



# RIVER AMATA. ROCKS AND CLIFFS



River Amata



Zvārte Rock



View from Ainavu Cliff



During the summer you can walk in river

Photo: Baltic Pictures

**Description.** For travellers not afraid of large and frequent terrain differences, and also for those wishing to see and enjoy the beautiful banks of primeval valley of the River Amata while heading along remote forest paths. The path leading along the right bank travels through the upper and lower part of the valley, and therefore at some places difference of more than 40 m in height is experienced. This is sort of a geo-tourism route with an insight of dolomite and sandstone outcrops from the Devonian Period which are found in the primeval valley of the River Amata shaped by the glacier.

**Best time to go.** April–October.

**Route.** Amatciems – Melturi – Kārļamuiža – Kārļi – Zvārte Rock – Veclauču Bridge.

**Difficulty level.** Difficult due to the steep and high banks and deep lateral ravines.

**Distance.** ~21.5 km. The route can be made by combining any of its sections:  
1) Amatciems–Melturi 5 km,  
2) Melturi–Kārļi 3.5 km,  
3) Kārļi–Zvārte Rock 9.5 km,  
4) Zvārte Rock–Veclauču Bridge 3.5 km.

**Road pavement.** Mainly forest paths; gravel road in section Amatciems–Melturi.

**Duration.** 8–11 h, where:  
1) Amatciems–Melturi 2 h,  
2) Melturi–Kārļi 3 h,  
3) Kārļi–Zvārte Rock 4 h,  
4) Zvārte Rock–Veclauču Bridge 1–2 h.

**Starting point.** In Amatciems 57.22543, 25.30342, or at the road Rīga–Veclaicene (A2) 57.21990, 25.23270, on the right bank of the River Amata, near the bridge; however, it can be started at any point of the route.

**Destination.** 57.26149, 25.13721 Veclauču Bridge, destination for canoe-riders “Amata”, or any other place.

**Distance to Riga.** Starting point 75 km, destination 85 km.

**Way marking.** Orange and bright red blazes — diamonds on tree trunks (in the section from Melturi to Veclauču Bridge).

**Worth knowing!** Suitable hiking footwear needed. During wet weather, the route can be unsafe due to the steep slopes. During spring, autumn and other periods, dolomite landslides and landfalls are possible; be careful and watch your step! Do not climb on the outcrops; do not damage these. When the water level is low, you can cross the River Amata at many sites. The left bank of the River Amata in the section from Zvārte Rock

meadow to Veclauču Bridge is part of Roči Forest Reserve, and entrance is prohibited! Hiking outdoors is at one's own risk. Emergency services: 112.

**Recommendation.** The route can be merged and circular routes can be made in the vicinity of “Karlumuiza Country Hotel”. You can park the car at the hotel: 1) landscape trails in the vicinity of “Karlumuiza Country Hotel” with a visit to the Kārļi fish breeding farm and Ainavu Cliff — 5.5 km; 2) “Karlumuiza Country Hotel” – Ainavu Cliff – Stūķu Rock – Dzilnas Rock – Zvārte Rock – “Karlumuiza Country Hotel” ~15 km with one part of the route leading along the river, while the other — along forest paths; 3) resort hotel “Jonathan SPA Estate” – private house “Biržakas” – guest house “Melturi” – railway station “Melturi” – resort hotel “Jonathan SPA Estate” ~15 km with one part of the route leading along roads on the right bank of the River Amata and the former railway track on the left bank.

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## SERVICE

**Amata Municipality Tourism Information Point**  
Āraiši, Drabeši rural territory, Amata municipality,  
+371 25669935, +371 28681083,  
turisms@and.lv, www.amata.lv

**Hotel “Karlumuiza Country Hotel”**,  
Kārļi, Drabeši rural territory, Amata Municipality, +371 26165298,  
info@karlumuiza.lv, www.karlumuiza.lv  
(catering to be announced in advance)

**Resort hotel “Jonathan SPA Estate”**  
Amatciems, Amata Municipality, +371 25606066,  
info@jonathanspahotel.com, www.jonathanspahotel.com



## SIGHTSEEING OBJECTS

### 1 | Primeval valley of the River Amata

One of the deepest river valleys in Latvia — at maximum the primeval valley reaches ~50 m and its width is 1–1.5 km.

### 2 | "Jonathan SPA Hotel"

57.21990, 25.23270

A hotel in Amatciems — facilitated, scenic, forest-enclosed village offering angling opportunities. Listen to the green frogs singing in summer evenings.

### 3 | Guest house "Melturi"

57.21990, 25.23270

In forest curve, on the riverside of Amata. Near the river one can see the rough horsetail, traces by beavers, coral, and chaga mushrooms.

### 4 | Īļaku Rock

57.22486, 25.2262

Around 100 m long and up to 25 m high cliff of the right bank of the River Amata with dolomite outcrops from the Devonian Period.

