

AROUND LAKE ALŪKSNE



Download route in GPX format



No. 129 | 22 km

Route

It is a 22-kilometre-long cycling challenge around Lake Alūksne, which is one of the highest lakes in Latvia, lying at 184 metres above sea level. Here, the lake and nature blend with the urban environment, thus on a bike ride you can enjoy each of them. The view will reveal all the islands of the lake – Castle Island (Latvian: *Pilssala*), which is a popular recreation place among the locals, Hat Island (Latvian: *Cepurīte*) and Long Island (Latvian: *Garā sala*), both shrouded in legends, the remote Net Island (Latvian: *Tīklu saliņa*), as well as the manors built on the shore of the lake and the park richest in small architectural forms in Latvia. The cycling can be combined with swimming or fishing.

Direction of the route

Alūksne Evangelical Lutheran Church – Castle Island – Temple Hill – Pine of Mellums – Lake Canal – Ruins of Lāzbergis Manor – Eel Weir – Kolbergis – Helen's Palace – Horse Watering Place – 7th Sigulda Infantry Regiment Monument – Alūksne Manor Park

Road surface

35% asphalt, 65% gravel

Length

22 km

Level of difficulty

Medium

Start point, finish point

Parking space at the Tourist Information Centre

GPS: 57.4251, 27.0484

Public transport

Buses from Riga, Smiltene, Cēsis and Rēzekne stop at Alūksne several times a day and the narrow-gauge train from Gulbene arrives at Alūksne twice a day (see the actual timetables at www.1188.lv and www.banitis.lv).

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

24/7 interactive tourist information kiosks

Parking space at 25A Pils Street, Alūksne

GPS: 57.4245, 27.0487

1 Ojāra Vācieša Street, Alūksne

GPS: 57.4241, 27.0527

Bicycle transportation, maintenance and repair

Ltd “Vidzemes velomeistars”, 18B Tirgotāju Street, Alūksne

+371 29360695

GPS: 57.4209, 27.0502

Ltd IG “Bicycles”, 24 Helēnas Street, Alūksne +371 29288370

GPS: 57.4260, 27.0377

Accommodation and meals

www.visitaluksne.lv

Recommended time

May – October

Duration

~2 hours

Marking

Marked in nature

Self-service bicycle repair stands

25A Pils Street, Alūksne

GPS: 57.4245, 27.0487

52 Jāņkalna Street, Alūksne

GPS: 57.4126, 27.0453

Bicycle rental

“Velo Osta”, 2A Ojāra Vācieša Street, Alūksne

+371 29133544

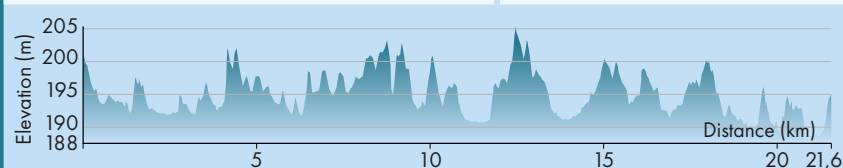
GPS: 57.4258, 27.0523

Ltd “Vidzemes velomeistars”,

18B Tirgotāju Street, Alūksne

+371 29360695

GPS: 57.4209, 27.0502



visit **Alūksne**
Ojāra Vācieša

Alūksne Tourism
Information Centre
1 Ojāra Vācieša Street, Alūksne,
Alūksne region, LV-4301

+371 29130280, +371 25442335
tic@aluksne.lv | www.visitaluksne.lv



Photo: Linda Klaviņa



Photo: Māra Saldabola



Photo: Māris Šļivka



Photo: Māris Šļivka



Photo: Linda Klaviņa



1 Alūksne Evangelical Lutheran Church

Start your bicycle ride around Lake Alūksne by admiring the lake from the 55.5-meter-high tower of the Alūksne Evangelical Lutheran Church. A wide oak staircase not characteristic of any other church in Latvia will lead you to the top of the tower. The church was built in the 18th century by one of the wealthiest Baltic noble families – the Vietinghoff family. A lot of interior details have been preserved in the church to this day.

