

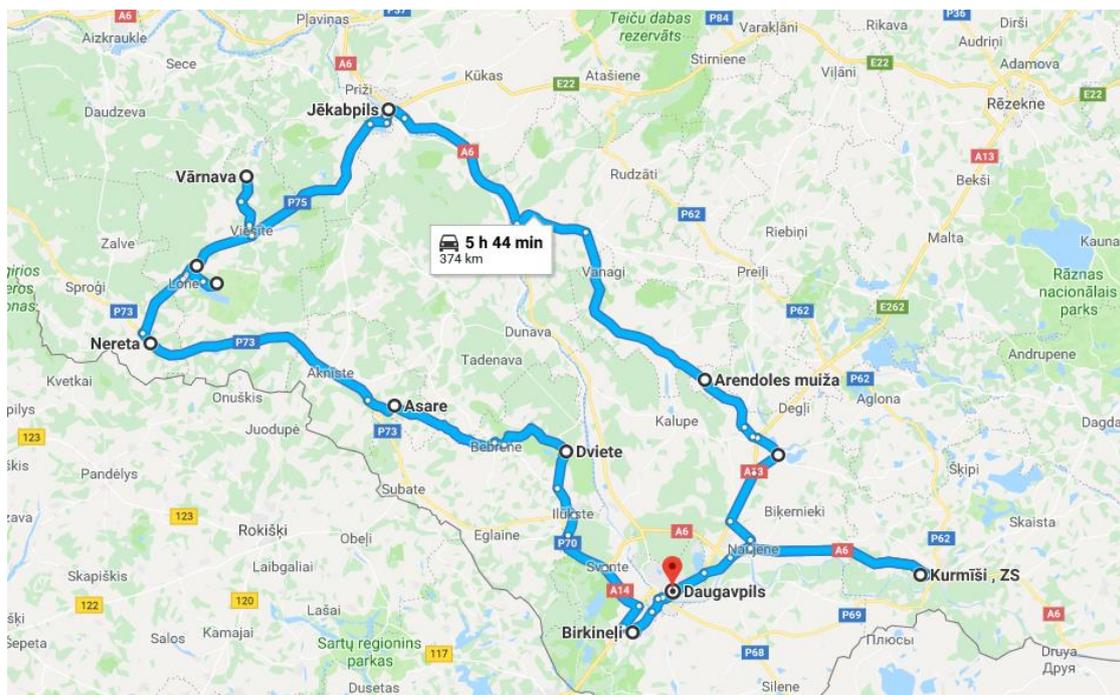
## 2. FRUIT GARDENS AND REGIONAL AUTHENTICITY

**Tour duration:** 2 days, 406 km

**Tour route:** Daugavpils – Ilūkste – Dviete – Kaldabruņa – Asare – Nereta – Vārnavā – Jēkabpils – Līvāni – Arendole – Višķi – Naujene – Krāslava - Daugavpils

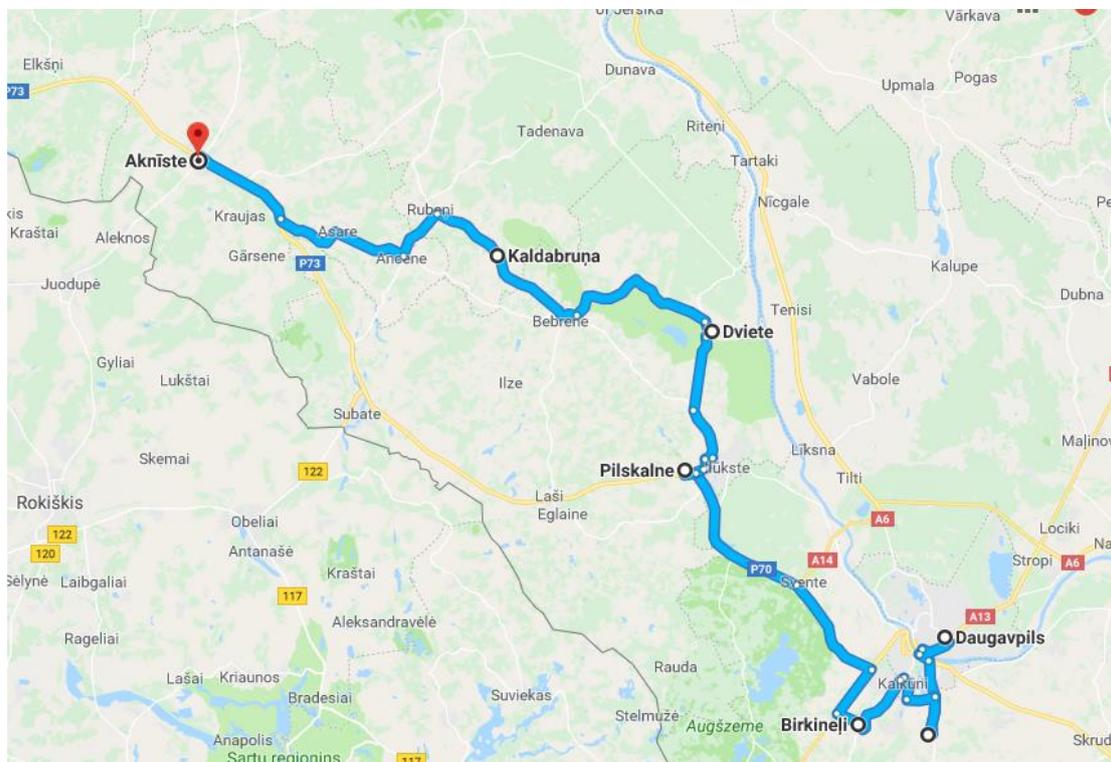
The tour makes a loop through historical regions of Sēlija and Latgale. It starts and ends in Daugavpils, the 2nd largest city in Latvia.

