

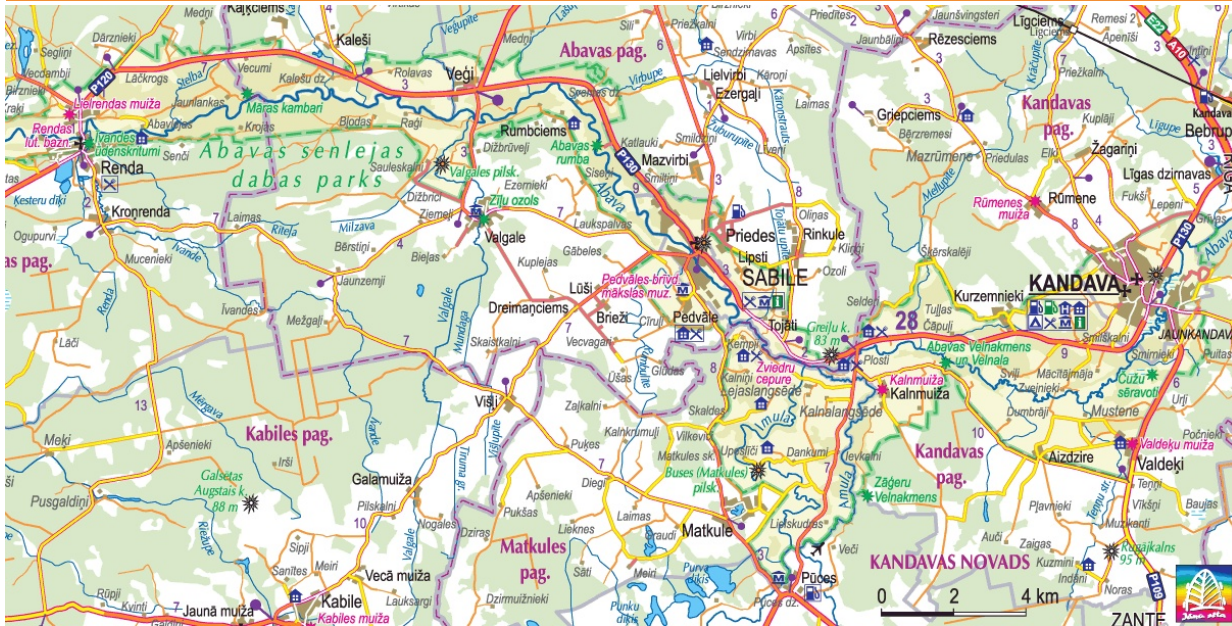


FOR NATURE OBSERVERS

Abava invites you!

On the territory of nature park „Abava ancient valley" you may walk freely, watch the scenery, plants, birds and animals, ride a bike or go for a row. One may go by car only along the public traffic ways. Pitching tents and building fires is allowed only at specially foreseen and facilitated places.

PLANTS IN THE ABAVA RIVER



The territory of nature park extends from Kandava till the confluence point of the Abava and the Venta rivers including the most pronounced stretch of the Abava valley, as well as the lower reaches of the Imula and the Amula rivers. The banks of rivers for the whole of their lengths are high, decorated with forests, meadows, ravines, sandstone and dolomite exposures. Abava ancient valley is distinguished not only for the great variety of nature, but also for its rich cultural and historic heritage. Significant archaeological, architectural and modern art memorials are situated here.

The river is not only the place where you can enjoy rowing delights; it is also the home of many water-plants. Watching and studying the plants may turn into an exciting and cognitive additional activity during boating.

First water-plants start appearing immediately after melt water, however, most of the plants bloom from June till September. Therefore the best time for watching plants is in summer when vegetation in the river and on its banks is the most magnificent. The most enjoyed Abava water touring route extends from Kandava to Renda. For a better study of the sight worthy objects along the banks of the river span, you should look for the description of the particular boating route. The riverside plants may be watched more closely also during the hike along the bank.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BOATING ROUTE

Recommended time

Summer months from May till September, when vegetation is most luxurious.

Type of boats.

