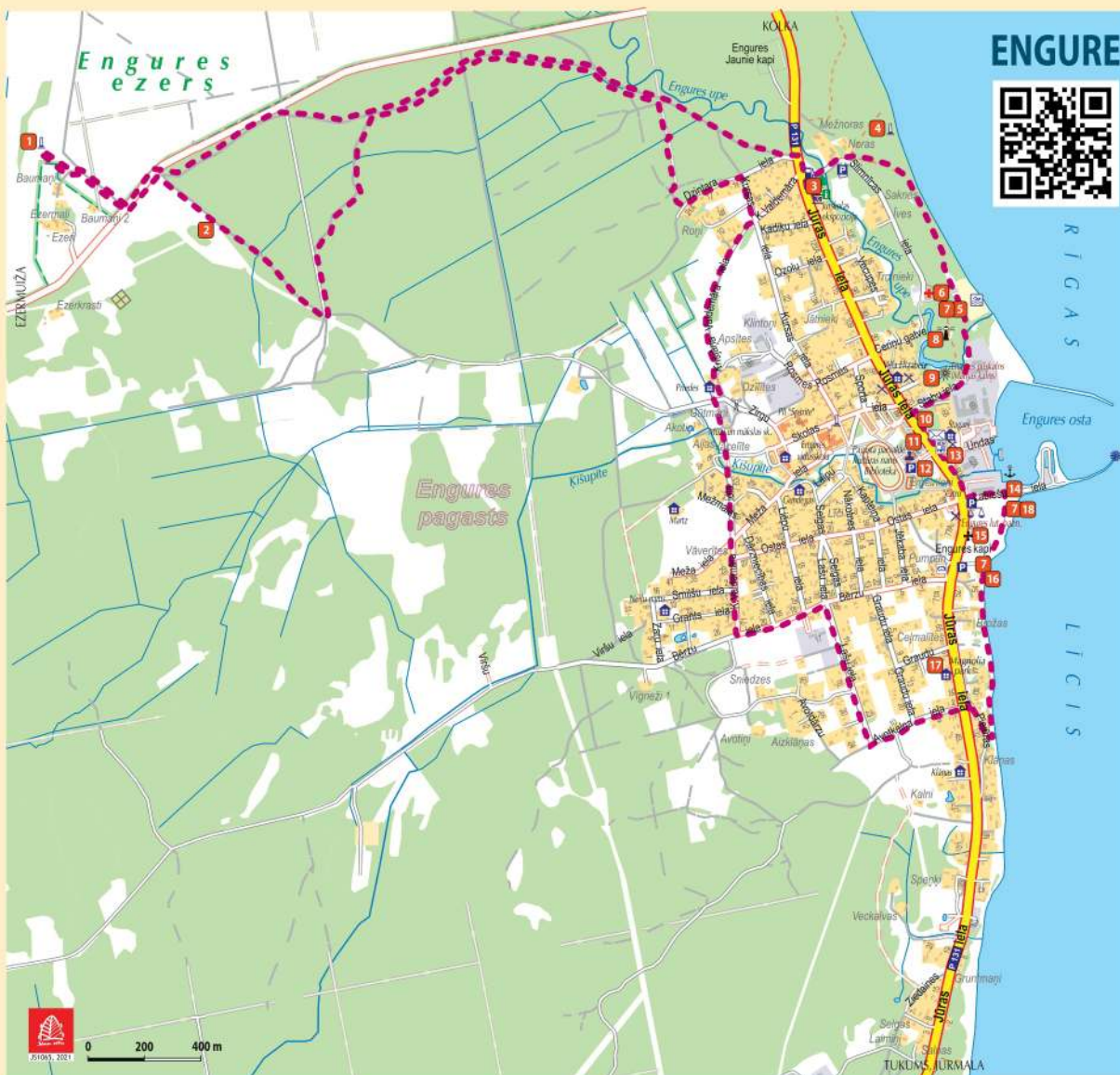




Around Engure



⌚ 5 - 6 h 📏 ~ 18 km



WORTH SEEING!

- 1 Sacred stones of Engure - Pyramid stone
- 2 Amber fields
- 3 Engure Community House, museum, park
- 4 Landmark for the campaign "1836" (Love and hug Latvia!)

