

visit PÄRNU





## How to get to Pärnu?



### Bus

**Tallinn-Pärnu**  
(2 hours)

**Riga-Pärnu**  
(2,5 hours)

**St. Petersburg-Pärnu**  
(8.5 hours buy bus or 6 hours by car)  
[www.tpilet.ee](http://www.tpilet.ee)



### Ship

**Helsinki-Tallinn**  
(2 hours)  
[www.vikingline.ee](http://www.vikingline.ee)  
[www.tallink.ee](http://www.tallink.ee)  
[www.eckeroline.ee](http://www.eckeroline.ee)

**Stockholm-Tallinn**  
(16 hours, overnight)  
[www.tallink.ee](http://www.tallink.ee)



### Plane

**Tallinn Airport**  
(140 km from Pärnu)  
[www.tallinn-airport.ee](http://www.tallinn-airport.ee)

**Riga Airport**  
(200 km from Pärnu)  
[www.riga-airport.com](http://www.riga-airport.com)

Pärnu is a resort town with long traditions, beloved first and foremost for its white-sand beaches and high-quality spa hotels, and internationally renowned as a holiday destination.



Rannahotell. Photo: Kristian Pikner



Happy Children's Festival

## International recognitions

**A prime destination for a beach holiday**  
Lonely Planet listed Pärnu as one of the Top 10 lesser-known beach cities to visit in 2018.

**Estonia's Best Wellness and Health Tourism Destination**  
– Pärnu was selected the best wellness and health tourism destination in Estonia in the 2019 European Destinations of Excellence (EDEN) competition launched by the European Commission.

**UNESCO designation for Kihnu Island**  
Kihnu cultural space was accorded UNESCO's title of Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity for its traditional way of life, customs, folk culture and the island's natural heritage.

**Child-friendly town**  
UNICEF awarded the city of Pärnu its distinction of a Child- and Youth-Friendly City.



# Pärnu's colourful history and architectural gems beckon



Tallinn Gate. Photo: Priidu Saart

**The Tallinn Gate** is the only 17th century moat gate still extant in the Baltic states.

**The moat tells the story of a fortified town**

Dioramas and models along Pärnu's Vallikäär, the historical moat, give a visual overview of how Pärnu developed from a citadel town to the modern-day resort.

**1251**

Pärnu is founded

**13th century**

Teutonic Order period  
(Neu-Pernau)

**14th century**

Hanseatic town

**16th century**

Administrative centre

**17th century**

University town

**18th century**

Town of merchants

**19th century**

Resort town

**20th century**

Estonian summer capital

**21st century**

Baltic seaside  
experience resort



Hanseatic days. Photo: Elen Juurma

**The permanent exposition at the Pärnu Museum, 11,000**

**Years of History**, leads visitors down the path of Pärnu County's millennia-long history.  
[www.parnumuuseum.ee](http://www.parnumuuseum.ee)

**Event**

Every year in June or July, traditional Hanseatic Days are held in Pärnu to honour medieval customs. There is also a medieval market to attend then.

[hansa.parnu.ee](http://hansa.parnu.ee)

Estonian architectural landmarks – Pärnu is studded with numerous outstanding examples of functionalist resort architecture.

Pärnu Rannahoone (Pärnu Beach House), Rannahotell and several other edifices of seafront architecture from the 1930s were designed by the onetime city architect Olev Siinmaa. It was thanks to him that Pärnu resort developed its modern look and became such a delectable destination for architecture buffs.

A walk through the Rannapark will bring you face to face with **Ammende Villa**, one of the country's finest examples of early Art Nouveau architecture.

1838 is considered to be the birth date of the local resort scene, when Pärnu's first bathing establishment was opened. Later, a traditional mud spa edifice was erected, which now again houses a Hedon Spa & Hotel.



Romantic wooden architecture - Estonia's largest neighbourhood of wooden villas can be found in Pärnu.

A walk from the city centre towards the sea takes you past the largest concentration of cheerfully coloured timber homes.



Did you know?

Pärnu can be explored on your own by using an app. Find out what sights there are to see, choose somewhere to stay, discover what culinary delights await, read about the exciting events offered in the city and enjoy the atmosphere of Pärnu as you stroll its streets and explore its nooks and crannies.

Search for “Pärnu - Explore Hansa” on Google Play or the App Store.





