

Zemgale knows how to surprise

Hallo, travelers-cyclists! You have the map of cycling routes of Zemgale in your hands – a little guide offering nearly twenty new and already popular routes connecting both the most famous, and not so known, but therefore not less interesting tourist sightseeing objects in Zemgale!

These routes will describe you the region, where the main occupation of inhabitants have been farming since time immortal, and you will find there are good reasons to call Zemgale the granary of Latvia. However Zemgale will surprise the people, who think the landscape of plain in the middle part of Latvia is monotonous! Both admirers of history cultural heritage, and of untouched natural values will find a suitable route for travelling, experienced cycling enthusiasts, as well as people looking for route suitable to all family. Here you are welcomed by the largest and most magnificent castles in Baltic States, royal rose gardens and dizzy lilac gardens, nature parks and river valleys. Only in Zemgale you can observe still preserved and nearly untouched floodlands of Lielupe with profuse range of varieties of rare plants and species of migrating birds, scenes of dramatic drifting of ice during the spring flood, brightly yellow fields of rape and cornfields of blooming rye stretching away to the horizon.

"The great bicycle touring of Daugava," "Castles in the vicinity of Bauska," "Small towns of Selonia," "Around Lake Sauka" – doesn't this sound tempting? Choose the most pleasant route, polish the bicycles, and – see you in the spacious grounds of Zemgale!

We ask you to see the brochure "Guide of cycling routes. Zemgale region." to become acquainted with detailed layout of routes offering characterizing information of each route, its distance, recommended points of start and finish, road surface, sightseeing objects, recreation sites, as well as other kind of information important for cyclist!

Useful to know!

Public transport

Travelling around Zemgale on bicycle is significantly facilitated by the railway lines Rīga–Jelgava, Rīga–Ogre–Aizkraukle, Rīga–Krustpils, Rīga–Daugavpils, Rīga–Rēzekne–Zilupe, Rīga–Madona–Gulbene. Train cars marked with small symbol of bicycle are equipped with bicycle holders for more comfortable placing of bicycle during the ride on a train. See www.pv.lv for more information. Transportation of bicycles is not operated in commuter buses, so it is possible in special cases only by successful agreement with the bus driver.

Roads

The routes are basically heading along gravel roads with low traffic intensity. Changeable quality of road is possible in several routes and separate sections of roads, for example, in especially dry summer the cyclists may be unpleasantly surprised by the hated "ladder" and dust caused by passing drivers.

Be careful and ride reasonably along the asphalted sections – the closer to the city, the more intensive the traffic is! Use reflecting elements for your clothing and bicycle for safety purposes; moving in the dark time of the day, use torches.

Bicycle traffic infrastructure is slowly developing in cities, the main streets can be passed through safe bicycle roads, thus visiting also the tourism objects of the city.

Accommodation and tourism information

Staying in small guest houses and country tourist quarters you will enjoy the hospitality of the people of Zemgale and Selonia. Prices for the accommodation can fluctuate from L5 to L30 per person. In case of travelling in the summer season and looking for accommodation in the weekend, booking in advance is highly recommended. You can receive all the necessary information in Tourism information centers located in the largest cities – objects of sightseeing, places for having a meal and accommodation. Majority of Tourism information centers offers internet access, so you can check your e-mail and send greetings home.



Payments

Cash machines are installed in every city, and credit cards are accepted nearly in every shop, café and hotel. However, including in your cycling trip less populated areas, provision with cash is recommended. Outside the bigger cities – in small guest houses, campings and country houses, sightseeing objects and country markets only payments in cash are accepted.

