The Resort Architecture of Jurmala City

Routes along the Historical Centers of Jurmala

Horn's Garden, 20th century 30's
There is no other such an unique and special place in the world as Jurmala resort city. 32 km long sandy beach, hundreds of romantic wooden houses with wooden laces and decorations, pine woods and parks, 14 historical centers beloved by everyone – this is Jurmala – the resort city with extraordinary destiny. During the last century Jurmala has experienced both historically political changes, and also serious changes in administrative-territorial division, as well as shifts in inhabitants’ social, numeral and national structure. In 1959, a united Jurmala city was established by unifying Riga City district of Jurmala, Sloka and Kemerī Towns of Riga district. Although new Jurmala has one administration, the differences of each of its districts still remain.

Become acquainted with Jurmala from the other point of view – walking along Jurmala streets and seeing the pride of the city – its architecture!

The building of Jurmala of 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century is its wooden houses with fascinating wood engraving decors in building facades and roof finishing’s. The building of Jurmala has historically formed along the development of Jurmala resort when many people – locals and foreigners – came to Jurmala to undergo a cure and to relax. Romantic streets and wooden cottages surrounded by pine trees also nowadays create the vision of ancient times. The wooden building of Jurmala is significant and unique cultural heritage. Jurmala buildings are made unique by the fact that historicism style wooden houses are quite rare. To get to know Jurmala resort architecture you must experience and see it yourself and this brochure will help you to do it, with detailed history of the city and sights you can find in guidebooks about Jurmala. You are also welcome to Jurmala city museum! (Tirgoņu Street 29)
Routes along the historical centers of Jurmala:

Priedaine ................................................................. 4
Lielupe ................................................................. 5
Bulduri ................................................................. 6
Dzintari ................................................................. 7
Majori ................................................................. 8
Dubulti ................................................................. 10
Pumpuri, Melluži and Asari ................................. 12
Ķemeri ................................................................. 14

Here you can find eight different length routes, starting from the very Eastern point of Jurmala – Priedaine and finishing with Ķemeri. Routes can be combined and chosen starting from Jurmala central part – Majori, if you arrive from Riga or Tukums. All routes start and end at railway stations, so it is possible to travel from one centre to other also by train. Trains run regular, 2 or 3 trains run in one hour to both directions. The distances between stations are small and it takes only 2–5 minutes between each station. The length of every route is showed approximately without detailed visitation.

Have pleasant moments and walks in Jurmala!

Majori Hotel and Jomas Street, 2006
The most silent place of Jurmala is Priedaine, where it starts from the side of Riga. It is one of the newest parts of Jurmala and was joined to city only after World War II. Priedaine has no direct access to the sea because it is separated by the river Lielupe. Priedaine started to develop in the beginning of the 20th century. People choose Priedaine as a residential place more and more because of the possibility to have a silent rest without any loud amusement and entertainment places. Already in 1911 there were more than 100 building plots and practically Priedaine became the district of cottages owned by wealthy people. In Soviet times here developed the industry and for the needs of employees’ here were built dwelling houses, school and the recreation centre.

Also now Priedaine is a silent, pine tree embraced district of Jurmala. In summer 2007 archaeological excavations were performed in this place. Previous historical findings confirm that this area was inhabited at least 5000 years ago, when current dune zone of Priedaine created the wide Norden coast of Babīte lagoon.

Route length: from station Priedaine and back 1 up to 1,5 hour, from station to Viestura Street (right behind Lielupe bridge) ~ 30–45 min

