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 Serpentīna Road, and then upwards) – Piķenes Ravine – pedestrian bridge over Gauja – Laurenču Street – Kalna Street – Gulbju 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–Veinālā 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.
SIGHTSEEING OBJECTS

1 | Sigulda Railway Station
57.15287, 24.85422

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 | Pīkenes 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! Pīkenes 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 pines 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 salmons 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 | Lūrope Ravine
57.13515, 24.80409
The River Lūrope 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: Ķeizarskats and Ķeizarkrēsls
57.14277, 24.82371

14 | Mound Kāķīškalns
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 | Lākstīgala 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.