

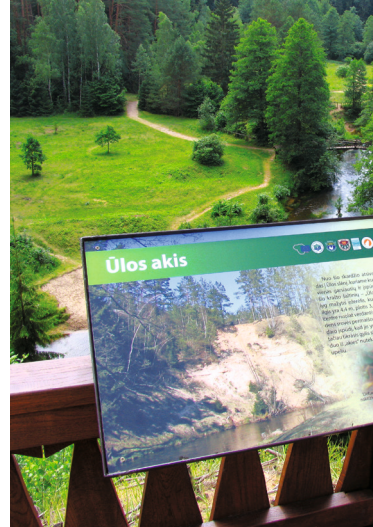
Traveling on the thematic route “Honey Road” (~120 km) you will get to know the traces of traditional beekeeping in Dzūkija. You will visit the Druskininkai resort, Liškiava, Merkinė, Dzūkija National Park, ethnographic villages of Dzūkija region, the tree beekeeping apiary and the tree beekeeping educational trail in Musteika village, you will admire the beauty of local natural and cultural heritage. On the way, you will be able to taste traditional local food, honey, and herbal tea.



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<https://arcg.is/1OmPa0>



7 The Eye of Ūla

A spring called the Eye of Ūla (Ūlos akis) located between the villages of Žiūrai and Mančiagirė is a natural monument. The water of the spring is believed to be healing; it was used in folk medicine. Going by the track to the spring, you will have an opportunity to enjoy the views and exposure of the Ūla Valey and have a refreshing bath in the river.



8 Zervynos

Zervynos, situated along the banks of the Ūla River, no doubt is the most beautiful ethnographical village in Dzūkija. Zervynos preserve the traditions of the local folk including beekeeping. Have a walk through the village: you will not be disappointed! Walking along the Ūla street, you will see ethnographical homesteads, traditional crosses, the swift flow of the Ūla River, the oak of Zervynos and the pines with man-made hollows. You can also pre-order a paid tour of Zervynos guided by Algis Svirnelis, the apiarist and cross craftsman (tel. +370 698 43349).

9 Marcinkonys

Driving from Varėna, you will see a dry pine-tree with hollows standing right before the village. Marcinkonys that grew by the Warsaw–Saint Petersburg railway route is one of the largest villages in the country in terms of the covered area. The Grūda River flows nearby. This is the heart of the Dzūkija National Park. Go to the Visitor Centre: here, you can find more information about the tourism opportunities at the national park and buy souvenirs. The village has many natural and cultural monuments; many of them can be visited walking along the nature trail of Zackagiris which starts at the Visitor Centre. We also recommend taking a walk along the Marcinkonys nature trail of tree hollows. This 15 km long pedestrian trail goes from the Visitor Centre to 11 trees with hollows telling the story of the traditional honey-harvesting in the vicinity of Marcinkonys village.



10 The Ethnographical Homestead of the Dzūkija National Park

The Ethnographical Homestead of the Dzūkija National Park is an important object in Marcinkonys. Here, you can learn the way of life, traditions and crafts of the folk of Dzūkija. The dwelling house of the homestead was built in 1905. Its exposition includes various household utensils, furniture and home made textiles. You will also see items related to honey-harvesting, like geinys – a gear to climb a hollow tree and old hives. Entrance is paid. If pre-ordered in advance, you can also learn the craft of candle-making and make a candle yourself (info@dzukijosparkas.lt, +37067246388).



11 Musteika

The ethnographical village of Musteika is located deep in the woods and is known for the preserved traditions of forest crafts. It is no surprise that the Tree Beekeeping Apiary was established here in 2006. The Apiary exposition introduces the traditions of honey-harvesting, hives made of stumps, man-made hollows in pine-trees, and honey plants. You can also acquire bee products and other souvenirs. During summer camps, seminars and the Honey-Harvesting Feast, you can also learn to make tree-climbing gear, carve hollows, work with vax, and make candles by dipping.



