German Barons von Wolffs. Nowadays the dwelling house of the manor manager is the museum, where one can find information about the buildings in the Jaunlaicene Manor, the management of and the everyday life in the manors of Vidzeme, about the barons and the local inhabitants – the Malēnieši. “Dravnieki”, Jaunlaicene, Jaunlaicene rural district

15 Veclaicene History Depository*

The History Depository is located in Kometi – the starting point of two nature trails – and it can be a relaxation place between walks in nature. It provides information on the nature and people in Veclaicene – their lives, their housekeeping traditions and their school years. Interactive games have been made there emphasising the historic Latvia-Estonia border as well as everyday life and language related to it. “Vaīņagi”, Kometi, Veclaicenes pagasts

Tel. +371 29347398

GPS: 57.5894, 26.9476



16 Mišu Honey Museum*

The privately owned apiculture museum that collects and renovates ancient beekeeping equipment and photographs, and studies historical evidences about beekeeping traditions in Latvia. “Mišas”, Veclaicene rural district

Tel. +371 26699005

GPS: 57.5802, 26.9920

17 Ziemera Manor*

First mentioned in recorded history in 1550, but since the 18th century the property of the Barons von Wolffs. The manor park was developed in the beginning of the 19th century. Today the manor is a private property, but it is possible to get acquainted with its architecture, park and history if the visit is reserved in advance.

Tel. +371 26003578

GPS: 57.53455, 27.0657

18 Opekals Evangelical Lutheran Church*



The church located the highest above the sea level in Latvia (235 m above the sea level). The divine services are still held there, so it is possible to see the interior of the church, climb its tower and get the information about its history.

Tel. +371 22415419, +371 28388894

GPS: 57.5497, 26.9037

19 Shelter of Our Most Holy Lady Orthodox Church in Veclaicene *

The building made of boulders and bricks was built between 1893 and 1895 and has been preserved through the wars up to nowadays. The divine services are still held there.

Tel. +371 26138592, +371 28373214

GPS: 57.5719, 26.9942

20 Jaunlaicene Barons' Cemetery and Chapel*

In 1814 the family cemetery was made for the Barons von Wolffs in Jaunlaicene. The chapel resembling a small gothic church was constructed between 1859 and 1865 according to the project of the architect Paul von Hardenak.

Tel. +371 29356277

GPS: 57.5317, 26.8551

FOR SEARCHERS OF SENSES

If you want to see an everyday life in a farmstead in Veclaicene vicinity or to relax and enjoy the beauty of a countryside, plan and book your visit, and come!

21 Anda's Workshop*

It produces organic textile, interior objects, accessories and souvenirs, as well as pillows and cushions filled with natural plants.

Tel. +371 26323341

GPS: 57.5626, 26.9248

22 Craftsmen Workshop “Aguce”*

There is a possibility to purchase hand-made, creative and original souvenirs, which will remind you about the trip in the protected landscape area “Veclaicene”.

Tel. +371 22413373

GPS: 57.5718, 26.9653

23 Beekeeping Farm “Augulj”*

The farmers collect and process healthy and ecologically clean bee honey products. You will have an opportunity to purchase honey, creamy honey, bee bread, pollen, propolis and wax candles here.

Tel. +371 29161393

GPS: 57.5248, 26.8745

24 Health Sauna “Jaunozoli”*

Improve your well-being and health with cosmetic massages and rituals under the guidance of the sauna expert. There is also a possibility to buy herbal teas and home-made syrups.

Tel. +371 29194805

GPS: 57.4915, 26.9854



25 Farm at “Bērzkalni”*

Provides possibility to purchase smoked meat products and sheep-wool products – pillows and blankets.

Tel. +371 26144379

GPS: 57.5508, 26.8680

26 Organic Farm “Mauriņi”*

Forget the everyday rush and relax in a real countryside bath, watch the natural landscape and the wild horses there.

Tel. +371 29488925

GPS: 57.5534, 26.9958

27 Farm “Mucenieki”*

On the picturesque shore of Lake Dzērves, there is an opportunity to get acquainted with the surrounding landscape together with a pony or having a ride in a horse-drawn cart. The hosts also offer accommodation facilities.

Tel. +371 26391443

GPS: 57.5861, 26.9441

28 Farm “Pauguri”*

The craftsman offers decorative and practical wooden things made on a lathe in a turning process. The things have preserved the natural tints and structure of a tree and will be useful for both big and small.

Tel. +371 26027823

GPS: 57.6001, 26.9336

29 Farm “Saltupji”*

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

Tel. +371 29241904

GPS: 57.5343, 26.9767

30 Organic Farm “Tortuži”*

The owners offer organic vegetables – potatoes, red beets, carrots, onions and eggs laid by “happy” hens.

Tel. +371 29443544

GPS: 57.5383, 26.9342

31 Farm “Purakalni”*

The owner is a carpenter, who also offers to taste or buy honey, apples, red and black currants, strawberries and carrots. He has also discovered the secret of the Jerusalem artichoke, making its final product – coffee.

Tel. +371 29441972

GPS: 57.5410, 26.7805

32 Farm “Jankas”*

Next to the historic Kometi highway, potatoes, garlics, red beets, carrots and other garden goodies are grown. It is also possible to buy fire wood here.

Tel. +371 29111730

GPS: 57.5491, 26.7425

33 Farm “Griezies”*

In the hilly Estonia borderland territory, various old sorts of apple trees and berry bushes as well as vegetables are grown: potatoes, onions, carrots, courgettes, pumpkins and beans. It is also possible to taste local dairy products here!

