



Tvari  
žuvininkystės  
regionų  
plėtra



## EUROPOS SAJUNGA

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

**Projektą remia Lietuvos Respublika**

**Dreverna** is the old fishermen's village that was first mentioned in 1253. The village is located on the coast of the Curonian Lagoon near the mouth of Dreverna River. The rare monuments of Lithuania Minor, i.e. christenings (krikštai) still can be found in the cemetery of Dreverna.

The surroundings of Dreverna village for nearly 300 years were known as the location of famous fishmarket *Strykis*. Many hundreds of fishermen and merchants used to come to this market. Fishermen from Dreverna, Svencelė and even from Nida, Karvaiciai with live fish used to arrive on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Merchants from Samogitia and Königsberg used to arrive too. Since volume of trade was very high, it had provoked protests of the merchants of Klaipėda in 1721.





Thanks to skillful shipbuilder of Curonian Lagoon Jonas Gizas the fishermen of Dreverna became even more famous. He was a builder of smaller hoop-net boats, kurenkahns and *vytine*, i.e. the biggest Lithuanian merchant ships. The ethnographic fisherman's farmstead of J. Gizas was reconstructed in 2010 and was turned into a museum.







The probable origin of the name of the place-name is Latvian. It is probably derived from a word *driva* that in Latvian language means “a hive of forest bees”.

## **Tumulus**

According to a legendary story it is known that long time ago a giant lived in the surroundings of Dreverna who was very helpful to local people. Once, some old man wanted to cross the Lagoon in order to pick up firewood in the forest that was located on the other coast. Therefore the old man asked the giant to pour sand on the Lagoon for the old man to be able to reach the forest on the other coast. The giant went to Dreverna to bring some sand. He filled up a bag full of sand and went to pour it on the Lagoon. However the bag has ruptured and the giant has spilled the sand on the ground.

The giant sat down on the sand to put a patch on the bag. His legs were very long, up to the meadow of Bruksvos full of bushes and wolves. Hungry wolves surrounded the giant and ate his legs. The giant was heavily focused on his work, therefore didn't notice the wolves and their bad doings. He got weakened and died suddenly.

The people have gathered on the next day and mourned the loss of the giant. Then they have veiled him with sand. Later heavy Western wind has formed a high spiky hillock. Now it is called a resting-place or tumulus of Dreverna. During a funeral in this place the local people still find the bones of the giant.













In recent years the surroundings of Dreverna and Svencele became popular among the lovers of



power kites, because this location is characterised by the conditions that are suitable for learning to “bridle winds”. There are very few places in Europe that are suitable for learning the basics of this sport. Constant, sufficiently strong winds blow along the coast without trees and wide shallow lagoon. Therefore this place is simply perfect for the beginners of kitesurfing that is becoming increasingly popular all around the world. The enthusiasts of this sport are able to train all year round...





































The distance from Dreverna pier to Klaipeda is 27 kilometers. Since the port entrance is marked with buoys and is safe, therefore the pier has become one of the tourism destinations. The entrance to Dreverna port is not visible when floating on the water because it is obscured by plants that grow on the coast. However it is marked with buoys. The main shoal promontories near Dreverna are marked. Superb shoals are located in the surroundings of Dreverna (their depth is up to 1 meter and area of several tens of hectares). These shoals are perfectly convenient for swimming “in the middle of the Lagoon”.

**It is dangerous to swim anywhere since the swimmers can get injured because of the stakes of fish traps left by irresponsible fishermen. Such underwater stakes can lead to disaster. In order to prevent a disaster we would be glad to inform people properly.**



Swimming in the shoals of the Lagoon.