12 The Tree Beekeeping Nature Trail

If walking 5 km eastwards from the Tree Beekeeping Apiary, you will reach the tree beekeeping nature trail. The walk along the 3 km long circular trail nearby the Čepkeliai bog will introduce you to the history of the ancient business of honey-harvesting. You will learn the way of life of forest beekeepers, which was closely related to their work deep in the woods, looking after hollows, protecting them from cold and wild animals, carving new hollows, honey-harvesting, catching swarms and settling them at hives.

13 Kabeliai

Kabeliai is located at the upper reaches of the Grūda River. The name of the this old village may be related to horse breeding. The village hosts the beautiful wooden Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The village's beekeeping traditions are maintained by the apiarist A. Valentukevičius. The cheese-house Varinis puodas (Kabelių Str. 12) offers tasting and buying locally-made cheeses.

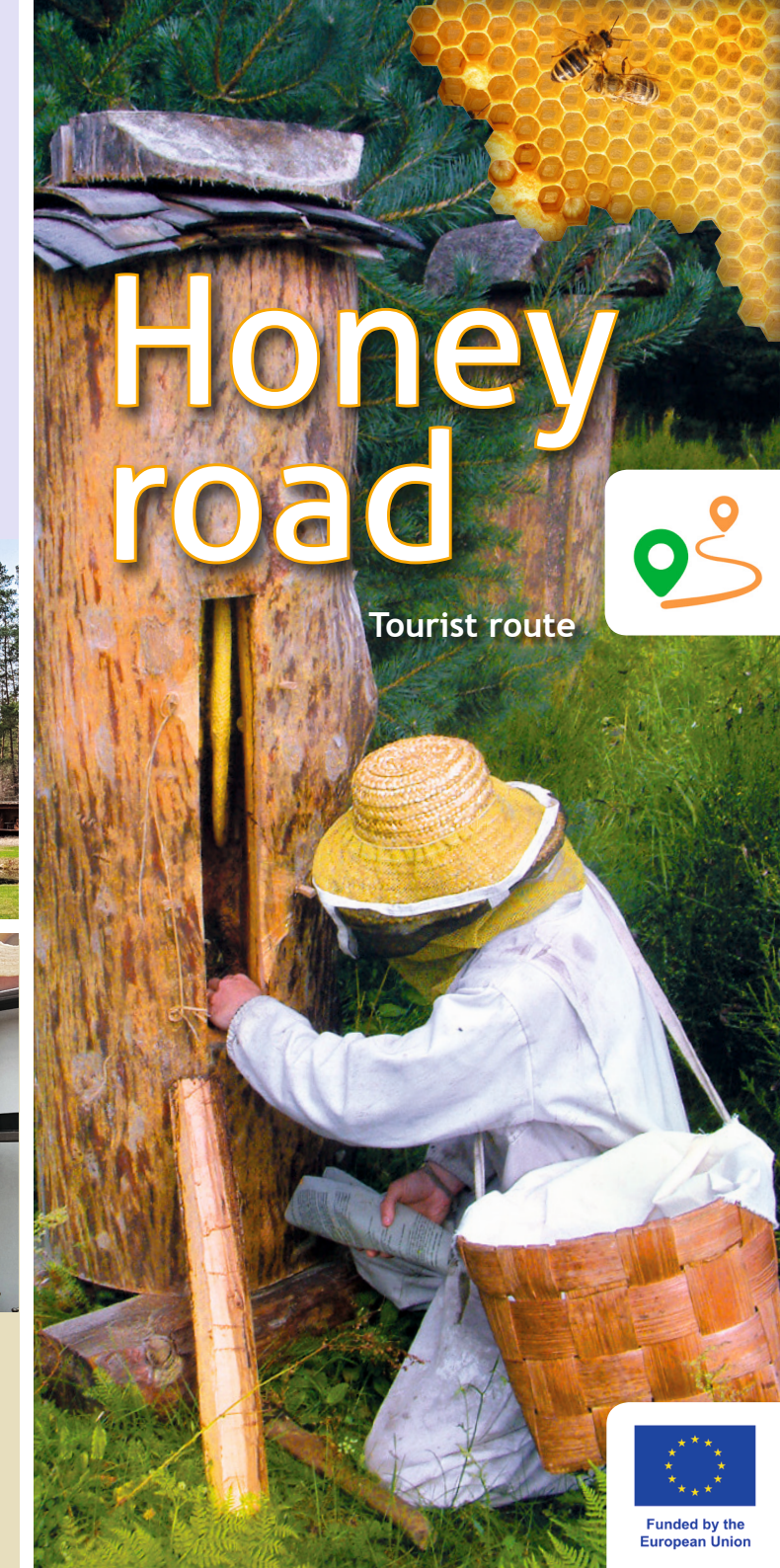


15 The Tree-Cake Museum in the village of Jaskonys

The tree-cake museum is located near the restaurant Romnesa. Here, you will see the examples of tree-cakes and the equipment for baking them. You will also have an opportunity to taste a tree-cake and buy some to bring home. Visiting the museum is paid.

14 The Rest and Sculpture Park of A. Cesnulis

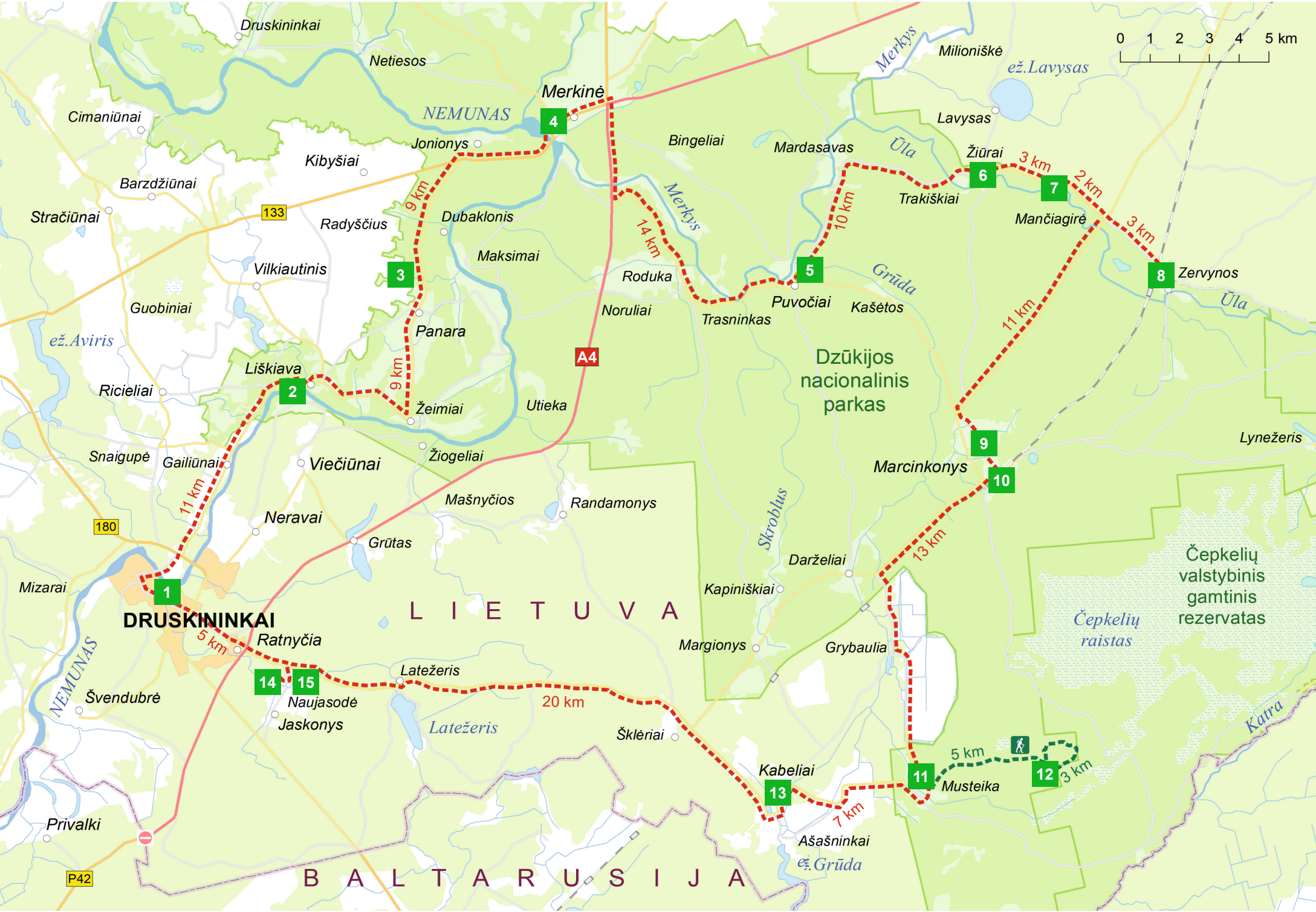
The park is located in Naujasodė village, at a very beautiful spot near a pine forest and the Ratnyčia Brook, only 5 km from Druskininkai. Here, you can enjoy wooden sculptures and other pieces of art created by a folk artist Antanas Cesnulis and take a rest in the nature. Visiting the park is paid. www.cesnulusodyba.lt



