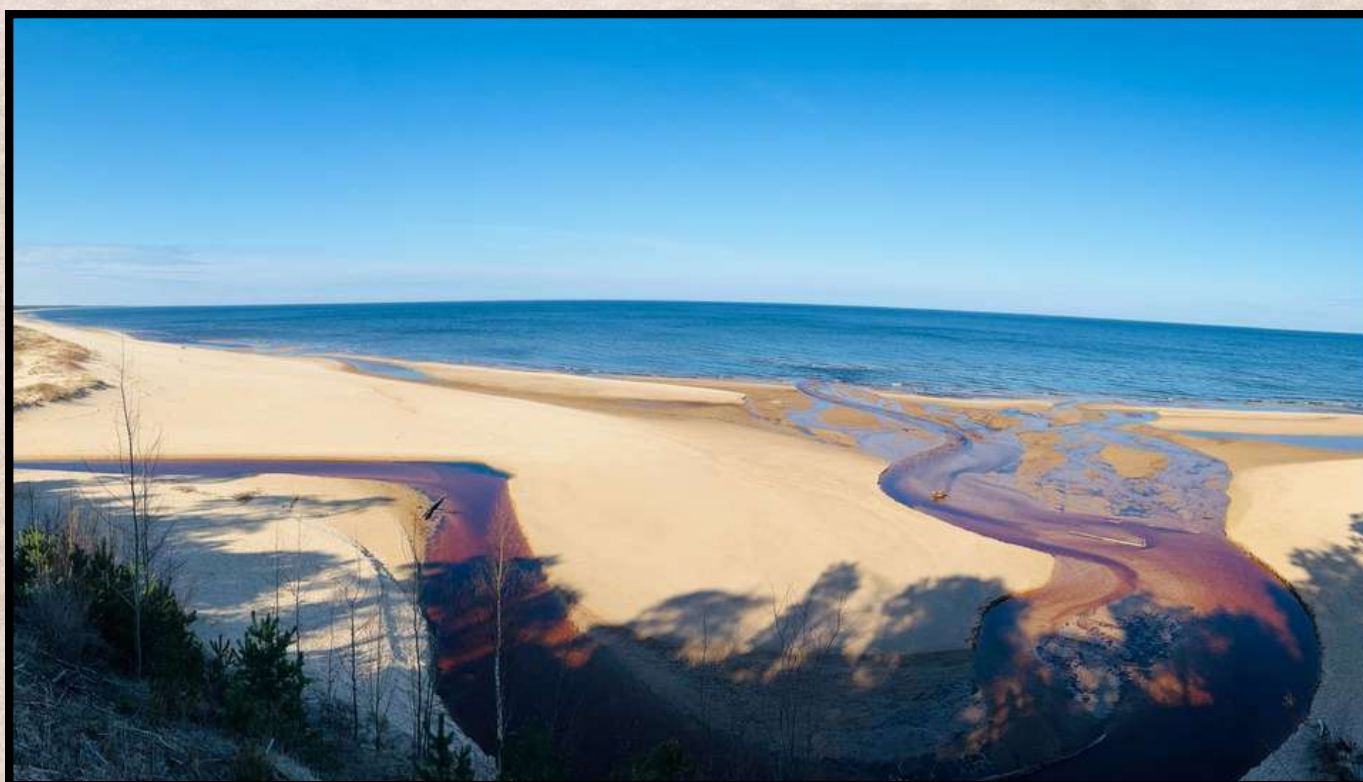


#0

# NSU SUMMER SESSION 2026



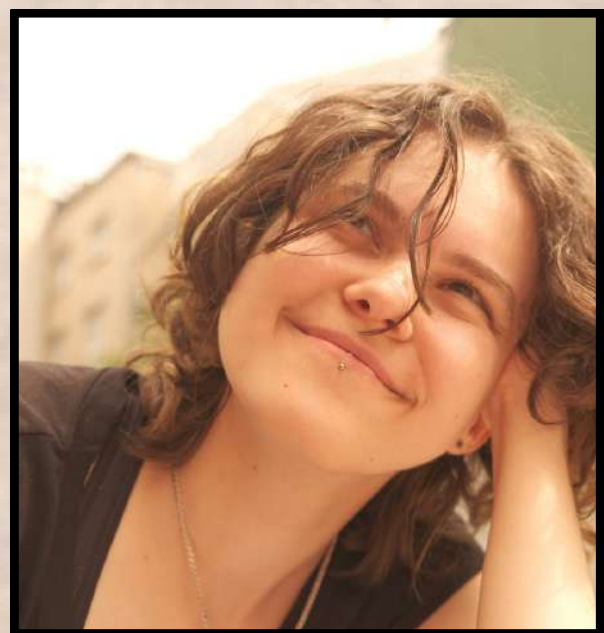
By Arrkom

# Arrangemangskommitté/Arrkom

Arrkom (a short for the swedish word “arrangemangskommitté”) is responsible for the arrangement of the summer session. That includes site arrangement for accommodation, excursions, meals, travels, budgets, accounting and many other details.

