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#### www.balticroute.com

We invite you to go on a legendary journey where you will discover the ancient Balts lands and their inhabitants: courageous discover the ancient Balts lands and wise Selonians. The route Couronians, mighty Semigallians and wise Selonians. The coute sand each of Couronian, Semigallian and Selonian. The whole route and each of its segments tells of the places playing a certain role in the life of the local tribes – hillforts, significant battlefields, sacred places and mythological objects. Besides these, archaeological exhibitions of museums and educational programs, craft centres and local craftsmen remind of remarkable people in the history of the region. The map also includes eight thematic routes.

In ancient times, the Baltic tribes – Couronians, Selonians, Delonians, Semogitians, Aukštaitians, Prussians, Semogitians, Aukštaitians, Prussians, Satwings and Galindians – lived in the territory of modern Latvia and Lithuania. In 12th–13th centuries, the progress of these tribes was interrupted by the arrival of German crusaders and the formation of Livonia, which changed the boundaries of ancient and countries. We, Latvians and Lithuanians, are the only left to speak Balts' languages.









COURONIANS | SEMIGALLIANS | SELONIANS Sightseeing Objects, Tourism Routes

BALTS' ROAD, THE COURONIAN ROUTE SEGMENT

Route: Rucava – Liepāja – Grobiņa – Jūrkalne – Alsunga – Kuldīga –

Ventspils – Talsi – Valdemārpils – Sabile – Saldus – Embūte – Mosėdis –

Plateliai – Kretinga – Klaipėda – Palanga – Rucava

Duration: 3–4 days. Length about 790 km

In ancient times, Couronians lived on the coast of the Baltic Sea. At that time, the sea and rivers were an important waterway that influenced their way of life and interaction with neighbouring nations. You will find out about this by taking the circular Couronian Route Segment.

Peaceful deals were made during trading. Merchants from faraway lands were tempted to visit the shores of the Baltic Sea looking for the northern gold amber. To find out more about amber, visit the **Palanga Amber Museum** (40) and the **Liepāja Crafts House** (6). Ancient Couronian boats, the barges, are exhibited in the exposition of the **Lithuanian Sea Museum** in Smiltynė (38), while the **Active Tourism Centre "Couronian Viking settlement"** (8) invites for a boat ride.

There are various legends and tales around the Couronian hillforts of Veckuldīga (15), Talsi (20), Mežīte (24), Sabile (26), Embūte (29), Apuolė (32), Ekete (36) and others. Findings of archaeological excavations are displayed at the museums in Liepāja (5), Ventspils (17), Talsi (21) and Kretinga (35). A large number of Couronian burials and graves were discovered at the Aukštakiemiai Cemetery (37) and Lake Vilkmuiža (20).

The food was simple at that time. You can enjoy ancient Couronian dishes in the **Ethnographic House "Zvanītāji"** (2), the **Bakery "Bērziņi"** in Jūrkalne (13) and in the tavern **"Spēlmaņu krogs"** in Alsunga (14).

The importance of Balts' mythology and sacred places will be revealed by the **Great Stone** and the sacrificial site at **Šilalė** (30), the **Giant Krauju Boulder** (23), the **Idol Linden of Valdemārpils** (22) and the **Ulmale-Piṇṇi Bullaun** (12). Various stones and boulders can be viewed at the **Vaclovas Intas Museum** in **Mosėdis** (31). Legends tell that the ruler of **Lake Plateliai** (34), a queen riding on a white horse, had an unusual power. Look for the world of myths and fairy tales also in **Lithuanian Fairytale Park** (41) and **Sausdravai Baltic Mythological Park** (42).

On the route, take a look at the **Dunika Bog Trail** (4), the **horse and wild ox pasture in Pape Nature Park** (1), visit **Māra's Chambers** (25), **Birutè's Hill in Palanga** (39) and other places.

### BALTS' ROAD, THE SEMIGALLIAN ROUTE SEGMENT

Route: Vītiņi – Biksti – Zebrene – Dobele – Jelgava – Cena – Tērvete – Vilce – Mežotne – Bauska – Bārbele – Pasvalys – Šiauliai – Satrija – Papilė – Viekšniai – Mažeikiai

Duration: 3-4 days. Length about 620 km

The Semigallian Route Segment highlights ancient values of the cultural and historical landscapes of Semigallians as well as significant natural heritage sites that were known to Semigallians living here centuries ago.

Historical sources indicate that Semigallians were among the richest and most militant nations. Resistance battles and defence against the Crusaders was organised from hillforts. **Silakalns** (54), **Mežotne** (55), **Tērvete** (53), **Dobe** (43), **Spārnu** (44) and **Dobele hillforts** (47) in Latvia and **Rekčiai** (73) and **Ąžuolpamūšė** (59) retained their characteristic shape to this day. **Šatrija** (72) was an important centre of neighbouring Samogitia.

On September 22, 1236, one of the biggest battles of the North Crusades the Battle of Saulė (65) – took place in Semigallia. In the present-day Latvia and Lithuania, it is celebrated as the Balts' Unity Day. Horses were a crucial part of military expeditions; the hardy and courageous žemaitukai horses are seen grazing near Pakruojis Manor (62). You will discover stories about the Battle of Saulė, Semigallians and their kings and lands by visiting Tērvete Wooden Castle of 12<sup>th</sup> century (52), Bauska Castle (56), the Dobele Local History Museum (48), the Jelgava History and Art Museum of Ģederts Eliass (50), the Pasvalys Museum (60), the Mažeikiai Museum (78) and the Siauliai Aušros Museum (56).