Inquiries

For the conveniences of tourists official informative phone for tourists "Tourist Hotline" 1188 has been established. Unified free phone for emergency calls is 112! Official website of tourism of Latvia: www.latvia.travel

Tourism information centers

Auce Tourism Information Center
Raipa iela 14, Auce.
Phone: +371 63707226, 26460612,
turisms@domes.auce.lv

Bauska Tourism Information Center
Raiņķu iela 1, Bauska.
Phone: +371 63723797, 27746484,
tourinfo@bauska.lv,
www.tourism.bauska.lv

Dobele Tourism Information Center
Baiznīcas iela 6, Dobele,
+371 63723074, 26136682,
turisms@dobele.lv,
www.dobele.lv, www.zemgaletourism.lv

Jaunjelgava Tourism Information Center
Meeting house "Vigante", Staburags,
+371 65129033, 29391109, 28359337,
tipe@jaunjelgava.lv

Jelgava Tourism Information Center
Akadēmijas iela 1, Jelgava,
+371 63005447,
tici@tomis.jelgava.lv,
www.visit.jelgava.lv

Jēkabpils Tourism Information Center
Brīvības iela 140/142, Jēkabpils,
+371 65233822,
tici@jekabpils.lv,
visit.jekabpils.lv

Koknese Tourism Center
Melioratoru iela 1, Koknese,
+371 65161296, 29275412,
turisms@koknese.lv,
www.koknese.lv,
www.kokneseturisms.info

Plavinas Tourism Information Center
"Lepsalas", Klintaine parish,
+371 22009911,
plavina_tic@inbox.lv,
www.plavinas.lv

Skrīveri Information Center
A. Upīša iela 1, Skrīveri,
+371 28373530,
zigrida.sprukete@skriveri.lv,
www.skriveri.lv

Tērvete Nature Park Information Center
"Tērvetes sils", Tērvete,
+371 63726212, 26738535,
tervete@vm.lv,
www.mammadaba.lv

Museum of Viešīte "Sēlija", Tourism Information Center
+371 29116334, 65245549,
www.muzejiseliija.lv

EuroVelo in Latvia – www.eurovelo.org

Latvia is crossed by three EuroVelo routes –
EV10 "Baltic Sea Cycle Route",
EV11 "North Cape – Athens",
EV13 "Iron Curtain Trail"



When travelling along EuroVelo, we recommend additional ride along Zemgale region by using following connections.

From EuroVelo 11
Connection in Daugavpils to the Great Cycling Tour of Daugava;
Connection from Ergļi to Koknese along P79 (Koknese–Vecbebrī–Irsī–Ergļi) to the route of Daugava valley and the Great Cycling Tour of Daugava;
Connection in Sigulda along the route of *Tour de LatEst* to Kegums and the Great Cycling Tour of Daugava.

From EuroVelo 10 and 13
Connection in Rīga by using railway traffic to get to Jelgava and travel the routes 01 to 08 or by using railway line Rīga–Daugavpils to travel the routes 09 to 18.

From EuroVelo 10
Connection in Birži along the national connection Birži–Ragana–Krimulda–Turaida/Sigulda, followed by the route of *Tour de LatEst* to Kegums and the Great Cycling Tour of Daugava.





Map of cycling routes

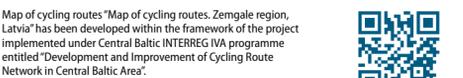
Zemgale region, Latvia



WE RECOMMEND:
See brochure "Guide of cycling routes. Zemgale region, Latvia" available in tourism centers of Latvia for more information on routes in Zemgale.



Publisher: **Zemgale Planning Region**
2b Katolu Street, Jelgava, Latvia, phone: +371 63027549, fax +371 63084949
zpr@zpr.gov.lv, www.zemgale.lv
The map contains photographs taken from the photo archives of municipalities, tourism information centers, museums of Zemgale and Selonia, as well as J. Vecbārdis, etc.
Prepared by: "Karsu izdevniecība Jāņa sēta Ltd.", www.kartes.lv



01 | Castles in the vicinity of Bauska ~ 30 km

Bauska – Mežotne – Pilsrundāle – Bauska

Cycling route connects three castles located in the vicinity of Bauska and heads in the territory of Bauska nature park along River Lielupe. Riding along this route should be performed between May and October, since the pontoon bridge over River Lielupe by Mežotne Castle is winterized; therefore – if you come in early spring or late fall, please, contact with Mežotne Castle to clarify, if the small bridge is available. The route is satiated with sightseeing objects therefore the ride should be planned as a full day trip.



