

# THE KAIVE OAK TREE

THE KAIVE OAK (LATVIAN: KAIVES OZOLS) IS AN OAK TREE (QUERCUS ROBUR) WHICH STANDS IN SĒME PARISH, TUKUMS MUNICIPALITY, LATVIA.



# THE KAIVE OAK TREE

IT IS PROTECTED AS A NATURAL MONUMENT IN LATVIA (IN 2005, THE TREE WAS FEATURED ON A POSTAGE STAMP AS PART OF A SERIES ON NATURAL MONUMENTS IN LATVIA).





# THE KAIVE OAK TREE

IT IS THE TREE WITH THE WIDEST TRUNK FOR AN OAK IN ALL THE BALTIC STATES.

IT HAS A GIRTH OF 10.4 M AT 1.3 M (I.E. ALMOST 3.5 M ACROSS), A CROWN PROJECTION OF 250 M<sup>2</sup>, WITH BRANCHES SPANNING OUT UP TO 13.7 M. YET IT REACHES ONLY 18 M HIGH, IN LARGE PART DUE TO A LIGHTNING STRIKE IN THE 1920S THAT TOPPED ITS CROWN. IT ALSO SUFFERED THE LOSS OF MANY OF ITS LIMBS IN 1990.

NOW, ONLY ONE BRANCH REMAINS, BUT THE OAK KEEPS GROWING.

THOUGH SOME SOURCES CLAIM IT IS BETWEEN 800 AND 1,000 YEARS OLD, THE LATVIAN RESEARCHER GUNTIS ENIŅŠ PROPOSED THAT KAIVE OAK IS ALMOST 400 YEARS OLD, BASED ON THE SIZE AND AVERAGE GROWTH RATE OF THE TRUNK.

TODAY IT IS PROPPED UP WITH POLES AND WOODEN BOARDS HAVE BEEN FASTENED TO THE TREE SO THAT WATER DOESN'T SEEP INTO THE TRUNK AND CAUSE IT TO ROT.



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THE INFORMATION IS ACCORDING TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL OAK SOCIETY WEBSITE

[HTTPS://WWW.INTERNATIONALOAKSOCIETY.ORG/CO  
NTENT/KAIVE-OAK](https://www.internationaloaksociety.org/content/kaive-oak)