



## Žemaičių Kalvarija – Paplatelė

Along the beautiful hills of the Žemaitija Upland

The Forest Trail exits Žemaičių Kalvarija village along Pagardinio, Alsėdžių and Platelių streets. About 6.5 km from the village center the Forest Trail, along a scenic road surrounded by hills (No. 3210), enters the parking lot. At the parking lot, it turns left to the south, enters the forest and crosses the Gegrėnai archaeological complex. Leaving the forest, the Forest Trail continues along Ežero street, after a short time crosses Dvaro street, turns to Paežerės street and after 5 km reaches Žemaičių Kalvarijos road (No. 2302). Here the Forest Trail turns left again and follows the pedestrian / bicycle paths. After 1.7 km, it reaches the junction with Plokštinės street and turns right to the south. After 1.8 km the Forest Trail reaches the village of Paplatelė. This section is located in the Žemaitija National Park and introduces the landscapes and natural diversity of the northwestern part of the Žemaitija Upland.



### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 18 km

⌚ 5 – 6 h

🚩 Žemaičių Kalvarija, Telšių street

🚩 Paplatelė, Plokštinės street opposite the beach of Plateliai lake.



Žemaičių Kalvarija –  
Gegrėnai – Virkšai – Paežerės  
Rūdaičiai – Paplatelė



Asphalt (roads, pedestrian /  
bicycle paths), gravel roads.



Medium



Be careful when walking along  
the side of the road!



In the summer season,  
Plokštinės street and the  
beaches are full of holiday-  
makers. Accommodations  
must be booked in advance.

