

Romantic Coastline

1 URBANUSE CHURCH IN VARBLA

The Varbla Lutheran Church, built in 1861, is a simple neo-Gothic building with one nave. The rich interior, characteristic to Coastal Swedes, is rich and looks like an upside-down boat.

Helmküla, Lääneranna vald, Pärnumaa

2 VARBLA MUSEUM IN UUE-VARBLA MANOR

The exhibition in the museum in Uue-Varbla Manor reflects the history of and local life in the Varbla rural municipality in the first half of the last century. There is a handicraft room and the 'book attic' of the local writer Karl Ristikiivi in the museum. In the granary, you can explore old tools and machinery. The early classicistic wooden main building of the manor, dating back to 1797, is a unique sight.

Uue Varbla, Aruküla, Lääneranna vald, Pärnumaa

3 TÕSTAMAA MANOR, TÕSTAMAA MUSEUM



The manor dates back to the Middle Ages and has a colourful history. In the modern day, the post-classicistic manor was turned into a school in 1921. Tõstamaa Museum is located in the basement of the manor. The last owner of the manor was the famous orientalist and professor Alexander Stael von Holstein of Beijing University. You can book tours of the manor.

Tõstamaa Museum, located in the basement and chimney hall of Tõstamaa Manor, exhibits the lives of the local people through both objects and photos. Here, you can see various tools, school supplies, home items, Soviet-related items, and items related to marine research and fishing. In the chimney hall on the second floor, you can see a mantle chimney and various changing exhibitions.

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+372 5346 8635
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4 TÕSTAMAA HANDICRAFT SHOP



The shop is located in a former merchant's house and here, you can see both national handicraft traditions and modern ones. The selection includes unique items inspired by ancient crafts, diverse nature, and local stories. There are linen textile products, woollen knitwear, distinctive ceramics, handicraft soaps, sauna supplies, rag carpets, and more.

Sadama tee 1, Tõstamaa alevik, Pärnu, Pärnumaa
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5 TÕSTAMAA CHURCH

The spire was the most important landmark for sailors and fishermen in the Kihnu Strait. In the church hall, you can admire a vault ceiling, an altar-piece, a pulpit with wood carvings, and memorial tablets for church teachers and landowners.

Sadama tee-8A, Tõstamaa alevik, Pärnu, Pärnumaa

6 RUSSIAN FARMYARD

The Russian farm is a piece of Russian national culture and hospitality amidst the forests and bogs of the Romantic Coastline. Here, the wisdom and traditions of the ancestors are kept and shared with others. The hostesses of the farm, who are always happy and kind, welcome guests with bread and salt, produce from their garden, and hot samovar tea.

Sanga-Tõnise talu, Soomra küla, Pärnu, Pärnumaa
+372 5595 8038
veronika@venetalu.ee / www.venetalu.ee

7 SELISTE WOODEN CHURCH



The church, built in 1864, is an ascetic wooden building. Allegedly, it was built by monks who transported the components of the church from Riga across the ice in winter and then assembled the church here.

Seli kirik, Seliste küla, Pärnu, Pärnumaa

8 POOTSI-KÕPU CHURCH

The most impressive church building in the orthodox coastal region was completed in 1873. There is a memorial plaque to Platon, the first bishop of the Estonian Apostolic-Orthodox Church, inside the church.

Kõpu küla, Pärnu, Pärnumaa

9 MONUMENT TO PRESIDENT KONSTANTIN PÄTS

In 1939, a monument was erected to Konstantin Päts, the founder and first president of the Republic of Estonia, who was born in Tahkuranna. The memorial was destroyed in the beginning of the Soviet occupation and restored in 1989.

Pätsi, Tahkuranna küla, Häädeemeeste vald, Pärnumaa

10 TAHKURANNA DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD CHURCH

The historicist church has a Latin cross plan and is architecturally rather unique in Estonia, as only red bricks were used to build it. It was completed in 1872. Good to know: The first President of the Republic of Estonia, Konstantin Päts, was christened in Tahkuranna Church.

Tahkuranna küla, Häädeemeeste vald, Pärnumaa

11 HÄADEMEESTE ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The nature stone church in the historicist-eclectic style is enlivened by red brick details. People tell a story about how local wealthy ship-owners promised to buy the material needed for the roof, so the builders decided to select the most expensive material.

Pärnu maantee 34, Häädeemeeste alevik, Häädeemeeste vald, Pärnumaa

12 HÄADEMEESTE MUSEUM

The coast of Häädeemeeste has long and well-known shipbuilding traditions, which are apparent from the memorials in Häädeemeeste and Kabi, the impressive wooden homes of old captains and ship-owners, and family graves in village cemeteries. The museum has a list of long-distance sailboats built on the beach and lots of photos of these ships, as well as ship documents. Häädeemeeste Museum gives a good overview of the region's history. 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.

Kooli 9 Kõrtsi, Häädeemeeste alevik, Häädeemeeste vald, Pärnu maakond

13 HÄADEMEESTE ORTHODOX CHURCH

The coastal villages of the Coastline usually have two churches: one Orthodox and one Lutheran. In the 1840s, a lot of people converted from the Lutheran faith to the Orthodox in the hope that they would gain some land for adopting the religion of their ruler, the Russian emperor. The richly decorated three-storey iconostasis in the eclectic style is the most remarkable feature of the interior of the church.

