

Nature park “Abava Valley”

Protection category: Natura 2000 area (LV0302100)

Area: 14858 ha

Year of establishment: 1957

Conservation importance:

The territory was created for the protection of the Abava valley. An excellent diversity of habitats, including very rare ones, such as calcareous bogs with devel sedge, juniper stands in calcareous meadows. Area with outstanding scenic value - river valley landscapes, meadows and slopes, geomorphological values. The nature park includes such geological objects as: Sudmalai waterfall, Imulas dolomite cliffs, Kalnamuiža cliffs, Cimmermaņu cliffs, Ivande waterfalls, Muižarāju cliffs, Langsede cliffs and Devil’s Cave of Abava.



The Abava Valley is one of the most significant ancient valleys in Latvia, formed as a result of the melting of ice-age waters. The Abava Valley is 2 km wide and about 30 m deep. The Abava River is 129 km long. Nature itself has made the Abava Valley one of the most beautiful places in Latvia. In the slopes of the river valley, several hillforts are found, where two ancient towns have formed – Sabile and Kandava.

The valley is known for its peculiar terrain – steep coasts, dolomite outcrops, sandstone cliffs, caves, springs and waterfalls, 11 of which are protected geological monuments.

Abava Valley is one of the floristically richest regions in Latvia, many species characteristic specifically of Latvia’s western regions can be found here. There is a great diversity of habitats in the valley, and over 50 protected plant species can be found in Abava Valley. A characteristic feature of the valley is a mosaic of spruce and broadleaf forests, pine and birch forests, juniper growths, meadows and fields.

