



ONE DAY AROUND CĒSIS



Ligava (Sarkanā) Cave



Sarkanās Cliffs (Raiskums Rocks), fragment



Raiskums Lake

Photo: Baltic Pictures

Description

Suitable for very active hikers interested in nature and physical activities. The route introduces with excellent views of the primeval valley of the River Gauja, the history of the valley since the end of the Ice Age, and the values of boreal forests. The route runs through Gauja National Park.

Best time to go

April–October. Also during the time the leaves turn yellow and red in autumn.

Route

“Ozolkalns” – Cīrulīši Nature Trails – Mūrlejas Street– Gaujas Street – bridge over the River Gauja – Kvēpenes Street – Lake Raiskums – along the banks of the River Sveķupīte – along the banks of the River Lenčupe – Pārgaujas Street (Sarkanās Cliffs) – bridge over the River Gauja – Gaujas Street – Alkšņu

Street – Kovārņu Street – “Cīrulīši” – “Ozolkalns”.

Distance

~24 km. You can take the shorter circle till the bridge over the River Gauja ~8 km.

Duration

Including sightseeing — full day of hiking.

Difficulty level

Moderate–difficult.

Road pavement

Asphalt, gravel road, forest paths.

Starting point/ destination

25.22259, 57.29462
Parking lot at “Ozolkalns”.

Way marking

None on site. Only Cīrulīši Nature Trails are marked on site.

Distance to Riga

90 km

Public transportation

Cēsis is accessible by regional bus and the Riga–Valga railway line. Local bus runs (rare) from Cēsis Bus Station to Cīrulīši.

Worth knowing!

Check the timetable in advance! Hiking outdoors is at one’s own risk. Local map and navigation devices needed. The plank-way might be slippery during wet weather conditions. Emergency services: 112.

Recommendation

The route can be started also from Cēsis Railway Station (Raunas iela – Vaļņu iela – Gaujas iela – Cīrulīšu iela + 3.5 km in each direction)..

SERVICE

Cēsis Tourism Information Centre

Cēsis, Pils Square 9, +371 64121815, +371 28318318, info@cesis.lv, www.tourism.cesis.lv

Leisure park & camping “Ozolkalns”

“Saulkrasti”, Drabeši rural territory, Amata Municipality, +371 26400200, info@ozolkalns.lv, www.ozolkalns.lv

Hotel “Karlamuiza Country Hotel”,

Kārļi, Drabeši rural territory, Amata Municipality, +371 26165298, info@karlamuiza.lv, www.karlamuiza.lv (catering to be announced in advance)

Hotel “Melturi”

Melturi, Drabeši rural territory, Amata Municipality, +371 64129467, +371 29267224, melturihotel@gmail.com

Resort hotel “Jonathan SPA Estate”

Amatciems, Amata Municipality, +371 25606066, reception@jonathanhotel.com, www.jonathanspahotel.com

G | Baltic Wildlife +371 28808440, laura@balticwildlife.eu, www.balticwildlife.eu

SIGHTSEEING OBJECTS

1 | Leisure park & camping site "Ozolkalns"

25.22259, 57.29462

A place offering one of the most beautiful views over the primeval valley of the River Gauja in Cēsis vicinity.

2 | The former Cīrulīši luge track

3 | Cīrulīši Nature Trails 25.22035, 57.3013

Two marked trails (two loops) starting from "Žagarkalns" and "Ozolkalns". The trails lead along the former luge track of Cīrulīši, Līgava (Sarkanā) Cave, Cīrulīši Cliffs, and banks of primeval valley of the River Gauja in the vicinity of the skiing tracks "Ozolkalns" and "Žagarkalns". The tracks introduce visitors with the nature- and man-made history since the end of the Ice Age. In autumn — good place for wild mushroom picking. Traces by woodpeckers! **Pay attention!** In the vicinity of nature trails, one can study the dragonflies of Gauja oxbow lakes and insects from the coniferous forests. There are a lot of decayed trees in the nearby forests which are home to many saproxylophagous species of beetles. The best time to watch insects is end of May–June. Here one can spot also the large white-faced darter.

