



European Union
Regional Development Fund



Investing in your future

Maritime Saaremaa

Their strenght is in their ships

Estonia
Positively surprising



Important Phone Numbers

Sea-rescue	1524
Emergency	112
Police	110
Kuussaare Hospital, emergency medicine	+372 452 0040
Car assistance	+372 697 9188
Saaremaa Information Assistance	+372 453 6363
Kuussaare Tourist Information Centre	+372 453 3120
Tuule Laevad (ferry tickets), information	+372 14204 +372 452 4444
Kuussaare Bus Terminal	+372 453 1661
Kuussaare Airport	+372 453 0313
Kuussaare Taxi	+372 453 0000
Arensburg Taxi	+372 454 5333
Arensburg Taxi	+372 453 3333

Distance from Kuussaare

Kuivastu	76 km
Leisi	42 km
Kihelkonna	33 km
Sääre	50 km
Orissaare	53 km
Triigi	45 km
Panga	40 km
Valjala	26 km
Kaali	19 km



Saaremaa county: area 2922 km² (6,5% of the area of Estonia); in total 710 islands

Biggest islands: Saaremaa, Muhu, Ruhnu, Abruca, Vilsandi

Total length of the coastline: 1414 km; longest river – Löve jõgi (31 km);

biggest lake – Mullutu-Suurlaht (1440 ha)

Highest peak: Raunamägi – 54,2 m

Administrative division: 15 rural municipalities, 1 city

Population: ca 34 000

Kuussaare City: area – 1495 ha, of which forests and parks make – 197 ha;

green areas – 74 ha; total length of streets – 75,8 km; coastline in Kuussaare – 20,5 km

Population: ca 13 000





On the map, Saaremaa looks small. Still, on these couple of thousands of square kilometres everything needed, can be found. Here are ancient burial places and strongholds, mediaeval churches, manors and Kuressaare fortification, a city and villages, forests and fields, harbours and lighthouses. And, of course, people – the islanders themselves. An island does not end where you reach water as water inevitably belongs to an island. The islanders have for centuries been considered kind and helpful. This may be a common feature of all people living on islands – the sea has always meant arrivals and departures. The sea is a natural road, allowing to go anywhere desirable. In their thoughts, people are often looking for their island. For those who desire to come to an island, we wish to offer everything worth to see and experience on the island of Saaremaa. We wish every visitor to find his own island, his dream, his spirit and the desire to return here again and again.

Welcome!

Kaido Kaasik / the County Governor of Saaremaa



History



7th century

Sensational discovery: oldest Viking boats in the world

In the autumn of 2008, in Salme village a rare boat from the first half of the 7th century was found. This is the oldest finding of a sailing boat in the Baltic Sea area and in the world ever. In the course of further excavations, a wreck of another, even bigger boat of 17.5 m was found. In the boat there were skeletons and arms of 36 warriors of apparently Scandinavian origin. The location of an exceptional boat-burial has been marked with a memorial.

16th century

Maasilinna boat

During the expedition by the Estonian Maritime Museum in 1985, a mediaeval *schute*-type boat wreck was found in the substratum near Maasi. That kind a 16 m long and 5.5 m wide vessel was widely used for coastal sailing in Estonia at the time. The cargo capacity of the vessel was about 50 tons. The single-masted vessels of this type also sailed from Saaremaa to Riga and Pärnu. The *uisk*-type vessels that were used to sail across the straits of Muhu in the later period of history, were quite similar to these vessels as for their measures and way of building.

1820

Explorers of distant lands from West-Saaremaa

Pilguse Manor has been the starting point to the famous seafarer and founder of the Antarctic, admiral Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen (1776–1852). Also the navy lieutenant Karl Pontus Nolcken (1800–1846) who has twice sailed round the world has had his home here.

1857

The beginning of a regular boat connection

The Riga-Petersburg liners started stopping on the roadstead of Kuressaare port in the spring of 1857. The increase in the number of visitors to mud treatment establishments and migration of workers laid basis to the establishment of local boat connection and in 1875 a new merchant and passenger ship “Konstantin” was ordered from Germany. After Estonia gaining its independence, Kuressaare had a boat connection to Tallinn, Pärnu, Riga and Stockholm. For the connection between Saaremaa and the mainland, the *uisk*-type vessel was replaced by steamers in 1903. The year-round transportation to the mainland of cars and passengers with the ice-breaking type of ferries started in 1956.

7th century

1215

16th century

16th century

1820

1832

1857

1215

New port (portus novus)

In June 1215, cog-type vessels with two bishops and many crusaders on board were sailing from Riga to Gotland but had to take a shelter in the new port on Saaremaa. The islanders surrounded the vessels of the enemy but after a two-week siege, the vessels managed to escape to the open sea. This new port has for a long time been searched for but its precise location is unknown yet today. Most probably, it had located on Lõmala coast, the Toomalõuka inlet which at that time was called *Lecko*. Mediaeval maps also show the name *Abberburg*.

16th century

Kuressaare merchant ships – the biggest ones in the Baltic region during the Swedish era

Already at the end of the 16th century, the merchants of Kuressaare might have owned merchant ships to cover long distances through the Danish straits to West-Europe. Written records prove that in 1665–1674 grain cargoes were taken from Kuressaare to as far as Spain with the ships “Duke Magnus Gabriel de la Gardie”, “Margareta” and “Kohl”, the first two ones being the biggest in the Baltic countries at that time.

