



RIVER GAUJA. FROM VALMIERA TO LĪGATNE



Ergļu (Ergēļu) Cliffs



Canoeing at Ķūku Cliffs



Sietņiežis Cliff

Description. Gauja is the most popular water tourism river in Latvia. The main tourist magnets are the beautiful river banks rich in sandstone outcrops, easy accessibility of the river, dense network of accommodation sites for water tourists, the nature of the river (suitable for various paddlers), long water tourism traditions, and the status of a national park. In this section, the river flows through its primeval valley which is among the most impressive Baltic terrain forms; however, the scale of the valley cannot be enjoyed from the canoe, since the scenic views are covered in leafage and forests. The most dangerous place of the route – Ķūku Rapids. Although not difficult to master, canoes are thrown over every year. The highest vertical drop is the section from mouth of the River Amata to Līgatne, and therefore many paddlers prefer only the section Cēsis–Līgatne.

Difficulty level. Easy.

Duration. Depending on the type of the canoe 2–3 days.

Best time to go. Summer, while a paddling trip on a beautiful autumn day or spring won't be less exciting.

Distance. 62 km. By sections:
1) Valmiera–Cēsis (Jāņarāmis) 33 km;
2) Cēsis (Jāņarāmis)–Līgatne 29 km.

Vertical drop of the river. Slight, for the whole section ~10.4 m, average ~0.17 m/km.

Starting point 57.53810, 25.42839
Stepping into the canoes on the right bank of the river, below Valmiera Music School and the Species Garden of Valmiera Museum. Boat dock, Pilskalna street 1, Valmiera.

Destination 57.25441, 25.04528
Water tourist site at Līgatne Ferry Crossing.

Canoes. Canoes, kayaks, inflatable boats, rafts. The last two – for slow paddling.

Distance to Riga. From the starting point 110 km, from destination – 70 km.

Transportation. Supporting team to transport canoes and paddlers to the starting point and from the destination is needed. Usually the canoe hire companies provide this service.

Worth knowing! Swimming and walking on the riverbed is not recommended – dangerous! Life jacket on the river is recommended. Accommodation in Gauja National Park is allowed only in specially designated places. Be careful with the sandstone outcrops, which are protected nature monuments; and do not leave any trash behind! Motorized water vehicles are prohibited on Gauja. The activity is at one's own risk. Emergency services: 112.

Enter Gauja mobile application



GooglePlay



AppStore

SERVICE

Valmiera Tourism Information Center, Valmiera, Rīgas Street 10, +371 26332213, tic@valmiera.lv, www.visit.valmiera.lv

Valmiermuiža Tourism Information Point, Dzirnavu Street 2, Valmiermuiža, Valmiera rural territory, Burtņieki Municipality, +371 20264269, info@valmiermuiža.lv, www.valmiermuiža.lv

Pārgauja Tourism Information Point, "Ezeriņi", Stalbe, Stalbe rural territory, Pārgauja Municipality, +371 26620422, turisms@pargaujasnovads.lv, www.pargaujasnovads.lv

Līgatne Municipality Tourism Information Centre, Līgatne, Sprīņu Street 2, +371 64153169, +371 29189707, info@visitligatne.lv, www.visitligatne.lv

Cēsis Tourism Information Center, Cēsis, Baznīcas Square 1, +371 28318318, info@cesis.lv, www.visit.cesis.lv

Valmiermuiža Craft Brewery and Beer Kitchen, Dzirnavu Street 2, Valmiermuiža, Valmiera rural territory, Burtņieki Municipality, +371 20264269 (tours in the brewery), info@valmiermuiža.lv, www.valmiermuiža.lv

Leisure park & camping "Ozolkalns", "Saulkrasti", Drabeši rural territory, Amata Municipality, +371 26400200, info@ozolkalns.lv, www.ozolkalns.lv

Līgatne Winery, Sprīņu Street 3, Līgatne, +371 26521467, ligatnesvinadaritava@gmail.com, www.ligatnesvinadaritava.lv

SIGHTSEEING OBJECTS

1 | Valmiermuiža Craft Brewery

57.536117, 25.424080
Visit to the brewery will reveal its history's impact on the beer-making process, and how the live beer is made from natural raw materials. Everybody can taste the beer as it has once been done by the masters of manors. Excellent catering.

