

FLOODPLAIN OF THE RŪJA

Floodplain of Rūja is a significant nesting place for a snipe and corn-crake. The territory rich with biodiversity is a part of the Northern Vidzeme biosphere reserve. Width of the floodplain is 250-500 metres. It consists mostly of wet, flood-prone, partially overgrown meadows, as well as brushwood and woods.

Shaded river sections of the Rūja River interchange with open areas exposed to sun, in some places forming sand or pebble banks. Rūja is a slow-flowing river with occasional overfall areas or stone clusters on which greater water moss and green algae-cladophora is growing. Reeds, pondweeds, bunchy flowering rush, river horse-tails, arrowheads and unbranched bur-reed grow in the slowest sections of the river. Interesting habitat – floating-leaf vegetation has formed in the areas where spring flood has created wood silt. Various floating plants – frogbits, duckweed and spirodela jointly occupy these strange green islands existing only until autumn or the next flood.

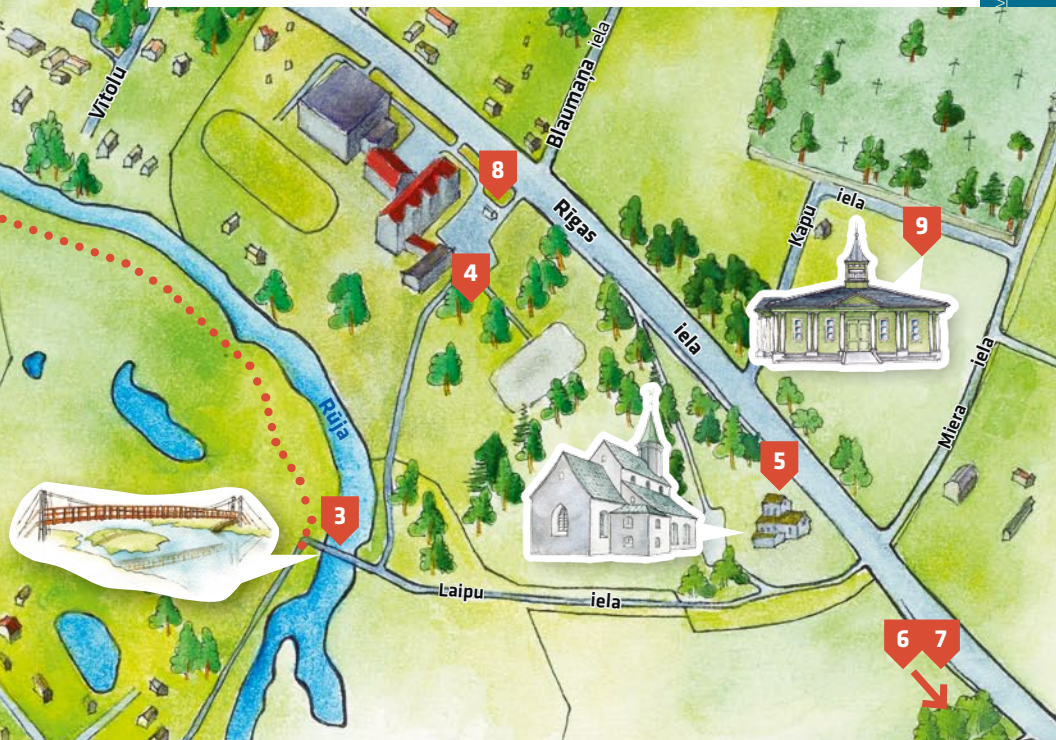
Banks of the Rūja River are rich with old river beds in various stages of



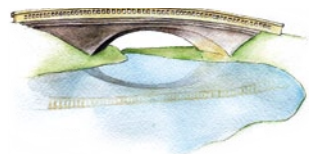
development; you can find here beaver dams and periodically drying out pools. Some old river banks have fully overgrown with sword grass or horse-tails, while some are covered with reed, clubrushes, coltsfoot, milfoil, hornwort, Canadian waterweed, frogbits, duckweed and other water plants. Water pineapple similar to the pineapple shaft and glorious water lilies grow in some old river banks.

The Rūja River most likely obtained its name from the Estonian word ruhi – trough, log boat as the Rūja River in the ancient times was a significant waterway, while the Rūjiena region was a part of the Estonian Sakala country. The Rūjiena region has an old and rich history: already in old days it was called a bread barn of Vidzeme, the Russian noblemen wore clothes woven by the skilful artisans of Rūjiena, peasants in this region were the first to buy houses as the family property, and this is a place where foundation was laid for the army of Northern Vidzeme.

If you are in the Rūjiena region, visit also the most interesting tourist attractions of the area.



NEARBY TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN RŪJIENA



1 BRIDGE OF THE VALDEMĀRA STREET

Reinforced concrete bridge over the Rūja River was built in 1924. At that time it was the longest continuous reinforced concrete bridge arch in Latvia. Author: the Construction Engineer Ēriks Vikmanis. The bridge was blown up on 23 September 1944 and only partially restored after the war. Capital repairs were performed in 1996, after which the bridge regained its initial appearance.

2 OLD FIREMEN'S DEPO TOWER

9 Valdemāra Street

The firemen's tower with a bell has been built in 1936 and is still standing today.



