



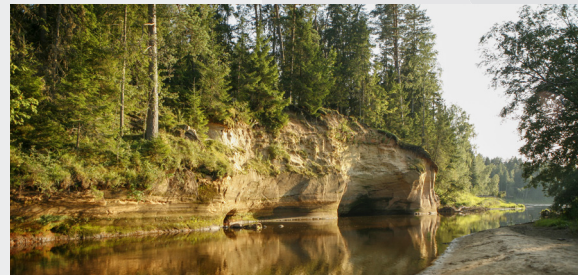
# BEST PLACES TO SHOOT PHOTOS IN THE GAUJA NATIONAL PARK



View from Ainavu Cliff



River Gauja



Rock outcrops



Landscape in Gauja National Park

## 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, while 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 Municipality Tourism Information Centre**  
Sigulda, Ausekļa Street 6, +371 67971335,  
info@sigulda.lv, www.tourism.sigulda.lv

**i** | **Līgatne Municipality Tourism Information Centre**  
Līgatne, Sprīgu Street 2, +371 64153169, +371 291897707,  
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, Baznīcas Square 1, +371 28318318,  
info@cesis.lv, www.tourism.cesis.lv

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

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

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

**🍺** | **Brewery "Valmiermuīzas alus" and Beer Kitchen**  
Dzirnavu Street 2, Valmiermuīza, Valmiera rural territory,  
Burtneki Municipality, +371 20264269 (tours in the  
brewery), info@valmiermuiza.lv, www.valmiermuiza.lv

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

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

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

**🚶🚣** | **Camping, boat rental "Žagarkalns"**  
Cēsis, 12 Mūrlejas street, +371 26266266,  
info@zagarkalns.lv, www.zagarkalns.lv

**🏨** | **Resort hotel "Jonathan SPA Estate"**  
Amatciems, Amata Municipality, +371 25606066,  
info@jonathanspahotel.com, www.jonathanspahotel.com

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

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## 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 Local Skiing 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.

### Sigulda Cable Car 57.16448, 24.84558

Views over the primeval valley of the River Gauja from the only cable car in Latvia.

### Castle of Livonian Order in Sigulda 57.16681, 24.84896

An excellent view over the primeval valley of the River Gauja and Turaida Castle.

### Mound Paradizes (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

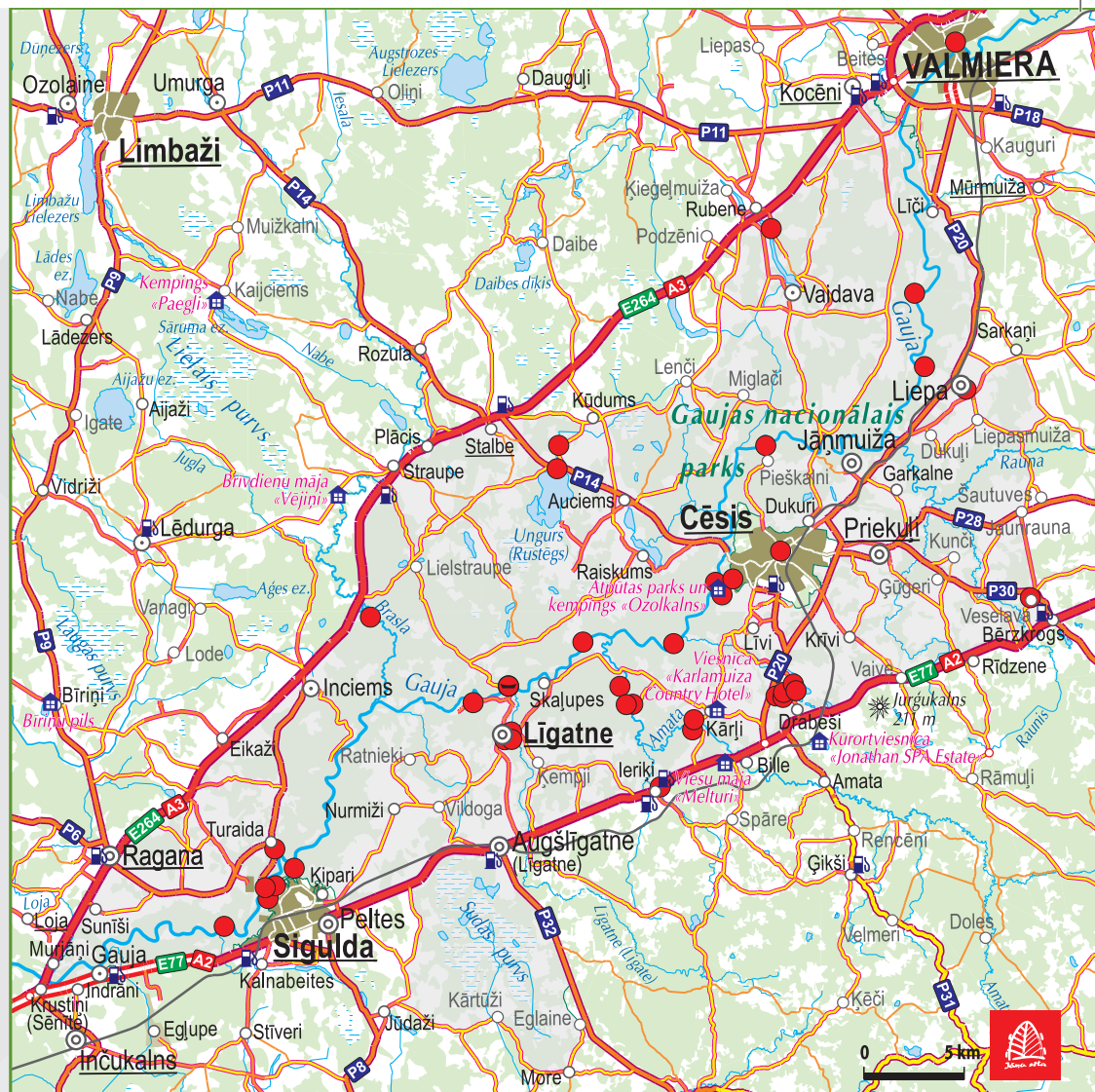
Cultural environment of the workers in 19<sup>th</sup> century. The only one of such type in Latvia.

### 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.

### 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 Zvārte Rock, as well as in the section from Zvārte 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 "Žagarkalns"

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).

### Cīrulišu 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 Cīrulišu Cliffs (also Spoguļklintis or the Mirror Cliffs).

### Lake Ungura 57.34023, 25.08447

Largest lake of Gauja National Park with landscapes of nearby vicinity.

### Ungurmuīža 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 (Ērgļu) Cliffs 57.36058, 25.26032

Most monolith sandstone outcrop in the Baltic States. Beautiful view over the primeval valley of the river.

### Veselava Manor

Excellent manor premises from the 19<sup>th</sup> century with a restored master's house and a park.

### Līču–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 St Simon's Church of Valmiera and the top of Mound Valterkalniņš offers beautiful views over the old town. Magnificent landscapes are seen near Kazu Rapids, the bridge over Gauja, and Livonian Order Castle ruins. 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.

### Sietņiezis 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.