



Kolka – Ģipka

Along the “Closed Coast”



At Cape Kolka, when turning towards the Gulf, you can clearly see the difference between the “Great Sea” and the “Little Sea”. The first 10 km of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route lead through the coastal area of the Slītere National Park: first, past pine trees that are washed into the sea, past the building of a former fishing kolkhoz, a ship berth and Ēvaži Bluff which is surrounded by an unusually narrow sandy beach with overhanging black alders. The next section of the trail leading to Ģipka also has a narrow sandy beach with pools created by the rich springfens and the mouths of small streams that are shallow in summer. During Soviet times, the seacoast of the Slītere National Park was a closed territory for two reasons: it was a frontier zone and a nature reserve.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 24 km

🕒 8–10 h

🚩 Kolkasrags Information and Visitors center, **P**

🚩 Ģipka

📍🗺️ Kolka – Melnsils – Pūrciems – Ģipka

🟡🟡 Medium

🌲🌲 A hard sandy beach, a forest trail next to the pine trees washed into the sea.

🌊 You can wade across the brooks, the Melnsilupe River (a bridge around 1,3 km away from the sea) and the Pilsupe River (a bridge 0,3 km away) during low water.



In case of strong NE and E winds, the coast may be bathed by the waves in some places. Then it is necessary to choose alternative forest trails. There are no ATMs in Kolka.



Between the Melnsilupe River and the Pilsupe River a forest road-trail stretches for 6 km alongside the sea.



WORTH SEEING!

- 1** Ēvaži nature trail and steep coast. The trail (0.3 km) leads through a dry pine forest to one of the few steep coast of the Gulf of Riga, which is 8–15 m high. GPS: 57.67766, 22.56872
- 2** Melnšils. Melnšils is the last village in the range of the Livonian seaside settlements in Northern Kurzeme where the Livonian still lived in the middle of the 20th century. In the 19th century, all of the homesteads on the coast of the Gulf of Riga starting from Zēņi village (located around 3 km away from Kolka in the direction of Melnšils) up to Melnšils village was called Krustes village. GPS: 57.65267, 22.57335
- 3** The White Dune of Pūrciems village. A 20 m high dune. A 900 m trail has been created along the banks of the Pilsupīte River to view it. GPS: 57.57663, 22.62983
- 4** The Ģipka Evangelical Lutheran Church. There was a time when the church was used as a navigation object for ships to determine their location. Exposition "The Story of the Ģipka Church" can be seen in the church tower. T: +371 29212933, 29432899; GPS: 57.56003, 22.65616

SERVICES

Accommodations

- 1.** Campsite "Melnšils", T: +371 28605606; GPS: 57.65252, 22.58092
- 2.** Holiday home "Kāpas", T: +371 29128403; GPS: 57.64619, 22.57435
- 3.** Campsite "Trommeļa brīvdienu mājiņas", T: +371 23884797; GPS: 57.65259; 22.57482
- 3.** Guest house "Brālītūrumi", T: +371 29440276; GPS: 57.583729, 22.63090

- 4.** Campsite "Plaucaki", T: +371 26445124; GPS: 57.58303, 22.63072
- 5.** Holiday home "Joki", T: +371 26429973; GPS: 57.57042, 22.65331
- 6.** Guest house "Klētņieki", T: +371 26234377; GPS: 57.56672, 22.65432



Catering

- 1.** Pub "Melnšils", T: +371 28605606; GPS: 57.65252, 22.58092
- 2.** Summer cafe "Smilšu krupīts", T: +371 29297797; GPS: 57.67806, 22.56791



Shops

In Kolka, GPS: 57.74371, 22.58672; GPS: 57.73784, 22.58172 in Melnšils, GPS: 57.65291, 22.57352 and in Ģipka, GPS: 57.56990, 22.65008



Public transport

Bus transport connects Kolka and Ģipka (~ 4-6 times per day).



Rest areas

Zēņu pond resting place, GPS: 57.72217, 22.57742

TOURIST INFORMATION



Kolkasrags Information and Visitors center, Kolkasrags, Kolka, www.kolkasrags.lv, T: +371 29149105; GPS: 57.75650, 22.59991



Dundaga TIC, Pils iela 14, Dundaga, www.visit.dundaga.lv, T: +371 29444395, 63232293; GPS: 57.51044, 22.35528



Roja TIC, Selgas iela 14e, Roja, www.roja.lv, T: +371 28630590; GPS: 57.50393, 22.80762



Livonian Community Centre, "Pastnieki", Kolka, T: +371 29402093; GPS: 57.74208, 22.58485

