



# GRAND COASTAL HIKING TOUR ALONG THE LITHUANIAN AND LATVIAN NATIONAL AND NATURE PARKS

13



## DAY 1



Bus Klaipėda - Šilutė, Šilutė - Rusnė

**Accommodation:** in Rusnė.

## DAY 2



**Around Rusnė Island from Rusnė till Uostadvaris**

→ 15 km ⌚ 4 - 5 h



Gravel roads and footpaths over the Rusnė polders.



Medium



Exercise caution when walking on the side of the road!



Rusnė Island is an excellent place to observe birds during spring and autumn migration.

Ferry from Uostadvaris to Nida (the last ferry at 17:00).

**Accommodation:** in Nida.



Itinerary: KLAIPĖDA - ŠILUTĖ - RUSNĖ - UOSTADVARIS - NIDA - KLAIPĖDA - PALANGA - ŠVENTOJI - PAPE - BERNĀTI - LIEPĀJA - ZIEMUPE - PĀVILOSTA - VENTSPILS - MAZIRBE - KOLKA - MĒRSRAGS - ENGURE - JŪRMALA - RĪGA

Hiking route length: → ~195 - 202 km

Duration: **16 days**

Difficulty level: ●●

🚩 **Rusnė** (by bus from Šilutė and Klaipėda) 🚩 **Jūrmala** (there are regular trains to Rīga)

*This long-distance tour follows the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route from the Lithuanian coast, starting on the island of Rusnė and continuing to the Curonian Spit, running along the Baltic Sea coast to Cape Kolka and finally reaching Rīga. On this route you will hike some sections of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route and experience the diversity of coastal landscapes: rocky beaches, steep shores, overgrown beaches, bird migration sites, vast sandy beaches. You will walk on solitary beaches with no-one in sight for several kilometres just to suddenly find yourself in lively resort towns. There are both sections of hiking and bus transfers along the route.*

*Initially you will visit the peculiar island of Rusnė with its bird migration sites, observation towers and the delta of the river Nemunas, which is Lithuania's lowest point. Next, a ferry will take you to the just-as-impressive Curonian Spit – a lengthy spit of sand-dunes extending into the Baltic Sea of the coast of Lithuania. Here you will walk two sections of the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route enjoying the magnificent dunes and visiting the Lithuanian Sea Museum and the Dolphinarium. Then, heading north along the coast through the Seaside Regional Park, you will reach the Lithuanian beach capital Palanga and pay a visit to the Amber Museum. Crossing the Lithuanian/Latvian border on foot you will stop over at the Pape Nature Park and enjoy its lighthouse, wild horses, the authentic fishermen village and local museum. The walk on lone beaches takes you to the top of the highest dune in Latvia – the Pūsēnu dune – and afterwards continues to reach the village of Bernāti. Next on the route is the windy seaside city of Liepāja, also known as the Latvian capital of rock-music. Karosta is another distinctive site in Liepāja – it is the former military town and nearly every street of this part of the city has some footprints of its military heritage. Heading further, your feet will take you through the solitary beaches of Ziemupe to the village of Pāvilosta. If you are lucky, you might find some ambers washed ashore. Pāvilosta is a small charming village with a marina and some notes of smoked fish lingering in the air. Moving on, from Ventspils through Slitere National Park, through the Livonian fishermen villages to finally reach the Kolka Cape – the meeting point of the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga. Also, a top site for bird watching. At the end of the tour, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route leads to Engure Nature Park, meandering through reed trails running between the villages of Mērsrags and Engure. The tour ends in Jūrmala with its wide sandy beaches, the bustling urban life of a resort town, impressive villas and summer cottages, and the Ragakāpa Nature Park in the resort's neighborhood Lielupe.*

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## DAY 3

**Nida - Pervalka**

→ 18 km ⌚ 4 - 6 h



Pavement, pedestrian paths and promenades in populated areas. Forest trails with natural surface elsewhere and sand in some places.



Easy



At high water (in early spring and late autumn), a short section of the trail between Nida and Preila may be flooded. Be careful at the washed-out coastline as it can easily collapse!

**Accommodation:** in Pervalka.

## DAY 4

**Pervalka - Juodkrantė**

→ 18 km ⌚ 4 - 6 h



Sandy beaches, single-track forest trails, paved pedestrian/cyclist lanes. Pavement in populated areas.



Easy



From Pervalka, it is recommended to take the circular nature trail (4-5 km) along the coast of the Curonian Lagoon to Horse Cape, which offers amazing views of the Dead Dunes.