# Pärnu beach – the Nordic Riviera



Pärnu Beach. Photo: Silver Gutmann

## The best conditions for sunbathing in Estonia – going on for 180 years

It is a fact that the climate of the Pärnu Bay is warmer than in other parts of Estonia. The shallow seabed at Pärnu beach warms up quickly – during midsummer heat waves it can reach up to 26° C.

Pärnu is a city for romantic walks, for lovers and first kisses. The Pärnu breakwater and promenade are ideal for strolling. The symbol of Pärnu Beach is an elephant – there were once two wooden water slides shaped like elephants on the seashore.

The Blue flag is raised on the Pärnu beach every summer, which is world-renowned eco-label. That indicates that the beach or small harbor is environmentally friendly, clean and safe.



Did you  
know?

For 100 years already, a section of the beach in Pärnu has been designated to be used solely by females. Estonia's only beach, assigned exclusively for women, provides a safe, clothing-optional bathing area.



Beach Elephant. Photo: Markus Kiili

# Romantic beaches away from busier urban areas



Mole of Pärnu. Photo: Markus Kiili

Pärnu County has 250 km of coastline, and thus there should be no shortage of secluded spots by the sea for anyone. We call it the Romantic Coastline. [www.rannatee.ee](http://www.rannatee.ee)

**Valgerand** is the best-known classic white-sand beach, lined by pine trees.

**Kabli** has a beach beloved by local inhabitants, a birding area, nature centre and a short hiking trail.

If you are looking for something different, check out small coastal villages like Kastna, Liu, Marksa or Saulepa.



Kabli Sunset festival. Photo: Marie Laanisto

## Legend

According to an ancient legend, young lovers have to walk to the end of the breakwater and seal their love with a kiss. It should confirm the eternal love.

## Event

July marks the onset of Kabli Sunset Festival – the most scenic locations along the coastline are used to host concerts, salon evenings, village festivals and beach parties. [www.kablifest.com](http://www.kablifest.com)



Did you know?

At the beginning of 2019, a new illuminated boardwalk was completed, starting at the Rannapark and winding along the Pärnu River. The half-kilometer-long light road built on the piles ends at a sandy beach near the mole. There are seating benches and bicycle racks on the trail. The new boardwalk has become a very popular walking spot for both locals and visitors.

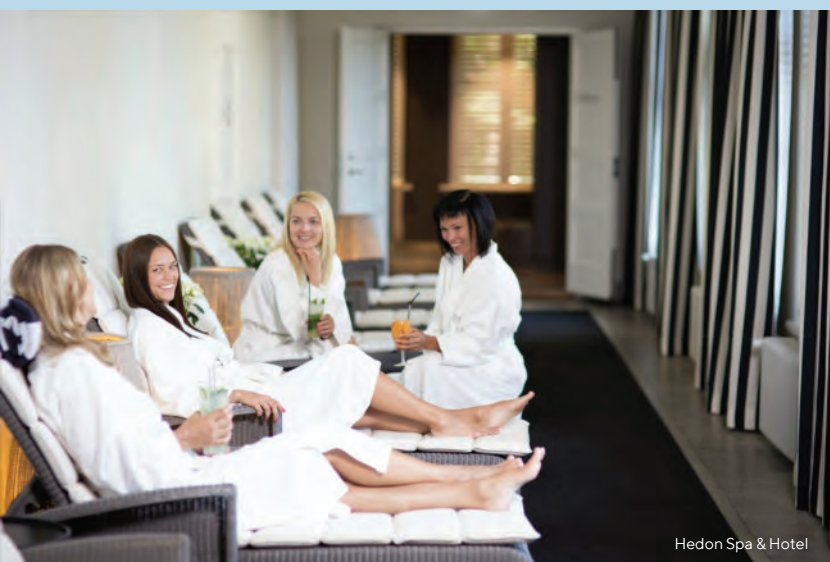




Wasa Resort. Photo: Tõnu Tunnel

## Quality time at the spa – indulge your body and soul

Pärnu started offering therapeutic and health-restoring procedures in the first half of the 19th century when the first bathing establishments were opened. Today, aquatic centres, saunas and well-being services at spa hotels are obligatory parts of any holiday in Pärnu.



