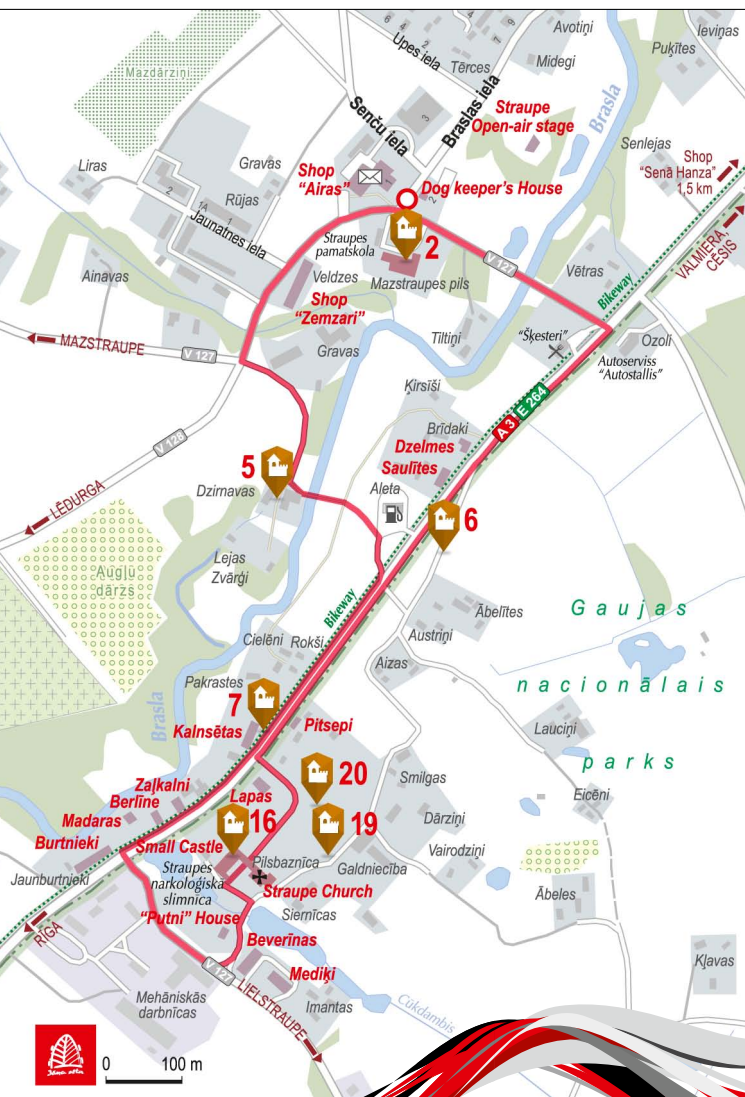


# History in today's landscape

## hiking trail

### through Straupe



#### Route description

The route is suitable for any traveller who wishes something more than just to see the most well known and popular tourist attractions in Straupe – Mazstraupe and Lielstraupe castles. We invite you to get to know Straupe and its buildings through the stories preserved in the memories and picture albums of the local residents and to see with your own eyes what twists of fate it has experienced over several centuries. In the Middle Ages Straupe was a member of Hanseatic League. It was a city with a busy everyday life, capable of providing for itself both with food, clothing and craftworks. Today the participation in the merchant union allows us to call Straupe the smallest city of the Hanseatic League in the world!

- all year round
- around 3 km
- ~ 1–2 h
- easy (can be accomplished by families with small children as well)
- roads with asphalt and gravel pavement, established paths, stairs
- Dog keeper's house (Braslas street 2, Straupe)
- Dog keeper's house

- the route can be travelled in the opposite direction as well
- Dog keeper's house – water mill – DUS Lukoil – Lielstraupe Castle – Dog keeper's house
- 75 km from Riga
- circle-type route, which returns to the starting point
- The route has not been marked on site! This information sheet will be useful to take along on the route.

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#### Tourism services

- guest house and camping site "Vējiņi", [www.pazemesezeri.lv](http://www.pazemesezeri.lv), ph. +371 29289796; holiday inn "Upeslejas", ph. +371 29441970; guest house "Burtakas", [www.burtakas.lv](http://www.burtakas.lv), ph. +371 29451234
- hunting sports and recreational site "Mārkuliči", [www.markulici.lv](http://www.markulici.lv)
- "Airas" and "Straupe"
- cafe "Šķestēri" ph. +371 29409182
- on the opposite to the Dog keeper's house and the shop "Airas"
- [www.pargaujasnovads.lv](http://www.pargaujasnovads.lv) ph. +371 26620422

#### Interesting tourist attractions

1. Dog keeper's house (Pikieru namiņš). This used to be the house of the **dog keeper of Mazstraupe estate**. The dog keeper (overseer of the hounds) lived at the one end, while the hounds were accommodated at the other end.
2. **Straupe primary school**, located within the walls of the former **Mazstraupe Castle**. The castle was a large, well reinforced building with the massive square tower being the major structure. The yard was closed and access could be gained to the castle through the tower gates.
3. **Shop "Airas"**. In the 1980s the builder team of Lenin's kolkhoz constructor had a grocery store and canteen here. At the time it was a modern building – arched entrances and rounded windows were not often used elements in the architecture of that period.
4. Current **sausage processing plant and shop "Zemzari"**, initially the **stables of Mazstraupe Castle manor**, built at the same time as the manor complex.
5. On the right side the trail leads along the barn walls of the Mazstraupe mill, where you can still see the iron rings used by millers to tie horses, while waiting their turn to mill. The whitewashed three-storey buildings now are turned into **residential houses**, but before – as early as in the 14<sup>th</sup> century there was the **Mazstraupe water mill**. Grinding grain was not the only purpose of the mill. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century it was used to produce electricity and operated as a saw-mill and a wool weaving mill.
6. **Inčukalns–Valmiera highway**, which once used to be the significant Riga–Valmiera–Tartu postal road.







