

5 THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SIGHTS IN NORTHERN LATVIA



APE – KORNETI Latvia

Itinerary: ALŪKSNE – APE – KORNETI – ALŪKSNE

Hiking route length:

→ 22 km ⌚ 8 – 10 h

Duration: **2 days (hiking 1 day)**

Difficulty level: ●●●, if completed in one day

This tour will give you an impression of the eastern part of Latvia, which is less populated and also less popular among tourists. You will first arrive in Alūksne and explore the town, which is located at Alūksne highland, on the shore of Lake Alūksne. It is worth visiting Temple Hill – an old Latgalian castle mound and the place of the old town, Sun bridge, and the Castle manor park, Alūksne Lutheran Church and the Bible Museum. After staying there overnight you will go by bus to the start point of the hike

in Ape. This Forest Trail section winds through a hilly farmland landscape, then enters a large dark forest, occasionally interrupted by the blue surfaces of lakes. After Peļļi, it crosses the Latvian/Estonian border and winds along the shores of the lakes Smilšājs, Sūneklis and Ilgājs for 2 km on the Estonian side, known as Paganamaa (translation: Devil's Land). There it descends and enters the Korneti-Peļļi subglacial depression, one of the most impressive ravines in Latvia. The Forest Trail returns to Latvia at Lake Ilgājs and, after a steep climb, takes you through a hilly area to the Drusku castle mound. Here you can enjoy a beautiful view. At the end of this tour, you will reach Korneti. The section is located in the protected landscape area "Veclaicene".

PRACTICAL INFO:



Gravel roads, forest trails, nature trails, wooden stairs, pavement in Ape and Korneti.



The slopes of ravines and hills may be slippery in wet weather.



The route crosses the Latvian/Estonian border (2 km through Estonia), so be sure to bring ID. The only shops are located in Ape and Korneti. There are no places to eat from Ape to the Estonian border.

It is possible to add this route to a self-drive tour from Rīga through Tartu to Tallinn.



This section can be completed in two days, staying over in one of the holiday houses by the lake.



Ape (3 buses per day from Rīga, or 8–9 buses per day from Alūksne).



Korneti or the Latvian/Estonian border. Bus from Korneti to Alūksne or private transfer.

DAY 2



Bus Alūksne – Ape
(30–40 min.)



Hiking Ape – Korneti
→ 22 km



Private transfer back to Alūksne.

Accommodation:
in Alūksne.



DAY 1



Rīga – Alūksne
→ ~200 km

Accommodation in Alūksne.

