

KRETINGA DISTRICT



See it with
your heart



**FOR FAMILY
HOLIDAYS**



Routes for the whole family

The best holidays are those in which the whole family can be happy together. That is not a simple challenge: to plan a trip in such a way that the kids can squeal in excitement, and the parents won't feel bored. And if you also want to learn and experience something new, that just makes the task even more complicated.

For an optimally balanced family holiday, it is certainly worth a trip to Kretinga District. The area is friendly to adults and kids alike, full of surprises, discoveries and fun suggestions.

It is no secret that when you travel with children, it is essential to foresee stops in which the little ones can play and run around; after all, the most important thing is to make sure they do not become bored. In the city of Kretinga, there are several such places: the kid-friendly Jaurykla Park, the colourful "Family Valley" and the playgrounds dotted across the city. Fun playgrounds are scattered across the entire district.

Kretinga District also has something to offer to nature-minded families. Everybody will enjoy the impressive hill-forts, the nature trails, the Japanese Garden and the Baltic Mythology Park, each of which reveals different cultures, and the Salantai Regional Park visitors centre, inviting you to add to your knowledge of nature.

In Kretinga District, many opportunities for active recreation are available to kids and adults alike. Little ones always have fun at the HBH recreation complex. It has everything that children want: swings, animals and, of course, treats and tasty food. Next door is the BOOM park, and "Holiday park" is also nearby, offering many water attractions.

Kretinga Museum will also certainly be interesting to the whole family; some exhibits are interactive and hands-on. Not to mention the turtles, canaries and koi (Japanese carp) of the famous Winter Garden. And finally, everyone will enjoy a visit to the manor confectionery. Children quickly cheer up there. And when the little ones are satisfied, parents can enjoy their cups of coffee in peace.

The list of recreational opportunities for the whole family in Kretinga District is huge. The difficult part is choosing, and then setting off on a fun, adventure-filled holiday.

Nature: recreation and discoveries for everyone

The natural environment of Kretinga District is enchanting. Riverbends, hill-forts reaching for the sky, scenic pedestrian paths and parks. The natural harmony is such that big and small people alike feel comfortable in it. Children can freely run around and explore the environment, while adults have a wonderful opportunity to collect holiday memories. Arriving in Kretinga District, you can spend hours upon hours surrounded by nature, and certainly not get bored, while your body and mind are restored.



Those travelling with children and who wish to acquaint them with the traditions of their ancestors, while spending time outdoors, are advised to visit **the Baltic Mythology Park and its recreational nature trail**. Located several kilometres from Darbėnai, the park as seen from a bird's-eye view resembles the Tree of Life, a concept of deep significance to the Balts. As you walk the well-maintained yet still-natural paths of the park, you get acquainted with the deities of the Balts. The park is divided into three parts, which reflects the structure of the pantheon of Baltic deities and expresses the harmony of nature and the way of human life. There is a fire altar in the central part of the park, where one can symbolically dispose of negative and discouraging thoughts. Adults will learn a lot at the park, and it will certainly be fun for the little ones to run along the forest paths, touching the sculptures and even finding their way through the mysterious labyrinth.

Next to the Baltic Mythology Park, the ever-expanding **Japanese Garden** amazes with its beauty and the exotic (to Lithuanians) culture that it propagates. It is unique, the only such garden in Lithuania and the largest of its kind in Europe. The garden, 16 hectares in size, was created, and continues to be cultivated, by the Japanese master gardener Hajime Watanabe and the Lithuanian doctor Šarūnas Kasmauskas. The garden is beautiful in every season; the garden with its Japanese landscape is gorgeous when it is covered in snow, coloured with the autumn palette, or decorated with the spring blossoms of Japanese cherry, magnolia and other plants. If you tire of strolling through the garden, you can enjoy the Japanese tea ceremony, have your picture taken while dressed in a kimono, or quietly meditate in the rock garden. It is a wonderful place for the whole family, to be in quiet surroundings, to get to know another culture, to feast your eyes on beautiful plants.