* The older part of **Bauska castle** is a fortress of Livonian Order built in the 15th century for use of firearms, but the newer part is residence – type castle fortified by bastions, protecting walls and ground bulwarks, built at the end of the 16th century. Castle is located on a strip of land between the rivers of Mūsa and Mēmele. Order – castle has remained as romantic ruins till nowadays, but the residence section has been refurbished and it hosts The Museum of Bauska castle. www.bauskaspils.lv

* **Rundāle castle** is one of the most excellent architecture and art monument of baroque and rococo in Latvia. The castle was built from 1736 to 1740 as the summer residence for Kurzeme duke Ernst Johann Biron, the favourite of the Empress of Russia Anna Ioanovna. Renovation of the "French garden" designed by F.B. Rastrelli is heading to the end, and this includes the largest garden of historic ruins in the North-Eastern Europe. www.rundale.net

* **Mežotne castle** is one of the most beautiful classicism castles in Latvia presented by the Empress of Russia Catherine II to the teacher of her grandchildren princess Charlotte von Lieven. Restored parade interiors can be viewed and walk in the landscape park on the bank of River Lielupe is possible here. Hotel with 19th century furniture, restaurant and conference rooms are established in the castle. www.mezotnespils.lv

02 | Rich Zemgale ~ 80 km

Bauska – Brunava – Jaunsaule – Skaistkalne – Ozolaine – Vecsaule – Bauska

This route is rich in sightseeing objects, it allows familiarizing Zemgale and its residents. The road is winding along Mēmele from Bauska to Skaistkalne, but presence of the river behind the corn fields and meadows can be just sensed. This route is more suitable for two day trips to have some time for closer familiarization with sightseeing objects and conversations with the local people. Skaistkalne is located in borderland therefore tourists here must hold passports or identification cards.



* **Skaistkalne** – beautiful place in the very borderland of Lithuania, on the bank of scenic Mēmele. The mightiest Catholic Church in Zemgale is located here, as well as the Church of the Holiest Virgin Mary's Assumption into heaven, built by the Jesuit Order in 1692; in addition the Order arranged the building in unusual baroque luxury, uncommon for Latvia at that time. This is the most important center of Catholic faith in Zemgale and Latvia.

* Visiting of Latvian country yard with collection of ancient tools is possible in the **open-air museum "Ausekļu dzimnava"**, as well as trying of skills in different farming works and watching of the ancient machinery in operation. Sowing and harvesting celebration with demonstrations of ancient farming works involving visitors takes place in the museum every spring and fall. www.ausekludzimnavas.lv

03 | The memorial sites of Kārlis Ulmanis 35–38 km

Dobele – Miltiņi – Šķībe – Bērze – Lejasstrazdi – Dobele

This route will be chosen the people interested in history of Latvia, and the main stop points of this route are the memorial places of Kārlis Ulmanis. Usual landscape of Zemgale is typical for this route – open spaciousness foreseeable far away to the very horizon with separate cluster of forest or country house, fruitful corn fields, yellow blooming rapeseeds, gravel road without any ascents.



* **Memorial museum of Kārlis Ulmanis "Pikšas"**. Museum in the renovated family home of the first prime minister of Latvia K.Ulmanis "Pikšas" was opened in 1993. It was established as a modern country yard of the 30-ies of the 20th century characterizing the development of agriculture in Latvia at that time. Exposition is dedicated to the course of life of K.Ulmanis, contribution to the state and political activity. www.piksas.lv

* **Bērze mill** is one of the rare still operating mill in Latvia. Here you can familiarize yourselves with corn processing technologies over 100 years old and operating on the power of water. Vicinity of the mill and dam on Bērze are also interesting. +371 26439106, appointment required.