### TASK!

Take a look at the historical photos! When passing through the Straupe village centre, can you recognize where these places and objects are today? Mark them with numbers on the map. Take the map to the shop "Senā Hanza" (in the Straupe district Plācis) and get a reward for a correctly performed task!

7. **Versta pole.** Such road sign was used during the Tsarist Russia period. Versta is an ancient Russian length unit, which equals 500 sazhen or 1500 arshins. In the metric system one versta equals 1066.8 meters. The Versta pole has been restored in 2016.
8. **"Pitsepi"**, the oldest preserved house in Straupe, built in 1842. According to the popular stories, an Estonian with the name of Pitsept, who was the cook of the Lielstraupe Manor, used to live there once.
9. **"Kalnsētas"**, former pub, which as a typical pub in Vidzeme region had a long stable at the Eastern end for placing horses. Later, when the building was given to the teacher and bandmaster Jānis Biders, the pub building was converted into a shop, but after the war there was a teahouse. In 1966 "Kalnsētas" were used to shoot episodes of the Latvian movie "Purva bridējs".
10. The **house of the Lielstraupe Manor overseer** was once found in the place of **"Zaļkalni"**. In 1920s there was a cooperative shop.
11. The **Lielstraupe Manor school** was once found in the place of a house named **"Berlīne"** (Berlin). Now it accommodates the laundry of the Straupe Narcological Hospital.
12. **"Madaras"** have been built on the foundations of the former **Lielstraupe Castle distillery**.
13. The **Lielstraupe Manor stables** were once housed within the walls of **"Burtņieki"** and a **forge** was operating at one end of the building.
14. The name of **"Putni"** House has been preserved since the times when the **Lielstraupe Manor bird house** was accommodated here. Many birds, especially pheasants, were kept in the manor. Ruins of the manor's fruit and vegetable cellars can be seen next to the bird house. During the fortification period there was a forepart of the castle in this inter-bank, from where the castle could be accessed by a drawbridge.
15. Three-story residential houses **"Beverīnas"** and **"Mediķi"** were built on the foundations of the former **Lielstraupe Manor barn**.
16. **Lielstraupe Castle.** First information about building of the castle is found from 1263. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century a church was added to the castle, therefore the Lielstraupe Castle has retained its uniqueness until now, because it is the only castle in Latvia which is combined into a single building with a church. Over the centuries the Lielstraupe Castle has burned and been rebuilt several times. It has obtained its current look only after 1778, but it had to be restored once again after the fire in 1905. The castle is one of the rare properties in Latvia, which has been owned by the same family for several centuries – since the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century it belonged to the Baron von Rosen family who were managing the property with short interruption until 1939. The Lielstraupe machine-tractor station adminis-

tration was accommodated here until 1959. There were also the living quarters for the tractor drivers. Now it accommodates the Straupe Narcological Hospital.

17. The so called **Small Castle** was built at the same time as the big castle. The Small Castle always served as an auxiliary building – it was once a teahouse, a dog keeper and guard house and a servants' house.
18. **Straupe Church** is the only ancient castle-church in Latvia.
19. The Straupe Church does not have a **bell tower**. A wooden bell tower is separated from the church building and located about 100 m from the church.
20. **Old Straupe City.** During the period from 14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> century the city called Roop resided in the current territory of the Lielstraupe Castle park and the adjacent area, occupying around 2 ha in total. It was a small city with dense wooden buildings and small gardens, closely attached to the building. The city had a water mill, three repositories, a chapel and a church, a market place and a town hall. The city was populated mostly by craftsmen and merchants. The city was located within the territory of the Archbishopric of Riga, and it was mostly managed by the vassals of the Archbishop.
21. Accountant's office of the Straupe Narcological Hospital is accommodated in the castle territory in **"Lapas"** – a two-storey house with a tiled roof. It used to be a very small Lielstraupe Manor greenhouse with a single room once.
22. **"Saulītes"** was built for the Orthodox Assumption Church. An orthodox school existed there together with the church until 1919.
23. **"Dzelmes"** – the photography workshop of Otto Brīdaks was found here in the 1920-30s. The daily life images and postcards made by the photographer can be found in the picture albums of every resident of Straupe.
24. One part of the Straupe primary school was once occupied by the **tennis court of the Mazstraupe Manor baron**, while gazebos and pavilions were built in the park (on the opposite side of the stage) for the pleasure of ladies and gents; today Straupe Stage is one of the most popular venues for celebrating big and small events in the summer.

**Get up on the stage and hear how beautiful the voice sounds, flying over the ancient walls of Straupe and weaving through the crowns of the trees.**

The route ends at the Dog keeper's house.