## Presentation of Arrkom 2026

**Anna** is the chairperson for this year's summer session, and most of you have most likely already been in contact with her as she is handling the ARRKOM-emails. She is half Swedish and half Danish and she recently moved from Denmark to Austria where she now lives and works online as a teacher. She has participated in NSU summer and winter sessions as a child and returned as an adult first working as a Youth Leader and Mentor of the Children Circle four times. A few years ago, she joined ARRKOM, and later on, she additionally joined the Board where she is currently working as the accountant, but also handling social media. Unfortunately, she is not able to attend this year's summer session, but she wishes you all a wonderful week and hope to be back again soon!



**Alina** is a deputy and Arrkom member, taking care of the cultural program. In the middle of 2022, she jumped in as a replacing coordinator of the cultural heritage circle and.. since then never left :D She has been rotating between different NSU roles: circle coordinator, twice board member, twice deputy, three times Arrkom. Rumors are she developed the study circle proposal in two nights before the General Assembly. Professionally, she is passionate about historic park management.

**Stepan** is an Arrkom member who will be helping you on-site during the summer session. He found out about NSU in 2024 and instantly developed an unhealthy obsession with secret karaoke and traveling to remote places for academic discourse.



Contact: [arrkom@nsuweb.org](mailto:arrkom@nsuweb.org)

# Board

The Board of the Nordic Summer University is its executive body. It consists of five or six members, at least four of which must be representatives from different Nordic or Baltic countries. The chair and board members are elected by participants of NSU during the General Assembly organised at the Summer Session each year. Elected board members are to serve for one calendar year at a time, maximum of three years in a row (four years for Chair). Areas of responsibility are divided among the members. These include: treasurer, external funding, publication activities and archive, study program, communication and PR, external relations, and management of internal affairs. Meetings take place mostly virtually, in line with our strategy plan to be as sustainable as possible.

To assist the General Assembly in electing the new members of the Board of the Nordic Summer University, a Nominating Committee is chosen who will talk with previous members and potential candidates in order to select a group of people who are willing and able to support the Nordic Summer University as a board member.

# Board Members 2026



Stéphanie Barillé  
Board member (Chair)

West Nordic



Elena Bogdanova  
Board member (Vice Chair,  
Funding)

Sweden



Anna Paulsen  
Board member

Denmark



Eva Weiler  
Board member

International



Lindsey Drury  
Board Member

International



Georgios Diapoulis  
Board member (Technical  
Support)

Sweden

# Summer Session Keynotes

We will be hosting two keynotes, one virtual with **Dr. Abdalrahman Kittana** and one on site with **Dr. Ilze Boldāne-Zeļenka**. This is in line with our wish to support both Palestinian and local scholars of the places we engage during the summer session.

**Dr. Abdalrahman Kittana** is a Palestinian architect and researcher, currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at Tampere University, Finland, and an Assistant Professor of Architecture at Birzeit University. He holds a PhD in Architecture from KU Leuven, an MSc in Architectural regeneration from Oxford Brookes University and a BSc in Architectural Engineering from Birzeit University. Dr. Kittana is the co-founder of the Yalla Project, a “research-by-doing” initiative in Nablus that revitalized historic buildings as catalysts for urban renewal. His research focuses on architecture and survival in war, homemaking under conflict, urban regeneration and postwar reconstruction, the history of architecture, and urban development.

**Dr. Ilze Boldāne-Zeļenka** is a Latvian anthropologist and ethnographer working at the University of Latvia. Her keynote lecture is entitled Whose history is it? Ethnic and Freak Shows in the Territory of Latvia at the Turn of the 20th Century.

# Study Circles

Activities in Nordic Summer University (NSU) revolve around thematic study circles that meet twice a year in winter/spring and summer. NSU study circles explore widely diverse topics within the arts and humanities, natural and social sciences and provide a cross-disciplinary forum for debating topics that are not already established in universities, thereby contributing to the initiation of new research agendas and alternative perspectives.

