



THE LEGEND

During the day you will have the chance to get to know more about few of Latvia's hidden treasure. Is it peat, or black bread baking traditions or healthy berries? Come and discover!

Excursion is organized as a part of two IPS Commission joint session – Commission I on Stratigraphy, inventory and conservation of peatlands and Commission V on Restoration, rehabilitation and after-use of peatlands. Joint session "Peatland restoration and conservation in the context peat extraction" will take place on 27th August, but excursion is an introduction to it where participants (even if you are not planning to participate in the session) will have a chance to see what happens with the peatlands after peat extraction is finished.

THE LOCATION

The excursion will take place in a restored bog area, the former peat milling fields abandoned in the 1980s. The site is located in Ķemeri National Park, ~50 km from Riga. Ķemeri is the third largest national park in the country by area, covering an area of 381.65 km². The territory of the park is mostly occupied by forests and mires, the most significant of them being The Great Ķemeri Bog.

More about Ķemeri National Park: http://www.daba.gov.lv/public/eng/protected_areas/national_parks/

The Lāči Café is located right by the Lāči Bakery, where the best masters of bread and confectionary baking gather day and night at 12 km along the highway to Liepāja. A homey atmosphere and the aroma of freshly baked bread will entice everyone driving by to stop in and taste all kinds of food prepared using real rye bread. More about Lāči bakery: <http://www.laci.lv/index.php/eng>

SIA "Laflora" is one of the largest and most recognized peat production companies in Latvia. The company's operations include the full cycle, from construction of peatlands and peat extraction, to production and sales of peat products and substrates. Laflora's key specialization is in high quality peat products for use in professional horticulture. More about SIA "Laflora": <http://www.laflora.lv/en/home>

THE CONCEPT

In Ķemeri Mire excursion participants will be able to see both - the peatland landscape and dams on drainage ditches, which are designed to improve the hydrological regime and prevent the draining effect. The restoration measures were carried out in 2006 by elevating the water table, building dams and rewetting the formerly dry peat fields. The vegetation monitoring over the last eight years show considerable improvements - recovery of sphagnum and establishment of bog vegetation.

SIA "Laflora" manages 774 ha of Kaigu peat bog for peat extraction. Here peat extraction started in the last century and part of the area has already reached peat extraction limits. For over 20 years recultivation measures are taking place in cut-over peat fields. Mainly they include preparing these areas for agriculture activities and berry growing. Two other entrepreneurs are using prepared peat fields a total of 60 ha for blueberry and cranberry growing.



Visitors will be able to see Ķēmeri and Kaigu Mires, taste the berries grown in the peatlands and participate in peat sculpture workshop.

TOUR PRICE: EUR 50

TOUR LANGUAGE: English

MEETING PLACE AND TIME: 08:15 at Radisson Blue Hotel Latvija lobby, 8:30 bus to Peatlands

DRESS CODE: Comfortable clothes and boots for walking in wet areas

ESTIMATE TIME OF RETURN IN HOTEL: Around 17:30