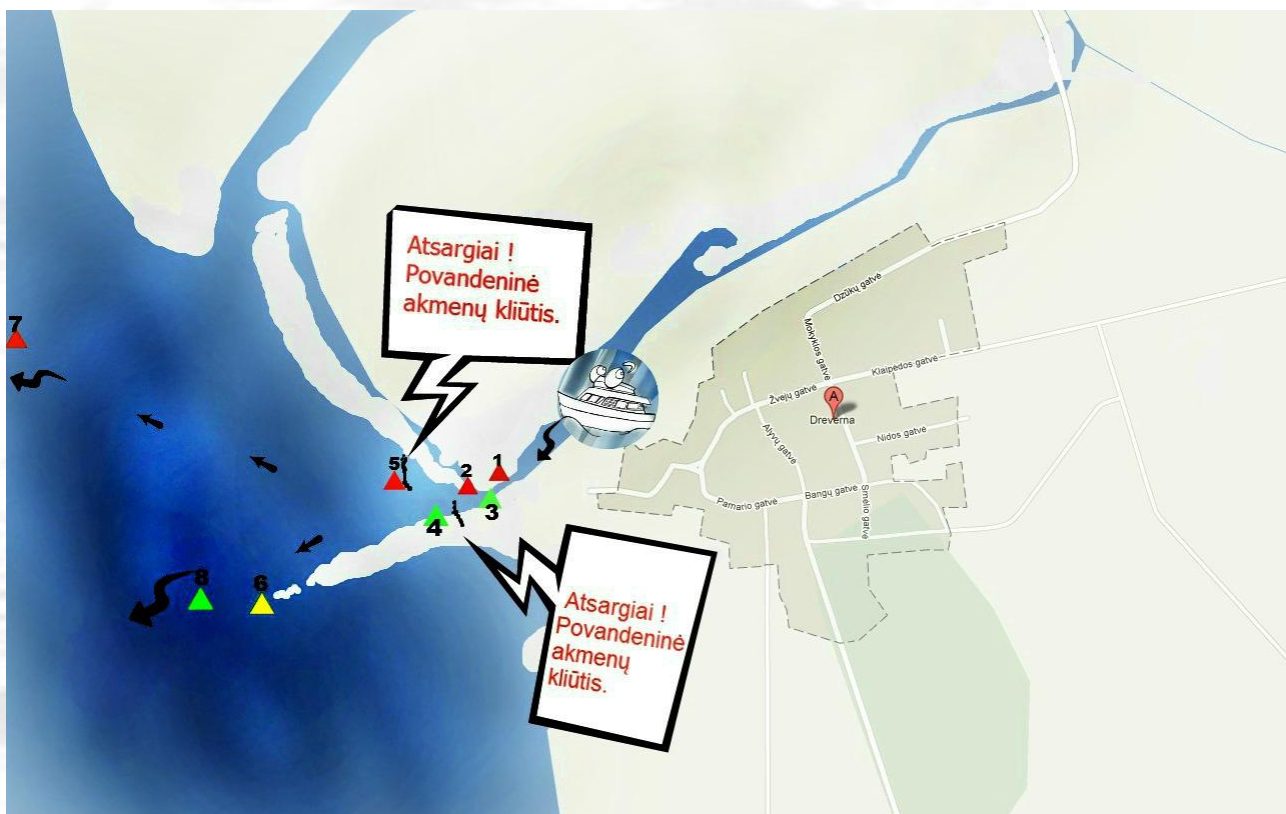






**Thanks to many years of experience in commercial fishing and navigation in these waters we recommend you to consider our suggestions.**

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.