Kooli 9 Kõrtsi, Häädeemeeste alevik, Häädeemeeste vald, Pärnu maakond

14 KABLI VILLAGE AND SHIPBUILDING SITES

The coastal villages of the southern shore of the Coastline are home to famous captains-shipowners and sailboat builders. Memorials have been set up near the Kabi village centre, where Estonia's first long-distance sailboat was built (set afloat in 1861), to the captains-shipowners. The two-masted sailboat Kaja also stands nearby. The mansions of the captains can be found in the idyllic fishermen's village by their blue colour.

15 ALLIKUKIVI MANSION



The magnificent building was built in the 1860s as a residential building for Albert Zoepfel, the director of the cloth factory situated on the land of Voltvet Manor. During the Soviet period, it housed the Ti-hemetsa basic school. Now, it houses a winery.

Allikukivi küla, Saarde vald, Pärnumaa
+372 525 2800
info@allikukivi.ee / www.allikukivi.ee

16 VOLTVET MANOR

The manor, which was one of the most dashing ones in Pärnu County at one time, was completed in 1830. The manor is surrounded by a park with 150 different species of trees, many of which are rare.

Tihemetsa alevik, Saarde vald, Pärnumaa

17 SOONTAGANA STRONGHOLD



Soontagana Stronghold, which is located on a swamp island and was built in the 7th-8th century, was the centre of the ancient Soontagana parish, also referred to as Terra Maritime. There is an observation tower next to the stronghold hill, which offers a beautiful view of the cultural heritage landscape and the swamp around the island.

Kurese küla, Lääneranna vald, Pärnumaa

18 KURESE ANCIENT VILLAGE



The ancient and dignified Kurese village, which was left without inhabitants in the middle of the 20th century, is a remarkable sight with its stone fences and former farm sites. The village is surrounded by alvar pastures, which are full of junipers.

Kurese küla, Lääneranna vald, Pärnumaa

19 MIHKLI LUTHERAN CHURCH



The single-nave Mihkli Church, built in the 13th century and dedicated to Holy Archangel Michael, is one of the oldest and most original buildings in Western Estonia. The Latvian chronicler Henry was the first priest here.

Kiriku, Mihkli küla, Lääneranna vald, Pärnumaa

20 PANGA FARM ROSE GARDEN

The Panga Farm rose garden has flowers from forgotten farms, fields, parks, and gardens of our ancestors.

Panga, Ura küla, Lääneranna vald, Pärnumaa
+372 5347 8379 / silva.tamsalu@gmail.com

21 PIKAVERE VILLAGE STONE FENCES

The ancient Pikaвере village is made special by its stone fences, the age of which is unknown. The fences form streets that take you to the neighbouring village, farms, or major roads.

Pikaвере küla, Lääneranna vald, Pärnumaa

22 ESTONIAN MUSEUM RAILWAY



A peat industry was established on the edge of the Lavassaare bog in the days of the Republic of Estonia. The narrow-gauge railway network, which was established to serve this industry, formed the basis for the construction of the Estonian Museum Railway. The museum exhibits also include a working steam locomotive.

Ülejõe tänav-1, Lavassaare alev, Pärnu, Pärnumaa
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museumrail@suhtlus.ee / www.museumrailway.ee

23 AUDRU MANOR AND PARK, AUDRU MUSEUM

The Audru historic Manor Complex is a typical 18th-century ensemble of manor buildings. Although the main building was destroyed in World War II, many other buildings have been preserved: the servant house with a high corner tower that looks like a medieval castle, a natural stone distillery, several outbuildings, and a neo-Gothic manager's house with ogive windows, which is now home to the Audru Museum. The manor complex is surrounded by a beautiful park, where you can see the River Audru and its bridges.

The Audru Museum is located 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 supplies, 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 threshing and field work, are located in the yard museum or the former distillery.

Pärna allee-14, Audru alevik, Pärnu, Pärnumaa

24 AUDRU HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Under the patronage of Magnus Gabriel de la Gardie, the single-nave church building was built in 1680 to replace the wooden church. Now, it is one of the few 17th-century rural churches left in Estonia. The church is surrounded by a forest rich in species – the Audru arboretum.

Pärna allee-14, Audru alevik, Pärnu

25 KIHNU FISHERMEN'S HARBOUR

The northern part of the Saaru port is full of historic Kihnu fishing boats. In spring, the fishermen's

harbour is especially busy: locals fix up their boats and traps and the smell of tar takes over the area. Fishermen actually use these historic boats to fish. There are also a lot of sidecar motorcycles in the port, waiting for the men at sea.

Lemsi küla, Kihnu vald, Pärnumaa

26 KIHNU CHURCH AND CEMETERY



Almost all Kihnu people converted to orthodoxy from 1846 to 1847, the Lutheran church was given to the orthodox congregation by order of Tsar Nicholas I, and an onion dome was built on the bell tower. The cemetery is as sacred for Kihnu people as the church. They go there quietly and never after the sun has set so as to not disturb the dead.

Lemsi küla, Kihnu vald, Pärnumaa

27 METSAMAA TRADITIONAL FARM



This traditional farm complex reveals the different sides of everyday island life. Here, you can see a farmhouse, a granary, household tools, folk costumes, and handicrafts. Guests can enjoy films about the island, participate in crafts and art workshops, or order a folklore concert.

