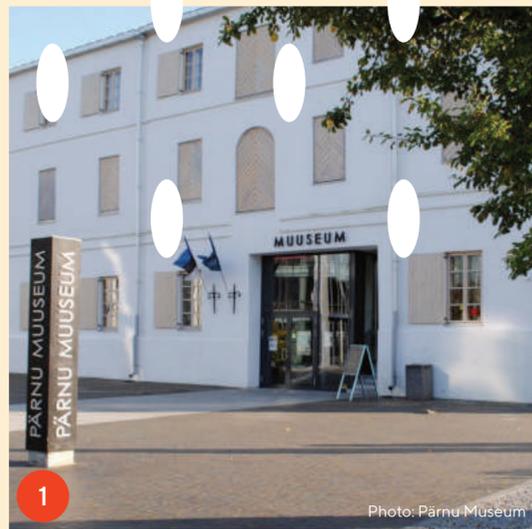


Museums in Pärnu

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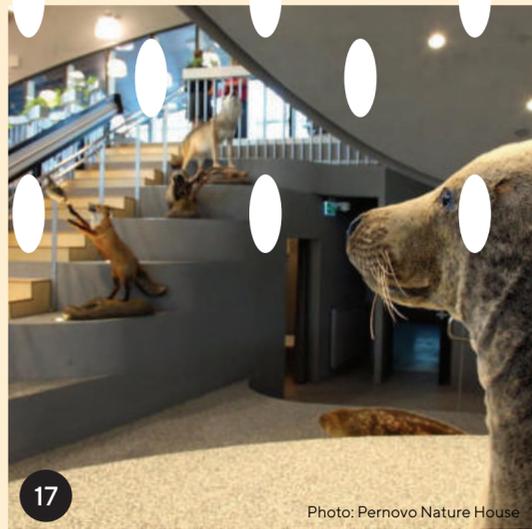
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Photo: Pärnu Museum



12

Photo: Car Museum, Andres Arro



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Photo: Pernovo Nature House

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Interested in history?

1 Pärnu Museum
 Pärnu Museum is one of the most contemporary museums in the Baltic region, offering excitement for the entire family. The permanent exhibition "11,000 Years of History – Experiences from Times Long Ago" takes you on a fascinating journey through time, starting from the Stone Age, continuing through the medieval trade routes and the Baroque fortified city to the nostalgic Soviet era. You can also learn about the evolution of the resort town that is very characteristic of Pärnu. In addition to the permanent exhibition, the museum has premises for temporary exhibitions; the multifaceted programme includes alternating exhibitions of art and history.

1 Pärnu Citizen's House
 People who visit the Citizen's House can learn about the history and people of Pärnu. Visitors can view exhibitions of the history of local government, the most important historical persons associated with Pärnu, exhibitions of Hanseatic and twin towns. The heads of the city often hold receptions for the city's most respectable guests and delegations in this house and they also use it for discussions of cooperation and important meetings. The house itself is the oldest wooden building with beams and a high gable roof in the medieval territory of Pärnu that has survived all fires and wars.

1 Lydia Koidula Memorial Museum
 Lydia Koidula (1843–1886) was a famous poetess and publicist during the national awakening of Estonia who spent her youth in Pärnu. The memorial museum works in the house that was her home from 1850 to 1863. It is known as Pärnu Ülejõe Schoolhouse where her father JV Janssen, who is also the father of journalism in the Estonian language, worked at the time as the schoolmaster. You can learn about their lives and activities in the context of national awakening in Estonia, take a look at a typical school and home from the middle of the 19th century and find out about the start of Estonian journalism (Perno Postimees from 1857).

2 Kihnu Museum
 You must go to the exciting Kihnu Museum when you visit the island. It is like an anchor in preserving and introducing the cultural space of Kihnu, which has been entered in the UNESCO heritage list. The museum was founded in the former schoolhouse of Sääreküla Village in 1974 and thoroughly renovated in 2009. You will find everything that concerns the everyday lives of people – tools, clothes, handicrafts, furniture. You will also find exhibitions that introduce famous Kihnu men, such as historian Theodor Saar, Captain Enn Uuetoa and silversmith Peeter Roosleid, and the works of Kihnu nativists.

