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Estonia, officially the Republic of Estonia - Eesti Vabariik -, is a state in the Baltic region of Northern Europe. It is bordered to the north by the Gulf of Finland, to the west by the Baltic Sea, to the south by Latvia, and to the east by Lake Peipus and. Across the Baltic Sea lies Sweden in the west and Finland in the north. The territory of Estonia covers 45,227 km², and is influenced by a humid continental climate. The Estonians are a Finnic people, and the official language, Estonian, is a Finno-Ugric language closely related to Finnish, and distantly to Hungarian and to the Sami languages.

Estonia is a democratic parliamentary republic divided into fifteen counties, with its capital and largest city being Tallinn. Estonia's population of 1.3 million makes it one of the least-populous member states of the European Union, Eurozone and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Estonia ranks high in the Human Development Index, and subsequently performs favourably in measurements of press freedom, economic freedom, civil liberties and education. Estonia is often described as one of the most wired countries in Europe, and is recognised as a leader in e-government.

The small size of Estonia makes travel from one point to another inexpensive

and can also accommodate changing landscapes and lot of excitement in a few days trip.

Wild beaches with white sand, as well as more than 1,500 islands mostly untouched by human settlement where you can go on nature hikes and watch numerous bird species – Estonia is second in Europe in the number of visible bird species after Spain. Silence can also be enjoyed in the forests, as Estonia is the fifth most abundant country in Europe in forest cover.

Estonia is a European folklore centre in addition to Ireland. Nearly one in every ten Estonian participates, as a spectator or a singer, in our famous **song festival** that belongs to the UNESCO Cultural Heritage, annual festivals such as the Viru Folk and the Viljandi Folk Music Festival bring the most unique artists from around the world together to show themselves.



In 2009, we Celebrated our 25th Song Festival with 30,000 singers performing to an audience of 80,000

Tallinn's medieval Old Town, belonging to the UNESCO World Heritage, is unique in the world in terms of its entirety. While enjoying the beautiful architecture of the Hanseatic city, you can partake in modern city life and good restaurants, as well as familiarize yourself with a history which mixes legends about ghosts that still roam in the buildings of the Old Town. Manors, castles and fortresses all over Estonia are places for children to play and for adults to look at and vividly demonstrate the interpenetration of Estonian and German history through centuries at every step.





LOHUSUU FISH FAIR

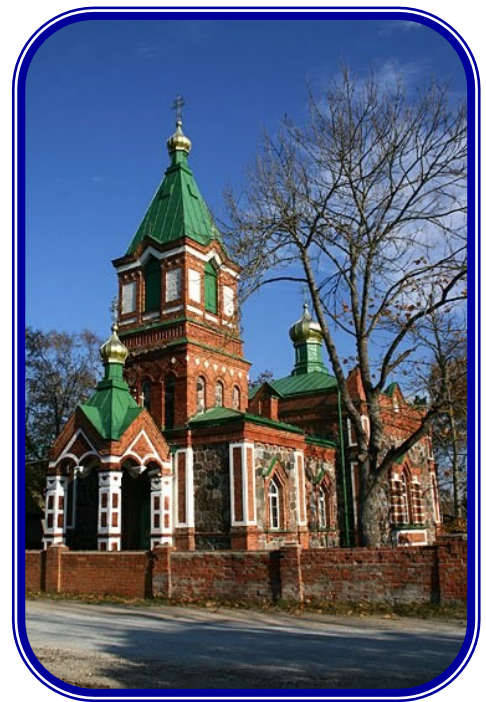
LOHUSUU RANNAKULTUURI SELTS
LOHUSUU COASTAL CULTURE SOCIETY
 Avinurme tee 63, Lohusuu, 42001 Ida-Virumaa
www.lohusuuselts.ee
lohusuuselts@lohusuuselts.ee

Founded in 2003, and situated right in the heart of Lohusuu settlement, the society makes an effort in saving, introducing and cherishing the local fishermen culture. Lohusuu is one of the oldest fisherman villages on the shores of Lake Peipsi and its traditions go back five hundred years. Society renovated the old schoolhouse and it is now a museum with hundreds of rare things which people used in their everyday life during past few hundred years. The idea of the museum belongs to the teacher of Lohusuu School, Helle Vaher, who has also gathered together the main part of the museum's exposition. One part of the museum introduces the work of Otto Wilhelm Masing, an Estophile who was born in Lohusuu in 1763, published one of the earliest Estonian newspapers and 'invented' letter 'Õ', without which Estonian language would never be the same. One of the most important traditions started by the Society is an annual Fish Fair—Kalalaat. Fishermen and salesmen of fish products come from near and far, workshops for children are opened and visitors are entertained by local cultural entertainment groups. Society also organizes activities connected to national traditions to local inhabitants, such as making traditional food and national handicraft. Visitors can get a tour around Lohusuu and get acquainted to local important sights.

LOHUSUU ISSANDA RISTIMISE KIRIK CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

Järve tee 5, Lohusuu, 42001 ida-Virumaa

Built in 1897-1898, architect Vladimir Lunski, it is a beautiful sight. In 1998 it was taken under state protection as an original example of architectural heritage. The church is a home for several revered icons, sacred to orthodox believers: Christ the Savior, Mother of God, Saint Nicholas, and Great Martyr Saint George.



VEENE KULTUURI SELTS 'LOGOVEST' RUSSIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY LOGOVEST

MTÜ Logovest
 Lohusuu, 42001 Ida-Virumaa
nataljatun@hot.ee



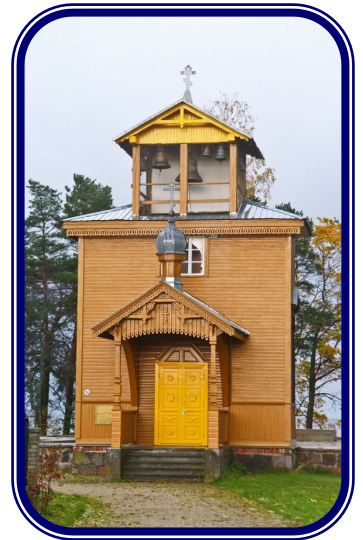
In 2005, women in Lohusuu Russian Village decided to put a start to a society which would protect, introduce and cherish local Russian cultural traits and traditions. The name 'Logovest' is the original historical name of Lohusuu. The society gathers together a lot of local and nearby people interested in original Russian national dances, songs and handicraft. Society members organize lot of events connected to old traditions, such as New year carnivals, Easter celebrations and Jan's Day (Midsummer Day). Singers and dancers are frequent entertainers in events near and far. The heart and soul of the society is Natalja Tumanova.