04 | Around Lake Zebraus ~ 20 km

Recreation base by Lake Zebraus – Biksti – Lake Svēte – Slagūne graveyard – Recreation base by Lake Zebraus

Vicinity of Lake Zebraus will surprise with hilly landscape and winding roads. This is not a landscape typical for Zemgale, because the road winds over rampart hills and this requires certain physical effort. The route discovers to the cyclists different cult and legend sites in the vicinity of Zebraus lake, as well as allows spending an active day outdoors. The route may be extended up to Pokajni forest.



* **Lake Zebraus** is geographically located in the highland of Eastern Kursa. Its acreage is 412 ha, maximum depth – 4.2 m. Witter Kārlis leviņš has called Zebraus lake a legend lake. Eastern coast of the lake is more accessible, and several recreation bases, campings and swimming places are established on the coasts of the lake.

* **Pokajni forest**. Unusual stone rivers, stackings and ramparts have caused fantastic guessworks and conflicting assumptions. Pokajni is considered an energetically powerful place. Forest is also attractive with the variable relief and landscaping. The walkways several kilometers long connect the main sightseeing objects.

05 | Cycling circle of Tērvete Nature Park ~ 13 km

Information center – Plavnieki – Tērvete water course – Kaupēna mill – Tērvete sanatorium – Playground and Fairytale forest – Information center

Cycling route is easy to ride and exciting both for those enjoying the natural landscapes, and for those researching the history cultural heritage. It is also suitable for families with children



* **Tērvete Nature park** attracts its visitors with scenic forest stands, unique Old pine tree park and the fairytale world of Latvian writer Anna Brigādere. The favourite objects in the park are Fairytale forest, Playground and Rūķišu forest, where over 100 wooden sculptures and formations are located. Alive characters of fairytales: family of gnomes, Little witch of the pine forest, Princess, Miser and Spridītis warmly welcome everybody during the summer season.

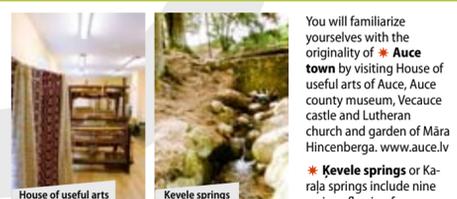
* **Tērvete water course** wonderfully complements the landscapes of park, there are three islands in the lake favoured by the water birds. The water course is rich in fish, comfortable fishermen's footbridges and small swimming places are established here. Boats and water bicycles are available for rent, as well as recreation houses, camping sites, outhouses, recreation and fire sites, sports field.

It is possible to include also the nearby museums and semigallians' castle mounds in the route. * **Museum-house of the outstanding Latvian writer Anna Brigādere "Spridīši"** is located next to Tērvete Nature park. On the opposite side of the road * **Tērvete History museum** has been established in the recently built castle of semigallians. Its exposition includes one of the largest collections of imitations of semigallian decorations in Latvia, clothes and weapons.

06 | Vicinity of Auce 30 km

Auce – Ķevele springs – Losbergi – Zuši – Lielauce – Auce

This route will be a real enjoyment for the patient and physically tough ones, since every next hill is followed by at least another one, and every ridden kilometer opens more beautiful views. Initial section of the route is very scenic, but physically a little hard. Lielauce and Auce at the final section of the route with the sightseeing objects of nature and cultural history will be just like a dessert to be enjoyed after active ride.



You will familiarize yourselves with the originality of * **Auce town** by visiting House of useful arts of Auce, Auce county museum, Vecauce castle and Lutheran church and garden of Māra Hincenberga. www.auce.lv

* **Ķevele springs** or Karaļa springs include nine springs flowing from a deep ravine. It is assumed that water of every spring is with its specific taste and power to heal certain disease. Legend tells that Swedish king Carl XII was healed with spring water, and that is how the name was originated.

