

Package Type: Nature hiking incl. overnight stay in the country hotel

Season: May - September

For whom: for individuals (min.2 -max 4pers.)

Package includes: independent hiking + overnight + meals

Degree of difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Duration of the package (excl. transportation from Riga): 24hours

Type of transport: public transport (train or bus)

Distance from Riga: 75km

VIDEO about hiking: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IirJGnokC4Q>

Nature experience in the Gauja national park

This is a two day outing to the countryside to experience beautiful natural environment in the Gauja national park with landscapes, nature trails, seeing wild animals in open air enclosures. The area offers a number of marked nature trails for easy walking. In some places wooden boardwalks are installed. The area is slightly hilly that requires a bit of physical effort but rewards a hiker with beautiful landscape views.

Travelling options from Riga: train or bus, with a pick up service from the station in the countryside. Accommodation in a charming country hotel “Kārļamuiža”. Meals in the hotel restaurant. The restaurant also provides takeaway lunch boxes. The country hotel is surrounded by a romantic landscape park and located in the Amata river valley. The location is 8 km from the historic town of Cēsis and 18 km from Sigulda town, in the middle of the Gauja national park. Distance from Riga is 75km.

After arrival to the “Kārļamuiža” country hotel, guests will check in their rooms, receive lunch boxes and printed information packets for getting out in nature trails. After return, dinner is served in the hotel restaurant from 19.00. It is recommended to book the time in advance. After dinner in the hotel, there is an option to take sauna. Sauna is not included in the package price and it has to be booked in advance, at the time of booking all other services. Next morning after breakfast guests can enjoy the nearest nature surroundings of the hotel or use some more hiking options as described in their information packets.



More photos: <http://www.celotajs.lv/en/e/glry/karlamuiza>

Location



Address: Kārļi, Drabešu pag., Amatas nov.

GPS: Lat:57.24061 Lon:25.21216

Distance from Riga: 75 km

Website:

- <http://www.celotajs.lv/en/e/karlamuiza>
- <http://karlamuiza.lv/en/>

Host: Mrs. Baiba Stepina with her family



Getting to “Kārļamuiža” country hotel in the Gauja national park from Riga - the capital city of Latvia

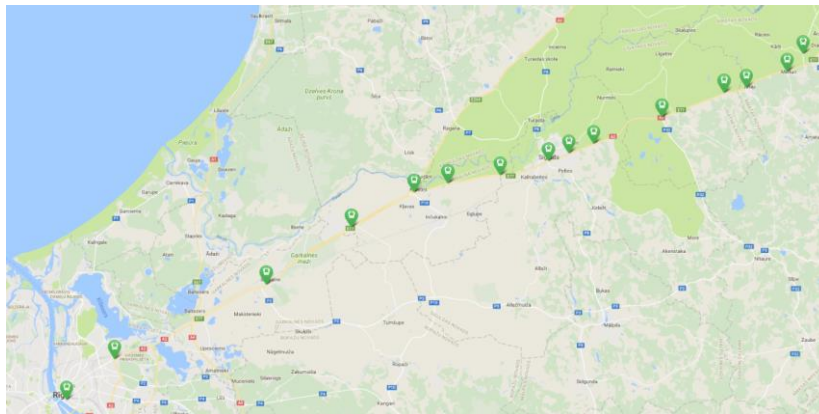


By bus from Riga International Coach Terminal (*address: Prāgas str. 1, Rīga, Latvia, LV-1050*) **to bus stop “Mūrnieki”** (*address: Amatas nov., Drabešu pag., Latvia, LV-4139*)

The bus route is Rīga - Cēsis. The bus stop “Mūrnieki” is the closest stop to the country hotel “Kārļamuiža” (2 km). The duration of the bus ride is from 1h 30min to 1h 47min. The price for the ride is 3,70 EUR. The tickets can be bought by cash from the bus driver (usually last moment before departure), from the ticket offices in Riga International Coach Terminal by cash or card. The tickets can also be bought or on-line in advance, the price is 4.21 EUR.