Metsamaa, Rootsiküla, Kihnu vald, Pärnumaa

28 KIHNU LIGHTHOUSE

Kihnu lighthouse is situated on the southernmost tip of the island. It was brought here in 1864 from England, dismounted, and was reassembled on site.

Pitkähä lauter, Rootsiküla, Kihnu vald, Pärnumaa

29 KIHNU JÖNN MEMORIAL

Kihnu Jönn was an Estonian sea captain. He would captain large ships without the use of either a compass or a sextant, taking vessels out on which other captains did not dare go to sea. Kihnu Jönn went down with his ship Rock City off the coast of Denmark in 1913. Later, his remains were brought to his home island and buried in the Kihnu Cemetery.

Külaalusõ lauter, Rootsiküla, Kihnu vald, Pärnumaa

30 KIHNU MUSEUM

You must go to the exciting Kihnu Museum when you visit the island. It 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 in the museum – tools, clothes, handicrafts, furniture.

Külaotsa, Linaküla, Kihnu vald, Pärnu

FISHING TRIP WITH A LOCAL FISHERMAN WITH A TRUCK CAR AND A GUIDED TOUR OF KIHNU ISLAND

Good to know: C. R. Jakobson was on the Estonian 500-kroon banknote.

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KIHNU CULTURAL TOUR WITH GUIDE MARE MATAS

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ROUTE 1: CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE ROMANTIC COASTLINE

- 22 ESTONIAN MUSEUM RAILWAY
- 23 AUDRU MANOR AND PARK, AUDRU MUSEUM
- 8 POOTSI-KÕPU CHURCH
- 7 SELISTE WOODEN CHURCH
- 3 TÕSTAMAA MANOR, TÕSTAMAA MUSEUM
- 4 TÕSTAMAA HANDICRAFT SHOP



Soomaa

1 FARM MUSEUM OF C. R. JAKOBSON

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. Animals are still kept on the farm so you can see cows, sheep, and horses. You can also see the restored old farm buildings such as the cattle barn, mill, etc.

You can try your hand at farm work and learn about old ways: Farm Work Day and Handicraft Day are popular events here. Upon pre-order, you can enjoy Estonian national food on the farm.

Good to know: C. R. Jakobson was on the Estonian 500-kroon banknote.

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2 SA EESTI MAELUMUUSEUMID, TORI HORSE BREEDING FARM



Tore Horse Breeding Farm is the oldest of its kind in Estonia that started operating in Estonia in 1856 and it still breeds Estonian and Tori horses and shows guests around.

In the course of the tour, you can visit the beautiful stables that belong to the Tori Manor ensemble built in 1862 and take a look at the everyday life of the farm.

Pärnu mnt 10, Tori alevik, Tori vald, Pärnumaa
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3 MART SAAR MUSEUM



The home where composer Mart Saar (1882–1963) was raised is located in the village of Hüpassaare. Much of Saar's work was created here, in the midst of bogs and forests. After his death, it was transformed into a museum showcasing the life and work of one of Estonia's most famous choral musicians. In 2017, the museum underwent a major renovation.

Karjasso küla, Põhja-Sakala vald, Viljandimaa
+372 5216 675

4 HOME MUSEUM OF THE KAPP FAMILY

Home Museum of the Kapp Family was established in 1971 as a branch of Viljandi Museum. The house was thoroughly reconstructed in 1973 and a memorial tablet to Villem Kapp was placed on the building's wall. The museum is in a house built by Hans Kapp, member of one of the most well-known families of composers in Estonia. He left the house to his son Villem, who wrote the greater part of his music here. The exhibition introduces the life and music of composers Josep, Hans, Artur, Eugen, and Villem Kapp. It is possible to book a guide service for exploring the city and visiting the church, the cemetery, and the church manor.

Tallinna mnt 30, Suure-Jaani, Põhja-Sakala vald, Viljandimaa
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museum.kapid@suure-jaani.ee

5 LUBJASSAARE FARM MUSEUM

Lubjassaare Farm is the childhood home of Johann Köler (1826–1899), the founder of Estonian national painting.

Founded by the J. Köler Museum Society, the museum introduces both the old farm life and the artist's work. The cottage-cum threshing barn was built in the late 19th century and the barn and sauna have been restored. You can explore the old threshing room, farm equipment and tools, and reproductions of the artist's works.

Ivaski küla, Põhja-Sakala vald, Viljandimaa
+372 5590 2964
lubjassaare.weebly.com

6 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, other books, and various handicraft are all on display.

Seljametsa küla, Pärnu linn, Pärnumaa
+372 5786 4627 / museum@paikuse.ee

7 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.

Tori alevik, Tori vald, Pärnumaa
+372 5301 9440 / torimuseum@torivald.ee

8 SINDI MUSEUM

In Sindi, at the end of Wöhrmanni allee boulevard, there is a little house where the first cooperative in Estonia, the Sindi Kalev Factory Association, was founded on 17 November 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. There are displays about the educational, sports, and community life of Sindi, as well as about the life and work of painter Andrew Winter, who was born in Sindi.

