

CARNIKAVA DISTRICT www.tourism.carnikava.lv



Welcome to Carnikava!

Carnikava, Sernikon, Zarnikof, Zarnikau... Throughout history this name has had different variations recounted by the Livonians, Germans, Swedes, Poles and Russians. The sea and the River Gauja, on the banks of which Carnikava came into being, sustained its inhabitants, but also brought them sorrow. Those who chose to settle down in the beautiful place by the River Gauja estuary to the gulf had to face adversities such as devastating floods that even shifted the riverbed of the Gauja and shifting sand dunes that buried forests and houses. But people did not give up.

There were times when the name of Carnikava was known far and wide. The manor house of Carnikava built during the time of Count Ernst Reinhold von Menaden (1726-1798) brought it fame. Contemporaries called it the most luxurious manor in Vidzeme. Lamprev and salmon fishina, breeding horses and a herd of cows provided the manor with income, which, however, fell under the rule of successive owners. Manufacturer Heinrich Goegainger breathed new life into the tradina activities when he bought the manor in 1906. In addition to fishina and dairy farmina, he developed the fish cannina industry and had the intention to turn Carnikava into a first class resort by taking advantage of the upcoming railroad elaborated by the government of the Tzar. But all of the plans were swept away by World War I. At the end of the war, in 1917, the manor house of Carnikava along with other buildings were burnt down. The only reminders of the splendours of the past are the few remaining column capitals, one of which can still be seen in the Carnikava manor park (national architectural monument, 1680s), and two marble lions, which now auard the entrance of Cesis New Castle.

During the interwar period, an economic and cultural uplift was generated both by the individual work of fishermen and the operations of the Fishing Industry

Company. Instead of horse carts and boats, people took buses to go to Riga and starting from 1933 trains were also available. Tourism flourished and in autumn special "Lamprey trains" went to Carnikava. The people of Carnikava introduced their guests to lamprey fishing and processing and organised grilled lamprey tasting. These events lay at the beginning of the Lamprey festival. Then another blow came with the occupation of Latvia and World War II dispersing and destroying the inhabitants of Carnikava, bringing their economic development to a halt and setting back the cultural activities that had such a promising start.

Nevertheless, it is not for nothing that the fishermen of Carnikava are hardened to withstand life by the sea. The kolkhoz that was made and imposed by the top, soon became one of the most prosperous collective farms in Latvia. The fishermen collective farm Carnikava reached its peak in the 1970s when fishing took place in the River Gauia, the Baltic Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, when the lamprey arilled in the fish factory and other canned fish were sought after in Moscow and Leningrad, and when the windows of many flower shops were decorated with flowers coming from the local market garden. A new school, kindergarten, shopping centre, post office and apartment houses were built in Carnikava. To protect the newly developed village, the dam was built along the River Gauia. The private houses of fishermen also sprang up like mushrooms in an attempt to circumvent the strict regulations of the Soviet Union limiting the size of the dwelling space.

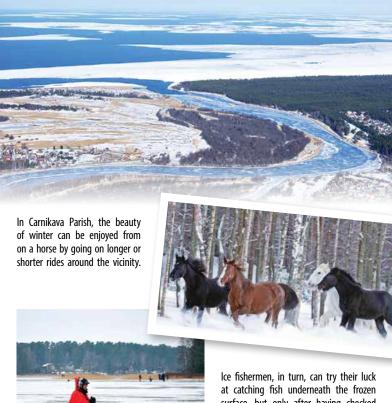
In the 1990s, Camikava saw not only the restoration of independence of Latvia, but also acquired administrative independence. In 1992, Carnikava Parish was separated from Adazi Parish to become Carnikava Municipality as a result of the administrative territorial reform of 2009.



WINTER

19 KM SKIING TRACK

Whenever there is snow during winter, we invite you to come to Piejūra Nature Park and enjoy the wonderful skiing track that is 19 km long and stretches along the sea coast.



