



Tvari
žuvininkystės
regionų
plėtra



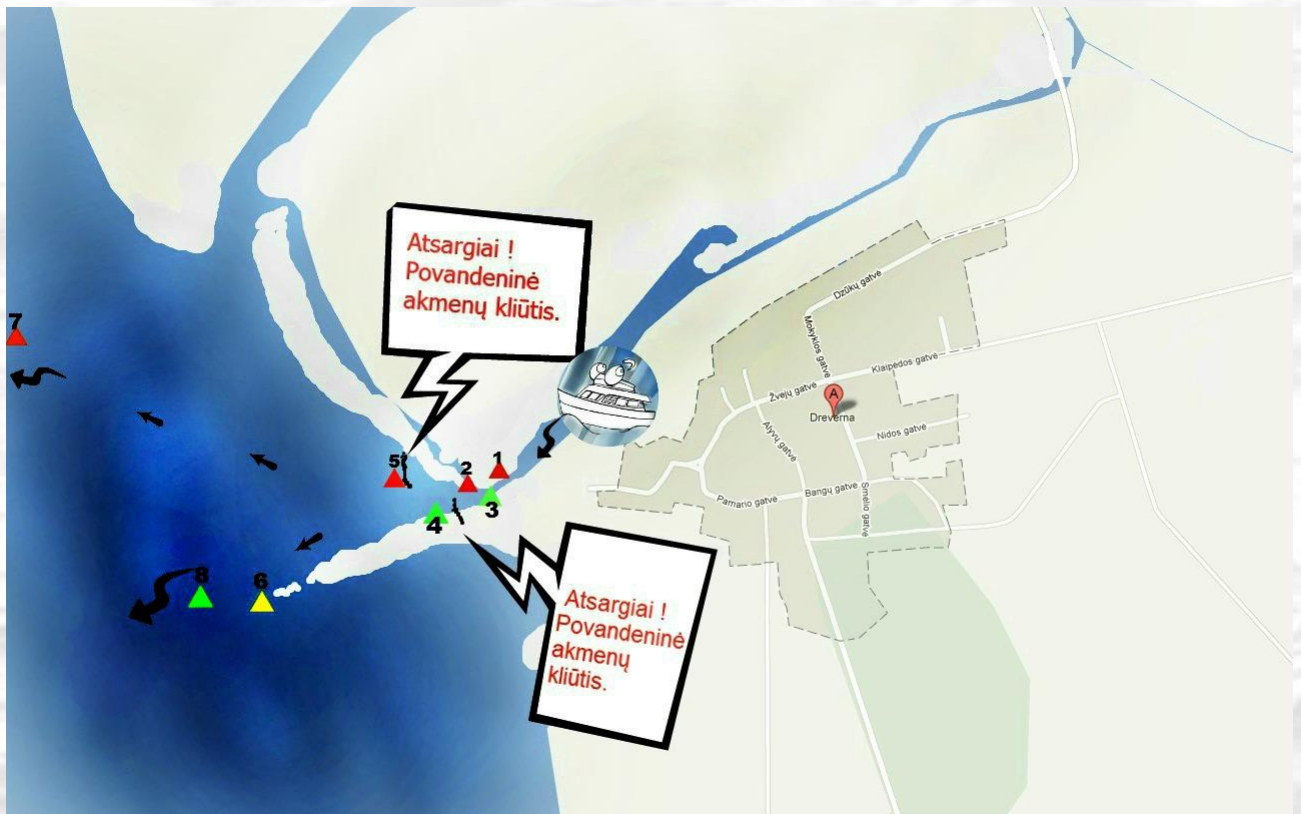
EUROPOS SĄJUNGA

**Europos žuvininkystės fondas:
Investavimas į tvarią
žuvininkystę**

Projektą remia Lietuvos Respublika

Thanks to many years of experience in commercial fishing and navigation in these waters we recommend you to consider our suggestions.

There are the left and right hollows that protect the entrance canal against coastal erosion. These hollows are noticeable only when a water level is very low, i.e. in September and October. In this case they are seen as hidden submerged obstacles which during the main period of navigation damage the propellers of the ships that enter the territory and yacht keels.



The entrance itself is very narrow, its width is approximately two meters. When tourists want to enter the territory at the time when western and eastern winds dominate, they undoubtedly face serious problems. At the time of entrance you should always attempt to swim on the left side of the entrance canal. It won't be difficult to escape if you will run aground with your ship. Please have in mind that the floor of the right side of the coast is clayey. It won't be easy to escape on your own if you will run aground at the time of western wind blow.