Pärnu mnt 26a, Sindi linn, Tori vald, Pärnumaa
+372 447 4014 / museum@sindi.ee

9 OLUSTVERE MANOR



Olustvere Manor is one of the most fully preserved manor complexes in Estonia. In addition to the Art Nouveau manor house, buildings of interest include the estate manager's house, the red-bricked cattle yard, the dairy, the gates, the distillery, and the barn. There is also a unique well with a metal roof and crank. The heart of the manor is surrounded by rows of old trees and a lush English garden enclosed with tall stone walls. Various buildings of the manor complex house a collection of stuffed birds, wooden horses, and antique furniture. There is a wool and handicraft workshop, a smithy, a pottery and glasshouse, a bakery, and a flax and rag house.

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+372 5091 318
loss@olustveremois.ee
www.olustveremois.ee

10 VÕIDULA MANOR

In 1822, a glass factory was established on the lands of Vändra Manor, 10 kilometres south-east of Vändra. It was a semi-manor. Võidula was called Karolinenhof in German. The office building of the glass factory – the main building of the manor – was built in 1872 as a two-storey historicist wooden building. The building is unique thanks to the numerous wooden lace decorations, as well as several 'cruciform' window glasses which were made specifically at the local glass factory. Today, the main building of the manor, which is preserved in its original form, is home to the Võidula community centre.

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voidutamois@gmail.com
voiduta.vandravald.ee

11 SUURE-KÕPU MANOR

Suure-Kõpu manor operates as a school but is also open to visitors. The manor house is characterised by a dining room with Pompeian frescos and a ball room, which is adorned with faux-marble walls. The manor offers visitors a traditional Estonian experience involving local food.

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12 LAHMUSE MANOR

The Lahmuse estate was established by Pole Alexander Trojanowski, and was known as Trojanowski manor or in older documents. The most beautiful aspect of Lahmuse is Lõhavere brook, which flows through the heart of the manor and forms a picturesque millpond. The manor house from 1837 follows late Classicist lines. The most important buildings on the estate are situated around the square in front of the manor, while the others are set further back. The most eye-catching of these is the stable with its nave-style covered area supported by six columns. Since 1926, the manor has housed a school.

Lahmuse küla, Põhja-Sakala vald, Viljandimaa

13 PÄRNU-JAAGUPI CHURCH

This single-nave Gothic building was built in 1534. The two arches divide the premises into three parts. The building is made of granite and the spire is made of limestone and covered in lime plaster. Ants Laikmaa is the author of the altarpiece, which was created in 1901 and is a copy of the altarpiece Christ on the cross by von Gebhardt in the Tallinn Cathedral. The author of the Baroque pulpit, which was completed in 1660, is Elerit Thiele. The organ was made in the Walcker workshop in Riga in 1895. The church is also known as a concert venue.

Põhja-Pärnumaa vald, Pärnumaa

14 ESTONIAN SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL CHURCH IN TORI



Tori Church, which was built in 1854, has a complicated past. The German Army burnt the church down in 1944 when retreating from the Red Army. Trees were already growing in the church hall when its restoration began in 1990. The church was consecrated in 2001 as a memorial to all victims of the Second World War and is now known as the Estonian Soldiers Memorial Church. The church is well-loved by local

people and also used as a concert venue. The church also performs several functions as a memorial church – it is the place where Estonian policemen and officers and sworn into office and where historical anniversaries of Estonia are celebrated.

Pärnu mnt 1, Tori alevik, Tori vald, Pärnumaa

15 ST MARTIN'S CHURCH IN VÄNDRA

Vändra Church is one of the simplest churches from the 18th century. The church consists of a longitudinal building, divided by windows and doors, and joined by a square sacristy in the east. The church is named in honour of the reformer Martin Luther.

Pikk tänav 32, Vändra alev, Põhja-Pärnumaa vald, Pärnu maakond

16 ESTONIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (ST. PETER'S CHURCH) IN KÕPU

The first wooden church in Kõpu was built in 1674. The current stone church was built in 1821–1825 and the first organ was brought to the church in 1844. Around the same time, the unique altarpiece, one of a kind in Estonia, was completed, probably by F. L. von Maydel. In 1866–1867, G. Knauff built a new organ with 8 stops. The organ is still used. The stone spire of the church was completed in 1906 and the classicist altar wall, brick floor, and candle holders have survived the years. The walls are decorated by the epitaphs of the landlords von Stryk and parish clerk Auster. Guests can visit the attic hall and tower.

Põhja-Sakala vald, Viljandimaa

17 ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SUURE-JAANI



The church was built in the 12th century and is one of the oldest stone churches in Viljandi County. After the Livonian War, the church was in ruins for a long time. In the Northern War, the church also suffered from fires and was re-built with a wooden ceiling as late as 1767. At the end of the 19th century, the building was decorated in neo-Gothic style. The altar wall was built by J. G. Mühlenhausen. The author of the altar painting (1887) is unknown. The casing of the organ was built in 1804 by J. A. Stein and it survived the transformation of the organ by the Kriisa brothers in 1937. The wheel-cross of Anne Ratsep (1598) is also located in the church. Next to the altar is a marble memorial to General H. H. von Fersen.

