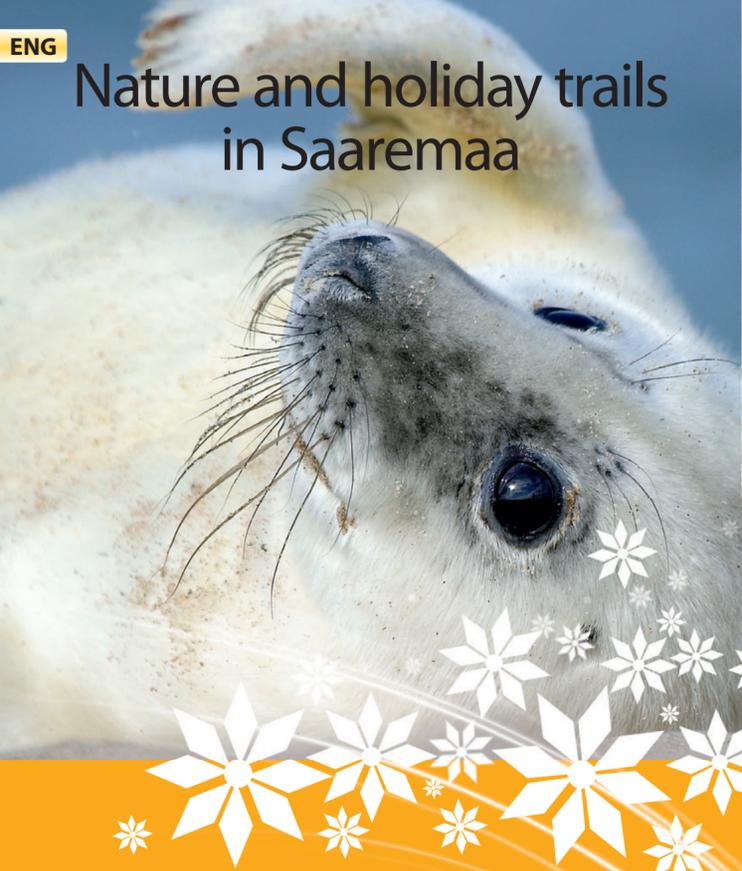


Nature and holiday trails in Saaremaa



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www.ventspis.lv • www.talsi.lv

kuressaare@vistestonia.com • www.vistestonia.com • www.vistestonia.com • www.saaremaa.ee

tel: +372 455 0550

tel/fax: +372 453 3120

Tallinna 2, 93819 Kuressaare, Estonia
Kuressaare Tourist Information Center Town Hall,



One Vacation – Two Countries



Kärla – Kihelkonna – Harilaid – Pidula – Küdema

The Centre of Europe

Looking from different corners, Europe has about 15 centres. According to the Internet encyclopaedia Wikipedia, one of them is located in Saaremaa. The point near Mõnnuste Village in Kärla Rural Municipality is the heart of Europe if we consider also the furthest points and islands of the continent. The centre has been measured with accurate tools and marked.
GPS 58° 19'00" N, 22° 16'00" E

Lake Karujärv

Karujärv is the oldest and biggest lake in Saaremaa and it is located near Kärla in the middle of the island. The area of the lake is approximately 330 hectares and its greatest depth is 6 metres. The sandy shores of the lake make it popular with swimmers and holidaymakers. The water in the lake is usually a couple of degrees warmer than in the sea, which makes it even more popular. European perch, pike and ide can also be found in the lake.

Mihkli Farm Museum

Mihkli Farm Museum is a great museum where you can admire the farm architecture typical of Western Saaremaa. The farm complex consists of eight buildings that were built in the middle of the 19th century. In addition to the well-preserved buildings, visitors can also view the museum's rich collection of everyday items. This collection of items is particularly special as almost all of them were made by the six generations of farmers who used to live on this very farm.
+372 454 6613, www.saaremaamuseum.ee



St Michael's (Mihkli) Church in Kihelkonna

The medieval church in Kihelkonna was built in the 13th century. The church had no tower at first. The bell tower that stands a few hundred metres from the church was built in 1638 and it is unique in the Baltic States. After restoration the bells are once again ringing in the separate tower to announce the arrival of midday. The exterior of the church changed significantly in the end of the 19th century after it was given a 60-metre tower, which has also been used as a lighthouse.
+372 454 6558, kihelkonna@eel.ee