Near the Japanese Garden, the town of Darbėnai seems to be almost as busy as a big city. Aside from its interesting history,



the town is known for **Vytautas the Great Park**. The park is located next to the crystal-clear Melnyčia pond. You can absolutely take a swim, go fishing, and sit by the water; there are rest areas, fire rings, and children's teeter-totters. Part of the park consists of an old pine grove, in which the air is as fresh as along the seaside. Children will undoubtedly like the wooden teeter-totters and the cute dwarves' houses, into which the little ones can certainly go and play.

From Darbėnai, past the village of Grūšlaukė, you can go to Kalnalis. Here awaits **Kalnalis observation tower and the walking trail toward Imbarė hill-fort**. Kalnalis observation tower is in Salantai Regional Park, in Kretinga District, in the village of Kalnalis. Although the observation deck is at a relatively low height, only 15 metres, nevertheless an impressive panoramic view of the surrounding landscape opens up from it. A nature trail next to the tower leads to the nearby Imbarė hill-fort. While the family is walking on the trail to the hill-fort, the kids will have plenty of time and space to run around, and when you reach the top of the hill-fort, you will enjoy a fine view of the Salantai area.

If you want to feel like you are in Switzerland, it is completely unnecessary to actually go there. You can find a Lithuanian Switzerland in Kretinga District: the wonderful bends of the Minija River, in which impressive outcrops have formed over the course of many years. One of the most beautiful is **Dauginčiai outcrop**. Its width is as much as 44 metres, and its height is 22 metres. The sight of the outcrop can take your breath away in every season of the year. For those who know a bit about geology, the language of outcrops is quite expressive. Dauginčiai outcrop is one of the sights you can discover when walking along the Šilpelkė forest nature trail. The length of the trail is 1,5 kilometres, and it twists and turns through the naturally-formed Šilpelkė forest. There, you can see Dauginčiai hill-fort; that means people

have been living in the vicinity of the present-day nature trail for a very long time indeed. The more attentive visitor will notice a grove of hornbeams, and perhaps even a common kingfisher, included on the Lithuanian Red List.

If you have any energy left after visiting this many marvellous natural sights, it is worth going to Kartena. It is impossible to miss the imposing **Kartena hill-fort**. If we can believe legends, this hill-fort was built up by stubborn Samogitians, who were at war with the Swedes and the Russians. On this same hill, the name of Kartena itself came into being. Apparently, the Samogitian leader stood atop his fortifications, when two armies of his enemies began to move toward his castle. The Swedes began to fight against the Russians for the right to attack the castle first. Watching the battle, the Samogitian leader called out: "veiziekit, karė tena". For non-Samogitians: "look, the soldiers are over there". Those who climb up the hill-fort are rewarded with a wonderful panoramic view of Kartena and its surroundings. An excellent nature trail winds its way from the hill-fort through the forest. As you follow the trail, you can see various plants, and find legendary stones and even a miraculous spring.

To make it easier to find:

- ➔ Baltic Mythology Park – recreational nature trail – Sausdravai, coordinates: 56.030445, 21.18814.
- ➔ Japanese Garden – Sodų str., Mažučiai, coordinates: 56.030044, 21.208943.
- ➔ Vytautas the Great Park – Palangos str. 14B, Darbėnai, coordinates: 56.021119, 21.241737.
- ➔ Kalnalis observation tower and nature trail – Kalnalis, coordinates: 56.016667, 21.542018.
- ➔ Šilpelkė nature trail / Dauginčiai outcrop – Dauginčiai, coordinates: 55.951285, 21.550052.
- ➔ Kartena hill-fort – Kartena, coordinates: 55.910163, 21.475663.



The fun way to learn about the area

When you travel with children, it is natural to worry that they can get bored in museums, that they will not like one or another activity. The good news is, when you take a holiday in Kretinga District, you can find places which expand the parents' horizons and allow the kids to have fun while exploring their environment. In such a fun way, that they will forget to ask "and when are we leaving???" As you travel around the Kretinga area, you will understand that even the museums so disliked by kids are in fact quite interesting.