Järve 4, Suure-Jaani, Põhja-Sakala vald, Viljandimaa

18 LÕHAVERE LEMBITU HILLFORT



Named after the ancient Estonian chief Lembitu, the fort was founded at the end of the 12th century. It was used for about 20 years. Towering in the middle of the forest, the hill of the fort with its naturally deep slopes leaves an imposing impression even today. On the foot of the hillfort, a monument in freedom-fighters' memory is erected. Good to know: Lembitu was the first Estonian to be mentioned by his name in historical records.

Lõhavere küla, Põhja-Sakala vald, Viljandimaa

19 MONUMENT LEMBITU TO THE VICTIMS OF THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE IN SUURE-JAANI

The monument, which was re-opened in 1990, is known as the Lembitu monument because the first known commander of Estonians, Lembitu, is from Suure-Jaani. The monument was first established in 1926 and crushed twice – in 1941 and 1943. Sculptor Amandus Adamson's original sculpture (without a hand and a sword) is located in Suure-Jaani Upper Secondary School.

Suure-Jaani, Lembitu plats, Põhja-Sakala vald, Viljandimaa

20 TORI HELL CAVE

You will find a mysterious cave in the steep river-bank in Tori. The place has been known as Tori Hell for several hundreds of years as you can go deep into the ground from the cave. This is the reason why there are so many folk stories and legends about the place. The cave was created by the water in the streams eroding the Devon sandstone bank of the Pärnu River. The opening of Tori Hell was 6 metres in diameter and some sources say that the 'passage to hell' was 32 metres long. The ceiling of the cave collapsed in 1908 and its mouth in 1974. You can no longer go into the cave, but steps by the cemetery gates will take you to this beautiful and mysterious place.

Pärnu maantee 2, Tori alevik, Tori vald, Pärnumaa

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ROUTE 2: A CULTURAL LOVER IN SUURE-JAANI

- 3 MART SAAR MUSEUM
- 17 ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SUURE-JAANI
- 19 MONUMENT LEMBITU TO THE VICTIMS OF THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE IN SUURE-JAANI
- 18 LÕHAVERE LEMBITU HILLFORT
- 9 OLUSTVERE MANOR



Pearls of cultural heritage

Mulgimaa

Soomaa

Romantic Coastline



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Mulgimaa

1 TAAGEPERA CASTLE



Taagepera Castle is a special place – it is a mixture of elegance and a rustic milieu, history, and the present day. Baron Hugo von Stryk had the impressive art nouveau castle built as a home for himself more than a hundred years ago. In 2003, a luxurious castle spa with a cosy 40-seat à la carte restaurant was opened here.

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2 HEIMTALI MANOR AND PARK



The Heimalti manor ensemble, built in the 19th century, consists of a classicistic main building, the steward's house, a rare circular stable, and a beautiful distillery with four chimney towers. Heimalti School is located in the main building today. The unique circular stable is now a modern sports facility. The distillery, which was actually a cheese chamber, looks like the London Tower. It is privately owned.

Ridaelamu tee-1, Heimalti küla, Viljandi vald, Viljandimaa

3 POLLI MANOR AND PARK

Originally, Polli Manor (Pollenhof) was the Karksi manor dairy farm, but became independent in the late 1720s. From the 1820s to the expropriation in 1919, the manor belonged to the von Stryk noble family – during these years, most of the buildings that have been preserved were built. In addition, a park rich in species was established. The last designer of Polli Park was Georg Kuphaldt (1853–1938), the landscape architect and Rigla City gardener, who was born and studied in Germany. His works also include the Emperor's Garden in Riga, the garden of the Winter Palace, Kadrioru, Tsarskoye Selo, and many other historical parks. During its best time, over 200 species of trees and shrubs are said to have grown in the Polli Manor Park.

Polli küla, Viljandimaa
+372 5648 5195

4 KARKSI MANOR AND PARK, KARKSI VILLAGE MUSEUM

Karksi Manor is located at the heart of Karksi, a few kilometres from the Karksi Order Castle. After the Great Northern War, the Empress Elizabeth Petrovna allowed her Commander, Georg Reinhold von Lieven, to use the manor free of charge. The restored steward's house is open for visitors. The house includes a library and the village museum. It is said that in 1425, a local bailiff sent six barrels of beer to the Viljandi order master and received military equipment for it. The Karksi Village Museum has three rooms: a kolkhozn room, a grandmother's-grandfather's room, and a school classroom. The kolkhozn room displays flags, banners, awards, and photos from the Karksi kolkhoz. The grandmother's-grandfather's room has a permanent exhibit on an typical grandmother's-grandfather's room from an early 20th-century farm in Mulgimaa. The classroom portrays the history of the Karksi municipal school and the local history from the time of the manors to the present day.

Karksi küla, Mulgi vald, Viljandi maakond
+372 5342 8070
helvejoon@not.ee

5 UUE-SUISLEPA MANOR

The Suislepa apple variety from the Uus-Suislepa Manor's (1796) apple orchard was grown here as early as in the 18th century. Since the autumn of 1920, children in Suislepa have gone to school in the old manor house. There is a monument for the victims of the Great Famine of 1695–1697 in Suislepa Manor. The Suislepa outcrop is 15 m long and 2 m high, the light sandstone belongs to the Burtnieki stage.

Suislepa küla, Tarvastu vald, Viljandimaa
www.suislepa.ee

6 SUISLEPA WINDMILL



The Suislepa 5-storey Dutch windmill is an architectural monument. The limestone building with smooth clay plaster has beautiful proportions. The windmill has a café, a training room and a meeting room, and a museum exhibition of the history of Suislepa.

