



RIVER GAUJA. FROM LĪGATNE TO "RĀMKALNI"



View of Turaida Castle from River Gauja



River Gauja in spring



River Gauja

Photo: Baltic Pictures and Archive of Sigulda TIC

Description. Gauja is the most popular water tourism river in Latvia. The main tourist magnets are the beautiful river banks rich in sandstone outcrops, easy accessibility of the river, dense network of accommodation sites for water tourists, the nature of the river (suitable for various paddlers), long water tourism traditions, and the status of a national park. In this section, the river flows through its primeval valley which is among the most impressive Baltic terrain forms; however, the scale of the valley cannot be enjoyed from the canoe, since the scenic views are covered in leafage and forests. A large number of sandstone outcrops is seen in the first seven kilometres downstream from Līgatne. Fewer outcrops are in the section from the mouth of the River Brasla to Sigulda.

Best time to go. Summer, while a paddling trip on a beautiful autumn day or spring won't be less exciting.

Difficulty level. Easy.

Distance. ~40 km. Section 1: Līgatne Ferry Crossing–Sigulda 23 km, Section 2: Sigulda–"Rāmkalni" 17 km.

Duration. Two-day trip.
Day 1: Līgatne Ferry Crossing–Sigulda,
Day 2: Sigulda–"Rāmkalni".

Vertical drop of the river. Slight, for the whole section ~10 m, average ~0.24 m/km.

Starting point 57.25441, 25.04528
Water tourist site at Līgatne Ferry Crossing.

Destination 57.12462, 24.65910
Leisure Park "Rāmkalni". On the left bank of the River Gauja, near "Rāmkalni", there is a stop for water tourists, but the trip can be discontinued also on the right bank of the river, behind the bridge of road Inčukalns–Valka, where there is a sandy bank and it is convenient to pull the canoes out of the river.

Canoes. Canoes, kayaks, inflatable boats, rafts. The last two – for slow paddling.

Distance to Riga. Starting point - 74 km, destination - 40 km.

Transportation. Supporting team to transport canoes and paddlers to the starting point and from the destination is needed. Usually the canoe hire companies provide this service.

Worth knowing! Swimming and walking on the riverbed is not recommended – dangerous! Life jacket on the river is recommended. Accommodation in Gauja National Park is allowed only in specially designated places (see www.riverways.eu/en/routes/river/2-gauja/route/515-jrmis-csis)! Be careful with the sandstone outcrops, which are protected nature monuments. Motorized water vehicles are prohibited on Gauja. The activity is at one's own risk. Emergency services: 112.

Recommendation. The trip on the River Gauja can be started more upstream – from Valmiera, Strenči, Vireši, and continued until the river flows into the sea.

Enter Gauja mobile application



GooglePlay



AppStore

SERVICE

Līgatne Municipality Tourism Information Centre
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info@visitligatne.lv, www.visitligatne.lv

Sigulda County Tourism Information Centre
Sigulda, Ausekļa Street 6, +371 67971335,
info@sigulda.lv, www.tourism.sigulda.lv

Sigulda County Tourism Information Centre "Gūtmaņala",
Turaidas iela 2a, Sigulda, +371 61303030,
info.gutmanala@sigulda.lv, www.tourism.sigulda.lv

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

Līgatne Winery
Augšlīgatne, Sporta street 22, +371 26521467, +371 28602642,
ligatnesvinadaritava@gmail.com, www.ligatnesvinadaritava.lv

"Canoe Camping" in Līgatne, Līgatne, Gaujas street 36,
+371 29244948, karina@makars.lv, www.makars.lv

SIGHTSEEING OBJECTS

1 | Līgatne Ferry Crossing
57.25441, 25.04528

2 | Jumpravu Rock
57.24986, 25.02872
Sandstone outcrop on the left bank of the River Gauja. Only a small part of the outcrop adjoins to the river. The rest of it runs far into the forest like a steep and rocky slope, where its feet are washed by the waters of a brook.

3 | Katrīna Rock (Nāru Cliffs)
57.253958, 25.01603
Around 200 m long and up to 15 m high scenic (slowly overgrowing) outcrop in a sharp curve of the right bank of the River Gauja. A 4.5 m wide and 4 m deep cavity is made by the current at its lower part.

4 | Gūdu Cliffs (also Gaviļu, Tālskatu Cliffs)
57.249901, 25.002935. A slope around 0.5 km long, explicit, rich in outcrops and forests on the right side of the primeval valley wall of the River Gauja (height 13–20 m); its ca. 13 m high parts run into the river. The current has washed out a large gallery.

