



May 23-24, 2025
Latvia

Baltic Accessible Hiking Conference and Public Hike

Friday: May 23 - Conference

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

Estonia – Latvia



Location:

Hotel Arkadia

Apšuciems, Engure parish, Tukums Municipality, Latvia

9:30-10:00

Registration and coffee

10:00 - 12:00

Conference
session 1

The Impact of the Accessible Hiking project in the Context of Accessibility Improvement.

Asnāte Ziemeļe, Latvian Country Tourism Association

Estonian Rural Tourism Organisation

Involvement of People with Visual Impairments in the Development of Coastal Hiking Trail and Forest Trail Infrastructure - the Route in Kuldīga.

Līga Ķikute - Riga association of the visually impaired and blind people

Juris Smāļinskis, Latvian Country Tourism Association, tourism expert

Aqua Walking: a new outdoor sport for all. History, main principles, key effects and benefits. Aqua Walking club activities and events to mobilize and promote territories. Support from European Hiking Federation.

Sophie Chipon, European Hiking organization

12:00 - 13:00

Lunch at the Hotel Arkadia

13:00 - 15:00

Conference
session 2

How to Guide Tours for People with Access Needs

Liina Käär, Estonian Rural Tourism Organization, expert/SA Tõstamaa Manor, guide/University of Tartu Pärnu College, junior lecturer in Social Work

Hiking Wheelchairs on Trails

Laura Bite, Riga Planning Region

Involvement of Volunteers in Coastal/Forest Trail Maintenance, Establishment of Hiking Club Latvia

Aija Neilande, Kurzeme Planning Region

15:00-15:30

Coffee break

15:30-17:00


Outdoor
event

Opening and Presentation of infrastructure on Apšuciems Beach

- Boardwalk for people with mobility impairments, hikers with young children, and seniors;
- A sun deck for wheelchair users;
- Two floating wheelchairs;
- A changing room for people with mobility impairments, etc.



Bonfire soup

Friday: May 23 - Baltic aqua walking discovery session

 Location:	Beach near <u>Hotel Arkadia</u> Apšuciems, Engure parish, Tukums Municipality, Latvia
17:00 - 18:00	Baltic aqua walking discovery session <i>Sophie Chipon, European Hiking organization</i> ! For an Aqua Walking lesson, you'll need the following equipment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A full-body neoprene wetsuit, running or water shoes, gloves• Water to hydrate and a hot drink for after the session• Towel – to dry off after the lesson.



Saturday: May 24 - Public Hike, Apšuciems - Engure, ~14 km

9:30	For those arriving by private car. Parking at Engure town: 1) <u>Jūras iela 85, Engure</u> (Engure Culture House) 2) <u>Lābiešu iela 5, Engure</u> (Engure promenade) 3) <u>Jūras iela 56, Engure</u> (Next to and opposite the Engure cemetery) ! At 10:00 a bus will depart from Engure (Jūras iela 85) to Apšuciems, to starting point of the hike.
	
 Starting point of the hike	<u>Villa Anna, Apšuciems</u>
10:00 - 11:00	Gathering and registration
11:00 - 14:00	Hike from Apšuciems to Engure (~14 km)



<p>We begin our hike along the Coastal Hiking Trail (E9) trail from APŠUCIEMS, near the Villa Anna hotel parking lot. The Apšuciems - Plieņciems section features a beautiful, sandy beach 20–30 meters wide, with pine-covered dunes rising from the shore. After approximately 3 km, we reach PLIEŅCIEMS, which can be recognized by the Jūrtaka information board and the White Dune, located between the sea and Strautu Street. Between Plieņciems and Ķesterciems, the beach remains just as wide and sandy, with a sparsely populated stretch of pine-covered coastal dunes. The distance from Plieņciems to ĶESTERCiems is 4 km. Ķesterciems is marked by a Jūrtaka information board, benches by the sea, and a larger, more open gray dune. Beyond Ķesterciems, the beach becomes slightly narrower. A small river, Teitupīte, must be crossed. If there has been no heavy rainfall, it can be jumped over; otherwise, about 150 meters from where it flows into the sea, there is a bridge. From Ķesterciems to ENGURE CENTER, it is 6 km. We walk through Engure along a pedestrian sidewalk (Jūrtaka markings appear as stickers on road signs) since, during strong west or northwest winds, the shoreline is so narrow that in some places, wading through water is necessary. We pass the Engure Lutheran Church and turn right onto Lābiešu Street after 100 meters. Another 120 meters ahead, we reach the beach, where the Watersports Center "Vējā" is visible. This marks the end of the hike.</p>	
14:00 - 15:30	Bonfire soup at Engure Port

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



24/05 Public transportation

From Riga Bus Station to Apšuciems

9:00 **Bus 7951** (Rīga–Dubulti–**Talsi**) arrives at the Apšuciems (P128) bus stop at 10:18.
It is approximately 500 meters from the bus stop to Villa Anna.

From Engure to Riga

15:02 or 18:59

The bus stop in Engure is about a 10-minute walk from the hike's endpoint.



Special Accommodation Offer in Apšuciems – Valid from May 22 to May 24

Hotel Villa Anna (right by the sea, various room types, prices include breakfast)

villaanna.lv

- Single room – 40 EUR
- TWIN room – 50 EUR
- Double room with sea view (1st floor) – 60 EUR
- Double room with sea view & balcony (2nd floor) – 65 EUR
- TWIN room with sea view – 60 EUR

Reservation: mail@villaanna.lv | +371 26122679



Accommodation reservation and payment is done individually by each person.



Registration until May 16, 2025

>>> <https://forms.gle/odjL8g6PwykYADBG8>

More information: Anna Palelione, anna@celotajs.lv, +371 22495916

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