



BEST PLACES TO SHOOT PHOTOS IN THE GAUJA NATIONAL PARK



River Gauja



Keizarskats



Gauja River Steep banks



Gauja River View from Walter Hill

WHY GAUJA NATIONAL PARK?

Gauja National Park is included in Natura 2000 – the network of protected areas across the European Union. It is a place where a large variety of habitats and species, and a large number of plants, birds, and animals are found within a relatively small area (dense populations). Relatively often one can find species here, which are rare and scattered over a large area elsewhere in Europe. The primeval valley of the River Gauja (with its lateral tributaries and primeval valleys of other tributaries – Amata, Brasla), which is shaped by the glacier, is among the most impressive terrain forms in the Baltics, which was an important pre-condition for people to settle down here. The local natural conditions have affected and contributed to the development of very diverse heritage monuments (hillforts, medieval castles, lake fortresses, manors, manor parks, etc.), which have developed a unique landscape over the course of time thanks to the interaction of man and nature. The dense network of trails, accessibility of area, and rivers open for canoeing are yet another reason, why it is easy to travel, learn, and take photos at any period of the year!

WHAT IS BEST SEEN IN GAUJA NATIONAL PARK OVER THE COURSE OF A YEAR

I	Views of ravines and river valleys (leafless period)
II	Frozen waterfalls, snow-covered landscapes, frost, winter sports disciplines
III	Footprints of animals in snow, early signs of spring in the nature
IV	Spring floods, floating ice, water tourists on the River Amata – mid-April, white bird migration, early mushrooms in late April
V	Blooming bird-cherry trees, dandelion meadows, birds, animals, spring plants
VI	Plant diversity. Heritage monuments, settlements
VII	Canoeing on the Rivers Gauja or Brasla. River views. Various habitats, heritage monuments
VIII	Mushrooms, bird migration
IX	Mushrooms, bird migration
X	Golden leaves of autumn on the banks of the primeval valley of the River Gauja, at the end of October – migration of salmon-like fish
XI	Sandstone outcrops and related habitats and landscapes
XII	Views of ravines and river valleys (leafless period)

SERVICE

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

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

i | Līgatne Municipality Tourism Information Centre
Līgatne, Sprinģu Street 2, +371 64153169, +371 29189707,
info@visitligatne.lv, www.visitligatne.lv

i | Amata Municipality Tourism Information Point
Āraiši, Drabešu county, Amata Municipality,
+371 28681083, turisms@and.lv, www.amata.lv

i | Cēsis Tourism Information Centre
Cēsis, Bazņiņas Square 1, +371 28318318,
info@cesis.lv, www.visit.cesis.lv

i | Valmiera Tourism Information Centre
Valmiera, Rīgas Street 10, +371 26332213,
tic@valmiera.lv, www.visit.valmiera.lv

i | Pārgauja Tourism Information Point
"Pikieru namiņš", Straupe, Pārgauja Municipality,
+371 26620422, turisms@pargaujasnovads.lv,
www.pargaujasnovads.lv

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

i | Birīņi Castle, Birīņi, Vidriži rural territory,
Limbaži Municipality, +371 64024033, +371 29416661,
hotel@birinupils.lv, www.birinupils.lv

i | Mālpils Manor Hotel, Mālpils county, Mālpils,
Pils street 6, +371 26666600,
info@malpilsmuiza.lv, www.malpilsmuiza.lv

i | Valmiermuiža Craft Brewery and Beer Kitchen
Dzirnavu Street 2, Valmiermuiža, Valmiera rural territory,
Burnieki Municipality, +371 20264269 (tours in the
brewery), info@valmiermuiza.lv, www.valmiermuiza.lv

i | Leisure park & camping "Ozolkalns"
"Saulkrasti", Drabeši rural territory, Amata Municipality,
+371 26400200, info@ozolkalns.lv, www.ozolkalns.lv

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

i | Rehabilitation Center "Līgatne"
Skalupes, Līgatne rural territory, Līgatne municipality,
+371 64161915, +371 26467747,
ligatne.info@gmail.com, www.rehcentrsligatne.lv

i | Cēsis Inside
Sigita Klētņiece – certified tour guide, pure nature lover
+371 29109965, cesisinside@gmail.com,
www.facebook.com/cesisinside, www.cesisinside.lv

i | Hotel "Wolmar", Valmiera, Tērbatas street 16A,
+371 64207301, info@wolmar.lv, www.hotelwolmar.lv

i | Hotel "Tigra"
Priekuiļi, Eduarda Veidenbauma street 2, +371 64174040,
info@hoteltigra.lv, www.hoteltigra.lv

G | AdventureRide, Pērle 1, Alderi,
+371 29269559, info@adventureride.eu,
www.adventureride.eu

Enter Gauja mobile application



AppStore

OBJECTS

Vicinity of Velnala Cave in Krimulda 57.15042, 24.81129
Primeval valley of the River Gauja with a scenic sandstone outcrop from the other side of the river, and a view from the top of the cliffs. Sunshine over the cliff at sunset.

Sigulda City Ski Track
57.15958, 24.83864
Since the slope of primeval valley of the River Gauja has been deforested, photos can be taken both on foot, and from the cable car. Best views are granted before noon.

