



ENTER  
GAUJA

# ADVENTURES OF THE DORMOUSE AT THE GAUJA NATIONAL PARK

TRAVEL GUIDE FOR  
FAMILIES AND CHILDREN





“**Dormouse, Do-o-dormouse!**”, a pesky buzz rings straight into the ear. Dormouse scratches his tail. The tail was wade awake too. The tail, fluffed up like an owl, tickled the Dormouse’s nose. “Oh, the cruel world! Why do I have to get up so early?”, Dormouse grumbles squinting his sleepy eyes at the fading rays of the drowning sun. “Whose squeaky little voice is that?” It is the Dragonfly sitting on the edge of the tree hollow and fluttering its wings.

“Good morning!”

“Good evening!”, Dragonfly giggles and disappears into the wind.

Dormouse sets to his morning (evening) routine. Dormouse, a cute, chubby little animal, is often mistaken for rat. To set himself apart from the rodent, he has nurtured the distinct talent all dormice have. Dormouse was good at jumping. Oh, and what a jumper he was! Swoosh – from a hazel tree onto the spruce, oh my, almost missing the home sweet home in the hollow. Last year, while visiting the family, younger cousins had pulled Dormouse into a competition. Nothing special, family members only. Nonetheless, Dormouse jumped a whopping 10 yards! The prize was a whole bag of hazel nuts. Yummy! Overwhelmed by the savoury memory, Dormouse licks his constantly-growing front teeth and thinks of a snack – a slightly bitter willow tree stick, or something of a kind. “Must move!”, he concludes. As usual, before anything else, he begins by counting the fingers and toes on his front and back paws. “Ten and eight. Enough for setting out into the night. But where should I go? It’s always nicer to travel with a soulmate, but what can you do. Aunt Beaver loves to say ‘you’ve got your whole life to live’.



I should go to my old chap, the Beaver of the Devil's Cave, see how grandma's nephew is doing with building work. He is always busy with one of his endless projects. And, maybe, I can get some of those tasty willow sticks as well".

And Dormouse purposefully hops away along the roe trail. It is a two-hour hopping distance from his hollow to Hinzenberg or Inčukalns, as we know it today. Look, there's the familiar bend of the Gauja Valley where roe trail meets the trail of bipeds. Dormouse tumbles and falls into the white sand of Devil's Cave, gets up and sniffs the air. Smells like river. Dormouse knows there is a spring not far from the cave, which people love to explore. But they don't live there; they just examine the cave drawings some of which are even two hundred summers old.

There is also a huge pile of sticks.

"Well, hello there. Come on in", says the nice yet slightly raspy voice.

"What was that? You want those willow sticks, eh? Go on, help yourself, your teeth must be nagging you, we know how it feels."



#### Inčukalns Sports Centre

Pool, bubble baths and sauna, gym, athletics arena and a café. Come for a game of volleyball, basketball, floorball, badminton, tennis or table tennis!

Zvaigžņu iela 2a, Inčukalns,  
ph. +371 67957950, 29229201,  
[www.incukalns.lv](http://www.incukalns.lv)  
GPS 57.1013, 24.6823



#### Tavern-Restaurant "Pie brāļa"

Tasty meals, children menu, playground with swings and slides. Rabbit farm and rabbit feeding.

"Valteri", Vangaži,  
ph. +371 29127198, 29125532,  
[www.krogspiebrala.lv](http://www.krogspiebrala.lv)  
GPS 57.0898, 24.5575



#### Leisure Park "Rāmkalni"

A nice place for families: rodeling track, bicycle and boat rental, other thrilling adventures. Tasty meals and local produce sold right on the spot.

"Vītiņkalni",  
ph. +371 29100280,  
[www.ramkalni.lv](http://www.ramkalni.lv)  
GPS 57.1248, 24.6585



#### Bonsai Park

Peace and harmony, a touch of Japan. Bonsai trees and Koi carp. Japanese tea house for enjoying some of the finest Japanese tea in a soothing atmosphere.

"Sprīdīši", Krustiņi,  
ph. +371 29299220, [www.bonsai.lv](http://www.bonsai.lv)  
GPS 57.1221, 24.6555



#### Holiday Resort "Zuši"

Horse riding together with instructor along a marvellous forest growth. Pony ride for little ones.

"Zuši", Krustiņi,  
ph. +371 28327110, [www.zusi.lv](http://www.zusi.lv)  
GPS 57.1296, 24.6293



#### Inčukalns Devil's Cave

Historic site, a place where ancient rituals were conducted. Around 5,000 year-old postglacial formation. The sounds of the underground waters resounding from the depths of the cave.

GPS 57.1266, 24.6438



#### Young Riders School Sports Centre

Take a ride with horse or pony. Get to know graceful horses and stables in excursion guided by well-informed guide.

"Zustrenes", Inčukalna pag.,  
ph. +371 28677177,  
[www.latvianhorses.lv](http://www.latvianhorses.lv)





Beaver shows his newest achievement, the straw raft. Little beavers have already had some fun time joyriding it down the stream, the whole way to Gauja River. Dormouse's eyes light up. "Can I take it for a ride?"

Dormouse happily manoeuvres the raft when a sudden whirl spins it out of control. He realises that he's caught up in the wicked waters of the Gauja. If it weren't for his back paws, he would've never been able to steer clear of the vicious whirlpool. Breathless the Dormouse falls asleep with first rays of sun gleaming over the river.

"Are you the water rat?", a little animal with tiny round ears and glittering fur asks while trying to hook the Dormouse's raft and pull it ashore.

"Me? A rat?!", still sleepy and irritated Dormouse spouts before noticing the hook in Otter's paws. What a nice, yellow stick with green and red stripes it is.

"Nice, huh? That is my walking-stick. A handy thingy. Everyone here in Sigulda has one; it goes back a couple of centuries."