RUSSIAN OLD BELIEVERS IN MUSTVEE AREA

Eastern Estonia is home to many Russian Old Believers. The Old Believers are Russians who fled to Estonia because of religious persecution. They found homes on the west banks of Lake Peipsi. The first Russian Old Believers appeared in Estonia on the coast of Lake Peipsi near Mustvee in the late 17th century. Today there are about 15 000 members in 11 congregations of Old Believers in Estonia.

Today there are 11 congregations of Old Believers in Estonia with a total of 15 000 members. The congregations mainly lie in areas along the banks of Lake Peipsi, but also exist in Tartu and Tallinn. At present there are 4 actively functioning chapels in the villages. The descendants of the Old Believers willingly baptise their children in the worship houses. The Old Believers of Estonia strive for a revival of old traditions.

A unique 7-kilometre village street, consisting of the Raja, Kükita, Tiheda and Kasepää villages, follows the shore of Lake Peipsi. All of the houses are of a peculiar architecture and are situated in a single line. Most buildings are two stories and have either balconies or small towers. Every house has an icon inside and a spade in the yard.



Praying house in Rajaküla



Icons in Mustvee Old Believer's Church

MUSTVEE VANAUSULISTE KODULOOMUUSEUM MUSTVEE OLD BELIEVER'S MUSEUM

Narva tn 22, Mustvee, 49604 Jõgevamaa
<http://www.hot.ee/mmuus/uldinfo.htm>

In 1986, the Geography teacher at Mustvee Russian High School, Larissa Korobova, started to gather historical materials and documents of Russian Old believers in Peipsi area. During the first 15 years of existence, the museum was located in the school's facilities, it became an Old Believer's Museum officially in 2008.

The Museum is registered as UNESCO's World heritage site.

The exhibits give an overview of the culture of Old Believers both in the past and in the present. The collection includes samovars, irons, clothes worn by the Old Believers, commodities, furniture and fishing equipment.

KOLKJA VANAUSULISTE MUUSEUM KOLKJA MUSEUM OF OLD BELIEVERS

Ranna 12, Kolkja alevik, Peipsiääre vald, Tartu maakond
http://www.hot.ee/kolkjamuseum/index_en.html

In the summer of 1998, an Old Believers Museum was established in Kolkja where everything connected with the life of Old Believers is exhibited. The traditional food of the Russian Old Believers can be enjoyed at the fish-and-onion restaurant in Kolkja. The restaurant was built with funds from the PHARE programme.

You can see the traditional clothes, everyday items, handicrafts, tools, photos, books and many other items associated with the Old Believers.



In Kolkja, visitors can see what old believer's houses looked like, how they lived and what were their everyday items.



RAKVERE LINNUS—RAKVERE CASTLE

<http://www.rakverelinnus.ee/>



Avinurme is famous for its handicraft skills, which are passed on from one generation to another, and a way of life that is both creative and natural. You can learn more about local cultural heritage and its preservation and development in Avinurme Cultural Heritage Centre.

Known for its handicrafts, especially for manufacturing wooden utensils, Avinurme bears the unofficial title of the Barrel Capital of Estonia. Carpentry was popular not only in Avinurme, but in the neighbouring villages as well. In some places, craftsmen specialised in making fish barrels, in others they hand-split

Rakvere Castle is a historical place built in the 13th century. Throughout the ages, Rakvere Castle has belonged to Danish kings, knight-monks of the Livonian Order and the Swedish and Polish states.

Today it is visited yearly by more than sixty thousand people from both home and abroad.

When you enter the castle, you will get into a theme park presenting life at a 16th century castle where both the little and the big can spend an exciting day, transform into knights and warriors, be entertained, and learn something about the life of medieval and early modern people.

Museum lessons or educational programmes are meant for both children and young people and adults.

Diverse museum environment enables to integrate subjects by using various active teaching methods and thus make learning rich in experience.

Creative tasks, group work and manual activities develop various skills and reinforce the acquired knowledge.

Adults and elders can experience joy of recognition in the museum and interpret their knowledge and experience in a novel way.

AVINURME ELULAADIKESKUS

AVINURME LIFESTYLE CENTRE

Võidu 2, Avinurme, Avinurme county, East Estonia

<http://www.elulaadikeskus.ee/>



shakes for roofing or built sleighs, made wicker baskets and woven flax bags.

In addition to woodcraft heritage, Avinurme Lifestyle Centre also exhibits rug making traditions and local cooking customs.

IISAKU MUUSEUM—IISAKU MUSEUM

Tartu rd. 58, Iisaku, East Estonia

<http://www.iisakumuuseum.ee/>

Founded in 1975, the museum is located in a former ministry school building. Its permanent displays are arranged thematically in separate rooms, where you will obtain an excellent overview of life in the country, farms in the olden days, the work of master craftsmen and the history of the local fire fighting service. Separate exhibitions focus on the unique natural environment and diversity of the area,

the history of Iisaku school and the writer of the well-known Estonian song 'Ema süda' /A Mother's Heart/. The teacher's apartment on the second floor presents a picture of life in the early 20th century, and there is a special exhibit looking at the Iisaku region's population of half-Estonian/half-Russians.



KOHTLA KAEVANDUSPARK - KOHTLA MINING PARK

Jaama st 1, Kohtla-Nõmme, East-Estonia

<http://www.kaevanduspark.ee/>

The underground museum is the most attractive and exciting sight at the Kohtla Mining Park, consisting of former mining gears with a total length of 1 kilometre.