To be in Kretinga and not to see the famous Winter Garden is nothing other than a sin. The **Kretinga Museum with the Winter Garden** is a genuine pearl of Samogitia. It is a museum which adults enjoy, but kids also leave, having learned something. In the watermill, you can see and touch old-fashioned tools, three interesting documentary films are shown in the manor superintendent's house, and the manor exhibition is organised in such a way that it is possible to "participate" in the battle of Salaspilis or to see an animation of the manor's historical development. And, of course, the Winter Garden

with its abundance of plants, warmth in all seasons, vivid koi (Japanese carp), eye-catching sturgeon, cute turtles and enthusiastic canaries.

Next to the manor, together with the children you can view **the Astronomical Calendar with sundial**. It is a real challenge to understand how our ancestors counted time. This calendar with its sundial was built in Kretinga manor park in 2002. The composition occupies an area of half a hectare, in which there are 13 sculptures symbolising the traditions of the ancient culture of the Balts, Lithuanian festivals, and important dates in the history of Lithuania and Kretinga. There are very few such sites in the Baltic countries. It can be said that this composition is unique and exceptional because it was created as a thesis work to earn an academic degree.

Travelling along the route, the next stop is in the village of Nasrėnai, at the **museum of the birthplace of Bishop Motiejus Valančius**. An 18th century barn is preserved at the museum. An ethnographic exhibition acquaints visitors with the housewife's working area, the room where a girl would sleep, a storage room for household items, and the grain storage area. In the farmhouse, you can get an idea of how Bishop Valančius himself lived. Events at the museum include readings of Samogitian texts and theatre performances, and, oddly enough, here



The fun way to learn about the area

you can see perhaps not the only, but at least one of the first sculptures in Lithuania dedicated to the humble potato. The children will certainly like the sculpture, and the museum exhibition will interest the whole family.

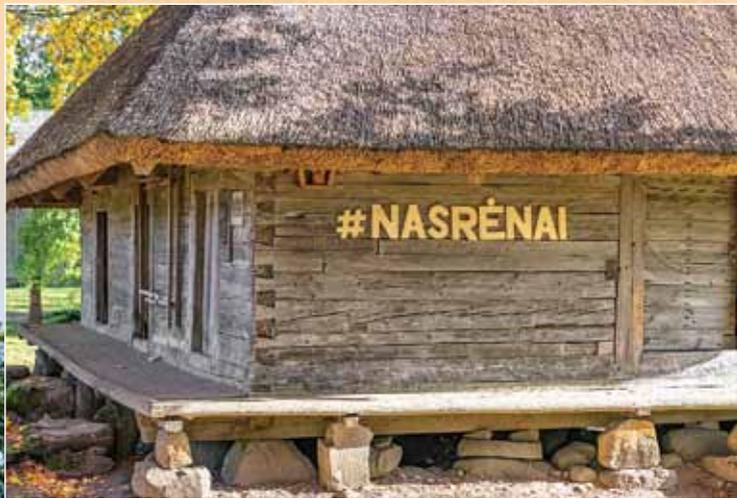
Yet another stop is the **Salantai Regional Park visitors centre**. This is an excellent opportunity to find out what kind of natural sites can be visited in the Regional Park. Of course, the visitors centre is a fun place to get acquainted with nature, too. The centre is full of photographs, maps and other information. All of it is adapted for use by children; it can be touched and listened to. In this way, the visitors centre will expand your horizons and give your mood a lift.

And in the village of Gargždėlė, next to Salantai, a unique open-air museum awaits you. The **Orvidai homestead-museum**, resembling the Eye of Providence when viewed from overhead, has been called a museum of stone sculptures and a site fit for movie scenes, due to its unconventional spirit. The homestead was established during the Soviet occupation by Vilnius Orvidas. At first glance, the overall impression you get, of the stones,

tree trunks and stumps, and old-fashioned things (including a Soviet tank) scattered around the homestead, is one of tremendous chaos. But when viewed with a sharper eye, each corner of the homestead and each item has a certain meaning. So we suggest taking your time, breathing in the fresh air, listening attentively, and looking closely to catch the meaning of what the well-known Vilnius Orvidas wanted to say several decades ago. While you're doing that, the children can find their place in a fairy-tale world – because that is exactly what the homestead created by Vilnius Orvidas will look like, to them.