- 5 Engure beach zone
- 6 Engure Doctorate (Health center)
- 7 Frame yourself in Engure
- 8 Engure Lighthouse

- 9 Engure Hillfort "Marijas kalns"
- 10 Creative workshop "Pērle rada"
- 11 Eal village Park
- 12 Pastorate "Ērgelnieki"
- 13 Oak Devoted to president of Latvia (1936-1940) - Kārlis Ulmanis

- 14 Engure port and promenade
- 15 The Engure Evangelical Lutheran church
- 16 Engure Seastones
- 17 Magnolia garden
- 18 Water sports center "Vēja"

Engure was first time mentioned in historical documents in 1245 as a large village. Linguists believe the name of village to be derived from the Livonian language and to be translated as "eel", because the nearby Engures Lake had many eels. In times of Kurland Duchy, Engure was a popular textile centre, and in the 19th century it was renowned for its nautical school.

Today Engure has grown into a parish centre with 1625 persons registered their domicile in it. It offers both catering, accommodation and entertainment possibilities. This place is particularly bustling during the summer season when holiday makers arrive to sunbath and swim, enjoy the locally caught and smoked fish and to engage in active water sports – sailing, kiting and stand-up- paddling. If you walk or ride the route with a bicycle, you will discover the history of Engure, the most scenic places and get to know the locals.



The route makes a circle therefore it is up to the walker to choose the start and end point. This route has been marked on nature objects in the forest with a paint in a white yellow white colour scheme, and as stickers in the village (a yellow arrow).



Do not leave the waste in nature when you are out for a walk; pick them up and dispose in the nearest waste bin or report to VidesSOS.lv.



Long-distance route Jūrtaka (Baltic Coastal Hiking Trail) (E9) leads along the coastal line which can be taken if you wish to stay longer and go for a walk also on next day. More information about route: www.jurtaka.lv.

Visiting nature, everybody is responsible for their own safety! Adults are responsible for children's safety!

Emergency call: 112



Engures TIP
Jūras iela 114, Engure
(+371) 63161234; 29462606



Tukuma TIC
Talsu iela 5, Tukums
(+371) 63124451; 28311557
www.visitukums.lv





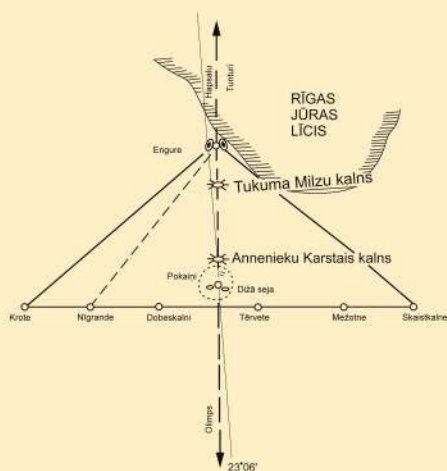
Around Engure



⌚ 5 - 6 h 📏 ~ 18 km

SACRED STONES OF ENGURE

Daila Rotbaha in the book "Sacred Places of Latvia" described this place as follows: "This time it is difficult to provide accurate coordinates of the sacred place's objects in the forests surrounding the Engures Lake where we walked. Now the sacred place around the Engures Lake indicates at a systematic arrangement of cult stones, and we could see it in its entirety only if all sacred stones were cleaned from the moss and dirt and the forest were taken care of so as to see the stone system well. Unlike other sacred places of Latvia, these sacred stones were renowned for their size, and one cannot claim that a large stone was put into the centre of the sacred place. Each cult stone viewed was so mighty and impressive that it spoke of a special system of the cult stones. Noteworthy, many of the large cult stones have a pyramid shape. This place also concentrates a wide table-shaped sacred stones with a large and smooth surface. The sacred place of Engure is like a top, the top of a pyramid, the bottle-neck of energy against the background of other sacred places of Latvia. In terms of geography, it could be a point where lines characterising the system of sacred places converge. It means that our Churches of Māra have not been created only following the point of intersection of the lines of underground water streams. They have another meta-system which reflects the entire network of sacred places.



Also, today not all stones can be easily found since the area is moist and overgrown with trees and bushes. But we managed to find one of pyramid shaped stones which can be seen if you follow the trodden path.