## Current Study Circles:

- **Circle 1:** Studies in Remoteness. Sensoria of Absence, Distance, and Neglect
- **Circle 2:** Cybioses: art, critique & technology
- **Circle 3:** Re-configuring Colonialities: Reforging Knowledges, Healing Trauma and Re-Imagining (Digital) Futures
- **Circle 4:** An/Other\not-I/(m)\Other in Feminist Philosophy
- **Circle 5:** Ecology of Transformative Learning Practices With/In A More-than-human World
- **Circle 6:** What is critical about critical theory? Bridging the gap between social science and philosophy
- **Circle 7:** Act, React & Reflect: Meta-perspectives on climate change knowledge
- **Circle 8:** Queer Materialism
- **Circle 9:** Degrowth and Exnovation
- **Circle 10:** Decolonising the Anthropocene through Artistic Research

# Children Circle

A key value of NSU is that families with children can participate at the summer sessions. NSU therefore provide what we call a Children's Circle for participants who are between three and thirteen years old. During the Summer Session, children engage in a range of fun activities while their parents contribute to their own Study Circles.

The children are attended to according to age and interests. Since NSU's participants come from all of the Nordic and Baltic countries and beyond, a range of languages are spoken in the Children's Circle.

One very important quality to the Children's Circle is that rather than being run by professional pedagogues, it is in fact NSU children's circle alumni who organize and structure the program.



# Youth Leaders



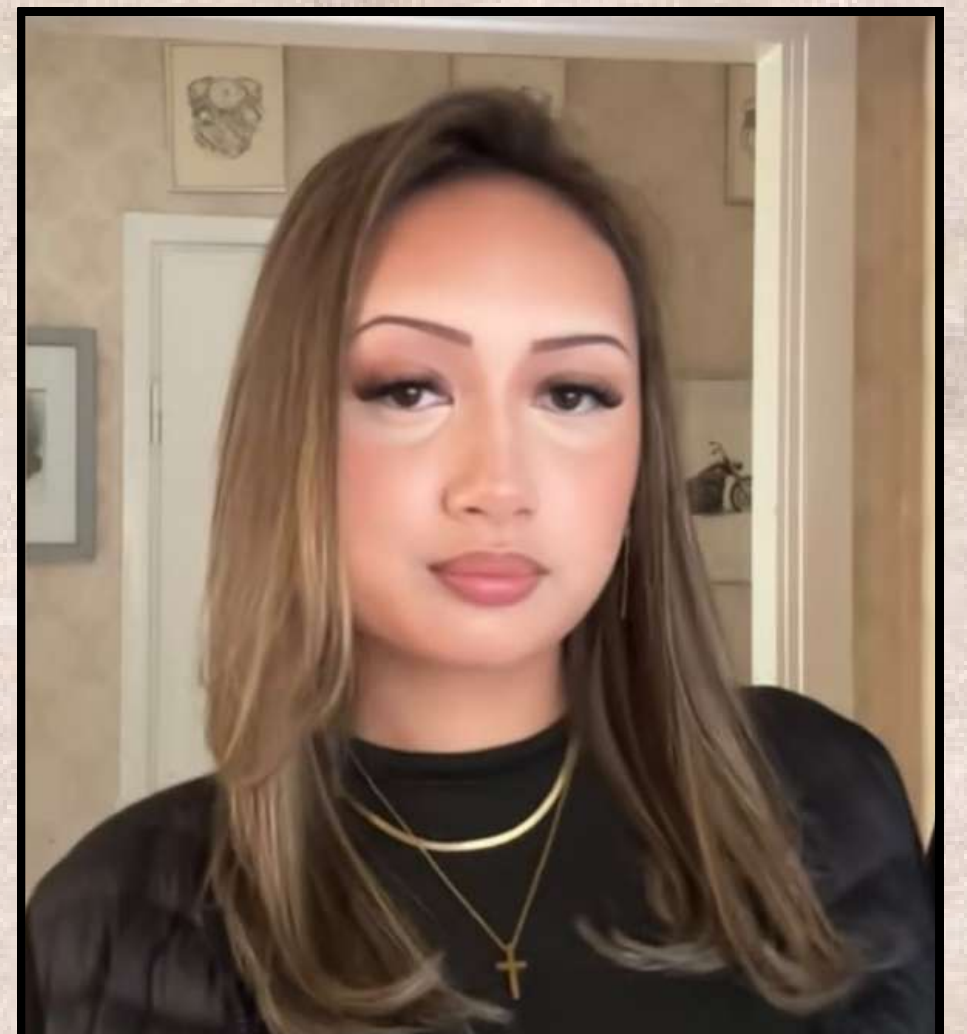
Hello, hallo, hej, my name is **Roel**, I am a 'philosopher' from the Netherlands. I currently work as a research assistant in hospitals as well as teach kickboxing, fitness, and philosophy to young and old. Apart from that, I am either spending time with my friends, reading, watching movies, or walking in a manner suggestive of deep thought. I speak Dutch, English, German, and a little bit of French and Danish.