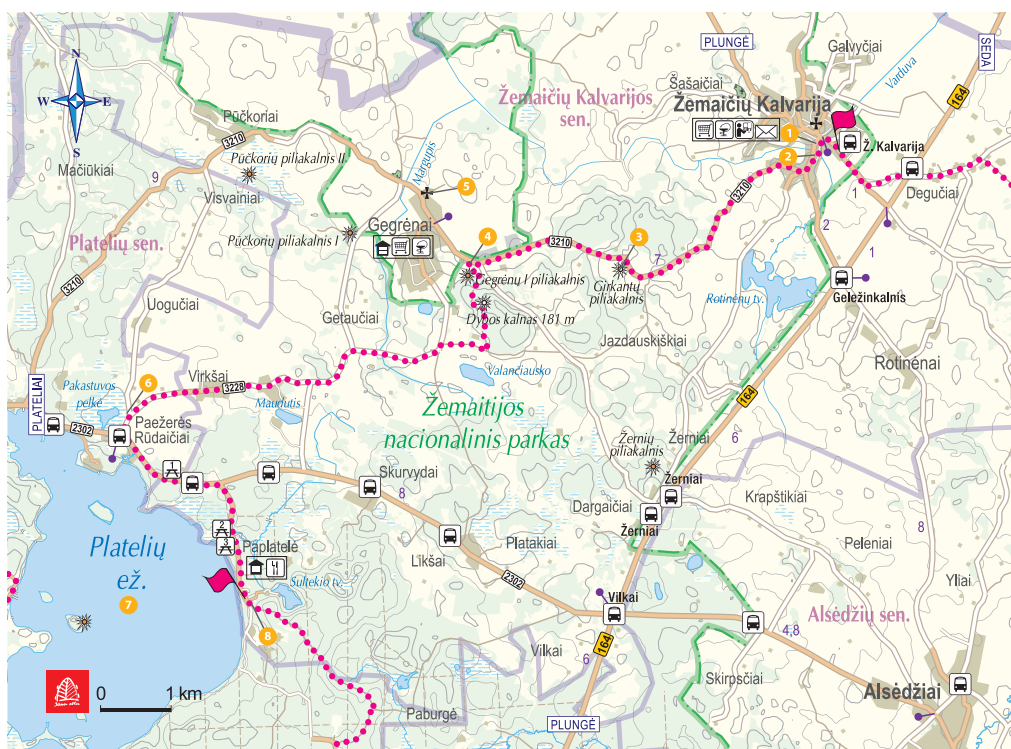


## NATURE

At Žemaičių Kalvarija, the Forest Trail enters the protected area – Žemaitija National Park. The park was established to protect, manage and regulate the use of landscape complexes of national importance and anthropoecosystems representing the natural and cultural peculiarities of the ethnocultural area of Žemaitija. The area of the national park covers 21754 ha. The largest lake in Žemaitija, Plateliai lake, is rich in the underwater world, with fish reminiscent of the ice age - *Coregonus lavaretus holsatus*, medieval cultural heritage: castle remains, bridge poles. The lake is also distinguished by the abundance of peninsulas, bays and 7 islands. The terrain of the Žemaitija National Park was formed by a glacier about 12,000 years ago. The whole territory of the national park is located in the north-western part of the Žemaitija Upland and is characterized by a hilly terrain. In this section of the Forest Trail, the winding road from Žemaičių Kalvarija opens the spectacular landscape panoramas, where castle mounds, sacred hills, old cemeteries hidden among the forests, expressive hills and meadows are the old cultural heritage that is an integral part of the Žemaitija National Park. The landscape of the park is diversified by rivers, streams, larger and smaller lakes, swamps, springs.

## WORTH SEEING!

- 1 Museum of the poet Vytautas Mačernis.** The exhibition introduces the tragic fate, life and work of the Lithuanian poet Vytautas Mačernis. +370 68373252; GPS: 56.10761, 22.01135
- 2 Žemaičių Kalvarija mound (Mountain of St. John).** On this site, there was a Curonian Gardai Castle, first mentioned in 1253. The mound stands by the Varduva river, near which, according to legend, Samogitians were baptized. They got new names, so the river was named Varduva, but the nearby mountain – Mountain of St. John the Baptist. GPS: 56.10619, 22.01113
- 3 Jazdauskiškiai mound (Girkantai mound).** Located on a separate hill in a valley of a nameless stream. GPS: 56.09057, 21.96811
- 4 Gegrėnai archaeological complex.** The complex consists of two mounds of the 1st-18th centuries [they contained the Gegrė (Zegere) – one of the most important castles in Ceklio Land, mentioned in historical sources in 1253], as well as two cemeteries and an ancient settlement. Steep, up to 15 m high slopes of castle mounds create a distinctive relief, panoramic view. The complex has a 1.6 km long nature trail. GPS: 56.09101, 21.93343
- 5 Church of Jesus of Nazareth, Gegrėnai.** Wooden church, built in 1754, in the form of an elevated dwelling house, with a



tower. Next to it there stands a wooden bell tower. GPS: 56.09965, 21.92285

- 6 Bird watching place at Pakastuva lake.** Here you can observe cranes, red-necked grebes, great bitterns and other protected bird species included in the Lithuanian Red Book. GPS: 56.07068, 21.85644
- 7 Plateliai lake.** The largest and deepest lake in Žemaitija. Stands out for its natural, cultural and landscape value. In the lake, there are 7 islands – state protected natural monuments. The lake is inhabited by a relic fish – a Plateliai whitefish. GPS: 56.04199, 21.85547
- 8 Paplatelė cognitive path.** It meanders through forested hills along the Sultekis pond. There are great views of the pond and forests from the nearby observation tower, and along the trail you can see wooden sculptures based on fairy tales. GPS: 56.04680, 21.88585

## SERVICES

- Accommodations**  
Accommodation places:  
[www.zemaitijosnp.lt](http://www.zemaitijosnp.lt)
- Catering**  
Catering places:  
[www.zemaitijosnp.lt/turizmas/maitinimas](http://www.zemaitijosnp.lt/turizmas/maitinimas)
- Shops**  
Shop in Gegrėnai,  
GPS: 56.09308, 21.92194
- Pharmacies**  
Gegrėnai medical point,  
+370 61624392; GPS: 56.09286, 21.92217

## Public transport

Bus stop in Žemaičių Kalvarija, GPS: 56.10692, 22.01691.  
Current bus routes and timetables:  
[www.plungesap.lt](http://www.plungesap.lt) (route No. 25A: Plungė–Vilkai–Virškiai–Plateliai–Pūckoriai–Žemaičių Kalvarija–Plungė),  
[www.autobusbilietai.lt](http://www.autobusbilietai.lt)

## Resting areas

- 1. Tourist camp "Atžalynas",**   
+370 61778936; GPS: 56.06303, 21.86719
- 2. Camping "Juodupė",**   
+370 44849407; GPS: 56.05585, 21.88102
- 3. Tourist camp of Algirdas Plokštys,**   
+370 68736864;  
GPS: 56.05483, 21.88152

## TOURISM INFORMATION

- Žemaitija National Park Visitor Center,** Didžioji street 8, Plateliai,  
[www.zemaitijosnp.lt](http://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](http://www.visitplunge.lt),  
+370 64053644; GPS: 55.91675, 21.85142