The route starts from the railway station Priedaine and leads to the historical centre of Priedaine where in short walk you can visit Priedaine. The railway station of Priedaine was built in 1938 in functionalism style and it is one of the most expressive houses of Jurmala modern building with good proportions and elegance in details. The route starts from Lielais prospekts (Boulevard) where four houses form the building of dwelling houses built in the beginning of 20th century. A building with a mansard roof and a veranda is a two-story wooden plastered up dwelling-house. Two garden houses are one-storied plastered up buildings with verandas, but the harbor was built in the style of national romanticism. Turning to Mārupes Street No. 3 (the address of the building, also further in text), you can see a massive two-storey wooden house with glazed windows and wooden engravings, which are characteristic of the beginning of the 20th century. The house on Upmalas Street 8 is a one-storey wooden plastered up house with roof construction and made in the style of national romanticism in the 20th century. But on Olaines Street 5 is located a two-storey plastered up wooden house with mansard roof and an asymmetric pictorial dimension composition. Stairway creates tower-shaped corner construction. Reaching Lielais Boulevard, house No. 15 is a two-storey wooden building with mansard roof and wide two-storey verandas, built in the beginning of the 20th century. In 2006 house was restored. House No. 16 is built around 1910 in style of national romanticism with classicism details and named villa “Bella”. House No. 24 is a two-storey plastered up wooden house with terrace in style of constructivism. Turning in Zīlīšu Street and then Mangaļu Street you reach the railway station where you can go further choosing 2 ways:

1) Cross the railway and walk down the pine woods embraced Babītes Street en route seeing house No. 1 built in the 2nd half of the19th century. The house has features of influence of Latvian country estate architecture and style of neo baroque. An the end of the street, in the top of the hill a Tourist Information point is located. To reach next district Bulduri, turn left and cross the river Lielupe over the bridge. The river in the past disgorged in the greatest river of Latvia – Daugava, not in the sea as it is now. (Further see route “Bulduri”)

2) Or take a train to the next station Lielupe. (See route “Lielupe”)
In the opposite coast of the river the historical centre of Jurmala named Lielupe (formerly Buļļi) is located. Development of this place started around 1910 with the first building in the part closest to the seaside. Historically the ancient inhabited part of Lielupe was Buļļu village at the estuary of the river Lielupe. Here was the first place where carts ferried. The road along the seaside led from Riga to Kurland and Prussia. After the World War II the fishermen collective farm “Uzvara” settled in this territory. They did wide and successful commercial activities. In the territory developed a fishermen dwelling village with municipal buildings and a sea port.

Now one find out more about the activities and lifestyle of fishermen in Jurmala Open-air museum, which is established in the former territory of “Uzvara”. You can easily get there by city buss No. 1 or minibus No. 11 along Vikingu Street. Open-air museum is located on Tiklu Street 1a.

**Route length: 2.5–3 hours till Bulduri railway station**

From **Lielupe railway station** down the Mastu Street, turn right, then to Vikingu Street till **O. Kalpaka prospekts (Boulevard)**. On O. Kalpaka Boulevard house No. 30, lit. 5 is a two-storey wooden house with an asymmetrical dimension composition, corner veranda with gazebo and rich wood-engraving details in facades. The building lit. 2 is located in the depth of the lot with the main facade opposite Tērvetes Street – a two-storey wooden house with mezzanine built in style of neorenaissance. Building No. 24 is a two-storey plastered over wooden house built in architecture style of functionalism form the beginning of the 20th century. In the building No. 16 tennis centre “Lielupe” is located. This is the only such tennis sports in Latvia, where international sports events can be organized under a roof. When you reach **Meža Boulevard** turn right. On Meža Boulevard No. 58 a significant example of functionalism is located. In 30-ties of the 20th century in Lielupe several houses were built in the style of functionalism. This brought Jurmala wooden cottage architecture rationalism of the 20th century.

Heading down Rāmavas Street you can get to Bulduru Boulevard and reach **19. līnija**. Here once several famous Latvians lived – writer Andrejs Upīts (house No. 3) and composer Jānis Zālītis (house No. 4). The building No. 1 is projected by remarkable architect Eižens Laube. This is a gorgeous mansion made in cube form and decorated with architectural details close to the style of neorenaissance. The street leads to the beach. Go along the path parallel the sea until you reach the street named 18. līnija. Later continue the route along the **E. Birznieka-Upīša Boulevard**. The building No. 15 is a house of specialists of literature – brothers Antons and Pēteris Birketi. The house No. 13 lit. 1 is a two-storey wooden building built in the 20-ties of the 20th century with window opening and façade details created in style of historicism. Go along 13. līnija in order to reach **Bulduru Boulevard**. House No. 84 lit. 1 is a cottage with pompous details built in 1902, now – villa “Dagmāra”. The building No. 41 lit. 3 is in art nouveau built wooden house with particularly expressive glass veranda and attic loggia. Now this building is a guest house “Vēju roze”. You can also reach the Bulduri railway station by walking along the street 5. līnija. (See route “Bulduri”)

