

## Dear travellers!

The people back then at the time when Neibāde was founded, and the people today, are the same. We like to watch beautiful sunsets, take pleasure in sunbathing and swimming in the sea, we like to walk in the nature and listen to what the trees are whispering and what the birds are singing. We like the natural cycle of changing seasons, and we are all looking for peace and harmony, reaching for what we truly are. There are few historical witnesses of the time Neibāde was formed, but the same sea, the sun, dunes, sand are still here... They form a kind of bridge that carries us from one era to another, like a time travel machine.

**Enjoy** the remnants of the olden days and take a **deep breath** of the presence of the sea **in Saulkrasti!**



visitsaulkrasti.lv

TIC Saulkrasti

+371 679 52 641

tic@saulkrasti.lv

## 12 Neibāde Park

Along with the creation of Neibāde ('Neubad', German for 'the new bathing place') spa in 1823, the **care for the guests' recreation began** as well. The English style park was created by the gardener Akerberg, whom baron Pistohlkors brought from Estonia. In 1877 baron August von Pistohlkors had a monument erected in the park marking the merit of his ancestors in the founding and creation of Neibāde.

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## 13 Skulte Port

Skulte Port at the mouth of the River Aģe was opened on 7 October 1939, and is still functioning today. Even now one can see the stone chosen by Kārlis Ulmanis to witness the construction of the port on Skultes Street in Zvejniekciems. About 20 motorised fishing boats came from the vicinity to see the opening of the port, and also, the Minister of Agriculture Jānis Birznieks arrived from Riga on a special train.

## 14 Culture Palace «Zvejniekciems»

It was designed by the excellent architect **Marta Staņa** (1913–1972) in the mid-20th century for the use of the collective farm «Zvejnieks». The architect worked in a functionalism style (the Dailes Theatre in Riga is another of her creations). The foundations of the building were laid in 1952, but due to a lack of materials it took five years to construct. When the palace was opened on 8 November 1956, it was one of the most modern buildings not only in the Riga region, but also the whole of Latvia. The central space of the building is the big hall which can hold 700 spectators.

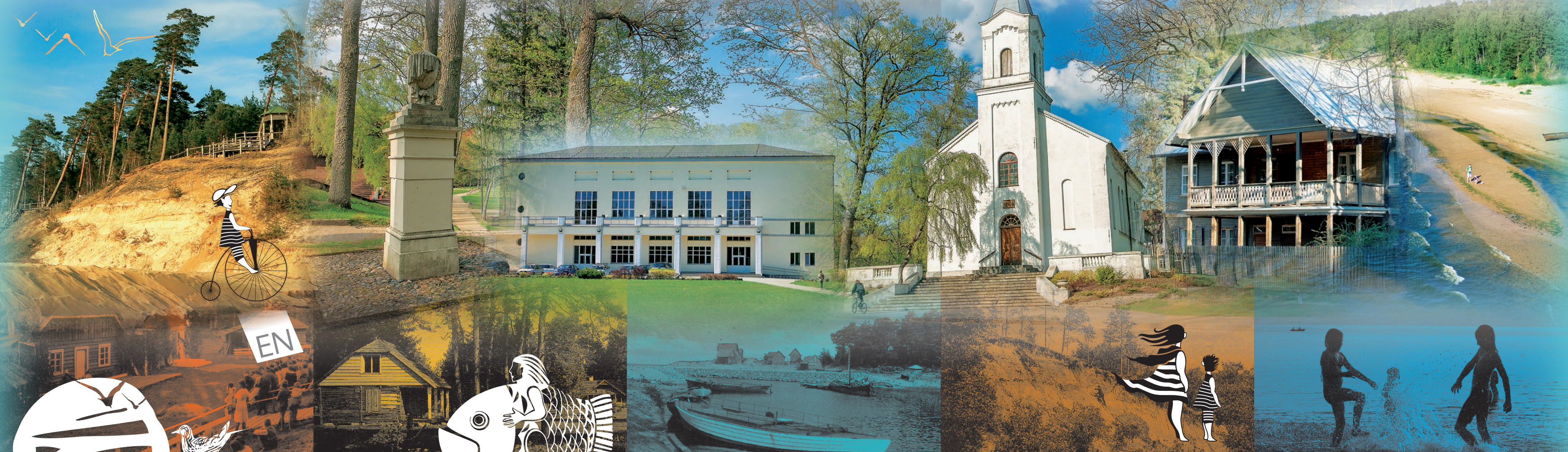
Atpūtas iela 1b

Other buildings Marta Staņa designed in Zvejniekciems include two blocks of flats for teachers, Zvejniekciems Secondary School and a summer house for the Postaži family of artists.