During the guided tour, visitors become miners as they put on helmets and miner lights and descend to mining gears up to 8 m under the ground. They are offered a unique chance to walk in the footsteps of real miners, experience their daily work in moist and dusky conditions, which helps to understand the background and the development of oil shale mining and the functioning of the industry. During the underground tour, guests visit miners' various underground work places as well as the explosives storage, travel on a real underground train for miners, and get the view of various underground technical equipment and mining technology.

In addition to that, visitors can order a delicious miner's lunch and enjoy it in the underground miner canteen.



Kohtla-Järve Museum of Oil Shale is an academic museum that was established in 1966. Its visitors have access to a permanent display that reflects the formation of oil shale as a rock, as well as the history of its mining industry and the present value of oil shale.

In the museum collection, at the disposal of researchers, there are more than 27'000 units. In addition to the articles of economic history are more than 600 works of art, the oldest of which dates back to the 1920's.

Since the 1st of October 2006 the structure of the museum has been altered to accommodate several other independent units used to organize art exhibitions.

KOHTLA-JÄRVE PÕLEVKIVIMUUSEUM KOHTLA-JÄRVE MUSEUM OF OIL SHALE

Lehe 10a, Kukruse, 30621 Kohtla-Järve

www.pkm.ee

One example of this is Kohtla-Järve White Hall, formerly the City Gallery, whose main task was organization of art exhibitions in cooperation with Kohtla-Järve Artist Association. Yet another example is the Virtual Branch of the State Russian Museum, whose objective was the organization of virtual excursions. Currently the collection houses more than 50 units of video materials detailing both Russian and worldwide cultural heritage.

As of October 2006 a project translating finished programs to Estonian was started. At the same time an active search of contacts with other museums across Europe was made in order to enrich the museum's video material collection. There is currently a permanent collaboration with the schools of Kohtla-Järve, and indeed with IT and Art teachers.

Since 2007, the Museum of Oil Shale has been situated in Kukruse village. This location is very symbolic as there has been a history of mining of oil shale in Kukruse for 90 years. Another important factor has been the immediate vicinity of the Tallinn – St. Petersburg highway.



KUKRUSE POLAARMÕIS KUKRUSE POLAR MANOR

Mõisa, Kukruse küla 20, Kohtla vald,
30623 Ida-Virumaa
<http://www.kukrusemois.ee/>

At Kukruse Polar Manor you can learn about the adventurous lives of polar researcher and geologist Eduard von Toll, and archivist Robert von Toll, who were pioneers in the conscious use of oil shale. You can do all this and try out the lives of the 18th and 19th nobility yourself.

In Kukruse Polar Manor we will look at the history of the manor and have a brief overview of the role of the Baltic Germans in Estonian society.

Here you can get a real feel for a nobleman's life – you can try on 18th and 19th century clothing, learn to write in Gothic letters and find out about the mysterious Sannikovimaa expedition. You can ride dog sleighs and polar kayaks and ride down a slide. It is a fun and children-friendly manor with activities for all ages.

ORU PARK

ORU CASTLE AND PARK

Merepuiestee 10, Toila alevik,
Toila vald, East-Estonia
<http://www.toila.ee/>

Built by a wealthy Russian merchant in the 19th century, and serving later as a summer residence of President Päts, the Oru Palace with its well-preserved and well-kept park offer the opportunity to go for walks and see various species of trees and shrubs, explore the Silver Spring Cave and enjoy the view of the sea.

Oru Park and the grand palace in the beautiful primeval valley of the Pühajõgi River were built by Grigori Jelissejev – one of the wealthiest business magnates in 19th century Russia.

In 1935, three industrialists bought the palace and park and presented them to President Päts for his summer residence. The palace was completely destroyed during the Second World War, but it has since been restored and has become a beloved place for leisure and recreation for locals.



MAIDLA MÕIS MAIDLA MANOR

Mõisa 1, 42319 Maidla, Ida-Virumaa
<http://www.maidla.ee/>



The stories of our manor will begin from the moment you arrive. You will learn the story of Baroque manor through game. Here you can find answers to your questions. This is like a puzzle which you put together piece by piece. You will be introduced to the world of history through the stories of Maidla Manor. Stories for adults and little ones, families and companies, explore by yourself or with manor personal.

NARVA KINDLUS—NARVA CASTLE

Peterburi rd 2, Narva, Ida-Virumaa

<http://www.narvamuuseum.ee>

The Narva Castle (also Hermann Castle or Narva Fortress) is one of the main attractions of Narva. In the seventh decade of the 13th century, the Danes established a castle as a residence for the Danish King's vice-Regent. The Narva Castle is the most diverse and best preserved defence structure in Estonia. The area of the castle is 3.2 hectares, and the highest point is the Tall Hermann Tower (51 metres).

The Herman Tower was completed at the time of the Order, necessitated by the establishment of Ivangorod Castle by the Russians to the opposite side of the Narva River in 1492. The Order surrounded the town with a wall, which unfortunately has not been preserved. On the basis of descriptions, we know that the wall had four gates: the Viru Gate in the west, the Herd (Karja) Gate in the north, the Old (Vana) Gate leading to the river port in the east and the Water (Vee) or Small (Väike) Gate in the south. The gates were covered with iron plates and preceded by drawbridges. The town wall, with a length of about a kilometre, was fortified with at least seven towers. The town wall was surrounded by a moat.



Ivangorod Fortress (to the right) opposite Hermann Castle, with Narva River in between

The permanent exhibition of the Narva Museum, situated in the three wings of the Narva Castle and on the eight floors of the Tall Hermann, explains the history of the city from the 13th to the 20th century. In addition, it hosts various temporary exhibitions, events and concerts. Narva Museum is one of the oldest museums of Estonia. Narva Muuseum is accommodated in the precincts of the Narva Castle. It's a classical West-European castle. The museum has developed on the basis of the Museum of Peter I and the Museum of Lavrentsovs.

The biggest attraction of the Narva Museum is the almost seven century old Narva Castle standing on the border of Estonia and Russia on the banks of the Narva River. Its history began with the Crusaders' rule in the Baltics. Already at the end of the 13th century the Danes had a stronghold here, which protected the interests of the western countries and served as a refuge for the invaders during the revolts of the occupied people. But the Narva museum is not limited to the castle. The collection includes many exhibits and stories about the history of the whole area.