Dormouse has reached Sigulda, he's near the Emperor's Throne. After showing his cane, Otter walks Dormouse to a cable car to Krimulda. Yoo-hoo! Dormouse crosses the Gauja at 42 m height.

COLOUR  
AND ADD  
DETAILS  
TO THE PICTURE  
OF THE BRIDGE!



#### Adventure Park "Mežakāķis"

A walk through the trees on an obstacle course made of ropes, cargo net, bridges, swings, ladders and a wind rider zip-line. Bungee trampoline. A great place for birthday parties. Ski school and slopes in winter.  
Senču iela 1, Sigulda,  
ph. +371 67976886,  
www.kakiskalns.lv  
GPS 57.1431, 24.8291

#### Aerodium

The only vertical wind tunnel in the Baltics. Fulfil your dream of flying without wings or a parachute under supervision of qualified instructors.  
Rīga-Sigulda highway 47 km,  
ph. +371 28384400, www.aerodium.lv  
GPS 57.1333, 24.7861

#### Cable Car

Enjoy a cable car ride across the Gauja River and a great view on castles of historic Gauja Valley. Try to spot the Bobsleigh and luge track.  
Poruka iela 14, Sigulda,  
ph. +371 28383333, www.bungee.lv  
GPS 57.1645, 24.8458



#### Adventure Park "Tarzāns"

Test yourself on the Children's Park or Obstacle Trail. Discover the slope of the historic Gauja Valley while riding the rodeling track. Enjoy the view from the chairlifts. Take your family on a bike rickshaw. Teach your kids to drive at the Kids

Driving School. Have a birthday party with Tarzan or Jane.  
Peldu iela 1, Sigulda,  
ph. +371 27001187, www.tarzans.lv  
GPS 57.1596, 24.8386

#### Sigulda Livonian Order Castle

Find out how medieval knights lived, try on the armour and try out the medieval weapons, sing a song or dance on the same stage where the famous Sigulda Opera Festival takes place.  
Pils iela 18, Sigulda,  
ph. +371 67970263,  
www.tourism.sigulda.lv  
GPS 57.1656, 24.8506

#### Sports and Active Leisure Centre "Sigulda"

1.25 km rollerblading and roller skiing track open during the summer. One of the first cross-country skiing tracks in Latvia.  
Puķu iela 4, Sigulda,  
ph. +371 67970262,  
www.tourism.sigulda.lv  
GPS 57.1403 24.8177

#### Tour Sigulda in an electric car

Tour Sigulda in an environmentally friendly vehicle and discover the city via an in-built interactive guide of an electric car.  
ph. +371 26022919,  
www.impresso.lv

#### Makars Tourist Office

Gauja River boat ride/cruise. See the sandstone bedrock cliffs of the Gauja National Park.  
Peldu iela 2, Sigulda,  
ph. +371 29244948,  
www.makars.lv  
GPS 57.1577, 24.8371





Dormouse stumbles upon a handful of acorn left behind by Jay at the Krimulda white castle. After having the hefty meal, Dormouse's paws began itching again, he is anxious for new adventures. Nothing can stop him from exploring the world now. Horner Hill, Little Cave, Gūtman's Cave. And then over to nameplates of all the bedrock: Elpi rock, Tītmaņi rock. Stop! Lunch rock! A primordial fish is believed to be found in the reddish sand here, but Dormouse's belly is rumbling and mom always says that things that old are not edible.

Dormouse follows the nose. The nose smells something and Dormouse picks up the pace, the smell becomes stronger and he bumps into a sandstone wall. "Yuck! Sand, again! No, the smell is as sweet as July." Jam jars, lined up on a shelf like soldiers, guard the cave walls. Oh, yes, Dormouse knows the tale of Līgatne caves. There are more than 300 of them. "Do all them have jam jars inside? So, there would be no harm in taking a closer look."

When the belly is full, little animal curls inside a fancy box padded with spruce chip.

HELP  
DORMOUSE  
TO GET  
TO THE  
JAM JARS!



#### Caves and trails of Līgatne

Crawl through the caves/cellars inhabited by use to store their titbit. Learn how workers of the Līgatne Paper Mill lived two centuries ago.

Spriņģu iela 2, Līgatne,  
ph. +371 64153169, 29189707,  
[www.visitligatne.lv](http://www.visitligatne.lv)  
GPS 57.2339, 25.0395

#### Līgatne Nature Trails

If you are quiet and can keep still, you will see the bruins frolicking, lynx and moose, cunning fox family play, look in the eye of the wise owl, and greet the friendly squirrel. You may also climb the viewing platform to take in the surroundings.

Līgatnes dabas takas, Līgatnes pag.,  
ph. +371 64153313, 28328800,  
[www.gnp.lv](http://www.gnp.lv)  
GPS 57.2487, 25.0299

#### Līgatne House of Crafts

Make your own sheet of paper from natural fibres and recycled paper or a wooden key chain, or a buzz saw toy. Create your own bath bomb or a pin, weave a birch bark cone, make a felt ball or an exotic flower, try spinning yarn or operating a weaving loom. Prior application required for Master classes.

Pilsoņu iela 4, Līgatne,  
ph. +371 29123825,  
[www.visitligatne.lv/amatnieku-centrs](http://www.visitligatne.lv/amatnieku-centrs)  
GPS 57.2325, 25.0429

#### Vienkoči Park

Find out what a log boat is. Enjoy the playground of the Vienkoči Park, meet the dwarfs, baby eagle owls, long-eared hare and other animals in the park. Visit the sand house and find out what the natural jewellery is.

