



Plinkšės – Žemaičių Kalvarija

To the destination of pilgrims

From Plinkšiai the Forest Trail leads to the west, crosses the wooded area and reaches the Seda-Gaudikaičiai road (No. 161) 2 km away. After 1.8 km, the Forest Trail turns left to the south. For the next 7.4 km, it crosses agricultural land and a larger forest area until it turns right, heading west into Bertuliai village. After another 3.8 km, the Forest Trail crosses the Seda-Plungė (No. 164) road, where the towers of the pilgrimage destination, Žemaičių Kalvarija, can be seen from the surrounding hills. Shortly before the village, the Forest Trail crosses the border of the Žemaitija National Park.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 17 km

🕒 4 – 6 h

🚩 Plinkšės, Plinkšės hotel

🚩 Žemaičių Kalvarija, Telšių street

📍 Plinkšės – Domėnai –
Degučiai – Žemaičių Kalvarija



Gravel roads, asphalt in a short section.



Easy



Be careful when walking along the side of the road!
Turning towards Domėnai (GPS: 56.15406, 22.11261), there may be dogs close to the road!



Services are available only at the starting point and end point of the section. There are no accommodation in Žemaičių Kalvarija, therefore it is necessary to agree with the hosts of the accommodation on transport services.



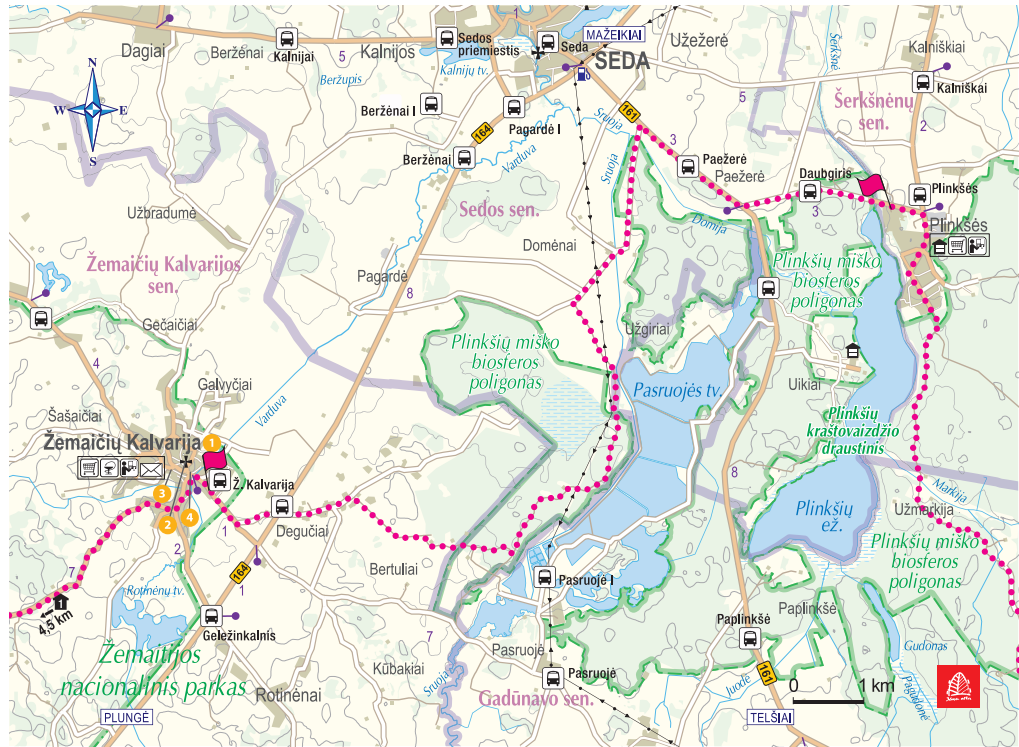
It is worth devoting several hours to exploring the cultural heritage sites of Žemaičių Kalvarija.

