

## Jāņukrogs – Bigauņciems

### Through Ķemeri National Park

After crossing the area with some homesteads, the Forest Trail winds through beautiful coniferous forests and further 6.5 km along Čaukcīems until the turn to the Green Dune leads along the side of the Antiņciems–Smārde road. The neighbourhood is flat, as the section is part of the Engure plain of the Piejūras Lowland. The Green Dune (Zaļā kāpa) offers wide views of the Green Bog (Zaļais purvs) and the Witches' Bog (Raganu purvs). A small forest road bends along the lower part of the dune and in two places crosses the bog along wooden footbridges. In Ķemeri, the Forest Trail moves along Partizāna, Robeža, A. Upīša, Katedrāles and E. Dārziņa streets, along the Forest House and Vēršupīte, into which the waters of sulphur springs flow. Crossing Tūristu street, it continues along the Dūņu road to the Sloka lake. Further the trail crosses the Vēršupīte swamp forest, which is one of the most outstanding wet forest habitats in the whole part of the trail in Kurzeme. At Melnezers it turns onto the Old Ķemeri road and after 2 km it reaches Bigauņciems. After the Talsi highway, the Forest Trail reaches the shore of the Gulf of Riga and connects with the Coastal Hiking Route. The Forest Trail runs through the Ķemeri National Park along the entire section.





#### TOURISM INFORMATION


-  **Tukums TIC**, Talsu street 5, Tukums, [www.visittukums.lv](http://www.visittukums.lv), +371 28311557; GPS: 56.96660, 23.15251
-  **Ķemeri National Park Information Center**, "Meža māja" (Forest House), Ķemeri, [www.kemerunacionalaisparks.lv](http://www.kemerunacionalaisparks.lv), +371 26424972; GPS: 56.95193, 23.51326
-  **Jūrmala TIC**, Jomas street 5, Jūrmala, [www.visitjurmala.lv](http://www.visitjurmala.lv), +371 67147900; GPS: 56.97157, 23.79800

#### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 28 km    ⌚ 7 – 9 h

 Kārņiņi cemetery near Tukums – Smārde road

 Bigauņciems beach, opposite the Old Ķemeri Road

 Kārņiņi cemetery – Čaukcīems – Zaļā kāpa (The Green Dune) – Ķemeri – Sloka lake – Bigauņciems



Gravel roads, in Ķemeri – asphalt, pavement, park paths, forest trails with natural pavement, wooden footbridges.



Hard, if in one day,



Easy, if in two days.



Be careful when walking along the side of the road!



The Forest Trail at this section overlaps with the Ķemeri National Park bicycle route

"Meža aplis" (Forest circle), which is marked with white-red-white paint on the trees, but nearby Ķemeri – with the pedestrian and bicycle route "Zaļā kāpa" (The Green Dune), which is marked with white-yellow-white paint on the trees.



It is recommended to divide the route into two days. On the first day, you can go to Ķemeri (21 km), where you can spend the night, or go to Ķemeri railway station (0.8–1 km from the Forest Trail).

## NATURE

Ķemeri National Park (founded in 1997) was founded mainly for the protection of wetlands – shallow shores of the Gulf of Riga, overgrown seaside lakes, vast bog massifs, wet forests (swamps) and floodplain meadows. 25% of the plant species recorded in the Latvian Red Book have been identified here. There are also important habitats for nesting and migratory birds. The park has one of the largest bogs in Latvia, the Great Ķemeri Bog (Lielais Ķemeru tīrelis), and the others – the Green Bog (Zaļais purvs), the Witches' Bog (Raganu purvs). In the large bog massifs, there are formed sulphur waters and medicinal sludge, which was once the basis for the establishment of the Ķemeri resort. On the surface of the ground, springs flow into Ķemeri. Wet deciduous forests, including the Vēršupīte swamp forest, are one of the most diverse habitats in Latvia in terms of the number of species. Their seasonal flooding is evidenced by the thick root collar of black alder, which resembles mangrove stands. Nearby the Ķemeri Forest House, there is the Melnalkšņu swamp forest trail, built on piles, for exploring the bogs. The most impressive views in the Vēršupīte swamp forest can be seen in spring floods or in other seasons after heavy rains, when the small river leaves the banks and floods large areas. Another place where you can explore Vēršupīte swamp forest is the walking trail of Sloka lake.