The excavation works of King Wilhelm channel were carried out during the period between 1863 and 1873 when this region was a part of Germany. The channel has been dug by French captives who used shovels for this difficult work. There is a monument at the mouth of the channel that was built in memory of these people.

The channel with a width of 30 meters and a length of 24 km has connected Minija River in the delta of Nemunas River with the Curonian Lagoon at the Gulf of Firewood in Klaipeda. There have been 10 bridges and 1 floodgates of the channel in Lankupiai. The channel has been built in order to ensure safe navigation of river ships which transported timber and rafts to Klaipeda during storms. You can use kayaks, boats with electric motors. In all cases King Wilhelm channel trip will be safe and full of positive emotions. Swimming by boat is successful solution for those who want to catch fish and cancers. You can always choose the route that includes the Curonian Lagoon, Klisupis River, Minija River...



Klisupis River and its fish....



You can order boats for fishing and kayaks for a jaunt...

Houses beyond a turn.....

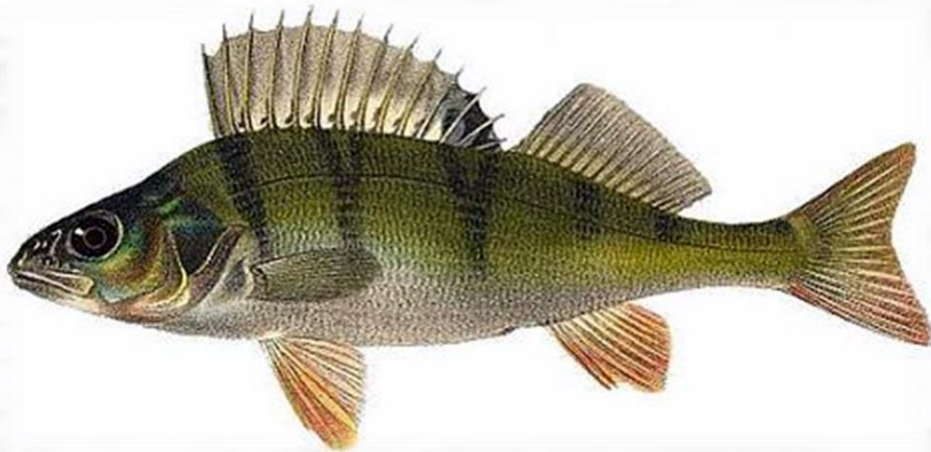


You can choose from the following fishing routes:

Perch fishing

Perch (in Latin: *Perca fluviatilis*, in English *Perch*, in German *Flussbarsch*)

Perch is one of the most common fish that lives in inland waters. Perch is common throughout inland waters of most part of Europe and northern Asia.



Perch becomes mature when it is three to four years old, i.e. when its length is 12 to 16 cm. The spawning time is in late April and May. Perch spawns near the edges of waterbody, between aquatic plants on various underwater substrates, i.e. on plant residues, sandy, rocky soil, etc. Prolificacy of perch is between 12 000 and 200 000 or even more eggs. During spawning the females lay strings of eggs.

Young perch feed on shellfish, the older ones feed on benthic fauna, insect larvae, mollusks, small fish, vegetal food, also feed on eggs of other fish. Fish is the main food of deep water perch. Large perch are predatory fish, they are real pursuers and can take a long chase after their prey that sometimes is even bigger than perch itself. Perch attack smaller fish of its kind. Perch usually hunts during a day.

Perch fishing begins in early spring when flood waters subside. Immediately after spawning perch biting is slightly better, however later it declines, but in July it becomes good again and this lasts until freeze-up of water. Perch biting is especially good in October and November, its biting is good in winter too, especially 10 to 20 days after formation of the first ice. Perch is the main fish to be caught during a winter time. The best biting is in the morning and evening, however when a day is cloudy and rainy biting is good all day long. Bright nights also are suitable for perch fishing. Waters with rocky floor are suitable for perch fishing. Fish are common next to steeper banks, aquatic plants, snags or stones, in hollows (especially in late fall and early winter), at the mouths of brooks and waterholes. Jumping of small fish attacked by perch shows the location of perch. Perch doesn't like fast-flowing water.

A float rod, a rod without float, spinning, round bottom floats and trolling during a winter time when fishing on ice.

A float rod is most suitable for perch fishing in summer. The most suitable baits are as follows: worms, minnows or maggots. When fishing any bait must be near the floor of the waterbody. When fishing in lakes a piece of worm is perfect as perch bait. Plugs (hard-bodied fishing lure) and small spoon-shaped trolls with hooks that are hidden under red and yellow threads also are suitable for perch fishing.