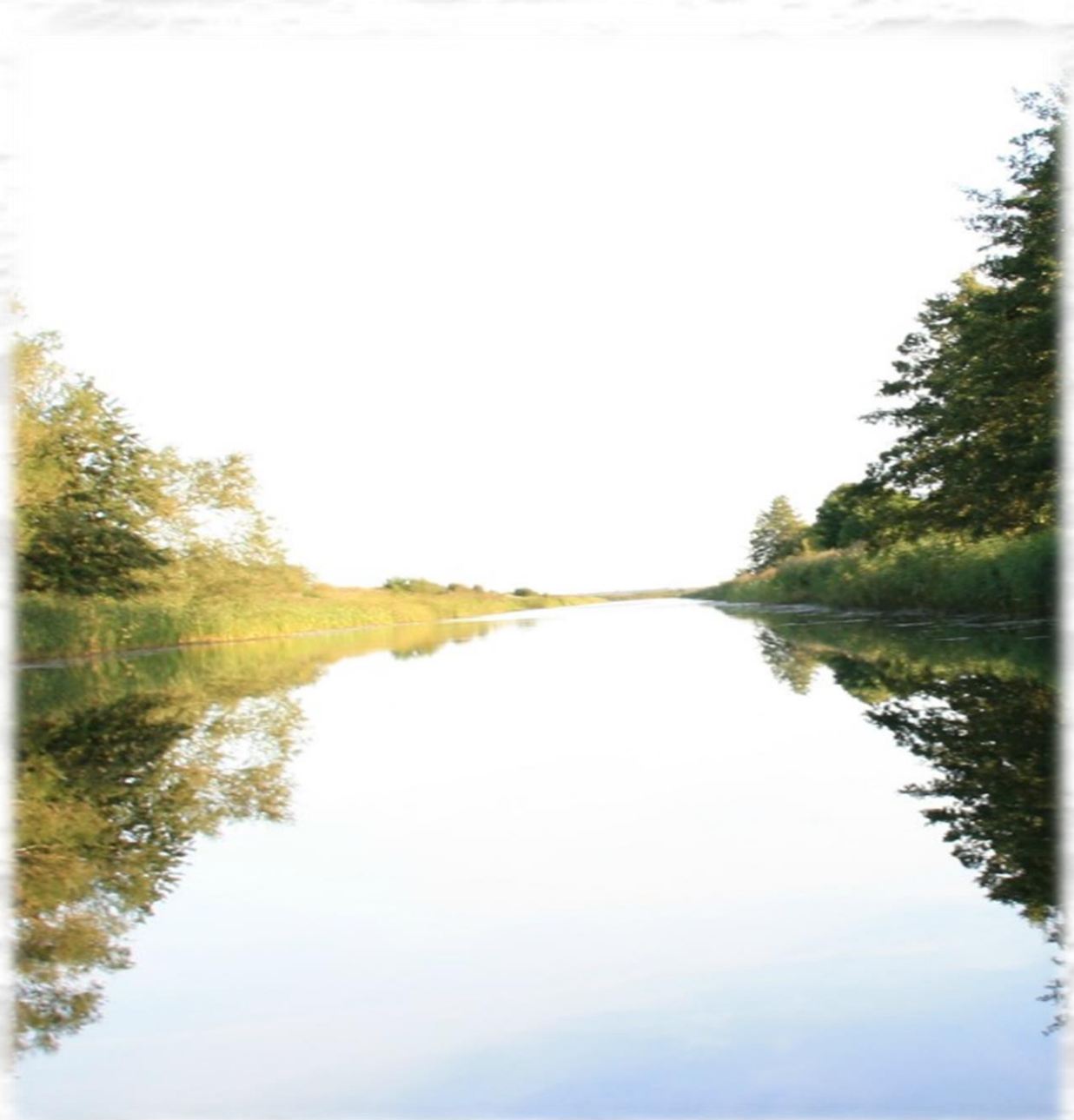


The entrance itself is very narrow, its width is approximately two meters. When tourists want to enter the territory at the time when western and eastern winds dominate, they undoubtedly face serious problems. At the time of entrance you should always attempt to swim on the left side of the entrance 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 succesful 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.....**





**Culinary heritage in Dreverna:**



**Accommodation service in Dreverna**





## **We offer cognitive route around the Curonian Lagoon:**

**We offer the following:**

**We departure at 9:00AM. The trip takes approximately 6 to 12 hours.**

**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. We will visit Juodkrante, Pervalka, Preila, Nida, Uostadvaris village, Minge, the lighthouse at Vente cape, will have time for swimming in the shoals of the Lagoon... You can expect to have a great experience and emotions thanks to this trip...**

**Juodkrante** (in German *Schwarzort*) is the second largest settlement in the Curonian Spit. It is located 18 km south direction from Klaipeda, in Neringa municipality. **Upon arrival by boat to Juodkrante pier you will have time (approximately 1 hour if you will not express additional requests) and an opportunity to familiarize the places of interest. The guide will inform you about these places of interest.**



Judkrante has been inhabited since ancient times. Archaeological amber jewelery from Stone, Bronze and Early Iron Age has been found in Juodkrante surroundings. Juodkrante name in written sources for the first time was mentioned in 1429. In those days it was located much closer to the sea, i.e. 2,5 km to the North from the current settlement. During the period between 1599 and 1600 the old village (13 homesteads) were buried under the sand. It was strongly affected by plague in 1603, only 6 homesteads with residents remained. A sand continued to move and littoral Juodkrante was last mentioned in 1724.

