



Lithuanian-Latvian border – Gramzda

Along the Vārtāja undulating plain


The Lithuanian-Latvian border in nature is marked by the Apše river, which the Forest Trail crosses, entering Latvia via the Skuodas – Priekule road bridge (P114). The Forest Trail initially winds along the side of the road, but after 1.7 km turns onto a gravel road in the direction of Kalēti. Starting from the surroundings of Ozolu village, the view opens up to the beautiful and wide landscapes of the Vārtāja undulating plain of the Rietumkursā Upland. In Ozoli, the Forest Trail for 0.5 km follows the road V1217, then turns right and after 2 km reaches the Bārta–Kalēti–Gramzda road (V1218). After Kalšu lake, the Forest Trail leads to Gramzda.





PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 13 km ⌚ 3 – 4 h

 Lithuanian-Latvian border by the Apše river bridge

 Gramzda, parking lot nearby the Lutheran church

 State border – Ozoli – Gramzda

 Gravel roads, asphalt.



Easy



Be careful when walking along the side of the road!



There are sand-gravel quarries in the vicinity of Gramzda, therefore a truck can run on the Bārta – Gramzda road for about 3.5 km. When crossing the Lithuanian-Latvian border, you must have valid identity documents with you.



If you are planning to cross the border, it is advisable to finish the previous section in Skuodas, where there are accommodation, and to continue the route in the morning in the territory of Latvia. From Skuodas, the state border is 3 km away. Then take the road to Gramzda (13 km) and spend the night in a tent, or take a bus to Priekule, where there is accommodation. On the second morning you can take a bus back to Gramzda.

NATURE

As you walk through open landscapes, you can hear the voice of the corncrake (*Crex crex*). Corncrakes in Latvia are relatively more common than in other European countries – about 40,000 pairs of corncrakes nest here. At the end of May and the beginning of June in the meadows (mostly at dusk and at night, but also during the day) you can hear the loud song of a male corncrake – the two-syllable cry “krrrep-krrrep” – who protects its territory from other males. It is very difficult to see the corncrake in nature, so there is a false tale that the corncrake migrates to warmer climates by running on foot. Today, the threat for the corncrake is overgrowing of meadows, land reclamation and intensive farming. The corncrake is depicted on a 10 lats silver jubilee coin.

WORTH SEEING!

- 1 Apše river.** Also called Apša, in Lithuania – Apšė. A tributary of the right bank of the Bārta river on the Latvian-Lithuanian border. Its length is 40 km: 20 km in Lithuania and 20 km – as a border river. GPS: 56.29609, 21.53920
- 2 Gramzda.** A village on the Latvian border, mentioned in the 13th century in written sources about the road from Jūrpils to Apulē. Gramzda fell into the hands of the Order of Livonia. The greatest damage to Gramzda was done during World War II, when in 1941 its center was burned down. During the Soviet period, farmsteads were destroyed and a modern village with multi-storey residential houses as well as Līvāni-type houses began to be built. +371 28374204 (guide); GPS: 56.36658, 21.60314
- 3 Gramzda Lutheran Church.** The history of Gramzda Church dates back to 1567 order by Duke of Courland to build a church. Restoration of the church from the ruins started in 2009 and all work is now complete. +371 28374204; GPS: 56.36536, 21.60317
- 4 Square “Gateway to Latvia”.** The three illuminated red, white and red boats, about six metres high, symbolize generations and their journey through the ages to independent Latvia. GPS: 56.36594, 21.60396
- 5 Gramzda antiquities repository.** The history of Gramzda school and Gramzda and Aizvīki villages, collection of ancient things. +371 28374204; GPS: 56.36793, 21.60313
- 6 Gramzda Forest Park with an open-air cinema.** The length of the trail there is 2 km, the gravel base allows people with special needs to move along it. Environmental objects have been provided with canopies, swings, campfire places. +371 28374204; GPS: 56.36762, 21.60732

SERVICES



Accommodations

- 1. Tent site “Gramzdas Mežaparks”,** +371 28374204; GPS: 56.36661, 21.60649



Catering

- 1. Pizzeria “Lauku pica” with delivery in Gramzda and within 30 km,** +371 24603440; GPS: 56.36902, 21.58880



Shops

- “Aibe” in Gramzda,** +371 29107441; GPS: 56.36904, 21.60378



Pharmacies

None in this section.



ATMs

None in this section.



Public transport

There is no bus traffic on the Skuodas – Gramzda route.



Resting areas

- 1. “Gramzdas Mežaparks”,** GPS: 56.36762, 21.60732



TOURISM INFORMATION



Priekule TIC,
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+371 26132442; GPS: 56.43860, 21.57969