Permanent expositions: MEDIEVAL NARVA

NARVA DURING SWEDISH AUTHORITY. 1581-1704

NARVA AS A PART OF RUSSIAN EMPIRE FROM THE 18TH TILL THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY

SA NARVA MUUSEUM NARVA MUSEUM

Peterburi rd 2, Narva, Ida-Virumaa

<http://www.narvamuuseum.ee>





SILLAMÄE MUUSEUM—SILLAMÄE MUSEUM

Kajaka 17A, Sillamäe 40231

<http://www.sillamae-museum.ee/>

The Museum of Sillamäe gives an overview of the history of Sillamäe, its mining and production facilities (dictyonema argillite, rare earth metals), local mineralogical collection, and life of the "soviet people" in 1950-60s

This museum in Sillamäe has been open since 1995 and was based on the private collection of the oil shale chemical factory.

Today the museum has 6 different halls with exhibitions charting the history of the town. One is the 1950s room, which depicts life during the era. Others examine the life of a Vaivara municipality farmer, life at the end of the 18th century, and the household items used in the first half of the 20th century. The mineral hall is unique and provides an overview of the origins of Estonia's dolomite, limestone and granite. There is also an exhibition of gemstones.

VAIVARA HUVIKESKUS—THE MUSEUM OF VAIVARA BLUE MOUNTAINS

Poe 3, Vaivara, 40102 Ida-Virumaa

<http://muuseum.vaivaravald.ee/>

Situated in the manor's renovated granary and blacksmith's shop, the exhibition of the Museum of Vaivara Blue Mountains is dedicated to the 1944 battles on the Narva River and in the Blue Mountains. The collection exhibits weapons, uniforms, soldiers' personal items, wartime photographs, propaganda posters of the fighting parties and other materials connected with the battles.

The majority of the exhibits in the museum are authentic – they have been found, collected and were used in this region.



In addition to viewing the exhibition, you can watch historical films and documentary.

The compilers of the exhibition have also thought about young visitors – while parents focus on the more detailed accounts of history, children can touch some of the objects or flick through nifty photographs.

VALASTE JUGA—VALASTE WATERFALL

Ontika village, Kohtla County, Ida-Virumaa

Located at the Ontika limestone cliff, the 30 metre high Valaste Waterfall is the highest waterfall in Estonia. It shows its rebellious side during spring high water. The fall is especially scenic in winter when cold winds blowing from the sea freeze the spray on the trees on the cliff, thus creating a fairytale-like ice world.

The Ontika limestone cliff is the highest part of the famous over 1100 km long Baltic Klint, which starts from the island of Öland in Sweden and extends to the area near Lake Ladoga in Russia. It is at Ontika at the height of 30 metres that the highest waterfall in Estonia runs to the shore.



KUREMÄE JUMALAEMA UINUMISE NUNNAKLOOSTER PÜHTITSA CONVENT

Kuremäe village, Illuka, Ida-Virumaa
<http://www.illuka.ee>

The convent is located on a site known as Pühitsetud ("blessed" in Estonian) since ancient times. According to a 16th-century legend, near the local village, Kuremäe, a shepherd witnessed a divine revelation near a spring of water to this day venerated as holy. Later, locals found an ancient icon of Dormition of the Mother of God under a huge oak tree. The icon still belongs to the convent.

A small Orthodox Christian church was built in Pühtitsa in the 16th century. The convent was founded in 1891. In 1888, the Russian Orthodox Church sent a nun from Kostroma Ipatiev

Monastery to establish a convent in Pühtitsa. The main Cathedral of the convent was built to a design by Mikhail Preobrazhensky in a Russian Revival style and was fully completed in 1910.

There are six churches in the convent dedicated to a number of Orthodox Christian Saints such as St. Sergius of Radonezh, St. Simeon the Receiver of God, St. Nicholas, St. Anna the Prophetess and others. Prince Sergei Shakhovskoy governor-general of Estonia was convent's patron and protected it from local nobles, mostly German Lutherans, who tried to resist its construction. The convent was first Orthodox monastery built in Estonia to the delight of mostly Orthodox local Estonian and Russian peasants of Jõhvi county.

The spring is known as a "holy spring" today for the curative powers of its water. One can also bathe in the refreshing water. The convent gates are open and you can walk around and observe convent life.



ONTIKA PANK

ONTIKA LIMESTONE CLIFF

Kohtla County, Ida-Virumaa

Estonia's highest limestone cliff, Ontika, is up to 55 metres high, looks like a stone nature book, revealing the layers of various eras to the viewer. The best place to see the cliff is from the observation platform built near the Valaste cascade.

Ontika Limestone cliff is the highest part of over 1,100-km-long Baltic limestone bank that starts in Sweden on the Island of Öland and ends in Russia near Lake Ladoga.

The limestone cliff runs 23 kilometres from the Village of Saka to the vicinity of Toila, thus being the longest uninterrupted part of the cliff.



EESTI KUNSTIMUUSEUM KUMU KUMU ART MUSEUM

A. Weizenbergi tn 34, Tallinn

<http://www.kumu.ee/en>

Kumu, which opened in 2006, is the new and grand headquarters of the Art Museum of Estonia, which attracts everyone that is interested in Estonian art and culture. Both Estonian art classics as well as the works of artists that cultivate modern trends are on display at Estonia's largest museum. In 2008, the Kumu Art Museum was recognized as the best museum in Europe and the winner of the European Museum of the Year Award. The Award is presented by the European Museum Forum, the activities of which are supported by European Commission.