Sēlija tree nursery offers a tour of their apple orchard, apple storage and production facilities. Enjoy a glass of apple juice and stories of vine makers. On the way, a visit to Berķenele memorial house of Rainis, the distinguished Latvian author and social activist. Grape selection and cultivation was the great passion of Pauls Sukatnieks, and his memorial garden is worth visiting during the harvesting time. At Kaldabruņa you will visit an art gallery housed in a hay-shed together with a hay museum. The romantic landscape park at Asares estate dates back to the 18th century and exposes carefully picked tree and shrub varieties. Riekstiņi is an authentic single-family Selonian farm with a specific spirit and ambience. Nereta Evangelical Lutheran church is one of the oldest stone buildings in Sēlija region dating back to 1584. Sauka Nature Park offers nice landscape views from a viewing tower. Rudzīši winery grows about 80 grape varieties. Pick your own blackcurrant berries at Bāniši berry farm. A beautiful landscape garden is open for visitors at Gundegas house. 200 year old oaks adorn the Vārkavas Park. At Naujene museum of regional studies you will see an exposition showing the house of a wealthy Latvian farmer from the turn of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Vasargelišķu viewing tower is 24m high and offers great views over the meandering Daugava River. Ethnographical Slutišķu village with carefully maintained wooden cabins exemplifies traditional Latgalian architecture. Kurmīši farm grows medicinal plants that are very common in Latvia – oregano, St John’s wort, wormwood, lemon balm, catsfoot, etc.



## First day

Daugavpils – Birķeneļi – Ilūkste – Dviete – Kaldabruņa – Aknīste (103km)



**A visit to the tree nursery "Sēlija"** (Lauces parish) and the enthusiastic narrative of the owner of Mendrik's apple tree breeding. Excursion around the apple orchards, apple warehouses and production workshops. Enjoying apple juice and listening to vintage live lifestyles at the glass of wine.



### **Rainis house in Berķenele**

This is the homestead where the distinguished Latvian author and social activist Rainis (1865-1929) spent his childhood. He wrote about his childhood impressions in a compendium of poems, Five Sketch Notebooks from Dagda. The home offers tours, creative workshops, exhibitions, etc.



At the **house of the painter Paula Sukatnieka, "Apsites"**, you are invited to get acquainted with the numerous collections and talents of P. Sukatnieks, to get acquainted with the secrets of growing grapes, to look at garden plants in the summer, to taste various varieties of grapes and to attend events.

