



National parks of Latvia

„Forests in Poland and Europe.  
Characteristics and management”



**PLACES WORTH PROTECTING CAN BE FOUND IN ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. WE HAVE DECIDED TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARKS OF LATVIA. WE HOPE IT WILL BE AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE FOR YOU AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW.**





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# GAUJA NATIONAL PARK

The Gauja National Park is the largest national park in Latvia, with the area of 917 km<sup>2</sup> near the valley of the Gauja River. It was established in 1973.



It is known for its great biological diversity, variety of landforms and beautiful views.





The park features many magnificent sandstone formations – outcrops, rocks, cliffs and caves.

The Gutmanala is the most spacious cavern near the Baltic Sea.

Liela Ellīte is a cave which was belived to be home of a devil.

Great cliffs, like the Kuku Cliffs or the Lustuzis Ridge can be admired on the banks of the Gauja River, the Amata River and the Ligatne River.



*Cave Liela Ellīte, also known as Great Little Hell*



*The Erglu Cliffs on the banks of the Gauja River*





There are over 500 cultural and historical monuments in the Gauja National Park worth seeing:

- ❖ Turaida Museum Reserve – A small area rich with many monuments, including the Turaida Castle, a manor house and a church. There you can learn about the history of that place since the 11th century.
- ❖ Ungurmuiza Manor – The only wooden mansion from the Baroque era in Latvia that survived to the modern times.
- ❖ Cēsis Old Town – Area of the Cēsis city, featuring medieval castle ruins, new castle from the 18th century, the Museum of Art and History and St. John's church, built in the 13th century.



*St. John's church in Cēsis*

*In the background: Castle of Livonian Order in Sigulda, near the Gauja River*





# Kēmeri National Park

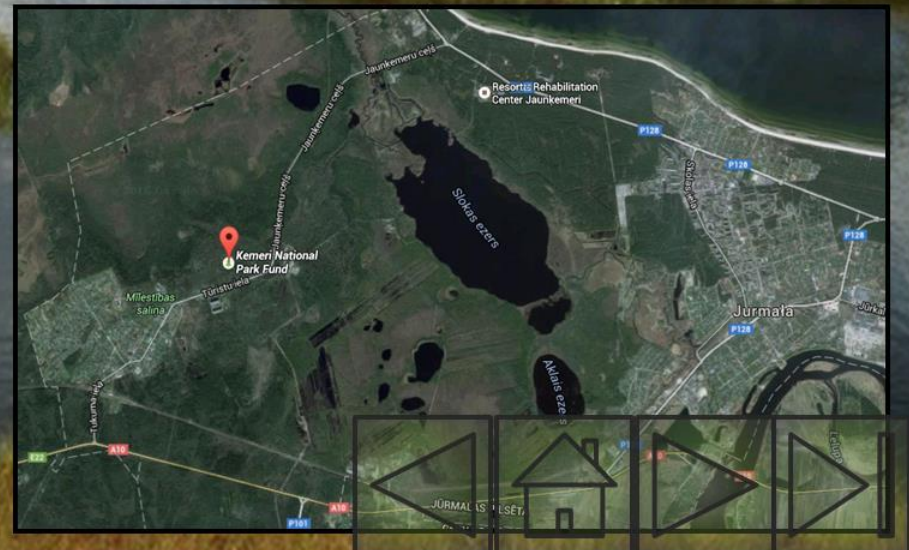


Kēmeri National Park is the third largest national park in the country by the area. In 19th century SPA resorts have started to be created there. Mainly, the territory of this park is covered by forests and muds.

Area : 381.65 km<sup>2</sup>

Location : On the west of the city of Jūrmala, Latvia

Established : 1997





## Rare animals:

- Black stork
- Lesser spotted eagle
- White tailed eagle
- White-backed woodpecker
- Wolves

- Lynxes
- Roes
- Elks
- Deer
- Otters
- Beavers

- Bats
- Martens
- Ermines
- Dormice

## The most significant objects:

- The Great Kemer Bog
- Mineral springs and muds

## Animals:

- 47 speices of mammals
- 250+ speices of birds(67 protected)
- 11 speices of reptiles and amphibians
- 3300+ speices of insects
- 58 speices of spiders

