


Alytus – Panemunis


Along the hills of the Dzūkija Upland


From Alytus, the Forest Trail takes you along Vilniaus street, crosses the Nemunas through the A. Juozapavičiaus Bridge, then turns left to the north along Jiezno street and further crosses the Normandy–Nemunas road along Miškininkų street (No. 1334). Having passed almost 2 km through the forest, the Forest Trail comes out on a small country road and goes another 8 km in a northern direction. There are vast and open landscapes of the Dzūkija Upland in this area. After Staniava village the Forest Trail leads down a beautiful forest road to the Nemunas and then up a steep slope to the Punia castle mound, which overlooks the river. Along the Punia church along Kauno, Šilo and Birštono streets, after less than 4 km, the Forest Trail reaches a larger forest massif. Crossing it, after 5 km the Forest Trail comes out to Nemajūnai village. 3.5 km away is the destination of this section.




PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 29 km  7 – 10 h

 Alytus Tourism Information Center

 Panemunis, in front of homestead “Panemunio sodyba”

 Alytus – Staniava – Punia – Šilėnai – Nemajūnai – Nečiūnai – Panemunis



Gravel roads, in a small section – forest roads, in the vicinity of Punia mound – steep trails and stairs, in the vicinity of Alytus and Nemajūnai village – asphalt.



Hard



Be careful when walking along the side of the road and crossing the Normandy–Nemunas road (No. 1134)!



The slopes of the Punia mound can be slippery in wet weather.

If the route seems too long for one day, contact the hosts of the tourist accommodation and negotiate on transport services. The route can be divided into two parts and you can spend the night in Punia.

NATURE

In some places on the steep banks of the Nemunas and its tributaries there are habitats protected on a European scale – sloping forests and ravine forests. They consist of mixed forests with linden, maple, oak, elm, willow and ash. Spruce may be found on the north-facing slopes. In such forests, the impact of human activities tends to be small, as steep slopes and poor accessibility make timber extraction difficult. Species diversity is enhanced by springs and spring streams, rock outcrops and rocks in the beds of small creeks that form streams.

WORTH SEEING!

- 1 **Alytus Synagogue.** The old synagogue seemed completely abandoned a few years ago, but renovations will be completed in 2021, and a branch of the Alytus Museum will be located here. GPS: 54.40095, 24.04816
- 2 **Church of St. Ludvick's in Alytus.** It is the oldest building in Alytus, its bell rings from 1669, and there is a 19th century painting of St. Ludvick's in the church. GPS: 54.40465, 24.05776
- 3 **The historical square of the First Alytus.** The Nemunas divides the town into two parts: on the right bank there is the First Alytus, where the town began to develop, on the left – the Second Alytus. GPS: 54.40271, 24.06495
- 4 **Monumental stone "Normandia-Nemunas".** Built in 1981 in honour of pilots who took up military missions from a nearby aerodrome during World War II. GPS: 54.41081, 24.06744
- 5 **Nečiuių spring.** At the foot of Punia mound you will find a stepped Nečiuių spring. GPS: 54.51149, 24.08789
- 6 **Punia mound.** GPS: 54.51227, 24.09154
- 7 **St George's chapel in Punia.** Tower-Shaped Stone Chapel is dedicated to commemorate the participants in the 1831 uprising. GPS: 54.51159, 24.09457
- 8 **Church of St. Jacob the Apostle in Punia.** Baroque and Classicist style church, built in 1863. GPS: 54.51200, 24.09594
- 9 **Ethnographic exposition of local history "Punia over the centuries".** Introduces the history of the town, school and local people. +370 65640657; GPS: 54.51258, 24.09698
- 10 **"Šilėngirė Valley".** Chance to see and feed alpacas, goats, sheep and rabbits. GPS: 54.55868, 24.13420
- 11 **Nemajūnai St. The Church of the Apostles Peter and Paul.** Built in 1878, the church is the only original wooden neo-Gothic style work in Lithuania. GPS: 54.55971, 24.07605
- 12 **Nemajūnai chapel.** A small, wooden, romantic style chapel, built in the mid 19th century by local masters. GPS: 54.56194, 24.07640

- 13 **Nemajūnai Craft Center.** Educational program "Dzūkiškios bandos" ("Dzūkai loaves") – preparation and baking of dzūkai potato loaves on cabbage leaves in a bread oven; tasting. Must be booked in advance. +370 67205345, 60014309; GPS: 54.57018, 24.07915

SERVICES

Accommodations

1. **Guest house "Punios Ainiai",** +370 68368872; GPS: 54.51260, 24.09687
2. **Homestead "Panemunio sodyba",** +370 60104848, 60102555; GPS: 54.55395, 24.03316

Catering

1. **Cottage of Punia Resident.** The living environment of the 19th century locals has been revived at this site. The tasting program must be booked in advance. +370 61145791; GPS: 54.51332, 24.09663

Shops

- "Iki" in Alytus, GPS: 54.40338, 24.05960
- "Aibė" in Punia, GPS: 54.51086, 24.09988
- Food shop in Nemajūnai,** GPS: 54.55937, 24.07446

Pharmacies

- "Gintarinė vaistinė" in Alytus, GPS: 54.40335, 24.05997

ATMs

- "Šiaulių bankas" in Alytus, GPS: 54.39835, 24.04864
- "Swedbank" in Alytus, GPS: 54.40357, 24.05998

Public transport

The intercity bus Alytus–Punia runs ~4 times a day. Bus schedules: <https://www.arsa.lt/index.php?2156933962>

Resting areas

1. **By the Nemunas in Punia,** GPS: 54.51225, 24.08766
2. **At Punia mound,** GPS: 54.51211, 24.09296

TOURISM INFORMATION

i **Alytus Tourism Information Center,** S. Dariaus and S. Girėno street 1, Alytus www.alytusinfo.lt, +370 31552010, 68707703; GPS: 54.39851, 24.04867

i **Birštonas Tourism Information Center,** B. Sruogos street 4, Birštonas, www.visitbirštonas.lt, +370 31965740; GPS: 54.60032, 24.03254