The **Pasvalys Museum** (60) tells about sinkholes and the life of people in the karst region. Glacial stones and their diversity in the Balts' countries can be found in the extensive **collection of stones by Antanas Stapulionis** (61). **Kamanos High Swamp** (79) and several hundred thousand years old **Papilė outcrops** are also related to the Ice Age. The fabled **Lake Zebrus**, Zemgale's biggest lake, and **Ezerlūķi Hillfort** (45) with its surroundings are among the most mysterious places in Semigallia (Zemgale).

On the route, you will also see Lake Svēte and Elkus Hillock (Elkus kalns) (46), Dobele Crafts House (Dobeles Amatu māja) (49), Farm House "Caunītes" (51), the Bauska Museum (57), Bārbele Sulphur Spring (58), restored sanctuary in Baltic God Park – Museum (63), the Herb Plant Farm of Jadvyga Balvočiūtė (77), Santekliai Sacred Pine Forest (76) and the Museum of S. Daukantas (75).

### BALTS' ROAD, THE SELONIAN ROUTE SEGMENT

Route: Aizkraukle – Koknese – Vecbebri – Sēlpils – Jēkabpils – Viesīte – Nereta – Rite – Aknīste – Zasa – Dunava – Zarasai – Dusetos – Kulionys -Skudutiškis – Utena – Užpaliai – Kupiškis – Biržai Duration: 3–4 days. Length about 730 km

The journey along the Selonian Route Segment will introduce you to beautiful nature landscapes, Selonian crafts, remind you of the origins of ancient Balts' languages and the beauty of dialects and singing of multivocal songs.

Once inhabited, the hillforts rise up above present-day landscape as witnesses of ancient times. The route includes **Yosgėliai** (95) and **Kupiškis** hillforts in Lithuania and **Dignāja** (90), **Stupeļi** (87) and **Sēlpils** (83) hillforts in Latvia.

Craft skills, which were passed from generation to generation, are still preserved and appreciated. Visit the Jēkabpils History Museum Open-air exhibition "Sēļu sēta" (Selonian Courtyard) (84) and the Viesīte Museum "Selonia" ("Sēlija") (85) to see life-size Selonian houses and household articles, while the various creative workshops and craft centres, such as the Creative House "Baltaine" (81) and the Craft Centre "Rūme" (89) are open to teach you ancient skills and crafts. The beekeeper's craft is demonstrated at the Craft Centre in Uoginiai (103) and at the Latvian Beekeeping History Museum (82). If you are looking for secrets behind beer brewing, a visit to Lithuania's best-known brewer Ramūnas Čižas in Dusetos (93) is a must.

For Balts, faith was strength, strong as an oak! Even language scientists believe that the origin of the Western Balts' word "faith" is related to the oak. You might want to contemplate on this in the shade of the **Stelmužė Oak** (91). Since ancient times, springs were deemed to have healing properties: pay a visit to the ageless **medicinal mineral water spring at Smardonė** (106) in **Likėnai** resort and **Krokulė Spring** in Užpaliai (96) in Lithuania, as well as to **Saltupju Holy Spring** (88) in Latvia. The **Meļķitāru Trough Stone** (*Meļķitāru Muldakmens*) (80) served as a cult place and was attributed healing properties already since ancient times.

"Riekstiņi" is the Museum of writer Jānis Jaunsudrabiņš (86), which will reveal you the world depicted in his famous novel "Baltā grāmata" ("White Book"). Kazimieras Būga's native farmstead in Pažiegė village (94) will remind you of his hardy work to enrich the Lithuanian language, which resulted in the creation of the Great Lithuanian Dictionary. The Biržai Museum (104) is an opportunity to learn about Stasys Paliulis, preserving and collecting not only music instruments, such as skudučiai, the wooden trumpet (daudytė) and the horn, but also unique multivocal songs. You will hear the dialect and multivocal singing of Selonians by visiting the museum (102) and the sutartinės song festival in Kupiškis.

While on the route, take a look at **Ladakalnis Hillock** (98) and besides **Kirkilai karst lakes** (105) enjoy the diverse landscapes of Selonia from observation towers of **Lake Sartai** (92) and elsewhere.



# A COURONIAN WARRIOR. FEEL THE POWER OF COURONIANS!

Route: Embūte - Durbe - Grobiņa - Liepāja - Rucava - Dunika -

Duration: 1–2 days. Length about 195 km

According to ancient chronicles and Scandinavian rune stones, Couronians have been great seafarers, raiders, soldiers, also traders, and at times of peace – skilled crop-growers and livestock breeders. A legend tells that Danes used to pray to God: "God, protect us from the Couronians!" To understand where Couronians got their skills and strength from, one shall travel to the hillforts of Kurzeme (Courland) and visit places of natural power.

In ancient times, **Embūte** (29) was home to one of the greatest Couronian castles, where the brave Indulis ruled and the Devil is said to have assisted him.

The power of Couronians becomes evident in one of the most important battles of the 13<sup>th</sup> century in **Durbe** (9) where Latvians and Lithuanians fought shoulder to shoulder, defeating the Crusader troops

To enjoy active holidays, pay a visit to the **Active Tourism Centre** "Couronian Viking settlement" (8) in **Grobiņa** (7), formerly known under the name of Jūrpils or Seeburg, which was once an important centre of Couronians and Norsemen. A Couronian barge will take you on an exciting boat trip along the River Ālande to Grobiņa.

The history of Couronians is also told by the **Liepāja Museum** (5). One will find horses and wild oxen grazing in **Pape Nature Park** (1). Horses were used by Couronians to allow for faster movement through forested areas during wartime period. Equally important was the armament of warriors, the remains of which have been found in the **Dunika Bog** (4). Nowadays, it is an excellent place for hiking and enjoying nature with one of the longest bog trails in Latvia leading through it.

