

## Miķeļtornis – Sīkrags

### Destination – Slītere National Park




Starting from Miķeļtornis up to the turn towards the cable bridge over the Irbe River, a wide beach with low, sparse foredunes lays before your eyes. For ~ 4,5 km, the itinerary goes around the estuary of the Irbe River where a seasonal closure is in force in order to protect nesting birds and where it is forbidden to enter from 01.04. to 15.07. By taking a detour, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route passes through a beautiful pine forest with high dunes the slopes of which are rich with mushrooms and berries. After passing the estuary of the Irbe River and as far as Sīkrags village, you will find a stretch of wide sandy beach and ~ 1 km before reaching Sīkrags you will see the Ķikans brook crossing the beach and marking the border of the Slītere National Park.



## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

19 km  6–8 h

 Centre of Miķeļtornis Village next to the Lutheran church

 Sīkrags , opposite the beach

 Miķeļtornis – Lielirbe – Jaunciems – Sīkrags

 Easy



Sandy beaches, forest trails (in some places, loose sand).



The Ķikans brook that you can wade across during low water. During high water, you can use the bridge located 0,5 km away from the sea.



None.



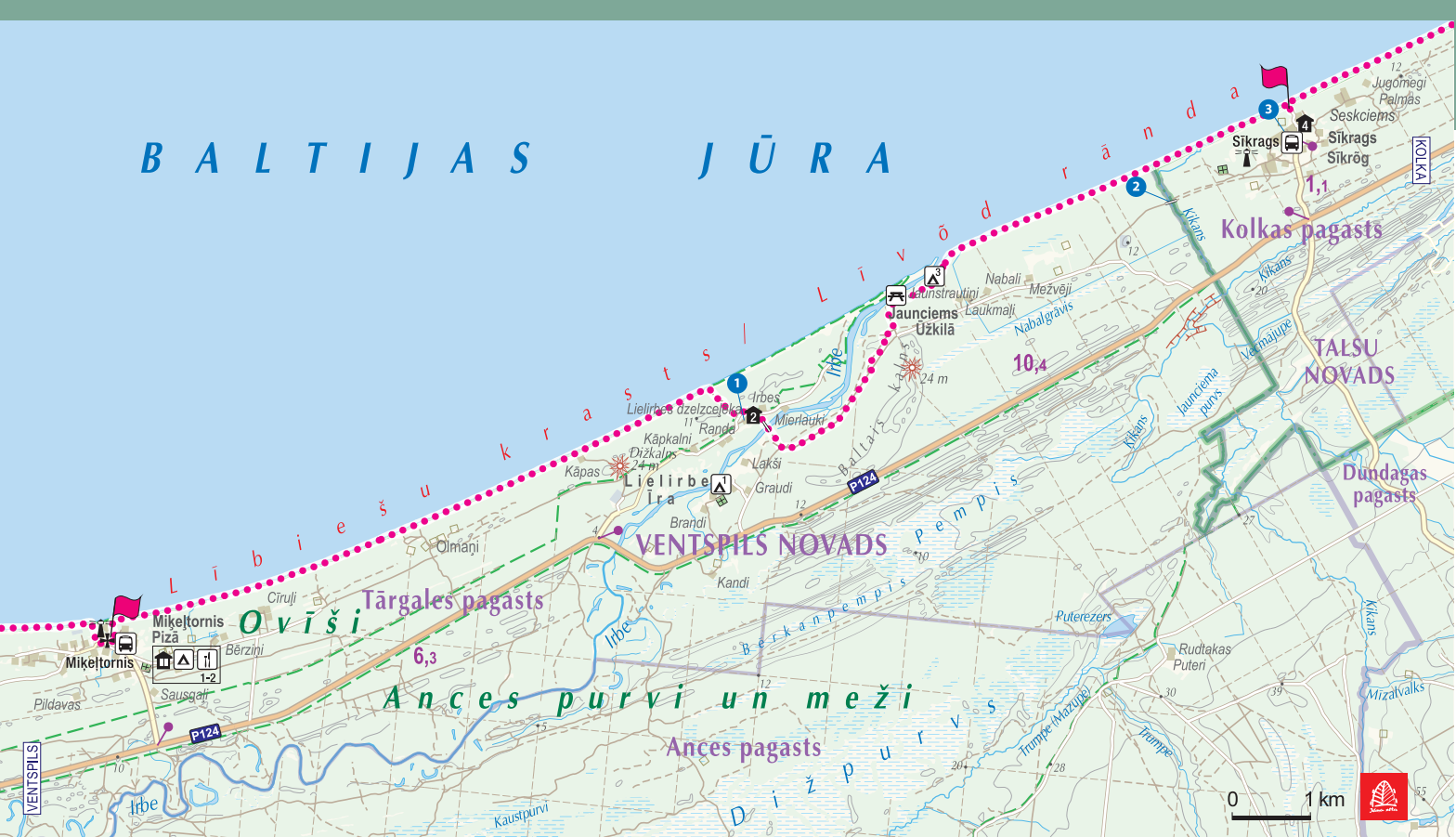
A seasonal closure is in force at the estuary of the Irbe River (the territory around its mouth). Entering the territory

