Sigulda Area – Directed Tour

Walking Version

Patricia Tourist Office
... your friend in the Baltics!

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Sigulda Area map
**Trains Riga - Sigulda**

All Schedules subject to change – check them

**Riga to Sigulda**

- 05:55
- 06:35
- 07:59
- 09:37 <- Suggested
- 11:51
- 13:20 (Work days)
- 14:10
- 15:48
- 17:18
- 17:55
- 18:50
- 20:45
- 23:02

**Sigulda to Riga**

- 05:56
- 06:29
- 07:35
- 08:03
- 09:34
- 11:08
- 12:04
- 13:40
- 15:49 (Work days)
- 17:18 <- Suggested
- 19:31
- 19:56
- 21:20
Trip to Sigulda by a private car

⚠️ We advise you consider:

In Latvia you should always expect the weather might change during the day. If it shines in the morning, no one can guarantee it won’t be raining in the afternoon.

We recommend you to start the trip around 9:00 am.

You should take some snacks for the road as lunch can be delayed because of the schedule.

Iela – means “street” in Latvian.

For every site feature there is a given estimated time. The time may vary depending on the traffic and your personal preferences.
Where to start?

Sigulda train station
Sigulda City Centers

Pils Street to Sigulda Hotel, Tourist Office & Bus Station

Sigulda Train Station

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On the way from the train station you may want to stop for something to drink or to visit a restroom.
Sigulda Bus Station
All Schedules subject to change – check them

Sigulda bus station is located directly behind the Sigulda hotel

Sigulda to Turaidu
06:20 M/F
07:55
10:40
13:20
14:35
16:55
19:05 M/F

Sigulda to Krimulda
06:25 M/S
08:05
09:40
10:40 M/F
14:10
Map

Sigulda Tourist Office
6 Ausekļa Street
info@sigulda.lv
+371 6 797 1335
09:00 to 19:00 Jul/Aug
09:00 to 18:00 Sep/Oct
10:00 to 17:00 Winter
Continuing in Pils iela the same direction till the junction with Barona iela. You will see the sculpture of Krisjanis Barons (the greatest Latvian folklorist) ahead.

The junction is a roundabout. Turn left to the nearest street to the sculpture—continuation of Pils iela.

On your left hand—a park with the main Lutheran Church of Sigulda.
History of Sigulda

Sigulda is located 52 km away from Riga. Since ancient times the place has been called “Switzerland of Vidzeme”, because the river Gauja here carves deep in the valley and shows peculiar Devon sandstone cliffs and caves. Up to the 13th century the place was reigned by the Liv tribes (Finn-Ugric group), whose leader was Kaupo. He was the first to accept Christianity. That is why one of the first Latvian areas occupied by the German crusaders was the area of Sigulda, then called Turaida (in German – Traiden). In 1207 the district was divided – the lands on the right bank of the river Gauja were taken by the Riga Bishop, but the left bank – by the Sword Brothers Order. In 1207-1209 the Order erected in the area a stone castle named Segewald, from which the name of Sigulda derives. In the middle of the century the Riga Domecapitul built a castle at Krimulda. During the middle ages a small town grew around the castle. During the Livonian War Ivan the Terrible destroyed the Krimulda Castle. In 1562 Sigulda fell to the Poles. In the first quarter of the 17th century Sigulda was occupied by Swedes and Poles, who have burnt down the castles of Turaida and Krimulda (they have not been renewed). From 1625 till the 18th century Sigulda was under the Swedish Crown. Then Peter the Great had conquered the region. Since 1889 with the construction of the railway from Riga to Valka, Sigulda began to develop as a resort area for rich families from St. Petersburg and Warsaw. In 1935 – during the first Latvian independent state years – there were already 374 apartment houses in Sigulda. During the WW2 the beautiful railway station of Sigulda was destroyed. In 1953 Krimulda and Turaida were joined to Sigulda. 1973 – the Gauja National Park was established with its center in Sigulda. In 1986 a bobsleigh track was built in Sigulda, were every year international competitions take place. However, the greatest value of the town is its numerous nature, cultural and historical monuments, which make Sigulda one of the most favorite sightseeing places in Latvia.

**Sigulda Castle**

Built by the Sword Brothers Order in 1207. Destroyed during the Livonian War in the late 16th century. Since 1973 partly restored
You can either:

- Take cable car across Gauja River and explore Krimulda Village, then walk down the stairs to the caves. Cable car - Sigulda runs 10:00 to 19:30 (work days) & 10:00 to 18:30 (Sat & Sun).

- Walk down the stairs next to the castle and walk across the Gauja River bridge to the caves.

From the Sigulda City Castle parking lot, walk down the stairs. When you reach the bottom there will be a road. Turn right and proceed along the road. You will come to a bridge on the river Gauja.
Cross the river Gauja on the bridge.

Keep on driving, as the road turns right. On your left hand you see ponds, after passing them on your right hand there will be a parking place.

