



# SIGULDA – KRIMULDA – SIGULDA

## BEST VIEWPOINTS IN THE PRIMEVAL VALLEY OF THE RIVER GAUJA



Velna Cave in Krimulda



Castle of Livonian Order in Sigulda



Krimulda Manor

Photo: Baltic Pictures



### Description

The route covers the best viewpoints over the landscape of Sigulda. But in order to enjoy these, one shall get to know the steep crests and sags of the primeval valley. Don't forget to take your photo or GoPro camera! The route runs through Gauja National Park.



### Best time to go

April–October. Especially recommended during the blooming of bird-cherry trees, the colourful autumn, and sunny winter days with few snow. Early spring is also suitable, since the leafage of trees and bushes does not cover the view.



### Route

Sigulda Railway Station (station square) – Raiņa iela – Gaujas iela – J. Poruka iela – cable car (or on foot along Gaujas iela to Krimuldas Serpentiņa ceļš, and then upwards) – Piķenes Ravine – pedestrian bridge over Gauja – Laurenču iela – Kalna iela – Gulbju iela – Kalna iela – Šveices iela – Ausekļa iela – station square.



### Road pavement

Asphalt (in town), forest roads, gravel roads, paths, wooden stairs on the steep banks of the Gauja valley and its tributaries.



### Distance

~ 15 km.



### Duration

One day.



### Difficulty level

Moderate–difficult. Some sections — banks of the primeval valley, steep ravines of tributaries thereof — might be strenuous.



### Starting point/ destination

24.85422, 57.15287

Sigulda Railway Station Square.



### Way marking

Partly marked on site (section Krimulda–Velna Cliffs) with special signposts for cyclists.



### Distance to Riga

50 km.



### Public transportation

The train Riga–Sigulda operates 8–9 times per day. The route can be started at any place, depending on the location of an accommodation site.



### Worth knowing!

Suitable trekking footwear and a map of Sigulda and Krimulda is needed. Wooden stairs can be damaged and slippery during wet weather. Respect the information signs placed in objects! Walking outdoors is at one's own risk. Emergency services: 112.



### Recommendation

The route or part thereof can be merged with other routes of Sigulda and its vicinity. From the pedestrian bridge, one can follow the route also on the lower part of the Gauja bank. After having reached the Sigulda Local Skiing Track, one can take the ski lift or the stairs.

## SERVICE

### Sigulda Municipality Tourism Information Centre

Sigulda, Ausekļa Street 6, +371 67971335, info@sigulda.lv, www.tourism.sigulda.lv

### Gauja National Park Visitors Centre by the Gutmans cave

Sigulda, Turaida Street 2a, +371 26657661, ac@gnp.lv, www.gnp.lv

### Bīriņi Palace

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

### Baltic Wildlife

+371 28808440, laura@balticwildlife.eu, www.balticwildlife.eu



## SIGHTSEEING OBJECTS

**1 | Sigulda Railway Station** 24.854227, 57.15287

**2 | Park of Walking-sticks**

**3 | Cable Car** 24.84558, 57.16448

**4 | Primeval Valley of the River Gauja**

One of the most impressive Baltic terrain forms, which accommodates Gauja National Park to protect and preserve it.

**Pay attention!** Next to the cable car, there are stairs leading down the valley, where one can see the slope forest habitats with deadwood, decayed trees, and mushrooms causing a decaying effect to timber. Moss on trees — squirrel-tail moss.

**5 | Krimulda Castle Ruins**

**6 | Krimulda Manor**

**7 | Princešu Spring** 24.83064, 57.17105

A small spring next to Šveices māja or the Swiss building with its waters flowing into the left tributary of the River Vikmešts.

**8 | Piķenes Cliff** 24.82708, 57.16081

Approximately 1 km long and 78-80 m high section of the right side of primeval valley wall of the River Gauja.

**Pay attention!** Piķenes Cliff is covered with **forests of slopes**, which are protected habitats pre-dominated by oaks, linden trees, maples, and hazel-trees. Suitable place to watch plants, mushrooms, and beavers. Alongside the bank of the primeval valley, there are many large-sized decayed trees and deadwood. It is the home of various species of woodpeckers leaving traces of their "artworks" on the trunks of trees, sulphur shelves. Many types of moss, including squirrel-tail moss.

**9 | Velnala Cliffs** 24.81179, 57.15047

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 **pinetrees** with the so-called crocodile skin bark.

**10 | Velnala Cave of Krimulda** 24.81129, 57.15042

22,5 m dziļā (ēju kopgarums 35 m) ala veidojusies dzeltenajos Gaujas svītas smilšakmeņos 8 m augstumā virs Gaujas ūdens līmeņa.

**11 | Pedestrian bridge over the River Gauja** 24.80707, 57.14917  
Ideal for watching salmon during



autumn, when the water is clear.

**Pay attention!** Should you head to Sigulda alongside the River Gauja, you will see large stands of rough horsetail, wet grasslands of meadowsweets, traces of beavers and wild boar on your way. There is a good chance of hearing the shrew singing.

**12 | Lorupe Ravine** 24.80409, 57.13515

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.

**13 | Keizarskats and Keizarkrēsls** 24.82371, 57.14277

**14 | Mound Kaķīskalns** 24.82853, 57.14393  
Skiing track established on the slopes of the old valley of the River Gauja. From top of the mound, there is a very **good view** over the primeval valley of the River Gauja.

**15 | Korde Track**

A popular place for skiing during the winter, and a

good place for photos and landscape watching all through the year.

**16 | Sigulda Bobsleigh and Luge Track**

**17 | Lakstīgala Ravine** 24.84485, 57.15494  
Deep ravine with a small brook dividing the left initial bank of the primeval valley of the River Gauja. On the southern side, there are stairs leading down to the riverside.



Trail in Gauja National Park