Perch grabs a bite suddenly and without hesitation. Sometimes perch swallows a hook very deep and therefore it is not easy to take it out. After swallowing a gudgeon perch's effort to escape does not last long. After several small jumps from side to side and being unable to escape a hook perch quickly gets tired and gives up. When pulling perch from a greater depth, after raising it a few meters away from its location the fish doesn't resist anymore. Pulling of perch must be slow and slight, otherwise its frail lips can be injured. Perch usually swim in groups, therefore you can catch several fish in one place. Since perch is greedy and well biting fish, it is popular among all fishermen, especially among the beginners...

We offer:

The departure time is in the evening or early morning, at 3:00 or 4:00 AM. Travel time is about 1 to 2 hours.

The ships are optimally adapted for fishermen, i.e. there are 8 – 12 – 20 and 50 passenger seats (personal hygiene facility, beds, kitchen). You will be accompanied by experienced captain. We guarantee you speed and comfort. You can expect to have a great experience and emotions thanks to this trip...

European pike perch (Sander lucioperca (L.) fishing

Pike perch become active after spawning, from May to July.



Pike perch are common in the region between Elbe River and the Urals, in larger rivers that flow into the Baltic, Black, Azov, Caspian and Aral seas, also in large lakes. The Curonian Lagoon is the habitat of pike perch in Lithuania. The fish are especially common in the southern part of the Lagoon. Pike perch also live in lakes. Pike perch usually swim in the areas of waterbodies that aren't overgrown with plants, in the depth of 3 to 4 meters. Juvenile pike perch usually swim near the edges. During the first months of life pike perch feed on small shellfish, later they feed on insect larvae, mollusks, worms, juvenile fish, adult fish are predatory. Unlike pike they are usually active at night. At this time they hunt for small fish, e.g. European smelt, bleak, vendace, gudgeon, ruff. Perch are growing rapidly and the average length at the age of four years is 40 to 45 cm, the average weight is 600 to 800 grams. Pike perch become mature when they are four to five years old, sometimes when they are three years old. The first half of May is the usual spawning time of pike perch. They spawn near the edges of waterbody, in the depth of 0,5 to 1 meter, in the localities with sandy, pebbly, rocky floor, between aquatic plants. Behind hollows in Nemunas River. Prolificacy of pike perch is between 200 000 and 500 000 eggs. According to the information available in the Internet pike perch grow up to 135 cm of length and weight approximately 20 kg. It is difficult to assume whether this data provided by ichthyologists are real or hypothetical, because similar, but different data can be found in various sources of information.

It is known that various countries and even individual organizations follow different provisions in attempt to admit one or several records, however this doesn't preclude any party from

affirmation that the record that was registered by one or another party is the most accurate. For example, International Game Fishing Association declares that world record was registered in this international organization, i.e. pike perch that weights 11,4 kg. European Anglers Alliance also declares that the biggest ever caught pike perch weights 11,3 kg. Whereas official records of individual countries are slightly higher, e.g. Polish record is 16,6 kg, Finish record is 16,5 kg. The pike perch that was caught in Russia weighted even 26 kg, its length was 145 cm. On the other hand English ichthyologists note that the maximum limit of pike perch growth is equal to 12 kg, they also note that only few individuals can gain a weight up to 16 to 18 kg under exceptional circumstances. Hence it follows that pike perch probably can gain a weight up to 20 kg. Is it likely that sometimes you have no other choice but to believe in amateur fishermen... According to Ricardas Adamonis, the author of the book "Catching of predatory fish", the official Lithuanian record is equal to 8,45 kg. This is big, but certainly not the biggest pike perch that was caught in our country. At least such information can be found in the Internet... The fishermen of Dreverna recall that during a long period of commercial fishing in the Curonian Lagoon the biggest pike perch that was caught with fishing tackles weighted 7.5 kg. During those years the fishermen were setting up eel traps, three-layer nets and were catching pike perch in the northern part of the Curonian Lagoon. Their catch was pretty big, however only salmon and sea-trout were surprisingly big. We could say that we are professionals in the field of our activity, because we know the locations where the biggest number of fish can be found, the floor of the Lagoon, the influence of weather and the amplitudes of the main winds and streams on fish migration and mood, the influence of the increased and changing salinity on forced migration of freshwater fish. We could give you a qualified advice regarding the choice of fishing locations. Fishing has been our way of life, every day, for 30 and more years...