The route also includes the **Liepāja Crafts House** (6), Pape Ķoņu village, a fishermen's farmstead "Vītolnieki", the **Ethnographic House** "**Zvanītāji**" (2) and **Leju Sacred Spring** (3).

#### COURONIAN PLACES OF WORSHIP. FEEL THE HOLINESS OF COURONIANS!

Route: Mežīte – Vandzene – Valdemārpils – Talsi – Kuldīga – Turlava – Aizpute – Embūte Duration: 1–2 days. Length about 190 km

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Nature and believing in pagan deities played a major role in the Couronian lifestyle, and rituals were carried out at various cult places for their favour: in sacred groves and forests, near cult stones and trees. Feel the magical power of ancient Couronians at their sacred sites and get the energy you need for the road!

**Mežīte Hillfort** (24) is an extensive complex of Couronian sacred places consisting of an outstanding scenic hillfort, Hill of Idols (Elku kalns), ancient burial grounds and an ancient cult stone – the cup-marked stone.

The **Idol Linden of Valdemārpils** (22) is of particular value to health of women; one should just think of its meaning in context of Latvian mythology, which compares a beautiful maiden to a gorgeous and leafy linden-tree, while the greatness of a man is embodied **in the Krauju Giant Boulder** (23).

In the 11<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> centuries, the banks of **Lake Vilkmuiža** (20) were a Couronian cult place for burning of the dead. At that time, it was believed that the body of a deceased person shall be burnt, since flames disintegrate him into smoke to make it easier for the soul to move more quickly to another life. The archaeological findings from the lake are kept in the **Talsi Museum** (21).

Sacred caves are a specific type of cult places, but the Māra's Chambers (25) in the valley of the River Abava are particularly interesting. Venta Rapid Waterfall (16) is the most impressive Couronian sacred place in terms of size and visibility, but it is also the widest waterfall in Europe. The instructive phrase warning of not breaking a single twig mentioned in Latvian folk songs is attributable to the most famous of the Couronian holy groves – the Idol Grove of Turlava Ķoniņciems (107).

In Aizpute, visit Dzintare Hillfort and enjoy the ancient traditions by participating in stone beer brewing in the **Artist Residence "Serde"** (108). The legendary town of **Embūte** is among the most picturesque places in Kurzeme with several ancient places, nature trails and an observation tower.

The route includes **Sabile** (26) and **Veckuldīga** (15) hillforts and mythical and sacred places: the folklore trail "Jāņkalni" and the Spring *Elkuzemes Acs* 

# MIGHTY AND RICH SEMIGALLIA. EXPLORE SEMIGALLIANS!

Route: Vītiņi – Biksti – Zebrene – Dobele – Jelgava – Cena – Tērvete – Vilce – Mežotne – Bauska – Bārbele
Duration: 2 days. Length about 260 km

Since ancient times, Semigallia has been associated with wealth, greatness, its kings and the tempered character of Semigallian people. **Dobe** (Incēni) Hillfort (43) was the centre of the Semigallian Land Dobene. To see an imaginary approaching enemy, climb on the hillfort's rampart – it offers spectacular views of the surroundings!

Sacred places for religious purposes played an important role in the life of ancient Semigallians. Nature and active recreation lovers should definitely visit Zemgale's largest **Lake Zebrus** and the nearby **Ezerlūķi Hillfort** (45).

**Dobele Hillfort** (47) keeps stories about the mightiness of ancient kings, since at the end of the 13th century it was one of the hillforts to resist invaders the longest. A Livonian Order Castle was built on the ancient hillfort and the

ruins of the castle are still preserved.

To learn more about the history of the region and Semigallians, visit the Jelgava History and Art Museum of Gederts Eliass (50).

Following the footsteps of Semigallian kings, a must-see on your travel list should be the Semigallian centre of culture and power – **Tērvete Hillfort** (53), most famous and most cited in the historical sources. **Tērvete Wooden Castle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century** (52) is located nearby and was reconstructed according to a model of an ancient castle. It tells about the life of Semigallian kings and displays ornaments and armaments. The **Archaeological Complex of Mežotne Hillfort** (55) includes one of the largest and most beautiful hillforts of Semigallians with an ancient port.

The historical proof of the history of Bauska and its surroundings, Semigallians and the life of residents of a medieval castle is found in **Bauska Castle** (56), which in the 15th century was a symbol of power of the Livonian Order over the lands of Semigallians.

The route also includes Spārnu Hillfort (44), Lake Svēte and Elkus Hillock (Elkus kalns) (46), the Dobele Local History Museum (48) and the Dobele Crafts House (Dobeles Amatu māja) (49), the Farm House "Caunītes" (51), Silakalns Hillock (Augtais kalns) (54), the Bauska Museum (57) and Bārbele Sulphur Spring (58).

## JOURNEY THROUGH THE LANDS OF ANCIENT SELONIANS

Route: Aizkraukle – Koknese – Vecbebri – Sēlpils – Jēkabpils – Viesīte –
Nereta – Rite – Aknīste – Zasa – Dunava
Duration: 2 days. Length about 240 km

The Region of Selonia and the history of Selonians is a mystery not yet fully understood. The ancient lands of Selonians are rich in beautiful natural landscapes and their interesting history is witnessed by spectacular Selonian hillforts. Among the most visible ancient centres of Selonians are **Sēlpils** (83) and **Dignāja** hillforts (90), and **Stupeļi Hillfort** (87), which is

also considered as the most powerful centre of the Selonian land in Latvia.