EESTI MEREMUUSEUM ESTONIAN MARITIME MUSEUM

Pikk 70, Tallinn

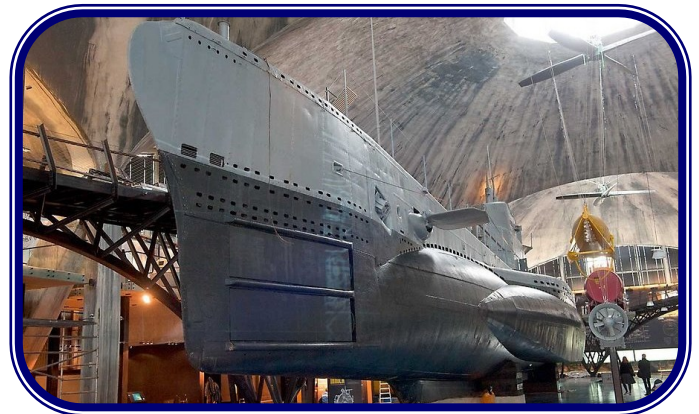
<http://www.meremuuseum.ee/et/>

The Estonian Maritime Museum is located in the Fat Margaret tower in the old town of Tallinn. The museum presents history of ships and navigation in Estonia and related to Estonia. Other parts of the Maritime Museum are the mine museum and the Seaplane Harbour where museum ships are presented



VIINISTU KUNSTIMUUSEUM VIINISTU ART MUSEUM Viinistu Village, Kuusalu www.viinistu.ee

In the little coastal village Viinistu you can visit Art Museum founded in an old cold store of fish. Viinistu Art Museum displays works of hundreds of Estonian artists throughout times. The owner of the art collection is Jaan Manitski. Exhibitions alternating each month in galleries converted from water tanks attract people. Concerts of different performers are also organised in the museum.



EESTI MAANTEEMUUSEUM ROAD MUSEUM

Varbuse, Kanepi county, Põlvamaa
www.muuseum.mnt.ee

On the Post road, in the former Varbuse horse changing post station on Tartu-Võru highway has been established the Estonian Road Museum. In the main building of a postal station complex, the only one in Estonia preserved in its entirety, the development of roads and traffic patterns from ancient to modern times is presented by way of interactive display. Inventive and innovative outdoor areas are known as ROAD TIME and introduce the historical road space, road signs and machinery. In the recreation area there is a children's playground, a picnic area, a Track of Skill and a traffic area for children.



TARTU MÄNGUASJAMUUSEUM TARTU TOY MUSEUM

Lutsu 8, Tartu
www.mm.ee

The permanent exhibit displays toys that children in Estonia have played with throughout the ages. The display also includes artist-made dolls, souvenir dolls from around the globe and traditional Finno-Ugric toys. The museum has play and workshop rooms, and the exhibit rooms also offer plenty to keep one busy. Alternating exhibits and children's activities are organized at the museum.



TALLINNA LINNAMUUSEUM TALLINN CITY MUSEUM

Vene 17, Tallinn
www.linnamuuseum.ee

The cannon tower Kiek in de Kök is the mightiest defence tower in the Baltic countries. It was constructed in its original form in 1473 – 1483. The tower is located next to Toompea, it has undergone several reconstructions in the course of centuries – its present height reaches 48.8 meters. The 6-storey tower was opened as a museum in 1958. The exposition introduces historical landmarks related to the founding and fortification of Tallinn and the most important military events in the history of the town. A marvellous view of the town opens from the windows of the tower.





The museum that was opened on 19th October 2007, is located on Jaama Street 14, in the old residence of the Estonian society "Vanemuine". The main attraction and the soul of the museum is to be called "Power of Song", an exhibition that tells the story of the legendary and world famous Estonian song festival tradition, conveys the feelings of a national awakening and the formation of a nation. "Power of Song" is an exhibition of national survival through decades of oppression and occupation with a spotlight on the so called Singing Revolution in 1988, which ended the Soviet regime and led to restoration of the Republic of Estonia, established in 1918.

The exhibition is focused on the first and also the second song festival, the centennial celebration of the song festivals in 1969 and on the birth of the tradition of song festivals of students and boys' choirs (1956 and 1976 respectively) in Tartu, the university town and the cradle of Estonian national conscience.

EESTI AJALOOMUUSEUM ESTONIAN HISTORY MUSEUM

Pikk 17, Tallinn

www.ajaloomuuseum.ee



The Estonian Open Air Museum is a life-sized reconstruction of an 18th-century rural/fishing village, which comes complete with church, inn, schoolhouse, several mills, a fire station, twelve farmyards and net sheds. The site spans 79 hectares of land and contains 72 separate buildings and is located 8km to the west of Tallinn city center at Rocca al Mare. Established in 1957, the museum showcases 68 farmhouses assembled into twelve farmyards from North, South and West Estonia.

Along with the farmyards, old public buildings are arranged singularly and in groups in a way that represents an overview of Estonian vernacular architecture of the past two centuries.

TARTU LAULUPEOMUUSEUM TARTU SONG FESTIVAL MUSEUM

Jaama 14, Tartu

www.linnamuuseum.tartu.ee



The mediaeval Great Guild Hall has always played an important role in the life of the city. The permanent exhibition at the History Museum "SPIRIT OF SURVIVAL. 11,000 years of Estonian History" (opened in 2011) helps to understand the singularity of the people who have lived in Estonia and introduces historical events that have affected them the most. The exhibition discloses the story of Estonian past through rooms with different topics, such as the Gun Room that tells about wars, the exhibition "Power of the Elite" that talks about the Great Guild and mediaeval trade. You can also see different currencies and take part in historical events in the interactive time capsule.

EESTI VABAÕHUMUUSEUM ESTONIAN OPEN AIR MUSEUM

Vabaõhumuuseumi tee 12, Tallinn

<http://www.evm.ee/eng/>



ESTONIAN FOLKLORE

Estonian folklore is largely based on animism and has also been strongly influenced by its neighbours and conquerors.

From the animism era, Estonians have inherited a large collection of distinctively structured verse songs. Most of Estonia's heritage is preserved through old folk songs and legends that were "sung down" (rather than handed down) from generation to generation.

They were only written down during Estonia's first period of independence (1918 – 1939). The later period between the two world wars was crucial in preserving and popularising Estonian folklore. During that time all legends, songs and beliefs were carefully gathered and examined to better understand their meanings.

These songs cover the whole life cycle from birth to marriage, death and the afterlife. They were also used to accompany everyday work.