3 LAIPAS

To ensure a shorter walk from Pārūpe to a school, church and Kalnkrogs, the residents are able to use a cable bridge Laipas (from 1964).

4 MONUMENT TO R. SLOKENBERG

Officially opened in 1998 in honour of the 100th anniversary of the Pastor Robert Slokenberg. Author: the sculptor Andris Vārpa. The monument was built at the place where the Rūjiena Parish School established by R. Slokenberg once stood.

5 ST. BARTHOLEMW CHURCH

32 Rīgas Street

St. Bartholemew Church of Rūjiena was built in 1263. It is one of the oldest and largest churches in Vidzeme outside Rīga. The church was destroyed, reconstructed and restored on several occasions throughout its existence.



6 OLD EXHIBITION HALL

34 Rīgas Street, phone +371 26381413, 64263175

A permanent exhibition of the works by Arvīds Strauja and a collection of gypsum pieces by Jānis Zariņš may be viewed here. Please apply in advance for a visit.

7 MONUMENT TO BERGMANN FAMILY

Commemorative plaque (1992) initiated by the Latvian Surgeons Association, supported by the Rūjiena Town Council and created by the sculptor Andris Vārpa in the Rūjiena Pastorate Park is dedicated to four generations of the Bergmann family pastors of the St. Bartholemew Church and to Ernst von Bergmann, the Surgeon and Founder of Aseptic Technique.

8 MONUMENT "MADONNA ORANS"

The monument depicting a young woman with a child was erected in 1936 in honour of Jūlija Skujiņa, the drown teacher of the parish school. Legends around this monument are alive to this day.

9 CHAPEL

4 Miera Street

The chapel was opened in August 2016.



10 WEAVER SHOP "ATSPOLE"

8 Skolas Street, phone +371 29406962

In the shop you may find out everything about weaving – how the beautiful linen mats, tablecloths and towels are made. You may try using a loom. Linen items are available for sale.

11 PEOPLE'S SCHOOL OF RŪJIENA REGION AND ARTISAN CENTRE "RŪZELE"

8a Skolas Street, phone +371 26397236

Information about craftsmanship of the Rūjiena region and exhibitions of works. An opportunity to participate in various creative activities and workshops. Please apply in advance for activities.

12 MONUMENT "SOWER"

The monument by Kārlis Zemdega erected in 1939 – a young man with a seed shift tray – is dedicated to



Arturs Alberings, the Minister of Agriculture of the first period of Latvian independence. The monument one night in 1951 was knocked down, broken in pieces and hidden. "Sower" since 18 November 1988 again occupies its place.

13 TERNEJA PARK

Old cemetery of Terneja was levelled in 1952 and has become a park with walking trails and resting areas, where visitors can enjoy beautiful flower beds and Sakura trees. The Sakura trees were planted in 2009 in honour of the friendship between Rūjiena and the Japanese city Higashikawa. Several commemorative plaques and monuments have been placed in the park.

14 ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECT "NEST"

The environmental object – sculpture was erected in the town centre in 2012. Author: the sculptor Ģirts Burvis. "Nest" serves as a meeting place for the locals and a place of attraction and taking photographs for the visitors.



15 HORNBLOWER OF TĀLAVA

A monument created by the sculptor Kārlis Zemdega in the Finnish granite was erected in 1937. It is dedicated to the fights for freedom of 1919. A name given by the author – a monument "To liberators of Rūjiena and Fallen Soldiers".



16 DAIRY FACTORY OF RŪJIENA

5 Upes Street, phone +371 29403494

The building of the Rūjiena Dairy Factory was built in 1912 and expanded in 1931. Delicious ice-cream of Rūjiena is made at the dairy factory, and visitors may enjoy ice-cream tasting here. Please apply in advance for tasting.



17 TOURIST CENTRE AND JAPANESE ROOM

7 Upes Street, phone +371 64263278, 22002268

Information regarding tourism services, places of interest and opportunities for recreation in the Rūjiena region and Latvia is available at the centre. Souvenirs may be purchased here. A special Japanese Room dedicated to the friendship between two towns – Rūjiena and Higashikawa.

18 EXHIBITION HALL

7 Upes Street, +371 26381413, 64263175

The new exhibition hall was opened in 2009. Regular exhibitions of art work related to the name of Rūjiena take place here. Guided tours of the town are available. Please apply in advance.

19 OPEN-AIR STAGE

The stage is used for the open-air events – open-air balls, theatre performances, Ligo celebrations and town festivals, and it is an excellent place for a leisurely walk.

20 CULTURE HOUSE SQUARE

9 Upes Street

Rest area at the Rūjiena Culture House was opened in September 2015. Ligo Garden, Rain Garden and Japanese Garden – it all together forms the green recreational square. Various plants are placed in an interesting and playful way, and water is quietly murmuring in the improvised rain river.

WHERE TO EAT

"Trīs draugi" cafe

6 Valdemāra Street, +371 64263694

"e.d.a." cafe

5 Valdemāra Street, +371 26455565

Latvija
100



Vides aizsardzības un reģionālās attīstības ministrija

Information prepared:

Rūjienas novada Tūrisma informācijas centrs

Illustrations: Krista Ķipure

Design: "Karšu izdevniecība Jāņa sēta"