



RĀMKALNI – SIGULDA. LEFT BANK OF GAUJA



Sight from Šveices Street



Keizarskats or Emperor's view



Rāmkalni

Photo: Baltic Pictures

Description

The route is suited for those willing to re-discover the area between Inčukalns and Sigulda. Till the Village Gauja, the route partly overlaps with the former road leading to Vidzeme Region (short, asphalted road sections are still found) and crosses densely populated areas, but from there on to Sigulda it curves through remote forests of the National Park, crossing several deep ravines of the small rivers. The route runs through Gauja National Park. Enjoy it either on foot, or by bicycle.

Best time to go

April–October. Especially recommended during the blooming of bird-cherry trees or the colourful autumn. Provided the snow is not too deep, it is also suitable for a beautiful winter day. Note the paths and forest roads are not cleaned from snow.

Route

Leisure Park "Rāmkalni" – Gauja – Katlapu Rock – Viesulēni – Lorupe Ravine – Laurenču iela – Kalna iela – Gulbju iela – Kalna iela – Šveices iela – L. Paegles iela – Cēsu iela – Raiņa iela – Sigulda Railway Station.

Distance

~ 20 km.

Duration

Including sightseeing — one day.

Difficulty level

Easy-moderate. Highest terrain difference is on the banks of Eglupe and Lorupe Ravines.

Road pavement

Asphalt (beginning and end section of the route), forest roads, gravel roads, paths.

Starting point 24.65910, 57.12462 Leisure Park "Rāmkalni".

Destination 24.8542277, 57.152871 Sigulda Railway Station, which is next to the Sigulda Bus Station (Ausekļa iela 6).

Public transportation

A regional bus is running to "Rāmkalni". Sigulda is on the railway line Riga–Valka. If you would like to go by bicycle, it is a 4 km distance from Inčukalns Railway Station to "Rāmkalni". The train Riga–Sigulda operates 8–9 times per day.

Way marking

Signposting and blazes in the section from "Rāmkalni" to Sigulda. In the vicinity of the Village Gauja there are no way markings at some places; therefore a local map and a navigation device would be useful. The way markings are placed for easy visibility coming from Sigulda. Pay attention in the junctions! Watch the installed way markings.

Distance to Riga

Starting point in "Rāmkalni" – 40 km.

Worth knowing!

Suitable trekking boots (or an MTB/ trekking bicycle) and a map for the section "Rāmkalni" Sigulda is recommended. Navigation devices might be useful. Prior to heading off, one should visit the information point in "Rāmkalni". Since the way markings have been ripped off in some places, one may lose the way when leaving the Village Gauja. Walking outdoors is at one's own risk. Emergency services: 112

Recommendation

Perfect start of a multi-day trip through Gauja National Park, and from Sigulda onwards it can be continued to Līgatne, Cēsis, and Valmiera.

SERVICE

| Sigulda Municipality Tourism Information Centre

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

| Leisure Park "Rāmkalni"

"Vītiņkalni", Inčukalns rural territory, Inčukalns Municipality, +371 29100280, info@ramkalni.lv, www.ramkalni.lv

| Bīriņi Palace

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

| Baltic Wildlife

+371 28808440, laura@balticwildlife.eu, www.balticwildlife.eu



SIGHTSEEING OBJECTS

1 | Leisure Park "Rāmkalni" 24.65910, 57.12462

2 | Primeval Valley of the River Gauja

Sandstone outcrops, often called rocks by the locals, dating back to the Devonian Period are among the key natural and landscape values and tourism sightseeing objects of the River Gauja and its tributaries. They are also found in most of its tributaries, the valleys and ravines of which merge with the primeval valley of Gauja. Small sandstone outcrops can also be found on this route. One of such is seen near Rāmkalni, where a spring has formed a cave of the same name.

3 | Pillbox of World War I

4 | Village Gauja

5 | Katlapu Rock 24.77818, 57.14496

This is the largest sandstone outcrop in the section of Gauja primeval valley from "Rāmkalni" to Sigulda, located on the left bank of the River Gauja. Next to it there is a camper site, picnic place, information stand. From Katlapu Rock there is a view over the primeval valley of Gauja. If looked at from the river, there are traces of spring ice on the surface of the outcrop.

Pay attention! Should you be quiet enough, you might spot wild boar or roe deer. Wild boar dug-ups are seen in the vicinity. Sandstone outcrops on the banks of Gauja are a significant habitat for various plants, lichen, moss, and insects. From top of Katlapu Rock, the sand alluvion islets and bunches of trees are seen in the river. By staying longer on the riverside, one might spot the goosanders, wild ducks, and common sandpipers. Should you be lucky, you shall see the kingfisher.

6 | Ziedleju Cliffs 24.77385, 57.14442

Located ~0.7 km to the east of the high-tension line crossing the River Gauja. The ca. 40 m long cliffs are located on the bank of Gauja oxbow lake; therefore, they are not visible from the river or the road where the route is going. The two-level cliff (4.5 + 4 m) consists of the reddish sandstones from Gauja suite. The upper level features a 5.5 m wide and 3.5 m deep cavity and a 3.5 m long cave. Around Ziedleju Cliffs, there are nice places to watch and pick wild mushrooms. **Payattention!**Decayedtreesanddeadwoodwithtracesbywoodpeckers.

7 | Lorupe Ravine 24.80409, 57.13515

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.

8 | Ķeizarskats un Ķeizarkrēsls 24.82371, 57.14277

Opposite of Pīkēnes Cliff on the left bank of the River Gauja, there is the massive **Beites Cliff**, which is crossed by a deep ravine of a brook. On its western side, there is the viewpoint **Ķeizarskats** or the View of an Emperor, which is located ~67 m above the level of the River Gauja offering an outstanding view towards Krimulda and Turaida Castle. While on the eastern side of the ravine, there is the large wooden chair **Ķeizarkrēsls** or the Seat of an Emperor. To get there, one shall walk (drive) around the ravine along the Laurenču, Kalna and Gulbjū Streets.

9 | Mound Kaķīškalns 24.82853, 57.14393

From top of the mound, there is a very good view over the primeval valley of the River Gauja.

10 | Sigulda Bobsleigh and Luge Track

11 | Lakstīgala Ravine 24.84485, 57.15494

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.

12 | Sigulda City Skiing Track

Excellent place for views and photos, where the true power of the primeval valley can be felt.

13 | Cable car 24.84558, 57.16448

14 | Viewpoint 24.84558, 57.16448

Located next to the cable car station on top of the left bank of the former bank of the River Gauja and presenting a beautiful view northward over the primeval valley of the River Gauja and Turaida Castle.

15 | Park of Walking-sticks

16 | Sigulda Railway Station 24.85422, 57.15287