"Vienkoči", Līgatnes pag.,  
ph. +371 29329065,  
[www.vienkoci.lv](http://www.vienkoci.lv)  
GPS 57.0113, 25.0252

#### Fairy Tale House

Enter the magical world of fairy tales, try different ancient crafts together fairy tale characters and learn ancient tools. Find out where the dragon's egg is hidden and how witches do their magic and discover many other interesting things.  
Pilsoņu iela 5a, Līgatne,  
ph. +371 20588857  
[www.visitligatne.lv/pasaku-maja](http://www.visitligatne.lv/pasaku-maja)  
GPS 57.2346, 25.0483







### "Rakši" Resort

Pet and feed camels or take lama for a walk.  
Drabešu pag., ph. +371 29263798,  
[www.kameli.lv](http://www.kameli.lv)  
GPS 57.2756, 25.1979

### Zvārte Rock

Go to Witch Meadow to discover the secrets of the herb lady and other ancient wisdom. Climb the stairs to the top of the rock and take in the surroundings.  
Drabešu pag., ph. +371 29335446,  
[www.gnp.lv](http://www.gnp.lv)  
GPS 57.2461, 25.1416

### Ski and Recreation Park "Ozolkalns"

Go zip lining from tree to tree. Rent a boat and take a ride, spend a night in one of the camping houses. Enjoy fast downhill skiing in winter.  
"Saulkrasti", Drabešu pag.,  
ph. +371 26400200, [www.ozolkalns.lv](http://www.ozolkalns.lv)  
GPS 57.2943, 25.2220

### Active Leisure Centre "Žagarkalns"

Rent a boat in summer to cruise the Gauja River and be amazed at what you discover around each bend. Wicked snowboarding slopes in winter.  
"Žagarkalns", Drabešu pag. and Cēsis,  
ph. +371 26266266, [www.zagarkalns.lv](http://www.zagarkalns.lv)  
GPS 57.2981, 25.2268

### Ierīki Mill Trails

Find water spirits under the bridges over Melderupīte. Visit the site of the old mill and the wheel, waterfall and flower arrangements. Enjoy the rays of light flickering in the night.  
Ierīki, Vidzeme highway 72 km,  
ph. +371 28396804,  
[www.ierikudzirnavas.lv](http://www.ierikudzirnavas.lv)  
GPS 57.2008, 25.1707

### Āraiši Windmill

Explore the ancient mechanics of the windmill spanning on four floors. Try your hand at millstone and grind yourself some wheat, find out how bread is made from corn.  
Āraiši, Drabešu pag.,  
ph. +371 29238208,  
<http://amata.lv>  
GPS 57.2457, 25.2712

### Āraiši Museum and Park of Archaeology

Take a peek at the everyday life of Latgalians who lived in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> century. Get a feel of living on an island.  
Āraiši, Drabešu pag.,  
ph. +371 64107080,  
<http://araisuezerpils.wordpress.com>  
GPS 57.2517, 25.2824

### Farm "Lejas Suces"

Talk to different domestic animals and birds. Call in advance to make sure animals are available for chat!  
"Lejas Suces", Nītaures pag.,  
ph. +371 29174211,  
[www.zalaisgrozs.lv](http://www.zalaisgrozs.lv)  
GPS 57.0552, 25.1799



JOIN  
NUMBERS  
AND  
COLOUR  
THE  
PICTURE!

Swaying wakes up Dormouse. "Did you bring the weaving bobbins? Good, put them here, in the cabin. Those belt lovers are all over me", a voice says. Then, the swaying stops and the sound of two pair of feet gradually fades away. Wind rustles the reed, water splashes in the distance. Dormouse can feel the smooth surface of the wooden beams. Āraiši Lake Fortress. "Right, that's what the wooden box I slept in said. My, my, what a magical place." Dormouse slides his paws along the wall and comes across wooden knives, birch bark bushels and aromatic tea bundles lined next to each other, and colourful threads tied to horn pins and beautiful woven sash belts with bobbins! As it turns out, this is how things were woven almost 1000 years ago and even a Dormouse can try it, you just have to come to Āraiši Lake Fortress.







### Inčukalns TIC

Atmodas iela 4, Inčukalns,  
ph. +371 67977310,  
www.incukalns.lv  
GPS 57.0979, 24.6871

### Sigulda TIC

Ausekļa iela 6, Sigulda,  
ph. +371 67971335,  
www.tourism.sigulda.lv  
GPS 57.1531, 24.8537

### Augšlīgatne TIC

Nītaures iela 5, Augšlīgatne,  
ph. +371 64153169, 29189707,  
www.visitligatne.lv  
GPS 57.1840 25.0355

### Līgatne TIC

Springu iela 2, Līgatne,  
ph. +371 64153169, 29189707,  
www.visitligatne.lv  
GPS 57.2335, 25.0396

### Amata TIC

"Dzirnavas", Ieriķi, Amatas nov.,  
ph. +371 28681083,  
www.amata.lv  
GPS 57.2085, 25.1703



### Pārgauja TIP

"Ezeriņi", Stalbes pag.,  
Pārgaujas nov., ph. +371 26620422,  
www.pargaujasnovads.lv  
GPS 57.3757, 25.0391

### Cēsis TIC

Pils laukums 9, Cēsis,  
ph. +371 64121815,  
www.tourism.cesis.lv  
GPS 57.3132, 25.2714

### Veselava Manor TIP

"Viesturi", Veselavas pag.,  
Priekule nov., ph. +371 64107198,  
www.priekuli.lv  
GPS 57.2900, 25.4776

### Valmiera TIC

Rīgas iela 10, Valmiera,  
ph. +371 64207177,  
www.visit.valmiera.lv  
GPS 57.5385, 25.4210

### Valmiermuiža TIP

Dzirnavu iela 2, Valmiermuiža,  
Burtņieku nov., ph. +371 29135438,  
www.valmiermuiža.lv  
GPS 57.5558, 25.4314