Ice fishermen, in turn, can try their luck at catching fish underneath the frozen surface, but only after having checked that the ice is sufficiently thick. Please be especially careful on the ice!



ACCOMMODATION Hotel Porto Resort GPS 57, 185164, 24, 346336 Medzābaki-2, Lilaste www.portoresort.lv +371 22722258 info@nortoresort.lv **CAFES AND** RESTAURANTS

ARTISANS

+371 29373494

+371 29684786

sudrahaleinate@inhov lv

Chocolate workshop

2 Veikala street, Garupe

www.adlers.lv

+371 29120993

WATER

Gauja

petrovseriks@inbox.lv

RECREATION

Carnikava District

+371 29214438

SUP boards and

rowing boat rent

Medzāhaki-2 Lilaste

+371 29272005

River Gauja

+371 29247181

High Wake

Pulkstenezers.

Carnikava District

+371 29334842

GPS 57.185164, 24.346336

Fishing boat tours on the

GPS 57.1343843, 24.2724581

GPS 57.130041, 24.329661

Rafting on the River

Cakotava

5 Ērglu street, Kalngale

Creative workshop

Pizzeria

GPS 57.1287839, 24.2792399 Stacijas Square, Carnikava +371 20865000

Cafe Arita A GPS 57.0819451, 24.190701 1A Vanagu street, Kalngale +371 67903044 Cafe "Tine"

GPS 57 128824 24 278446 18 Rīgas street, Carnikava Pastry shop Rīgas SZBK GPS 57,1290892 24.2785814

Shop/cafe Priedes IT GPS 57.1054977, 24.1994377 12 Mežciema street, Garciems +371 29232048

Summer beach restaurant Lila Mare GPS 57.1878533.24.3286332 28 Ziemelu street, Lilaste

Restaurant Porto Resort GPS 57.185164, 24.346336 Medzāhaki-2 Lilaste www.portoresort.lv +371 22722258 info@portoresort.lv



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GPS 57.081711, 24.144493 1 Pelikānu street, Kalngale Carnikava District www.spapelikans.lv +371 25433555

HORSE RIDING Freeni

GPS 57.0814526 24.1630601 Kalngale, www.erceni.lv +371 29418192 GPS 57.072376, 24.240303 Kalngale, www.ekvi.lv +371 26538895 GPS 57.1289210. 24.2543316 Carnikava +371 29577660

FISHING COMPANIES Leste GPS 57.1343843. 24.2724581 +371 29247181 Grif 93

GPS 57.1345564

+371 29132888

24.2713029

SUMMER **LAMPREY FESTIVAL**

LAMPREY COOKS

Gaujas krasti

24.2860595

Gauia

GPS 57.1375747.

www.gaujas-krasti.lv

+371 26514046

GPS 57.1176939.

Gauia bridge next to

+371 29654756

GPS 57.1319665.

+371 26423383

GPS 57.1263080.

+371 29413089

GPS 57.1319422,

+371 29214579

Galina Levockina

GPS 57.1259695.

+371 29250546

GPS 57.1261182.

+371 29469755

24.2679901

Carnikava

Dietlavi

24.2740121

Carnikava

Gauias nēái

24 2697018

Carnikava

24 2709205

Carnikava

Gundegas

24.2651060

Carnikava

24.3159457

ViaRaltic

Krupis

For more than fifteen years, on the third Saturday of August, the great Lamprey festival is held with splendour in Carnikava to mark the opening of the lamprev fishing season. On this day, the Lamprey king comes to visit his "kingdom" to join the inhabitants of Carnikava in the festive pedestrian parade, take part in the boat parade, observe different competitions both on water and on dry land, bring everybody to unforgettable attractions and, of course, make sure that each and every person can enjoy the event and the festive feeling. An essential part of the event is the moment when all the participants are warmly invited to treat themselves to the traditional lamprev soup that is prepared in a big 400 litre pot throughout almost the



"LAMPREY KINGDOM"