The ancient **Sēlpils Hillfort** (83) was once a prominent political and military centre of Selonia. Its destiny is revealed by archaeological excavations, which disclosed the oldest evidence of humans in Latvia.

Today, the hillfort is almost invisible, because most of it is hidden under the waters of the River Daugava.

The ancient cult places in Selonia include the great **Meļķitāru Trough Stone** (*Meļķitāru Muldakmens*) (80), also known under the names of

Sacrificial Stone (*Upurakmens*) and Devil's Stone (*Velnakmens*), located in the

vicinity of Aizkraukle, and **Saltupju Holy Spring** (88) in Aknīste. According

to legends, both of the places have been deemed to have healing qualities
and magical power of worship.

The traditional elements of the culture of Selonians that have survived to the present day manifest themselves in crafts and national traditions. The visit to the Jēkabpils History Museum open-air exhibition "Sēļu sēta" (Selonian Courtyard) (84) will introduce you to the Augšzeme Region rural buildings of the 19th century and the ordinary countryside works of the time. For in-depth knowledge of Selonian culture, step by at the Viesīte Museum "Selonia" ("Sēlija") (85). A bustling place to be is the Craft Centre "Rūme" (89) in Zasa, where clay dishes are made and wooden tools are carved aiming to preserve the cultural and historical heritage of Selonians.

It is also recommended to visit the **Creative House "Baltaine" in Koknese** (81), the **Latvian Beekeeping History Museum in Vecbebri** (82), and the **Museum of writer Jānis Jaunsudrabiņš – "Riekstiņi"** in Nereta (86).



### THE WAY OF HAPPINESS, LOVE AND WISDOM

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Route: Pakalnė – Skudutiškis – Kulionys – Papiliakalnė – Ginučiai – Stripeikiai – Šeimatis Duration: 2 days. Length about 100 km

In ancient times, happiness for Balts meant wealth, prosperity and goddess Laima (Happiness). Goddess Austėja was responsible for love and family. Balts also asked for wisdom from mythical beings. The route will bring travellers and seekers of happiness through the imaginative, sensory and inspiring path through the historic Nalšia Duchy.

Goddess Laima wishes happiness as she approaches newborns in a crib and the fate unfolds as she sings like a cuckoo. The story of Laima is told in the **Valley of Laime in Narkūnai** (109), in **Skudutiškis Sacred Place** (101), at the **Valiulis Stone** (100), and is revealed by visiting the **Collection of the Holy Stones at the Observatory in Kulionys** (111). Ancient Balts believed that every person had his own star, he could be either happy or unhappy in life... No less important is the life thread twisted by gods of faith, which is attributed to the Sun's position in the sky or the Moon's phase on the birthday – listen to the stories as told by the ancient Balts' zodiac researcher Jonas Vaiškūnas at the **Observatory of the Ancient Celestial Bodies** (112).

At the top of **Pakalniai Hillfort** (110), at the grave of freedom fighters, travellers can have a moment to think about those for whom the happiness of the Lithuanian nation was a greater and more expensive value than their personal happiness. Feel the overwhelming happiness when climbing **Ladakalnis** (98) or the nearby **Ginučiai Hillfort** (113).

At the **Beekeeping Museum** (97), it's all about love. Austėja – the mother of bees, the goddess of love, caring for harmonious human relations and protecting family values; a unique Lithuanian cultural phenomenon in beekeeping – kinship and friendship through bees.

Wisdom was another value to ask for and obtain from gods. Ask your questions about life and let them be answered by the **Stone Mokas** near **Šeimatis** (115).

### SEARCHING FOR NATIONAL MEMORY

# Route: **Šventybrastis – Upytė – Raginėnai – Šiauliai – Luponiai – Juodeikiai** Duration: **2 days**. Length **about 230 km**

Underlying to this route is the selection of works "In Search of National Memory" by Algirdas Julius Greimas (1917–1992), dedicated to Balts' mythology. You will discover a wide variety of myths here, starting with the probably most famous story of the heavenly gods in Sun Square of **Baltic God Park** (63): the family ties of the Sun and the Moon are disrupted by the beautiful Aušrinė (planet Venus); winning over the Moon, the world guard Perkünas (Thunderer) cuts the Moon into half with a sword, it wanes, but after a few days the new Moon starts his circular journey anew. One of the newest myths is told at **Jurgaiciai Hillfort** (64), which nowadays is known under the name of the **Hill of Crosses**.

Algirdas Julius Greimas believes that people are constantly creating and transforming myths, unable to live without these, without believing in these or without trusting these. Start the journey by visiting the **Šventybrastis**Sacred Place (115) on the shores of the white-water River Nevėžis. Further, the route runs through **Švenčiuliškiai** (116) to Upytė, where at the Flax

Museum (117) you will hear the myth about the flax God Vaižgantas, and at the hillfort (118), it is time for a story about the infidel Čičinskas, who was swallowed by the earth.

Legends tell that on **Luponiai Hillfort** (122) bonfire was lit as a dedication and sign to the God Perkūnas (Thunderer); and according to stories, witches demanded offerings from the passers-by of Gruzdžiai road. At **Verduliai** (120), people thanked gods for unusual spring water, while **Raginėnai Hillfort** (119) is said to have been the residence of gods.

**Girnikai Hill** (121) used to be related to giant creatures: shaking off sand from a wooden clog, a giant created this hill, and as he mourned crying for his deceased mother the tears formed Lake Bulenai; it is also said that the giant borrowed an axe from Šatrija to cut down forests.

At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> centuries, a tailor from Trumpaičiai, **Matas Slančiauskas** (123), gathered and handed over hundreds of beautiful Lithuanian fairy tales, beliefs and tales to the Lithuanian Art Society, among them were the legends about Lake Miknaičiai washing amid the **Mūša Moorland** (124).