**Along Luxurious and Silent Lielupe**

![O. Kalpaka Boulevard 30](image)
The name Bulduri comes from the surname of manor landlord Johann Buldrinks in 15th century. The building of the district started in 40-ties of 19th century. In 1875 there were about 400 cottages. Villas here were large, splendidly furnished and accordingly to resort very expensive. The wealthiest citizens of Riga lived here. In 1910 in the former manor of Bulduri the first gardening school of Latvia was established and it is functioning even today. In the territory of the current Bulduri Gardening secondary school is located in the Dendrology park of Jurmala.

Famous Latvian litterateurs – Žanis Grīva and Arvīds Grigulis lived in Bulduri. In the 19th century centers of Bulduri and Dzintari were mostly inhabited by Germans and Russians as well as some wealthy Latvians. In 1907 a post office was opened in Bulduri, as well as and a local market place was established.

**Route length: from Viestura Street to Bulduri Railway station 30–45 minutes**

Crossing the bridge over river Lielupe you have to turn right to Viestura Street and go down to **Vienības Boulevard**. On this boulevard in house **No. 32** was the residence of an English family – the Holls. Mister H. T. Holl was the organizer of first football clubs in Latvia. From 1943 Lucy Addison lived there. In 1987 in England her diary and letters “Letters from Latvia” were published. The building **No. 28 lit. 1** is a house of famous contractor of the time of First Republic of Latvia – Ludvigs Neiburgs. His house was built in 20-ties of 20th century by a Latvian architect Eižens Laube. Dwelling house **No. 27 lit. 1** is a cottage that prounds with its wood engraving decors in room and beauteous glassed veranda. House **No. 26 lit. 1** is a one-storey building with mezzanine and splendid wood engraving details, built in the beginning of the 20th century. On Vienības Boulevard, taking this route we advise to pay attention to the monuments of architecture of **No. 25 lit. 1, 24 lit. 2 and lit. 3, No. 20 lit. 2** is a two-storey wooden building with mezzanine, veranda and gorgeous decors, which now has been prepared for reconstruction. On the corner of **Brīvības and Vienības Boulevard** (No. 12) a two-storey wooden house, made as decoration of the corner, is located. Walking down the Brīvības Boulevard you can reach **Bulduri railway station** located in a one-storey stone building, built in 1947 in an architectural style of functionalism in accordance to the building traditions of railway stations of the 19th century. From here you can take a train and go to Lielupe, Priedaine or Dzintari stations and continue to visit Jurmala resort city.

![Vienības Boulevard 32](image)
Historically Dzintari is known as Edinburgh named in honor of the wedding of the Russian Tsars Alexander II daughter Maria with the Herzog Alfred of Edinburgh. Since 19th century Dzintari became a resting place of Russian noblemen. This is one of the most luxurious centers of Jurmala with gorgeous cottages and villas. In the time of the First Republic of Latvia several family houses were built here, mostly using popular classic forms and details of style of National Romanticism which are popular in Jurmala. In 1979 a well-house with a sea pavilion was built here, but sadly it burned down later. In 1978 a concert stage was built here, which later became very famous. The closed part of the concert hall was built in 1936. Since 1922 this historical centre was given the name “Dzintari” (“amber”). Nowadays in the concert hall “Dzintari” significant musical events take place all summer, gathering many visitors from Latvia and abroad.