07 | Borderland of Auce and Saldus Counties – manors and castles ~ 60 km

Auce – Vitiņi – Priedula – Vadakste – Ruba – Ezerkrogs – Jaunauce – Ķevele – Vecauce – Auce

Route along low intensity gravel roads heads via Auce and Saldus counties, familiarizing with manors and castles in both counties. The route will allow enjoying the landscape of borderland of Latvia and see the open country of Lithuania over river Vadakste. Large part of manors surprises with the tidiness and well-considered tourism offer.



* **Vecauce castle** has been built in pseudo-gothic style for earls Mēdemi between 1842 and 1845, it is surrounded by park of 13 ha acreage. Currently the castle is operated as tourism and culture center. Admission fee required. www.vecauce.lv

* **Jaunauce manor-house** was built at the beginning of the 19th century in the Empire style. The only authentic painting of cupola in classicism style in Latvia has been retained there, as well as oven collection of the beginning of the 19th century. Landscape park in 7.7 ha acreage is stretching by the manor, and an unusual pond with channel or fish tank can be found there. Admission fee required. www.jaunaucespils.lv

08 | From Jelgava to Tērvete 70 km

Jelgava – Svēte – Zālenieki – Tērvete – Glūda – Jelgava

Cycling route in the territory of Jelgava city heads along built cycling paths, outskirts of the city offers enjoying of the charming plains of Zemgale, but every cyclist will be surprised of the hilly relief untypical for the plain of Zemgale in the vicinity of Tērvete. Route is recommended to the cyclists preferring asphalt roads and not objecting against comparatively intensive vehicle flow the road to be shared with.



* **Tower of Jelgava St. Trinity Church**. History expositions of the Tower allow to find out more information about the first presidents of the State of Latvia originated from Zemgale, to get acquainted with Jelgava from the prehistory till nowadays, take a virtual walk in the former St. Trinity Church and find out about the creation of national ornaments and what ornaments can be found in the national costume of Zemgale. Watching panorama of Jelgava to all sides is possible from the viewpoint located on the 9th floor of the tower. Tower of Jelgava St. Trinity Church is open every day. Admission fee is required. Akadēmijas iela 1, +371 63005447, www.tornis.jelgava.lv

* **Svēte bakery** offers opportunity for small groups to get acquainted with the pace of baking traditional bread and work of small bakery. A small shop is located next to the bakery, where fresh, delicious bread and confectionery can be bought. +371 29235332

* **Zālenieki manor** or Green manor is the pride of Jelgava County. The manor was built in 1768 in accordance with the design by the known architect S. Jensen. Currently Zālenieki Professional secondary school is located in the manor, excursion for the visit of manor can be booked here. Landscaped park and nature path are located next to the manor. +371 63074250

* **Tērvete Nature park** is one of the most beautiful nature, history and culture objects in Latvia, perfectly suitable for families with children.

09 | Cycling route of Daugava valley ~ 40 km

Skriveri – Klīdzīņa – Daugava valley – LUA Agricultural institute – Aizkraukle castle mound – Aizkraukle – Bīlstiņi – Koknese – Garden of Destiny

Excellent cycling route for the familiarization of Daugava valley connecting three cities by River Daugava – Skriveri, Aizkraukle and Koknese, visiting of which will require additional time. All these cities are connected by railway line, thereby railway traffic can be conveniently used for route planning and travelling around this region on bicycle. Landscapes of Daugava valley can be enjoyed in the section between Skriveri and Aizkraukle, as well as performing descent down to River Daugava with one section of the route passing it. Section between Aizkraukle and Koknese is also an alternative for avoidance of the highway with high-intensity traffic.



* **"Skriveru saldumi"** is a company producing the popular sweets "Skriveru gotiņa". Candy workshop offers familiarization with the history of creation of "Gotiņa", wrapping up of your own sweets, as well as purchase of fresh, natural sweets right from the factory.

* **Aizkraukle castle mound** is located on the right bank of River Daugava, by the estuary of river Ašķere and raises approximately 40 m above the level of River Daugava. There are two spots on the castle mound, smaller of them is located on the east, the other one, twice bigger – on the west.