#### THE GREAT STORY OF LITHUANIAN HISTORY

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#### Route: Papilė – Žagarė – Joniškis – Žeimelis – Bardiškiai Duration: 1–2 days. Length about 160 km

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Lithuania created, defended and preserved its sovereignty. One might imagine that it is not difficult to answer the question, what the source of inspiration, determination and commitment of the great-grandfathers and grandfathers was: it certainly goes back to Balts and their rulers. "The Grand Duchy of Lithuania and its inhabitants were independent, noble-minded, rich and happy," concisely described **Simonas Daukantas**, a Lithuanian historian of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The route leading through the Great Story of Lithuanian History covers historical places and events in terms of the Lithuanian politics, culture and society of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which were highlighted by Simonas Daukantas (1793–1864) and his associates

Žvelgaitis hillfort (127) tells about the battles with the German Order in the 13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Nowadays, Žagarė Stud Farm (128) hosts the ancient war horses *žemaitukai*. The Kalnelis (Žiniūnėliai) Oak (129) is an ancient Balts' sacred place where gods and forests, animals, rivers were worshiped; later it became the property of the Catholic Church. The legacy of ancient Balts and Lithuanian Grand Duchy according to historians, is found in Joniškis (130) and Pakruojis Region museums (132).

The first historian to write in Lithuanian was S. Daukantas, his life and works are revealed at the **Museum of S. Daukantas** (75) in Papilė. Along with S. Daukantas, the great story of Lithuania was personalised and promoted by **Domas Šidlauskas-Visuomis** (126), the first to bring to life and (re)create the ancient Lithuanian religion, the **Balčiūnai family** (131), the legend of the guardians of ancient religions, and **Jozam Sivim**, a teacher and tireless local researcher.

In the 1940s, several monuments to honour rulers of Lithuania were built: to **Kęstutis** (125) in Kivyliai, to **Birutė in Lauksodis** (133) and to **Vytautas in Bardišiai** (134). Monuments which had not been demolished by the Soviet authorities were a source of strength to several generations of later freedom fighters: partisans, travellers, local history researchers, folklore collectors and dissidents.

### THE WAY OF THE HOLY FIRE

#### Route: Betygala – Šiaulėnai – Kelmė – Kražiai – Ožtakiai – Gaulėnai – Šatrija Hill Duration: 1–2 days. Length about 190 km

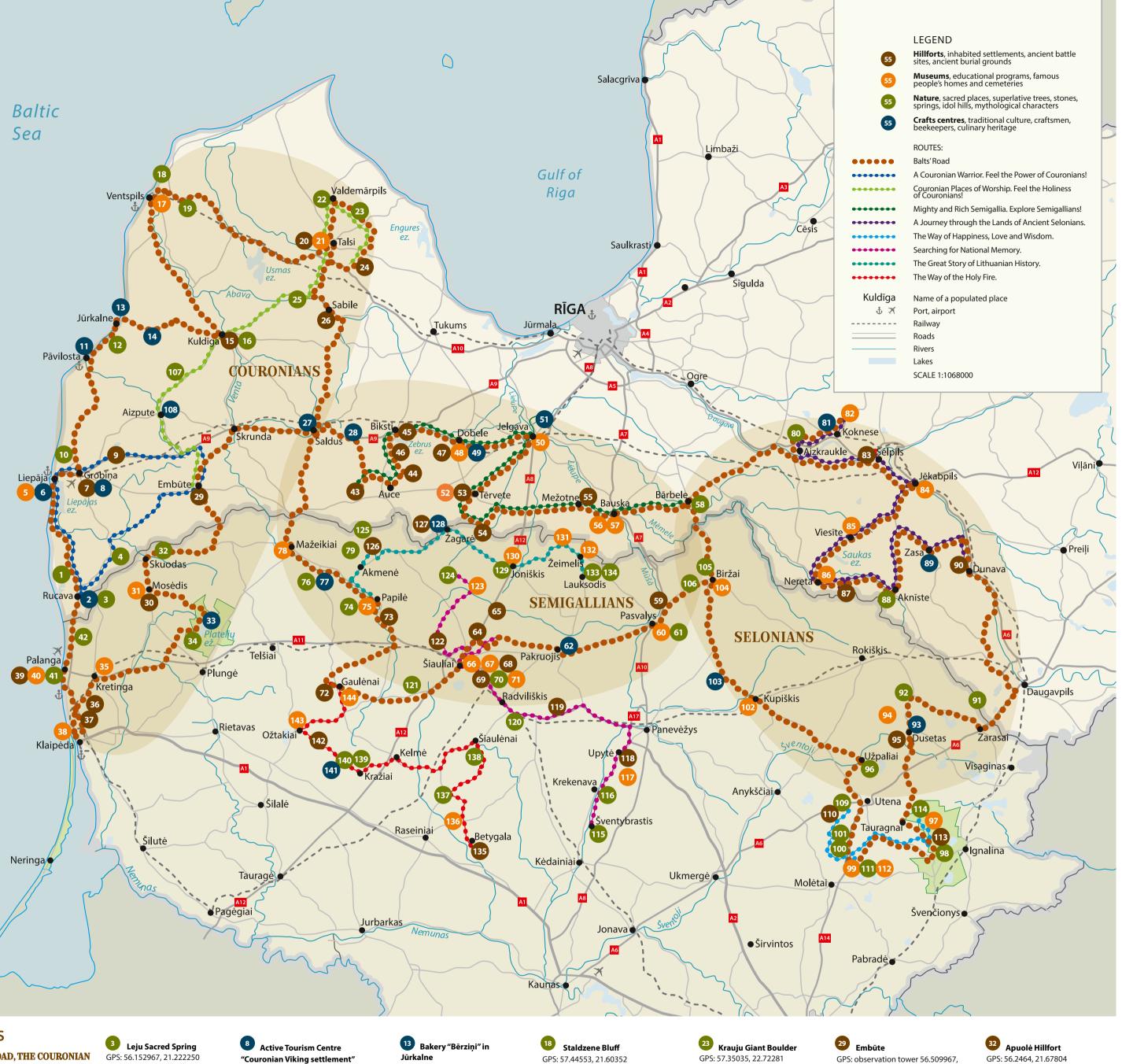
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The route not only tells about the importance of fire that warms, nourishes, protects, treats and frees the souls of the dead, but also about a period in the history of Lithuania during which the holy fire was not lit. The story begins with the Holy Fire, which, following the will of King Jogaila of Poland, in 1413, in the vicinity of **Betygala** (135), was put out at Dubysa. In 1994, it was lit up again on **Šatrija Hill** (72). Since then, the fire has been kept flaming at the home of the honorary *krivis* of Samogitia, artist Adolfas Gedvilas (1934-2017) in Ryškėnai, but after his