### Gauja National Park Information Centre "Gutman's Cave"

Turaidas iela 2a, Sigulda,  
www.daba.gov.lv  
GPS 57.1762, 24.8468

### Gauja National Park Information Centre "Līgatne Nature Trails"

Līgatnes dabas takas, Līgatnes pag.,  
Līgatnes nov., ph. +371 64153313,  
www.daba.gov.lv  
GPS 57.2484, 25.0154



- 23 | Ski and Recreation Park "Ozolkalns"
- 24 | Active Leisure Centre "Žagarkalns"
- 25 | Ieriķi Mill Trails
- 26 | Āraiši Windmill
- 27 | Āraiši Museum and Park of Archaeology
- 28 | Farm "Lejas Suces"
- 29 | Cēsis Castle Complex
- 30 | Cīruļi Nature Trails
- 31 | Zilnīlo
- 32 | Spring Svētavots
- 33 | Cēsis Golf Club
- 34 | Tiny Wonderland
- 35 | Laureta Candles
- 36 | E. Veidenbaums Home and Museum "Kalāči"
- 37 | Brīvnīeki Nature Trails
- 38 | Priekule Sun Garden
- 39 | Bread House of the Farm "Krūmiņi"
- 40 | Lielā Ellīte Cave (Bigish underworld)
- 41 | Swimming Pool "Rīfs"
- 42 | Gauja Tram
- 43 | Valmiermuiža Brewery and Stables
- 44 | Valmiera St. Simon's Church and View Tower
- 45 | Gauja Steep Banks Park of Senses and and Adventure Trail in Trees
- 46 | Holiday Resort "Avoti" and BMX Museum & Hall of Fame
- 47 | Valmiera Museum
- 48 | Viks Fairy Tale Park
- 49 | Barrel Museum
- 50 | Tavern "Mazais Ansis"
- 51 | Vaidava Lake
- 52 | Pure Bred Rabbit Farm "Mežini"
- 53 | Sietņezis Rock
- 54 | Wakeboarding Park "Rančo"
- 55 | Neikenkalns Sound Alleys
- 56 | Nature Education Centre "Vecupītes"
- 57 | Camp "Apaļkalns"
- 58 | Ungurmuiža Manor
- 59 | Vējiņi Underground Lakes
- 60 | Sport Hunting and Holiday Resort "Mārkuliči"
- 61 | Creative Workshop "Ezeriņi"

- 9 | Aerodium
- 10 | Cable Car
- 11 | Adventure Park "Tarzāns"
- 12 | Sigulda Livonian Order Castle
- 13 | Sports and Active Leisure Centre "Sigulda"
- 14 | Tour Sigulda in an Electric Car
- 15 | Makars Tourist Office
- 16 | Caves and Trails of Līgatne
- 17 | Līgatne Nature Trails
- 18 | Līgatne House of Crafts
- 19 | Vienkoči Park
- 20 | Fairy Tale House
- 21 | "Rakši" Resort
- 22 | Zvārte Rock
- 1 | Inčukalns Sports Centre
- 2 | Tavern-Restaurant "Pie brāļa"
- 3 | Leisure Park "Rāmkalni"
- 4 | Bonsai Park
- 5 | Holiday Resort "Zuši"
- 6 | Inčukalns Devil's Cave
- 7 | Young Riders School Sports Centre
- 8 | Adventure Park "Mežakaķis"



ENTER  
GAUJA  
VALLEY

### Cēsis Castle Complex

Enjoy a candle-lit tour of the medieval castle and complete the challenges by Walter the baby bat. Learn the history of Latvia and climb the tower of the new castle for great sites. Take a tour of the castle pond with boat "Kārlis". Feed the black swan and ducks some bread while in May Park. **Pils laukums 9, Cēsis, ph. +371 28318318, www.cesupils.lv GPS 57.3132, 25.2714**

### Cīrulīši Nature Trails

Track the 2.5 km long landscaped nature trails and learn about the evolution of historic Gauja Valley from glacial period to modern days. Discover the wonders of nature: Mirror Rock, Clear Springs, Brides and Cīrulīši caves, bedrock and beaver houses.

**At the end of Mūrlejas street, Cēsis GPS 57.3072, 25.2212**

### Z(in)oo

Become a real scientist. Explore various technologies and test the laws of nature. Learn mathematics while jumping; prove the law of gravity while swinging, discover the friction while driving a specially designed cart, see the sound, construct a pinion gear box, learn all about how slingshot works, build and operate robots, see the lightning and explore many other laws and wonders of nature. **Jāņa Poruka iela 8, Cēsis, ph. +371 25400228, www.zinoo.lv GPS 57.3150, 25.2884**



Dormouse quickly climbs up the tree towards the tasty pupa it had spotted and is about to eat when someone flutters past Dormouse with his dinner clasped in claws and a sharp bzzzzzz. A bat!

He quickly learns that the bat, named Walter, is heading for his winter lair in the cellar of the Cēsis Castle and can get

something else for Dormouse to eat if the two travel together. Walter brags about the origin of his name. He claims he was named after Walter von Plettenberg, the Master of the Livonian Order and Komtur of the Cēsis Castle, and a nice chap overall.

"Alright, let's go together! Ah, this really looks like the old days! People walking around with candles". However, Walter is pulling him towards the cellar. Dormouse can feel the hair stand up on its tail from a heavy stare laid upon it by a strange lady. "It is just a dummy", Walter tries to calm him down. It is a mannequin of a brave lady who fought to protect the Cēsis Castle

from invaders in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

It's much nicer in the park.

There is music and some people singing beautiful songs.

"Art festival", Walter whispers into the ear of the Dormouse.

