

We are happy to announce that next to Latvia's long distance strength walks, races and boat rides we have created previously unprecedented cycling trip "Velorealitāte". Its participants will have to overcome the distance from Zilupe to Riga within 48 hours and visit 4 checkpoints.

In this cycling adventure participants will test not only their physical fitness, but also emotional endurance; they will have the chance to enjoy cycling pleasure, discover and get to know nature of Latvia, its cities and outskirts. It won't be a competition of speed, but a test of endurance in which all the participants will try to prove that the way never ends; where seemingly ends one way, starts another – we are the way, we are those who create the way.

The author of event's idea and the leader of organizing team Veloman (*Velomens; Krišjānis Jansons-Ratiniks*) is not only an enthusiastic cyclist who can't be stopped neither by bad weather conditions nor tiredness, but also a passionate traveller who's spirit of adventures never disappears. He is looking for new adventures not only in Latvia, but also abroad. During the last season Krišjanis (*Krišjānis*) completed Europe's longest cycling competition – "Transcontinental Race" and overcome the 4000 km distance in 12,5 days. This adventure inspired him to offer something similar to other cycling lovers in territory of Latvia. This endurance cycling trip will take the participants from Zilupe to Riga – all the participants will have to overcome approximately 350 km long distance within 48 hours.

Zilupe as the event's start point wasn't chosen randomly – Krišjanis has cycled this distance not only once, and each time it was a real strength test, hardening and a surprising adventure. Zilupe is a city located in the farthest Eastern point of Latvia, in borderland of Russia. It is located between the 28th and 29th meridian east. This city has a peculiar charm which intrigues its visitors. Also **the four checkpoints** will be located in noticeable places of Latvia.

The first checkpoint will be located in **Lielais Liepukalns**, which is 289,8 m high hill in Latgale's highland. The Lielais Liepukalns is Latgale's highest hill and the third highest hill in Latvia. At the top of the hill there is Latvia's highest wooden observation tower (34 m) which offers a spectacular view of the surroundings: lakes, forests and the horizon.

The second checkpoint will be located by the **plank-way of Teirumniki swamp** (*Teirumnīku purvs*). This swamp and its surroundings is a component of Lubana wetland complex (*Lubāna mitrāja kompleks*) which is protected area under an international convention. Its visitors will have the chance to see swamp's vegetation and enjoy its magic scenery. Not far from the Teirumniki swamp is located Idena (*Īdeņa*) which is the only inland fishermen's village in Latvia.

The third checkpoint will be located in Latvijas highest hill – **Gaizinkalns** (*Gaiziņkalns*). Hill's absolute height is 311,6 meters a. s. l., relative height – 61,6 meters. Its name originates from the Latvian word *gaiszinis* with meaning 'air connoisseur', because many believe that this hill still can predict upcoming weather conditions.

The fourth checkpoint will be located in **Elkas hill** (*Elkas kalns*) which is 260,7 meters high. There is no higher hills than Elkas hill in the west of Latvia. It has developed as a result of glacial melting and is one of the oldest glacial hills. Many believe that just here begins the rapid and swirling flow of river Gauja.

This cycling-endurance competition won't be race for trophies and pedestal. This will be a race for hardening, experience and victory over your abilities – we must experience it together!

EACH PARTICIPANT PLANS HIS OWN ROUTE

350 km seems a lot. It is a challenge which you will remember for a long time – we always keep in our memories the hardest and most unusual things.

By planning your route according to your abilities, you can definitely cycle it. For example, during the first evening cycle 50 km, then have a good sleep and relax; on Saturday cycle 150 km, have a rest and on Sunday you will have to overcome remaining kilometres.

We predict that the best result could fall within 15 hours, but as we said, we are not looking for a winner – we want all participants to reach the finish line.

THE ROUTE AND ACTION

The cycling trip starts in Zilupe at 11 pm and ends in Riga. During the route each participant has to visit 4 checkpoints which are located in special places.

All participants must timely plan their route. Approximate distance ~350 km.

Checkpoint locations

COMPLEXITY LEVEL

As the checkpoints are located in hilly areas on roads with gravel/sand cover, participants should take into account that part of route won't be provided with asphalted roads.

TRANSPORTATION FROM RIGA TO ZILUPE

“Gandrs” has booked seats in specially organised passenger train, which will take the participants from Riga (4 pm; train station: *Vagonu parks*) to Zilupe (9:35 pm). This evening train will be able to receive 90 participants with their bikes. Price with bicycle: **12 EUR**.

OBLIGATORY EQUIPMENT:

- bicycle;
- helmet;
- passport or ID card;
- front and rear light;
- safety vest and/or reflective apparel;
- spare tubes;
- tool kit;
- first aid kit;
- mobile phone;
- spare battery.

PARTICIPATION FEE: **39.00 EUR** (IF PARTICIPANT APPLIES AND PAYS THE BILL TILL 20TH OF MAY).

PARTICIPATION FEE AFTER 20TH OF MAY: **49.00 EUR**.

PARTICIPATION FEE INCLUDES:

- “Velorealitāte” organizing;
- participant's personalized competition number and control card;
- timing control;
- drinking water and fruit in checkpoints;
- keepsake for each participant who completes the route.

Regulation in Latvian can be seen [here](#).

APPLYING

During the applying process, please fill the information carefully and tick, which transportation will you use to get to the event's starting point in Zilupe. If you are willing to use our organized passenger train, it will cost you and your bike only 12 EUR. It will be possible to pay for transport in Spring – we will inform you about it separately.

The maximum number of participants is limited. Please, apply for “Velorealitāte” timely, using the applying form at the top of the webpage. In case of any uncertainties call or write us using contacts below:

- atputa@gandrs.lv;
- +371 26411079.

All participants will be the winners. Anyone who will begin this adventure, by concluding it, will reach one of his cycling goals.

#Velorealitate2018