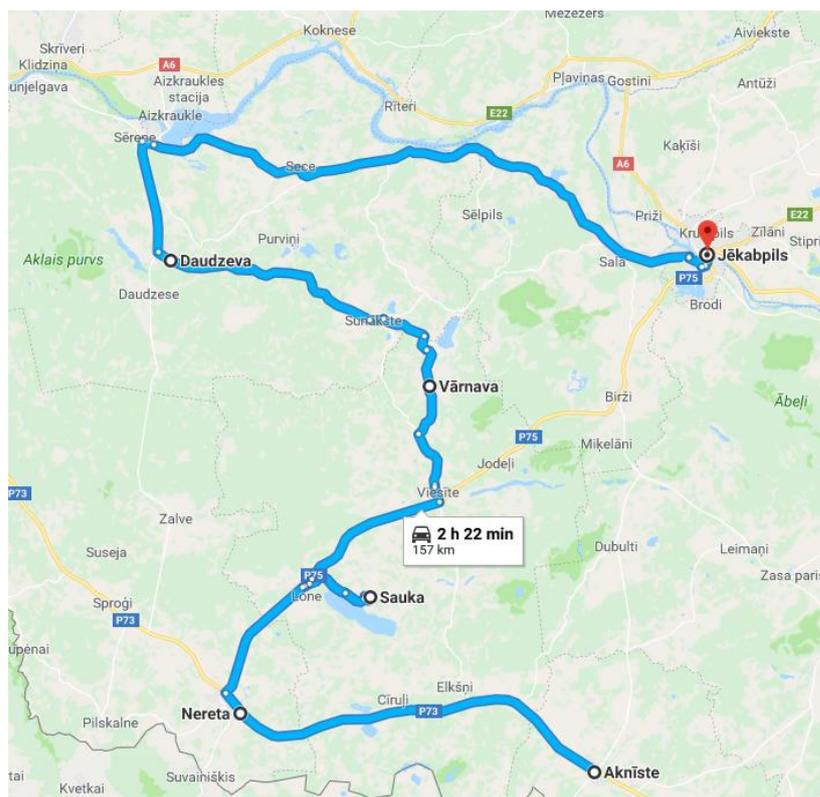


**Kaldabruņa** is a unique place for art in Latvia - the Shed art gallery. The Siena Museum and the story of this all are also interesting.

**The romantic dendrological landscape park of the Asare Manor** was built in the 18th century, the 19th century. 2nd half added. There are many interesting shrubs and tree species in the park: Siberian halibut, European larch, duglasia, chopped white whales, Swedlera maples, shrubberries, various herbs. Liepu aleja - 2 trees. Temple Hill in the restored forehead - landlord tea drinking place overlooking the castle.

## Second day

**Aknīste – Nereta – Sauka – Vārnava – Daudzeva – Jēkabpils (157km)**



**“Riekstiņi”** is a farm 6 km from Nereta at which the outstanding Latvian writer and painter Jānis Jaunsudrabiņš (1877-1962) spent six years of his childhood. The people of the farm became prototypes for characters in his “White Book,” in which he called the farm “Mūsmājas.” A museum was opened at Riekstiņi in 1967, and it is in an authentic single-family Selonian farm with a specific spirit and scent.

## Lutheran Church of Nereta

**Sauka Nature Park with Boriskalns Tower (renovated)**



## Vārnava Wine Hill "Rudzīši"

Evalds Pūpols has been engaged in grape growing and new breed breeding for over 40 years. In the hill covered place of the forest, an appropriate environment for the cultivation of warm-cutting grapes in the wild was created and developed, and today, almost 80 hectares of vineyards grow 80 different varieties of grapes. This garden is one of the largest and have most various of grapes in Latvia within the North-Atlantic area.

## Sunākstes Church - Old Stender Places

**Blackberry garden** - The "Bānīši" islands occupy more than 3ha, and the owner of this holding has for many years been practicing a popular method from abroad, when fruit and berry creators themselves arrive on the farm and collect the necessary amount of berries for their own needs.

### Fine garden "Gundegas"

Beautiful, harmonious and, of course, incredible - in such a few words, the Gardens of Gardens of the Daugsees pag-gaut "Gundegu". Farmer Agrita Laizane devotes much of her day to her, and most of her concern is her springboard, when inspirational, sown, spiked, planted, and in autumn, sketching next year's work, collecting seeds, preparing a garden for winter.