Hedon Spa & Hotel

**Nine distinctive  
spa hotels in Pärnu:**

Hedon Spa & Hotel  
[www.hedonspa.com](http://www.hedonspa.com)

ESTONIA Medical Spa & Hotel  
[www.spaestonia.ee](http://www.spaestonia.ee)

ESTONIA Resort Hotel & Spa  
[www.spaestonia.ee](http://www.spaestonia.ee)

Wasa Resort  
[www.wasahotels.ee/resort](http://www.wasahotels.ee/resort)

Strand Spa & Conference Hotel  
[www.strand.ee](http://www.strand.ee)

Tervis Medical Spa  
[www.spatervis.ee](http://www.spatervis.ee)

Tervise Paradiis  
Spa Hotel & Water Park  
[www.terviseparadiis.ee](http://www.terviseparadiis.ee)

Viiking Spa-Hotel  
[www.viiking.ee](http://www.viiking.ee)

Health Center & Hotel Wasa  
[www.wasa.ee](http://www.wasa.ee)



# A family holiday enjoyed by all ages

Pärnu welcomes families with its following attractions:

**Tervise Paradiis Water Park** – one of Estonia's biggest water parks.  
[www.terviseparadiis.ee](http://www.terviseparadiis.ee)

**Viiking Saaga** – an aquatic centre designed like a Viking oasis.  
[www.viiking.ee](http://www.viiking.ee)

**Mini Zoo** – a little house in the city centre that is home to many exotic terrarium creatures like lizards, snakes and spiders.

**Pärnu Beach** – shallow water and warm water temperatures make it the ideal destination for families with children.



A short drive from the city centre takes you to:

**Lottemaa (12km)** – the largest theme park in the Baltics. Lottemaa offers over 100 attractions, themed houses, cute food courts, souvenir shops, and a swimming beach.  
[www.lottemaa.ee](http://www.lottemaa.ee)

**Alpaca Farm (20km)** – besides adorable alpacas, the stars of the attraction, visitors will be able to see and pat pygmy goats, mini-sheep and angora rabbits.  
[www.alpakafarm.ee](http://www.alpakafarm.ee)

**Valgeranna Adventure Park (9km)** – climbing and gliding experiences right on the seashore.  
[www.valgerannaseikluspark.ee](http://www.valgerannaseikluspark.ee)



Port Artur Shopping Center

## Shopping in Pärnu?



Kolme Karu Kaubamaja

The best places to find quality fashion, shoes, perfumes etc. are the shopping malls:

**Kaubamajakas**

[www.kaubamajakas.ee](http://www.kaubamajakas.ee)

**2 shopping centers:**

**Port Artur 1 and Port Artur 2**

[www.portartur.ee](http://www.portartur.ee)

**Pärnu Keskus**

[www.astri.ee/parnu-keskus](http://www.astri.ee/parnu-keskus)

Be sure to visit the local markets, design and factory shops in Pärnu:

**Wendre factory shop**

[www.wendre.com](http://www.wendre.com)

**Trimtex factory shop**

[www.trimtex.eu](http://www.trimtex.eu)

**Pärnu Market**

[www.parnuturg.ee](http://www.parnuturg.ee)

**Kolme Karu Kaubamaja**

[www.vaasvaas.ee](http://www.vaasvaas.ee)

**Farmer's Market (Taluturg)**

[www.taluturg.ee](http://www.taluturg.ee)





Supeluse Fair. Photo: Taavi Tommy Pärnsalu

## Events worth experiencing

### Grillfest

Big food party in June in the beautiful scenic Vallikäär meadow.  
[www.grillfest.ee](http://www.grillfest.ee)

### Walk Festival

Street festival in July when the cityscape is filled with street artists and musicians.  
[www.walkfest.ee](http://www.walkfest.ee)

### Supeluse Fair

Street festival on Supeluse street in August offers a diverse program for both adults and children.  
[facebook.com/aastalaat](https://facebook.com/aastalaat)

### Pärnu Music Festival

In July, admirers of classical music from around the world will gather in Pärnu Concert Hall.  
[www.parnumusicfestival.ee](http://www.parnumusicfestival.ee)

### Valgusfestival „Öövalgel“

A festival of unique visuals and installations in the autumn.  
[www.oovalgel.ee](http://www.oovalgel.ee)