* **Plaviņas HES**. History of Aizkraukle city was started off by the building of Plaviņas HES in the 60-ies of the 20th century. Currently Plaviņas HES is the largest HES on River Daugava, and both banks of the river are connected via Plaviņas HES by the only tunnel of suck kind in Latvia.

* **Koknese castle ruins**. The masonry castle built by the bishop Albert in 1209 was blown in 1701 during Northern War, and later on in 1917 it was not renovated. The castle ruins were located on an approximately 37 high hill until 1966, but now, after flooding of Plaviņas HES water course the water reaches foundations of the masonry.

* **The Garden of Destiny** is our common present for Latvia on its 100th birthday. Emerging amphitheatre is accessible via valley of apple-trees and multiple paths, and from the view terrace landscapes of River Daugava can be viewed.

10 | Cycling route from "Liepkalni" ~ 13 km

"Liepkalni" – Stukmaņi – Klīntaine – Stukmaņi – "Liepkalni"

The most important stops are Stukmaņu muiža and recreation sites on the bank of River Daugava. Active ride can be followed by a meal in café "Liepzeme" or a picnic with freshly baked hot bread in any of the recreation sites on the peninsula. Combining the bicycle ride with one hour excursion on the viking barge "Lāčplēšis", shopping in the store of bakery "Liepkalni" (degustation available by notification in advance) and the souvenir shop "Latvju spīķeris" offering goods produced in Latvia will result in unhurried holiday enjoying local products and landscapes of River Daugava. Rides on figured sledge along the coast of River Daugava are offered during winter season.



* **Stukmaņu muiža** can be viewed from outside only.
* **Rocky banks of River Daugava**.
* **"Latvju spīķeris"** – exhibition hall offering exhibition of photographs "Daugava before flooding"; souvenirs and goods produced in Latvia.
* **Viking barge "Lāčplēšis"** – excursions along River Daugava under guidance of guide (booking recommended).

11 | Small towns of Selonia ~ 95 km

Gārsene – Akniste – Nereta – Lone – Viesīte

Familiarization with Selonia should be planned for duration of several days, and these days will definitely remain in memory as some of the most adorable holidays. Landscape, hospitality and sincere simplicity of local people are the factors taking away the breath in Selonia. Cycling route is suitable for experienced cyclists, not frightened of high mileage and planning their cycling trips without assistance. The route can be completed in two days, and the start should be planned individually.



* **Gārsene**. Gārsene manor castle was built around 1856 in neo-Gothic style, and currently a school is located in the building. Gārsene manor is surrounded by legends and stories, and the castle offering accommodation for tourists is a place for walk of Zīlā dāma (Blue lady). Manor park is stretching by the castle, and several walk and cognitive trails of 7.1 km length with established recreation and fire sites start right there. **Family vault of barons' family and Gārsene church** are located near the castle. +371 65229643, 29490656

* **Viesīte**. 67 passenger cars ran on the narrow-track railway lines in the heydays. Now here, in one of the buildings of the former car depot **narrow-track train and exposition of Viesīte railway museum** can be viewed. Nearby here Viesīte **museum "Sēlija"** is located, as well as center of art and craft. **Memorial exposition of professor P.Stradiņš, Brīviņas church** are located here, exhibitions can be viewed in **Culture Centre**. +371 291116334, 65245549, www.muzejsseija.lv

* **Akniste**. While visiting Akniste you can stop by **Saltupe cult spring** – ancient cult site. Sightseeing objects in the town include also **Akniste Catholic church** (1937) and the gate built of red bricks remained from the old church. **Seļu park** which is studied Selonian fortress is located next to the church. **Museum of Regional Studies of Akniste** kindly welcomes everybody who is interested in history, traditions, culture and remarkable people of Selonia. +371 26436978, 29141412

12 | Around Lake Sauka ~ 25 km

Lone – Sauka – Borišu hill – Lone

Landscape of Lake Sauka is justifiably called the most typical one for Selonia – winding roads, hills, scenic views. Cycling route was developed several years ago, and scenically it should be assessed as one of the most attractive ones in Selonia and Zemgale. The route is averagely hard, since less experienced traveler will be "worm" by the hills of Selonia following one by one, and occasionally the quality of road can be changeable. Local farms of country tourism offer bicycles for rent.