Choirs became important way of communities to culturally interact and Estonian choir music is very distinctive in the way it uses harmony and national texts. Songs have important role up to this day and **Estonian Song Festival** is best place to experience that choir music. Once every five years, the Estonian song festival grounds (Lauluväljak in Tallinn) are filled with folk costumes and smiling people. Imagine tens of thousands of singers forming one huge choir and hundreds of thousands of people sitting on the grass to hear traditional choir music .

Tallinn's song festival grounds, Lauluväljak (the Song Festival Grounds), have been visited by virtually every single Estonian. The stage under the "song arch" accommodates nearly 30 000 singers at once and there is room for almost 200 000 spectators. It is difficult to imagine Song festivals taking place anywhere else but here. But the tradition itself was born in Southern Estonia, in the second city Tartu and the first joint Song Celebration, held in Tartu in 1869, is considered to be the beginning of the Song Festivals as we know it.

In 2003, UNESCO declared Estonia's Song and Dance Celebration tradition a masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

Estonia has many annual folk festivals like **Võru Folk** and **Viljandi Folk Music Festival** where singers and musicians from all over the world gather and perform songs from different cultures and belief systems. They also play and act different riddles, legends and myths.



Once every five years, thousands of singers gather under the song arch and hundreds of thousands enjoy their singing. <http://estonia.eu/about-estonia/culture-science/song-and-dance-festivals.html>



***Võru folklore festival** is the oldest and biggest annual folkfestival in Estonia. This international event is looking to promote and share the folklore and traditions of different nations to strengthen the friendship and the identity of each country. First international folk festival was held in 1995. <http://www.vorufolkloor.ee/>*



***Viljandi Folk Music Festival** is held every year on the last weekend of July in Viljandi and it is one of the largest of its kind in the Baltic and Northern countries. The festival is a place where all the best musicians meet and present their contemporary renditions of traditional music.*

www.folk.ee/en



LAHEMAA RAHVUSPARK LAHEMAA NATIONAL PARK

Palmse, Vihula, Eastern Estonia

www.keskkonnaamet.ee

In Lahemaa (Land of Bays), located on the northern coast of Estonia, you will find stony and sandy seashores, picturesque bogs, pine forests, old-growth forests, cliff forests, alvars and rivers that have cut into the limestone cliff. You will also find many geological, historical and architectural monuments. There are many erratic boulders, which were brought over from Finland by continental ice. The national park, established in 1971, was the first national park in Estonia. Lahemaa is one of Europe's most important forest conservation areas, where many large mammals live.



MATSALU RAHVUSPARK MATSALU NATIONAL PARK

Western Estonia

Matsalu National Park is situated in the western part of Estonia. Reserve was founded in 1957 mainly to protect nesting, moulting and migratory birds. In 1976 Matsalu was included to the list of wetlands of international importance under Ramsar convention. There are 282 species of birds, 49 species of fish and 47 species of mammals registered in the area of nature reserve, also 772 species of vascular plants. Also the landscapes are unique and deserve to be protected - floodplains, reed-bed, coastal meadows, wooded meadows and islets.



SOOMAA RAHVUSPARK SOOMAA NATIONAL PARK

Central Estonia



Soomaa National Park stands out in Europe thanks to its wilderness – there are 5 large bogs, native forests and flooded meadows. Traditional land use has turned the areas around its meandering rivers into biologically diverse floodplains and wooded meadows. Because of its large untouched areas, Soomaa (Land of Bogs) is a member of the international PAN Parks network and has been nicknamed the Wilderness Capital of Estonia.

The lack of human activity makes Soomaa a sanctuary for both large and small mammals. Moose, roe deer, wild boars, lynxes, wolves and bears live in its woods; beavers help design its watery landscape.

The best way of exploring Soomaa is on a bog hike or canoe trip. To get the best possible experience from the national park, visit it during the fifth season.

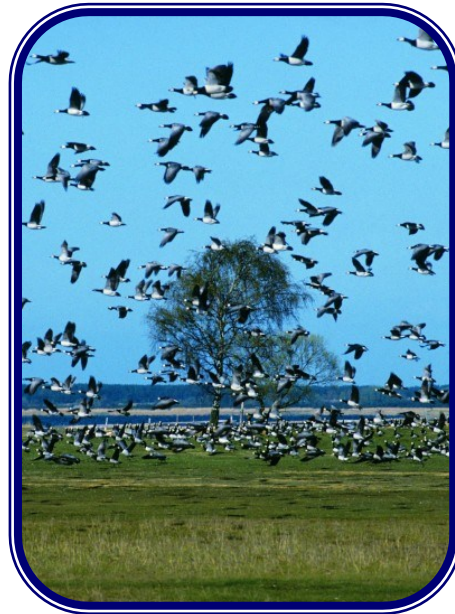
VILSANDI RAHVUSPARK—VILSANDI NATIONAL PARK

The sea and its more than 150 islands, islets, and rocks form over two-thirds of Vilsandi National Park. One of the largest resting sites of grey seals in Estonia is located here, and thousands of waterfowl winter or stop here.

Vilsandi is rich in seabirds and there are many rarities among the plants that grow on the juniper-covered heritage landscapes and forests.

People interested in geology will find outcrops of Silurian limestone containing plenty of fossils and fossilized corals on the west coast and on Vilsandi.

Those who are not afraid of longer walks will find small sand dunes on Harilaid Peninsula; the changing



shape of these dunes is unique in Estonia. The Kiipsaare lighthouse, once situated in the center of the peninsula, could be found on its eastern shoreline many years ago, but is now located in the sea near its western shoreline.

The visitor center of Vilsandi National Park can be found in Loona Manor complex, where you can take a look at fossils and a permanent exhibition about the national park, as well as watch films about sea life and local nature. In summer, hikes are organized every day. Be sure to make use of the opportunities of water tourism and bicycle rides to explore the national park!

KARULA RAHVUSPARK

KARULA NATIONAL PARK

Karula National Park is Estonian's smallest and it was recognised as a national park in 1993. Well forested and with 38 lakes, home to many animals including moose, lynx, wild boar, red squirrels plus over 150 bird species

Karula National Park makes up nearly a third of Karula Upland. Its unique hillocks are a spectacular example of a landscape designed by continental ice – it was created as a result of the uneven melting of the ice.