Loona Manor

Loona Manor was first mentioned in 1506. The mansion, which has been preserved until today, was built in the 17th and 18th centuries. The mansion was given its classical exterior in the first half of the 19th century. The mansion was renovated in the end of the previous century and it is currently used by an establishment providing accommodation. Loona Manor also houses the office of Pärmusmatkad Travel Agency, which offers exclusive hikes in the nature. The outbuildings of the manor have also been brought back to life. The centre and exhibition house of Vilsandi National Park is located in the former cattle building. This is where you have to go for information if you want to visit Vilsandi.
+372 454 6510, www.camploona.ee



Harilaid

The territory of Harilaid peninsula covers 3.6 km², it is located at the tip of Tagamõisa peninsula in the territory of Vilsandi National Park and it is an excellent place for hiking and enjoying the local nature. Characteristically to a national park, the peninsula has a very varied and interesting plant life. Ornithologists can observe the water birds circling above the peninsula's pines and inlets. The most famous sight of Harilaid is the Kiiisaare Lighthouse on the peninsula's north-western tip. The lighthouse, which is known as the Pisa tower of Saaremaa, found itself perilously close to the water a few years ago as the lashing waves of the sea have eroded the land. Lack of supporting ground soon made the lighthouse lean sideways. Nature once again demonstrated its power a decade after the lighthouse began to lean and pushed it back upright during a big storm. And to this day, Kiiisaare lighthouse stands straight in its place.



Odalätsi Springs

The spring water that comes from the surrounding swamps and runs in the underground karst cracks surfaces through many openings near Odalätsi Village. The legend says that Odalätsi Springs are the result of another test of strength between Saaremaa's strong hero Suur Tõll and his eternal nemesis Old Nick. Old Nick broke his spear and shouted out in rage: "Oda läts, oda läts!" (*The spear broke!*) People also say that those who wash their face in the water of Odalätsi Springs will be young forever.



Pidula trout and Saarepuhkus

A company called Saarepuhkus has set itself up on the edge of the watermill and mill pond of the former Pidula Manor. The mill pond, which is supplied with extremely clean water by the Odalätsi Springs, is rich in trout. The fish caught by visitors is immediately gutted and used to cook a delicious meal, or you can take it with you and cook it yourself. Saarepuhkus offers many other exciting ways of spending your leisure time in addition to fishing: jeep and ATV safaris, canoeing, geo-adventure, photo hunting, a Rambo trail and a race with remote controlled sailing boats.
+372 566 27637, www.saarepuhkus.ee



Pidula Manor

Pidula Manor is one of the oldest knight's manors in Saaremaa whose mansion was built in the 18th and 19th centuries. The house was built in the late baroque style and it is considered one of the most outstanding mansions in Estonia, mainly due to its well balanced proportions and tasteful details. A park dating back to the same centuries adds some more value to the manor complex.

Uustalu Farm's Nature Trail

The nature trail of Uusküla Farm is located in Abula Village in Western Saaremaa. The trail is 1 km long, runs through beautiful surroundings and is easy enough for everyone interested in admiring local landscapes. In addition to the traditional manmade sights such as the winding stone fences, hikers will also see an ancient oak, wild apple trees, daphne, Swedish whitebeam, junipers and many other, smaller plants. The farm is also well known as the only place where Belgian dairy sheep are bred in Estonia. The lady of the farm is also happy to teach everyone how to colour with plants and mushrooms.
+372 534 21908

Hiking Trails by Küdema Bay

Kalja Hiking Trail (1 km) starts 2.4 kilometres down the Mustjala-Kihelkonna road and introduces a karst area, which is quite rare in Saaremaa. The interesting Selgase dolomite quarry and Küdema kurisu (which is a depression in the ground with a hole into which ground water flows). Nearby is the **Kalasma Hiking Trail (5.4 km)**, which starts at the Kalasma fire site of the State Forest Management Centre and introduces the area's coastline, forests, lakes and plant communities. The **Konati Hiking Trails**, which are 1 and 3 kilometres long, start 28.6 kilometres down the Kuressaare-Mustjala road. The trails start by Lake Konati, where you can cool yourself in the quarry water after spending a hot summer day at the picnic site.