T.: +371 26166178

GPS: 57.4251, 27.0484

2 Castle Island

Lake Alūksne has four islands and the largest of them – Castle Island – can be explored by bicycle. As the name of the island suggests, there is a castle on the island – the Alūksne Medieval Castle. In its renovated Southern Tower, you can listen to a musical tale “MARIENBURG the eight brother” about the history of the castle. In the summer, the island transforms into the epicentre of city life, offering a variety of water activities for relaxation by the water.

GPS: 57.4285, 27.0526

MARIENBURG the eight brother: +371 29149810

3 Temple Hill

The most beautiful view of the vastness of the lake opens from the highest point of Alūksne – the top of Temple Hill, where a granite rotunda was installed in 1807. Romantic melodies are played during the first 15 minutes of every hour on the bridge that connects Castle Island with Temple Hill.

GPS: 57.4323, 27.0585

4 Pine of Mellums

On the shore of the lake there is the largest pine in Alūksne, whose circumference reaches almost 5 meters – it is the ninth largest pine in Latvia. Due to its impressive appearance, it has gained cultural and historical significance. The stories tell that the pine was used both as a landmark when soldiers before shooting training on the shore of the lake hung a red ball in the tree to warn fishermen, and as a sacrificial site, because many people believed that the Pine of Mellums brings good luck.

GPS: 57.4430, 27.0517

5 Lake Canal

In order to protect the surrounding area from flooding in spring and promote fish spawning, in 1960, the Lake Canal connecting Lake Alūksne and Lake Dzilnas was built. It regulates the water level of the lake by channelling the water through the ditch system to the River Vaidava.

GPS: 57.4650, 27.0596



6 Ruins of Lāzberģis Manor

On the other side of Lake Alūksne, directly opposite the Alūksne Palace, once there was the palace of the Lāzberģis Manor built in the neo-Gothic style (1821–1860) by the noblemen von Wolff family. It seems that the owners of Alūksne and Lāzberģis manors were engaged in a peculiar competition for the most modern residence. Nowadays the building has partially collapsed, but the ruins of the once impressive palace can still be seen. The ruins can be observed from the road, as the building is located on a private property.

GPS: 57.4599, 27.1187

7 Eel Weir

More than 16 species of fish inhabit Lake Alūksne. One of the most interesting and unique is the eel. In the 1960s, on the only river that flows from Lake Alūksne – the River Alūksne, an eel weir was made for commercial eel fishing. The eels from Lake Alūksne have become a local delicacy. If you want to taste it, contact the company “Pirāta kūpinājumi”.

GPS: 57.4515, 27.1275

Pirāta kūpinājumi: +37129322625

8 Kolberģis

Kolberģis as a populated place originated around the 16th century, when the construction of manors began in the area. There were four well-managed manors in the parish that housed numerous livestock, several mills, sawmills, and distilleries. Since 1971, Kolberģis has been the centre of the Jaunalūksne Parish.

GPS: 57.4304, 27.0964

9 Helen's Palace

In the middle of the 19th century, the nobles chose this beautiful place on the shore of the lake for the construction of their summer manor. Helen, the wife of the last owner of the Alūksne Palace, Arnold von Vietinghoff, used to stay here during the sunny summer days. Nowadays, the building is managed by the Alūksne Forestry.

GPS: 57.4304, 27.0964

10 Horse Watering Place

Since the 17th century, there has been a branch of the Riga–Zeltiņi–Alūksne–Pskov highway along Lake Alūksne. In this section, there was a convenient place by the lake for watering the horses and for the relaxation of the travellers.

GPS: 57.4268, 27.0872

11 7th Sigulda Infantry Regiment Monument

The monument, from the elevation of which there is a wonderful view of Lake Alūksne, serves as a symbol of the national independence honouring the soldiers killed for the freedom of Latvia.

GPS: 57.4240, 27.0746

12 Alūksne Manor Park

On the shore of Lake Alūksne, between the town and the inner lake, there is a 19th-century manor park with the most extensive collection of trees and plantings in Vidzeme and with many small architectural forms. The Whispering Lantern awaits park visitors surprising and inviting everyone to go to the Mausoleum to discover the story of the creators of the park – the Vietinghoff family.

GPS: 57.4238, 27.0671