1832

The first tourist trip

It is known that the first tourist trip on board of a wheel-steamer from Riga to Kuressaare (Arensburg) and Pärnu took place on 12–16 August 1832. The shipowner Schröder from Riga arranged to some wealthy people a voyage to get acquainted with attractions on the Riga-Jurmala liner “Graf Cancrin” (could accommodate 20 passengers, 8 crew members, a cook and a servant; steam engine of 36 h.p., speed 7 knots).





The beginning of sailing sports

1891

On the initiative of the numerous merchants and industrialists of German origin living in Kuressaare, Arensburg Yacht Club was established in 1891. The following year, sailing competitions for yachts and boats were organised where also boat-owners of Estonian origin took part. Before WW I, the club involved 15 yachts and even some long-distance sailing boats were built here. In 1926, another yacht club was established – the Association of Saaremaa Maritime Sports for Estonian hobby sailors, the activity of which has for current time raised a generation of sailors with numerous members.

The biggest sea-landing

1917

Right before the end of WW I, in 1917, the general staff of Germany decided to conquer Saaremaa in order to protect their Northern Front in Latvia. An operation called Albion was prepared in Liepaja port in Latvia to send the navy to the Tagalaht Bay in Saaremaa where a considerable amount of the Russian army, cannons and warships were located. On 12 October, in the Tagalaht Bay 181 different ships, 127 motor boats, 24 600 soldiers and officers, 5 000 horses, 1 400 wagons, 150 machine guns, 54 cannons, 100 planes and provisions for 3 days were gathered. The main force was made up of 10 modern “König” and “Kaiser” type warships and 8 cruisers. The history of sea warfares had never known gathering fire of that power to one direction. Saaremaa was taken in five days.

Saaremaa Shipping Company

1992

was founded in 1992. In 1994 it started operating the state-owned ferryboats between the islands and the mainland. Soon, new and more capacious ferries were taken into use that allowed increasing the quality and frequency of trips. In 2008, new and modern ferries were ordered and since 2011, all new ferries have been in operation.

1891

First years of maritime education

In connection with the growing boat building and expanding of coastal villages, interest in a sailor’s profession also grew among peasants. Landlords and merchants had been interested in founding a school of navigation near home yet in 1860s but navigation classes were opened in Kuressaare only in 1891 whereas the exams had to be taken at Riga Navigation School. Kuressaare Navigation School existed until 1945 when it was taken to Tallinn.

1891

1892

Roomassaare Port

The city port in the Tori inlet had become a hindrance to the ship traffic due shallow waters, the earth crust uplift and the increasing draught of ships. The new port was built 4 km away from the city, on Roomassaare cape in 1892–1894.

1892

1917

1986

“Saare Kalur”, the biggest company bringing together fishing industry, ports and coastal villages

In 1986, the fishing collective farm had 3 000 members and 2 300 people were employed there. The company owned 350 coastal fishing boats, 25 small trawlers and 8 big trawlers. The number of fishermen was about 600 and the fish-catch was about 30 000 tons. 135 different production units were in operation. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, “Saare Kalur” became a shareholders company that was divided into 23 different smaller companies of which today seven are still active. Coastal fishing has become the activity of hobby-fishermen mainly.

1986

1992

1994

The Association of Saaremaa Maritime Culture

was founded in 1994 as a non-profit organisation with the aim of preserving and introducing maritime culture on the island, to highlight the value the maritime history of the island. The biggest-scale event of the organisation is a yearly thematic conference during Kuressaare Maritime Days.

1994



SAAREMAA COUNTY



LÄNEMERI



LEGEND

- Main road
- Surfaced road, gravel road
- CBT
- Tourist information centre, tourist information
- Airport, lighthouse
- Harbour, fishing harbour, guest harbour
- Lookout tower, scenic view
- Beach, viewpoint
- Hiking trail, resting site
- Churches: orthodox, catholic, other