death it was transferred to Šatrija.

On the way from Betygala to Šatrija, Bernotai, the story of **Jonas**Mačiulis-Maironis (136) will be told, and Dainius Razauskas will recall the legend about the ancient wizard Gintautas, who said the following to his follower: "But you, Mačiulis, my son, delight people with a song, light a flame in the heart, but no hands of enemy can put out the flames of holy fire in the heart of Lithuania."The Akmenė village holy place (137), Sun Hill in Kudinai Forest (138), Kražiai Medžiokalnis (139), the Šventragiai Oak (140), the Girgždutė hillfort (142) are holy places where fire was lit and faith in ancient gods lived until the first half of the

The **Visitor Centre of Varniai Regional Park** (143) tells about the highest and greatest hillocks of Samogitians: Medvėgalis, Moteratis, Sprūdė and others, as well as about the tireless researcher Česlovas Kudaba. A lot of interesting information about Šatrija is found at the **Museum of Jonas Andriusevičius** (144) in Gaulėnai, among which are two historical maces of a *krivė*. *Krivė* was an ancient Lithuanian priest who invited people for gatherings at the holy place in Romuva. Today, **Šatrija** (72) serves as a place of the same function.



BALTS' ROAD, THE COURONIAN **ROUTE SEGMENT** Couronians in Latvia

Horse and wild ox pasture in Pape Nature Park

21.037852, pasture 56.19268, 21.08332, Ezerskola Sacrificial Stone 56.22638, 21.07148 www.saivaart.com

2 Ethnographic house "Zvanītāji"

4 Dunika Bog Trail GPS: 56.282890, 21.383610

5 Liepāja Museum GPS: 56.510860, 21.002270 www.liepajasmuzejs.lv

6 Liepāja Crafts House GPS: 56.5073, 21.01716

GPS: 56.89118, 21.18681 GPS: Skābaržkalns 56.53308,

GPS: 56.53406, 21.15124 www.grobinasvikingi.lv

9 Memorial Site of the Battle of Durbe

GPS: 56.59026, 21.3639 15 Veckuldīga Hillfort

GPS: 56.99432, 21.96078 Venta Rapid Waterfall 11 Smoked fish tasting in Pāvilosta

GPS: 56.96823, 21.97912 Ventspils Museum GPS: 57.39615, 21.55869

Alsunga

19 Grīži Devil's Bench

GPS: 57.08114, 22.36665 26 Sabile Hillfort GPS: 57.04695, 22.57668

27 Potters' Workshop "Podnīca" in Saldus GPS: 56.66506, 22.49458

21.817213, information center 56.50584.21.81918

BALTS' ROAD, THE COURONIAN ROUTE SEGMENT Couronians in Lithuania

Lake Plateliai

21.8153, disc game 56.03787, 21.81485, Castle Island 56.04398, 21.84563 Vaclovas Intas Museum

www.kretingosmuziejus.lt

Žemaitija National Park GPS: 56.04848, 21.88941 www.saulesslenis.lt

GPS: park exposition 56.04243.

35 Kretinga Museum GPS: 55.90008, 21.24853

GPS: 56.12341, 24.45958

GPS: 56.06016, 24.39898 www.pasvaliomuziejus.lt

GPS: 56.06519, 24.40555

Pakruojis Manor

Maisiai Baltic God Park - Museum GPS: 56.02143, 23.51353

www.naisiuvasara.lt **64** Jurgaičiai Hillfort 39 Birutė's Hill (Palanga Idol Hill)

(the Hill of Crosses, Kryžių Kalnas) GPS: 56.01531, 23.41646

65 Battlefield of the Battle of 40 Palanga Amber Museum GPS: 55.90689, 21.05604 Saulė (Saulės mūšio laukas) GPS 56.11603, 23.51599

41 Lithuanian Fairytale Park 66 Šiauliai Aušros Museum GPS: 55.91299, 21.05816 GPS 55.93909, 23.30576 www.pasakuparkas.lt www.ausrosmuzieius.lt

42 Sausdravai Baltic Žaliūkiai Miller's Farmstead Mythological Park and the Mill (at the Šiauliai Aušros GPS: 56.03158, 21.18803 Museum) GPS: 55.9238, 23.27202 www.baltuparkas.webs.com

**68** Žuvininkai (Salduvė) Hillfort BALTS' ROAD, GPS: 55.92967, 23.3583 THE SEMIGALLIAN ROUTE SEGMENT

"Balts' Road"