## 15 Neibāde spa Hotel «Strand»

The Neibāde swimming place was founded by the baron of Lēdurga Karl von Reiteren in 1823. Up to the First World War Neibāde was a favourite resort not only amongst the landlords of Northern Vidzeme, but also the nobility of the Russian empire. The Neibāde spa hotel «Strand» is an example of **spa architecture** from the early 19th century.

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Historical resorts and meditation at the seaside  
**TRAVEL GUIDE SAULKRASTI**

You can walk around **Saulkrasti** in a day at a leisurely pace. If you choose the small **circle (5 km)**, you will have time to see ten historical objects and enjoy a refreshing swim in the sea at the old Neibāde beach.

**The large circle** spans **20 km** and is the right choice for active walkers and cyclists. Travelling from Pabaži (Katrīnbāde) to Zvejniekciems and visiting Pēterupe and Neibāde on the way, you can visit all 15 objects featured in this travel guide.

### Small circle (5 km)

Saulkrasti Railway Station (8) – The hunting lodge of the Pistohlkors family «Forstei» (9) – Neibāde Park (12) – Roman Catholic Church of Divine Grace (11) – Summer house of the von Campenhausen family (10) – Neibāde spa hotel «Strand» (15) – Historical centre of Pēterupe (4) – Summer house of Reinis Kaudzīte (5) – Doctor's house (6) – Saulkrasti (Pēterupe) Cemetery (7) – Saulkrasti Railway Station (8)

### Large circle (20 km)

Catherine's lindens (1) – White Dune (2) – Saulkrasti Bicycle Museum (3) – Historical centre of Pēterupe (4) – Summer house of Reinis Kaudzīte (5) – Doctor's house (6) – Saulkrasti (Pēterupe) cemetery (7) – Saulkrasti Railway Station (8) – Hunting lodge of the Pistohlkors family «Forstei» (9) – Summer house of the von Campenhausen family (10) – Roman Catholic Church of Divine Grace (11) – Neibāde Park (12) – Skulte Port (13) – Culture palace «Zvejniekciems» (14) – Neibāde spa hotel «Strand» (15)

### Saulkrasti Beach

It stretches for 17 km and is interesting in its variety, from the singing sand in Lilaste to the stony seaside in Zvejniekciems. Winds blow and waves crash over the beach, the sand brought by the sea **accumulates** here and offers various **gifts from the sea**: shells of molluscs living in both the sea and rivers, strings of green algae and clusters of brown algae, little stones, branches and tree roots polished and beached by the sea. The beach is also home to a diverse population of insects.



## 1 Catherine's Linden trees

In 1764 **Catherine the Great** (empress of Russia 1762–1796) honoured Estonia and Vidzeme with a visit while travelling from St. Petersburg to Riga. The empress wanted to see if there were still farmers in the governorate of Livonia who did not know how to read or write, and if they could be bought and sold. The spot where she rested and had a swim, the beautiful Pabaži beach near the **White Dune**, inspired her so much that the empress **planted two linden trees** which still stand today. Her bathing place was later named after her and became **Katrīnbāde**.

## 5 Summer House of Reinis Kaudzīte

Reinis Kaudzīte (1839–1920), **one of the authors of the first Latvian novel «Mērnieku laiki»** (The Times of the Land-Surveyors), resided in **Neibāde** from 1913 onwards. He purchased a small property where he spent the last years of his life, together with his housekeeper Karlīna Damroze. Both were divided by a more than thirty year age difference, but were united by love and hate.

In the garden next to the building is the «Neighbours' bench» and a signpost indicating destinations of the writer's travels.

Skolas iela 19

## 7 Saulkrasti (Pēterupe) Cemetery

There is a **place of commemoration** in the cemetery for soldiers from Saulkrasti who fought in the Second World War. Saulkrasti Cemetery, initially called Pēterupe Cemetery, was created in 1773. There is a marble cross in the cemetery with an inscription *amico amici* (a friend to a friend) next to the grave of the linguist W. Knieriem.