ENGURE SEASTONES

In the village expedition materials found in Tukums Museum, one can read that the local residents of Engure called these stones the "Devil Stones". **A legend tells** "Long-long time ago the Devil carried the stones to the Hell, but as the cock piped its morning song, he stumbled and the stones scattered all over the place. This is how the stony beach of Engure was formed. The people used to call them the devil stones or devil laps". **Scientists explain** them to be sediments of Littorina Sea. The Littorina Sea was a saltwater sea basin in the hollow of the Baltic Sea approximately 7500-4500 years ago when due to marine transgression a connection Ancilus Lake to the Atlantic Ocean was restored and saltier water flew into it through current Kattegat. The Littorina Sea later transformed into the Baltic Sea. The name of the sea was derived from a whelk living there, Littorina littorea. Sediments of the Littorina Sea in the territory of Latvia were found in a narrow belt, almost along entire coastline of the Baltic Sea and Riga Bay. Thickness of the sediments vary between 3-5 up to 10 meters, and in some cases reaching even 20 meters. The sediments of the Littorina Sea have formed under various conditions of facies therefore their content is variable - mainly of average-sized sand grains with various gravel and pebble admixture, more seldom of gravel-pebble material with boulders. These sediments are most often met at the base of the abrasion clasts or the coastal banks. In some cases, the coastal banks are made of boulders. Sometimes in coastal sediments one have found amber pieces (in vicinity of Liepāja, Ķesterciems, Jūrmala), as well as tree trunks (near Bernāti).

A story about the seaside in the "Environmental News" reveals and it can be also observed in the nature that natural geological processes take place in the coastal area every year and every day. In some places the sea washes away the fundamental coast and approaches the mainland, in other places the coast remains virtually the same, yet in other areas it becomes larger, because the sea must find a place where to put the sand it carried away. For people living near the sea must count on washing away of the coast or erosion during the storms, flooding of the nearest territories and blowing the beach and frontal dune sand over to the mainland.

One of the most endangered coastal territories in term of erosion risk in Engure parish is the coastal section from Ķesterciems to Engure.



AMBER FIELDS

In the place where Dzintarlauki is currently located once was the Litorina Sea. Litorina Sea lost its connection with the open gulf, sea level continued to drop and lagoon turned into Engure Lake. Long time ago the local inhabitants called this lake also **Dzintarezers** or the Amber Lake, since amber pieces could be found in the terrestrial belt separating the lake from the Riga Bay. During the era of dukes, Engure hosted a special amber turnery. In the publication "10 Simtgades ceļi" (10 Paths of Centenary) issued by the Latvian Media there is a following **memory story**. "Old men used to say that rafts were tugged across the Engures Lake from Dzedrupe River along the Western end of Lielā Island and the channel until the Mērsrags Port until early 20th century. Once the channel was excavated, the level of the lake fell, and local inhabitants were carried away by zealous amber mining.

The governors of Tukums district announced a bidding for amber-seekers while the minister of Engure complained of the decreasing number of parish members, because many of them preferred looking for the amber.

Between 1842 and 1852 the traders bought the sun stone for approximately 4,000 roubles. Eventually, news about the abundance of amber turned out to be exaggerated, and people gathered also seashells (calcium source added to the poultry feed) instead. Between 1920-1930, a teacher Miesnieks (brother of the painter Kārlis Miesnieks) taught children how to process amber in the primary school."

Also, the poet and prose-writer, **Imants Ziedonis**, in his books "Amber Fairy-tales" and "Different Fairy-tales" captured his memory story about the Engures Lake and Amber fields. "On the third week we crossed the fields nearby the Engures Lake. Small amber pieces in the size of a dice sparkled occasionally in the molehills. I asked the mole: "Are you giving them to me?" "What? Them? No!", he laughed, "They are sitting there randomly. They are not a real thing, such tiny pieces. Here you can find a lot of small amber bits if you walk across the potato beds or rye field in autumn". I walked across the potato beds and I gathered a full pocket of small ambers indeed. I saw boys following the plough led by their father. Just like a blackbird picks up the earth worms after the plough, so did they with the amber."

! Today Amber fields is a private property, and they cannot be gathered without a permission of the owners.

🚲 Route can also be done by bicycle.