Suislepa küla, Tarvastu vald, Viljandimaa
aveham@hotmail.com
www.suislepa.ee

7 KÄRSTNA MANOR, CHAPEL, CHAPEL PARK, LION OF ANREP



The heart of Kärstna manor received its current appearance at the turn of the 19th century, when the young lord of the manor Kurt von Anrep took over the manor. A lovely park surrounds the neoclassical main building. The most famous person to ever own the manor is General Reinhold von Anrep, whose successful military career is commemorated by a beautiful classical piece of art erected on the hill of the Kärstna chapel – a bronze lion (Lion of Anrep). The Kärstna lion is one of the most beautiful classicistic works of art in Estonia – a cast iron lion is resting on a huge stone boulder, with its fluffy-maned head resting on its paws. Lieutenant General Joseph von Anrep, the son of Reinhold von Anrep, had it erected in 1844 near his manor house.

Kärstna küla, Viljandi vald, Viljandimaa
+372 526 2901
kassurve@hotmail.com

8 RIIDAJA MANOR AND CHAPEL

The place is mentioned in the chronicle of 1223 under the name of Pödrala (Padriale). From the year 1593, there were reports of the manor called Morset-Podrigel, which belonged to the von Stryks. Built in 1761, the manor house is one of the few baroque buildings of the 18th century in Estonia. A free-form park (5.7 ha) with numerous tree species has been preserved. The oldest part of the park was established with the mansion house. Gerdruta von Stryk had the neo-Gothic family chapel built in honour of her daughter Louise. Several generations of the von Stryks are buried there. The chapel was renovated in cooperation between Pödrala rural municipality government and the von Stryk family. On 25 August 2011, Jaan Kiivilt, the primate of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church consecrated the Gerdruta chapel as a church.

Pödrala vald, Valgamaa

9 ÕISU MANOR AND PARK AND ÕISU MANOR SMITHY

The Õisu manor building is an early classicist building. Its main part was built in the 18th–19th century after Elizabeth of Russia gifted the manor to the widow of admiral Peter von Sivers in 1744. The entrance and forefield of the manor are framed with an arc-shaped outbuilding and a stable/coach house. Over the years, the building has been used as a dairy school and for the food industry. The manor park descends to the lake as terraces behind the manor house. The English landscape park was designed in accordance with the project of architect Georg Kuphaldt. About 85 species of trees and shrubs grow there. The terraced park also has sculptures, a fountain, and three ponds. In the cavities and crevices of old trees, four species of bats have found their habitat – the Daubenton's bat, the pond bat, the brown-long-eared bat, and the Nathusius' pipistrelle. The interior of the Õisu smithy has been preserved as it was in the 20th century. Blacksmith tools and household items can also be seen in the smithy. You can organise important events in an exciting environment in a historic building!

Õisu alevik, Mulgi vald, Viljandimaa
+372 5118697
urmas@viljandimaa.ee

10 HUMMULI MANOR PARK



The manor was mentioned in 1470. The manor's two-storey neo-Gothic main building was built in the 1860s. The manor house and the park are under heritage protection. The park is under nature protection since 1964. Hummulu is one of the youngest manor parks in Estonia. The Hummulu Park consists of two parts established at different times: the vicinity of the manor is designed at the beginning of the 19th century and the more distant area is designed at the end of the same century. The Hummulu Park is one of the best examples of English landscape parks in Estonia. The park was established in the early 19th century. In 1830, there was a small park, a fruit garden, and ponds connected with a road network. Around the turn of the 19th and 20th century, the park was extended to the Väike-Emajõgi River. A free-form oblong-shaped park was established while paying attention to the colour and shape of different types of trees. On the southern edge of the forefield, there is a memorial stone (2002) to commemorate the Battle of Hummulu of the Great Northern War.

Pargi 2, Hummulu vald, Valgamaa

11 HEIMTALI MUSEUM OF THE ESTONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

The Heimalti Museum was founded in 1991 by Anu Raud, which she gifted to the Estonian National Museum in 2009. Visitors have the opportunity to be acquainted with the perfect collection of national handicraft samples, see old household items, and explore the interiors of classrooms a hundred years ago. The children's playground is full of piglets, kittens, and other domestic animals knitted in glove pattern.

Heimalti küla, Viljandi vald, Viljandimaa
+372 439 8126
heimtalimuuseum@gmail.com

12 ROOM-MUSEUM OF THE WRITER A. KITZBERG

August Kitzberg (1855–1927) is one of the most famous writers from Viljandi County, where he found inspiration for his works. The museum provides an overview of the Kitz family history, Kitzberg's work, and the office of a municipal clerk. You can travel along the paths made famous by the author's works on foot, by bicycle, or by car.

Mellini talu, Leeli küla, Mulgi vald, Viljandimaa
+372 433 1116
info@mellini.ee
www.mellini.ee

13 HELME PARISH MUSEUM

Helme Parish Museum is located in the village of Kirikuküla in the former rectory of Helme church. At Helme Parish Museum, you will not only see preserved items, but also preserved memories, where each item can tell a story about its maker, user, or owner.