4 | Līgava (Sarkanā) Cave 25.22281, 57.29894

Artificial cave-like gallery in a sandstone outcrop, and a legend tells a young man had hidden his fiancée here during the medieval period. The marauders had found and killed both of them, and the spilled blood gave the cave its name (Sarkanā means The Red One). **Pay attention!** Sandstone outcrops are an important biotope for many species of flora and fauna. The polypodies, common fragile fern, various species of moss and lichen (velvet lichen, peltigeras) are seen in these. The small cavities seen on the surface of the outcrop are made by the single bees. Wrens make their nests in small cavities.

5 | Cīrulīši Cliffs (Cīrulīši Rock, Spoguļu Cliffs)

25.22035, 57.3013

Up to 10 m high and 140 m long sandstone outcrop from Gauja suite on a slope of the left side of primeval valley wall of the River Gauja above the oxbow lake with traces of beavers. Features many small caves and cavities. Scenic place, particularly during the leafless period. A powerful **spring** flows out of the lower part of cliffs — **Dzidravots**, where you can fill up your bottles of water. **Pay attention!** Oxbow lakes are the former riverbeds of the River Gauja. Where the current has made shortcuts, the old riverbeds no longer expect regular flow of water. Usually the exchange of water in some of the younger oxbow lakes takes place during the spring floods, bringing fresh water. Due to the specific hydrologic conditions, special communities of flora and fauna have developed in the oxbow lakes, which is why these are often in the status of protected habitats interesting to nature watchers. The oxbow lake at the feet of Cīrulīši Cliffs get extra water from the spring, therefore the colour of this oxbow lake water is extraordinary — bluish green.

6 | Zvanu Cliffs 25.22736, 57.30989

Between Gaujas Street and the former Mūrlejas brick-kiln on the slope of left side of the primeval valley, wall multi-step sandstone outcrops over a section of ~100 m are seen. Above the cliffs, there is a more open area with the same name as for a location in Sigulda — **Keizarkrēsls**. Powerful **spring** comes out at the feet of the cliffs. People not familiar with this area might find it difficult to find and access the cliffs.

7 | Skasters

The highest point (115 m) in a wider vicinity covered with coniferous woods. Hillfort. **Pay attention!** Traces of wild boar are seen in the forests close to Skasters.

8 | Lake Raiskums

Eutrophic (overgrowing) lake with a flat lake bed. The River Lenčupe flows out of the lake. **Pay attention!** Boreal forests are found around the Rivers Sveķupīte and Lenčupe. Pines and fir-trees are growing in boreal (Northern) forests; in rare cases they are mixed forests. Forest fires played a significant role in the evolution of these forests, since the underwood burnt down and glades developed instead. The burnt timber is a significant habitat to various species of insects, e.g., the fire beetle. In the nearby vicinity, one can spot the black woodpecker, creeping jenny, longhorn beetle *Nothorhina punctata*, and other. In the vicinity of the River Sveķupīte, there is a pine stand containing pines which have been **de-resined** in earlier times.

9 | River Lenčupe

Right tributary of the River Gauja. As it approaches the River Gauja, it flows through a valley on the banks of which there are sandstone outcrops. Spawning place for salmon-like fish.

10 | Sarkanās Cliffs (Raiskums Rock)

25.22173, 57.32258

Located 0.5 km north of Raiskuma krogs, on the slope of right side of primeval valley wall of Gauja, where ca. 200 m long section reveals reddish and yellowish sandstone outcrops from Gauja suite with small caves and hollows. On its northern part, there is the largest one — a hollow 7 m high and 5 m wide.

11 | Spring Rūcamavots 25.22149, 57.32238

Powerful spring coming out of a crack on the southern part of Sarkanās Cliffs. Facilitated. Common place to fill up water.

12 | Spring Svētavots and Svētavots Cave

25.23428, 57.30335

Located in the ravine opposite of the former pension "Cīrulīši". There is an 8 m long cave formed in the sandstone outcrop from Gauja suite. Out of it comes the spring ("Dzelzs vārti"), which is long told to have healing properties. The cave and the facilitated spring are located in a private territory, and the visit should be announced beforehand by dialling +371 64125533.

13 | Cīrulīši

A settlement on the south-western part of town Cēsis. Already during the first independent period of Latvia, a sanatorium was located here, and the patients drank water coming from this spring.

14 | Žagarkalns