2-8 | Valmiera

Prior to stepping into the canoe, it is worth visiting heritage objects in the centre of Valmiera and tasting some local delicacies: **2** Sight-seeing terrace by the River Gauja, **3** Valmiera St. Simon's Church, **4** Ruins of the Castle of the Livonian Order, **5** Valmiera Museum, **6** Valmiera Bridge over River Gauja, **7** Goat Rapids, **8** Walters Hill, **9** Iron bridge.

10 | River Jumara (Imara)

57.505154, 25.375973
A 20 km long right tributary of the River Gauja with a typical valley.

11 | Liepas Rock (Baltā Cliff)

57.4278, 25.3864
Around 400 m long and up to 16 m high outcrop on the left bank.

12 | Sietiņiezis Cliff

57.4285290, 25.3864891
One of the largest white sandstone outcrops in Latvia. Maximum height of its cliff reaches 15 m, while the total length of the cliffs – around half a kilometre. Here one can see small caves and hollows, erosion ravines, and formations similar to poles. One of these is called the **Velna papēdis** (Devil's Heel), while the small, but 10.5 m long cave – **Velnala** (Devil's Cave). **Pay attention!** The polypodies, and common fragile fern grow on Sietiņiezis Cliff. The patina seen at some places is actually the velvet lichen. The ground cover of the forest reveals common moss like glittering wood-moss, red-stemmed feathermoss, goose-necked moss, and ostrich plume feathermoss.

13 | River Rauna

Left tributary of the River Gauja. Below the road Riga–Veclaicene (A2) it flows through a deep and beautiful valley with sandstone outcrops on its banks.

14 | Kazu Rock

57.3579, 25.3550
Scenic. around 340 m long and up to 15 m high outcrop on the left bank.

15 | Rāmnieku Bridge

16 | Ērgļu (Ērģeļu) Cliffs

57.36058, 25.26032
Most monolith sandstone cliff wall in the Baltics: length ~700 m, maximum height up to 22 m.

Nature Conservation Agency

maintaining most of infrastructure in Gauja NP. If you see something wrong, tell the Agency at **+37164107230; +37167509545** or **vidzeme@daba.gov.lv**



17 | River Striķupe (Vaidava)

Right tributary of the River Gauja. Suitable to watch migrating salmon in the autumn.

18 | Leisure park & camping site "Ozolkalns"

A place offering one of the most beautiful views over the primeval valley of the River Gauja. Nearby Mound Ozolkalns, there are the **Cīruļi Nature Trails**.

19 | Kvēpenes Hillfort

57.2774, 25.1820
North of the hillfort, there is the **Kvēpene Secular Oak**.

20 | Briedīšu Rock

57.27200, 25.15428
Small, around 4 m high sandstone outcrop on the left curve of the River Gauja.

21 | Primeval valley of the River Amata

One of the deepest river valleys. At the deepest it reaches ~50 m, and its width ranges 1–1.5 km.

22 | Ēdarnieku Cliffs

57.27729, 25.11471
Impressive and up to 40 m high slope on the right side of the River Gauja.

23 | Leimaņu Rock

57.277419, 25.11756

24 | Kūķu Cliffs

57.27465, 25.10600
Around 500 m long and 43 m high. Two springs have washed out 10 m and 20 m long **caves**.

25 | Kūķu Rapids

The vertical drop of the River Gauja in the rapids amounts to 0.5 m/km. Slightly below these, opposite of the highest point of the cliffs, is the deepest **whirlpool** (ca. 7 m) of the River Gauja.

26 | Liņu Cliffs

57.26793, 25.09511

27 | River Skaļupe

A 16 km long left tributary of the River Gauja.

28 | Sprīņu Rock

57.25242, 25.06021
Scenic and up to 600 m long and 21 m high outcrop on the left bank of the river.

29 | River Līgatne (Līgate)

The most rapid tributary of the River Gauja forming a typical valley with 45–60 m high banks beneath the road Riga–Veclaicene (A2).

30 | Līgate Ferry Crossing