

# Baltic Accessible Hiking Conference and Public Hike

Interreg




Co-funded by the European Union

Estonia – Latvia

## Friday: May 23 - Conference



 Location:	 <b><u>Hotel Villa Anna</u></b> (! Conference venue changed from Hotel Arkādia) <u>On Google maps:</u> Apšuciems, Engure parish, Tukums Municipality, Latvia
9:30-10:00	Registration and coffee
10:00-10:15	<b>Opening and greetings by Steen Kobberø-Hansen and Boris Mičić from the European Hiking Federation</b>
10:15 - 12:00  Conference session I	<p><b>The Impact of the Accessible Hiking project in the Context of Accessibility Improvement.</b>  Asnāte Ziemeļe, Latvian Country Tourism Association  Elin Priks, Estonian Rural Tourism Organisation</p> <p><b>Involvement of People with Visual Impairments in the Development of Coastal Hiking Trail and Forest Trail Infrastructure - the Route in Kuldīga.</b>  Līga Ķikute - Riga association of the visually impaired and blind people  Juris Smaļinskis, Latvian Country Tourism Association, tourism expert</p> <p><b>Aqua Walking:</b> 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</p>
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch at the Hotel Villa Anna
13:00 - 15:00  Conference session 2	<p><b>How to Guide Tours for People with Access Needs</b>  Liina Käär, Estonian Rural Tourism Organization, expert/SA Tõstamaa Manor, guide/University of Tartu Pärnu College, junior lecturer in Social Work</p> <p><b>Hiking Wheelchairs on Trails</b>  Laura Bite, Riga Planning Region</p> <p><b>Involvement of Volunteers in Coastal/Forest Trail Maintenance, Establishment of Hiking Club Latvia</b>  Aija Neilande, Kurzeme Planning Region</p>
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-17:00  Outdoor event	<p><b>Opening and Presentation of infrastructure on Apšuciems Beach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boardwalk for people with mobility impairments, hikers with young children, and seniors;</li> <li>• A sun deck for wheelchair users;</li> <li>• Two floating wheelchairs;</li> <li>• A changing room for people with mobility impairments, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Bonfire soup</p>

Friday: May 23 - Baltic aqua walking discovery session

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



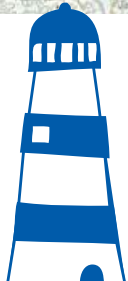
Saturday: May 24 - Public Hike, Apšuciems - Engure, ~14 km

9:30	<b>For those arriving by private car.</b> 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)  <b>! At 10:00 a bus will depart from Engure (Jūras iela 85) to Apšuciems, to starting point of the hike.</b>
	
	
<b>Starting point of the hike</b>	<b><u>Villa Anna, Apšuciems</u></b>
10:00 - 11:00	<i>Gathering and registration</i>
11:00 - 14:00	<b>Hike from Apšuciems to Engure (~14 km)</b>



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.**

14:00 - 15:30	<i>Bonfire soup at Engure Port</i>
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## 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](http://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](mailto:mail@villaanna.lv) | +371 26122679

*Accommodation reservation and payment is done individually by each person.*



More information:

Anna Palelione

[anna@celotajs.lv](mailto:anna@celotajs.lv)

+371 22495916

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