Tel. +371 28362469

GPS: 57.5537, 26.7477

34 Farm “Arāji”*

The farm popularizes skills of ancient crafts – bread baking on maple tree leaves kneading the dough in a real wooden kneading trough. While listening to the hostess's stories about the surroundings, there is also a possibility to learn the basics of belt weaving.

Tel. +371 26368675

GPS: 57.5251, 26.7960

35 Fish Hatchery “Krāces”*

Located in the bay of the impetuous river Vaidava, the hatchery provides an opportunity to get acquainted with the process of fish breeding and fishing. The host also offers you to cook and enjoy your catch in the recreation place right next to the hatchery.

Tel. +371 29355117

GPS: 57.5279, 26.7799

36 Sauna Procedures at “Upītes”*

The processes when a person blends with nature and oneself in the guidance of a professional sauna expert. A massage with wickers, volcanic or river stones.

Tel. +371 26302291

GPS: 57.5555, 26.9055



*The visit must be reserved in advance

FOR ADVENTURERS

Challenge yourself and take your family and friends with you in any of the five nature trails! Get acquainted with the rich and marvellous Veclaicene nature actively!



37 Drusku Castle Mound Trail (3,5 km)

The shades of the Kometi forest, ancient valleys with lakes, hillocks, the Kometi sightseeing tower and the nature of the bordering country – Estonia. Walking might be difficult when the weather is rainy.

The trail is marked in orange.

GPS: 57.5898, 26.9475

38 Lake Raipals Trail (7,5 km)

The trail winds along the picturesque shores of Lake levas, Lake Raipals, and Lake Trumulītis, visiting the Mišu Honey Museum on its way.

The trail is marked in green.

GPS: 57.5901, 26.9480

39 Health Route (2,5 km)

The trail with 10 specific exercises to make the hiker feel good. It is the short route of the Lake Raipals Trail, and it crosses the junction river Pērļupite of Lake Raipals and Lake Trumulītis.

The trail is marked in violet.

GPS: 57.5901, 26.9480

40 Pelji Trail (7,0 km)

A real challenge that starts at the Mežvīzlas homestead, leads into the Pelji glacial valley providing an opportunity to have a look at seven picturesque lakes and to visit the Pagan (Devils) land in Estonia. It is also possible to have a look at the Vorotka ancient stone pile burial site, the magnificence of the valleys and enjoy the refreshment of Lake Smlīšajs.

The trail is marked in red.

GPS: 57.5870, 26.8730

41 Ilgājs-Money Stone Trail (4,5 km)

Made in the Pelji valley, it gives an opportunity to have a look at the only island in Lake Ilgājs, enjoy the sight of the borderland landscape from Vizlu Hill and admire the historic Money Stone on the shore of Lake Palpiers.

The trail is marked in blue.

GPS: 57.5865, 26.8470

Provided GPS – starting points of the nature trails. In the borderland area an identity document is a must. Photos: Ainars Gaidis, Alvis Grīnīeks, Māris Šļivka

CYCLE ROUTES

Veclaicene is a great place for cyclists and those who enjoy the beauty of nature. Get acquainted with the surroundings of Veclaicene and challenge yourself in any of the seven cycle routes.



Cycle Route No. 150

Length: 15,5 km

Surface: 34% asphalt, 60% gravel, 6% meadows, forest paths

Level of difficulty: average

GPS: 57.5278, 26.8705

Cycle Route No. 151

Length: 12,6 km

Surface: 50% asphalt, 50% gravel

Level of difficulty: average

GPS: 57.5897, 26.9486

Cycle Route No. 152

Length: 10,6 km

Surface: 53% asphalt, 20% gravel, 27% meadows, forest paths

Level of difficulty: average

GPS: 57.5897, 26.9486

Cycle Route No. 153

Length: 14,5 km

Surface: 29% asphalt, 51% gravel, 20% meadows, forest paths

Level of difficulty: average

GPS: 57.5897, 26.9486

Cycle Route No. 154

Length: 12,6 km

Surface: 14% asphalt, 71% gravel, 15% meadows, forest paths

Level of difficulty: average

GPS: 57.5897, 26.9486

Cycle Route No. 155

Length: 21,8 km

Surface: 19% asphalt, 70% gravel, 11% meadows, forest paths

Level of difficulty: average

GPS: 57.5897, 26.9486

Cycle Route No. 6 (Tour de LatEst)

Length: 18,5 km

Surface: 16% asphalt, 62% gravel, 22% meadows, forest paths

Level of difficulty: average

GPS: 57.5897, 26.9486

Cycle Route No. 156

Length: 40 km

Surface: 38% asphalt, 51% gravel, 11% meadows, forest paths

Level of difficulty: difficult

GPS: 57.5897, 26.9486

FOR RECREATION AND HEALTHY SLEEP

Holiday House “Jaunrēveļi”

18, Tel. +371 29287581, +371 29205255

GPS: 57.5253, 26.8519

Holiday House “Saliņas”

6, Tel. +371 29443544

GPS: 57.5701, 27.0450

Holiday House “Ezerlīči”

10, Tel. +371 26186570

GPS: 57.5896, 26.9555

Guest House “Kalnarušķi”

60, Tel. +371 26594554

GPS: 57.5322, 26.8167

Holiday House “Melderī