

This is one of the most popular tourism routes in the Žemaitija National Park, on which interesting objects of tourism, natural and cultural valuables, scenic panoramas are plentiful and tourism infrastructure is built.

Circular route length is 22 km. cycling paths of the route occupy 15.6 km, 8.9 km are asphalt-paved roads of district importance. It is intended to build cycling paths on the entire route by 2015.

The route starts and ends in the same location - Plateliai. You should start your trip at the Visitor Centre, where "Mysteries of Žemaitija" exhibition is opened to the public, detailed information about objects to be visited is available and cognitive excursions are conducted from here.

Plateliai. In historical sources, this town used to be mentioned from the 15th century. The objects to visit: exposition of the Žemaitija National Park, the Shrovetide celebration exposition, the 18th century church, the 19th century bell tower, the 19th century Manor Homestead, monuments of nature growing in the Manor Park: the stoutest Lithuanian ash, the Plateliai Linden, the Plateliai Elm, monuments in memory of First Decade of Lithuania's Independence, Lithuanian Freedom Army, Rainiai martyr B. Korza, the walking trail of Giliukas and Kaštoniukas in the Manor Park, and Lake Plateliai Viewing Platform. In the town, there is the National Park Administration Office, the Visitor Centre, the elderate, a post office, an ambulatory, a drugstore, a library, a petrol station, several stores and cafes, several rural tourism farmsteads, a yacht club, a guest house etc.

Plateliai – Beržoras. The asphalt - paved cycling and walking trail, 1.4 km long. On this segment you will see:

Siberija Telmological Reserve. This is one of the most valuable marshes in the National Park, a Natura 2000 site, in which plants, fungi and animals to be protected in Europe and Lithuania have been discovered. This Marsh has been granted a status of a telmological reserve, to which, in order to preserve biodiversity, visitors are not permitted from April 1st to August 1st.

Viewing Tower (there is a sign with the inscription "An Object of Interest"). The 15 metres high tower overlooks Beržoras surroundings, the Siberia Marsh, Lake Plateliai, the southern part of Plateliai town and the Liepija forest.

Beržoras. The old street village, mentioned starting with the 15th century, which preserved its traditional landscape, has been granted a status of a state-protected cultural valuable. The 18th century Beržoras church is one of the oldest wooden sacred architecture buildings in Lithuania. There are wooden Stations of the Cross, abundance of chapels, crosses and wayside shrines with sculptures of saints inside, which have survived or have been restored. Near the Pauošniai – Plateliai road, the **Beech of Birškus** grows, an object of natural heritage.

Beržoras Lake. The area of the lake is 52 ha, maximum depth – 6.3 m. The island on the lake is a hydrographic object of natural heritage. The perch makes the major part of fishes in the lake, although great quantities of roach, bream, pike and rudd are breeding here as well. Near the lake, 2 resting places are built, and there are several rural tourism farmsteads.

Beržoras – Plokščiai (a turning to the Cold War exposition (museum), a sign with the inscription "The Cold War Museum"). Asphalt - paved regional road, 3.4 km.

One of the most picturesque segments of the route: you travel along Beržoras lake, the southern part of Lake Plateliai, in which one can see one of 7 islands of the lake – Gaidsalė, on the right roadside – lake Žiedelis (*A Tiny Blossom*). On this segment, there are several campsites and a rural tourism farmstead. 1.6 km away from the route, when driving towards Plungė, in the former 19th century Babrungėnai water mill, a **private art gallery-study of L. Černiauskas** is open to the visitors.

Plokščiai – The Cold War Exposition (Museum). Asphalt - paved cycling path, 3.9 km. On this segment you can explore:

Source of the Babrungas River. At the starting point of the segment, on the left roadside, a hydrological structure can be seen regulating the water level of Lake Plateliai. This place is the one where the Babrungas river rises.

Plokštinė Natural Reserve. When moving towards the exposition, on the right roadside, you can explore the Plokštinė Natural Reserve, occupying the eastern part of the Plokštinė forest with the imposing marshes of Juodupis – Uošna, lively springs and mysterious rivulets. Human activity is limited here, therefore, visiting is not permitted.

Cold War Exposition (Museum). The exposition is located on the former Soviet Army underground site for thermo-nuclear missile launching. Here, unique visual and graphic material is available telling about the former Soviet Empire principles of secret activity regarding nuclear weapon organization and functioning.

Plokštinė Educational Walking Trail. The walking trail, 3 km long, begins near the Cold War Exposition and meanders on the hills of the Plokštinė forest, across the territory of the former military base and passes the monument of nature – the Pilelis spring.

On this segment, you will find a rural tourism farmstead and several resting places.

Cold War Exposition – Paplatelė – Rūdaičiai of Paežerė. In total 4.7 km: asphalt-paved cycling path 2.2 km and hard packed soil-cycling path 2.5 km (rubble, gravel). On this segment:

Paplatelė Recreation Zone. This is an excellent place to take a rest. There are several campsites, rest houses, a hotel, a cafe, a restaurant, several rural tourist farmsteads and sports playfields.

Paplatelė Educational Walking Trail. The walking trail (2.3 km) is meandering on the woody hills and along the shores of the Sultekis pond. Wooden sculptures provide the trail with playfulness, while the viewing tower overlooks the pond and spruce forests encircling it.

Lake Plateliai Viewing Platform. The viewing platform built on the eastern shore of the Lake overlooks the panoramic view of the Lake and the western shore.

Rūdaičiai of Paežerė – Medsėdžiai. Asphalt - paved regional road, 4.3 km. On this segment:

Birdwatching location. This place is located near the Pakastuva pond, in the Telmological Reserve, 400 m away from the route (there is a sign with the inscription “A Birdwatching Location”). Here you can explore cranes, Red-necked Grebes (*Podiceps grisegena*), Great Bitterns (*Botaurus stellaris*), Spotted Crakes (*Porzana porzana*), swans, Marsh Harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*) and others. In order to preserve the biodiversity, visitors are not permitted to other locations of the Telmological Reserve from April 1st to August 1st.

Recreation Zone of Rūdaičiai of Paežerė. On the northern shore of Lake Plateliai, there are several campsites and rural tourism farmsteads.

Užpelkiai Mound. A monument of culture, dating back to the 1 – st. millennium.

Medsėdžiai – Plateliai. 5,1 km long path (cycling path, 3.2 km long, of hard packed soil (rubble, gravel), an asphalt-paved cycling path, 0.6 km long, and asphalt-paved regional road 1.3 km). On this segment:

Šeirė Walking Trail. When travelling towards Plateliai, 0.6 km from the roundabout, on the left roadside, a segment of the Cycling Path around Lake Plateliai begins, building of which has been currently completed. The trail is located in the picturesque places of the Šeirė forest, on the shore of Lake Plateliai. Part of this trail (1.8 km) coincides with the ***Šeirė Walking Trail***. When walking the trail (4.1 km), you can explore a relief characteristic of this region, the Šeirė forest, the Gaudupis Bog, lake Piktežeris, Lake Plateliai, ordinary and rare species of plants, fungi and animals, while the infrastructure built up will assist you in acquainting with the environment through sight, smell, hearing, touch, moving and thinking.

Lake Plateliai Viewing Platform. The Platform is built on the western shore of the Lake. It overlooks one of the most beautiful panoramas of Lake Plateliai and its surroundings: you can enjoy Pilies, Veršiu, Pliksalė islands, the Šventorkalnis peninsula and the eastern shore of the Lake.