**Accommodation:** in Juodkrantė.

## DAY 5



Bus to Smiltynė.

Can visit the Lithuanian Sea Museum and Dolphinarium (1,5 km from the Smiltynė bus stop).

Ferry to Klaipėda.

Sightseeing in Klaipėda.

**Accommodation:** in Klaipėda.

## DAY 6



Private transfer to Karklė (~25 min.).

**Karklė - Palanga**

→ 12km ⌚ 3 - 4 h



Mostly sandy or sandy/pebbly beaches and single-track forest trails.



Easy



In the Seaside Regional Park, the Baltic Coastal Hiking Route runs along the beach, which is part of a nature reserve. It is prohibited to walk anywhere else than the beach.

**Accommodation:** in Palanga.





## DAY 7



Palanga - Šventoji



**Šventoji - LT/LV border - Nida - Pape**

→ 17 km ⌚ 6 - 7 h



Pavement with a hard surface in Šventoji, sandy and pebbly beaches, occasionally fine gravel. Near Nida – several kilometres of pebbly beach. In places, the pebbles form outcrops of several tens of centimetres, created by the waves. In Pape, the roads are covered in gravel.



Medium



The state border along the coastline can be crossed at any time; hikers must always carry valid personal identification documents. There are no services available near the border.

It is worth to visit the Pape Ȧoni ancient fishermen village with the Open-air Museum "Vitolnieki".

**Accommodation:** in Pape.



Medium



The only shops in the coastal area from the Latvian-Lithuanian border to Bernāti are located in Jūrmalciems.

**Accommodation:** in Bernāti.

## DAY 9



Bus to Liepāja.

Sightseeing and a little hike in Liepāja.

**Accommodation:** in Liepāja.



## DAY 10



Private transfer to Ziemepe.



**Ziemepe - Pāvilosta**

→ 21 km ⌚ 7 - 9 h



Sandy, pebbly (with little pebbles), occasionally wide (near Akmensrags), occasionally narrower sandy beaches. In Pāvilosta, asphalt.



Easy



No shops or catering is available between Ziemepe and Pāvilosta.

**Accommodation:** in Pāvilosta.



## DAY 8



**Pape - Bernāti**

→ 25 km ⌚ 8 - 10 h



Sandy and pebbly beaches, occasionally soft sand, which makes walking difficult. There are wide sandy beaches around Jūrmalciems and Bernāti.



## DAY 11



Bus from Pāvilosta to Ventspils.

Sightseeing in Ventspils.

**Accommodation:** in Ventspils.

## DAY 12



Private transfer to Sīkrags.



**Sīkrags - Mazirbe - Košrags**

→ 11 km ⌚ 3 - 4 h



Sandy beaches, forest trails and gravel roads. In Mazirbe village, asphalt.



Easy



You can wade across the small river Mazirbe during low water (there is a bridge ~ 0,5 km away from the sea).



The only shop is located in Mazirbe village, so you need to buy something for dinner.

**Accommodation:** in Košrags.

## DAY 13



**Košrags - Kolka**

→ 18 km ⌚ 7 - 8 h



Gravel roads, sandy beach.



Easy



There are no shops and



catering places during this day, the only place is in Kolka.

**Accommodation:** in Kolka.

## DAY 14

Free morning in Kolka.

In the afternoon the bus Kolka - Mērsrags (~1 h 20 min.).

**Excursion:** in Mērsrags, nature reserve, trail, sightseeing tower.

**Accommodation:** in Mērsrags.

## DAY 15



**Mērsrags - Engure**

→ 22 km ⌚ 7 - 9 h



Beaches covered in sand and fine gravel, coastal meadows, small trails, forest roads. Asphalt in the villages, a small section of gravel road.



Medium



The coastal meadows can be bypassed using the roads and trails in the villages. The river Engure can be crossed via bridge.



You should avail yourself of binoculars for bird watching, suitable (closed) footwear and walking poles for support.

**Accommodation:** in Engure.

## DAY 16



Engure - Ragaciems

**Hike option 1:**



**Ragaciems - Dubulti**

→ 22 km ⌚ 7 - 9 h

**Hike option 2:**



**Dubulti - Lielupe - Bulduri**

→ 15 km ⌚ 5 - 7 h



In the surroundings of Ragaciems village: small pieces of dolomite, some boulders, gravel. Other places and sandy beaches and sidewalks.



Easy

Train to Rīga.

**Accommodation:** in Rīga.