* **Lake Sauka** is located in the southern part of Selonia hill. This is the largest lake in Zemgale and the 15th largest lake in Latvia. Swimming places and recreation sites are arranged along the coast line of the lake, and the beautiful nature landscape can be watched from Ormaņkalna viewpoint. www.saukasdabasparks.lv

* **Ormaņkalns** is the highest point of Selonian hill and one of the main objects in Sauka nature park. It is located at average 165 m above sea level. Beautiful view to Lake Sauka and forests of Selonia opens from the viewpoint.

13 | Pedal your way through Jēkabpils County ~ 55 km

Līvāni – Zasa – Jēkabpils

It is easy to reach the start of the route by railway. The ride can start in the railway station of Krustpils or Līvāni. Trip on a ferryboat over River Daugava will worth an adventure! This is one of only three operating ferries in Latvia. Have a rest in the middle of the route – in Zasa village, Selonia, take a breath, have a walk in Zasa manor park and definitely visit craft center "Rūme". The route should be planned as a day trip.



* **Craftsmen** are managing in the craft center "Rūme", where they make clay dishes, decorations and other products. This is a place, where every interested person will be welcome not only to view, but also to involve in activities, learn new skills and have a good time in creative atmosphere. +371 26239304, www.rume.lv

* **Latgale Art and craft center in Līvāni** – oasis for those who want to get acquainted with the history of the craft of Latgale and its development till nowadays. Offer consists of constant craft exposition, creative workshops, water gallery. Domes iela 1, Līvāni, +371 65381855, 28603333, www.latgalesamatnieki.lv

* **Ferry Līvāni–Vandāni**
Vandāni, +371 26808760
Open V–X 7:00–21:00, XI–IV 17:00–19:00

14 | Cycling route of Sala County 18 km

Pulpiņi – Babrāni – Ķīpu kalns – Stūrāni – Gretes – Selonia – Sēlpils church ruins – Vecsēlpils – Pulpiņi

The scenic cycling route along hills of Selonia has been developed to head through one of the circles of River Daugava and further along roads with low intensity traffic, showing to the cyclists the steep banks of River Daugava or leading up to a higher castle mound and allowing enjoy the landscape around. Boats for getting to the other side of River Daugava can also be hired here – from Likumi to Plaviņas and from Zvejnieklīcis to Stukmaņi.



* **Zvejnieklīcis** is an open-air venue by River Daugava with a view to Sēlpils castle mound, where Sēlpils town stood at the beginning of the 16th century. Open-air stage, sport fields and playgrounds have been established. You can go for a walk along Love path by the bank of River Daugava. Suitable location for cyclists for a picnic and break.

15 | Laukezers Nature Park 15–20 km

Zilāni – Ļamāni – Tiznūži – Kondrāti – Ildzenieki – Spēles – Zilāni

Tracing of 15 – 20 km long cycling route was developed for the purpose of familiarization with Laukezers nature park, protective nature territory of NATURA 2000. Start and finish of the routes should be planned in Zilāni located approximately 5 km from Jēkabpils.



* **Relief** of the territory of **Laukezers nature park** is especially hilly. The territory is surrounded by pine forests. Steep, woody slopes are located along the coast of Laukezers. The scenic vicinity of nature park is attractive for the nature watchers in all seasons, landscape forest roads and small country roads will be a special enjoyment for cyclists inspired by trips at nature. Separate sections of the route have been marked.