### Spring Svētavots

Take a walk in the illustrious nature reserve, learn the mysterious legend of Svētavots and take part in ancient rituals to soak up the energy from the spring water. Some say the water will improve your eyesight and heal the body. **Atpūtas iela 12, Cēsis, ph. +371 64125533, www.svetavots.lv GPS 57.3035, 25.2358**

### Cēsis Golf Club

Learn how to play one of the most popular sports in the world. Learn how to play golf with experienced instructors on beginner's course. **Valņu iela 25-27, Cēsis, ph. +371 29991398, www.cesigolfclub.lv GPS 57.3105, 25.2710**



### Tiny Wonderland

Do big things in a world where everything is 87 times smaller than in the real world. Model your own little world with trees and roads. See how modern technology works and whether cars and people go by traffic rules. Operate plants, fountains, traffic lights, shops, schools and even trains! **Raunas iela 7, Cēsis, ph. +371 28308377, www.mazabrinumzeme.lv GPS 57.3131, 25.2782**

### Laureta Candles

Learn and see how various rapeseed wax candles are made and make some of your own. **Valņu iela 40, Cēsis, ph. +371 26673100, www.lauretacandles.com GPS 57.3103, 25.2682**





"It's time to wake up, sleepyhead", Dormouse is awoken by Walter's scratching.

"So what? It's not like your favourite thing is basking in the sun every day", Dormouse refutes.

"What about hazel nuts? The sun is about to go down and I wanted to show you a very nice hazel tree not far from Cēsis, in Priekuļi."

HOW MANY  
CLOCK  
SECTIONS  
YOU CAN  
COUNT  
IN THE  
CLOCK-FACE?

Dormouse busily rearranges his fur and both animals set off on their journey, one flies and the other one hops.

"Just don't overdo it and jump the whole way to the Veismaņi Manor or fall into the Raunis River, its valley is really deep", Walter warns.



#### E. Veidenbaums Home and Museum "Kalāči"

Get to know the life and work of the poet, as well as traditional tools used by Vidzeme farmers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Enjoy tranquil moments by the campfire at the pond after a proper whipping in a real black sauna.

"Kalāči", Liepas pag.,  
ph. +371 64195309  
GPS 57.3955, 25.4780

#### Brīvnieki Nature Trails

Enjoy the tranquillity of nature, learn the bird species and find all 26 carved wood owls and 18 Latvian symbols. Feast your eyes on a beautiful landscape with 10 ponds and many hills, valleys, forests and meadows.

At the Farm "Brīvnieki", Veselavas pag.  
GPS 57.2908, 25.4950



#### Priekuļi Sun Garden

Read the big sundial to find out if you have enough time recuperate while trotting the health trail or watch the potatoes, peas and rapeseed grow.

Cēsu prospekts 7, Priekuļi  
GPS 57.3121, 25.3547

#### Bread House of the Farm "Krūmiņi"

Make and knead your own pastry dough, bake and eat with your friends self-made pastry cakes, make a campfire and boil some tea, eat some delicious oven-baked rye bread with honey. Have adventure on a nature trail, watch the seasons change and celebrate holiday country style!

"Krūmiņi" Liepas pag.,  
ph. +371 26887921  
GPS 57.3139, 25.3623

#### Lielā Ellīte Cave

(Biggish underworld). Find the little Devlin who sometimes stays in the big underworld cave. Explore the different shapes of the astonishing rock with its lobes, niches, cavities and take a look at the Latvia's unique rock passages.

Rūpnīcas iela, Liepa  
GPS 57.3839, 25.4273

#### Swimming Pool "Rifs"

Learn to swim in the pool, enjoy water cascades and relaxing sauna after a long day of travel.

Cēsu prospekts 46a, Priekuļi,  
ph. +371 64130474, [www.baseins-rifs.lv](http://www.baseins-rifs.lv)  
GPS 57.3139, 25.3623



Dormouse has stopped long hopping a while ago and is now fixed on his frightening long and thin shadow that matches one of the stones in a neatly arranged semicircle. "Oh, this must be the Priekuļi Sundial and I am the gnomon." Dormouse is amused as a little child and hops off to Health Trail where medicinal herbs exude their scent, which is especially strong just before the dawn!





### **Gauja Tram**

Ride the Gauja River, be the captain of the ship and hear all the Munchausen-esque stories and plausible or not so plausible legends of Valmiera. Go to Goat rapids and you will see brave rafters, enjoy whirlpool in the middle of the Gauja River and find out where the strongest echo is, maybe, it is under the Gauja Bridge. Do you know who Steely and Whale are?

**Laivu piestātne, Pilskalna iela 2, Valmiera, ph. +371 27828221, [www.ezi.lv](http://www.ezi.lv)**  
GPS 57.5381, 25.4284

### **Valmiermuiža Brewery and Stables**

Learn the history of the old stables, meet all the horse *family* and their buoyant member Zita. *Beer Kitchen* offers special and delicious meals that will please the taste buds of young ones, as well. After the meal, kids can enjoy themselves on swings or play in the manor-style playground.

**Valmiermuiža Stables, Dzirnau iela 15, Valmiermuiža, Valmieras pag., Burtņieku nov., ph. +371 26562703, [www.valmiermuiža.lv](http://www.valmiermuiža.lv)**  
GPS 57.5592, 25.4251

### **Valmiera St. Simon's Church and View Tower**

Count the steps on the stairs to the church tower and listen to the song of the church rooster. Watch the shimmering of the Gauja waters, Valmiera Drama Theatre, lavishly decorated bridge and Mill Lake from above, and Zilaiskalns (Blue Mountain) softly sinking in blueish mist.

**Bruninieku iela 2, Valmiera, ph. +371 64200333, [www.simanadraudze.lv](http://www.simanadraudze.lv)**  
GPS 57.5384, 25.4261

### **Gauja Steep Banks Park of Senses and Adventure Trail in Trees**

Walk the 2.7 km long barefoot trail consisting of sections of fir cones,

"Where are you headed, Dormouse?" a soft voice enquires. A horse. An unusual one. Well, this is the first whole horse Dormouse has ever seen, not just a head or a tail. "Oh, it's a pony!" Zitiņa! Over for the weekend from new Valmiermuiža stables, built of chiselled granite blocks. Pony-lady neighs cheerily and shakes its mane.