The visitor centre of Karula National Park is located at Ähijärve, by the largest lake in the area. You can walk around the lake and also take a look at an exhibition on local nature and cultural heritage.

If you are not afraid of gravel roads and hills, explore the national park on a bicycle! You will enjoy an unforgettable experience of southern Estonian traditions if you stop to

KÕRVEMAA MAASTIKUKAITSEALA

KÕRVEMAA NATURE RESEVRE

Located in the coast of North Estonia, it is a loved destination among nature lovers and campers: high hills, wild forests, lakes and rivers, beautiful wild bogs and plenty of rare animals, birds and plants give you a chance to experience Estonian nature at it's best.

Kõrvemaa region does not have clear borders, as locals define it one way and official books may give a bit more specific coordinates. However, it reaches from the Harjumaa plateau and Finnish bay (Soome laht) in North-East to Pandivere upland and Navesti river in the South-West and covers more than 3000 square kilometres.

During autumn and spring, rivers run wild here – both on the ground as well as underground. Kõrvemaa (Rebala) karst area with it's deep, empty river beds and underground water caves is a fascinating exploration ground for dry summer





TALLINNA LOOMAAED TALLINN ZOO

Paldiski mnt 145, Tallinn
<http://www.tallinnzoo.ee/>

Tallinn Zoo was founded on 25 August 1939. The main responsibility for the preparations of this event lay with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Department of Tourism and Nature Preservation.

Tallinn Zoo holds the best collection of mountain goats and sheep in the world. We have an outstanding number of eagles and vultures and a remarkable collection of owl and crane species.

To get better acquainted with the Zoo, you can order yourself guided tours, either general or thematic.

A general tour takes at least 2 hours and involves a lot of walking. You will see the whole exhibit, with emphasis on rare and endangered species.

The minimum duration of a thematic tour is 1 hour. Being more or less connected with school programs, thematic tours are meant chiefly for students. But such kind of tours can also be ordered by those interested in any special topics of zoology.

Tallinn Zoo is home to one of the rarest cats in the world - Amur leopard. The crepuscular leopards can most likely be seen romping around the enclosure in the early morning and late afternoon, local time.

TALLINNA BOTAANIKAAED TALLINN BOTANIC GARDEN

Kloostrimetsa tee 52, Tallinn
<http://www.botaanikaaed.ee/en/>

Tallinn Botanic Garden was founded in Kloostrimetsa as an institute of the Academy of Sciences on December 1, 1961. In 1995 it became a municipal establishment. Major plant collections were planted during the first 20 years. Outdoor gardens were opened for visitors in 1970 and greenhouses in 1971. The nature trail that was restored with the help of financial support from the Environmental Investment Centre in 2011 is 3.9 km long and covers 15 different types of landscapes and habitats. The former Kloostrimetsa Swamp with an area of ca. 20 hectares is situated in the Pirita Fluvial Valley Landscape Protection Area. The Kloostrimetsa Swamp trail runs entirely outside the fence that surrounds the territory of the Botanic Garden; it is 2.5 km long and has seven marked stops with display boards.



ELISTVERE LOOMAPARK ELISTVERE ANIMAL PARK

Elistvere, Tabivere County, Jõgevamaa
<http://www.rmk.ee/subject-headings/for-hikers/elistvere-animal-park>

In Elistvere Animal Park, you can see European buffalo, elk, reindeer, wild boar, roe deer, fallow deer, brown bear, lynx, fox, raccoon dog, common squirrel and pheasant. In the interior rooms, guinea pigs, degus, hamsters, gerbils, Cairo spiny mice, lab rats, chinchillas and lab mice can be examined. The park is opened every day.



ESTONIAN CULTURAL TREASURES

SETO CULTURE IN SETUMAA

www.visitsetomaa.ee

Setos are an ethnic and linguistic minority living in an area covering South East Estonia and North West Russia.

The original Seto culture developed from Eastern and Western cultures (katõ ilma veere pääl - "on the border of two worlds"). The estimated population of Setos in Estonia is 10,000 - 13,000, of which ca 3,000 - 4,000 live on their indigenous land.

Their borderland status has also given Setos a chance to preserve their language, lifestyle, food and unique folk costumes.

Setos are very religious people. Every household has its own icon corner (pühäsenuk) and almost every village has its own small chapel (Tsässon). As a rule, the chapels are locked and the key is held by the village elder or chapel master/mistress. An opportunity to visit a Seto chapel may come on village holidays when it's opened for public prayer.

Places to see:

VÄRSKA SETO MUSEUM

Pikk 12. Värska, Põlvamaa

OBINITSA MUSEUM

Obinitsa Village, Võrumaa

PIUSA CAVES

Piusa Village, Põlvamaa



MUHU ISLAND CULTURE

www.muhu.info

Maybe the most well known tradition on Muhu is the weaving. Beautiful traditional costumes are woven and embroidered up to this very day and still worn on special occasions. Winter with its short days and long nights is the traditional time of the year for repairing ones tools, creating handicrafts, weaving and embroidery. Of particular interest are the Muhu blankets woven from wool and then embroidered with flowers. Bespoke blankets can be ordered but count on a long waiting time of up to a year.

Muhu is an island that has developed over the centuries at its own pace, its traditions are well known all over Estonia and the famous Muhu patterns are a refined expression of folk-art. So are its dance and songs. When talking to Muhu people one can feel the soil as well as the soul of a very proud community that weathered times.

KIHNU ISLAND CULTURE

www.kihnu.ee

Lying off Estonia's west coast, Kihnu Island is where folk costumes are normal attire and a grandmother's unique handicrafts are still highly valued. Kihnu's geographic isolation, strong sense of community spirit and their steadfast attachment to the customs of their ancestors have enabled the people of Kihnu to preserve their identity.

Kihnu Island is home to a community of 600 people. For many years, the men of Kihnu have frequently gone to sea while the women run the island. Kihnu women have become guardians of the island's cultural heritage which includes numerous songs, games, dances, wedding ceremonies and handicraft.