0 5 10 km

REGIO
AT-19-060 02019

- 17** **Kuressaare**
58°14'42" N
22°39'18" E
Max length: 30,0 m
Max draught: 2,6 m
No. of berths: 192
tel 503 1865
www.kuressaare.ee/boats
- 18** **Roomassaare**
58°12'51" N
22°30'26" E
Max length: 30 m
Max draught: 2,2 m
No. of berths: 30
tel 453 0140
www.saarelinn.ee
- 19** **Abnõka**
58°09'45" N
22°01'38" E
Max length: 40,0 m
Max draught: 2,6 m
No. of berths: 15
tel 453 0140
www.saarelinn.ee
- 20** **Kõrva**
58°14'24" N
22°44'18" E
tel 402 1470
www.virtus.ee
- 21** **Kungla**
58°21'46" N
22°07'17" E
Max length: 15,0 m
Max draught: 1,3 m
No. of berths: 23
tel 5647 3104
www.kungla.ee/boats
- 22** **Ringau**
57°46'48" N
22°00'16" E
Max length: 30,0 m
Max draught: 3 m
No. of berths: 36
tel 453 0140
www.saarelinn.ee
- 1** **Orissaare**
58°18'07" N
22°08'37" E
Max length: 20,0 m
Max draught: 2,3 m
No. of berths: 15
tel 528 6639
www.facebook.com/VirtusKorvik
- 2** **Triip**
58°25'30" N
22°43'12" E
Max length: 20,0 m
Max draught: 3,1 m
No. of berths: 15
tel 457 3003
www.saarelinn.ee
- 3** **Lõunassaare**
58°33'50" N
22°18'00" E
Max length: 16,0 m
Max draught: 2,3 m
No. of berths: 12
tel 503 5640
www.lounassaare.ee
- 4** **Kuivetu**
58°34'00" N
22°23'00" E
Max length: 30,0 m
Max draught: 3,5 m
No. of berths: 50
tel 5400 4131
www.saarelinn.ee
- 5** **Võrkas**
58°40'55" N
22°11'56" E
tel 529 4268
www.vu.ee
- 6** **Koguva**
58°30'48" N
22°04'26" E
Max length: 14,0 m
Max draught: 1,0 m
No. of berths: 20
tel 510 3446
www.koguva.ee
- 7** **Soela**
58°37'47" N
22°26'37" E
tel 509 1581
www.virtus.ee/boats
- 8** **Saaremaa**
58°32'24" N
22°14'24" E
Max length: 220,0 m
Max draught: 40 m
No. of berths: 30
tel 621 8655
www.sa.ee
- 9** **Veeve**
58°27'42" N
22°09'22" E
Max length: 80,0 m
Max draught: 3,5 m
No. of berths: 6
tel 427 6698
- 10** **Atla**
58°16'07" N
21°53'37" E
tel 452 3760
www.yachtclub.ee
- 11** **Lõunala**
58°10'22" N
22°07'04" E
Max length: 16,0 m
Max draught: 1,7 m
No. of berths: 27
tel 5647 2104
www.virtus.ee/boats
- 12** **Kaunlape**
58°02'36" N
22°00'36" E
tel 517 7932
- 13** **Mõnu**
57°56,9431
22°02'65" E
Max length: 100 m
Max draught: 4,0 m
tel 514 5570
www.virtus.ee/boats
- 14** **Lääne**
58°08,8874
22°15,1212 E
tel 437 1639
- 15** **Salme**
58°09'52" N
22°16'13" E
tel 452 5963
- 16** **Nasva**
58°19'48" N
22°23'48" E
tel 452 1140
www.lullivall.com/boats

LIIVI LAHT





Harbours

Years ago, when sailing in the southern oceans on the yacht “Lennuk”, I truly longed for the waters of Saaremaa. Today, I am convinced that although our coastal sea is shallow and full of reefs, it is hard to find a better place for sailing. After seafaring, a solid land can again be felt under feet in our nice small harbours on the islands of Saaremaa, Muhu, Ruhnu, Abruksa etc. As a hobby sailor and the captain of Roomassaare Yacht Harbour, I hereby encourage you to visit the harbours here and to explore what is going on outside the harbour gates.

And I mean it,
Meelis Saarlaid



Lighthouses

Of the warning signs located on dry land, lighthouses or beacons i.e. buildings where warning lights are lit in the night-time, are the most important. A lighthouse is not only to warn of a danger but also to assist in identifying one's location. Therefore, lighthouses not far from each other have to clearly be distinguished both in the day and night-time. This is how the "Navigation Textbook" of 1932 by August Gustavson explains the tasks of a lighthouse. And true it is. Still, today, in the era of space devices enabling to identify the location of a ship with the exactness of one meter, the lighthouses have lost their primal meaning.

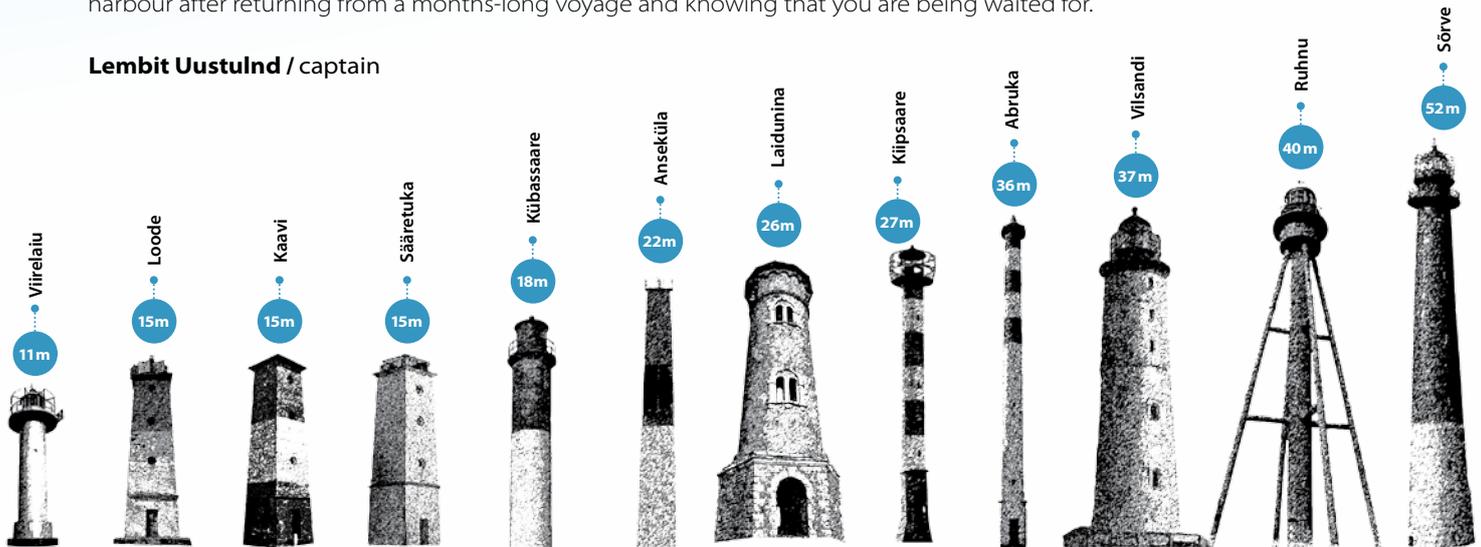


Tuule Villa: www.tuulevilla.ee | **Saaremaa Sea Safari:** www.seasafari.ee
Mardi talu: www.marditalu.ee | **Kirbutsirkus:** www.kirbutsirkus.ee
Muratsi puhkemaja: www.muratsi.ee | **Saarepuhkus:** www.saarepuhkus.ee
Tika talu: www.tikatalu.ee | **Kõue-Mardi turismitalu:** www.kouemardi.ee