Panga Cliff

The northern coastline of Saaremaa and Muhu are predominantly stony and terraced. The terrace on the northern coast of Saaremaa near Panga Village is the highest of its kind. The maximum height of the terrace, known as Panga Cliff, is 21.3 metres. Interesting fossils can be found at the foot of the cliff across the entire 2.5 km width of the terrace. It is also exciting to know that another terrace is located at the bottom of the sea a few hundred metres from the coast. This is a place of interest for the clients of the nearby Panga Diving Centre.
+372 511 6793

Viidumäe – Jämaja – Sõrve – Nasva

Viidumägi Nature Reserve

The 1900-hectare Viidumägi Nature Reserve can be found in the highest part of Saaremaa. A viewing tower has been built on the highest spot of Saaremaa, 54 metres above sea level, which offers views of the entire territory of the nature reserve. However, you have to get your feet back on the ground to examine the nature, which is rich in species. Take one of the local hiking trails to learn about the nature characteristic of the area – Roman snails and Saaremaa yellow rattle, which does not grow anywhere else in the world. The centre of the nature reserve, where you can learn about the region's history, is located in Viidu Village.
+372 457 6442, www.viidumae.ee



Pilguse Manor

The governor of Kihelkonna Bishop's Manor started building Pilguse Manor in the second half of the 16th century. The governor's son Fabian von Bellingshausen, who is known as the discoverer of the continent of Antarctica, spent his summers here after the manor was built. The mansion, which was built in the 18th century and then frequently rebuilt, is still awaiting renovation, but the thoroughly refurbished cattle house has been turned into a cosy guesthouse.
+372 524 0033, www.pilguse.ee

Ratsukievari Leisure Centre

Ratsukievari is a leisure centre in Jõgela Village, which offers many great options for active holidays – hikes in the nature, cycling trips, jeep safaris, etc. There are mini-goats, rabbits, guinea pigs, peacocks, pigeons and different breeds of chicken living in pens in the centre. Children can ride Shetland ponies whilst their parents can try riding the centre's horses. There is also a fairy tale city, where children can play many different games.
+372 511 3395, www.ratsukievari.ee



Kapa Farm's Mini Zoo

Animals who are rather common in Saaremaa, such as horses, goats and rabbits, live in the mini zoo in Kipi Village. However, you can also meet some more exotic representatives of the animal world – degus and llamas. Kapa Farm offers many forms of entertainment to its guests. One of the things you can try is archery.
+372 534 49051, www.kapatalu.ee

Jämaja Church

There was probably a church at Jämaja in the 13th century, but nothing has been preserved of that old building by today. The current historicist church was built in the second half of the 19th century. The most special feature of the church is its proximity to the sea. The scene depicted on the altar painting of Jämaja Church can be seen in churches where the sound of the sea can be heard through the windows. Jämaja Cemetery, which is located practically on the beach a little distance from the church is the closest cemetery to the sea in Estonia.

Oheassaare Cliff

Oheassaare Cliff is located on the western coast of Sõrve Peninsula. It is about 500 m long and up to 4 km high, and consists of limestone. Oheassaare Cliff gives the most extensive cross-section of the layers in the youngest of the Silurian strata – the Oheassaare stratum. Many fossils can also be found on Oheassaare Cliff.

The cliff has gained some fame today with the stone towers erected there by people: many who visit the cliff build towers using the flat stones found on the beach.



Sääre Lighthouse

Governor General of Livonia Gabriel Oxenstierna had a basic lighthouse, or a beacon, built on a little island near the tip of Sõrve Peninsula in 1646. Autumn storms showed that the small island selected as the site of the beacon was unsuitable and the beacon was moved to the tip of Sõrve Peninsula. A stone tower was built there in 1770, but it was destroyed during the First World War. The present conical lighthouse is 52 metres high and it was built of monolithic concrete in 1960.