**Route length: 2–2.5 hours**

From Dzintari railway station turn left to reach Edinburgas Boulevard. Dwelling-house No. 35, lit. 2 is a one-storey wooden house with mezzanine, glass veranda and wood engraving details. House No. 47, lit. 2 was built in the beginning of the 20th century. It has an interesting two-storey glass veranda and a splendid wooden décor of roof overhang. Building No. 65 is a one-storey wooden house built in the beginning of 20th century with roof construction, verandas, terrace and balcony that emphasize the corner of the street. Reaching K. Barona Street turn left on side of Bulduri Lutheran Church. The church was built in the end of 19th century after the project of an architect H. Hilbigs and thanks to donations of German parish. Further along Dzintaru prospect (Boulevard), one can see the house No. 53 – a dwelling house projected by architect Wilhelms Bokslafs and built in 1909. It is an example of expressive art-nouveau aroused national romanticism. House No. 49 lit. 1 is a one-storey house richly decorated with wood engraving details. House No. 41, lit. 1 for a building of respectable Dzintari par of Jurmala is unusually modest and probably one of the oldest houses in this area. House was built in a method of national building. But one of the most graceful and expressive wooden cottages in turn of the century is house No. 58 which is richly decorated with wood-engraving decors. Very magnificent building complex is located on boulevard No. 52/54 and in 19th century it belonged to the Latvian architect and contractor, Riga’s house owner Kristaps Morbergs. The main building, which was built in neo Gothic style has gazebos loggias and low-pitched roof. Then crossing at Mālpils Street on the left leads through the newly built Dzintari park and back to the Dzintari Railway station. You can continue the route along Dzintari boulevard to Turaidas street and follow up the route “Majori”.

---

**Dzintaru Boulevard 53**
Majori is a central part of Jurmala, heart of the city – where people meet each other, relax and enjoy their time. Majori used to be territory of ancient village Vildene, which from 17th till 20th century was possessed by baron Firs family. When Jurmala became recognized as a recreation place, lands of Firs were divided into territories for building of summer houses.

After the opening of railway in 1877 Majori became one of the bustling centers with recreation and market places. Buildings between Jūras and Jomas streets give great impression about architectural style of Jurmala in general. It is hard to believe that in the middle of 19th century surroundings of Jomas, Jūras and Lienes streets were flooded by the bay gross forest. Nowadays, only the street name Jomas reminds about flooded territories. Jomas Street is now pedestrian promenade and each year Jurmala city invites its guests to celebrate Jomas street festival.

**Route length: ~ 2 h**

From Majori railway station turn left on Lienes Street. Opposite the railway station a square with the sculpture „Lāčplēsis“ is located. Other side of the square opens the view to the hotel „Majori“ built in 1925 in traditional historicism style (architect A. Medliger). Further Ērgļu and Jūras streets are located. Jūras Street is small and romantic street, which goes parallel to the beach and is located just behind the dune. In the beginning of 20th century bath establishments began to be built in this territory. Rich landlords had personal doctors which checked the temperature of the sea water before the bathing and the doctor then said, „My master, the sea is ready.“ Historically only summer houses and pensions were located on Jūras Street. It was not allowed to make a market place there. Now the street is renovated and has been made into a one-way street. Building No. 2 represents neo-classicism style with sculptural ornaments at the walls. House No. 6 was built in 1913. It has a tower and decorative carvings. Next is building No. 8 which is decorated with mansard roof, corner tower and sculpture „Boy on the Fish“ in the garden. Luxurious summer house No. 13 is property of previously famous owner of publishing house and householder – Emilia Benjamin. The house is surrounded by the most fascinating metallic fence in whole Jurmala. House No. 14 is respectable renovated wooden building where famous Soviet comedian Arkady Raikin settled for few summers. Neo-gothic style building No. 29 is decorated with tabling and original tower. Further – to Tirgoņu Street. Turn left towards the seaside, where you will reach Majori Sea Pavilion (Tirgoņu Street 1) and near – the sculpture “Turtle”. On the pavilion here concerts were organized and it also was used as studio for filming first Latvian full-length film “Fisherman’s Son”. Now it is a private house. Farther walk along the sea until the end of Pilsuona Street, where you will see bath-house of E. Rācene, which now is a private property.
We return to Jūras Street. House No. 39 is decorated gracious column portico in half-circle of rotunda with the balcony. House No. 41/45 at the end of the last century was a pension with 8 very contemporary rooms called „Eight Luxes“. House No. 50 was projected by V. Neiland and called by the owners – villa „Aspasia“. On the territory of Jūras Street 53 were located several 20th century significant buildings. There preserved one-storey house built in National Romanticism style. No. 54 is a big pension-type house, richly decorated with wooden carvings and multiple details. In 90’s of 20th century the building was given to the Polish embassy in Latvia and is not renovated. At Jūras Street No. 56 is located hotel „Eiropa“ which central building was built at the beginning of 20th century with characteristic wooden carvings, outstanding decorations of window, cornice and veranda carved silhouette. In times of Latvian Republic there was located „Imperial“ pension and after World War II – All unions’ Resort Council. At the crossroads of Jūras and Turaidas streets are located two pension-type historical buildings where now is located „Pegasa Pils“ hotel. In Soviet times there was cardiological sanatorium named of Janis Fabricius.