3 Hanila Museum
 The museum operates in the old Hanila schoolhouse, where materials related to Hanila's history and cultural heritage are collected and displayed. The preservation of the work and memories of August Tampärg is a duty of honour, as is the appreciation of the old parish school as a cultural memorial. The life's work of August Tampärg, an honoured citizen of Hanila Rural Municipality, was the preservation of the municipality's cultural heritage for future generations. Good to know: The permanent ethnographic and cultural exposition consists of several subdivisions – the farmyard, traditional threshing room and workshop. The main part of the exhibition comprises items from Porsiku Farm that have been preserved over several generations.

4 Audru Museum
 Audru Museum was opened in 1996 in the former manager's house of the Audru Manor. The permanent exhibition in the hall on the museum's top floor introduces the lives of Audru people over many centuries through writings, mementos and other items, such as old embroidery, school items, wooden items, etc. The manor building, which has been restored in its original shape and its rare chimneys are separate objects of interest. The biggest exhibits, such as the machines used for farm work, are located in the yard museum. You can also visit the beautiful Audru Manor complex, the manor park and Audru Church.

5 Seljametsa Museum
 On the initiative of local history enthusiasts and with the support of the local government, the former Pustuski Dairy has been transformed into a comfortable and interesting place to visit. Tools and household products, various furniture and consumer goods, school books, books and various handicraft are all on display. The goal of the museum is to provide information on the cultural treasures and history of Paikuse municipality.

6 Tõstamaa Museum
 The local museum, opened in the basement and chimney hall of Tõstamaa Manor in 2006, introduces the life of local people through items and photos. You can see several exhibitions in the basement hall of the museum, which include a room full of different tools, school supplies, domestic items, Soviet and marine exploration items, as well as those associated with the lives of fishermen. You can take a look at the mantle chimney and different temporary exhibitions in the chimney hall on the second floor. NB! From September until the end of May, the manor and the museum can be visited with a guide only; a tour lasts from 45 minutes to an hour. The guide fee is 25 euros, depending on the size of the group.

7 Häädemeeste Museum
 Häädemeeste coast has long and well known shipbuilding traditions, which are reminded by the memorials in Häädemeeste and Kabi, the impressive wooden homes of old captains and ship-owners and family graves in village cemeteries. Local cultural heritage has been preserved here in words, pictures and videos, and the museum also has more than 400 research papers about the subject.

8 Lihula Museum
 The museum gives overview of the history of South Läänemaa, Lihula and its fortress. The museum displays many interesting findings of archaeological studies. Visitors often admire the exhibition of local ethnographical materials like traditional clothing, carpets and tools.

9 Varbla Museum
 The museum is located in the Uue-Varbla Manor. The exhibition of the museum portrays the history of Varbla rural municipality and the local everyday life during the first half of the last century. The museum also includes a handicraft room and the "book attic" of Karl Ristikivi, a writer from Varbla. In the manor's granary, you can see old tools and machines. The manor's wooden main building, built in 1797, represents the early classicist style and is a unique sight in its own right.

10 Sindi Museum
 In Sindi, at the end of Võhrmanni boulevard, is a little house where the first cooperative in Estonia, the Sindi Kalev Factory Association, was founded on November 17, 1902. An amateur museum was opened in this historic building in 1983. The main exhibition portrays the history of the Sindi textile industry and factory, the life and times of the factory workers and the history of the town of Sindi and Sindi School. In the small kitchen you can see tools and women's handicraft from the 20th century.

11 Tori Museum
 Tori Museum in Pärnu County was founded as the first parish museum in Estonia by August Pulst in 1934. The first item exhibited was a beer stein, which is now depicted on the museum's logo. Tori Museum shares its building with the local community centre. A permanent exhibition is displayed on the walls of the lobby, introducing the history of Tori. Museum items are in the granary of the manor next to the Tori horse farm. You can look around the granary on your own for free!

Interested in machinery?

12 Kirsi Museum
 In the summer, you can see vintage vehicles in the former house of field hands in Virtsu Manor in Lääne County. Unique horse-drawn vehicles, bicycles and automobiles are on display, representing the history of wheels spanning two centuries so that every decade is represented by at least one vehicle. All items belong in the private collection of Valeri Kirss.