"Would you like to see the Valmiermuiža Park? It has nice trees with hollows, and the Manor offers homemade ice cream", Zitiņa entices.

Dormouse mounts the horse transport, clinging tightly to her mane, and they both take off.

Gauja smells so familiar. What is that, anchored by the river coast? Gauja tram. Gauja must be blessed, with air and water tram. Gauja tram gives a ride of the river from the boat halt through the Goat rapids and under the bridge, where echoes of happy shouts can be heard, and returns back with a smooth curve. Sīmanis Church and its tower that offers a great view might be also observed from the river side.



pebblestone, Valmiera fiberglass balls, bark mulch, scented cocoa and other natural materials. Try attraction elements, take a look at decorated trees. The most exciting entertainment of all is walking above ground on the adventure trail in trees and a 187 m long zip line across Gauja.

**Jāņa Daliņa iela 2, Valmiera, ph. +371 27879242, [www.sajutuparks.lv](http://www.sajutuparks.lv)**  
GPS 57.5401, 25.4388

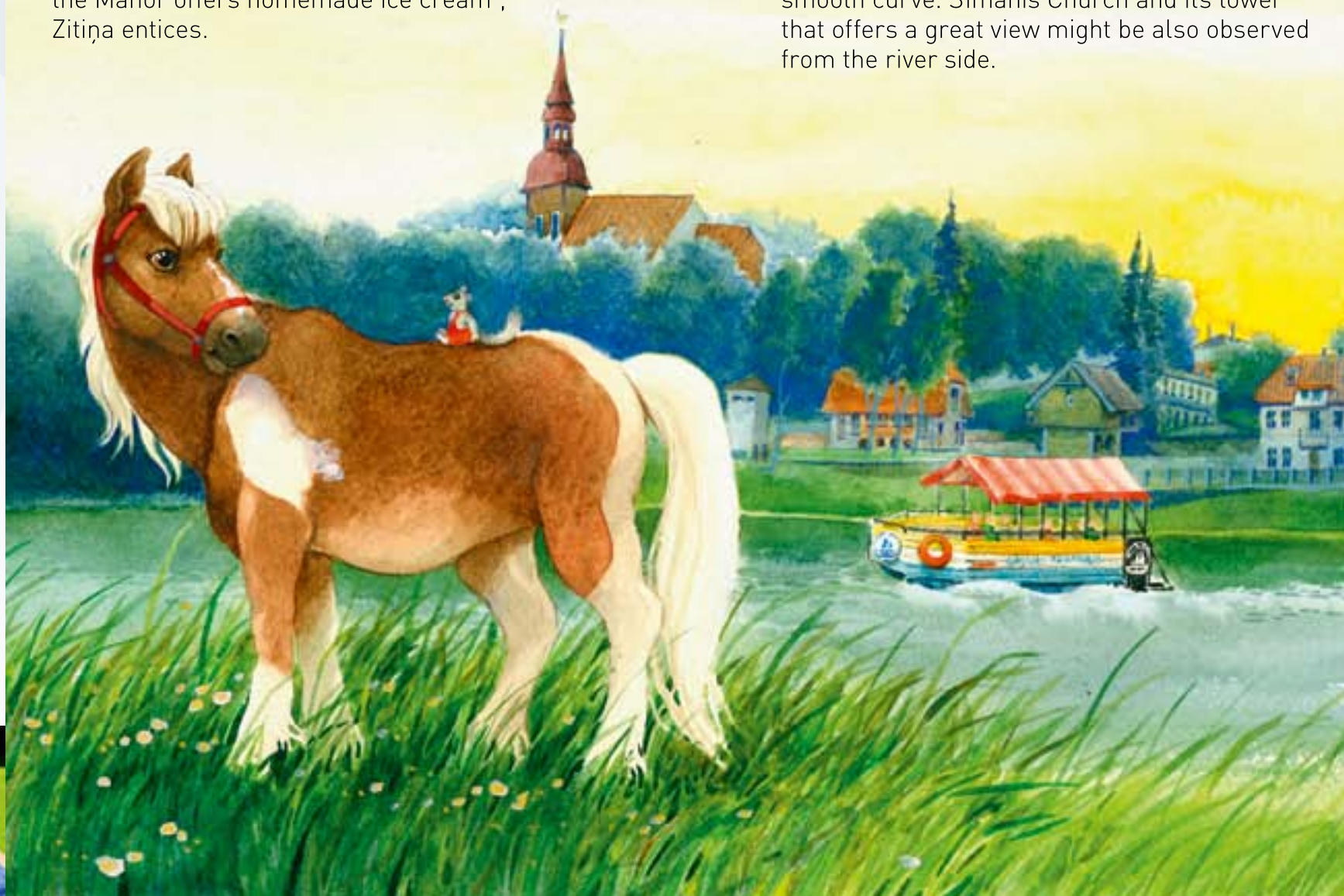
### **Holiday Resort "Avoti" and BMX Museum & Hall of Fame**

Unleash your sporty side, play minigolf, try human slingshot, jump up and down the trampoline like a grasshopper, test yourself on a climbing wall, go on a nature trail/labyrinth Forest School and unlock six secrets. BMX Museum & Hall of Fame gives you a chance to take the bike of two-time Olympic champion Māris Štrombergs for a spin. It is the same bike he rode to gold medal victory in olympics in Beijing, China! "Avoti", Valmieras pag., Burtņieku nov., ph. +371 29499342, [www.avoti.com](http://www.avoti.com)  
GPS 57.5551, 25.4424

### **Valmiera Museum**

Come to Knight School and find out how children lived back then and what it takes to become a knight! Make your own dolls, play games and shadow theatre, bring with you and paint a shirt or a shawl, learn to play an antique instrument and distinguish them by sound, stroll the Milk Way and try your hand at churning the butter, or stride the Bread Way to eat real Latvian rye bread at the end of it. To enjoy one of Museum's special programmes contact us in advance!

