



You are welcome to travel around the Žemaitija National Park, where beautiful nature of Žemaitija land is rich in history and cultural heritage!

Žemaitija National Park Directorate is responsible for the content of this publication.

Photos by: S. Sidabras, G. Sidabrienė, A. Brazdeikytė, ŽNPD archive.

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Please do not hesitate to contact us by the above-mentioned contact information of any damaged infrastructure you may notice.

*Žemaitija National Park (ŽNP) was established in 1991 to preserve, manage, and use the most valuable landscapes of Žemaitija region. The ŽNP has been designated as a NATURA 2000 site, it is a member of EDEN network, and a member of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas.*

Let's take care of and preserve the Žemaitija National Park. Let's take responsibility so that the natural and cultural values here remain for future generations.



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## PAPLATELĖ EDUCATIONAL WALKING TRAIL



The walking trail (2.3 km) winds through forested hills, along the banks of the Sultekis Pond. Wooden sculptures give the trail playfulness and the observation tower overlooks the pond and the coniferous forests surrounding it.





## EXCLUSIVENESS OF THE TRAIL

**1. Landscape.** You can not only see but also feel Žemaitija National Park's hilly terrain, which is particularly picturesque on this trail. The terrain of Paplatelė surroundings was formed by the last glacier 13-13.5 thousand years ago. The height of the hills is up to 189 meters above sea level.

**2. Sculptures.** It is the only trail in the National Park, where wooden sculptures, created in the 1980s following the motifs of Lithuanian fairy tales, have survived. Some of the sculptures are adapted for children's play and active recreation.

**3. Woodland Key Habitat.** The first 300 meters of the trail stretch through the Woodland Key Habitat (WKH). It is an area of the forest without significant damage from human economic activity, where endangered, vulnerable, rare, and protected species of plants, fungi, and animals are found. This WKH is classified as a pine forest and a mixed forest with pine trees. It covers an area of 10.5 hectares. Century-old pine and fir trees grow there.

**4. Sultekis Pond (6 ha).** In the 1970s a pond was formed, which is gradually becoming a swamp. Here, you can see or hear the Pern, the Western Marsh Harrier, the Common Buzzard, and other birds. On the outskirts of the pond, protected Marsh Orchids grow. In the woods, there are trodden paths of large ungulates (moose, roe deer, wild boars), anthills, and abundant hollows made by birds of the woodpecker family.

The 2.3 km Paplatelė educational walking trail is located in Žemaitija National Park, on the eastern shore of Lake Plateliai, in Paplatelė village, 8.9 km from the Žemaitija National Park Directorate in Plateliai. Coordinates of the trail's starting point: 368287, 6214552 (LKS) or 56.046841, 21.885817 (WGS). The trail is marked with signs, at the starting point, there is an information board. Trail paving: natural (0.6 km), hard packed soil (1.3 km), and asphalt (0.4 km). The trail is in Paplatelė recreational area. Nearby there is a hotel, holiday homes, rural tourism homesteads, campsites, a cafe, and a restaurant.

