



RIGHT BANK OF GAUJA

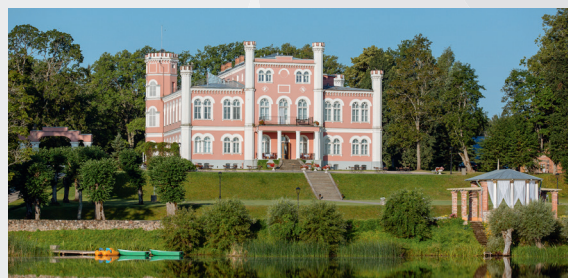
RĀMKALNI – BĪRIŅI – UNGURMUIŽA – SIETIŅIEZIS – VALMIERMUIŽA



Sietiņezis Cliff



Vējiņi Underground Lakes



Bīriņi Palace



Creative Workshop "Ezeriņi"

Photo: Baltic Pictures

Description

The route (between the right bank of the River Gauja and road A3) crosses the whole Gauja National Park in the direction from southwest to northeast. It covers the most excellent nature monuments, and most scenic spots. To diversify, the route includes also the most significant culture and history monuments, which are often closely related to the nature. For example, Ungurmuiža Manor Park is a significant place for several endangered species of Europe, while in the pond of Turaida Museum Reserve grass-snakes can be seen in spring having a tasty meal – the green frogs.

Route

Leisure Park "Rāmkalni" – Ragana – Bīriņi Castle – Krimulda – Turaida – Inciems – Straupe – Stalbe – Ungurmuiža – Rubene – Vaidava – Sietiņezis – Valmiera bypass – Valmiermuiža.

Distance

~ 125 km.

Duration

2–3 days.

Road pavement

Gravel roads in Vaidava–Sietiņezis Rock vicinity. The rest of the route runs on asphalt.



Starting point 24.65910, 57.12462
Leisure Park "Rāmkalni".



Destination 25.43228, 57.55605
Valmiermuiža.



Worth knowing!


Following long rainy periods, the gravel road can be of poor quality at some places. Prior to the trip, check the working hours of museums and other sites. Visit to the local Tourism Information Centres is recommended (for information and local maps). Announce your visit in advance for sites which should be visited (or where one cannot find the working hours). The activity is at one's own risk. Emergency services: 112.





Recommendation

The route can be continued in direction of Riga City on the left bank of the River Gauja. The route can be merged with a route running on the other bank of the river.



SERVICE



 **Pārgauja Tourism Information Point** "Ezeriņi", Stalbe, Stalbe rural territory, Pārgauja Municipality, +371 26620422, turisms@pargaujasnovads.lv, www.pargaujasnovads.lv


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



 **Valmiermuiža Tourism Information Point** Dzirnavu Street 2, Valmiermuiža, Valmiera rural territory, Burtnieki Municipality, +371 29135438, ciemos@valmiermuiza.lv, www.valmiermuiza.lv



 **Valmiera Tourism Information Centre** Valmiera, Rīgas Street 10, +371 64207177, tic@valmiera.lv, http://visit.valmiera.lv/



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

  **Bīriņi Castle** Bīriņi, Vidriži rural territory, Limbaži Municipality, +371 64024033, +371 29416661, hotel@birinupils.lv, www.birinupils.lv