Hello, I'm **Mia**. I'm 19 years old. I speak English and a little bit of Irish. I just finished my first year of college in Dublin City university studying politics and law. I like to read, listen to music and when I'm not busy I like to hangout with my cats.



Hello, I'm **Kerstin**. I'm a 17 year old from Sweden. I speak English, Swedish and Spanish. I have three younger siblings whom I often take care of. In my free-time I enjoy dancing and going on walks.

Hello, I'm **Alicia**. I'm a 16 year old from Sweden. I'm working during the summer in a school with children from 6 to 10 years old. I speak Swedish and basic English. When I'm not working I enjoy going for walks and play board games



# Location: Minhauzena Unda

This year's Summer Session takes place at Saulkrasti.

Saulkrasti is an historic sea resort situated on the Baltic sea, 50 kilometers from Riga. **Minhauzena Unda**, accommodation of the Summer Session, is a holiday accommodation in the middle of a pine forest less than a five-minute walk from the sandy beach seaside. The hotel is named after the world's biggest liar, Baron von Munchausen! Intrigued? You will find out more about this while in Latvia!



## Warning: ticks!

Please be aware that there are ticks in Latvia. Ticks can be basically anywhere but they especially love long grass and bushes. Try to stay out of those and keep an eye on your clothes and body parts. Wearing light-coloured clothes also helps because ticks are black and thus easily noticable on light-coloured clothes.

If you notice a tick bite, it is recommended to remove the tick as soon as possible. Delaying tick removal could increase your risk of getting diseases that spread through tick bites, known as tickborne diseases.

If you need more advice, contact Arrkom – [arrkom@nsuweb.org](mailto:arrkom@nsuweb.org).

# Be Aware!

**Electronic Travel Declaration** is an online form that must be submitted by a citizen of any country, except a member state of the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a country of the European Economic Area, the Swiss Confederation or the Federative Republic of Brazil, who does not have a valid visa or residence permit issued by the Republic of Latvia.

**All non-exempt foreign nationals planning to enter Latvia **must submit the Declaration** at least 48 hours before entry.**

Read details about the Travel Declaration:

<https://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/electronic-travel-declaration>

Submit Electronic Travel Declaration:

<https://eta.gov.lv/en/>

# NORDIC SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2026

## Transportation

Staying at Minhauzena Unda, Saulkrasti

### ★ RECOMMENDED ROUTE

-  **Riga Airport**
-  **Bus 22**  
about 20–30 min
-  **Riga International Bus Station / Rīgas SAO**  
Central Riga
-  **Regional bus to Koklītes**  
about 50–60 min
-  **Short walk to Minhauzena Unda**  
about 5–7 min

### ↻ ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

-  **Riga Airport**
-  **Bus 22**  
about 20–30 min
-  **Riga Central Railway Station**  
Central Riga
-  **Train to Ķīšupe**  
about 50–60 min
-  **Walk or short taxi to Minhauzena Unda**  
about 2.3 km