5 | Rock Launagiezis (also Ērmaņu Rock) 57.25061, 24.97085
Around 600 m long and steep slope of the right side of the primeval valley wall of the River Gauja covered with forests. An approximately 250 m long section of the cliff faces the river.

6 | River Vildoga (also Jāņupīte) 57.24446, 24.95455
Left tributary of the River Gauja with a deep ravine and a system of lateral ravines, as well as an impressive vertical fall (ca. 10 m/km).

7 | Elpju Rock 57.24421, 24.95311
Located behind the place where the River Vildoga mouths with the River Gauja. The ca. 9 m high and reddish sandstone outcrop on the River Gauja is sort of a way marking for water tourists paddling further downstream and looking for sightseeing objects.

8 | Dagnes (Gančausku, Sūruma) Cave 57.24406, 24.95074
Before entering the River Gauja, the Tildurga Brook has shaped a low sandstone "canyon".

9 | Rāmnieku Brook
57.21678, 24.90246. A small left tributary of the River Gauja. The furthest northern border of Nurmīži Glen Reserve; closed to visitors.

Nature Conservation Agency maintaining most of infrastructure in Gauja NP. If you see something wrong, tell the Agency at **+37164107230; +37167509545** or **vidzeme@daba.gov.lv**



10 | River Sviķupīte
57.19217, 24.89408
Left tributary of the River Gauja, at the lower reaches of which there are the **Sviķupīte Outcrops**, which are seen over a section of 600–800 m.

11 | River Dauda 57.18438, 24.88024
Left tributary of the River Gauja with a canyon-like ravine up to 40 m deep, which is rich in sandstone outcrops. Dauda Ravine is located in the Nurmīži Glen Reserve.

12 | Mound Paradīzes (Gleznotājkalns)
57.17513, 24.86578
One of the most scenic places in Sigulda, where the left side of the primeval valley wall of the River Gauja is divided by the large Vējupīte Ravine.

13 | River Vējupīte and Vējupīte Ravine
57.17115, 24.87634
Left tributary of Gauja; for ca. 3 km below Riga-Valka railway line the river flows through a deep ravine, and the relative vertical drop thereof reaches around 15–16 m/km. On the banks of Vējupīte Ravine, there are several popular Sigulda tourism sites such as Kraukļu Ravine, Kraukļu Cave, Satezele Hillfort, and Pētera Cave.

14 | Turaida Castle

15 | Bridge over the River Gauja
57.16562, 24.84098

16 | Piķenes Cliff 57.16081, 24.82708
Piķenes Cliff is covered in **forests of slopes** (with large oaks), which are protected habitats. The cliff is seen only partly from a canoe.

17 | Velnala Cliffs 57.15047, 24.81179
The last and most impressive cliff wall of the valley – around 15 m high; located on the curve of the right bank. The dark **Velnala Cave of Krimulda** is seen in the middle of it. Above Velnala Cave, there are old and biologically valuable **pin**es with the so-called crocodile skin bark.

18 | Velnala Cave of Krimulda
57.15042, 24.81129
The 22.5 m deep (length of galleries – 35 m) cave is formed in the yellow sandstone from Gauja suite 8 m above the water table of Gauja. It is estimated to be around 10,000 years old and created by a spring, which later disappeared and the cave partially fell in.

19 | Pedestrian bridge over the River Gauja 57.14917, 24.80707

20 | Lorupe Ravine 57.146401, 24.801684
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.

21 | River Runtiņupīte 57.15122, 24.76286
Right tributary of Gauja, which has shaped a deep ravine with sandstone outcrops. The 4.5 m long **Kubesele Nature Trail** leads along its banks.

22 | Lielais (Runtiņa) Stone
57.15171, 24.76334
Located where the River Runtiņupīte mouths with the River Gauja. Maximum height is 2.5 m, length – 5.3 m, width – 3.7 m. The volume of the stone is estimated around 25 m³. Out of a small sandstone outcrop near the stone, there flows a powerful **spring**.

23 | Klatlapu Rock 57.141845, 24.725622
A small sandstone outcrop on the left bank of the River Gauja.

24 | River Loja (Loģe, Klinšupīte)
57.12509, 24.66275
Downstream of Loja, where its deep valley merges with the primeval valley of Gauja, beautiful sand outcrops on both banks can be observed.

25 | Leisure Park "Rāmkalni"
57.12462, 24.65910