Canoes, kayaks. One may also go boating on inflatable boats, however, in this case you should take into account more time spent and physical strain.

Starting point

Boulder bridge over the Abava river at Kandava. Boarding from the left bank upriver from the bridge.

Finish

At Renda bridge, disembarkation on the left bank

Length: 47 km.

Approximate duration

Two days.

Complexity degree

Easy, usually a two-day route. Suitable for a relaxed boating with family or friends.

River inclination

For the whole route 12,3 m, average – 0,28 m/km. The greatest inclination is on the stretch of several kilometres below the Abava rapid.

The route

Kandava – Sabile – Renda.

Distance from Riga: 95 km.

Logistics

Cars may be left at Kandava centre (parking lot available) and one can return from Renda by another car (35 km, asphalt), or by bus, adjusting the completion of route to the public transport schedule. But it will be more convenient to use the services offered by boat hire companies.

Alternatives

You may continue the route to the influx of the Abava river into Venta (30 more km). That will be an exciting descent, with rapid flows, fords and picturesque sandstone exposures on river banks. However, you will not enjoy any civilization benefits, as throughout the whole stretch the river banks are wooded. Physically fit boaters may also begin the route from the Pure bridge (additional 10 km).

Equipment

For a superficial study of water plants you do not need any additional equipment. A camera will be sufficient for making mementos. The photos taken during the route may be uploaded at the portal www.dabasdati.lv, where plant species may be determined by a specialist.

ADVICE TO TRAVELLERS

- Start and end boating at the place with easy access to water. Don't cause collapse of bank slopes.
- Do not interfere with other travellers and the inhabitants of the river unless necessary.
- Do not touch unknown plants. They may be poisonous.
- After the day spent at the river's edge make sure you have not gathered ticks.
- Respect the installers of resting places. Be considerate to infrastructure set up by them.
- Do not leave garbage. Take it with you.
- Support local farmers and businessmen. Use their offered products and services.
- Find out more. Ask the experts.

TOURIST SERVICES

Water tourist camps:

Abava is one of a few Latvian water tourism rivers, whose banks provide a relatively wide range of water tourist camps and tent sites (Plosti, Lejaslangšēde, Drubazas, at Abava rapid, Vitiņi, Zviedru cepure (Swedish hat), Avoti etc.). Boat hire people will provide details on the most suitable resting places for the chosen route. Before you go on a several days' trip it is recommended to coordinate your arrival with the operators of leisure facilities.

Boat rental, transportation, route planning:

www.juraslaivas.lv, 29464901;
www.laivo.lv, 26825352;
www.hotelplosti.lv, 26310303;
www.campo.lv, 29404049;
Anša laivas, 26520410;
Laivas Kandavā, 29199834.

Tourist information:

www.celotajs.lv, 67617600;
www.kandava.lv, 63181150;
www.sabile.lv, 63252344.

Emergency telephone number: 112

Nearby accommodations:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 Pils, 26438887 | 3 Atmatas, 28349237 |
| 5 Kandava, 26434475 | 1 Mucenieki, 26489596 |
| 4 Imulas, 63123647 | 4 Romance, 26686867 |
| 4 Plosti, 63123237 | 4 Birzes, 26256214 |
| 3 Mežtiņi, 29418603 | 3 Kārkli, 29177356 |
| 6 Pedvāle, 29133374 | 1 Indāni, 29259272 |
| 4 Rambules, 29244964 | |
| 4 Zviedru cepure, 26405405 | |
| 6 Valdeķu muiža, 26452948 | |



Common reed



Broadleaf cattail



Abava at užu purvs

Other routes of active tourism can be found at www.celotajs.lv!



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THE MOST COMMON PLANT SPECIES IN THE RIVER AND ON ITS BANKS

The river throughout its course may be quite different – at some places twisted, somewhere slow and muddy, in other parts - fast and rocky. Therefore, the plant diversity differs from one stretch of the river to another. The muddy, slow-flowing stretches of water are covered with diverse, lush vegetation; while in rapids survive only water moss and algae that have stuck to stones. Looking at the river in cross-section from one bank to another, you can see therein several different plant growth bands. In each of them grow different plants adapted to life in specific ecological conditions - wetland soil or water.