**Main accommodation:**  
Minhauzena Unda,  
Ainažu iela 74



**Closest bus stop:**  
Koklītes  
≈ 0.5 km

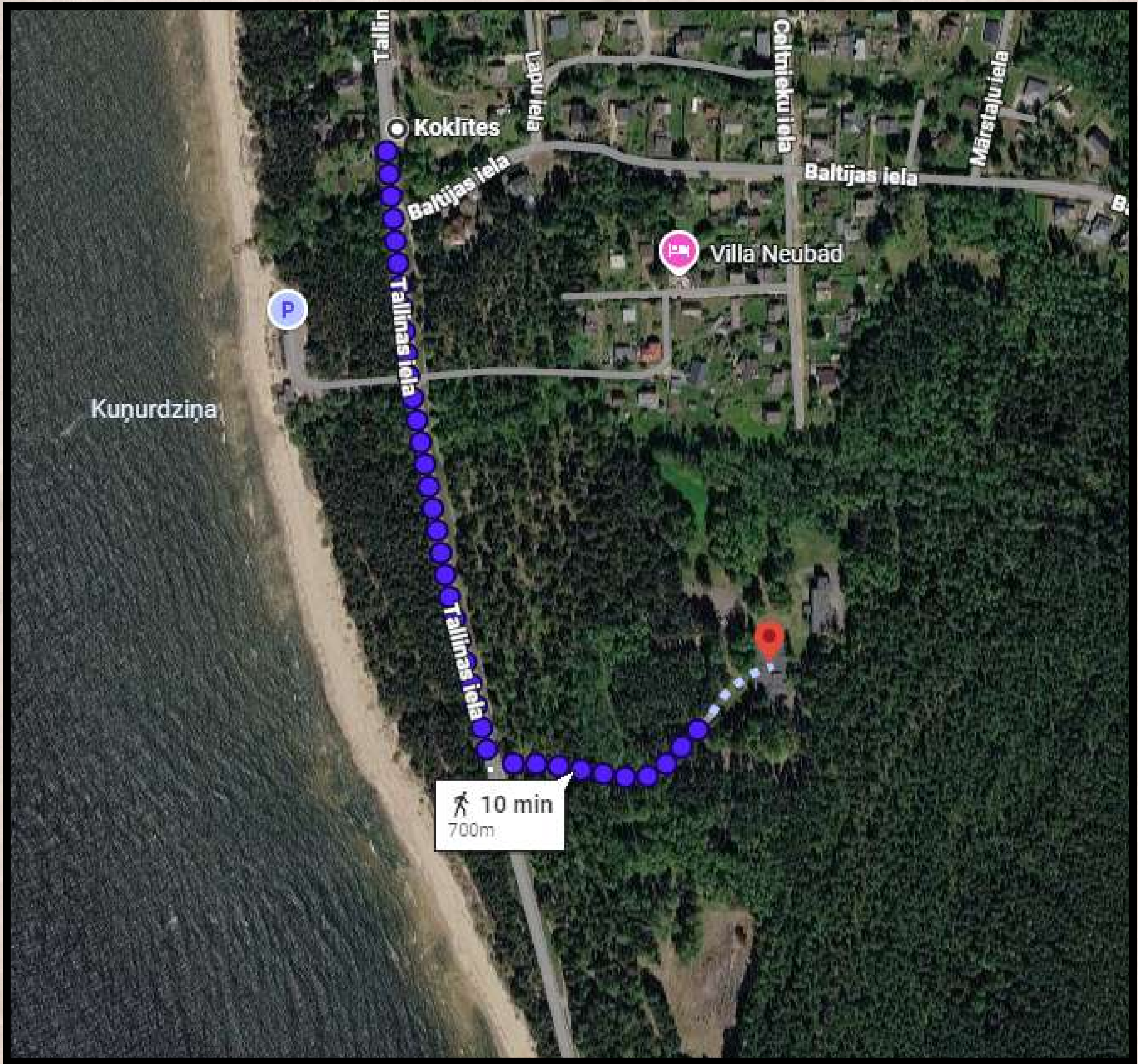


**Nearby train stop:**  
Ķīšupe  
≈ 2.3 km