The busses run daily 10-14 times a day. Actual schedule and on-line tickets: <https://www.1188.lv/en/transport/buses/riga/murnieki/200001/101871>. We suggest to take the bus at 10:00(am) , arriving at 11:34(am) in “Murnieki” bus stop.

The bus stop “Mūrnieki” is the 15th stop in the route.



By train:

The route “Rīga - Valka” at 10:38(am) from Riga Central Station (*address: Stacijas laukums 2, Riga, Latvija*) to the train station “Ieriķi” (*address: Amatas nov, Drabešu pag., Latvia, LV-4139*, the closest station to “Kārļamuiža” country hotel). The train arrives at the station “Ieriķi” at 12:10(am). The station “Ieriķi” is located ~7 km from the hotel.

The duration of the ride is 1h 32 min, the price for the train ticket is ~2,90 EUR one way. Tickets can be bought on-line in advance. Actual schedule and tickets on-line: <http://pv.lv/en/>

Train station “Ieriķi” is the 13th station in the route.



Your host Mrs. Baiba Stepina will pick you up from the bus station “Mūrnieki” or train station “Ieriķi” to take to the “Kārļamuiža” country hotel. Private car transfer takes ca 20 minutes (incl. in the price).

Private transfer from Riga to “Kārļamuiža” country hotel - 150 EUR (1-3 persons) one way.



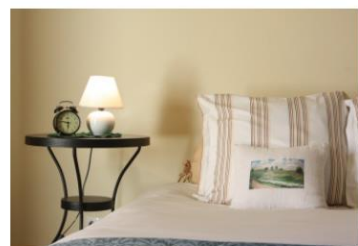
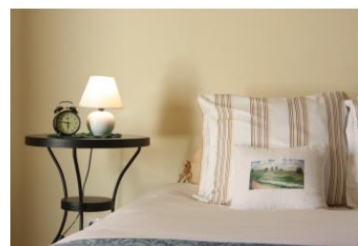
ARRIVING at the “Kārļamuiža” country hotel and check-in.

The hotel offers 9 suites with private atmosphere – with one or two bedrooms. There are accommodation for 24 people. The rooms are of different design and size. Every room or apartment is equipped with a kitchen or kitchen niche, SAT TV and WiFi, hair dryer and shower.



Total number of rooms: 9 (each room is different)

- 2 Standard DOUBLE (with private WC and shower) + 1 Standard TWIN (with private WC and shower) + 1 Suite DOUBLE (with private WC and shower) + 1 Superior DOUBLE (with private WC and shower) + 1 Standard TRIPLE (with private WC and shower) + 1 Superior TRIPLE (with private WC and shower) + 1 Standard QUADRUPLE (with private WC and shower) + 1 APARTMENT (with bedroom, living room, private WC and shower)



Picnic lunch box for hikers and information packet.

After check-in each guest will receive a hiking information packet and a lunch box from the host Mrs. Baiba Stepīņa. Guests can enjoy walking the nature trails in the vicinity of the hotel using the maps and information materials provided by the host, and have a picnic lunch break. The information materials are in English language.

Activity options after lunch in the surroundings of the hotel



Walking options in the vicinity of the country hotel:

- **A walk in the “Romantic Landscape Park” ~1-2 h**

The beautiful surroundings of the vivid Amata river bank became a popular destination at the end of the 18th century. Nature provided the unique conditions on the banks of the river Amata, near Kārļamuiža, to create a beautiful landscape park. The area is blessed with impressive sandstone and dolomite cliffs, breathtaking scenic vistas, bubbling streams, a choir of various birds, and primeval ravines.

Because of the area's likeness to the ideas of parks and gardens of the Age of Enlightenment, at the end of the 18th century an open planning landscape park was created in Kārļamuiža in accordance with the latest fashion requirements of the time. The owners of the manor carefully improved on the surroundings: hiking trails were created along the rocky cliffs of the nearby Amata, and an artificial waterfall and several romantic rest spots were built. The landscape park is an expression of the best taste and

understanding of beauty from the era.

The landscape park included the largest rock formations of the Devonian period and cliffs of the ancient valley; most of the plants and trails remain intact today. It is possible to walk the old park trails and see the impressive cliffs and rock formations along the Amata.



