



# Holy places und cult stones in Latvia

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**Cup-marked stone of Jaunutēni**  
(North Vidzeme, Mazsalaca district, Skaņkalne parish)



# Cup marked stones

Unknown cup-marked stones we find in different places - easily accessible meadows and thick forests. These two cult stones discovered in the last two years in Vidzeme and Zemgale region.



# Cup marked stones

Cup-marked stones in Latvia are large boulders and also small or portable stones.

The portable cup-marked stones were found in 2007 at a Vīnakalna hillfort near the Daugava River. They are now at the Museum in Aizkraukle.







Valdemārpils Elku liepa (Idol lime of Valdemārpils) (P=8,60 m).  
(Kurzeme region, Talsu district, Valdemārpils town)



# Mundigu Upurozols (Holy oak of Mundigu village) (Kurzeme region, Talsu district)





Velna ozols (Devils oak)  
(Vidzeme region, Koknese district)







Otkaru Krusta priede (Cross pine of Otkari associated with funeral traditions)  
(North Vidzeme, Smiltene district, Bilska parish)



# Sacred waters

Other sacred places:

Svētes ezers – Holy lake in Zemgale region. We also have several holy rivers in Vidzeme un Zemgale region.



The widest waterfall of Europe is located in Kurzeme, near Kuldīga town on the Venta River. Waterfall “Ventas rumba” is 270 meters wide. The legends associated it with the Devil activities.





# Sacred waters

In Bog of Hell begins one of the longest rivers of Zemgale region – Iecava (136 km long). It starts from the Holy springs.

Image at the bottom: very colorful is Saltupju Holy spring near Aknīste town (due to iron sediments).





# Sacred caves

In Latvia we have more than 30 different cult caves. Mostly they are in Vidzeme and Kurzeme region.

Caves formed springs runs out of sandstone rocks.





# Sacred caves and petroglyphs

Gutman's Cave in Sigulda – most popular cave in the Baltic region is an ancient and legendary place of worship.

In some of Latvian caves discovered hundreds of years old petroglyphs.





# Sacred hills

In Latvia we have many sacred hills. They have names - Elka kalns (Hill of Idol), Dieva kalns (Hill of God), Svētais kalns (the Holy Hill), Velna kalns (Devil's Hill) and others. More sacred hills are in Kurzeme - the western part of Latvia.





# Sacred places of North Vidzeme Geopark

Many interesting ancient places of worship are in the North Vidzeme Geopark territory - Mazsalaca and Rūjiena vicinity:  
for example - Stone “Devil’s coach” and Stone “Devil's Bed”.





# Different sacral stones

Cult stones with  
different names –

- 1) Devil's coffin stone  
in Kurzeme region,  
Saldus district.
- 2) Large erratic boulder  
- Holy daughter's  
stone in Kurzeme  
region near  
Mērsraga village.





# Different sacral stones

Cult stones with different cavities and signs –

- 1) Stone with a cavity as a bowl (Kurzeme region, Alsunga district).
- 2) Stone with mark as solar circle (Kurzeme region, Roja district).





# Thank you for your attention !



For additional information, please visit the websites:

[www.geoparks.lv](http://www.geoparks.lv)

[www.petroglifi.lv](http://www.petroglifi.lv)