



LATVIA NORTHERN GAUJA FORESTLAND



STRENČI – SPICU BRIDGE, 27 km

Through the beautiful forests of Vidzeme

The beginning of the Forest Trail at this section coincides with the Gauja Nature Trail, which runs along the very bank of the river. The Forest Trail crosses the A3 in two places (before the turn to Seda and before Kauči) (be careful!) and continues along small forest roads, a sand-gravel quarry, then continues down a gravel road at the turn to Oliņas. After 3.5 km, turn right again and follow the route to Spicu Bridge via small and remote forest roads where some of the most beautiful sights of the Northern Gauja ("Ziemeļgauja") protected landscape area can be seen by the so called Zemā sala (Low Isle). A picnic area and a camp are located at the end of this section, where the P24 crosses the Spicu Bridge.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 27 km



1 (long) day or 2-day route



Gauja Bridge next to Strenči



Spicu Bridge by Gauja River



Gauja Nature Trail – Kauči – Oliņas – Spicu Bridge



Mainly small forest roads and trails, gravel road



Medium moderate, if the section is completed in two days, hard, if completed in one day.



The A3 must be crossed in two places after Strenči. Make sure you are safe when crossing the road! Swimming in Gauja River can be dangerous!

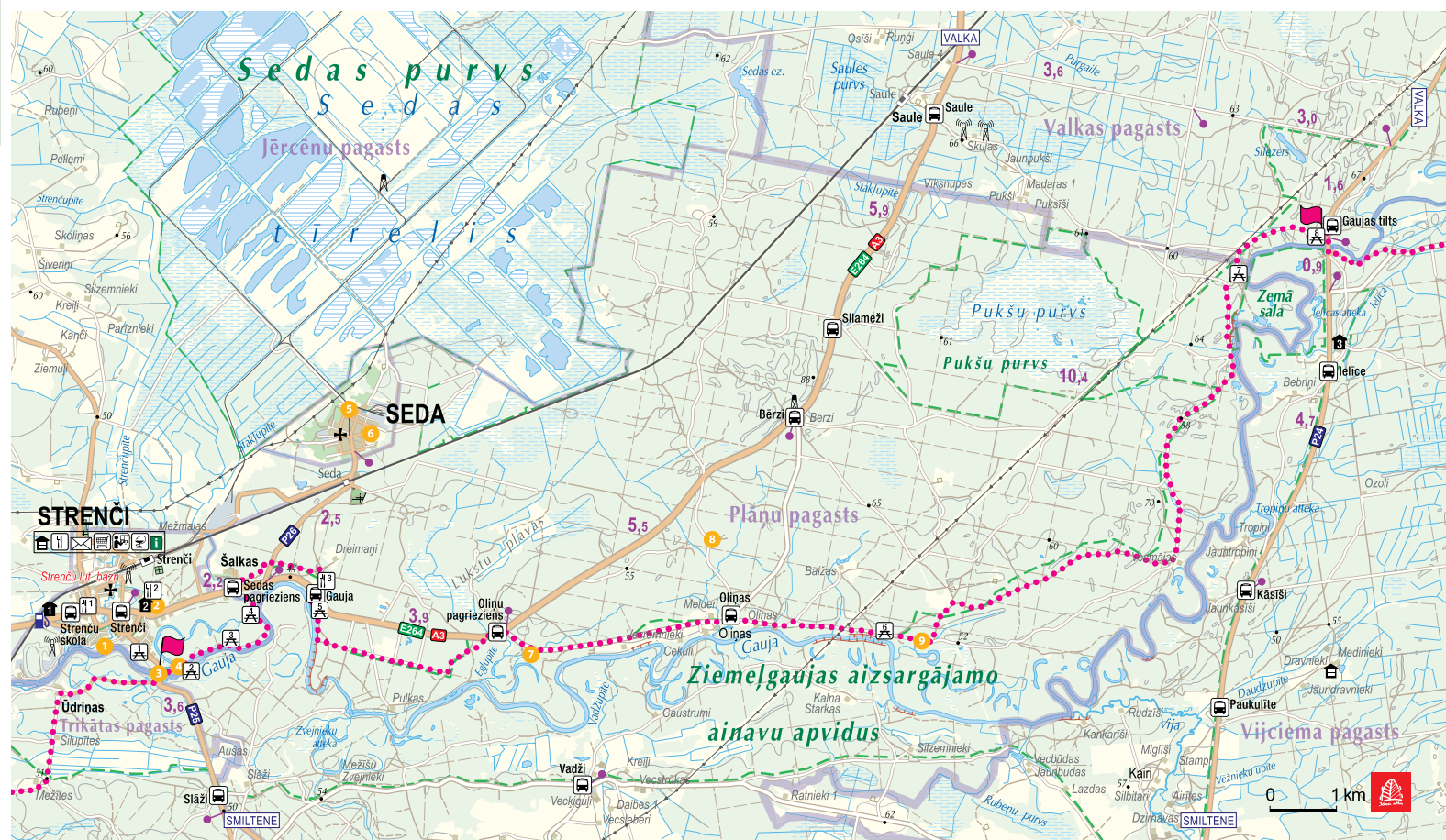


There are no shops or caterers between Strenči and Gaujiena (3–5 day walk)! Be sure to carefully follow the markings

or use a GPX file to avoid getting lost on the route.