In 1669 Hans Reinish, forest steward, got the privilege to set up a tavern near the road. In 1682 fishermen also were allowed to settle. At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the residents of Karvaiciai village that was burried under the sand also moved to Juodkrante together with the church of Karvaiciai. However the church had burned in 1878. The old Juodkrante (located in the North), New Karvaiciai (located in the South) and Juodkrante by the church (in the middle) had merged into one settlement. The stone church of Juodkrante has been built in 1885.

Around 1840 Juodkrante became famous as a resort and in 1858 regular steamship trips from Klaipeda to Juokrante, and later from Tilsit have been started. Around that time (in 1855, 1860 and 1861) at the time of the Lagoon dredging amber was found. This led to further development of the settlement. During the period between 1861 and 1882 highly valuable prehistoric amber jewelery has been found near Juodkrante. During the period between 1860 and 1890 amber mining activity of the company *W. Stantien & M. Becker* stimulated development of the resort. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century and at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century many hotels, villas, cottages, restaurants and shops have been set up in Juodkrante.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 1946 Juodkrante became the urban-type settlement (as summer resort), in 1947 it has been annexed to Klaipeda, however in 1961 it had become a part of new Neringa city...





**Pervalka** (in German *Perwelk*) is a settlement in the Curonian Spit, it is located 5 km north from Preila and 15 km south from Juodkrante, next to the Curonian Lagoon in the Gulf of Pervalka. The northern cape of the gulf is called the headland of Horses, whereas the southern cape is called the headland of Pervalka. There are the buildings of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a marina, a cognitive path that leads to the Dead Dunes. The bike path of Neringa crosses the settlement (the distance to Nida is 12 km). Not far from Pervalka, north direction, Grey (or otherwise “Dead“) Dunes are located. The lighthouse of Pervalka has been built beside the headland of Horses. The monument in memory of Liudvikas Reza (it was created by sculptor/folk artist Eduardas Jonusas in 1975) stands on the Skirpstas hill, 100 m north from the access road of the settlement. An old cemetery is located in the southern part of the settlement.





Before the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Karvaiciai village existed on the southern coast of the headland of Pervalka, next to the gulf of Karvaiciai. Later it was buried under the sand. The settlement of Pervalka was founded during the period between 1836 and 1843 by the residents of Naujujų Naglių village that was buried under the sand. There were 5 homesteads and 45 residents lived in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The residents were mostly engaged in fishing. During the period between 1880 and 1881 they moved 1,5 km north from the settlement because they were threatened by moving sand. In 1900 a school was established in Pervalka and the lighthouse of Pervalka was built. Currently Pervalka is a permanent home of approximately 40 people.







**Preila** (in German *Preil*) is a settlement in Neringa municipality (the Curonian Spit), next to the gulf of Preila (the headland of Goats is in the north and a small headland of Preila is in the south). The centre of Preila/Pervalka eldership. Preila is located 6 km north from Nida (Bulvikis Headland is seen as dividing line), next to the Curonian Lagoon. There are many hills, e.g. Preila hill (53 m of height), Vecekrugas hill (67 m of height) and Karvaiciai hill (59 m of height).

There is one main street in Preila, it runs along the Lagoon. Many of the houses are offered for rent, therefore summer vacationers always have a place to stay. The distance between the sea and the settlement is approximately 2 kilometers. There are the cottages of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, library (it was opened in 1954), a marina. An ethnographic cemetery is located in the southern part of the settlement. The bike path of Neringa crosses Preila, it runs between Nida and Juodkrante.



The settlement was founded in 1843 by the residents of Naujujū Naglių village who moved here from the previous place together with a school house. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century 250 residents lived here, new school has been built and the first hotel has been opened.





**Nida** is a settlement in the Curonian Split, in the southern outskirts of Neringa City.

Nida is a resort settlement, each summer it attracts approximately 200 to 300 thousand tourists (approximately 700 thousand tourists visit Neringa annually). The majority of them come from Lithuania and Western Europe, especially from Germany. You can visit the following objects in Nida: the Fisherman's Ethnographic Farmstead (opened in 1974), V. K. Mizgiriai amber gallery/museum (opened in 1995), Nida's Blessed Virgin Mary Help of Christians Church (serves the churchgoers throughout the entire territory of Neringa), Nida's Evangelical Lutheran Church (built in 1888). An ethnographic cemetery is next to the church where you can find wooden ledgers, i.e. christenings (krikštai). Several side streets run into the central street (most of them are dead-end streets).

