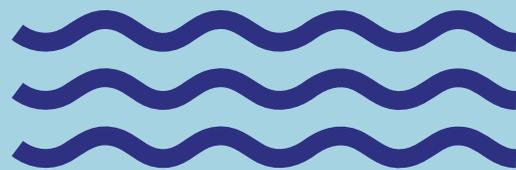


# Papes Ķoņu ciems



Dienvidkurzemes parish

tourism guide - tourism guide

# Pape

Traditions of folk building in **Pape** and **Nida** have developed through many centuries and date back to the time of ancient Curonians, who sailed the Baltic sea. Only during the late 19th century/early 20th century, the years under Soviet regime and nowadays significant changes in economic activity and building are introduced, which come hand-in-hand with departure of the ancient traditions and relics of the past. Historic planning and development of folk building in fishermen villages of **Nida** and **Pape** share common traits. Initially these villages were divided in multiple parts: Nida consisted of villages *Brusti*, *Boži* and *Nida*, but **Pape** consisted of villages *Papes Ķoņu ciems*, *Pape* and *Papes Priediengals*, which merged together in the course of time.

During thirties of the 20th century **Pape** was one of the largest fishermen villages of Kurzeme. Within **Pape** about 100 homesteads were located as well as 60 sailing boats and 4 motorboats. Prosperity phase of the economic activity within village **Pape** took place until year 1940 and during this period the inhabitants were well situated and socially active.

With the economical collapse in sixties of the last century and establishment of a closed pre-frontier area, fishermen villages of **Pape** and **Nida** were subjected to gradual destruction – there were no jobs in the villages and only elderly people stayed there, fishery was prohibited, the abandoned buildings collapsed or were bought up by Lithuanians for creation of summer residencies.

# Papes Ķoņu ciems

A special place among culture-historical values of Rucava parish is reserved for **Papes Ķoņu village** – one of the rare gems in scale of not only Latvia, but whole Europe, where such unique ethnographic and folk building phenomena have survived till nowadays.

The village has developed in confined and quite peculiar area, on a sandy tongue of land between the sea and wetlands, which are remains of an ancient lagoon. Nowadays in its northern part **Pape lake** is located, but in the southern part – **Nida bog**.

The village was formed in late 19th / early 20th century around the central road. Historically this was the old road through the moor – now abandoned and overgrown. During years under Soviet regime the road was moved closer to the sea and nowadays it even crosses some homesteads and their buildings are located on both sides of the road. Dwelling houses mostly are covered with reed roofs, traditional layouts of the homesteads are partly preserved, but also significant physical deterioration is present – damaged wooden elements of the facade, damaged and deteriorated reed roofs, collapsed household buildings. In process of repair works certain objects of decorative art have been lost.

According to the current trend of creating open-air museums in their natural environment, in year 1985 Ethnographic Open-Air Museum of Latvia bought homestead “**Vitolnieki**” to create a replica of historic fisherman’s/farmer’s household, which reflects traditions of building, work

and everyday life in late 19th/early 20th century. “**Vitolnieki**” is a part of Ethnographic Open-Air Museum of Latvia.

In year 1987 a part of **Papes Ķoņu village** was declared as a monument of architecture of national importance – **Papes Ķoņu zvejnieku ciems** (Papes Ķoņu Fishermen village). Nowadays within territory of the monument these homesteads are located: “*Ķaupji*”, “*Margrietnieki*”, “*Gatvenieki*”, “*Klibie*”, “*Vitolnieki*”, “*Smēdnieki*”, “*Jūrniece*”, “*Kūpeles*”, “*Saknes*” and “*Mikjāņi*”.

Around the village a 500 m protection zone is established. The scope of protection within **Papes Ķoņu zvejnieku ciems** includes not only buildings of the homesteads, but also:

- structure of historic planning,
- spatial layout,
- characteristic building methods,
- adjustment to main road,
- network of roads,
- enclosure system (fencing),
- landscape,
- topographical relief
- vegetation, which are considered as significant and protected cultural-historical values.