## WORTH SEEING!

- 1. The castle mound trail of Kaņieris lake.** 1.3 km long circular trail with an observation tower, which overlooks the lake and the birds living there. GPS: 56.99147, 23.43452
- 2. Border stone.** A monument to the former border line between the Russian Empire and the Duchy of Courland, which went along Robežu street in Ķemeri, hence the name of the street ("The border street"). GPS: 56.94341, 23.49046

- 3. Ķemeri Evangelical Lutheran Church.** Ķemeri Evangelical Lutheran Church was the first stone building in Ķemeri resort. +371 26593425; GPS: 56.94555, 23.49082
- 4. St. Apostles Peter and Paul Ķemeri Orthodox Church.** Central cross-domed wooden church with a bell tower, built in the style of historicism, in the architectural forms of wooden churches in Northern Russia. +371 67765417; GPS: 56.94743, 23.49519
- 5. Ķemeri resort park.** The sulphur spring "Kīrzaciņa" ("The Little Lizard") next to the pavilion decorated with wood carvings, a water tower with an exposition about the history of Ķemeri and a viewing platform on the roof, 7 picturesque bridges over Vēršupīte. The former hotel "Ķemeri" – a striking example of neoclassicism. GPS: 56.94785, 23.49559
- 6. Meža māja (Forest house).** The reed-roofed building designed by architect Frīdrihs Skujiņš is one of the brightest buildings of national romanticism in Latvia. The building houses the Ķemeri National Park Information Center. +371 26424972; GPS: 56.95193, 23.51326
- 7. Melnalkšņu swamp forest trail.** The 0.6 km trail introduces a very humid natural deciduous forest – a black alder swamp forest. GPS: 56.95206, 23.51368
- 8. Sloka lake observation tower.** The observation tower is located on pontoons, it is connected to the land by a footbridge. From the tower you can see the whole Sloka lake all the way to Kauguri. Birds gather in the lake in spring and late summer–autumn, so this is a favorite place for bird watchers. GPS: 56.95759, 23.54712
- 9. Bigauņciems.** A fishing village on the shores of the Gulf of Riga, where you can buy fish caught and smoked there. GPS: 56.98552, 23.53757

## SERVICES

### Accommodations

- 1. Recreation complex "Valguma pasaule",** +371 63181222, 29414022; GPS: 56.99022, 23.31542
- 2. Tent site "Lejiņas",** +371 29559767; GPS: 56.97832, 23.31314

- 3. Guest house "Ķemeri",** +371 28308055; GPS: 56.93932, 23.48670
- 4. Apartments "Annas māja",** +371 29171022; GPS: 56.94418, 23.49845
- 5. Holiday house "Relax Port",** +371 28301853; GPS: 56.98409, 23.53703
- 6. Guest house "Vallery Guest House",** +371 27049171, 27279599; GPS: 56.98665, 23.53304
- 7. Holiday house "Atpūta pie jūras",** +371 28272223; GPS: 56.98607, 23.54018



### Catering

- 1. Restaurant "Valguma pasaule",** +371 63181222, 29414022; GPS: 56.99022, 23.31542
- 2. Cafe "Dižpriede",** +371 28756095; GPS: 56.98594, 23.53753



### Shops

"Zelta puķes" in Ķemeri, +371 67765188; GPS: 56.94110, 23.49130  
 "topi" in Ķemeri, +371 26811080; GPS: 56.94341, 23.49755  
 "Helans" in Ķemeri, GPS: 56.94309, 23.49442  
 There are no shops in Bigauņciems.



### Pharmacies

"Latvijas aptieka" in Ķemeri, +371 29117673; GPS: 56.94267, 23.49388



### ATMs

There are no ATMs in this section.



### Public transport

You can get to the starting point by train to Smārde station. From there you have to walk 2.3 km to Jāņukrogs. [www.pv.lv](http://www.pv.lv)  
 Buses run from the end point (Bigauņciems) to Riga several times a day, [www.1188.lv](http://www.1188.lv)



### Resting areas

- 1. Kaņiera pilskalns,** GPS: 56.99145, 23.43467
- 2. Meža māja (Forest house),** GPS: 56.95228, 23.51242
- 3. Sloka lake,** GPS: 56.95742, 23.54650

