

The Botanical Tour of Vidzeme



This tour is planned to show a variety of habitat found in different types of forests, wetlands as well as sea coast. The tour will pass some impressive ancient trees and beautiful landscapes. Along with some rare and endangered plants you could spot different types of butterflies and dragonflies. The tour involves some longer walks and historic monuments along the way.



(5 Days)

Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)



Common sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*)



Northern firmoss (*Huperzia selago*)



Wild pansy (*Viola tricolor*)



General Route: Rīga - Salacgrīva - Valmiera - Sigulda - Līgatne - Rīga

Day 1

Arrival in Rīga

Overnight in Rīga.

Day 2

Rīga - Salacgrīva

Departure along the Vidzeme sea coast. The rocky shoreline of Vidzeme is a unique and rocky phase of the eastern shore of the Bay of Rīga, with small cliffs from the Devonian period along the shoreline. You can hike for 4-5 kilometres along the seashore from the Veczemu cliffs (Mantiņi) to Meleki. Possible plants of interest: Sea Sandwort (*Honckenyia peploides*), European Searocket (*Cakile maritima*), Lime-grass (*Leymus arenarius*) as well as very rare Pincushion Moss (*Leucobryum glaucum*). The Randu meadows are seashore meadows which are known as an "herbarium" for Latvia's wild plants, because there is a wide variety of different plants there. A wooden

pathway leads through the meadows, and at the end of the path is a bird watching tower. Possible plants of interest: *Batrachium boudotii*, Beaked Tasselweed (*Ruppia maritima*), Small Spikerush (*Eleocharis parvula*), Blinks (*Montia fontana*), European Searocket (*Crambe maritima*), Siberian Bugseed (*Corispermum intermedium*), Seaside Centaury (*Centaureum littorale*), Smallmarsh Rush (*Juncus gerardi*), Strawberry Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*) as well as different orchid species. Overnight in Salacgrīva.

Day 3

Salacgrīva - Valmiera

Departure. The Dambju oak tree, Kaņepju oak tree and Baložu juniper tree are all in the Northern Gauja Protected Landscape Region, and from the perspective of biological diversity, it is a unique territory along the central stretch of the Gauja River, with environmental information trails established nearby. Visit the Ziles and Vekšu nature trails, as well as the park-like meadow of oak trees at Marsi.

...more than 30 plant species can be found in a few square meters...

TRIP DETAILS

Package price per person:
from EUR 515.00

Based on group of 8-10 persons

INCLUDES:

- Accommodation based on shared DBL room with breakfast and dinner
- Bus transfers
- Guide/botanist (4 d)
- Information pack

EXTRA COSTS:

- Single supplement
- Other meals
- Entomolog services
- Possible fees

TOUR GUIDE:

Evita Zviedre, botanist

PERIOD OF TRAVEL:

June - July

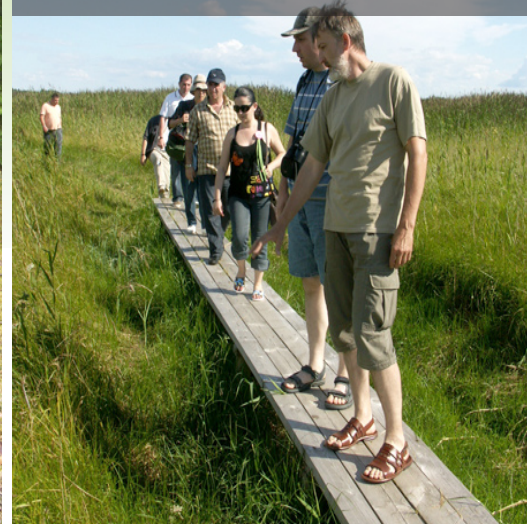
WALKING:

Easy short walks in meadows and nature trails combined with bus drives.

One of False Morels (Gyromitra) has been found



The trail at seaside Randu Meadows



Across the meadow full of flowers



Possible plants of interest: Meadow Oat-grass (*Helictotrichon pratense*), Mountain Clover (*Trifolium montanum*), Fern-leave Dropwort (*Filipendula vulgaris*), Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis masculata*), Military Orchid (*Orchis militaris*) as well as other species of orchids, From fungus – rare Safron Bracket (*Hapalopilus croceus*). Overnight in Valmiera district.

Day 4

Valmiera - Sigulda - Līgatne - Rīga

Departure to Murjāni. The Gauja National Park was set up to protect the most impressive ancient river valley in the Baltic States – the Gauja River, its shores, and the cultural and historical heritage

that is found there. The Gauja ecological trail (Murjāni-Sigulda-Līgatne) leads along the left bank of the ancient Gauja River Valley between Līgatne and Sigulda. There are hillside forests and wetland meadows along the way. Possible to see the yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), wild thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*), the Burnet saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), the sticky catchfly (*Viscaria vulgaris*), annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*), the meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), the spiked speedwell (*Veronica spicata*), the orchardgrass (*Dactylis glomerata*), the German speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*), the Queen Anne's lace (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), the perennial honesty (*Lunaria*

redivia), the baneberry (*Actaea spicata*), the common wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), the maple (*Acer platanoides*), the oak (*Quercus robur*), the European lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*), the dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), the common hazel (*Corylus avellana*), as well as other species of plants related to hillside forests and meadows. The trail between Sigulda and Līgatne is around 20 km in length. Drive to Rīga. Overnight in Rīga.

Day 5

Rīga

Transfer to the airport. Departure.