The following objects are in Nida: secondary school, Public Library, Neringa post office (LT-93012), forestry office, museum of history (established in 1966), Memorial Museum of Thomas Mann and Public Institution Thomas Mann Cultural Center (opened in 1995, this is the place of various events), V. K. Mizgiriai amber gallery (the amber works made by modern artists and the copies of archaeological findings are exhibited in the gallery), the branch of the Public Institution Kaunas Vocational Training Centre for Service Business Specialists was opened in 2005. The visitors of Neringa History Museum can find out the information about the daily life and culture, traditional crafts, i.e. fishing, catching of crows, etc. of the locals. There are the cottages and

villas of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in Nida. A port, a marina and a yacht club are near the Lagoon.

The monument in memory of G. D. Kuvertas, the arboriculturist of Nida surroundings, was built in the city in 1856. The monument stands at the end of G. D. Kuvertas street where an old cemetery of arboriculturists of Nida is located. This is the place of eternal rest of dune supervisors and foresters.

The history of the whole Curonian Spit is reflected in Nida's history. This is an old settlement. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century it was transferred from sand plains to the coastal part of the locality, next to the Lagoon. Later the refugees from other settlements that were buried under the sand had settled in Nida. Today Nida is the cultural centre of the Curonian Spit and the Curonian Lagoon region. The tourists are fascinated by its old fishermen homesteads, cozy courtyards, beautiful coast of the Lagoon, seaside, clean and supervised pinewoods, quietness. The bike path of Neringa city runs between Nida and Klaipeda (New ferry terminal of Smiltyne), its length is 52 km. A bike rental service is available in all settlements between Smiltyne and Nida. There are rest-houses and lodging-houses, hotels, superb holiday camp in Nida.

**Upon arrival by boat to Nida you will have time (approximately 1 hour if you will not express additional requests) and an opportunity to familiarize the places of interest. The guide will inform you about these places of interest.**





The current location of Nida is fairly recent. People have lived here at the beginning of the second millennium BC when the Curonian Spit was covered with lush deciduous forests. The Old Nida was first mentioned in 1385 in the descriptions of crusaders' routes of war. In those days Nida was located 2 km south from the current settlement, closer to the Baltic sea. The town was granted with Magdeburg rights. During the period between 1603 and 1606 Nida was strongly affected by plague.

In 1675 the Old Nida was buried under the sand, therefore its residents began to settle in new location, north from the previous one, near the Curonian Lagoon. And in 1732 they had settled in the current Nida. Nearby Skruzdyne and Purvyne villages were located, therefore the current Nida consisted of three small villages, i.e. Nida, Skruzdyne and Purvyne.



**Uostadvaris** is the village located in Silute municipality, in Rusne Island, on the left coast of Atmata River, 5 km northwest from Rusne. It is a part of Nemunas Delta Regional Park. Since the mouth of the port most of the time is covered with sand, it is fairly difficult to enter Uostadvaris.

Uostadvaris is a departmental port, it is operated by Lithuanian Inland Waterways Authority. Thus it is necessary to obtain a permit that allows leaving the boat ashore. You can visit Uostadvaris lighthouse that was built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (its operation has been stopped, the lighthouse serves as an observation deck), water pumping station built in 1907 (steam turbine that pumps the excess water from the surrounding meadows and diverts it towards Nemunas delta; currently this stations is known as Polder Museum). New water pumping station has been built nearby in 2007.

**Upon arrival by boat to Uostadvaris pier you will have time “to stretch your legs” (approximately half an hour if you will not express additional requests)**



**Mingė** is a one-street fishermen's village in Silute district municipality, 7 km south from Kintai, in the lower reaches of Minija River, in the Nemunas Delta Regional Park. The part of Minija seniunaitija or, in other words, sub-eldership.