NATURE

Most of this Forest Trail section is accompanied by agricultural land - arable land, meadows and natural pastures. Meadows, which are regularly mowed and grazed, are characterized by high biodiversity. Mowing and grazing create a variety of environmental conditions for plants to find the right niche for themselves. Natural meadows are an important element of the Baltic landscape, showing the interaction between man and the environment. In the meadows and pastures you can hear the heralds of spring – the Eurasian skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), inviting farmers to the fields and awakening nature with their chirping. In Lithuania they can be called by different names. In Latvia and Lithuania, this bird is a common nesting species. It most often sings floating on the spot in the air, at an altitude of about 50–100 m. The skylark feeds on various insects: beetles, dipterans, spiders, as well as herbaceous plant seeds, delicate green parts of plants. Nests are made from dry roots, grass stalks or leaves on the ground in areas of perennials.

WORTH SEEING!

- 1 **Žemaičių Kalvarija.** One of the most significant pilgrimage centers in Lithuania, included in the pilgrimage route of Pope John Paul II. Every year in July there is celebrated the Feast of the Holy Mother Mary Visitation, which gathers crowds of believers. This historic site, formed on picturesque mountains, emphasizes the link between nature and architecture, is rich in cultural heritage and natural values.
GPS: 56.10940, 22.01173
- 2 **The Minor Basilica of the Visitation of the Holy Virgin Mary.** The current church is the fourth to have been built in Žemaičių Kalvarija. In 1988, Pope John Paul II granted the title of basilica to the church. One of the largest Catholic events in Lithuania, the Great Žemaičių Kalvarija Festival, is held here every year.
+370 67420400; GPS: 56.10998, 22.01137
- 3 **Žemaičių Kalvarija Cross Road chapels.** 7 km long road for believers with chapels repeating the suffering of Jesus on the cross. Every year the Great Žemaičių Kalvarija Festival (Didieji Žemaičių Kalvarijos atleidai), attended by thousands of pilgrims from Lithuania and abroad, takes place. The organization of the major church festivals began in the first half of 17th century after the construction of the first chapels of the Cross Road.
GPS: 56.10899, 22.00820
- 4 **Monument to Bishop M. Valančius.** The monument is dedicated to the memory of the greatest educator of the Lithuanian nation and cultural figure in the mid 19th century, bishop Motiejus Valančius.
GPS: 56.10873, 22.01240



SERVICES



Accommodations

None in this section. Nearest available accommodation:

1. **Sauliaus Petručio dairy farm (Gegrėnai village)** +370 60794123 (call in advance); GPS: 56.09290, 21.92126
2. **Paplatelė village** (see information for the next section).



Catering

None in this section. The nearest catering establishment is in Paplatelė village (see information for the next section).



Shops

Food shop in Gegrėnai village,
GPS: 56.10899, 22.01150
“Aibė” in Žemaičių Kalvarija,
GPS: 56.10940, 22.01114
Shop in Žemaičių Kalvarija,
GPS: 56.10862, 22.01176



Pharmacies

Ambulance in Žemaičių Kalvarija,
+370 44843130; GPS: 56.10694, 22.01562
Pharmacy in Žemaičių Kalvarija,
GPS: 56.10694, 22.01562



ATMs

Bank terminal “Perlas” in Žemaičių Kalvarija, GPS: 56.10940, 22.01114



Public transport

Bus stop in Žemaičių Kalvarija,
GPS: 56.10692, 22.01691
Current bus routes and timetables:
www.plungesap.lt (route No. 25A: Plungė–Vilkai–Virksiai–Platelė–Pūčkoriai–Žemaičių Kalvarija–Plungė),
www.mazeikiuap.lt,
www.autobusubilietai.lt

TOURISM INFORMATION



Mažeikiai Tourism and Business Information Center, Ventos street 8A, Mažeikiai, www.mazeikiutvic.lt, +370 44367177; GPS: 56.31118, 22.32694



Žemaitija National Park Visitor Center, Didžioji street 8, Platelė, www.zemaitijosnp.lt, +370 65907929; GPS: 56.04245, 21.81533



Plungė Tourism Information Center, S. Dariaus ir S. Girėno street 27, Plungė, www.visitplunge.lt, +370 64053644; GPS: 55.91675, 21.85142