### Happy Children Festival

The largest family festival in Estonia in Pärnu beach park in July.  
[www.lastefestival.ee](http://www.lastefestival.ee)



### Tip

During the summer months, Pärnu offers free "Live like a local" tours by local residents.  
[www.visitparnu.com/local](http://www.visitparnu.com/local)



Car Museum. Photo: Andres Arro

# A culture holiday to broaden the mind

World-class concert and theatre scene, various international festivals, museums and esteemed craft traditions make Pärnu a cultural hub to be reckoned with. The selection of music festivals is particularly wide, ranging from opera to accordion and harmonica music. Outside of town, the lineup includes various events devoted to local food, farms and traditions, including a celebration of St. John's Day, the summer solstice holiday, in the village of Kurgja.

**Maarja-Magdaleena Guild** is an arts and crafts centre where one can engage with master artisans at work.  
[www.maarjamagdaleenagild.ee](http://www.maarjamagdaleenagild.ee)

**Kurgja's C.R. Jakobson Farm Museum** features Estonian farmyard animals, farm chores and farm food.  
[www.kurgja.ee](http://www.kurgja.ee)

**Estonia's Museum Railway** in Lavassaare beckons visitors to explore the world of trains.  
[www.museumrailway.ee](http://www.museumrailway.ee)

**Car Museum** in Halinga invites to discover the beauty of the automotive world.  
[www.automuuseum.ee](http://www.automuuseum.ee)



**Did you know?**

The Republic of Estonia was first proclaimed in Pärnu, when the Declaration of Independence was first read in public from the balcony of the local theatre on February 23rd in 1918.

No matter the time or day, one can sit next to the sculpture of the famous Estonian songwriter Raimond Valgre by the Kuursaal and listen to his music.





Photo: Innervisionteam

## Kihnu – Estonia’s most exotic island, unique in many ways

Kihnu Island is known as the home of seafarers, fishermen and seal hunters. The men traditionally spent a large part of their lives at sea, leaving the women to be the stewards of the local cultural heritage. The island’s traditional culture, which includes crafts, games, dance and music traditions, has been entered on the UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage.

### Tip

It is recommended to time one’s visit to the island so that it coincides with the special dates on the folk or liturgical calendar.

### Event

Kihnu Maritime Festival in July is one of the biggest annual celebrations of the Kihnu way of life.



Did you know?

Kihnu islanders wear folk costumes on a daily basis – the daily attire of Kihnu women includes striped skirts that continue to be made by hand even today.



Photo: Innervisionteam













Geese in Matsalu National Park. Photo: Nele Söber

## Matsalu National Park – Unique in Europe

Matsalu National Park is one of the main destinations among bird watchers traveling in Europe. There are big migratory routes in the park. Tens of thousands of birds stop there annually. Altogether, over 270 different species of birds have been spotted in the park, making Matsalu with its copious species one of Europe's largest migratory bird parks.



Did you know?

Bog shoes offer a particularly nature-friendly way to get around, preventing the hiker from sinking into the bog and sparing the fragile vegetation.

[www.soomaa.com](http://www.soomaa.com)  
[www.seikleabaks.ee](http://www.seikleabaks.ee)  
[www.kanuu.ee](http://www.kanuu.ee)



Bogshoeing and cranberries. Photo: Elen Juurma



# Pärnu County – region of mires and bogs

In various corners of Pärnu County you can discover largely untouched tracts of forest land and 10,000-year-old bog landscapes. Soomaa National Park, Nigula and Luitemaa Nature Reserves and Tuhu Landscape Reserve have the county's best known hiking trails and boardwalks. Other unique experiences to try include swimming in the bog lakes and bog-shoeing.



Soomaa. Photo: Innervisionteam



Riisa Bog. Photo: Priidu saart

Soomaa is well-known for having five seasons: spring, summer, autumn, winter and high water. Soomaa's numerous hiking trails can be visited at any time, but it is the flooding period that offers the most indelible impressions. During the flooding period, canoe and kayak enthusiasts can paddle beyond the river channels, right through the forest.

The diverse Rannametsa-Tolkuse interpretive trail leads past bogs and dunes, and offers picturesque views from an observation tower.