**Jūras Street** ends with Dzintari Concert Hall. Wooden building with stylized prolonged columns portico can be seen from Turaidas Street side. National Romanticism motives appeared in facade and interior decoration. In 1960 from the Eastern part of the building was attached roofed summer concert area for 2000 spectators. Metallic construction of roofing with wooden cladding provides perfect acoustics. Specialists appraise this object as unique.

**Jomas Street** is designed for pedestrians. Most of the buildings at the street are of shop-pension type and each has its history. Hotel „Villa Joma“ is located in pension type building (No. 90) built at the beginning of 20th century. Next, following the street is located restaurant „Senator“ (No. 55) that is decorated with wooden carvings and is pension type building from beginning of 20th cent. At Jomas Street 66 is located house built in times of Latvian Republic for movie theatre „Eden“ that in 1930 was named as most contemporary at Riga seacoast. In building No. 64 at the beginning of 20th century was first telephone station (former cafe „Promenāde“). At the territory of No. 56 was water nursing home Tilo. Preserved also summer house where in 1960–80 was Jurmala Travel and Tour Bureau.

At the territory No. 43 farther from the street is the oldest preserved building at Jomas street. It was built in 1863 in neo-classicism style. Its primary functions are not known, but now it is private house and serves for exhibitions. **Horn’s Garden (No. 35)** – first territory with constructions at Jomas Street. In 1870 there was dune territory with pine forest. First renter of the territory was Horn – his name preserved till nowadays. In the end of 19th century there were built restaurant, hotel, concert hall and open-air concert hall that could host more than 2000 spectators. During the fire in Vaker house in 1913 at the corner of Jomas and Tirgoņu streets all buildings in Horn’s Garden burnt down. In 1970 here was built movie theatre – now Majori culture house. Recently is resumed tradition of meetings in concert garden near the culture house, generally organized by Horn’s Garden Renewal Fund.

On Lienes street 5 (opposite to Majori station) is located Jurmala Tourism Information Centre where everybody is welcome!
The name of Dubulti first time in history was mentioned in 1533 when the land was rent, “…in the other side of the river Lielupe where farmer Dubelt lives.” Since 1783 the flag of Dubulti was marked in the maps. Dubulti was the early bathing centre of Jurmala with well-house, church and board of administration. Now it has preserved historical irregular planning of fishing village and the trade street – Dubultu Boulevard with the closed building that characterizing the city. Jaundubulti (the new part) was developed after 1848 when the grounds of forest lot of Sloka manor were parceled out.