The houses of the village stand on the both coasts of Minija River (the facades facing the river), there are some buildings of the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. Good transport infrastructure that connects with Rusne, Vente Cape, Nida and other resorts of tehe Curonian Spit. Water and rural tourism is being rapidly developed in Mingė in recent years.





The old name of the village is **Mine** (this is evidenced by the inscriptions on the crosses in Vente cemetery). The village was developing on the coast of the Curonian Split, next to the estuary of Miniija River. The village was first mentioned in 1540. 11 payers of special levy, i.e. so called *činšas* or in Latin *census*, and 2 privileged German families lived in the village in those days. Due to the dirt delivered to the locality by Atmata River (the branch of Miniija and Nemunas Rivers) and the increased areas of land the village eventually ended distantly from the Lagoon and turned into riverine village, although previously it was situated on the coast of the Lagoon. Due to extensive immigration of Samogitians from the Great Lithuania and Germans from other regions of Duchy of Prussia the number of the locals began to increase. A tavern was opened in 1601 and elementary school in 1736. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the village was strongly affected by constant wars and plague.

A sail workshop was established in 1802, later a boat workshop was established too. There were 31 homesteads in 1817 and 76 homesteads in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Minge has become one of the larger villages of Kintai parish. Workshops of sails sewing and sailing boats were established in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A water measurement station began to operate in 1827. Postal agency and pharmacy were opened in 1850. The pharmacy also was the place where people were able to buy Lithuanian books. A canal to Atmata River was excavated and a cobbled road that leads to Kintai was built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Minge was the centre of rafts rearrangement. The locals were engaged in fishing, cultivation of meadows, cutting and selling of reeds, i.e. a popular roofing material. There were no streets in the village, only rivers and boats for transportation.



**Vente Cape** is a small headland located on the coast of the Curonian Lagoon. It is 5,5 km long and 2,2 km wide. The Curonian Lagoon and the Curonian Split are fairly young formations, they had formed during Littorina Sea period, i.e. between 4500 and 5000 years ago. The area of the Curonian Lagoon is 1584 sq.m. The northern part of the Lagoon (413 sq.m.) is the Lithuanian part, whereas the greater southern part belongs to Russian Konigsberg (Kaliningrad) region. The history of Vente Cape is very interesting. Vindenburg castle and church that date back to the year of 1360 were built by crusaders in the peninsula spike. This church was twice destroyed by storms and lightings. The waves of the Lagoon also were destroying Vindenburg castle. The castle stones were used for the construction of a new brick church, however waves, storms continued merciless destruction of the pike of Vente Cape. The stone church also collapsed around the year of 1700. In 1705 the ruins of the church were transported to Kintai, they were used for the construction of Kintai church. During the period of 300 years only minor changes of this church were made. It was declared an architectural monument.

During the period between 1975 and 1986 reconstructive works of the pike of Vente Cape were carried out. Its banks have been reinforced and heightened, paved with larger and smaller stones. A 250 m long breakwater has been built. At the end of winter this breakwater also performs the functions of an icebreaker, i.e. breaks large blocks of ice. Thanks to these works the process of degradation of Vente Cape Peninsula was prevented.





Vente Cape is best known for the migrant Bird Ringing Station that was established there.

*Bird migration is one of the most mysterious and fascinating natural phenomena. Every year in spring and autumn millions of birds who move to or back from their homelands together with their chicks fly over our country...*

## 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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*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 19<sup>th</sup> century they were normal part of everyday life. We are certain that these long-legged birds already lived in the 17<sup>th</sup> 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...**



## **THE OFFERED WINTER ROUTE**

*Winter. Long nights and short days. Dawn after few hours turns into darkness. However you will not regret early wake-up. It doesn't matter that it is freezing outside. It doesn't matter that stars still shine high in the sky and yellow moon grins at you. Wake up and go, fish is waiting for you...*

*Fish doesn't doze in winter, but fishermen do not doze too. Armed with ice drills, boxes and with backpacks on their shoulders they are standing around and waiting for their friends...*

*Morning mood is simply great! Everybody praises weather, wind, pressure, wife for being so kind for her fisherman husband who decided to go fishing in the early morning. Everything is perfect. And according to their words perch are waiting to be caught by these happy men.*

*But this is only in the morning... Try to talk to the same fishermen in the evening and they will tell you absolutely different things: east or north wind was blowing for a whole day, pressure drop occurred, weather was simply terrible. And they simply didn't want to muddle along with small fish...*

### **European smelt - burbot fishing:**

The path of European smelt migration runs along the boundary of fishing route, i.e. the water areas of Kairiai Polygon, Juodkrante, Dreverna (Dune canal), lighthouse of Preila. Common fish: burbot, European smelt. Conditions required: good cover of ice.