It is expected that the population of pike perch will increase in the Curonian Lagoon. Pike perch have much better conditions for spawning in some waterbodies when compared with pikes, their closest competitors. During windy autumn the fishermen of the littoral locations of the Baltic sea have no chance to catch the returning pike perch. Due to intense stresses fishing conditions in the northern part of the Lagoon are unfavorable too. When winter is dry, without snow, small-scale spring flooding in March or April and water doesn't overflow large areas of land, there appear only few places for pike spawning, therefore their population decreases after few years. Whereas such conditions are excellent for pike perch. They spawn on solid ground and have advantage in case of low water level. Pike perch do not feel troubled when they occur in cloudy water. They have enough space for spawning and anglers face with difficulties when try to find the fish. Thanks to declining competition caused by declining number of pikes, the number of pike perch increases. The population of ruff in the Curonian Lagoon is successfully increasing, therefore it is likely that nutritional base for predatory fish is good enough and prognosis is satisfactory. We will have an opportunity to enjoy pike perch fishing... Regardless of quality and condition of current waters of the Curonian Lagoon, we are sure that the pike perch fishing areas will significantly increase after several years...

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The departure time is in the evening or early morning, at 3:00 or 4:00 AM. Travel time is about 1 to 2 hours.

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For perdurable optimists :

...A husband came back home from fishing and proudly shows his wife a superb catch. And tells her without stopping about tending rod (thanks god he didn't listen to her and bought a more expensive rod that was resistant to fracture caused by strong fish), a fight with a fish, a husband also tells her that he was rescued by friends...

A wife patiently listens and finally tells her husband:

- Well done, John. But you know, I got a call from fish store. They told me that you forgot your credit card there.

We offer the route of bird watch.

Cormorant (*lot. Phalacrocorax carbo L.*)



Immediately after exit from Juodkrante in direction of Nida and before taking up the Goat hill there is another hill in the old wood, i.e. Heron hill. Its name was derived from nearby colony of grey herons and great cormorants. This is one of the largest bird colonies in Europe. According to the data of the year 2000 it is known that 582 couples of grey heron and 1361 couples of great cormorant lived in the colony. It is hard to say when herons settled in the surroundings of Juodkrante. In the middle of the 19th century they were normal part of everyday life. We are certain that these long-legged birds already lived in the 17th century or even much earlier. What stimulated herons to move their nests from the northern surroundings of Juodkrante to the south ones? Historical records tell us about their battle against cormorants. 1803 was the year when cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo L. or Carbo cormoranus*), otherwise known as sea ravens *Corvus marinus*, appeared in Juodkrante for the first time. They settled next to herons and began occupation of their nests. Herons had no other choice and due to aggression of cormorants gradually moved to the edges of the colony. They began to migrate south from Juodkrante. Ten years later there existed two separate colonies of herons and cormorants in the southern and northern outskirts of Juodkrante.

The battle between cormorants and grey herons

O.Glagau also describes a strange battle between cormorants and grey herons. Cormorants won

this battle and dominated over grey herons some period of time. Cormorants had moved their colony to south and had settled next to herons. This time the relation between herons and cormorants was disturbed by human. Taking into account the recommendations of local forestry officers and complaints of the local fishermen Prussian government had granted permission to decimate black newcomers.

Until 1978 great cormorants weren't common birds in the Lithuanian seaside and in the Curonian Lagoon. Later only several birds were noticed from time to time in these regions, mostly during the periods of spring and autumn migration.

Another large group of cormorants arrived to Juodkrante during the period between 1974 and 1978. Observation of non-breeding birds was carried out in various reaches of the Lagoon, in various seasons of the year. Soon these black birds had settled next to herons.

Herons had no other choice and gradually had to give the most part of their nests to the intruders. The lowest number of breeding herons was registered in 1995.

Currently there are two colonies, i.e. a colony of herons and a colony of cormorants. They are next to each other. According to the records of 2002, 500 couples of grey herons and 2000 couples of great cormorants breed here. The first nests of cormorants appeared in 1989 and their abundance increases. The future will show when this phenomenon will stabilize and the result of such completion. Cormorants and herons are protected by law, therefore nobody so far hadn't discussed the possibility of artificial reduction of their population.

Currently cormorants are fairly common birds and their population in the Lagoon constantly increases. Local fishermen and foresters are unsatisfied regarding the damage caused by these birds.

The information was prepared in accordance with the opinion of Gediminas Grazulevicius and Dainius Elertas (The Directorate of the Curonian Spit National Park)

The possibility to observe cormorants feeding habits

The possibility to observe the cormorants' colony

The possibility to observe the cormorants' perch

We offer

The departure time is in the evening or in the morning approximately at 5 to 7 AM. Travel time is about 4 to 5 hours. You will have an opportunity to modify the route yourself in accordance with our suggestions.

The ships are optimally adapted for tourists, i.e. there are 8 – 12 – 20 and 50 passenger seats (personal hygiene facility, beds, kitchen). You will be accompanied by experienced captain. We guarantee you speed and comfort. You can expect to have a great experience and emotions thanks to this trip...