**Route length:** from Majori with return of Dubulti Railway station lasts 1.5 h, from Dubulti Railway st. to Pumpuri Railway st. – 1.5 h

If you walk from Majori to Dubulti along Jomas Street that changes to Zigfrīda Meierovica Boulevard at the city council right away is visible fragment of gates and fence of the historically first (built in 1905) sanatorium “Marienbade” in Jurmala. In the left side of the street are located three significant houses of wooden architecture No. 38, 36 and 34. In the right side of the street are located two renewed wooden houses – Z. Meierovica Boulevard 33 and Pūpolu Street 3. In the left side of the street No. 20 is located museum of Latvian poetess – House of Aspazija. It is built in 1903 and is an outstanding example of wooden architecture. Aspazija lived there from 1933 to her day of death 1943. In the right side of street with address Goņčarova Street 8/10 is located house projected by architect E.Laube in 1936; and other one – on Z. Meierovica Boulevard 1 – a house with richly decorated of wooden engraving details. Behind it – wide square where once was located historical well-house of Dubulti.

From Dubulti Railway Station crossing Z. Meierovica Boulevard, along R.Blaumaņa Street you reach Baznicas Street. The Lutheran Church of Dubulti (Baznicas Str. 13) was built in 1909 by project of Baltic German architect Vilhelms Bokslafs. This is a hall-type asymmetric range church with massive stone tower that in direction from Majori mark out the middle of the street. The public worships in church launched again in 1990; and made renovation of the tower. In front of the church is located two buildings – wooden architecture monument No. 6 and No. 4. Behind the church with the address Pils Street 7 and 9 are located two identical buildings with features of neoclassicism in main façade. Turning down the Liedaga Street in the right side with No. 11 is located pension type house with symmetric size composition and pompous elements of architecture built in 1912 by architect Eižens Laube. In the left side of the street houses No. 18 and 20 is characterizing building of
Dubulti in time of 19th-20th century – one-storey wooden houses with verandas and wood-engraving details. Opposite – the building No. 7 built in the beginning of 20th century as house of pension type.

At the corner of Liedaga and Slokas Street No. 3 is located wooden house with corner tower and applicative system of decors built in 1902. Turning left you return to Blaumaņa Street and opposite the street with address Slokas Str. 6 is located large pension type house that earlier in the beginning of the 20th century was a school. It characterizes rich wood-engraving details. On the right side of Rūdolfa Blaumaņa Str. 15 deeper in the lot is located one of the oldest (middle of 19th century) buildings in Dubulti historical centre with outstanding heavy porch-veranda and wooden columns. The house was reconstructed. Beside, in the peak of the dune is located in the beginning of 20th century built house with open veranda and loggia with wood engraving decors. The building is prepared for reconstruction. This lot is linked with field marshal Barclay de Tolly name dated in 1812. Next turn left to Ceriņu Street, where in the left side No. 12 is located former synagogue built in 1903 as eating-place. House No. 16 is built in the beginning of 20th century but being protractedly in reconstruction partly has lost its wood engraving decors. Reaching Strēlnieku Boulevard on right side are seen two noticeable houses – No. 26 – St. Kniaz Vladimir Orthodox Church, built in 1896 with wide range of artistic property; and house No. 32, built as gymnasium in 1909 by architect Eizens Laube project. This is a two-storey house with elements of order architecture, right now the building is prepared for reconstruction. If you continue the route along Strēlnieku Boulevard up to Kronvalda Street and then turn left to the Pumpuri Railway station. In the left side of the street are located several buildings – architectural monuments – characterizing architecture of Jurmala – No. 58, 62, 64, 68, 78 and 84. From Pumpuri Railway station you can take another route to one of the historical centers of Jurmala.

Baznīcas Street 4

Dubulti Lutheran Church
Along Historical Strawberry Fields in Melluži and Asari

From 1827 Melluži developed as bathing-place where the well-house was built. Unlike other bathing-places, here sounded for folk closer dance music by orchestra performance. This place at that time called Karlsbad and it also was a property of baron fon Firs the same as Majori was. „Gold of Jurmala” or famous strawberries came just from these part of Jurmala. Here were located strawberry gardens with very fruitful and of high quality strawberries. The plants of strawberries were imported from France. Berries later were exported not only to Riga but also for St. Petersburg. Now wholesale the berries do not cultivate any more. But the name Melluži, probable has origin from word „mellene” (bilberry); these berries were very much in this area.