GPS: 55.93196, 23.31357

GPS: 55.87239, 22.55825

**Šatrija Hillfort** 

(Šatrijos piliakalnis)

73 Rekčiai Hillfort

GPS: 56.07725, 22.8536

GPS: 56.15172, 22.78859

www.ventosparkas.lt

Simonas Daukantas

GPS: 56.15191, 22.78894

Jurakalnis Geological

75 Memorial Museum of

76 Santekliai Sacred Pine Forest

(Santeklių miško šventosios pušys)

GPS: 1st pine 56.22486, 22.55763,

2nd pine 56.22719, 22.57355

Herb Plant Farm of

GPS: 56.22045, 22.55596

78 Mažeikiai Museum

GPS: 56.31641, 22.34668

www.mazeikiumuziejus.lt

**79** Kamanos Education Trail

(Kamanu mokomasis-pažintinis

takas) GPS: observation tower

80 Meļķitāru Trough Stone

(Meļķitāru Muldakmens)

GPS: 56.656670, 25.203991

GPS: 56.644318, 25.442099

GPS: 56.720851, 25.493230

83 Sēlpils Hillfort

GPS: 56.58722, 25.64027

(Selonian Courtyard)

GPS: 56.496162, 25.873688

GPS: 56.342242, 25.555184

www.muzejsselija.lv

Museum of Jānis

www.jekabpilsmuzejs.lv

("Sēlija")

82 Latvian Beekeeping History

Jēkabpils History Museum

Open-air exhibition "Sēlu sēta"

85 Viesīte Museum "Selonia"

www.facebook.com/

melkitarumuldakmens/

56.31416, 22.65194

BALTS' ROAD,

THE SELONIAN

ROUTE SEGMENT

Selonians in Latvia

Jadvyga Balvočiūtė

www.jadvyga.lt

(Rekčių piliakalnis)

**Cognitive Trail** 

69 Sun Dial Square Semigallians in Latvia GPS: 55.93075, 23.32515 Dobe (Incēni) Hillfort

70 Talkša Eco Trail GPS: 56.50008, 22.74299 GPS: 55.93008, 23.32739 44 Spārnu Hillfort Balts' Educational Centre GPS: 56.550630, 23.047612

45 Lake Zebrus and Ezerlüķi GPS: 56.63326, 23.01333

Lake Svēte and Elkus Hillock (Elkus kalns) GPS: 56.61773, 22.99361

36 Eketė Hillfort

GPS: 55.79209, 21.18008

(Aukštakiemių kapinynas)

GPS: 55.76922, 21.16262

GPS: 55.71687, 21.09981

GPS: 55.90567, 21.053

www.muziejus.lt

www.pgm.lt

Aukštakiemiai Cemetery

38 Lithuanian Sea Museum

Dobele Hillfort and **Castle Ruins** GPS 56.622374, 23.272468 www.dobelesmuzeis.lv

Dobele Local History Museum GPS: 56.625232, 23.276128 www.dobelesmuzeis.lv

Dobele Crafts House (Dobeles Amatu māja) GPS: 56.62352, 23.28324

Jelgava History and Art Museum of Gederts Eliass GPS: 56.649982, 23.729019 www.jvmm.lv

51 Farm House "Caunītes" GPS: 56.72266, 23.79211 www.caunites.lv

52 Tērvete Wooden Castle of 12th century GPS: 56.481445, 23.376066 www.lielkenins.lv

53 Tērvete Archaeological Complex GPS: 56.482200, 23.384630

54 Silakalns Hillock (Augstais Kalns) GPS: 56.381817, 23.412561

55 Archaeological Complex of Mežotne Hillfort GPS: 56.441584, 24.044910

GPS: 56.403701, 24.174340 www.bauskaspils.lv

57 Bauska Museum GPS: 56.410305, 24.184326 www.bauskasmuzejs.lv

58 Bärbele Sulphur Spring GPS: 56.43447, 24.59137

BALTS' ROAD, THE SEMIGALLIAN ROUTE SEGMENT Semigallians in Lithuania

59 Ąžuolpamūšė Hillfort

www.pasvaliomuziejus.lt

62 Žemaitukai at the GPS: 55.98612, 23.87917

88 Saltupju Holy Spring GPS: 56.17129, 25.73505

89 Craft Centre "Rūme" GPS: 56.29458, 25.98139 www.facebook.com/amatniecibas

BALTS' ROAD, THE SELONIAN ROUTE SEGMENT

91 Stelmužė Oak (Stelmužės ažuolas) GPS: 55.82998, 26.21758

22 Lake Sartai GPS: 55.84092, 25.83848

93 Ramūnas Čižas' Brewery and Exposition GPS: 55.7503, 25.8443

Kazimieras Būga's native farmstead

GPS: 55.74155, 25.76144 95 Vosgėliai Hillfort

(Vosgėlių piliakalnis) GPS: 55.72083, 25.74874 26 Lygamiškis spring

(Krokule) (Lygamiškio šaltinis) GPS: 55.62776, 25.56372

97 Beekeeping Museum GPS: 55.408540, 25.944920 **98** Ladakalnis Hillock

GPS: 55.36652, 25.99066 Educational programme "Lithuanian Celestial

Constellations" GPS: 55.31516, 25.55615 Valiulis and Father

of Valiulis GPS: 55.34521, 25.396

GPS: 55.38568, 25.44587 Kupiškis Ethnographic

GPS: 55.84237, 24.97526 103 Uoginiai Craft Centre

GPS: 55.88691, 24.77745

Biržai Selonian Museum GPS: 56.20514, 24.75357

www.birzumuzieius.lt Kirkilai Observation Tower

GPS: 56.24784, 24.69079 Likėnai Spring (Smardonė)