Optionally, we recommend that you take the cable car across the river valley from Sigulda and then explore the Krimulda village on foot. Return to Sigulda by bus or cable car.
Caves

Gutmana Cave
The biggest cave in Latvia (500 m³, length 18.8m, width 10m, max height- 10m). Partially surviving inscriptions back to the 17th century! It has been said the spring in the cave has healing powers. The legend says there was a “good man” – Gutmanis, who lived in the cave in the ancient days and healed locals.

Victor’s cave
Length 5.9m. It has been said the cave was carved by Viktors Heils - a gardener of Turaida castle and the Bridegroom of the Rose of Turaida (SEE- Grave of the Rose of Turaida)

Cross underpass from the parking lot.

Continue left towards the caves. Visit the Caves/take pictures Gutmana. Viktora, Maza (the Small).

Return to the car the same way you came.

Drive to the exit of the parking lot, and then turn right.
Grave of the Rose of Turaida

Situated under a huge linden tree the grave has a marble tablet with the inscription – “Here rests the Rose of Turaida”. There are written documents telling a story about the Rose of Turaida – Maija (1601 – 1620). She was a local girl, who was in love with the gardener of the Turaida Castle – Viktors. It has been said Maija was murdered by another jealous obsessive man, because she refused to marry him...

The symbol of Maija’s faithfulness, dignity and purity is very strong and lives till today. Many marring couples come to the grave to put flowers on it and to pay tribute to Maija – the Rose of Turaida

Cross the road towards the entry to the Turaida Castle.

The Museum is open from 10:00 till 18:00 (May-October). Entrance fee 1.50Ls.

Buy tickets at the cashier. Guided tour for 10Ls (contact person Ilga).

Turn right from the cashier. Keep on going till you see stairs on your left hand.

Walk up and visit the Grave of the Rose of Turaida (Turaidas Rozes kāps) to your left hand.
Continue moving the same direction towards the Turaida Church.

**Visit the Turaida Church**


Exit the Church and turn left, keep on moving towards the Castle.

**Turaida Castle**

Built in 1214 by the Bishop of Riga. Burned down in 1776, however, the original medieval structures preserved in the basement and ground floor level. In 1936 scenic platform was erected in the upper level of the tower at the height of 27 m. The former shed, semicircle tower an the southern wing with its historic interior have been renovated. Archaeological excavations were started in 1976.

Visit the Tower and see the magnificent view from the top.

Exit the Tower and turn right – visit the Museum.

Exit the Museum and turn right, walk down the path to see the ruins of the Castle and the views to the valley of Gauja.

Exit the area of the Castle exit direction. Take the right path to see the sculptures on the Dainu Hill.
Visit the Dainu Hill – Folk-Sing Garden.

Open air exposition. There are 25 sculptures spread over the park. The sculptures are dedicated to the Latvian folk songs and their gatherer – the great folklorist Krisjanis Barons. The park was established in 1985. Krisjanis Barons used to climb the Hill every day of the last year of his life.

Use the attached map and visit the former Turaida Manor upon your will.

The Manor is mentioned as early as 16th century. However, it was many times rebuilt and 14 ponds and following buildings have survived till today:
- the old and new house of estate manager;
- granary;
- overseer’s house;
- stable;
- kennels;
- pub-tea house;
- living house of estate servants;
- fish basement (functioning);
- smithy (with demonstration of the craftwork);
- sauna (with exhibition);
- drying-kiln;
- apple store-house;
- gardener house and cart-house with carts;
- sledges and harness exhibition
Turaida Bus Stop

All Schedules subject to change – check them

Turaida to Sigulda
07:24
08:04
09:00
09:20 not SAT
10:12 Sat/Sun
11:25 M/F
13:29
14:20
18:30
19:13 M/F
19:36 M/F

Turaida to Krimulda
10:48 Sat & Sun
10:50

Note: Bus to Krimulda stops across the street in the large parking lot – not at the bus shelter.

Note: there is a new restaurant 1 km along this road toward Krimulda. Can’t miss the large wooden building on right hand side of the road

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Krimulda
On arriving in Krimulda Village, take the right hand fork in the road and as you approach a group of buildings at a “T” intersection, there is parking on the left side.

Walk behind the main Estate house for a wonderful view of the Gauja River valley and both the Sigulda and Turaida Castles. About 1 km to the left (North East is the ruins of the 13th century castle). A little further back on the trail past the ruins is a view point for Turaida Castle.

Granted in the middle of the 13th Century from the Riga archbishop, a Stone castle was built on the top of the Krimulda hill. It was not defensible and was soon destroyed by the enemy and laid for years in ruins. In the early 1900’s, the current set of buildings were built from the stones of the original castle. The main Estate building is now a children’s rehabilitation center.
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Krimulda village is located about 5km past Turaida and provides an interesting view of nature and potentially storks.
Optionally, we recommend that you take the cable car across the river valley from Sigulda and then explore the Krimulda village on foot. Return to Sigulda by bus or cable car.
We hope that you enjoyed your day in the lovely Sigulda countryside!

Thank you!