Viieristi Nature Reserve

Viieristi Nature Reserve is mainly famous for its coastal terrace. The terrace emerged thousands of years ago and is now 20-25 metres high. There are many springs on the foot of the terrace due to the structure of the glacier. Lake Koltsi is a unique body of water in the nature reserve. It is temporary and only fills with water in spring and during heavy rainfall. Many rare plant and animal species can also be found in Viieristi Nature Reserve.



Command Post of Stebel's Coastal Defence Battery

Since Sõrve Peninsula was the last foothold of the German Army in Estonia during the Second World War, it became the site of several battles between the German and Soviet armies. Many military establishments remind us of these difficult times today. Stebel's Battery is the best known of these. This complex of defence structures established by the Soviet army in 1941 consisted of a command post, two underground canon towers, a viewing tower, boiler house and military camp. The windmill-like viewing tower and a lot of ruins have been preserved until today.



Terhumardi Memorial

The night battle between the German and Soviet armies in Terhumardi Village in autumn 1944 was one of the bloodiest during the Second World War. A memorial that is 21 metres high was established in memory of the bloody battles in 1967. The faces of brave soldiers are depicted on the handle of a sword made of concrete and dolomite. There is a cemetery near the memorial.



Sääre History Museum

Sääre History Museum is located at the tip of Sõrve spit, in the former residence of border guard officers. The small museum was created to preserve and introduce local historical heritage and visitors can see exhibitions that introduce local life and the military history associated with the region. You will find an old stone school blackboard, a piece of a Swedish navy ship and old rifles ravaged by time in the History Room. A study trail that introduced the military history of the region starts by the History Museum.
+372 513 0921



Sõrve Nature Display

Tough history and beautiful nature always go hand in hand in Sõrve. And this is why Sõrve Nature Display was built next to Sääre History Museum. Visit the station to can examine the fossils often found in the tip of Sääre, the wide selection of bird feathers and many other interesting things associated with the diverse and varied local nature. In spring and autumn, during the height of bird migration, Sääre offers you the unique opportunity to watch flocks of birds from the adapted canon base and the machine gun bunkers on the beach. +372 563 59533



Nasva Village

Nasva, which is located between two large bodies of water Suur Katel and Suurraht, is an old fishing village. The bodies of water on either side of the village are connected by one of the largest rivers in Saaremaa – Nasva River. The river is unique because its water flows in two directions. During the floods in spring, the water flows from the sea into the bay and not the other way round as it usually does. Even though the role of coastal fishermen has decreased over the years, the village is still engaged in fishing – many fisheries and boat construction companies operate there.

LÄÄNEMERI

VÄINAMERI

SAAREMAA

MUHU

LIIVI LAHT

LEGEND

- Main road
- Surfaced road; road number
- Gravel road
- Cliff
- Harbour
- Airfield
- Observation tower
- Small harbour
- Lighthouse
- Windmill
- Church
- Hiking trail
- Rest area

1:230 000
0 2 4 6 8km



- 1 Üügu Cliff (12 m)
- 2 Pädaste Manor
- 3 St. Catherine's Church on Muhu: 13th century
- 4 Muhu Museum
- 5 Maasi castle of order: 14th century
- 6 St. Mary's Church in Pöide: 13th century
- 7 Koigi Bog
- 8 St. Martin's Church in Valjala: 13th-14th century
- 9 Angla Windmills
- 10 St Catherine's Church in Karja: 13th century
- 11 Kaali Meteorite Craters
- 12 St James' Church in Püha: 13th-17th century
- 13 Panga Cliff (21m)
- 14 Ninase Post Windmills
- 15 Ninase Cliff (6m)
- 16 Lake Karujärv
- 17 Mihkli Farm Museum
- 18 St Michael's Church in Kihelkonna: 13 century
- 19 Odalätsi Springs
- 20 Harilaid Peninsula
- 21 Vilsandi National Park Centre
- 22 Viidumäe Nature Reserve
- 23 Tehumardi Battlefield (World War II)
- 24 Sääre Lighthouse
- 25 Stebel Coastal Battery, 1940
- 26 Loode Oak Forest