Watching at the lighthouses of Irbe and Sõrve every day, I, as a professional sailor, have often thought if I should be glad or sad about it. Frankly speaking, there is more reason to be glad, just because lighthouses are a part of our maritime history and, if you wish, they also represent its romance. What could be more beautiful than your binocular capturing the first beam of the lighthouse of your home harbour after returning from a months-long voyage and knowing that you are being waited for.

Lembit Uustulnd / captain





Swimming

Saaremaa beaches are pleasant to swim as the waters are shallow and keep warm for the longest period in Estonia. Our northern coast is stony while the southern one is sandy. The sandy beaches of Mändjala and Järve are comfortably accessible by bike, using a safe cycle track there. Kuressaare beach that is virtually located in the city and has a lifeguard, offers beautiful views to the castle and spa-hotels, various events in the area, the activity of the city youth centre in the summertime as well as possibilities for SUP-surfing. There is also a children's playground here and, thus, everyone should find something engaging. In the wintertime, one can dip in the icy water here and the community of people appreciating crisp winter-swimming for the benefit of their health is growing year-by-year.

Heigo Kips / lifeguard and judo coach



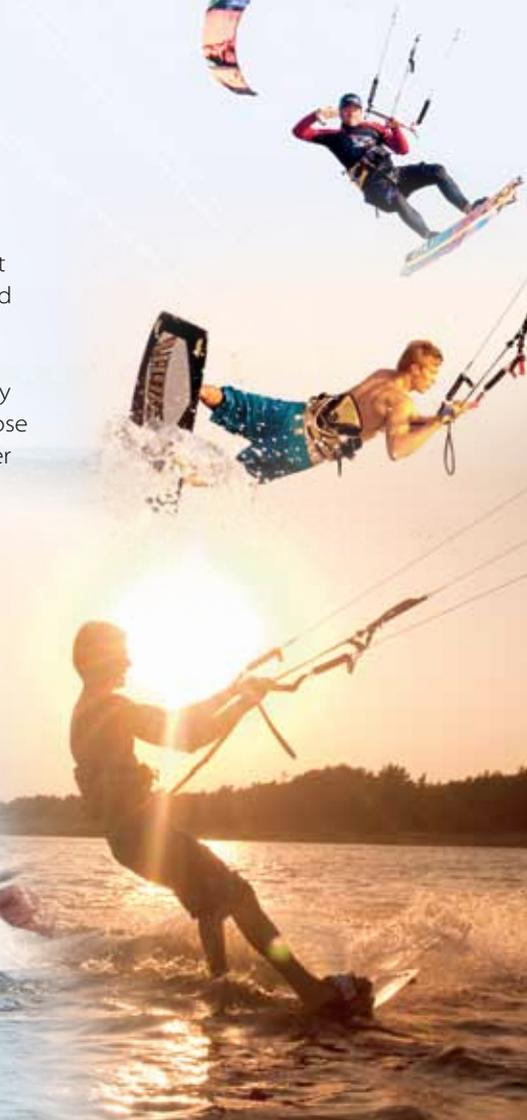
Active Holiday

SURFING | SAILING | FISH DISHES

Saaremaa can truly be called the surfing paradise of Estonia as it is hard to find another that compact and rich in possibilities area around. The distances between beaches are short and despite a wind direction, there always are favourable winds for surfing somewhere on the island. Beaches here are numerous and various and the frozen-over sea offers possibilities for surfing also in the wintertime. Surfing in Saaremaa is safe due to a broad coastline, sandy beaches and shallow waters. The beaches are not overcrowded with people. One can choose between a sail and a kite and SUP-surfing is suitable to be taken up in low winds to discover Saaremaa from the sea as each small bay allows exploring a following and different one. Those, keen on competing, can take part in yearly Saaremaa championships in kite-surfing.

Marko Kesküla / surf coach

 **Mändjala Surfclub:** www.mandjalasurfclub.com | tel +372 5564 3893
Saaremaa Surfclub: www.saaremaasurf.ee | tel +372 509 2803





Active Holiday

SURFING | SAILING | FISH DISHES

Sailing captures a number of aspects the souls of people require and not abundantly offered by a daily life.

Sailing is a possibility to go. Although, mostly just a short trip is taken on the water, the sailor still has the feeling that in case of every detail matching, there is a chance to sail far-far away.

Sailing is silence. There are the voices of nature, the sound of the sea, the whistle of shrouds, still one can keep away from everyday noise pollution.

Sailing is friends and spending time with them and listening to the stories they've got to tell.