To make it easier to find:

- ➔ Kretinga Museum – Vilniaus str. 43, Kretinga.
- ➔ Astronomical Calendar with sundial – Vilniaus str., Kretinga, coordinates: 55.896761,21.251055.
- ➔ Museum of the birthplace of Bishop Motiejus Valančius – M. Valančiaus str. 9, Nasrėnai.
- ➔ Salantai Regional Park visitors centre – Laivių str. 9, Salantai.
- ➔ Orvidai homestead – Plungės str. 18, Gargždėlė.



Hands-on programmes and recreation make a memorable holiday

It is said that what you remember from a holiday is not what you see, but what you experience and feel. It is best to collect such holiday memories by choosing authentic hands-on programmes or recreation in which you actually experience an adventure, produce something tangible or participate in the creative process. As you can probably guess, all of these things are available in the hospitable Kretinga District.



You can start making holiday memories in Kretinga itself. The **Kretinga Museum traditional crafts centre** is a fantastic place not only for learning something useful, but also deepening your knowledge in a fun way and leaving with something tangible to show for it. You can choose from a variety of hands-on options: baking bread, weaving, recognising herbs, making ceramics, making soap and others. They keep the attention of kids and adults alike. The creative process draws you in, and the result is always a pleasure; everybody likes to take away an item that they themselves have made.

An especially kid-friendly hands-on activity is offered at the **“Manor confectionery”**. The confectionery carries on the very best traditions of the counts Tiškevičius and invites you to help produce sweets. And not just any sweets, but those made from the oldest of recipes, delicious, on a stick. Children are mesmerised by the process of making the batch of sweets, the sheer variety of flavours, and the palette of possible colours.

After the sweets have been made, it is time for some adventure. The first stop is at **“Boom park”**. The park’s founders say that the park is for everyone: child, adult, or someone who has gone a bit off the deep end. Boom park offers so many attractions, it can make your head spin: a crazy rush in a tyre down the hill, leaps onto air pillows, labyrinths and various obstacle courses. But if your maturity gets the best of you and you just want to sit in peace, pavilions and gazebos await your party or gathering. And that is not all. At Boom park, you can breathe the fresh air, grill some summertime food in the designated campfire areas, and relax in a sauna.

Another place suitable for young and old alike is the **HBH recreation complex**. It offers you **the adventure park “Lynx Path”**. It is one of the largest adventure parks in Lithuania, located at the HBH leisure and entertainment complex. The adventure park is composed of seven routes of differing complexity and height, with almost 90 segments and more than 10 descents via cable. Real tests and fast glides await visitors. The glide lengths range from 30 to 140 metres. Two new routes have recently been installed: the unique ZOO route over Žvėrinčius (a hectare containing more than 40 animals and birds) and the extreme Orange route with a long (33-metre) Tarzan jump. Recreation at the adventure park Lynx Path gives you an enormous dose of adrenaline and some unforgettable memories.

After adventures like these, as the day comes to an end, you have definitely earned some rest. Who doesn’t like to splash around in a warm pool? Calm but fun water recreation can be had at **the recreation and health complex “Holiday park”**. This is the largest such complex in western Lithuania. 16 pools, 8 saunas, a separate area for children, and a wide variety of procedures and programmes for recovering health and strength fit under one roof and under the open sky.

To make it easier to find:

- ➔ Kretinga Museum traditional crafts centre – Vilniaus str. 37, Kretinga.
- ➔ Manor confectionery – Vilniaus str. 41, Kretinga.
- ➔ Recreation park “Boom park” – Mokyklos str. 90, Žibininkai.
- ➔ HBH recreation complex – Liepų str. 23, Žibininkai.
- ➔ Recreation and health complex “Holiday park” – Venecijos str. 2, Žibininkai.