Strong hikers without heavy backpacks will be able to complete the distance in one day. It is advisable to divide the section into a two-day walk with an overnight stay at the rest area past Oliņas (tent spots only), located approximately in the middle of this section.



FORESTS

The Gauja Nature Trail in the territory of Strenči is one of the best places to take in the diversity and seasonal changes of the forest. A multitude of cultural and historical objects of different times can be found here as well. As autumn approaches, the forest attracts foragers, as it is one of the best wild berry and mushroom spots in Vidzeme. The forest also contains evidence of World War I, such as bullets, barbed wire, projectile chips and bunker sites. In this section, the Forest Trail passes the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve, which is the only and the largest nature conservation area of its kind in Latvia. Oak, elm and ash forests that are quite rare in Latvia grow in the floodplains of the river near Zemā sala (Low Isle) (by Gauja River near Spicu Bridge).

WORTH SEENIG!

- 1 Wooden sculpture park.** Sculptures made in honour of raftsmen, a profession which used to be widespread in the region. GPS: 57.62239, 25.68837
- 2 Strenči Psychoneurological Hospital.** The architect A. Reinbergs also designed the building of the Latvian National Theatre. The hospital water tower-chimney is one of the most unusual engineering structures in the Baltic States. GPS: 57.62789, 25.70115
- 3 Gauja Bridge next to Strenči.** Second oldest multi-span reinforced concrete bridge in Latvia. GPS: 57.61873, 25.70128
- 4 Dravas (Hive) Oak Tree.** The trunk of the oak tree is adapted for use in beekeeping. GPS: 57.61962, 25.70629

- 5 Seda town housing.** A city built in the style of socialist urbanism and features examples of Stalinist Classicism architecture. GPS: 57.65041, 25.75078
- 6 Seda Culture Centre.** An exhibition on cultural heritage tells the history of the Seda area. +371 29436275; GPS: 57.65045, 25.75454
- 7 Oliņas Spring.** GPS: 57.62056, 25.79697
- 8 Hunting monuments.** To the Russian Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich and opera singer Rihards Veide. GPS: 57.63481, 25.84149
- 9 Kaķu Giant Pine.** May be the oldest giant pine tree in Latvia. GPS: 57.62035, 25.89368

SERVICES



Accommodations

- 1. Guest House "Strenči",** +371 20242829; GPS: 57.62660, 25.67453
- 2. Hostel "Ceļa viesnīca",** +371 20281058; GPS: 57.62690, 25.70106
- 3. Ethnographic farmstead "Ielīcas",** +371 29461673; GPS: 57.65790, 26.00147



Catering

- 1. Café "Sanvik",** +371 29178252; GPS: 57.62770, 25.68450
- 2. Café "Irina & Madis",** +371 29403948; GPS: 57.62800, 25.70060
- 3. Café "Kauči",** +371 29413873; GPS: 57.62969, 25.74229



Shops

- Shop In Strenči - 1,** GPS: 57.62770, 25.68450
- Shop In Strenči - 2,** GPS: 57.62708, 25.68873



Pharmacy

In Strenči,
GPS: 57.62721, 25.68439



Public transport

There is regular bus service from Valmiera and Valka to Strenči, the train runs twice a day. The closest stop to Gauja Bridge is Ielīcas, located on the P24 road-way, the bus runs 3–5 times a day on the Valka–Smiltene route. Route timetables: www.1188.lv



Rest areas

- 1. By the swimming spot in Strenči,** 🏊 ⚠️ GPS: 57.62134, 25.69474
- 2. Picnic area - 1,** 🌳 GPS: 57.61916, 25.70600
- 3. Picnic area - 2,** No more than 3 fire-places. GPS: 57.62225, 25.71949
- 4. Picnic area - 3,** GPS: 57.62672, 25.72638
- 5. By Gauja next to parking lot on A3,** 🏊 ⚠️ GPS: 57.62756, 25.74049
- 6. By Gauja past Oliņas,** 🌳 ⚠️ GPS: 57.62105, 25.88398
- 7. By Gauja,** 🌳 ⚠️ GPS: 57.66756, 25.97700
- 8. By Spicu Bridge,** 🌳 ⚠️ Camping with tents allowed. GPS: 57.67265, 25.99651

TOURIST INFORMATION:



Strenči Municipality TIC,
Strenči, Rīgas street 7,
www.strencunovads.lv
+371 64715667, GPS: 57.62723, 25.68481



Valka TIB, Valka, Rīgas street 22,
www.visit.valka.lv/en, +371 64725522 or
+371 26446602; GPS: 57.77427, 26.01927