Kirikuküla, Tõrva vald, Valgamaa
+372 5662 5102
info.helmemuuseum@gmail.com

14 MÕISAKÜLA MUSEUM, A RIDE IN THE MÕISAKÜLA RAILWAY INSPECTION TROLLEY

The permanent exhibition of the museum depicts the history of Mõisaküla from the time that it was founded, and the educational life, cultural life, and sports activities of the town. Many of the exhibitions involve the railway, as the founding and development of Mõisaküla is closely related to the railway. The most valuable exhibits in the museum are undeniably the Olympic medals of the heavyweight weightlifter Arnold Luhaäär, a native of Mõisaküla.

Jaani Silveri tänav 4, Mõisaküla linn, Mulgi vald, Viljandimaa
+372 435 5607 / muuseum@mõisakyla.ee

15 TARVASTU MUSEUM

The focal point of the exhibition is local farm life in all its facets: farm work, tools, national costumes, and the local language and culture. You will also find out how Mustla formed and about the history of Tarvastu Castle, the local gentry (the Mensenkampff family), and education in the area. You will also have an overview of the lives and work of cultural figures from the Tarvastu area.

Posti tn 52B, Mustla alevik, Tarvastu vald, Viljandimaa
+372 436 6262 / aili.anderson@viljandivald.ee

16 BARCLAY DE TOLLY MAUSOLEUM



The mausoleum of Barclay de Tolly is one of the 21 places in Southern Estonia worth discovering which are marked by a yellow National Geographic window; if you love culture and nature, a visit is highly recommended. Field Marshal de Tolly, whose final resting place is in Estonia, is one of the most famous people related to Estonia and probably the greatest Russian military leader. The Russian commander who came from a Baltic aristocratic family with Scottish roots played an important part in the Napoleonic wars between 1812 and 1814. Barclay de Tolly's name has been related to Jõgeveste since 1791, when he married Helene Auguste Eleonore von Smitten and became the owner of the Jõgeveste manor.

Jõgeveste küla, Tõrva vald, Valgamaa
+372 513 9065

17 ABJA MUSEUM

Abja Municipal Museum showcases the past and present of the people in this part of the world. It has been open since 1999. The permanent exhibition



tion has stands and cases focusing on ancient times, the local people, cultural life, education, postal services, fire-fighting, kindergartens, sport, hospital, the local library, roads, a linen factory, a dairy, manors, and more. There are also displays of tools, everyday items, textbooks, and documents from day-to-day life. Temporary exhibitions are put on 2–4 times per year, based around special days and topical subjects.

Posti tänav 5, Abja-Paluoja tinn, Mulgi vald, Viljandimaa
+372 523 5102

18 MULGI VILLAGE MUSEUM

Mulgi Village Museum is located in the craftsman's building of the former Uue-Kariste Manor. The museum exhibits the life of the people of the villages of Uue-Kariste parish through objects, photographs, and memories. In the schoolroom, you can learn about the history of the Koskilla school. The manor park has a barn from the end of the 19th century, where tools and larger items are displayed. The tour introduces the history of Uue-Kariste manor buildings. You can choose how much you want to pay for the ticket.

Uue-Kariste küla, Mulgi vald, Viljandi maakond
+372 520 4205
eda.niin@mail.ee

19 MULGI CLAY WORKS



At the Mulgi Clay Works in Loodi, you can make different items: mugs, buttons, bowls, plates, and more. The duration and price of the workshop depends on what you want to make. The finished items will be dried at the clay works and after the pre-rost, you can glaze your items yourself if you want. You will be able to get your items in 2–3 weeks.

Loodi, Hendrikumõisa küla, Viljandi vald, Viljandimaa
+372 5661 6526
mulgisavikoda@gmail.com

20 HEIMTALI CREATIVE STUDIO

Heimalti creative studio welcomes everyone who is interested in clay. The workshop is suitable for everyone, regardless of their age. You can buy and make items with the national Mulgimaa motifs.

21 KALJURAHNU CERAMIC KILN

In summer, workshops take place every Saturday where participants can make cups, bowls, vases, or dishes. A ceramist will provide instructions, as well as all of the necessary tools and materials. We will burn and glaze the items on the spot – you can get them in two weeks.

Vardja küla, Viljandi vald, Viljandimaa
+372 508 4348 / piret.lemalu@gmail.com

22 RUINS OF HELME ORDER CASTLE

The ruins of the Helme Order Castle are situated on a steep slope by the Pärnu-Võlga road. The castle is thought to have been built in the first half of the 14th century. Parts of its walls with their distinctive window openings remain standing today. Legend has it that a young virgin was entombed within its walls to further strengthen it. Whether there is any truth to the story is up to visitors to decide! Over the centuries, the castle has been governed by Germans, Russians, Lithuanians, and finally Swedes – who destroyed it in 1658. Good to know: In the valley below the castle is the Doctor's Spring, the waters of which are said to cure seven different ailments.

Kirikuküla, Tõrva vald, Valga maakond
+372 527 8149
info@torupillitalu.ee
www.torupillitalu.ee

23 KARKSI PRIMEVAL VALLEY AND ORDER CASTLE RUINS

Karksi valley is one of the most beautiful and famous places in Viljandi County. Driving down along a curvy road, you will see the Karksi fortress hill or bastion hill over the Linnaveski reservoir. It is believed that a fortress of Estonians was also located on the steep hill, which is naturally well-protected, before the conquest of the Crusaders.