16 | Ātašiene cycling route 20–24 km

Railway station "Ātašiene" – Ātašiene – Rijnieki – Eiduki – Zalāni – Agrārbanka – Railway station "Ātašiene"

The cycling route has been developed to get acquainted with the vicinity of Ātašiene, and this route is reachable also by railway line Rīga – Zīlupe. While visiting Ātašiene the travelers are called to visit the magnificent manor on the coast of Marīnēja lake, return to the past with a ride in any of the retro vehicles, enjoy the country products and the blooming country landscape.



* **Collection of retro motorcycles and ancient uniforms** offers opportunity to get acquainted with retro motorcycles, a few of them can be switched on and rode on, to try on the original uniforms of former armies, and take pictures using retro equipment. +371 26470730

* **Building of Marīnēja manor** with park. The manor with partly retained household buildings built in the middle of the 19th century by the earl Jozefs von der Borhs is the only manor ensemble built in classicism style in Krustpils county. Park of combined English and French style is located next to the manor. Recreation site and swimming place have been established by the nearby Marīnēja lake. +371 29508043, 65228355, 65228357

17 | Jēkabpils' Radži water course and Sala County 35–38 km

Around Radži water course – P76 – Sala – Indrāni – Gustiņi – Sala – Radži water course

Route connects Radži water course, a popular recreation site for residents of Jēkabpils, with several sightseeing and tourism objects in Sala county. The most active cyclists can visit Saka Island by riding additional 12 km. Route can be combined with other routes of Jēkabpils and vicinity in Laukezers nature park and Ātašiene (see routes 15 and 16).



* **Jēkabpils forest park** is the most popular, the most spacious and most visited recreation site in the city. There are playgrounds, beach volleyball and street-ball fields, and walk paths in the park. Forest park is located on the coasts of Radži water course having been granted the Blue flag. Licenced fishing is allowed in Radži water course (www.jekabpils.lv). Water inventory is available for rent in the recreation base "Radži" located on the coasts of the water course, and sport fields, swimming place, as well as facilitated recreation sites are also available. Paintball field has been established in the nearby forest.

* **Excursion in the bakery "Dona"**. The main business directions of the company are production of bread and confectionery. +371 29106779, www.dona.lv

* **Society "Aktīvs Sala"** offers fishing, boating, paintball, bicycle rent. "Zemgāli", Sala parish, +371 29252519, www.aktivsala.lv

18 | The great bicycle touring of Daugava 190 km

Daugavpils – Ilūkste – Dviete – Dignāja – Laši – Sala – Selonia – Robežkrogs – Staburags – Sece – Sērene – Jaunjelgava – Pumpuri (Daugaviēši) – Kegums

The main attachment of the route is River Daugava. The route is not oversaturated with history cultural objects and tourism products, this will be sooner a kind of pilgrimage along the destiny river of Latvia. The route is heading along less populated left bank of River Daugava, however the cycling trip allows visiting of the cities located on the right bank of River Daugava – Jēkabpils, Plaviņas, Koknese, Aizkraukle, Skriveri. This route will be more suitable for experienced cyclists, used to ride long distances, however less experienced cyclists are also welcome to test their skills, carefully planning the distances and organizing accommodation, as well as using ferries.

Cyclists can cross River Daugava not only over the bridges and HES located in Salaspils, Kegums, Aizkraukle, Jēkabpils and Daugavpils, but also by using ferries and the boat traffic provided by the local tourism businesses. Ferries in Vandāni and Dunava operate on regular basis, and no appointment is necessary, however, if you want to cross River Daugava by boat or a small passenger ship, booking in advance is definitely required, as well as agreement on price.



Ferries and boat piers and the nearest railway stations:

* **Ferry Vandāni–Līvāni**, during the season 7.00–21.00, railway station "Līvāni", +371 26808760

* **Ferry Dunava–Stūrīši**, during the season 7.00–21.00, railway station "Jersika".

* **Motorboat "Vigante"**, +371 29122684, Staburags, Vigante park (the most convenient ferry – from Staburags to the end of Riteri road by River Daugava), railway station "Alotene".