**Bruninieku iela 3, Valmiera, ph. +371 64223620, 64224770, [www.muzejs.valmiera.lv](http://www.muzejs.valmiera.lv)**  
GPS 57.5393, 25.4288





Zitiņa from Valmiermuiža is very kind and lets Dormouse have his day sleep in her new stables. When the night comes, Dormouse grooms his fur, moustache and prepares to leave again. Dormouse remembers the stories of the Old Great Dormouse about a nice place in the vicinity of Valmiera, Rubene. There once lived a brave squirrel name Ansis whose forgotten stack of nuts saved a distressed family of humans one winter. People did not forget that and when they got enough of those 'golden nuts' they had built a tavern and named it Little Ansis.

After several days of relentless hopping Dormouse reaches a lake where balls roll into the water. Huge balls the size of a full moon in August. But the real surprise is still to come. His cousins, squirrels, are full of excitement, jumping around the branches. "Oh, what a joy! The posh cousin of Hinzenberg is here!

DOES EVERY  
SQUIRREL  
HAS ITS  
COUPLE?

FIND  
A SQUIRREL  
WITHOUT  
A COUPLE!



#### Viks Fairy Tale Park

Plunge yourself into the fairy tale world of writer Viks. Meet Chenguru, Ness and Nessie, Dudge Swarf and other popular characters.

Dikļi, Dikļu pag.,  
ph. +371 64231933, 26447061  
GPS 57.5971, 25.0991

#### Barrel Museum

Come, watch the process of barrel making and try your hand at operating ancient cooper's tools. Honey, sauerkraut – what else can be stored in barrel?

"Madaras", Vaidavas pag.,  
ph. +371 29268692, www.muca.lv  
GPS 57.4309, 25.2020

#### Tavern "Mazais Ansis"

Visit the squirrels.

"Ansiši", Rubene, Kocēnu pag.,  
ph. +371 29134890, 64230352,  
www.mazais-ansis.lv  
GPS 57.4648, 25.2564

#### Vaidava Lake

Have some tasty ice cream and enjoy a boat ride on the Vaidava Lake, build castles in the sand and swim in the lake.

Vaidava, Vaidavas pag.,  
GPS 57.4462, 25.2707

#### Pure Bred Rabbit Farm "Mežiņi"

Pet the friendly rabbits.

"Mežiņi", Dikļu pag.,  
ph. +371 29198221,  
https://trusitsmans.wordpress.com  
GPS 57.5475, 25.11733

#### Sietīņiezis Rock

Walk, climb the stairs, eat bilberries, explore the white sandstone cliffs, find caves and soak in the beautiful view of the Gauja River.

Vaidavas pag.  
GPS 57.4285, 25.3866

#### Wakeboarding Park "Rančo"

Enjoy the exciting water sports and in an epic and splashing manner.

Rubene, Kocēnu pag.,  
ph. +371 26666046,  
www.ranchoparks.lv  
GPS 57.4650, 25.25363



#### Neikenkalns Sound Alleys

Make the Neikenkalns Sound Alleys sing, come to Nature Concert Hall and find out why Dikļi became the place where the mighty tradition of Song Festival was born.

Dikļi, Dikļu pag.,  
GPS 57.5986, 25.0907

#### Nature Education Centre "Vecupītes"

Visit the exhibition, explore biodiversity, take nature exploration classes, play environmental games, trot the trails to raise your knowledge.

"Vecupītes", Kocēnu pag.,  
ph. +371 29433353,  
www.daba.gov.lv  
GPS 57.4859, 25.3639