GPS: 56.20006, 24.62354 **COURONIAN PLACES OF** WORSHIP. FEELTHE

HOLINESS OF COURONIANS! 107 Turlava Ķoniņciems Idols' Grove

GPS: 56.83614, 21.76985 108 Artist Residence "Serde" GPS: 56.71986, 21.60346

THE WAY OF HAPPINESS. LOVE AND WISDOM

www.serde.lv

Valley of Happiness and Stream of Health GPS: 55.47277, 25.55127

Pakalniai Hillfort GPS: 55.43902, 25.45854

Collection of Holy Stones at the Observatory in Kulionys, Molėtai **Astronomical Observatory** http://www.etnokosmomuzieius.lt GPS: 55.31663, 25.56095

Lecture "Antique Lithuanian Zodiac" at the Molėtai Regional Museum

Ginučiai Hillfort

GPS: 55.37399, 25.98515

GPS: 55.45551, 25.89487

http://moletumuziejus.lt/ GPS: 55.30981, 25.55609

GPS: 55.86894, 22.61383 http://www.muziejusalka.lt

**SIGHTS** 

GPS: "Vītolnieki" 56.140790,

www.pdf-pape.lv 7 Grobiņa Archaeological GPS: 56.161521 21.161599 21.16398

10 Kapsēde Giant Boulder GPS: 56.58674, 21.10868

Ulmale-Piņņi Bullaun GPS: 56.931716, 21.281333

GPS: 56.994577, 21.390556

Dižgabala Hillock and

tavern "Spēlmaņu krogs" in

GPS: 56.98039, 21.56973

http://muzejs.ventspils.lv

GPS: 57.38049 21.77225 Talsi Hillfort and Lake Vilkmuiža

GPS: 57.24256, 22.6033

GPS: 57.37892, 22.60024

22 Idol Linden of Valdemārpils

www.talsumuzejs.lv

GPS: hillfort 57.24277, 22.59822, Lake Vilkmuiža 57.25321, 22.58714 Talsi Regional Museum

> 28 Bee Apiary "Kāres" GPS: 56.64019, 22.69121

Mežīte Hillfort

GPS: 57.18627, 22.7097

Māra's Chambers

30 Šilalė Sacred Place (Šilalės ąžuolyno šventvietė) GPS: 56.15414, 21.56236

of Rare Stones GPS: 56.16531, 21.57416 www.akmenumuziejus.lt

"Saulės slėnis" farm in

Collection

(Ąžuolpamūšės piliakalnis) Pasvalys Museum

Jaunsudrabiņš – "Riekstiņi" 61 Pasvalys Hollow Stone GPS: 56.19706, 25.37984 87 Stupeļi Hillfort GPS: 56.17108, 25.46454

http://pakruojo-dvaras.lt

centrs.rume/

90 Dignāja Hillfort GPS: 56.274723, 26.186908

Flax Museum GPS: 55.62943, 24.23213

**118** Čičinskas Hill Selonians in Lithuania GPS: 55.65594, 24.22747 Raginėnai Hillfort

> 120 Verduliai Spring GPS: 55.778, 23.63269

(121) Girnikai Hill GPS: 55.86355, 23.03408

Luponiai Hillfort GPS: 56.0061, 23.19153

**SEARCHING FOR** 

NATIONAL MEMORY

GPS: 55.42108, 24.04941

stones in Švenčiuliškiai

GPS: 55.54014, 24.10816

GPS: 55.79296, 23.86484

GPS: 56.21877, 23.26147

5ventybrastis SacredPlace

Collection of cup-marked

Homestead of Matas Slančiauskas GPS: 56.18129, 23.3644 Mūša Moorland

THE GREAT STORY OF LITHUANIAN HISTORY

Monument to GDL Kestutis with iron wolfs GPS: 56.34983, 22.74471

> Domas Šidlauskas Visuomis' Grave GPS: 56.29354, 22.80525 Žvelgaitis Hillfort

GPS: 56.35691, 23.23074 128 Žemaitukai in Žagarė GPS: 56.3621, 23.26753

Kalnelis (Žiniūnėliai) Skudutiškis Sacred Place Oak Forest GPS: 56.23273, 23.55316 Joniškis History and

**Culture Museum** http://joniskiomuziejus.lt GPS: 56.23893, 23.61435

Balčiūnai Homestead GPS: 56.28995, 23.88808 Pakruojis Region Museum "Žiemgala"

GPS: 56.27259, 23.99873 133 Monument to Grand Duchess Birutė

GPS: 56.23636, 24.00196 Monument to **GDL Vytautas** 

THE WAY OF THE HOLY FIRE

GPS: 56.2133, 24.01248

135 Betygala II Hillfort GPS: 55.34978, 23.37589 136 Homeland of Jonas

GPS: 55.43113, 23.32442 137 Holy Place in Akmenė village

Mačiulis-Maironis

GPS: 55.51927, 23.27088 138 Šiaulė Hill

GPS: 55.64706, 23.4085 139 Kražiai Medžiokalnis

GPS: 55.61477, 22.69168 Šventragiai Oak Forest GPS: 55.61449, 22.63688

Žemaitukai of Marius Čekavičiaus GPS: 55.59992, 22.59304

Girgždutė GPS: 55.69147, 22.48195 143 Visitor Centre Exposition

of Regional Park of Varniai http://varniurp.am.lt GPS: 55.73215, 22.38421 Jonas Andriusevičius'

Museum Stones Mokas and Mokiukas