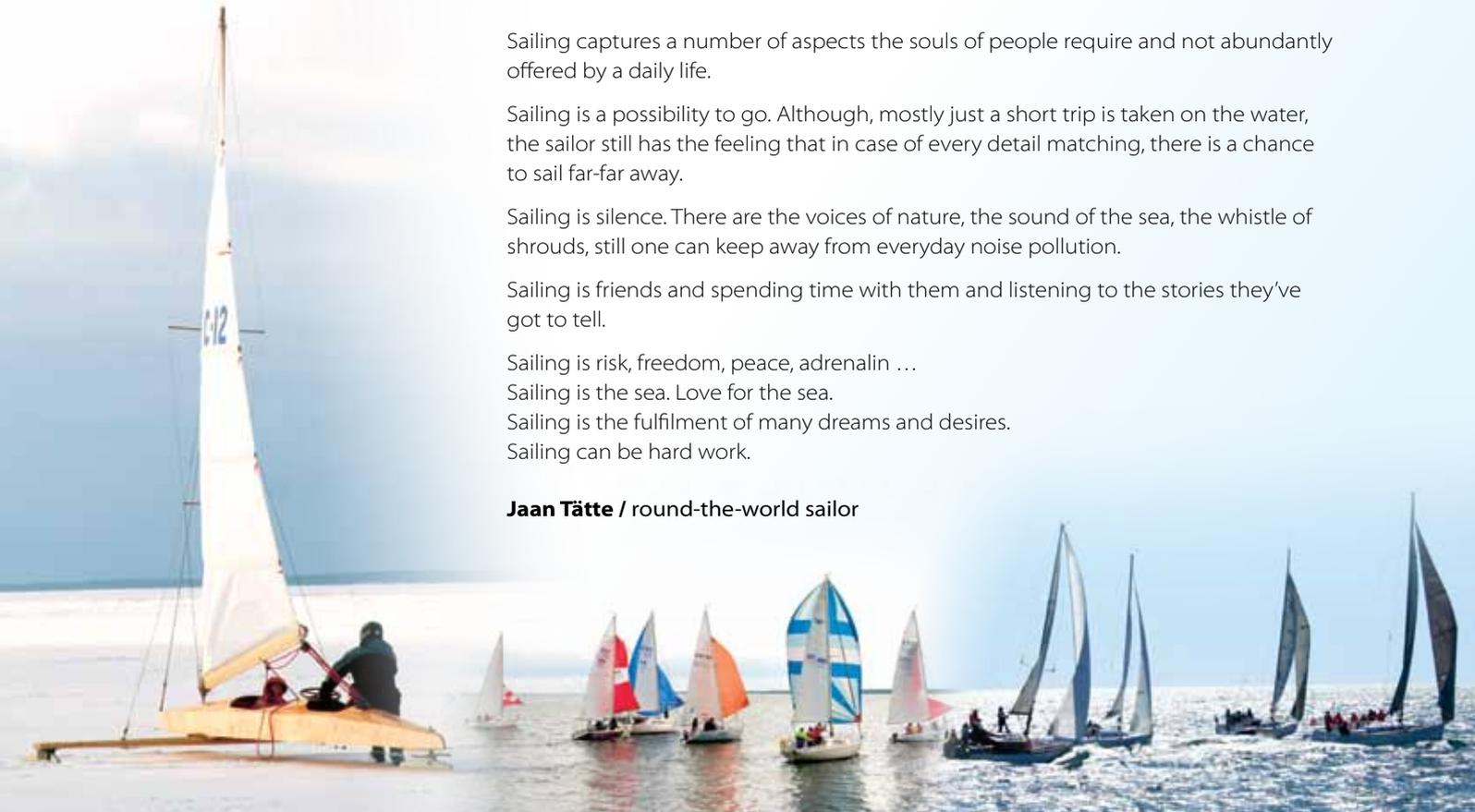
Sailing is risk, freedom, peace, adrenalin ...

Sailing is the sea. Love for the sea.

Sailing is the fulfilment of many dreams and desires.

Sailing can be hard work.

Jaan Tätte / round-the-world sailor



Active Holiday

SURFING | SAILING | FISH DISHES

One of my most memorable sea-connected moments comes from 2011 when I, thanks to a friend of mine living in Tallinn, happened to join the "seal camp" of the Estonian Divers Club, arranged in Saaremaa. On an early July morning I sat on a boat in Papissaare harbour in Kihelkonna municipality and we could start looking for seals. Since I had had no experience in diving, I was just snorkelling among the seals near the Harilaid peninsula. The seals were quite curious and brave and many of them came so near that we could easily have put our noses together. Some of them made themselves apparent by nibbling the fins of divers, others took it a good idea to pose to the cameras. I can recommend everyone to take a close look at the seals in Vilsandi National Park, either by diving or snorkelling. A fantastic experience is guaranteed!

Anu Vares / Advisor of Development of Kuressaare City Government, member of Board of the Estonian National Network of Healthy Cities



Panga Diving Resort: www.panga.ee | tel +372 5669 2009

Sukeldusmisklubi Pringeldivers: www.pringeldivers.com | tel +372 521 5434

Saarepuhkus: www.saarepuhkus.ee | tel +372 5662 7637

Islander OÜ: www.islander.ee | tel +372 5667 1555



A Fisherman's Year

FISHES | FISHING TIME | FISHFOOD

Did you know that the people from Saaremaa own almost half the fishing ships of Finland today?

The sea around Saaremaa offers a variety of possibilities for fishing. Although, a professional fishing industry has lost its former glory, hobby fishing is showing the trend of growth and next to local people, the versatility of our sea attracts lots of soulmates from further away.

Our northern coast is steeper with deeper and colder waters that are a good living place for salmon and flatfish. Opposite to the northern coast, the southern coast is gentle, the sea here is shallower where different fish live of which pike and perch are of higher interest to hobby fishermen. Also inner and flowing water bodies are full of opportunities. In the springtime, the Nasva River turns into the Mecca to those fishing for roach. Lakes Karujärv and Mullutu-Suurlaht are rich in predatory fish both in winter and summer, giving at the same time a good catch of tench. Saaremaa is also a well-known Eldorado of crawfish that live almost in every water body but catching of which is strictly regulated and limited to a short period at the end of summer.