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

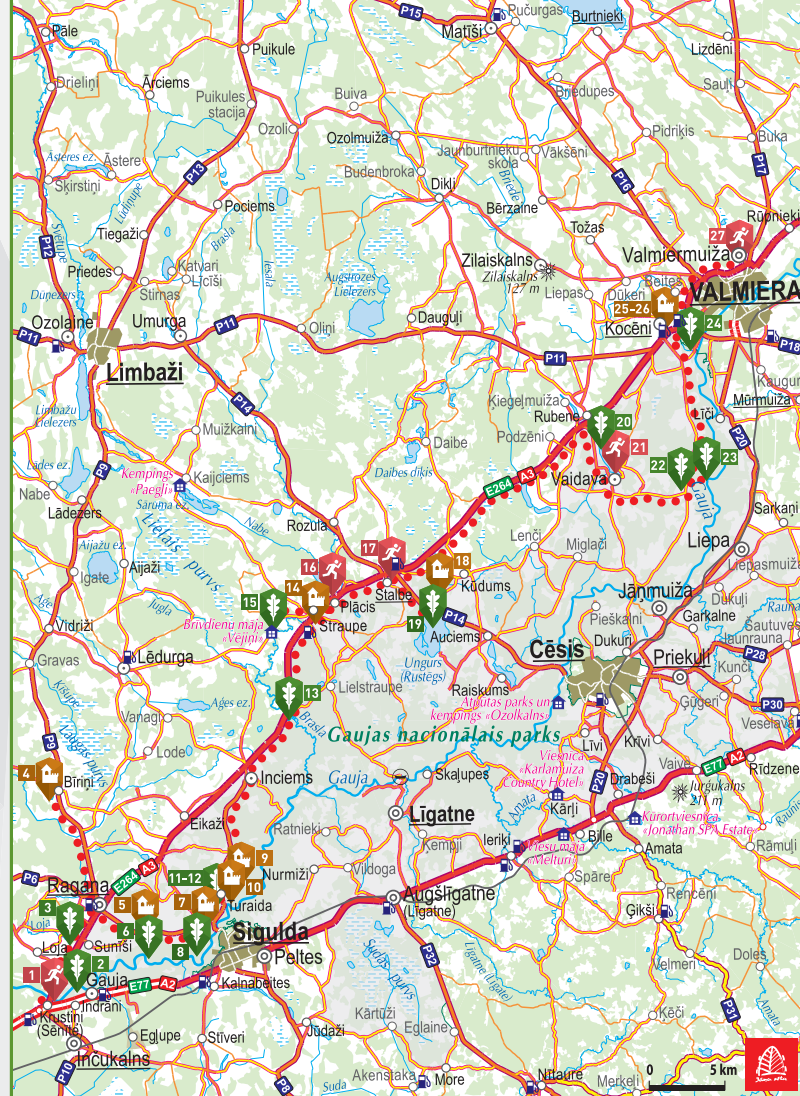
  **Holiday house "Vējiņi"**, "Vējiņi", Straupe rural territory, Pārgauja Municipality, +371 29354189, pazemeszezeri@gmail.com, www.pazemeszezeri.lv (also camping "Paegli")

  **Creative Workshop "Ezeriņi"**, stone processing, "Ezeriņi", Stalbe, Stalbe rural territory, Pārgauja Municipality, +371 26371928, ezerinjii@inbox.lv, www.ezerini.lv

  **Brewery "Valmiermuižas alus" and Beer Kitchen** Dzirnavu Street 2, Valmiermuiža, Valmiera rural territory, Burtnieki Municipality, +371 20264269 (tours in the brewery), ciemos@valmiermuiza.lv, www.valmiermuiza.lv