Karksi bussipeatus, Karksi-Nuia linn, Mulgi vald, Viljandi maakond

24 TAVASTU ORDER CASTLE RUINS AND CHAPEL

The order castle is thought to have been constructed on the site of an early Estonian hillfort in the 14th century. It is situated on the slope of a hill next to a picturesque river. On the northern side of the castle, there was a water mill, which also served a strategic purpose in defending the access to the fortress. The tower next to the mill likewise served to protect the stronghold. In the fierce battles of the Livonian War, the stronghold changed ownership many times, and repeated bombings, burning, and gunpowder explosions left only the walls of the original structure standing.

Situated close to the stronghold, there is a chapel constructed in the early 19th century in the Classicist style. What makes the building unique is its high, pyramid-like roof and porticos on all four sides resting on pairs of columns. The mausoleum was ordered to be built by the local lady of the manor in memory of her husband. In order to provide better access to the chapel, a suspension bridge was constructed across the river valley in 1878. This bridge

was later gifted to the City of Viljandi and is currently in use in the centre of the city in the hilly area close to the castle ruins.

Sooviku küla, Viljandi vald, Viljandimaa

25 TORUPILLITALU



At Torupillitalu, you can see a real bagpipe! The hosts will introduce to you Estonian folk instruments and you can jam with them. You can also book a concert from the family daughters Anu and Triinu Taul. The host can also talk about his other interesting hobby: building and flying with powered hang gliders.

Riidaja küla Tõrva vald Mulgimaa
+372 527 8149
info@torupillitalu.ee
www.torupillitalu.ee

26 TÕRVA CHURCH AND CHAMBER HALL

The Helme-Tõrva Apostolic Orthodox Church of the Birth of Christ was built in Valga Street in the years 1903 and 1904. Karl Shurin was in charge of the building work. The two domes and bell tower made the church one of the most imposing churches in the Viljandi Apostolic Orthodox Deanery. The church was seriously damaged during the fierce battles fought in September 1944 and it was only restored in 1990 as a chamber hall.

Valga tänav 44, Tõrva linn, Tõrva vald, Valgamaa

27 ST. PETER'S CHURCH IN TARVASTU

Older parts of the church probably date from the 15th century. After suffering damage in wars and undergoing renovations, the church received its current appearance in December 1893. In May 1892, a lightning strike started a fire in the church; the building was restored under the hand of pastor Michael Jürmann.

Porska küla, Viljandi vald, Viljandimaa

28 HALLISTE SAINT ANNE'S CHURCH

The Halliste Lutheran Church is one of the most beautiful and interesting churches in Estonia. The Halliste Church, which was seriously damaged in the course of various wars, acquired its present appearance in 1991 with the help of local initiative. When visiting the church, make sure to look at the altar painting entitled Christ by Estonian artist Jüri Arrak and enjoy one of the frequent concerts.

Pornuse küla, Mulgi vald, Viljandimaa

29 KARKSI ST. PETER'S CHURCH

The church is peculiar thanks to its slanting tower that due to bad soil has inclined one meter to the west. In the Middle Ages, the Karksi church life was connected with the castle. In the castle built in the 13th century, there was also a chapel dedicated to apostle Peter. The present stone church was built in 1773–1778, using partly the foundation walls of the castle. The architecture of the church is extremely simple – a tower with a Baroque-style broach is connected to the church hall and there is a sacristy on the east side.

Lossi tn-4, Karksi-Nuia, Mulgi vald, Viljandimaa

30 PAISTU VIRGIN MARY CHURCH



The Paistu Church is first mentioned in relation to the Lithuanian foray in 1329. The church was probably built in the end of the 13th century. It is a stone building that originally had no tower. From the primary building, the archaic eight-segment vaults have remained. On the vault, there is a painting from 1903 imitating the starry sky.

Paistu küla, Viljandi vald, Viljandi maakond

31 MULGI LIGHTHOUSE IN MUSTLA

Only a 22-metre chimney remains of the former cheese and butter factory, which is almost a hundred years old. In 2018, it was turned into the Mulgi Lighthouse. At the top of the lighthouse at the height of 28 metres, at the end of a six-metre flagpole, is an Estonian flag. It is the fourth highest blue, black, and white flag in Estonia after Tall Hermann, the Tartu Water Tower, and the Suur Mu-namägi observation tower.

Tootuse 1, Mustla, Viljandimaa

32 SMOKE SAUNA AT MÄNNIKU FOREST FARM



There is a roofed terrace and a bridge over the pond near the smoke sauna. The smoke sauna was nominated for the 2018 Wooden Building Award. There are two cosy holiday houses in the complex.

Intsu küla, Viljandi vald, Viljandimaa
+372 5343 2884
metsatalu@metsatalu.ee / www.metsatalu.ee



Discover more routes at
muhemaa.com

ROUTE 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE IN MULGIMAA

11 HEIMTALI MUSEUM OF THE ESTONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

2 HEIMTALI MANOR AND PARK

19 MULGI CLAY WORKS

30 PAISTU VIRGIN MARY CHURCH

7 KÄRSTNA MANOR, CHAPEL, CHAPEL PARK, LION OF ANREP

16 BARCLAY DE TOLLY MAUSOLEUM

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