Cable Car over Gauja River
57.16448, 24.84558
Views over the primeval valley of the River Gauja from the only cable car in Latvia.

Livonian Order Sigulda Castle, New Castle and Castle Quarter
57.16681, 24.84896
An excellent view over the primeval valley of the River Gauja and Turaida Castle.

Mound Paradīzes (Gleznotājkalns) 57.17513, 24.86578
View over the primeval valley of the River Gauja northward during the whole day and towards Turaida Castle. Sunshine playing beautifully over the landscape at sunset.

Turaida Museum Reserve
Dainu Hill offers beautiful sights towards Turaida Castle, Turaida Lutheran Church, manor houses. One of the most impressive views over the primeval valley of the River Gauja is offered from the tower of Turaida Castle.

Primeval valley of the River Brasla
Large number of sandstone outcrops in the river section from Brasla water reservoir till its mouth with the River Gauja. Beautiful views, especially from the river.

Līgatne Nature Trails
57.24798, 25.01525
With a telephoto, pictures of several animals living in Latvia can be taken.

Līgatne Village
57.23348, 25.03968
Industrial heritage hand in hand with man-made circumstances—the valley of the rapid River Līgatne and sandstone outcrops.

Historic build-up on Skolaskalns and Rīgaskalns in Līgatne
57.23129, 25.04043
Cultural environment of the workers in 19th century. The only one of such type in Latvia.

Ānfabrika Cliffs
57.23087, 25.04628
A beautiful view from the cliff and its viewing platform over the historic village of Līgatne Paper Mill. Fish ladder on the River Līgatne, where the migration of salmon can be photoshoot in autumn.

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**



Kūķu Cliffs 57.27465, 25.10600
A viewpoint with a magnificent landscape of one of the largest sandstone outcrops in Latvia and Kūķu Rapids. Particularly eye-catching in autumn or winter, when frozen waterfalls are formed here. Beautiful sights at sunrise.

Waterfalls of River Melderupīte
57.20811, 25.16930
Facilitated place with three waterfalls. Fish jumping over the waterfalls during the migration of salmon-like fish. Illuminated park in the dark evenings.

Valley of the River Amata
One of the most beautiful valleys of small rivers in Latvia with a large number of sandstone and dolomite rock outcrops. Most precious landscapes towards/from Ainavu Cliff, Ķaubju Rock and Zvārtē Rock, as well as in the section from Zvārtē Rock to Veclauču Bridge.

River Gauja between Cēsis and Līgatne
Most beautiful section of the river in terms of the number of sandstone outcrops and landscape sights. Interesting views from the river. Various species of water birds, including the kingfisher.

Vicinity of Āraiši
One of the few places, where very different heritage objects are located – Āraiši Lake Fortress, ruins of the Livonian Order Castle, Drabeši Manor, Āraiši Windmill, and Zviedru Pine – within a relatively small area.

Views in the vicinity of "Ozolkalns" (57.29462, 25.22259) and "Zagarkalns"
Excellent views over the primeval valley of the River Gauja from the skiing tracks (the trees and their leaves do not cover the view over the primeval valley).

Cīrulīšu Nature Trails 57.3013, 25.22035
On the slope of the valley wall of the River Gauja – an oxbow lake with bluish, perfectly clear water, which is like a mirror to the Cīrulīšu Cliffs (also Spoguļklintis or the Mirror Cliffs).

Lake Ungura 57.34023, 25.08447
Largest lake of Gauja National Park with landscapes of nearby vicinity.

Ungurmuīza Manor 57.36296, 25.08593
A particularly scenic place. Park with old oaks with interesting species of polypores. Suitable place to take photos of the culture landscape, and species of mushrooms and insects.

The Old Town of Cēsis
Among the few places in Latvia, demonstrating medieval build-up elements and medieval street planning within a relatively small area. Excellent place to study architecture and its elements.

Ērgļu (Ērgēļu) Cliffs 57.36058, 25.26032
Most monolith sandstone outcrop in the Baltic States. Beautiful view over the primeval valley of the river.

Veselava Manor 57.39115, 25.40695
Excellent manor premises from the 19th century with a restored master's house and a park.

Liču–Laņģu Cliffs 57.39311, 25.39306
A place where close to a settlement there is the wild nature demonstrating active geological processes – erosion, suffusion. Large outcrop with specific geological forms.

Valmiera
The tower of Valmiera St. Simon's Church and the top of Walter Hills offers beautiful views over the old town. Magnificent landscapes are seen near Goat Rapids, Iron Bridge and Sightseeing terrace by the River Gauja, Ruins of the Livonian Order Castle. The steep banks of the River Gauja have been inspirational to many artists. Here one can watch the most beautiful sunsets and sunrises.

Liepas Ellīte 57.38426, 25.42749
Extraordinary geological formation for Latvia – atypical arches, caves, and rare suffusion and erosion forms.

Sietiņezis Cliff 57.42784, 25.38641
Nearby – nice pine forests, view towards the primeval valley of the River Gauja. The outcrop is not homogenous – there are interesting geological forms, site of the single bee colonies.

Lake Vaidavas 57.44774, 25.27024
Steep banks covered with wood and such objects like Vaidava Hillfort, spring, etc.