Plants are found in the coastal zone of the river that have adapted to life in wet soil along the river banks, as well as in shallow water.



From July to August **flowering-rush** can be easily identified by rosy pink or white flowers. During the rest period you should look for the long, narrow, triangular leaves.

In many places along the river banks **large hemp acrimony** forms small, dense growths. In July and August it can be easily recognized by bright pink flowers.



From June to September, **nodding bur-marigold** blooms along the river banks with golden-yellow flowers. Its fruit has four splintery thistles, which helps to spread the plant.



The **sweet flag** forms dense stands in many places along the banks. It can be distinguished from similar plants by its specific odour. At the end of June, July one can see its green, cob arranged blossoms.



Branched bur-reed can be easily recognized by the knotty raceme and the prickly fruit cluster in the head, reminding of urchins. Blossoms in June and July.

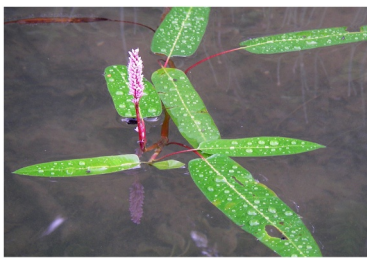
Lake rushes form close-growing growths in the shallow parts of all kinds of **water bodies**. Its dark green, round stems can reach up to 2.5 m in height. It flowers in June and July with barely perceptible brownish-red flowers in small spikelet.



From June to September along the river banks you can easily notice the purple **loosestrife** with purple flowers..



Ordinary bultene grows on the river bank and in water as well. Depending on the place of growth it forms ribbon-like underwater, floating ovoid or sagittal above-water type leaves.



Also **water knotweed** grows in water and on shore. From June to October it is easily recognizable by pink flowers, arranged in spikelet.

In the water lily area there grow plants that are rooted in the riverbed. They spend most of their life immersed in water. Only the flowers and floating leaves rise above water.



White water lily and small water-lily bloom in Latvian rivers with colourful flowers. They are distinguishable only by the form of the bud, bracts and anther, which is difficult to notice for a non-specialist. Flowers of both the white water lily and small water-lily respond to light – during night or cloudy days their flowers close.



Often **yellow water-lily** is named as water lily; it is easily recognizable by the heart-shaped leaves and large, yellow, fragrant flowers that rise slightly above the water. Characterized by a flexible leaf and flower stalk, which can reach up to 3,5 m in length.



Here and there **common water-crowfoot** form close stands. They have sliced round floating and filamentary underwater leaves. It blossoms from the end of May through August with small, white flowers.



One of the more common pondweed species is the **shining pondweed**. It can be easily distinguished from other pondweed species by their relatively large, oblong, peaked, glossy leaves. In June and July blossoms with green flowers, arranged in spikelet.

At slow-moving river stages, in wind protected bays, one can find plants that do not stem anywhere, but they float freely on the water surface.



Duckweed and **spirodelas** are tiny plants with round, 3 to 8 mm wide leaves. Spirodelas are distinguished from duckweed by pink and purple bottom of the leaf, bunch shaped root (duckweed's bottom of leaves is green and root - filamentary). These plants indicate an increased nutrient content in water.



Conventional frogbit can be identified by rounded kidney-shaped leaves, 3 to 5 cm wide, with white flowers that bloom from July till early September.

In the area of submerged plants, there occurred plants that are continuously immersed in water.



In the submerged plants area the arrowhead, **common club-rush** and **unbranched bur-reed** often grow in close stands. The above-mentioned plants in this area form long, narrow, floating leaves. The arrowhead has wider and longer leaves. The leaves of unbranched bur-reed seldom are wider than 1.5 cm and longer than half a meter.



Canadian waterweed often forms large, uniform stands. It has a long, gnarled stem and small, oblong leaves arranged in whorls. The plant is capable to spread rapidly.