



# PEĻĻI NATURE TRAIL



~3h | ~7km

Download route in GPX format

## Route

A real challenge for active nature trail walkers. The trail leads through the Peļļi-Korneti ravine carved by the melting glacial waters, along four lakes, which form a natural Latvian-Estonian border, and allows you to visit the part of Estonia which is called the Devil's Land. Along the route, it is possible to see the stone piles in the Vorotka Ancient Burial Ground and climb the Paganamaa Sightseeing Tower providing wonderful views of the Border Ravine with a row of lakes and Latvian hillocks on the other side of the lakes. The walk can be combined with swimming in Lake Ilgājs and Lake Smilšājs, searching for geocaches and spending the night in the Nature House at Lake Palpieris or Lake Ilgājs.

## Direction of the route

Lake Ilgājs – Vorotka Hill – Lake Sūneklis – Lake Smilšājs – Paganamaa Sightseeing Tower on Raadi Hill – Lake Peļļu – Lake Palpieris – Money Stone

## Road surface

Gravel roads, forest roads, paths and wooden footbridges

## Recommended time

Late April – October

## Length

~7km

## Duration

~3h

## Level of difficulty

Moderately strenuous trail with steep slopes

## Start point

Parking place before the homestead "Mežavizlas"

GPS: 57.5864, 26.8740

## Marking

A circular trail marked clockwise with red rings

## Worth to know!

At the border and when crossing the border, an identity document is required. 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!"

A part of the trail partly overlaps 3 other routes: the Study Trail 4.7 km (marking: white-red-white), the RMK

Perakūla-Aegviidu-Āhijārve hiking route 815 km (marking: white-green-white) and the 1050 km long Forest Trail (marking: white-orange-white)

## Service

### Car and trailer parking place "Korneti"

### Self-service tourist information point

### Bez maksas 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

### Nature House at Lake Palpieris

+371 25442335, +371 29130280

tic@aluksne.lv www.visitaluksne.lv

www.visitaluksne.lv

GPS: 57.5791, 26,8613

### Nature House at Lake Ilgājs

+371 25442335, +371 29130280

tic@aluksne.lv www.visitaluksne.lv

GPS: 57.5904, 26.8616



Photo: Sanita Pasa



Photo: Ainars Gaidis

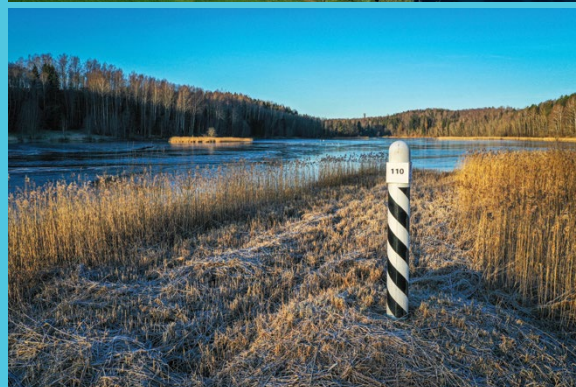


Photo: Ainars Gaidis



Photo: Māris Šņivka



Photo: Linda Pastare



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



Protected  
landscape area  
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## PELJI NATURE TRAIL



### The Pelji lake row

The Pelji (Estonian: *Piiriorg* – Border Ravine) lake row consists of 7 different size lakes – Lake Peļļu, Lake Smilšajs, Lake Süneklis, Lake Ilgäjs, Lake Kalekaurs, Lake Rencitis and Lake Bezdibens. The Pelji trail passes four of them.

#### 1 Lake Ilgäjs

Lake Ilgäjs (Estonian: *Kikkajärv* – Rooster's Lake) is the biggest of the four Pelji ravine lakes, and it resembles the digit 8 in shape. It is a public lake rich in fish. In the part of the lake which is in the territory of Latvia, there is a small island, but in the Estonian part of the lake from the northern side there is a peninsula with a 100-metre footbridge.

GPS: 57.5911, 26.8589

#### 2 Vorotka Hill

At the foot of Vorotka Hill, there is an Estonian national archaeological monument – Vorotka Ancient Stone Pile Burial Ground from the 11th–12th century (in some sources the 1st–2nd centuries are mentioned).

GPS: 57.5960, 26.8583

#### 3 Lake Süneklis

The River Peļļupite connects Lake Ilgäjs with Lake Süneklis (Estonian: *Sarapuujärv* – Hazel Lake). The Latvian name reflects the real nature of the lake well-described by poets – a moss-covered marsh. Estonians have chosen the name of the lake because of the hazels growing on its shores.

GPS: 57.5867, 26.8428

#### 4 Lake Smilšajs

Lake Smilšajs (Estonian: *Liivajärv*) has the clearest water if compared with the other lakes of the Pelji ravine (water transparency is 3.7 m). The Estonian-Latvian border can be crossed along a small footbridge over the flow between Lake Smilšajs and Lake Peļļu. The footbridge is made next to the historical iron border barriers and the existing border markers of both the countries.

GPS: 57.5843, 26.8382

#### 5 Paganamaa Sightseeing Tower on Raadi Hill

Paganamaa Sightseeing Tower on Raadi Hill was constructed in 2015. The 24-metre-high sightseeing tower provides a wonderful sight over the Pelji ravine and the row of four lakes. The tower is open for visitors 24 hours a day.

GPS: 57.5869, 26.8372

#### 6 Lake Peļļu

Lake Peļļu (Estonian: *Mudajärv* – Mud Lake) is a typical overgrowing lake with swampy shores. The overgrowth of the lake is also promoted by the active work of beavers. They build their dams on the Peļļupite thus reducing the water flow influencing the lake.

GPS: 57.5830, 26.8348

#### 7 Lake Palpieris

Lake Palpieris is famous for its floating islands which change their location in the lake when the direction of the wind changes. A brook flowing out from the south-eastern part of the lake runs to **Lake Bezdibenis** (Abyss Lake), which is 800 m further, and, according to the locals' stories, could be deeper than Lake Raipals.

GPS: 57.5790, 26.8628

#### 8 The Money Stone

The Money Stone is 3.6 m long, 3 m wide and 2.3 m high. Legend has it that Swedish soldiers hid their money – the army treasury under it.

GPS: 57.5780, 26.8613

### The Nature Houses

At Lake Ilgäjs and Lake Palpieris there are the Nature Houses – recreation and nature exploration stops. One of the stops tells about the history of the ravine formation, the other acquaints the visitors with the animals living in the surroundings.

GPS: 57.5904, 26.8616 GPS: 57.5791, 26.8613