is prohibited from 01.04. to 15.07. No shops are available between Ventspils (Pārventa District) and Mazirbe.



A lonely forest road stretches through the forest and alongside the seacoast between Miķeļtornis and the Irbe River, Lielirbe village and Sīkrags village in the place where there used to be a narrow-gauge railway line connecting Mazirbe and Ventspils. It can be used in bad weather.

# BALTIJAS JŪRA



## WORTH SEEING!

- 1 **Lielirbe.** The village is situated on both banks ("jūrspuse" or "seaside" and "zemspuse" or "landside" in the dialect of the Western part of Latvia) of the Irbe River (also called Dižirve, Īra) extending for 6 km around where the river flows into the sea. In 1939, there were around 300 inhabitants and more than 70 houses in the village. A little narrow gauge train used to run through the village, connecting it with the center of the district, Ventspils, and Dundaga, Stende and further on to Riga. At the estuary of the Irbe River, there used to be a port of the ancient Livonian seafarers. This seacoast that is now so quiet with only 10 houses used to be an active timber trade and transport center at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. GPS: 57.62664, 22.11036
- 2 **The Pedestrian bridge across the Kikans Brook.** The pedestrian bridge crosses the Kikans Brook in a place where the narrow gauge railway used to run connecting Ventspils, Mazirbe and Stende; the locals call it the narrow gauge track. The railway was active up until 1963. When going via the track and the unpaved road by bike or on foot, you can even reach the bridge across the Irbe River on the road connecting Ventspils and Kolka. GPS: 57.65303, 22.20040
- 3 **Sīkrags village.** One of the oldest Livonian settlements, first mentioned in written records in 1387. One of the most important small ports of the North Kurzeme coast was established here in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Back then Sīkrags was a larger village than Mazirbe. During the first period of independence of Latvia, Sīkrags was a bustling Livonian fishing village with about 60 active fishermen. The village was a stronghold of the Livonian language. 85 of the 193 residents (44%) of Sīkrags were Livonian. In 1922, the first Livonian choir was created here. GPS: 57.66078, 22.22574

## SERVICES



### Accommodations

1. Campsite "Airē pats", T: +371 26405065; GPS: 57.61887, 22.10508
2. Holiday home "Dzelzceļa ēka", T: +371 27474822; GPS: 57.62665, 22.11056
3. Tent area "Irbes ieteka", GPS: 57.64114, 22.14279
4. Country house "Jaunklāvi", T: +371 29469614; GPS: 57.66170, 22.22832



### Catering

1. Cafe "Miķeļbāka", T: +371 27884438; GPS: 57.59734, 21.96567
2. Cafe "Pizā", T: +371 23308622; GPS: 57.59972, 21.96863



### Shops

No shops available in this section.



### Public transport

Not available.



### Rest areas

At the mouth of the Irbe River, GPS: 57.64114, 22.14279

## TOURIST INFORMATION



**Ventspils TIC**, Dārzu iela 6, Ventspils, [www.visitventspils.com](http://www.visitventspils.com), T: +371 63622263, 29232226; GPS: 57.39838, 21.56953



**Dundaga TIC**, Pils iela 14, Dundaga, [www.visit.dundaga.lv](http://www.visit.dundaga.lv), T: +371 29444395, 63232293; GPS: 57.51044, 22.35528

