



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.

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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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ROUTE "PLATELIAI AND SURROUNDINGS"



When traveling on a nearly 8-km-long linear route you can visit the natural and cultural attractions of Plateliai town and Beržoras ethnocultural village. Both places have a long and rich history so you can enjoy not only the wonderful landscapes and exceptional nature, but also learn a lot about the past and cultural heritage of these areas.





EXCLUSIVENESS OF THE ROUTE

1. The oldest wooden churches. Plateliai St. Peter and Paul and Beržoras St. Stanislovas wooden churches are two of the oldest churches in Lithuania, built in 1744 and 1746. The last owners of Plateliai Manor were buried in the Plateliai churchyard. The cemetery located in the Beržoras churchyard is one of the oldest in Lithuania. Folk artist S. Riauba and historian J. Mickevičius rest there.

2. Žemaitija National Park and Shrove Tuesday expositions (Didžioji str. 22 and 24, Plateliai). The expositions are established in the former farm buildings of Plateliai Manor in the barn and stables. In 2011, the expositions of the history of Plateliai Manor, the old Plateliai, Pilies Island's past, and the ethnographic exposition of the Žemaitija region were renewed in Plateliai Manor. There is also a new, modern exhibition of nature. Shrove Tuesday exposition is installed in the manor's sta-

bles. It is the first Shrove Tuesday museum in Lithuania, which presents the traditional Shrove Tuesday festival with more than 300 different masks.

3. Beržoras. This state-protected cultural heritage that has preserved the traditional landscape, has been mentioned since the 15th century. According to legend, a birch was once growing in a place where there is now Beržoras. The image of Mother Mary appeared at its top. In the place where the tree was growing, a chapel was built, and a village was established. Between 1759 and 1760, 14 wooden Stations of the Way of the Cross were built in Beržoras. There are plenty of restored or remaining chapels, crosses, and wayside shrines in and around the village. Birškauskas – the object of natural heritage – is growing next to the road Paušėnai–Plateliai. There is also a 52 ha Beržoras lake quite near. Beržoras recreation area is installed near the lake.

4. Siberija observation tower. From the 15-meter-high observation tower, you can see the lakes of Plateliai and Beržoras, the Siberija Swamp – one of the most valuable swamps in the Žemaitija National Park, the Beržoras village, the southern part of Plateliai town, and the Liepijos forest.

5. Žemaitija National Park's traditional crafts center (Didžioji str. 19, Plateliai). The center is located in the former vegetable cellar of the Plateliai Manor homestead. The craft center carries out various educational activities of traditional crafts training and teaching about customs and rituals of ethnoculture, practical workshops and events are organized.

6. Plateliai Manor Park. The park was started in the 19th century in a 6.2 ha area. Here you will find spectacular trees, remains of the foundations of the burnt wooden mansion palace, you can spot bats, a Clouded Apollo, a Grey-headed Woodpecker, and other protected animal and plant species. The pride

and adornment of Plateliai Manor Park – Raganos uosis (Witch's Ash) – the thickest ash in Lithuania. Its trunk girth is 7.3 m, height – 32 m, age – more than 200 years.

There are no special markings on the route, but there are signs marking all attractions, information boards are built in many places. We suggest starting the trip at Plateliai Visitor Center.