### 5 | Vizūļu Rock

57.22504, 25.22362

Around 150 m long and up to 30 m high cliff on the left bank of the river with light sandstone and dolomite outcrops, out of which springs are coming (which turn into frozen waterfalls in deep winter). **Pay attention!** Ball-shaped sandstone is found on the riverbed of the River Amata, rapid river sections, which are specific river habitats.

### 6 | Dolomītu Cliff

57.22725, 25.22446

Around 150 m long and up to 25 m high cliff at the top of which there are 5–6 m high dolomite and dolomitic marl outcrops. **Pay attention!** Traces by three-toed woodpecker and other woodpecker species on trees. Oxbow lake of Amata and traces of beavers.

### 7 | Dambja Rock

57.23278, 25.21168

Up to 30 m high cliff on the right bank of Amata with dolomite and sandstone outcrops on its upper part.

### 8 | Kārļi fish breeding farm

57.23704, 24.19922

One of the oldest Latvian fish breeding farms with a significant role in preservation of the wild population of salmon-like fish — salmon, trouts, and brown trouts — in Latvia. Excursions subject to prior



announcement. **Pay attention!** Excellent diversity of butterflies and dragonflies within a relatively small area thanks to the banks of the River Amata, adjoining meadows, Kārļi mill pond, nearby forests, and other habitats. Particularly interesting is the Melturi–Kārļi section in May, but you can visit it at a later period as well. Here you can spot the clouded apollo and longhorn beetle on wood cranesbills.

### 9 | Hotel "Karlauiza Country Hotel"

57.24023, 25.21254

There are hiking trails nearby leading along the landscape park and beautiful banks of the River Amata.

### 10 | Ainavu Cliff

57.23884, 25.19989

Around 0.5 km long and up to 46 m high cliff features two impressive sandstone and dolomite outcrops — the so-called **Bizenes Rock** and **Ainavu Rock** offering beautiful views from top of the cliff over the valley of the River Amata. **Pay attention!** Nearby are forests of slopes and ravines, which are protected habitats.

### 11 | Ņaubju Rock

57.23476, 25.19242

Around 50 m long and up to 45 m high cliff (one of the highest in Latvia) on the left bank of the River Amata.

### 12 | Stūķu Rock

57.23414, 25.17763

Around 100 m long and up to 40 m high cliff with a 15 m high sandstone outcrop on the right bank of the River Amata. **Pay attention!** In autumn — huge variety of mushrooms, including polypores, traces of wild boar, lycophytes. Red alga hildenbrandia on the underwater stones in the river.

### 13 | Dzilnas Rock

57.22561, 25.17167

Around 300 m long and up to 40 m high horseshoe-shaped cliff on the left bank of the River Amata. **Pay attention!** Active erosion processes and traces of springs in the Dzilnas Rock.

### 14 | Incēnu Rock

57.22874, 25.15051

Around 500 m long and up to 40 m high cliff with sandstone outcrops from Gauja suite on the right bank of the River Amata. **Pay attention!** Traces of beavers and beautiful peltigeras on the ground cover or trees covered with lichen.

### 15 | Zvārtē Rock

57.24601, 25.14279

In front of the ca. 200 m long and up to 44 m high cliff, there is an elevation up to 25 m high. The rivercourse of Amata has been straightened aimed at preservation of the cliff.

### 16 | Migla Rock

57.24672, 25.14575

Its height varies between 8 and 12 m. In summer it is covered with thick vegetation.

### 17 | Čūsķu Rock

57.24787, 25.14515

A small outcrop on the right bank of the River Amata, behind the suspension bridge.

### 18 | Zemais Rock

57.25520, 25.13661

Outcrop on the left bank of the River Amata with several galleries — caves preceding the row of Lustūzis outcrops.

### 19 | Lustūzis

57.25648, 25.13916

A few metres high and very scenic sandstone outcrop. Known as a dangerous place for paddlers during the spring floods.

### 20 | Vanagu Rock (Roču Rock, Egļu Cliff)

57.25692, 25.13662

Up to 300 m long and 36 m high cliff covered with trees and featuring 1–15 m high sandstone outcrops from Amata and Gauja suites at the feet of it on the left bank of the river. Springs coming out at the feet of it; cave-like galleries as a result of the current.

### 21 | Vizbulīšu Cliffs

57.25794, 25.14085

Around 4 m high sandstone outcrop on the right bank of the River Amata, and a large cavity made by the current.

### 22 | Palu Rock

57.25885, 25.14179

Small sandstone outcrop on the right bank of the River Amata. **Pay attention!** Heaps of boulders on the riverbed of Amata.

### 23 | Zaļais Rock

57.26152, 25.13735

Low, but long outcrop before Veclauču Bridge on the right bank of the River Amata.

### 24 | Veclauču Bridge

57.26131, 25.13698

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