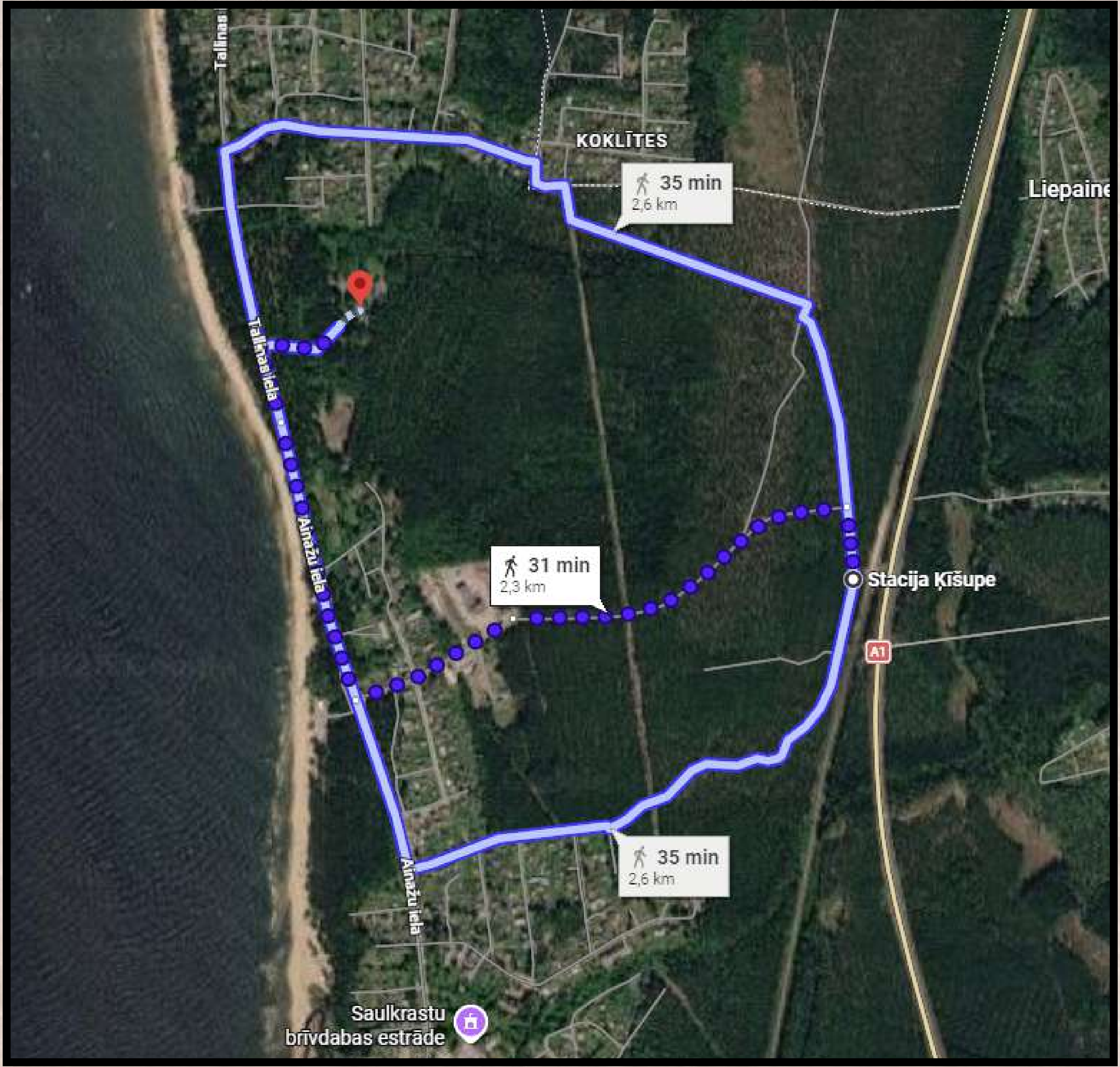


**Useful apps:**  
Mobilly • Vivi •  
1188.lv

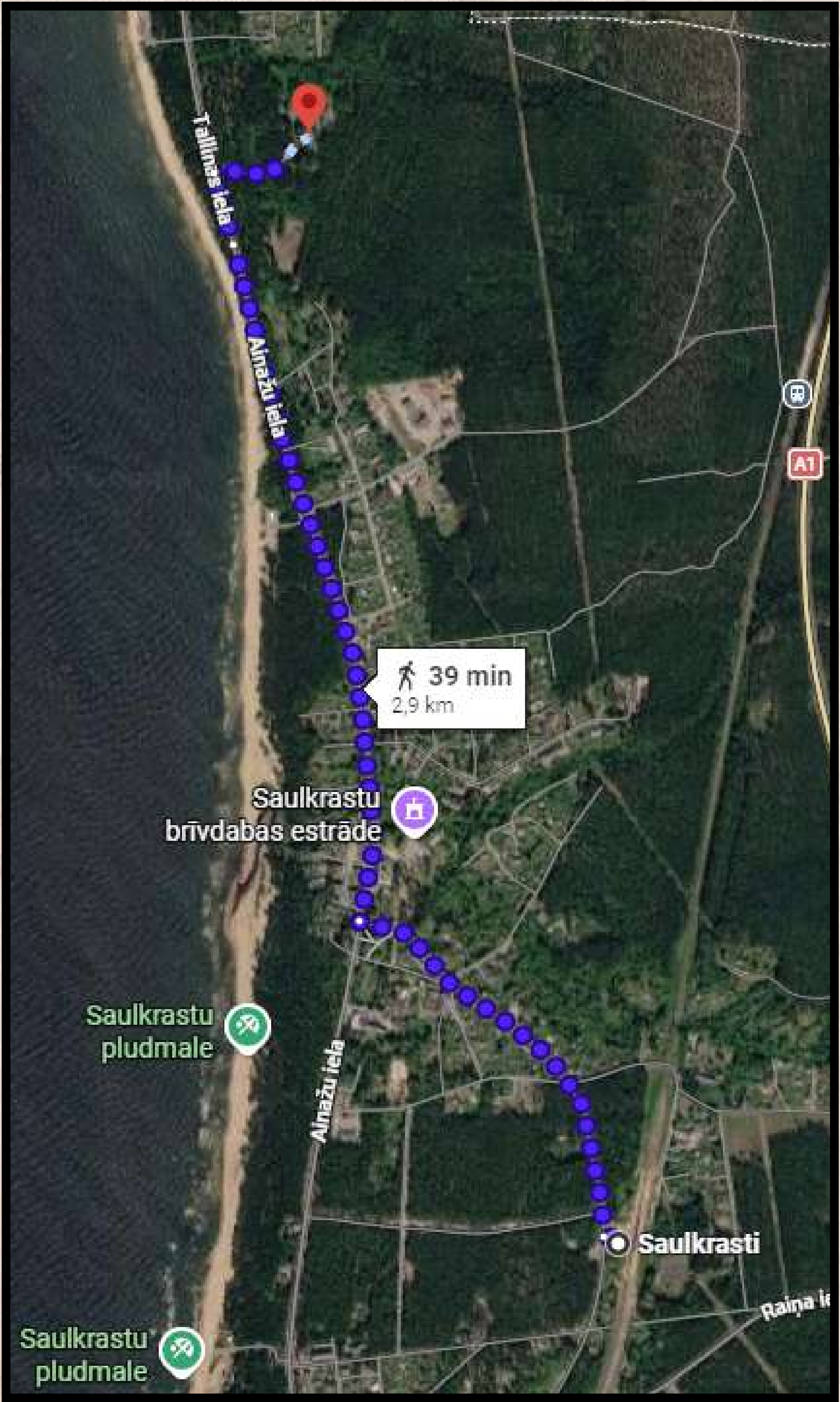
# How to get from Koklītes bus stop to Minhauzena Unda