Carnikava is an ancient fishermen village, known in Latvia as a popular lamprey fishing ground for more than a hundred years. Time and again, the word "lamprey" almost became synonymous with "Carnikava". The people of Carnikava used to call them "zutiņš", because the word "nēģis", which means lamprey in Latvian, was seen to have a German origin. The high society of our locality often referred to it as "neunauge" (nine eyes in German). Even though we consider lamprey to be a fish, it is not so. In reality, our lamprey of the River Gauia is a much more ancient creature than fish, possibly even a million years old. Since the Middle Ages, this strange inhabitant of the rivers has been an aristocratic dish that was served only to the royal courts. However, in Latvia one does not have to be a king to try this delicacy. According to the tradition of our forefathers. the most delicious lamprey is grilled on alder wood charcoal. Not without reason, the prewar press called Carnikava the "lamprev kingdom" as lamprey has always been the source of prosperity, symbol and matter of honour for the inhabitants of Carnikava. In 2015, Carnikava lamprey acquired the European quality logo of Protected Geographical Indication, which certifies that our lamprey is unique not only at a local, but also European level.



HISTORY OF THE MUNICIPALITY AND LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE

You can get to know the local history and cultural heritage at the Local History Centre at 7 Jomas Street. The Local History Centre was inaugurated in 2012 and its building was made as a copy of the house Cēlāji, which was built in 1851 near the River Gauja estuary and belonged to a fisherman and ferryman. In the past, a dirt road going along the bay connected Riga to Pärnu and one of the three main river crossing places over the lower River Gauja was situated next to Cēlāji. The dwellers of the house continued bringing both people and cargo across the river up until the end of the 19th century. The original building was assessed as an excellent example of a fisherman's dwelling house of 19th century Vidzeme and in 1966 it was transferred to the Latvian Ethnographic Open-Air Museum.

At the Local History Centre you can view its exposition, sign up for the museum's pedagogical programme, book wedding activities, rent rooms and organise a ride along the River Gauja in a fisherman's boat. Next to the Centre, travellers have access to a recreational area with all amenities, places for making bonfires, a tent campsite, as well as a floating dock and a boat slip. (To sign up for the museum's pedagogical programme and other activities, please call +371 29128086.)



PIFIŪRA NATURE PARK

Piejūra Nature Park was founded in 1962 and it is the third oldest nature park in the country. The park's area covers approximately one fifth of Carnikava Municipality from Kalngale up to the River Lilaste, including the seashore, dunes and forests. Because of its stately pines, dunes and beaches *Pieiūra* Nature Park is a verv popular place for recreational tourism. The territory of the Nature Park was established to protect many rare seaside habitats both in the water and on the shore. In Lake Ummis one can find water lobelia, quillworts and a very special plant called water caltrop. Fossil research shows that in the past this plant was widely spread, but nowadays it can only be seen in four water bodies in Latvia. In Lake Garezeri, which consists of a line of three narrow successive lakes, several rare bat species have been discovered. Another interesting natural creation is Rose Dune, which is located near Kalngale. The dune is approximately one kilometre long and its top is covered with wild roses. The dune ends in the Valley of Life: a deep narrow gully in which birch trees and other deciduous trees grow among pines.

The territory of *Piejūra* Nature Park is crossed by one of the major bird migration routes of Europe. The best places for bird-watching are at the River Gauia estuary or in the surrounding reeds. Here one can see both water birds and songbirds, but a vigilant watcher can even spot eagle-owls and sea eagles.





LAKE DZIRNEZERS

Lake Dzirnezers is situated on the right bank of the River Gauja linked to it by the River Dzirnupe. It is approximately two metres deep, but the maximum depth is five metres. There are four islands and one peninsula in the Lake: Krievu Island, Sidrabinsala Island, Grinberga Island, Gara Island (peninsula) and Vadona Island (leader in Latvian), which was also named the island of Karlis Ulmanis after one of the President's visits to the island in 1935. On Sidrabinsala Island, a resting area for boaters has been created. This Lake can truly be considered an anglers' paradise because it is inhabited by tench, roach, pike, bream, zander, ruffe and other valuable fish.

