



SIGULDA – KRIMULDA – SIGULDA

BEST VIEWPOINTS IN THE PRIMEVAL VALLEY OF THE RIVER GAUJA



Velnala Cave in Krimulda



Castle of Livonian Order in Sigulda



Krimulda Manor

Photo: Baltic Pictures

Description. The route covers the best viewpoints over the landscape of Sigulda. But in order to enjoy these, one shall get to know the steep crests and sags of the primeval valley. Don't forget to take your photo or GoPro camera! The route runs through Gauja National Park.

Best time to go. April–October. Especially recommended during the blooming of bird-cherry trees, the colourful autumn, and sunny winter days with few snow. Early spring is also suitable, since the leafage of trees and bushes does not cover the view.

Route. Sigulda Railway Station (station square) – Raiņa Street – Gaujas Street – J.Poruka Street – cable car (or on foot along Gaujas Street to Krimuldas Serpentina Road, and then upwards) – Piķenes Ravine – pedestrian bridge over Gauja – Laurenču Street – Kalņa Street – Gulbju Street – Kalna Street – Šveices Street – Ausekļa Street – station square.

Road pavement
Asphalt (in town), forest roads, gravel roads, paths, wooden stairs on the steep banks of the Gauja valley and its tributaries.

Distance. ~ 15 km.

Duration. One day.

Difficulty level. Moderate–difficult. Some sections — banks of the primeval valley, steep ravines of tributaries thereof — might be strenuous.

Starting point/ destination.
57.15287, 24.85422
Sigulda Railway Station Square.

Way marking. Partly marked on site (section Krimulda–Velnala Cliffs) with special signposts for cyclists.

Distance to Riga. 50 km.

Public transportation. The train Riga–Sigulda operates 8–9 times per day. The route can be started at any place, depending on the location of an accommodation site.

Worth knowing! Suitable trekking footwear and a map of Sigulda and Krimulda are needed. Wooden stairs can be damaged and slippery during wet weather. Respect the information signs placed in objects! Walking outdoors is at one's own risk. Emergency services: 112.

Recommendation. The route or part thereof can be merged with other routes of Sigulda and its vicinity. From the pedestrian bridge, one can follow the route also on the lower part of the Gauja bank. After having reached the Sigulda Local Skiing Track, one can take the ski lift or the stairs.

Enter Gauja mobile application



GooglePlay



AppStore

SERVICE

Sigulda Tourism Information Centre
Sigulda, Ausekļa Street 6, +371 67971335, info@sigulda.lv, www.tourism.sigulda.lv

Sigulda Tourism Information Centre by Gutmans Cave
Sigulda, Turaida Street 2a, info.gutmanala@sigulda.lv, www.tourism.sigulda.lv

Bīriņi Castle
Bīriņi, Vidriži rural territory, Limbaži Municipality, +371 64024033, +371 29416661, hotel@birinupils.lv, www.birinupils.lv

Leisure complex “Kaķītis”
Sigulda, Senču street 1, +371 67976886, info@kakiskaln.lv, www.kakiskaln.lv

Miniature Wonderland Centre
Sigulda, Puķu street 2, +371 28308377, mazabrinumzeme@gmail.com, www.mazabrinumzeme.lv

The Tower of Courage “Vells”
Sigulda, Puķu street 4, +371 26003210, info@vells.lv, www.vells.lv

SIGHTSEEING OBJECTS

1 | Sigulda Railway Station
57.15287, 24.854227

2 | Park of Walking-sticks

3 | Cable Car
57.16448, 24.84558

4 | Primeval Valley of the River Gauja

One of the most impressive Baltic terrain forms, which accommodates Gauja National Park to protect and preserve it.

Pay attention! Next to the cable car, there are stairs leading down the valley, where one can see the slope forest habitats with deadwood, decayed trees, and mushrooms causing a decaying effect to timber. Moss on trees — squirrel-tail moss.

5 | Krimulda Castle Ruins

6 | Krimulda Manor

7 | Princešu Spring
57.17105, 24.83064

A small spring next to Šveices māja or the Swiss building with its waters flowing into the left tributary of the River Vikmeste.

8 | Piķenes Cliff
57.16081, 24.82708

Approximately 1 km long and 78-80 m high section of the right side of primeval valley wall of the River Gauja.

Pay attention! Piķenes Cliff is covered with **forests of slopes**, which are protected habitats pre-dominated by oaks, linden trees, maples, and hazel-trees. Suitable place to watch plants, mushrooms, and beavers. Alongside the bank of the primeval valley, there are many large-sized decayed trees and deadwood. It is the home of various species of woodpeckers leaving traces of their "artworks" on the trunks of trees, sulphur shelves. Many types of moss, including squirrel-tail moss.

9 | Velnala Cliffs
57.15047, 24.81179

The last and most impressive cliff wall of the valley — around 15 m high; located on the curve of the right bank. The dark **Velnala Cave of Krimulda** is seen in the middle of it. Above Velnala Cave, there are old and biologically valuable **pin**es with the so-called crocodile skin bark.

10 | Velnala Cave of Krimulda
57.15042, 24.81129

22,5 m deep (the length of a walkway is 35m in total) cave is formed in sandstones of Gauja, 8 m above from water level of Gauja river.

11 | Pedestrian bridge over the River Gauja 57.14917, 24.80707

Ideal for watching salmon during autumn, when the water is clear.

Pay attention! Should you head to



Sigulda alongside the River Gauja, you will see large stands of rough horsetail, wet grasslands of meadowsweets, traces of beavers and wild boar on your way. There is a good chance of hearing the shrew singing.

12 | Lorupe Ravine 57.13515, 24.80409

The River Lorupe drops vertically 12 m for every kilometre in its 11 km long course before entering Gauja. The water is cold due to the many "feeding" springs.

13 | Viewpoints: Keizarskats and Keizarkrēsls 57.14277, 24.82371

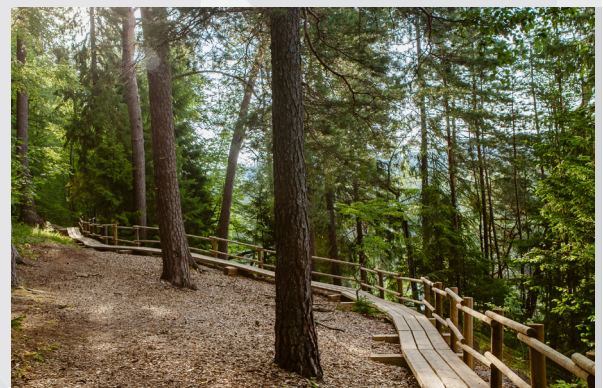
14 | Mound Kaķīškalns 57.14393, 24.82853
Skiing track established on the slopes of the old valley of the River Gauja. From top of the mound, there is a very **good view** over the primeval valley of the River Gauja.

15 | Korde Track

A popular place for skiing during the winter, and a good place for photos and landscape watching all through the year.

16 | Sigulda Bobsleigh and Luge Track
57.15087, 24.8411

17 | Lakstīgala Ravine 57.15494, 24.84485
Deep ravine with a small brook dividing the left initial bank of the primeval valley of the River Gauja. On the southern side, there are stairs leading down to the riverside.



Trail in Gauja National Park