



Part-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund)

# GARDAI ESKER

## EDUCATIONAL WALKING TRAIL

ŽEMAITIJA NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE



### SCHEME OF WALKING TRAIL



### EXCLUSIVENESS OF TRAIL EXPERIENCE:

1. **Gardai Esker.** This trail is located on the Gardai Esker, the largest and most imposing esker in Žemaitija (Samogitia). This is a unique in geomorphologic sense shape of land and one of the most picturesque in Lithuania. An esker is a long narrow hill composed mostly of sand and gravel. This ridge was formed from sediments that deposited inside glaciers, on the beds of melted ice water streams about 12 – 13 thousand years ago. This peculiar semicircle-shaped embankment-ridge stretches from the Varduva river in Žemaičių Kalvarija town for 3.5 km northwest. In some places, the height of the Gardai Esker reaches 10-15 metres from the feet to the highest crests of the ridge. In this place a gravel quarry used to be in Soviet times, and later it was exploited as an illegal dumpsite.
2. **Kame Landscape.** Open space landscapes with kame hills similar to loaves of bread predominate. This is the north western part of the hilly Žemaitija. Complex processes of glacial and post-glacial periods formed this relief with its undulating, scenic and mosaic appearance.



Respect, protect and preserve the Žemaitija National Park so that the natural and cultural valuables existing on its soil would remain for future generations.

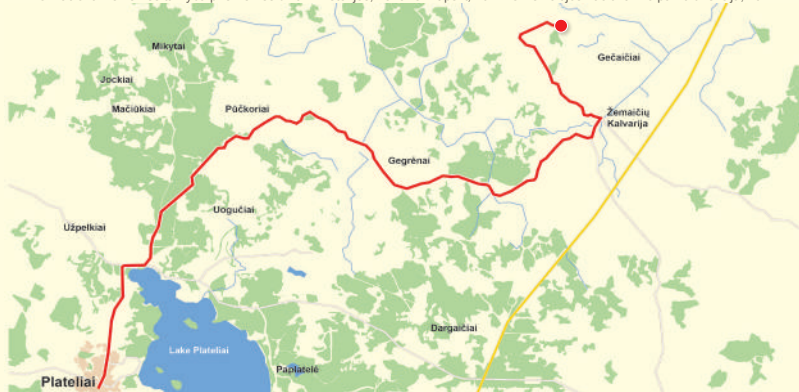
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### PLATELIAI - GARDAI ESKER EDUCATIONAL WALKING TRAIL

This 1 km long walking trail is located in the Žemaitija National Park, 4.4 km from Žemaičių Kalvarija town and 25.6 km from the Žemaitija National Park Administration Plateliai Visitor Centre. The coordinates are as follows: 375418, 6223524 (LKS) or 56.129301, 21.996009 (WGS). The pebble-paved walking trail has way finding signs.

When walking the trail, you will find some water areas, a viewing platform, a parking lot, stationary bicycle stands, a resting place and a toilet.

Author Žemaitija National Park Administration. Photos: R. Norvaišaitė, D. Abrutė. Translation UAB „Tarptautinių vertimų biuras“. Layout&design UAB „INDIGO print“.

This publication reflects the Žemaitija National Park Administration's approach, hence the EU European Commission and the Managing Authority shall not be responsible for any use of this information.

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This walking trail (1 km) provides hikers with opportunities to see the Gardai Esker, find out what it is, how was formed and, from the viewing platform, enjoy the landscape of this location containing a heart-shaped island on the artificial ponds.



### Žemaitija National Park Administration Plateliai Visitor Centre

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