Also a cemetery is located within the boundaries of the village – *Ķoņu kapi*, created in year 1900. Before World War 2 **Papes Ķoņu village** consisted of **28** farmer/fishermen homesteads. Inhabitants of the village were fishermen, who also kept cattle and had comparatively little crop-fields. Under influence of economical, political and social factors many of these homesteads perished.

Nowadays (c. 2021) **16** historic homesteads have survived, although permanently inhabited are only 5, 7 homesteads are used as summer residencies, 2 are abandoned and buildings have collapsed, 2 are uninhabited, but the buildings have been preserved, and one was bought by the Ethnographic Open-Air Museum of Latvia.

There are also some new-born homesteads with buildings, that can be considered as folk architecture of late 20th century – “*Amerikas*”, “*Jaunvitolnieki*” and “*Jaungatvenieki*”. In beginning of 21st century some homesteads were created, which are in great contrast to historic architecture and traditional building of the village.

Since year 2009 a positive and increasing trend is observed – some historical homesteads are being re-inhabited and renovated – “*Ķaupi*”, “*Klibie*”, “*Mikjāņi*”, “*Jūrniece*”, “*Saknes*”. These homesteads are historic-cultural objects and “*Mikjāņu sēta*” also hosts an exhibition about history of the village.

Despite the losses, folk building traditions still can be observed in certain parts of the village and together with the unspoilt nature they create a unique landscape of historic coastal fishermen village – no other historic fishermen village and its surrounding environment in Latvia has been preserved to such extent. The village is included in territory of **Pape Nature Park** and the **Trail of Natural Processes** crosses the village along the main road.



BALTIJAS JŪRA

## LEGEND

- Information stand
- Main road
- Natural Process Path
- Jūrtaka - Baltic Coastal Hiking Route Along the Baltic Sea Coastline in Latvia and Estonia
- Boundaries of the national cultural monument "Papes Ķoņu zvejnieku ciems".
- Maritime wooded dunes
- Dunes
- Section of the old road. Not suitable for driving and walking.
- Open air museum "Vītoliņi".
- Homesteads which you can visit prior arrangement
- Tent area "Jauntīlībi"
- Camping site, bike rental "Mikjāņu sēta".
- Preserved historic homesteads
- Newly created homesteads
- Partly historic and partly contemporary building
- Building/homestead creation in progress
- Ķoņu cemetery

INFO STANDS (GRASSLAND, FOREST, BOG, DUNE) - VIEW PLATFORM IN THE BOG - NIDA

## Useful information

### ANNUAL EVENTS IN THE PAPES ĶOŅU VILLAGE

June - Summer Solstice at Farmer's - fisherman's homestead "Vītolnieki"

July - Anna's day celebrations at Farmer's - fisherman's homestead "Vītolnieki"

August - The Night of Ancient Bonfires at Farmer's - fisherman's homestead "Mikjāņi"

### RUCAVA' S TOURISM INFORMATION CENTER

"Centra dzirnavas", Rucava, Rucavas pagasts, Dienvidkurzemes novads, LV-3477

📍 GPS 56.259844, 21.165816 ,

✉ tic@rucava.lv, www.facebook.com/rucavatic

☎ +371 29134903

### PAPES TOURISM INFORMATION POINT

"Dzintarvēji", Pape, 1.06.-31.08.

📍 GPS 56.150646, 21.031179

☎ +371 26759199

### EXCURSION IN PAPES ĶOŅU VILLIGE

☎ +371 26759199 ; 01.04-31.09.

### POST

"Rucavas pamatskola", Rucava  
Dienvidkurzemes novads, LV-3477

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### ATM

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☎ 112



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Publisher: KURŠU INICIATĪVU FONDS, Dienvidkurzemes novada dome

Design: Paula A. Pasīte-Muiteniece

Information: State Inspection for Heritage Protection

The information was compiled by: KURŠU INICIATĪVU FONDS / CURONIAN INITIATIVE FUND