### **European smelt ( *Osmerus eperlanus* (L.))**



**Smelt (in Latin *Osmerus eperlanus*, in German *Stint*, *Europäischer Stint*, in English *European smelt*)** is a fish of a family of smelt fish. European smelt is the most common of all subspecies (in Latin *Osmerus eperlanus eperlanus*). The body is long (15 to 18 cm, in some cases 30 cm) and low. The back is greenish-brown, the sides are silvery blue and the belly is white. The scales are small, thin and opaque. It is very common commercial fish. The fish is characterized by specific smell that is similar to the smell of cucumber.

We recommend you to use ordinary rod system for fishing in the Curonian Lagoon, i.e. the main fishing line of 0,18 mm of thickness and 4 thinner short frenums of 0,14 to 0,15 mm of thickness. These frenums are intended for shiny trolls. A sinker that weights between 25 and 30 grams must be attached to the main fishing line. Due to strong stream we must use stiff lever since weaker levers can be inclined. Do not forget that the maximum number of hooks to be used during European smelt fishing is 12, i.e. if you use 2 rods, the maximum number of hooks to be used on both rods is 12 (e.g. 2 rods and 6 hooks on each rod). At the beginning of fishing you can use the pieces of smelt with skin as bait. Later the smelt caught shall be used as bait. Roach



is perfect for bait, however it is difficult to catch it in the area of fishing (almost impossible, because roach smells the smell of smelt and swims away). Carp's skin is rigid, therefore it perfectly suits as bait. You won't need a lot of carp's meet. You may use only one piece of carp for a whole fishing. You shall hang the pieces of carp on hook piercing the area that contains a skin. Fresh and mildly frozen pieces of fish are seen as the most suitable bite. You can try to use 3 to 4 fly larvae or 5 to 6 Chironomus larvae. You can choose any time for smelt fishing.

### **Burbot (*Lota lota* (L.))**



Burbot and the name versions in other languages: Lota lota, Burbot, Quappe, Mník jednovousý, Luts, Lotte (poisson), Miętuś, Налим.

Burbot is the only member of cod family that lives in freshwater. The body of burbot is round, the tail is flattened on the sides, tapering towards the end. The head is wide and flattened at the top. There is a single barbel in the submental part. The mouth is wide, with many small teeth. The lower jaw is a bit shorter. The skin is thick, soft and very slippery. The scales are small, thin and hidden deep in the skin. The back and sides are glaucous or yellowish with brownish-black spots and stripes. The eyes are small.



Burbot are most common in the rivers and lakes of the Northern Europe and Asia. In Lithuania they are most populous in the Curonian Lagoon, also the majority lakes and rivers of our country, however they are sparse in all locations. Young burbot feed on benthic fauna, the adult fish becomes predatory and attacks various fish, frogs, cancers, kills number of other fish species. When burbot swims its entire body weaves. The fish is deft night hunter. The length of one year old burbot is 12 cm. The fish can grow up to 1 m of length and gain a weight of 20 kg and more. The fish mostly weights between 0,2 and 1 to 1,5 kg. Burbot become mature when they are four to five years old and their length is between 35 and 45 cm. The fish spawns under the ice in winter, in December, January and February, in the areas with rocky and pebbly floor. Prolificacy depends on age, usually between 33 000 and 5 000 000 eggs. Burbot meat is white, soft and without bones, liver is large and greasy, it is used for canning and production of fish oil. Cold weather is the most suitable for burbot fishing, i.e. in autumn and winter. Early spring is also suitable for burbot fishing in small clear brooks. Warm weather is absolutely unsuitable for burbot fishing. You can catch burbot in summer only by accident. Burbot is night predator, therefore nights, especially dark and windy, rainy and snowy are the most suitable for its fishing... Burbot begins to bite after a sunset, around midnight the results of bite become even better and this lasts almost until a sunrise. In early spring it can also bite during a daytime. During a daytime burbot usually stays in caves, under the rocks, between snags, tree roots or on the floor. Clayey floor, covered with gravel or small amount of slime is burbot's favourite. The fish also likes the areas near brinks, snags, stone, clay lumps, deep hollows.