Honey road

Tourist route





1 Druskininkai

Druskininkai is a very popular Lithuanian resort located on the River Nemunas. People come here all year round to enjoy SPA procedures in a beautiful and calm environment. The resort offers tourists various services and entertainments. Many SPAs and rehabilitation centres offer massages and other procedures with honey, whereas restaurants (Senasis Nemunas, Etno dvaras, Vido malūnas) serve traditional dishes of the Dzūkija region. www.druskininkai.lt



2 Liškiava

Liškiava is located on the left bank of the Nemunas River and it recalls the times of Grand Duke of Lithuania Vytautas the Great. In Liškiava, tourists can visit the hillfort and the manor site of Liškiava, as well as the beautiful Baroque complex of the St. Trinity Church and the Dominican Monastery. At the peak of its splendour in the 18th century, the monastery consumed a lot of honey and vax collected. You can also visit the exhibition of the local ceramicist Algimantas Kazlauskas (Šv. Dominyko Str. 11). During the tourism season, Liškiava can be reached from Druskininkai by a boat.

3 Panara

When travelling from Liškiava to Merkinė, we recommend to take the route via the village of Panara. In 2005, the Catholic community “Pilni namai” (“The Full House”) settled in the outskirts of the village in the homestead surrounded by the pine forest. The community is open for tourists and pilgrims; you can take a walk and enjoy beautiful surroundings, visit the Chapel of Divine Mercy and the ecological farm of herbs where you can acquire local herbs. The tea made of them will be perfect with honey! www.pnb.lt



5 Puvočiai

Puvočiai located at the confluence of the rivers Merkys and Grūda is one of the most visited villages of Dzūkija. The village used to have a fishing barrier which belonged to the Merkinė Manor; its fragments can still be seen in the Merkys River near the mythological stone of Perkūnas. During the interwar period, the demarcation line between Lithuania and Poland went along the Merkys River splitting the village into the “Lithuanian” and “Polish” parts. Nowadays, both banks of the Merkys are connected by a monkey bridge. There is also an observation tower near the village offering the view of the far-stretching Dainava Forest.



4 Merkinė

Merkinė located at the confluence of the rivers Nemunas and Merkys is used to be a regional centre of vax trade during the period of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Nowadays, you can visit the Hillfort of Merkinė offering a wonderful view, the 17th century Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the town square with the historical Vasa House and the Merkinė Region Museum, as well as the Visitor Centre of the Dzūkija National Park, the Hill of Crosses, the 25 m high observation tower, the centre of crafts “Puodžių namai” (“The House of Potters”, Kauno Str. 29). The restaurants of Merkinė offer local cuisine of the Dzūkija Region.



6 Žiūrai

Žiūrai located by the Ūla River is a typical village of Dzūkija that still maintains many ethnographic features. It develops water and countryside tourism and maintains beekeeping traditions. The village is famous for its folk singers; its folk band celebrated the 50 years anniversary in 2021. The singing tradition of the Southern Dzūkija represented at Žiūrai has been included into the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Lithuania. We recommend leaving the car at the cemetery parking lot and taking a walk along the Bižai Street to the Ūla River.