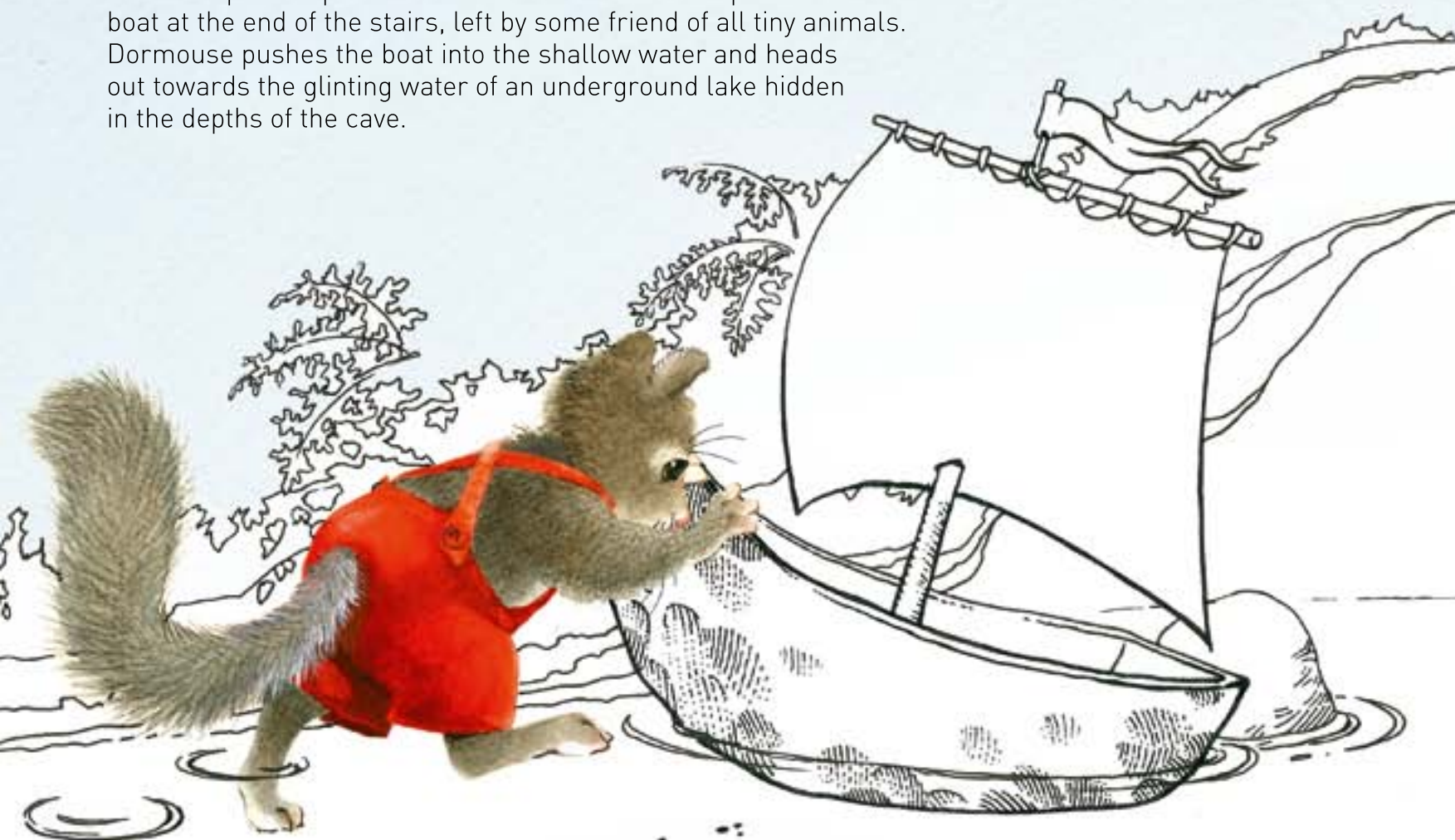




Dormouse's nose blushes. Those squirrel girls are real chatter boxes! They would listen to his stories for a while and then start telling about Vējiņi Castle mound by the river Brasla. There used to be field next to it. A man with plough and horse once disappeared there, and a tractor, too! "No, no, it is all true, no rubbish", Mole joins the late conversation. "Go see for yourself! You go down along the road, descend from the 87 m high Baukalns, near Plācis, and when you see the breath-taking Lielstraupe Castle and its coloured windows, cross the road and follow the direction signs. Near the Vējiņi Castle mound, on the shores of Brasla. The smell will guide you."

A couple of nights later Dormouse is standing at the entrance of the Vējiņi Cave. The smell of water is strong in the dark air. "Let's keep those paws out of the water." There is a pine bark boat at the end of the stairs, left by some friend of all tiny animals. Dormouse pushes the boat into the shallow water and heads out towards the glinting water of an underground lake hidden in the depths of the cave.

COLOUR  
THE  
PICTURE!



#### **Camp "Apaļkalns"**

Settle into one of the bungalows, jump on a cascade of trampolines and enjoy a catamaran ride in Raiskums Lake.  
"Apaļkalns", Raiskuma pag.,  
ph. +371 29448188, [www.apalkalns.lv](http://www.apalkalns.lv)  
GPS 57.3174, 25.1479

#### **Ungurmuiža Manor**

Find out that the manor is 20 times older than its young visitors. Enjoy the playground in the Manor Park and playhouse. Explore the surroundings through a tour and challenges. Skate the manor pond in winter.  
Ungurmuiža, Raiskuma pag.,  
ph. +371 22007332,  
[www.ungurmuiža.lv](http://www.ungurmuiža.lv)  
GPS 57.3625, 25.0887

#### **Vējiņi underground lakes**

Marvel at the ice-free underground lakes. Make pancakes on campfire in winter and meet the Santa on his horse-drawn sled, enjoy making your own gifts. Please call in advance!  
"Vējiņi", Straupes pag.,  
ph. +371 29354189,  
[www.pazemesezeri.lv](http://www.pazemesezeri.lv)  
GPS 57.3398, 24.9071

#### **Sport Hunting and Holiday Resort "Mārkulīči"**

Shoot different guns on our shooting range. Everything from bow to rifle. Experienced instructors will provide you with all the necessary guidance. Guns and targets for different age groups, starting from 5 year age. Please apply in advance!  
"Mārkulīči", Straupes pag.,  
ph. +371 29464946, [www.markulici.lv](http://www.markulici.lv)  
GPS 57.3005, 24.9087

#### **Creative Workshop "Ezeriņi"**

Meet different stone and steel characters – big, small, funny and serious. The house guarded by the biggest spider in Latvia. Unleash your creativity by painting a rock or a cup that you can then use to sip your favourite drink and relish the memories of the time you spent at "Ezeriņi". Please apply in advance!  
"Ezeriņi", Stalbes pag.,  
ph. +371 26371928, [www.ezerini.lv](http://www.ezerini.lv)  
GPS 57.3757, 25.0391





“What do you think?!”, Otter interrupts the Dormouse’s story for what must be a hundredth time. He gives his relative another pat on the now dried fur that was soaking wet from the wild ride. After taking his boat through the narrow opening of the cave to another underground lake, Dormouse had noticed a barely visible stream flowing in the opposite direction and pointing to a lake estuary. “There must be a crack somewhere”, Dormouse decides. He takes a deep breath and dives. Almost 2 metres down at the bottom of the lake, thanks to night vision, he notices a faint glimpse of light. The brave traveller decides to take the leap and try to reach the Brasla River. It is important not to lose the boat, so he ties it to his paw. “A smart thing to do”, Otter remarks as he reaches for those tasty willow sticks. Down the Brasla River over to Gauja and the hungry, tired Dormouse is safe back home.

“Now I’ve got to stack up for the winter and get some sleep”, Otter says candidly. But Dormouse hears nothing; his eyes are fixed on the shimmering waters of Gauja flowing towards the sea.



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IEGULDĪJUMS TAVĀ NĀKOTNĒ!