Kretinga: a city of games

When you travel with children, it is important to create a playful, fun route. When you arrive in the city of Kretinga, you don't need to plan such a route yourself; there are so many play areas for children in the city that you could spend the whole day in those spaces. You just need to plan your time in such a way that everything you want to visit fits into the day, and the kids don't tire out too early from the abundance of play opportunities.

Jaurykla Park is the newest natural outdoor space in Kretinga. With 10 hectares of area, the park has something to offer for those in search of a peaceful corner of nature as well as for those seeking to spend their time more actively. It features more than 3 kilometres of wellness and nature paths with footbridges across a fast-flowing stream, the Jaurykla. Tired visitors can sit down at 5 scenic viewpoints, from which there are excellent views of the natural landscape. Children will especially enjoy the park's several children's playgrounds. The park has an amphitheatre for musical events and community celebrations, disabled-friendly paths, information signs for the curious, and public toilets. This park is an ideal place to stroll, play, and see nature up close. Each path has information boards on which information about the animals, insects and birds you see all around is presented in an engaging way.



If you think there aren't enough teeter-totters or exercise installations in Jaurykla Park, visit the children's play area **"Family Valley"**. This area is located in what the locals call žvyrdubė (the gravel pit). This gravel quarry that was used long ago for construction work in the city has over time become a recreational space, for football and dog-walking. But recently, the space next to the small pond has been transformed into a cosy, family-friendly area. There are climbing installations and teeter-totters for kids, in a safe and clean environment.

Kretinga is known for its parks. In one of them, yet another space for children has been created. Parents of little ones can choose a stroll through **Pastauninkas Park**. It is one of the largest green spaces in the city. The park has been formed from land formerly belonging to the Franciscan monastery, and occupies an area of 18 hectares. During the interwar period, by damming the Pastauninkas (Dopultis) stream, two ponds were formed. The park is the perfect place for strolling: convenient paths, many benches, nice views. There are many wooden sculptures, information boards about the plants you see, and even an insect hotel in Pastauninkas Park. Children, of course, care more about the playground in the park. Located in a pine grove, fenced, the playground is a safe place for kids to play, breathe in the fresh air, and spend their time outdoors.

On the way out of the city, right here, at the countryside tourism homestead Vienkiemis, one more children's paradise awaits you. An enormous space with a mini-zoo and little houses has been built at Vienkiemis. The little houses are almost out of a fairy tale, so everybody calls them **"Dwarves' houses"**. The houses are open for playing hide-and-seek. A child's dream come true.

To make it easier to find:

- ➔ Jaurykla Park – P. Vileišio str., Kretinga, coordinates: 55.877408,21.252044.
- ➔ Children's play area "Family Valley" – Kęstučio str. 31A, Kretinga.
- ➔ Pastauninkas Park – J. Pabrėžos str., Kretinga, coordinates: 55.892037, 21.244725.
- ➔ Countryside tourism homestead "Vienkiemis" – Vienkiemio str. 3, Padvariai.





See it with
your heart

- FOR FAMILY HOLIDAYS
- FOR THOSE SEEKING TO EXPERIENCE A NEW CULTURE
- FOR THOSE IN SEARCH OF ADVENTURE
- FOR THOSE DIVING INTO NATURE



KRETINGA DISTRICT TOURISM
INFORMATION CENTRE
Vilniaus str. 2B, Kretinga
Phone +370 445 73 102
tic@kretingosturizmas.info

www.visitkretinga.lt

This publication has been funded by the Administration of the Kretinga District Municipality
Photographs by: K. Bakūnas, R. Senkevič, V. Ščiavinskas. Photographs purchased by the Administration of the Kretinga District Municipality while implementing the EU-funded projects “Pažink Vakarų krantą”, “Žemaitijos regiono tradicijų sklaida e. rinkodaros priemonėmis”.
Published by UAB “V3 studija”, Kaunas

© Kretinga district education center, 2021