Route length: from Pumpuri Railway St. to Melluži Railway Station approx. 1.5 h

Pumpuri Railway station is the oldest example of Jurmala railway stations building period from the end of 19th century. Pumpuri – former Karsbade or Melluži I. The building is being preserved without any special rebuilding. Since 1939 April 1st for station was given name Pumpuri to avoid symbols I or II in name of station. Right opposite the station building is located Pumpuri Secondary school, built as Melluži Primary School in 1934 by famous school building architect Indriķis Blankenburgs. School is built in three floors with pompous assembly hall and main entrance. In Soviet time the building was enlarged with outbuilding. Former president of Republic of Latvia used to study here.

Turning left from station through Petera Park in the right side in bright colors is visible Jurmala kindergarten „Namiņš”. Then on right you reach Rojas Street and then to Strēlnieku Boulevard, then turn left till Upes Street. Right opposite is located Melluži park, formed in the end of 19th century, where was located historical wooden variety art built in 1930; now is waiting for the reconstruction.

Along Upes Street go to Dubultu Boulevard. Here are located several notable wooden cottage type buildings by Dubultu Blvd 125, Melluži Blvd 1 and 3. Along Melluži Blvd right side you pass by historical cinema „Līgo” (No. 9). Opposite, in the large square in 1827 was located well-house of Karlsbad. Later here was located Melluži market that became very famous place to buy local strawberries.
Next turning right along Otīlijas Street you reach Melluži historical center with irregular, narrow streets. In the beginning of the 20th century famous Russian writer Leonid Andreyev wrote about Jurmala of that time, and walked the same road as you do now.

On left starts Skolotāju Street where in the left side is located several wooden houses No. 7, 9, 11. The last one has name "Villa Natalie" (in yard side). On left side is located Composers’ House, built in Soviet times, and now is rebuilt for apartments. Crossing Darzu Street on right side, you see the historical building of both sides of Skolotāju Street – No. 17 and 19 on right and Kāpu Street 13 and 15 (in relief of dune) – left side.

Route continues along Kāpu Street that in the beginning of the 19th century was a meandering road. Lots were split up not making the road straight and therefore Kāpu Street has such a nice landscape that nowhere in Jurmala is. Architectonically the most interesting buildings are pension type houses on right side of the street where the small and large houses spring out of the pine dunes. Among the houses also are preserved historical elements of utilities – arbours, supporting walls, stairs, and terraces.

The left side of the street historically made large lots of farmers of Melluži and Asari and some old houses – No. 14/16 and 20. One of the best samples of these types of houses you can see on the right side of the street No. 39a. If you want to finish the route in the Railway Station of Melluži, then after No. 30 turn left along Kanālu Street till the Railway station.

If you continue the route along Kāpu Street then you will see great contrasts. Next to historical building are located new houses, especially on the right side where lots were used as agriculture land before. In the peak of dune the house No. 71 is remarkable because long period till the date of death here lived Latvian composer Alfrēds Kalniņš, but after that – family of diplomatic official and authoress Anna Žīgure. The house is not renovated yet. To Andreja Street stand houses No. 62 – on left side and No. 83 on the right side. These are traditional wooden architecture houses of Jurmala with decors of wood engraving.

Along Stacijas Street you can close the route in Asari Railway station, built in 1926 by architect Pēteris Feders with traditions of station buildings of the end of 19th century. It is a communication hall with wide platform shed of glass.

If you continue the route till the end of Kāpu Street then turn down Skautu Street and end the route in Vaivari Railway station.

Total duration of the route is approx. 2.5–3 hours.
Ķemeri (the old name) as an oasis in the forest – in 6 km from the sea among swamps and lakes, rich with sulphur springs. Development of Ķemeri was based on curative qualities of swamp’s sulphur. Doctors were acquainted with Ķemeri’s “Svētavotis” (cult springs’s) healing qualities already at the second part of 18th and beginning of 19th century, when richest people of Kurzeme region started to come for undergoing treatment cures. They were hosted by forest-guards at their houses and offered curative waters brought from swamps’ springs. In 1838 was built first state bath-house at the territory specially devoted by Tzar Nicolay I for sulphur springs’ treatments. That year was counted as resort foundation year. Ķemeri from its very beginning became balneological resort which further development was managed by government.