The Kihnu wedding was proclaimed as a UNESCO Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Unfortunately the last traditional Kihnu wedding was held in 1995 and only time will tell whether this unique tradition with its ancient customs and songs will live on, or if it will be practised only as entertainment for tourists.



TALLINNA VANALINN MEDIEVAL OLD TOWN TALLINN

www.tourism.tallinn.ee

Twisting cobblestone lanes and iron street lamps. Gothic spires and medieval markets. Cappuccino and Wi-Fi. This is the city's famous Old Town. If you're looking for that mix of historic ambience and cutting-edge culture that defines Tallinn, you'll find it here. Built up from the 13th to 16th centuries, when Tallinn – or Reval as it was known then – was a thriving member of the Hanseatic trade league, this enclosed neighborhood of colourful, gabled houses, half-hidden courtyards and grandiose churches is, quite rightly, the city's biggest tourist draw. And the fact that it's all neatly packaged within a mostly-intact city wall and dotted with guard towers gives it an extra dose of fairytale charm.

Tallinn Old Town is listed in the UNESCO World Heritage List.



SUUR MUNAMÄGI 'BIG EGG MOUNTAIN' Haanja Village, Võrumaa

Suur Munamägi is the highest point in the Baltics and stands at 318 metres from sea level. The observation tower on Suur Munamägi provides a splendid view of Estonian nature within the range of 50 km. The existing tower is the 6th in number; it was built in 1939 and reconstructed in 1969; its present height is 29.1 metres. The tower was renovated again in 2005 and an elevator was added to its back side. When standing on the top of the tower, you will be 346.7 metres above sea level.



AJAKESKUS WITTENSTEIN TIME CENTRE WITTENSTEIN

Veski 11, Paide, Järvamaa

www.wittenstein.ee

The tower on Vallimäe Hill in Paide is now home to the Wittenstein Time Centre. An elevator rolls back the centuries like a time machine, with displays from different eras on different floors - the days of knights, kings and tsars; the period of occupation; the first Estonian republic; and the period of the country's regained independence. Sound and lighting effects, video programs and illusions add to the overall effect.

When you enter the Tower you come upon a time path, you need to make a little effort to remove a mighty rune stone from the cave mouth, behind which is the prehistoric world and the World Tree. Beneath the mighty tree is a sacred grove by which people can sit and view the play about the land of Estonians – from the beginning until the last Vikings – and feel like you are in an antique theatre, where besides entertaining they also educated you.

The majority of Estonian food is very simple, and for a long time, grain and bread were in first place, with potatoes being added later. Milk, salted fish, and pork have also been part of the daily menu. The staple food for Estonians used to be bread and various other flour products. Whereas, bread was considered to be sacred, and one was not supposed to throw it or step on it. Other food, primarily animal foodstuffs, such as meat (salted), fish (dried, salted, fresh), and butter were called bread side dishes. Milk and dishes prepared from it was used infrequently. During the milking season, butter was produced and salted to preserve it for fall and winter. Pea, bean, lentil, barley, and flour soups played an important role at the dining table. Porridges were also popular. Food for festive occasions included barley sausages (bloodless white sausages in North-Estonia, and blood sausage in South-Estonia), pig's head, pork, and headcheese. Small pies with various fillings were also prepared. Starting at the end of the 19th century, new foods, which previously has only prepared in the towns and manors, started to proliferate. The amount of store-bought food and seasoning increased. Different types of baked white breads and cakes; barley porridge was often replaced by farina or rice pudding. Herring and potatoes appeared on the table.

In the old days, fresh milk was seldom drunk with meals, and sour milk was on the food table. Butter was also used quite seldom and cream almost never. Important dairy products were curd and cottage cheese.

Since ancient times, fresh, salted, or fermented wild mushrooms, berries, nuts, and other forest products have been used for food. If earlier, mushroom dishes were popular primarily in the eastern regions of Estonia, then today eating mushrooms has been universal. Estonian peasants did not start preparing desserts until the beginning of the last century. Earlier few desserts were prepared, and for instance, beer soup, cottage cheese crumbs, were only prepared for holidays and family celebrations. Desserts were prepared with "bird sweet", i.e. with the help of honey, which was originally obtained from the forest. Honey was an important foodstuff and one of the most effective medications for the peasantry.



Food marked with this logo ensures that it has an approved Estonian taste

This logo makes sure that the food is grown in Estonia



ESTONIAN CUISINE



Lohusuu schoolchildren know how to make black pudding or 'blood sausages' which is much better name for them



Must leib—black bread—one of the most essential food items in Estonia

Estonians drink a lot of milk and "sweet water" made up from fruit syrup or jam and water. Other common beverages are beer, kvass, apple juice, sour milk. Nowadays, Estonians drink a lot of coffee.

Some feel that the Estonian national food is blood sausage; others think it is new potatoes with Baltic herring, while still others feel it is mulgi porridge, sauerkraut, kama dishes, hempseed spread, gingerbread cookies, or rye bread.

Estonians sitting down to eat say "May your bread last!" - "Jätku leivale!" to which one answers "Lasting needed" - "Jätku tarvis".

Let's first understand our national heritage in order to define and build our European identity

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Education and Culture
Lifelong learning programme
COMENIUS



Lohusuu Kool



Lohusuu School is situated in the north-east part of Estonia. This is a rural area with small number of habitants and quite low economical situation. Lots of families are of Russian origin and Lohusuu School is the only one in this area providing basic education in their mother tongue—Russian. Lohusuu School is bilingual, it has Estonian and Russian part but students learn together. We also have some students with special educational needs.

The school's main objectives are environmental awareness and values education. Students have access to computers and Internet. In this project called 'Let's First Understand our National Heritage in order to Define and Build our European Identity' we want to introduce our multicultural traits and identify our students as European citizens and also give our students the opportunity to learn about the rest of Europe via our project partners.



There are currently 41 pupils and 23 kindergarten children in Lohusuu School, 4 kindergarten teachers and 13 school teachers

This tourist guide has been compiled in the framework of Comenius Multilateral School Partnership project Let's First Understand our National Heritage in order to Define and Build our European Identity by Lohusuu School in Estonia
January- February 2014