Fishing in Saaremaa assumes obtaining a special fishing permit (excl. any-man's-right for fishing with one regular fishhook). Young people under 16 and pensioners need no permit.

Further details at www.envir.ee, www.pilet.ee

Good luck!

Aivar Sõrm / ardent fisherman



Allika Villa: www.allikavilla.ee | tel +372 520 8015

Lepametsa puhkemajad: www.lepametsa.ee | tel +372 510 9390

Kipi puhkemaja: www.hot.ee/kipi | tel +372 5340 7826

Muha-Ranna Puhketalu: www.muhatalu.ee | tel +372 509 2035

Västriku puhkemaja: www.saaremaa.ee/vastriku | tel +372 518 3187

Kõue-Mardi turismitalu: www.kouemardi.ee | tel +372 506 6740

Uno Vait'i turismitalu: www.daissy.ee | tel +372 524 7408

Toomalõuka turismitalu: www.toomaloukatourism.ee | tel +372 5646 6567

Mardi talu: www.marditalu.ee | tel +372 504 7250

Muratsi puhkemaja: www.muratsi.ee | tel +372 505 2612

Saarepuhkus: www.saarepuhkus.ee | tel +372 5662 7637

Merellinen Kalda: www.merellinenkalda.eu | tel +372 518 8445

Aavikunurga puhketalu: www.aavikunurga.ee | tel +372 5646 2235

Diving Club: www.pringeldivers.com | tel +372 521 5434

A Fisherman's Year

FISHES | FISHING TIME | FISHFOOD



Perch

FISHING TIME:
January, February,
June–September, December



Sea trout

FISHING TIME:
April, May,
September, October



Roach

FISHING TIME:
April, May



Garfish

FISHING TIME:
May



Tench

FISHING TIME:
May, June,
August



Pike

FISHING TIME:
May–October



Eel

FISHING TIME:
June–August



Flatfish

FISHING TIME:
July, August



A Fisherman's Year

FISHES | FISHING TIME | FISHFOOD



PIKE-CUTLET

Take a cleaned pike fillet, salted bacon (only fat) in the proportion of $\frac{1}{4}$, one proper onion, 3–4 slices of white bread and mince them in a meat mincer, add 2 eggs and just a little cream. Mix the dough carefully and shape cutlets, roll them in breadcrumbs. Fry them according to you temperament and use boiled potatoes and tartar sauce as side dishes.



SEAGULL SOUP ☺

Take one seagull, clean carefully of feathers and guts, wash thoroughly under cold running water. Place it in a pot filled with cold water and simmer for about 1.5 hours. When meat is getting tender, add some seasoning (salt, pepper, laurel-leaves), after that take the seagull out of water and throw it away as a not necessary component of the dish. After that, drain the broth and flush down the sink. To complete the activity, throw away the pot and its lid as they are not suitable for further usage.

Small Craft

Their strength is in their ships

/Livonian Rhymed Chronicle 1180–1227/

On the eve of Northern Crusades, the Oeselians were summarized in the Livonian Rhymed Chronicle thus: "The Oeselians, neighbors to the Kurs (Curonians), are surrounded by the sea and never fear strong armies as their strength is in their ships.

The majority of Estonian small craft manufacturers are concentrated to the Estonian island Saaremaa and the local boatyards have a long tradition of co-operation. Saaremaa small craft builders form Saaremaa small craft cluster – a natural cooperation network which connects the local shipbuilders, subcontractors¹ and sellers of marine equipment², as well as local educational institutions³, training new generation boatbuilders, local municipalities and other small craft-related organisations.

¹ **Hilmaa OÜ** | hilmaa01@gmail.com

² **ProMarine Trade** | www.promarinetrade.com

³ **TUT Kuressaare College; Regional Trainig Centre**
www.ttu.ee/kuressaare; www.ametikool.ee





Small Craft



The local boat building sector offers a wide range of vessels made of different materials and with different functions in this relatively small region of Estonia. Thanks to the closeness and good contacts between partners, there is an excellent co-operation between educational & research institutions, local governments and enterprises. The relative smallness of the volume and scope of local boat building yards enables to test effectively and flexibly varied production technologies and materials. To enforce those benefits, a small craft competence centre⁴ has been established on the island too – with a towing tank and material testing facilities to offer quick product development services to local boatbuilding companies.

⁴ **Small Craft Competence Centre** | www.scc.ee



There are about a dozen boatyards on Saaremaa. The best-known of those are Baltic Workboats⁵ – a yard building up to 50 feet aluminum workboats – and yacht building companies Saare Paat⁶ and Luksusjaht manufacturing their original yacht brands Saare, Arcona and Delta. The fastest growing yard, Alunaut⁷, famous for having built the Journeyman yacht, is currently producing aluminium pleasure boats and small ferry-boats. Also Seiskari boats, that are well known in Finland, are produced here on Saaremaa, at Tekno Marine⁸ yard. There are also several smaller boatbuilding firms in Saaremaa, as Kasse Paadid⁹ and Kompar¹⁰, building high quality rowing boats, Lindvart¹¹ building power vessels and one-offs. Although, the golden days of wooden boats are over, the required knowhow of building them is still there and put into use in Vätta Puit¹² where almost half of the currently sailing *storbåts* have been built.

