



## Merkinė – Nemunaitis

### Along the Nemunas valley

In Merkinė small town, the Forest Trail goes along Seiny street in the direction of the Nemunas, turns right and comes to the observation tower. It offers an excellent landscape over the wide river valley and the island in the Nemunas river, which is grazed by livestock. For more than 3 km, the Forest Trail moves to the steep slopes of the Nemunas valley, then sharply turns to the north and further goes along small forest roads to the villages of Netiesos and Druskininkai. After Druskininkai village, it crosses the largest open area of this section with beautiful views. Then the Forest Trail runs along the Nemunas valley, but the river itself is not visible from the trail. In some places along the way there are hills with steep slopes. At Vangelonys village, the Forest Trail comes out again in an open place, crosses a small forest massif and reaches the main street of Nemunaitis village along Vangelonių and Saulėtekio streets. Part of this section from Merkinė to Druskininkai village is located in Dzūkija National Park.



## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 30 km

⌚ 8 – 10 h

🚩 Merkinė center by Merkinė Regional Museum

🚩 Nemunaitis, Vytauto street



Merkinė – Maksimonys –  
Netiesos – Druskininkai –  
Vertelkos – Jociūnai –  
Vangelonys – Nemunaitis



In Merkinė and Nemunaitis –  
asphalt and pavement,  
elsewhere – small forest and  
country roads.



Hard



Be careful when walking along  
the side of the road!



There are no shops or catering  
services from Merkinė to Ne-  
munaitis. This section cannot  
be divided into two days as no  
accommodation is available.



If the section cannot be com-  
pleted in one day, try negotiat-  
ing transport service with the  
hosts of accommodations.



## NATURE

Dzūkija National Park was founded in 1991. It is the largest specially protected nature area in Lithuania and one of the most forested areas in the country. The national park is rich in rivers, the banks of which have impressive sedimentary outcrops, as well as hundreds of springs. Also valuable habitats are meadows, floodplain meadows, marshes and other wetlands. In total, almost 2,000 plant species and 2,108 animal species, including insects, have been found in the park. One of the most important cultural and historical values is the ethnographic villages, where beekeeping, crafts, architecture, culinary and other traditions have been preserved. The well-known local tradition is mushrooming and berry picking. There are walking, cycling and water tourism routes in the park. Visitor centers are located in Merkinė small town and Marcininkys village.

## WORTH SEEING!

- 1 St. Virgin Mary's Assumption church in Merkinė.** The Gothic-Baroque church is considered to be the oldest in Dzūkija, it is mentioned in historical documents as early as in 1392. GPS: 54.16155, 24.18434
- 2 Vaza house in Merkinė.** The house where Lithuanian's Grand duke V. Vaza died is one of the oldest heritage sites in Merkinė. GPS: 54.16263, 24.18437
- 3 Merkinė Regional Museum.** The current exposition tells about the history of the town. You can use the services of a guide. +370 31039136; GPS: 54.16294, 24.18515
- 4 Merkinė cross hill.** The largest memorial to Lithuanian partisans who died in the struggle for the country's freedom. GPS: 54.16531, 24.18230
- 5 Merkinė observation tower.** 26 m high landscape observation tower. GPS: 54.16379, 24.17473
- 6 The Great Stone of Dzūkija.** The ninth largest boulder in Lithuania. GPS: 54.27253, 24.02030
- 7 Church of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Nemunaitis.** Neo-Gothic stone church with a high tower. There is a plate on the church stairs marking one of the geodetic points of the Republic of Lithuania. +370 68268176; GPS: 54.30221, 24.01924
- 8 Monument to those who died for the independence of Lithuania.** GPS: 54.30140, 24.01992

## SERVICES

### Accommodations

- 1. Nemunaitis recreation area by the Nemunas,** 🏕️🚶, GPS: 54.30407, 24.02355



- 2. Nemunaitis branch of Alytus district art and sports school ,** +370 60613431 (must be contacted in advance), GPS: 54.30162, 24.01943



### Catering

- 1. Restaurant "Dzūkynė",** +370 62065767; GPS: 54.16322, 24.18489
- 2. Merkinė canteen,** +370 69327377; GPS: 54.16403, 24.18547



### Shops

- "Iki" in Merkinė, GPS: 54.16254, 24.18537  
 "Aibė" in Merkinė, GPS: 54.16241, 24.18466  
 Rūtos parduotuvėlė (Rūta's shop) in Merkinė, GPS: 54.16376, 24.18502  
 "Parduotuvė-Baras" in Nemunaitis, GPS: 54.30086, 24.02785  
 "Klevas" in Nemunaitis, GPS: 54.29975, 24.02968



### Pharmacies

- "Gintarinė vaistinė" in Merkinė, GPS: 54.16231, 24.18474



### ATMs

- Bank terminal "Perlas" in Merkinė, GPS: 54.16254, 24.18537



### Public transport

The intercity bus Druskininkai–Alytus runs ~ 5 times a day and stops at the station "Merkinės kryžkelė". Bus schedules: [www.autobusubilietai.lt](http://www.autobusubilietai.lt)



### Resting areas

- 1. Resting place,** GPS: 54.18746, 24.07188
- 2. Nemunaitis recreation area by the Nemunas,** 🏕️🚶, GPS: 54.30407, 24.02355

## TOURISM INFORMATION



**Dzūkija National Park Merkinė Visitor Center,** Vilniaus street 3, Merkinė, Varėna district, +370 67246275; GPS: 54.16317, 24.18597