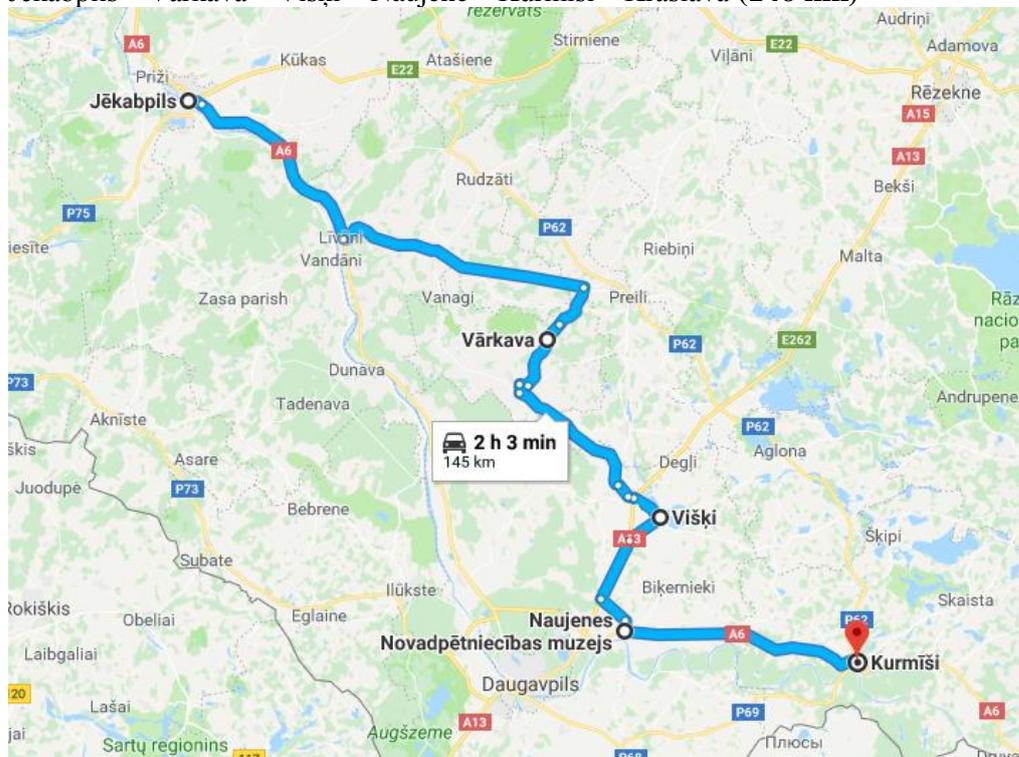
Jēkabpils city sightseeing

### For accommodation in Jēkabpils we suggest:

- Hotel „Hercogs Jēkabs”
- Camping „Radži”

## Third day

Jēkabpils – Vārkava – Višķi – Naujene – Kurmīši – Krāslava (146 km)



Nature monument - protected dendrological plantations "**Vārkavas parks**" is located in Upmalas parish, with an area of 2.7 ha. The park was built in the start of 19th century, and judging by the larger oaks (about 200 g.), the rest of the plantations were erected at the end of the 19th century. The park is home to more than 10 exotic

species of trees and shrubs - the trees and shrubs of the region - maples, ashes, spruce, ashes, oaks, delicate willow, linden, horns, stick, European leggings, leafy maple, sugar maple, fluffy filadelfs, fragrant apse, silver lobster, Hungarian lilac, Crimean lion, broadleaf linden.



### **Dendrological plantations of Višķi**



**The Naujene Local History Museum** is located in Naujiene, on the side of the Daugavpils - Kraslava (A6) road. The museum's ethnographic collection displays the exhibition "The rich Latvian farmer's room" from the 19th-20th centuries. household items. Around the road, the well-equipped Juzepova Park, which has been built by the Count Bogdan Šahno Manor House, has not been preserved until now. The park has many old, beautiful trees - most oaks, linden, conifers, and two cedar pines (*Pinus cembra*). A pear tree (*Pyrus piraster*) grows nearby.

### **A viewing tower in Vasargelišķi**

The tower offers one of the loveliest views in Eastern Latvia – one of the eight curves of the Daugava. This is the Rozališķi curve. Here you will get a whole new sense of the Daugava River and its mighty valley in a place where the waters of a hydroelectric plant bubble away in our present day and age.

### **The Slutišķi village**

The Slutišķi village is a very ethnographic village with a layout and buildings typical of the Latgale region, complete with decorated windows and facades. The Slutišķi Old Believers House features a museum focusing on the cultural environment and traditions of the Old Believers. One of Latvia's most unusual landscapes can be seen from the ancient banks of the Daugava River.



**The farm "Kurmišķi"** grows medicinal plants that are very common in Latvia – oregano, St John's wort, wormwood, lemon balm, catsfoot, etc. You can take an informational tour and taste and purchase tea mixtures.

Return in Daugavpils.