Burbot fishing is simple and available to every fisherman. Bottom fishing rod is the most suitable in this case. Burbot usually swallows a bait, therefore it is not easy to take out a hook. Fishermen are advised to attach frenums to the fishing line, in such way they will be able to detach burbot from the fishing line together with the frenum. The most suitable sorts of lure are as follows: gudgeon, roach, a piece of fish, meat, chicken intestine, worm, a neck of cancer, frog, however ruff is the most suitable. Several rods shall be used at once. You can leave them in the water in the evening and take out in the morning. If there is a risk that the lure can be covered with plants, mud, etc., you should take out the rods from the water after some time and check the hooks in the light of torch or bonfire. Since burbot tightly hangs on the hook, there is no need to pull it out slowly. After swallowing a bait burbot often hides in the cave or wraps the fishing line on underwater objects. In such cases the fishermen are advised to rouse or to pull out burbot



from a cave by pulling the fishing line or tapping the rod. It is prohibited to catch burbot during the period between December 15<sup>th</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup>. This is the time of their spawning. Winter nights also are suitable for ice fishing of burbot, especially immediately after spawning when the fish is especially hungry.



We are waiting for the fish bite ...

**The story told by the fishermen who were returning from the ice of the Curonian Lagoon to Dreverna:** „The best morning bite was until 11.30 AM, in the depth between 7 to 9 meters. Later most of the fishermen moved to more shallow places, approximately 200 m towards the coast with a depth between 3 and 4 meters. At 3:00 PM the fish again became active in the depth between 7 and 9 meters. This time our goal was fishing in permanent place with a depth between 7 and 9 meters, rather than a search for smelt. During the daytime flatfish became active, although smelt bite was poor. Later smelt became more active. Our fishing was over in the afternoon of nice, quite, sunny day with an average catch of smelt (approximately 150 pieces).“



We will provide you with the latest, relevant information concerning the places of smelt clusters, movement of so called smelt „lumps“ and changes in coordinates of dislocation. You should check information about weather in the website of Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service. Usually its forecasts are correct. Please note that southwest catchy winds with a speed of 12 to 15 meters per second often cause snowstorms in the region of the Curonian Lagoon. Thousands of people who have arrived to the region of the Lagoon should be careful. Snowstorms are very heavy, they make the outlines of the coast indiscernible. People begin to wander around unable to find their way home. The locals say that such lack of skills of guests, their inability to find a way home in accordance with landmarks and walking in what ever direction is similar to „hedgehog wandering in the fog“.

**We offer:**

**The departure time is in the evening or early morning, approximately between 5:00 and 7:00 AM. Travel time to the fishing locations by snowmobile is about 1 hour.**

**We will offer tents, fishing gear...we will take care of your safety and comfort during the whole trip... You can expect to have a great experience and emotions thanks to this trip...**

**For perdurable optimists:**

*A patient fisherman is sitting by ice-hole. Weather is cold, windy and snowy. His ears are red-purple...Another fisherman approaches and asks him:*

*- Weather is so cold, but you do not wear a hat. Why?*

*- Yesterday I wore a hat, therefore couldn't hear when other men invited me to drink vodka...*



**Drevertna in winter**



**Juodkrante in winter**



**Pervalka in winter**



**Preila in winter**



**Nida in winter**





**Dunes in winter**





When ice covers the Curonian Lagoon it is a perfect time to try sailing in ice sledge. When sailing you will have a chance to feel all natural phenomena: ice-skate slowly glides on ice, wind hums in your ears and you move with your sail forward at high speed.

We will help you to organize a venturesome game fishing on the ice of the Curonian Lagoon! Ice fishing championship in teams is a superb winter entertainment for you, your friends and colleagues.

We will drop the participants to the place of fishing by snowmobiles. The fishing of the competition will take place in the ice-holes marked by the organizers, in teams. You can believe or not, but you will surely have fun...





**Spring after long winter....**

Ice-drift in the Curonian Lagoon.