⁶ **Saare Paat** | www.saarepaat.ee

⁷ **Alunaut** | www.alunaut.ee

⁸ **Tekno Marine Eesti** | www.tekno-marine.fi

⁹ **Kasse Paadid** | www.kasse.ee

¹⁰ **Kompar** | www.kompar.ee

¹¹ **Lindvart** | www.lindvart.ee

¹² **Vätta Puit** | www.vattapuit.ee



Worth of Seeing

- 1. Kuressaare city and bishopric castle.** Kuressaare is the capital of the biggest island in Estonia and the first written record on it goes back to 1424. The key-attraction in the city is the unique bishopric castle from the 13th century, surrounded by a rich in species and beautiful park. The castle accommodates the oldest in Estonia museum, Saaremaa Museum, established in 1865. The castle is the only mediaeval fortification in the Baltic countries survived till today and the exposition displayed there introduces the history and nature of Saaremaa and Kuressaare.
- 2. Kaali meteorite crater and visiting centre.** The Kaali meteorite clashed with the Earth about 7500–7600 years ago. The field of Kaali meteorite craters in Saaremaa is one of the rarest natural monuments in Estonia, being also the most striking crater field in Eurasia. The visiting centre also accommodates the centre of the Silurian Geopark of the Islands.
- 3. Angla windmill-hill and the Centre of Heritage Culture.** In Angla, there is a comprehensive complex of a windmill-hill, displaying five windmills of which four are characteristic of Saaremaa post mills from the beginning of the previous century. One of them is a Dutch-type windmill from 1927. In the Heritage Culture Centre there is at the guidance by experts in different fields a possibility to take up activities in the workshops of clay, wool, felt and bread baking. Visitors are also welcome to join the events to celebrate the dates of Estonian folk-calendar.
- 4. Vilsandi National Park and its centre in Loona Manor.** Exciting nature and cultural heritage hikes all the year round to everybody interested (orchids, seals, birds etc.). Vilsandi National Park includes a number of islands, islets and reefs that due to their extremely dynamic geological development are of interest to those keen on geology, offering a joy of discoveries for a long time: while returning to the same place in many years, most probably quite different limestone layers can be observed and new surface forms seen. Vilsandi is the first nature conservation area in the Baltic countries and was reformed into a national park in 1993.
- 5. Farm museums in Koguva and Viki.** To capture the life in villages centuries ago, it is recommended to visit these two farms. Koguva village museum on the island of Muhu is one of the most remarkable ones in Estonia, displaying the well preserved village with the examples of farm architecture at its best. Mihkli farm in Viki village is a characteristic of West-Saaremaa farm-complex where in the summertime joyful village hops take place.
- 6. Panga steep coast.** Panga steep coast in Panga village in Mustjala municipality in Saaremaa is the highest base rock outcrop in West-Estonia and on the islands. The Silurian klint is an extensive terrace, starting on the island of Gotland in

Sweden, stretching through the Baltic Sea and reaching up to the western coast of Saaremaa. The maximum height of the coast is 21.3 m and sunsets here are stunning. Sundial made of dolomite.

- 7. Spas.** Ever since 1840, when the first mud treatment establishment was opened in the vicinity of Kuressaare, the city has been a well-known resort for the people of neighbouring countries. Saaremaa has jokingly been called Spaaremaa due to the fact that the island can boast with the biggest number of spas of different kinds: treatment spas in Saaremaa Spa Hotels, health spas GOSPA, Arensburg Boutique Hotel & Spa, Johan Spa, Grand Rose Spa that has a splendid sauna centre, luxurious treatments in Saare Thalasso Spa Hotel and Pädaste Manor.
- 8. Active leisure.** In addition to a number of maritime activities, there is a possibility to play golf on Kuressaare 18-hole golf course that has been designed by the well-known golf-architect from Finland, Lassi Pekka Tilander and is considered one of the best in Estonia. The mild maritime climate enables playing since early spring to the end of November. A 20-kilometre circle of cycle tracks is waiting for roller-skaters and cyclists. In Hallikivi Adventure Park everyone can train their physical skills.
- 9. Genuine Saaremaa food** – Saaremaa has for centuries been known for its high quality foodstuffs. Smoked fish, homebrewed beer (that for the first time in Estonia was made in Saaremaa in the 13th cent.) and dark homemade bread have always been on the tables of the islanders here. Our islands offer a rich food experience of both national cuisine and high standard gourmet kitchens. The Veski Tavern, located in a windmill built in 1889, Kaali Tavnen and organic production farms offer pure local food. For several years the Alexander restaurant of Pädaste Manor has been awarded the prize of the best restaurant in Estonia. Local tastes and products made of local raw materials can be identified by the blue label "Saaremaa Ehtne Toode" (Pure Saaremaa Product).
- 10. Events** – Festival of Orchids, Future Music Festival "Juu Jääd", Muhu Strait Regatta, Saaremaa Maritime Week, Saaremaa Opera Days, Saaremaa Surf Camp, Kuressaare Chamber Music Days, Saaremaa Rally, Saaremaa Three Days Running Race, Saaremaa Great Running Race, Saaremaa Cycling Marathon – a variety of culture and sports events give a reason to come to the island all the year round to look for good experiences.