13 Car Museum
 The car museum exhibits more than 50 different vehicles from manufacturers all around the world. We have cars that people drove in Estonia during the Soviet era (including a '63 Rambler which belonged to Paul Keres), classic European and American cars, and unique vehicles from before the war. We also have an exhibition of model cars. Additionally, there is a shop which offers literature and art on the history of cars, model cars, and so on.

14 Estonian Museum Railway at Lavassaare
 You can learn about the history of narrow-track railway in Estonia (1895–1975) in the former peat industry region at Lavassaare. More than 80 items of rolling stock, including five steam engines, can be seen in the museum that was established in the 1980s. The exhibition inside the museum includes more than 700 different historical photos, items and documents. You can also buy pictures depicting the history of railway. Useful information: you can go for a ride on a museum train from June to September. You can choose whether you want to cover the 2 km railway section on a steam, diesel or picnic train.

Interested in culture?

15 Museum of New Art
 When visiting the art galleries of Pärnu, you can always rely on the Museum of New Art to surprise you with its exhibitions of modern art. The museum's collection contains more than 400 works, and more than 1200 documentaries are kept in its videotheque. Did you know? The international exhibition of nudes known as 'Man and Woman' has become a tradition at the museum and The Pärnu Film Festival, at which international documentaries compete with each other and new Estonian documentaries are premiered, has been held more than twenty times.

15 Pärnu City Gallery
 Pärnu City Gallery has operated since 1995 in different rooms. The current exhibition hall is conveniently located in the centre of town in the historic Town Hall. The gallery has hosted over 200 exhibitions over the years.

16 The Farm Museum of C.R. Jakobson at Kurgja
 In the museum, you can learn about the life and work of Carl Robert Jakobson, who played a leading role during the times of Estonian national awakening in the 19th century, and the farm he established. You can see restored old farm buildings such as the cattle barn, mill, etc. and try your hand at farm work and learn about old ways. Animals are still kept on the farm so you can see cows, sheep and horses. If you pre-order you can enjoy Estonian national food on the farm. Useful information: C.R. Jakobson was on the Estonian 500-kroon banknote.

Something special

17 Permanent exhibition of Pernovo Nature House
 The permanent exhibition on the three floors of Pernovo Nature House, which has a rounded grass roof, offers something for both children and adults. Visitors can see: a winter garden, a pet room, a film room, a cave of sounds and exhibits of Pärnu County nature.

18 Estonian Peat Museum in Tootsi
 The Peat Museum in Tootsi was established to maintain a historic briquetting plant and the equipment there. Visitors can explore a symbolic building of Pärnu County, a briquetting plant completed in 1938. The exhibition introduces peat as a natural resource, as well as its processing. There is a railway near the museum, leading to the bog. Guests can ride the former peat train for a few kilometres. You have to book a visit to the museum in advance.



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Photo: Kihnu Museum



16

Photo: Elen Juurma, The Farm Museum of C.R. Jakobson



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Photo: Pernovo Nature House



Museums in Pärnu

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Before visiting the museum, check the opening times and entrance fees at visitparnu.com or visitestonia.com

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- 13** Estonian Museum Railway
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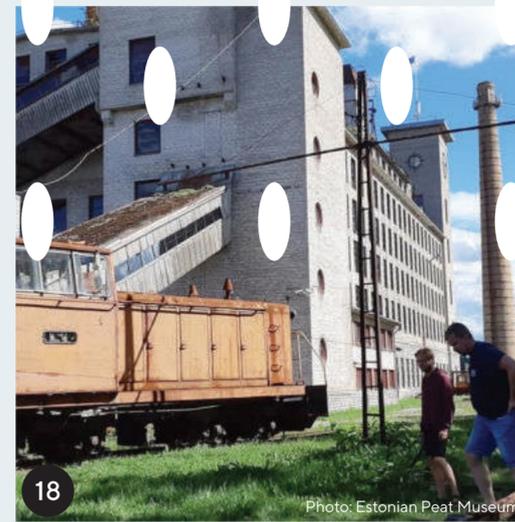
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13

Photo: Estonian Museum Railway



18

Photo: Estonian Peat Museum

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