SIGHTSEEING OBJECTS

- 1 | Leisure Park "Rāmkalni"** 24.65910, 57.12462
Located on the slope of the primeval valley wall of the River Gauja offering many activities — summer toboggan, skiing, etc.
- 2 | Primeval Valley of the River Gauja**
- 3 | River Loja**
- 4 | Bīriņi Castle** 24.65966, 57.24384
The Bīriņi Castle area covers a broad **park** and **forest park** from the 18th-19th century with paths, lakes, historical buildings and stork nest on the Castles tower.
- 5 | Krimulda Lutheran Church**
- 6 | Kubesele Nature Trail**
Along the trail — grave of Kaupo, Kubesele Cave and Hillfort, and **Lielais (Runtiņa) Stone** on the right bank of the River Gauja. Powerful **spring** comes out at the feet of the stone.
- 7 | Krimulda Manor**
The romantic **landscape park** in its vicinity is a place to study lichen and moss.
- 8 | Piķenes Cliff** 24.82708, 57.16081
A 10 km circular hiking route starting from Krimulda Manor, leading along the upper and lower part of Piķenes Cliff, with a visit to **Velna Cliffs**. Piķenes Cliff is covered in **forests of slopes**, which are protected habitats.
- 9 | Turaida Museum Reserve** 24.85060, 57.18306
Located in a place where the right side of primeval valley wall of the River Gauja is split by several deep ravines of small brooks. Grass-snakes eating frogs can be observed in springs at the manor pond. **Skandinieku Spring** flows out of a **cave** located in a small sandstone outcrop on the slope of Dainu Hill.
- 10 | Turaida Castle**
- 11 | Gūtmaņa Cave** 24.84259, 57.17609
It is the largest cave in Latvia in terms of width (12 m) and height (up to 10 m), and one of the largest in terms of volume. Its **ancient inscriptions** on the walls and ceiling (eldest of which dates back to the 17th century) are undervalued.
- 12 | Viktors Cave** 24.84256, 57.17602
Length — 5.9 m, width — 6.8 m, height at the portal — 4.8 m.
- 13 | Primeval valley of the River Brasla**
The primeval valley starts at Straupe and ends where the river flows into Gauja. From Brasla water reservoir (in its lower reaches), the valley is up to 30 m deep and 300 m wide. This is among the most beautiful river sections in Latvia, where the reddish and yellowish sandstone outcrops from Gauja suite are seen.
- 14 | Lielstraupe Castle**
- 15 | Vējiņi Underground Lakes** 24.90497, 57.340503
As a result of suffusion underground hollows have formed in the vicinity of the private house "Vējiņi". When the upper covering rock layers above the underground hollow fall in, a suffusion sink is formed. In one of these, Ezerāla Cave is found. Behind the deep, shaft-like portal there is the first, and further on — the second underground "lake". Slightly further, near the River Brasla, is the 42 m long Upes Cave. Both caves were discovered in 1984.
- 16 | Straupe farmer's market**
On every first and third Sunday there is a market in Plācis.
- 17 | Creative workshop "Ezeriņi"**
A lodge in beautiful rural surroundings with art works from stone and metal around the lodge. Subject to a prior announcement, visitors can watch the craftsman at work (stone processing) and shot from a real cannon from stone.
- 18 | Ungurmuiža Manor** 25.08593, 57.36296
In the manor park, there is a project launched to preserve and reproduce a beetle rarely found in Europe — the hermit beetle.



- 19 | Lake Ungura** 25.08447, 57.34023
Largest lake in Gauja National Park.
- 20 | Vaidavas Lake** 25.27024, 57.44774
The ca. 4 km long lake is located in a ridge created by a glacier, which is seen in its stretched shape, steep banks and depth (maximum 9 m). Several interesting sites are found on the banks of the lake — Vaidava Hillfort, Veselības Spring, Zviedru Pine, and a collection of ancient household items in "Meldri".
- 21 | Manufacturing plant "Vaidava Ceramics"**
- 22 | Antonu Stone** 25.36255, 57.42390
Length — 5.6 m, width — 5 m, height — up to 2 m. Only half of the stone is above ground. The stone is a gneiss shiver with feldspar and quartz zones.
- 23 | Sietiņezis Cliff** 25.38641, 57.42784
One of the largest white sandstone outcrops in Latvia. Maximum height of its cliff reaches 15 m, while the total length of the cliffs — around half a kilometre. Here one can see small caves and hollows, erosion ravines, and formations similar to poles. One of these is called **Velna papēdis** (Devil's Heel), while the small, but 10.5 m long cave — **Velnala** (Devil's Cave). From southern side of Sietiņezis Cliff, there is a beautiful **view** over the primeval valley of the River Gauja with nearby scenic **pine forests**.
- 24 | River Jumara (Imara)**
A 20 km long right tributary of the River Gauja with a typical valley at its reaches. Suitable to watch salmon.
- 25 | Beste Milestone**
An ancient Swedish post road stone.
- 26 | Kokmuiža Manor**
- 27 | Brewery "Valmiermuižas alus"** 25.43228, 57.55605
Visit to the brewery will reveal how the live beer is made from natural raw materials. Excellent catering.