- **A walk to the “Ainavu precipice” (~1-2hours walk ca2,5 km)** which is the most significant natural object in the park. It is located on the bank of the river Amata, approximately 1 km from the “Kārļamuiža country” hotel, opposite the Kārļi fish hatchery (formerly the Kārļamuiža watermill), and between the homesteads “Ainavas” and “Klintslejas”. The Ainavu precipice is a 45m high and 500m long river bank precipice that reveals three rock formations: Bizene rock, Ainavu rock, and Ergli cliffs. These are some of the tallest rock formations in the Baltic States, and the Ainavu precipice is a state-protected geological monument. The precipice provides a stunning view of the ancient valley of the river Amata. The Amata hiking trail extends above the Ainavu precipice along the right bank of the river Amata.



- **Amata hiking trail** (15 km, ~5-6h hiking)

The Amata hiking trail in the Gauja national park is an incredible place for walks and nature discovery, exploring one of Latvia's deepest river valleys. The hiking trail invites you to discover the river Amata, one of the cleanest, roughest, and most rapid tributaries of the river Gauja. The river's name is taken from the Liv language (historical ethnic minority) word "Amada" meaning "rapid". The Amata hiking trail is an excellent location for hiking, relaxation, and nature studies. The river Amata flows through an ancient valley with steep (up to 45m high) sandstone and dolomite banks. The banks allow us to examine the past of planet earth as far as 350-400 million years ago when the area of Latvia was covered by the sea.

The trail extends along the right bank of the river Amata. We recommend starting your hike from the "Kāļamuiža" country hotel. From the hotel, the trail goes through the Kāļamuiža landscape park and along the right bank of the river Amata, from Ainavu precipice to Zvartes rock.





DINNER at “Kārļamuiža” country hotel restaurant

After walking the nature trails near the “Kārļamuiža” country hotel guests are welcome to enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant. The restaurant is open for dinner from 19:00-21:00. The chef serves a 3-course dinner.

The restaurant is located in the building of the hotel. The restaurant’s hall is bright and spacious, and a fireplace gives the restaurant a special cosy atmosphere. An outdoor terrace overlooking a picturesque old apple orchard provides a unique and enjoyable dining experience during the warmer months. The restaurant provides table service.



Chef uses local, organic and seasonal ingredients to prepare meals – vegetables, herbs, and lettuce are grown in the hotel’s own garden. The restaurant has a “table d’hôte” menu with set prices for a 3-course meal. Seasonal courses feature an excellent river trout, chicken or turkey, mushrooms and a salad or soup. The restaurant’s best desserts are made from seasonal ingredients such as strawberries, blueberries, rhubarb and apples, among others.

The most popular choices are oven-baked trout and pumpkin soup. In August and September you can enjoy delicious Boletus mushrooms sautéed simply with butter, braised in cream with new potatoes. Most popular desserts are prepared from apples grown in the old manor’s apple orchards or berries that are collected in the surrounding forests. The restaurant offers an extensive selection of wines and local beer.

Options after dinner in the hotel



Sauna

Sauna is located in a separate building - it is a small traditional sauna house.

Sauna gives relaxation after walking in the nature trails. It also strengthens one’s immune system and deeply cleanses skin. The host will show and explain what to do in the sauna.

Price for sauna rental is 58 EUR / 3 hours (for individual use).

!!!! The sauna should be booked in advance, at the time of booking of all services.



Overnight in the hotel



BREAKFAST at the hotel

After the breakfast guests can enjoy a peaceful morning at the hotel or go out for a walk in the surroundings of the hotel. After breakfast guests will get a lunch box to have lunch during a walk or on the way back to Riga.



RETURNING to Riga

The host Mrs. Baiba Stepiņa will bring guests to the bus or train station.

- By bus <https://www.1188.lv/en/transport>

- By train <http://pv.lv/en/>



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Daļēji finansēts ar Eiropas Savienības un Eiropas Reģionālā attīstības fonda Centrālās Baltijas programmas atbalstu