- Terrain:
- Forests: 57%
- Marshland: 24%
- Meadows:19%





# Examples of fauna

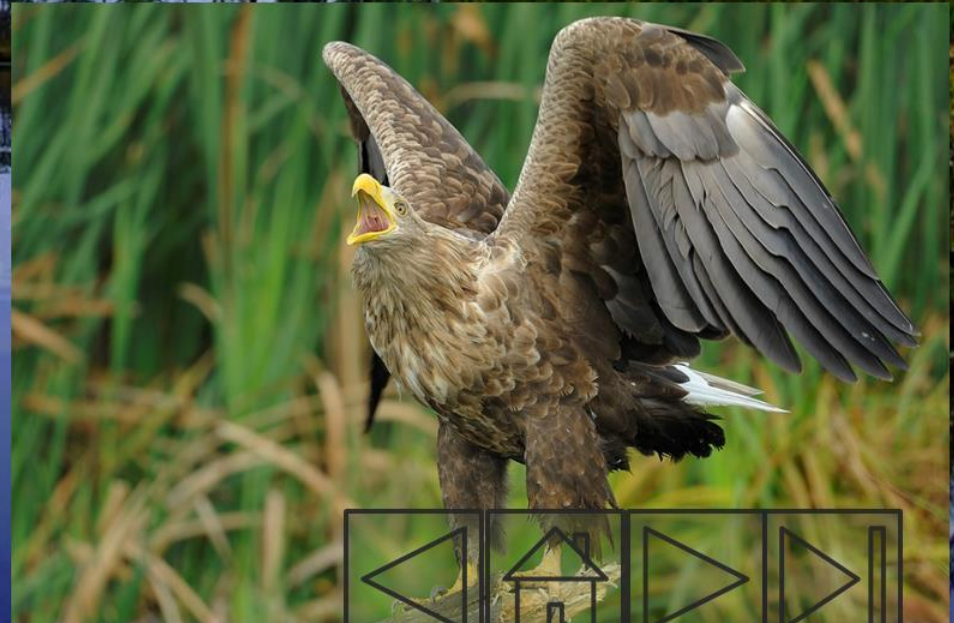
Lesser spotted eagle



Deer



Black stork



White tailed eagle



# Rāzna National Park



RĀZNA NATIONAL PARK IS THE YOUNGEST NATIONAL PARK IN LATVIA. IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2007 AND COVERS AN AREA OF 532 KM<sup>2</sup>. RĀZNA NATIONAL PARK WAS CREATED TO PROTECT LAKE RĀZNA (the second largest lake in Latvia).





**THERE ARE MANY LAKES IN THE PARK AREA (14% OF THE SURFACE AREA OF THE NATIONAL PARK CONSISTS OF WATER SURFACES).**



**THE PARK IS A HOME OF MANY WILD BIRDS, INCLUDING UNIQUE AND PROTECTED SPECIES.**

**EZEZERS LAKE IS THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY LAKE OF THE RAZNA NATIONAL PARK. IT HAS 26 ISLANDS, ON WHICH WE CAN SEE BROAD LEAVED TREES AND FIR-TREES FORESTS.**

**RAZNA LAKE FEATURES MANY SPECIES OF FISH. THERE ARE 27 SPECIES OF FISH, WHICH IS ALMOST 90% OF ALL FISH SPECIES FOUND IN LATVIA.**





**IN THE PARK WE CAN EXPLORE RUINS OF THE TEUTONIC  
CASTLE FROM THE YEAR 1252, WHICH WAS SITUATED ON  
MĀKONĶKALNS HILL (248 M ABOVE SEA LEVEL).**







# Slītere National Park

Slītere National Park is located on the northern-west coast of Latvia and covers an area of 265km<sup>2</sup> (including 101km<sup>2</sup> of the Baltic Sea).

Some of the most prominent features of the park include a unique complex of dunes, depressions and bogs, sandy beaches, broadleaf forests covering Blue Hills as well as Cape Kolka and the Slītere Lighthouse.



*Map of the Slītere National Park*



*In the background – the Slītere Lighthouse*



# So much to do, so much to see...

The park is full of places worth visiting.

- Cape Kolka – The cape where waters of the Gulf of Riga and the Baltic Sea meet. The Kolka Lighthouse is located on an island not far from the shore.
- Slitere Lighthouse - Lighthouse located on the top of the Blue Hills, the second oldest lighthouse in Latvia . It is open for tourists and offers breathtaking views.
- A collection of antlers in Vaides Purvziedi – A collection of over 550 antlers found by foresters in the park.
- Mazirbe – One of the largest villages on the Latvian coast, made of two parts – fishing homesteads at the sea and a few kilometers away there is a church, cemetery and a pub.



*View of the Slitere Lighthouse from a plane*

The Slitere National Park offers many interesting activities. Tourists can enjoy nature trails, rides on cycling paths, walks on the beaches and birdwatching. Experienced sailors can also sail to the Kolka Lighthouse.





# Wildlife of the Slītere National Park



*Eurasian Lynx in Slītere National Park*

The park lies along the migratory flyways and during spring and fall nearly all bird species found in Latvia can be seen there, making it the perfect place for birdwatching.

The park also hosts hundreds of species of plants and bryophytes, 29 of which are found nowhere else in Latvia

The park is a home to many species of animals, including the grey wolf, Eurasian lynx, elk and the protected smooth snake and natterjack toad. Near the sea the Baltic grey seal and the rarer ringed seal are found.



*Orchids in Slītere National Park*





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