Ķemeri was a much appreciated region in Russian empire – in 1912 was opened direct railway route Ķemeri – Moscow. To approach Jaunķemeri seashore was made electrical train. Ķemeri received city status in 1928. From October 1951 in Ķemeri started going electrical trains. There were well-halls, music-hall, movie theatre and library. In 1959 Ķemeri was united with Jurmala city.

Ķemeri is special place with special aura, ancient park, interesting architecture (projects of Riga’s designer-gardener K. H. Vagner), hospital and churches of 3 confessions. At resort territory are located more than 30 sulphur springs and rich in medical peat and sapropel mud reserves (at the lake Kaņieris). In 1997 there was established Ķemeri National park.

Route length: from train station Ķemeri to „Forest house“ ~ 1.5–2 h. Back from “Forest house” to train station ~ 1 hour.

Going from train station Ķemeri by Sēravotu Street you will reach Catholic Church of St. John the Baptizer. Turning to Rucavas Street and later to Liesmas Street you should go to A. Upīša Street No. 13 lit. 2. Further is located Ķemeri Lutheran Church. In surroundings is located obelisk – memorial sign in honor of killed Latvian rifles in World War I.
Going along Katedrāles street you will come to a romantic park of Ķemeri, where everybody will enjoy having a walk along the little pathways in the nature. In previous flourishing times of resort – walk in the park was obligatory for every patient as a part of recreation process assigned by the doctors. River Vēršupīte flows through the park and several little bridges have been built to across the river, each of them having a beautiful name – „Nopūtu“ („Sigh”), „Kaprižu“ („Caprice“), „Muzikālais“ („Musical“) etc. The river flows along a sulphur spring with a pavilion and a sculpture „Ķirzaciņa“ („Lizard“). In Ķemeri park one can see the oldest church in Kemeri. It is a wooden St. Peter – Paul Orthodox Church with carved decorations. Church was built in „North Russian style“. Not far from the church you can see the “Love islet” with pavilion-rotunda. It is an artificial islet made in 19th century with pavilion previously decorated by carvings.

At the park one can also see a 42-meter high water tower built in 1929. This was projected by architect Fricis Skujiņš. Not far from the water tower stands Ķemeri hotel “Latvija”, but local people also call it a “White Palace”. That luxurious hotel building is projected by the architect Eižens Laube. Hotel was built in 1936 and in 1930-ies was the greatest in the Baltic’s. Now this building is decorated with columns and pilasters and is currently being renovated.

After visiting hotel you can walk along J. Libieša gatve (alley) where you will pass the place where previously stood the „Love Oak“. Further the road leads to the Ķemeri National park administration building, so-called „Forest House“ (Meža māja). It is located in the building of previously prestigious restaurant „Happy Mosquito“ (later a sanatorium for children). Then road leads to Tūristu Street from where you can go by bus No. 11 to Jurmala center or to Dārziņa Street and further by Tukuma Street to the railway station and to go to Tukums or back to Riga.
Jurmala Tourism Information Centre
Lienes iela 5, Jurmala, LV–2015

Jūrmala Tourism Information Point
Priedaine, at the bridge by the entrance to Jurmala

Ph: (+371) 67 147 900
Fax: (+371) 67 147 901
E-mail: info@jurmala.lv
Skype: jurmala_tic
www.jurmala.lv

Working hours:
Week days: 9.00–19.00
Saturdays: 10.00–17.00
Sundays: 10.00–15.00

Published by: Jurmala City Council,
Jurmala Tourism Information Centre
Print and layout: SIA “Ulama”
Photos: Jurmala City Council Archive

Material is done in association with
Department of Cultural Heritage
of Jurmala City Council and Jurmala City Museum