Further details at

www.visitsaaremaa.ee, www.visitestonia.com

E-mail: Kuressaare@visitestonia.com

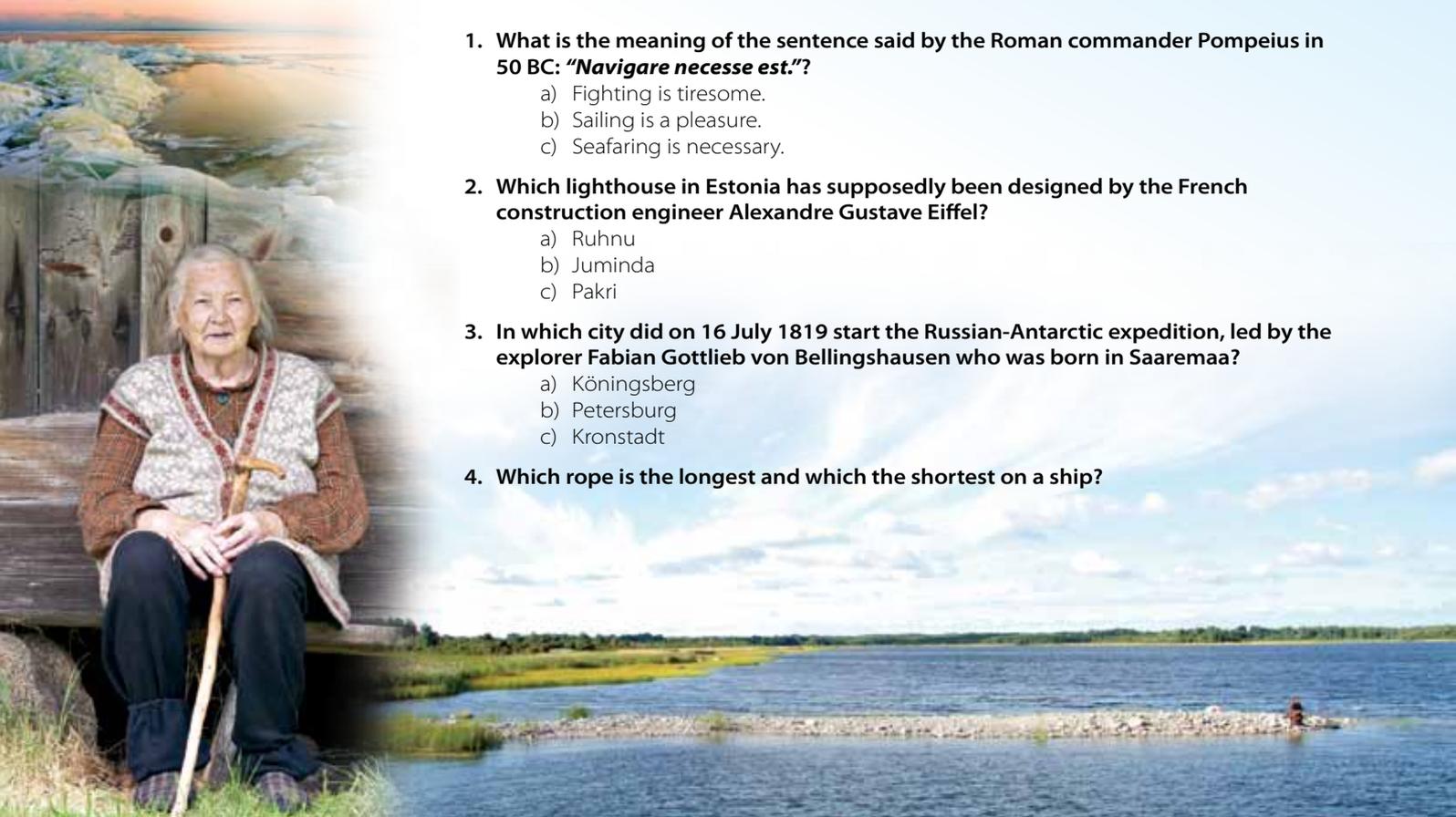
Tel: +372 453 3120 (Tourist Information Centre)



Maritime Quiz

Authors: Maire Rauk, Anneliis Kabel and Lembit Uustulnd

1. What is the meaning of the sentence said by the Roman commander Pompeius in 50 BC: "***Navigare necesse est.***"?
 - a) Fighting is tiresome.
 - b) Sailing is a pleasure.
 - c) Seafaring is necessary.
2. Which lighthouse in Estonia has supposedly been designed by the French construction engineer Alexandre Gustave Eiffel?
 - a) Ruhnu
 - b) Juminda
 - c) Pakri
3. In which city did on 16 July 1819 start the Russian-Antarctic expedition, led by the explorer Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen who was born in Saaremaa?
 - a) Königsberg
 - b) Petersburg
 - c) Kronstadt
4. Which rope is the longest and which the shortest on a ship?



5. Who was the well-known explorer who, while staying at home, was engaged in breeding the Estonian cattle and Tori horse?

- a) Adam von Krusenstern
- b) Fabian von Bellingshausen
- c) Alexander von Middendorff

6. In his novel "To Have and Have Not", E. Hemingway says that no proper marina in the Southern waters is perfect without at least two sun-tanned and white-haired Estonians, waiting for

- a) a job offer from a ship leaving the harbour soon
- b) the pay-cheque for their latest writing
- c) meeting some dark-eyed local beauties

7. What kind of ship is Point Counterpoint II?

- a) scientific exploration ship
- b) warship
- c) concert ship

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CORRECT: 1 - c / 2 - a / 3 - c / 4 - The shortest one is on the ship-bell, the longest one is the boatswain's tongue that gives no rest to anyone. / 5 - c / 6 - b - the pay-checkue for their latest writing. When they get it, they will sail to next harbour and write another saga (To Have and Have Not, 1937, Ch. 24). / 7 - c - concert ship that was designed by the world-famous architect Louis Isadore Kahn who was born in Pärnu in 1901 and lived in Kuresaare until 1906 when his family emigrated to the US.