## 2 White Dune and viewing platform

The **18 metre high dune** on the right bank of the River Inčupe where it flows into the Baltic Sea is a great spot to look out over the Gulf of Riga. Geographically, the White Dune is a sandstone layer, formed **405–350 million years ago**. The dune also appears in the historical feature films of the Riga Motion Pictures Studio «Kā gulbji balti padebeši iet» (White clouds are passing like swans) (1956) and «Nauris» (1957).

## 3 Saulkrasti Bicycle Museum

The rich bicycle **collection** of Jānis and Guntis Sereginis is on display at the museum that they decided to open. It features the **technically most interesting** examples of the historical development of bicycles found **in Latvia**. The museum also holds a rich collection of articles related to bicycle use, cycling and cycling associations.

velomuseum.lv  
Rīgas iela 44a

## 4 Historical Centre of Pēterupe

Here you can see Pēterupe **Church**, first built in 1641. The current building is already the fourth church in this place, built in 1856. Its altar painting «Christ at the Cross» (Golgotha) was done by Josep Miller in 1856, using his teacher Peter von Cornelius's altar painting at the Ludwigskirche in Munich as an example. The church was consecrated in 1864 and a year later a Martin organ with 8 registers was set up there, extended to 14 registers in 1903. Unfortunately, the organ was destroyed during World War II.

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The Pēterupe **Pastorage** can be found in writing starting from the late 17th century. The park and buildings of the estate have partly been preserved, just like the linden avenue planted in 1879 by the priest Jānis Neilands (at the end of Smilšu Street) and the **grand oak** planted by Johann Wilhelm Knieriem in 1869.

## 6 Doctor's House

In 1888 **baron Alexander Alexei von Pistohlkors** gave the doctor's **house**, to be used by a doctor, as a present to the Lutheran parish of Pēterupe. The building also housed a pharmacy. Doctor von Engelhardt hired tutors to teach the children of the nearby landlords and other local Germans. Engelhardt's task was to take care of the health of the local people all year round and during summers – also that of holidaymakers. He also performed the duties of a sanitary inspector and checked the quality of the goods on market days. **Today** the building houses the **first four grades of Saulkrasti Secondary School**.

Raiņa iela 6

## 8 Saulkrasti Railway Station

The Saulkrasti area of bathing places and summer houses, called Neibāde, was already formed in the 19th century. The **Rīga–Rūjiena railway line** reached Saulkrasti on 1 June 1934. Soon a railway station was built, and the steamboat traffic from Riga to Neibāde lost its importance.

The **water tower**, built in 1938, still stands tall at Saulkrasti Railway Station. The station building was blown up on the night of 25 to 26 June 1944. The new building was opened on 28 June 1952.

## 9 «Forstei», the Hunting Lodge of the Pistohlkors Family

The lodge, the name of which translates as 'forester's house', used to be called the Forest Estate or simply the Forest House, and is **one of the first summer houses in Neibāde**. Later it became a place of recreation for artists and other cultural people. In 1937 the composer Alfrēds Kalniņš spent the summer at the hostel of the Forest Estate working on an interpretation of the score of the first Latvian opera «Baņuta» for its second staging. It is said that he gladly obliged as an organ player during mass at Saulkrasti Church. At the moment the palace is used for apartments.

Alfrēda Kalniņa iela 10

## 10 Summer House of the von Campenhausen Family

This **historical monument** is the only building left from the five building complex of Neibāde spa.

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Up to the mid-19th century **Neibāde** belonged to the Bīriņi estate that **rented summer houses to the landlords** of Vidzeme, offered meals at restaurants and interesting evening programmes in the assembly rooms. The landlords' holidays were educational: they attended lectures on natural sciences, literature and art, went for walks along the seaside. Still, life at the spa was very expensive; therefore in 1875 the owner of the Bīriņi estate started selling pieces of land to other landowners to build their summer houses on. In a short period of time, by the start of the 20th century, almost all of the landowners in Vidzeme had built big, beautiful and luxurious summer houses in the territory of Neibāde.

## 11 Roman Catholic Church of Divine Grace

In 1998 the Roman Catholic Church of Divine Grace, able to hold 300 people, was built and consecrated next to the River Kīšupe, close to the park and an open stage; it was a project of the architect Jānis Šrēders. The Christ in the altar painting is portrayed by the artist Ēriks Pudzēns as seen by Sister Faustina on 22 February 1931 in a Polish monastery.

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