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BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER GAUJA

On 18 November 2014 the bridge over the Gauja was inaugurated; it is the longest pedestrian and cyclist bridge in Latvia connecting the administrative centre of the municipality to Gauja Village. The new bridge is 220 m long and 4 m wide. This structure constitutes a significant section of the EuroVelo 13 Iron Curtain Trail, which marks a symbolic border between the East and the West of Europe. In total, the route passes through 20 different European countries for a length of 10 000 km, inviting every cyclist to travel around the coastline of the Baltic countries. The new bridge over the River Gauja is a compelling engineering and technical structure that has quickly become a popular footpath among the inhabitants of Carnikava Municipality and its guests.

CHURCH OF CARNIKAVA AND CEMETERY IN SIGULI

The only wooden holy building in the coast of Vidzeme is located in the historical centre of Carnikava; it was built in 1728 and is still standing. This church has seen better and worse days without ever breaking the bond with the manor of Count Mengden and the people of the municipality. The congregation was restored in

1992 as it regained the holy building and the land properties. The Church of Carnikava together with the Church of Baltezers form part of the Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Adazi and is currently being renovated. In the cemetery and the columbarium (for cinerary urns) located near the holy building, there are several monuments of national and local importance: the monumental tombstone made of travertine in remembrance of the Carnikava manor tenant Gustav Falck (1770–1817), a chapel built during the second half of the 18th century, as well as the memorial site of Martins Vacietis (1873–1945), the general of the Latvian Army and the Minister of War, etc.

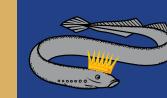
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MEMORIAL SITE OF OJARS VACIETIS

On 24 October 2015, the memorial site of two poets who were beloved and honoured by their people, Oiars Vacietis and Ludmila Azarova, was inaugurated on top of Siguli Hill, which gives a picturesque view of the idyllic surroundings and the church. The site was elaborated by the architects Inguna Ribena and Ugis Zabers and sculptor Gleb Pantelejev. The idea behind the monument is based on the imagery of the poetry collection Zibens pareizrakstība (Lightning Orthography) by Ojars Vacietis; this is why the sideview portrait of the poet is outlined by lightning, while the tomb of L. Azarova is depicted as a white sphere symbolising sunlight and equilibrium.

MEZGARCIEMS VILLAGE AND BUNKERS

This village was used by the Soviet air defence troops as an army base for training needs. Nowadays the territory is surrounded by ramparts and it can be accessed on a guided tour to see the objects of Soviet military heritage like missile hangars and bunkers. (Please book tours in advance by calling +371 26980327 or +371 26460546.)



Carnikava District Tourism Information Centre

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- ↑ Accommodation
- Parking place
- Café
- Shop
- Museum Monument, memorial site
- ♣ Church
- ₩ Notable hill Piejūra Nature Park

- Bicycle parking Boat rental
- Lamprey cooking SPA SPA
- Artisan workshops
- Chocolate workshop Adlers Open in summer
- EuroVelo 13 trail Local walking trails Seaside trail Jürtaka

Boating trails

- 6 Parabolic dune
- 7 Lake Dzirnezers 8 Garezeri Lakes
- 9 Lake Pulkstenezers 10 Lake Ummis
- 11 Carnikava railway station built in the beginning of the 20th century
- 12 Sculpture Atceroties by sculptor Vilnis Titans 13 Sundial by sculptor Helmuts Akis
- 16 Memorial site to those who fell in World War II
- 17 Memorial site to those who fell in 1919
- 18 Memorial site to the Jews who fell in 1941 19 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Carnikava
- Tombstone of poet O. Vacietis 21 Tombstone of Carnikava
- manor tenant G. Falck 22 Columbarium
- 23 Carnikava cemetery chapel
- . Vecāķi<u> —</u> m TRISCIEMS





Carnikava Municipality

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