



THE PATH OF LAKE SLOKA



Location

Ķemeri, Jūrmala

Description

The path winds through different types of forest and along the shores of the lake, rich in water birds. It starts and ends at the parking lot near Lake Slokas, where you can also find a picnic place, floating viewing tower (7 m) and a sulphur spring. The path reveals the beauty and peculiarities of swamps surrounding River Vēršupīte, marshy pine woods and spruce forests. Children can test their strength and agility by trying out different sports elements at the end of the trail. From the viewing tower, you can observe birds in Lake Sloka.

The most appropriate time for visiting the path

We recommend visiting the path in late spring, summer and early autumn (in early spring and late autumn the path may be flooded).

Length The length of circular route is 3.1 km. The total length of the walk may be extended even up to 12 km. Visit Lake Melnezers and Betrams Spring or go through Sloka Bog to the railway station Kūdra (4 km), Ķemeri (3.5 km) or the beach at Jaunķemeri (4.5 km).

Time necessary for visiting 1,5 h for the circular route. If you choose to try route variations, entire day could be spent here.

Accessibility: on foot, not suitable for visitors in wheelchairs.

Fee: free of charge.

Open: throughout the year.

Type: circular (with route variations possible)

Degree of difficulty: easy



Wood anemone



One of the sports elements on the path



Surface

Mainly unpaved path. The parts leading through the swamp forest of Vēršupīte and other wet places are covered with wooden boardwalk with average width 80 cm.



Attention!

In spring and autumn the latter parts of the path may be flooded! In rainy weather boardwalk becomes slippery! In summers be prepared for impressive numbers of mosquitoes and ticks!

Marking

In the beginning of the route the path is unpaved without any splits and thus does not have special marking. In places where it crosses other paths dark red wooden direction signs will show you the right way.

The part of the path leading through the swamp forest of River Vēršupīte is equipped with wooden footbridges.

The part of the path leading through the pine forest is more difficult to notice, so additional marking is provided here – just look for white circles marked on the bark of trees with a diameter of 4-5 cm, at eye level.

The path ends at the gravel road connecting Lake Sloka and Ķemeri. If you have left a vehicle in the parking lot of Lake Sloka, just turn left and the road will take you back to the lake.





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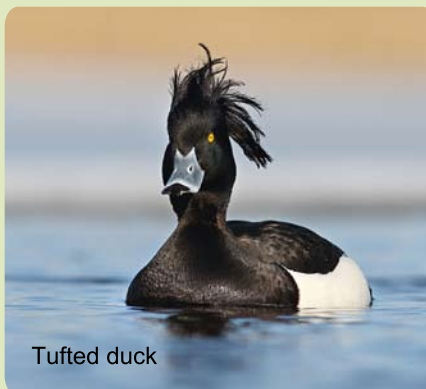


Bird watching

The lake is suitable for bird watching throughout the year, also in winter, as long as patches of open water essential for wintering birds are available. The largest number of birds can be observed here during spring and autumn migration, when thousands of waterfowl, mainly Common Coots and ducks, use the lake as their stop-over place. Birdwatching experience here in summer would include large flocks of Mute Swans (up to several hundreds), several dozens of ducks, Crested Grebes, Common Coots with good chances of spotting also Great White Egret, White-tailed Eagle and Osprey. Voices of Great Bittern and reed warblers coming from the reeds of the lakeshores will most probably add some ticks to your list as well. The nature path, especially in the surroundings of River Vēršupīte, is a great place for watching woodpeckers (Grey-headed Woodpecker, Black Woodpecker, Great-spotted Woodpecker, White-backed Woodpecker, Lesser-spotted Woodpecker, Three-toed Woodpecker). Spring mornings are the most appropriate time, when besides drumming of woodpeckers, you can also observe different tits and other forest birds.

Getting there

- By train Rīga-Tukums up to the station Ķemeri, then rent a bike or walk along the Tukuma and Tūristu streets through Ķemeri (2,5 km), then follow the sign to Lake Slokas (2km).
- By car go along Ventspils (A10) or Talsi motorway (P128) until turn to Ķemeri, then follow the main road up to the sign to Lake Slokas (on the right side if coming from A10 and on the left if coming from P128) and follow the road to the lake.
- By Jūrmala City bus No. 6 from Sloka or by minibus No. 10 from the Central Parts of Jūrmala City up to Ķemeri, bus stop "Meža māja", then follow the sign to Lake Sloka (2 km).



Tufted duck



Common goldeneye



Mallard



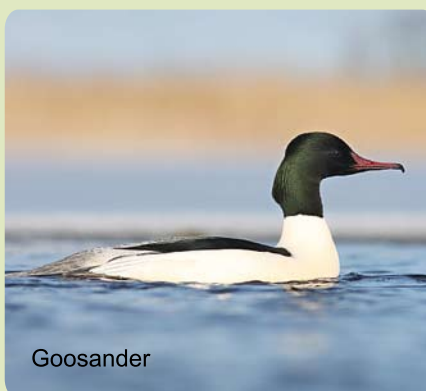
Common coot



Greylag goose



Common cormorant



Goosander



Great white egret