# How to get from Kīšupe train station to Minhauzena Unda



# How to get from Saulkrasti train station to Minhauzena Unda



# The overall program

|                    | Friday July 24                                                                                                   | Saturday July 25                                                                         | Sunday July 26                                                             | Monday July 27                                                                                                                               | Tuesday July 28                                            | Wednesday July 29          | Thursday July 30     | Friday July 31          |                                             |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 7.30-8.00          |                                                                                                                  | Morning Exercise                                                                         | Morning Exercise                                                           | Morning Exercise                                                                                                                             | Morning Exercise                                           | Morning Exercise           | Morning Exercise     | Breakfast and Departure |                                             |
| 8.00-9.00          | Breakfast                                                                                                        | Breakfast                                                                                | Breakfast                                                                  | Breakfast                                                                                                                                    | Breakfast                                                  | Breakfast                  | Breakfast            |                         |                                             |
| 9.00-10.30         | Joint Meeting Board and Coordinators (JMBC)                                                                      | Study Circle Program (Introduction and Reviewing GA Documents)                           | Study Circle Program                                                       | General Assembly (GA) I                                                                                                                      | Excursions                                                 |                            |                      |                         | Study Circle Program                        |
| 10.30-11.00        | Coffee                                                                                                           | Coffee                                                                                   | Coffee                                                                     | Coffee                                                                                                                                       |                                                            | Coffee                     | Coffee               |                         |                                             |
| 11.00-12.30        | Joint Meeting Board and Coordinators (JMBC)                                                                      | Study Circle Program                                                                     | Study Circle Program                                                       | Study Circle Program                                                                                                                         |                                                            | Study Circle Program       | Study Circle Program |                         |                                             |
| 12.30-14.00        | Lunch                                                                                                            | Lunch                                                                                    | Lunch                                                                      | Lunch                                                                                                                                        |                                                            | Lunch                      | Lunch                |                         |                                             |
| 14.00-15.30        | Joint Meeting Board and Coordinators (JMBC)                                                                      | Arrival of Participants                                                                  | Study Circle Program                                                       | Keynote: Ilze Boldāne-Zeļenka, <i>Whose history is it? Ethnic and Freak Shows in the Territory of Latvia at the Turn of the 20th Century</i> | General Assembly II                                        |                            |                      |                         | Study Circle Program                        |
| 15.30-16.00        | Coffee                                                                                                           | Coffee                                                                                   | Coffee                                                                     | Coffee                                                                                                                                       | Coffee                                                     |                            |                      |                         | Coffee                                      |
| 16.00-17.00        | Joint Meeting Board and Coordinators (JMBC)                                                                      | Arrival of Participants                                                                  | Latvian Association of Young Researchers                                   | Study Circle Program                                                                                                                         | General Assembly II                                        |                            |                      |                         | Joint Meeting Board and Coordinators (JMBC) |
| 17.00-17.30        | Arrival of Participants                                                                                          | Break                                                                                    | Break                                                                      | Break                                                                                                                                        |                                                            | Break                      | Break                |                         |                                             |
| 17.30-18.30        |                                                                                                                  | Community Review                                                                         | Regional Meetings / NSU working groups                                     | Circle 8: orientation workshop regarding trans-inclusivity                                                                                   | Art Fair Prep                                              |                            | Football             |                         |                                             |
| 18.30-20.00        | Welcome Dinner                                                                                                   | Dinner                                                                                   | Dinner                                                                     | Circle Dinner (BBQ)                                                                                                                          | Dinner                                                     | Dinner                     | Gala Dinner          |                         |                                             |
| From 20.00 onwards | Welcoming Evening & Speed Friending                                                                              | Cultural Program: Behind the Scenes of the Documentary on Latvian Mythology and Folklore | Cultural Program: More-than-human Community Review: Fishbowl x Role Play x | Cultural Program: Multilingual Reading Themed around the Baltic Sea // Book Launch "Cybioses: art, critique & technology"                    | Cultural Program: Guy Dolev's lecture performance COW PARK | Cultural Program: Art Fair | Disco!               |                         |                                             |
|                    | The Children Circle runs from July 25 to July 30 (apart from excursion day) from 8.55-12.30 and from 13.55-17.00 |                                                                                          |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                              |                                                            |                            |                      |                         |                                             |

Individual circle programs can be found on <https://www.nsuweb.org/summer-session-schedule-2026/>

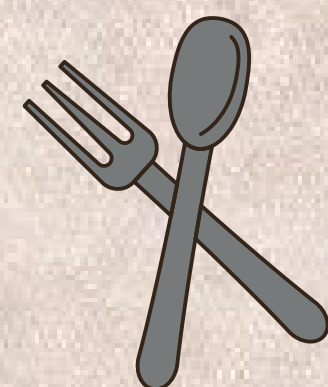
# Organisational Information



**Towels and bed linen** are included in the price (except for people staying tents), so there is no need to bring this.

## No lunch on July 24

You are welcome to arrive from 14:00 but please note that there won't be any lunch on this day.



**Art Fair** on July 29. Bring any artworks and creations that you'd like to sell – books, drawings, textile works, pins, stickers, clothing, etc.

10% of each sale will go to NSU – more on that in the following newsletters.

**Bring cash.** You will need it for the Art Fair, printing on the spot, laundry and so on.



**Gala dinner and party** on July 30. Gala dinner is a special last dinner where we celebrate the end of the summer session. It is followed by the disco. Bring nice clothing to dress up for the evening!

The rest of the week is kind of “informal” and most people just wear casual clothes.



# Excursions Day Announcement

## Special NSU offer - Valmiera trip on July 28!

Valmiera has a lot to offer, including museums, activities for children, craft breweries and wineries, nature trails and parks, and an outdoor labyrinth. NSU organises a bus Saulkrasti – Valmiera – Saulkrasti for a fee, please [book here](#).

Enjoy a performance **Clap & Slap** organised by former NSU Chair Inta Balode at 17.00 (tickets to be purchased separately). The performance is part of the Aerowaves festival.

Artists / [A. Lisickinaite & I. Shugaleev, Be Company](#)



## A. Lisickinaite & I. Shugaleev, Be Company

### CLAP & SLAP

Lithuania/Poland  
The Twenty26

CLAP & SLAP explores the tense and paralysing relationship between Lithuania and Belarus which emerged after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Drawing from their personal experiences — Igor's participation in the 2020 Belarusian protests and Agnietė's demonstrations in Vilnius — the artists confront political, social, and emotional divisions between fear and action, guilt and responsibility. Igor was forced to flee Belarus; Agnietė chose to stop collaborating with Russian-speaking artists. Meeting on stage, they search for dialogue amid conflict, questioning how to defend oneself without reproducing aggression, and how to protect freedom while respecting the other.

- Hide credits

Idea and choreography: Agnietė Lisičkinaitė, Igor Shugaleev

Performers: Agnietė Lisičkinaitė, Igor Shugaleev

Composer: Agnė Matulevičiūtė

Scenographer: Oles Makukhin

Dramaturg: Bush Hartsorn

Consultant director: Olga Lapina

Light designer: Povilas Laurinaitis

Production: Be Company / Agnietė Lisickinaite

Funded by: Lithuania Culture Council

Creative residencies: Radialsystem Berlin, Studio

ALTA, Bora Bora dance center, Santarcangelo festival.

Premiere: 2025, New Baltic dance festival

# Looking for...

... people who love mornings and exercise and would be willing to combine those two things! Someone who wants to lead a morning exercise one time or every day. It does not have to be complicated, for example it could be a walk along the sea side, morning run or relaxed yoga for beginners. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you think this sounds exciting in any way!

**Contact: [arrkom@nsuweb.org](mailto:arrkom@nsuweb.org)**

**Deadline: 23 July**



**We look forward to seeing you all  
very soon!**