Tolkuse bog. Photo: Priidu saart



Coastal meadow hiking trail. Photo: Mati Kose

## Refreshing nature in the urban environment

Pärnu is a green town – one-fifth of its area consists of parkland, tree-lined alleys or private homeowners' yards and gardens. Walks through the town and curative procedures taking place al fresco have been part of a holiday in the resort town for centuries.

One of the most pleasant places to stroll is a 600-metre long coastal meadow trail that starts at one end of the beach promenade and includes an observation tower. The Rannapark (Beach Park) is good for a number of different pastimes: it has a main square, an art plaza, and a field for games and a quiet area.



Photo: Elena Liik



### Did you know?

A bicycle is an ideal way to discover Pärnu, as the city has a network of quality bike paths over 70 km long.



### Did you know?

Cattle, called city cows, keep Pärnu's coastal meadows trimmed from spring till autumn.

### Event

Every spring and autumn, annual Plant Fair of Pärnu takes place on the Vallikäär meadow. It is one of the largest plant fairs in Estonia.





Photo: Dream Beach Media

# An abundance of splashing and adventure

## Tip

If you are not fond of extreme water pursuits, you can always head out to sea with local fishermen instead, at any time of the year.

[www.rannatee.ee](http://www.rannatee.ee)  
[www.fishingvillage.ee](http://www.fishingvillage.ee)  
[www.kihnukallas.ee](http://www.kihnukallas.ee)

## Enticing water adventures

With its 250 kilometres of coastline, 444 islands and islets, and the Pärnu River that ranks as one of Estonia's longest – Pärnu County boasts of ample sea breeze and water that enable to enjoy nearly all sorts of water sports.

In Pärnu, you can try sailboarding, kitesurfing, kayaking, standup paddleboarding and skimboarding. Water bikes, fishing boats or chartered yachts cater to more sedate tastes.

[www.aloha.ee](http://www.aloha.ee)  
[www.parnu.surf](http://www.parnu.surf)  
[www.jahtklubi.ee](http://www.jahtklubi.ee)  
[www.lustipark.ee](http://www.lustipark.ee)



Did you know?

The long shallow beach, free of rocks, is the safest surfing and boarding destination in Estonia and Scandinavia.



Photo: Dream Beach Media

# A quality golfing holiday

## Pärnu Bay Golf Links

Pärnu Bay Golf Links in Tahkuranna is a multifaceted golf complex with an 18-hole course and five par-3 holes as well as driving ranges. This is a links-style course where golf is played right on grass on the shores of the sea. *World Golf Awards* named this course as Estonia's best golf course in 2016.

[www.parnubay.com](http://www.parnubay.com)



Pärnu Bay Golf Links



White Beach Golf

## White Beach Golf

Valgerand is home to White Beach Golf – Pärnu County's first full-scale 18-hole tournament-class golf course. Playing on these links is perfect for seniors and experienced golf enthusiasts – there are no major elevation differences, while the constant breeze off the sea and water hazards are still sufficiently challenging.

[www.wbg.ee](http://www.wbg.ee)





Conference venue in Rannahotell. Foto: Silver Gutman

## Versatile place for meetings

Hotels and holiday homes in Pärnu County offer year-round appealing conditions for organizing memorable meetings and incentive events. In terms of location, Pärnu is an ideal place to organize international conferences – two important airports (Riga and Tallinn) are about 2 hours' drive away. After all the meetings, there are many opportunities in the area to enjoy with your team and to charge your batteries. Among other appealing experiences, the list could also include either a spa visit, golfing or wildlife hiking.

### Conference facilities:

Pärnu Concert Hall  
The largest venue up to 897 participants  
[www.concert.ee](http://www.concert.ee)

Strand SPA & Conference Hotel  
The largest venue up to 500 participants  
[www.strand.ee](http://www.strand.ee)

ESTONIA Resort Hotel & Spa  
The largest venue up to 300 participants  
[www.spaestonia.ee](http://www.spaestonia.ee)

Tervis Medical Spa Hotel  
The largest venue up to 268 participants  
[www.spatervis.ee](http://www.spatervis.ee)

Rannahotell  
The largest venue up to 250 participants  
[www.rannahotell.ee](http://www.rannahotell.ee)

Klaara-Manni Holiday- and Conference center  
The largest venue up to 120 participants  
[www.klaaramanni.ee](http://www.klaaramanni.ee)

Jaanihanso Ciderhouse  
The largest venue up to 100 participants  
[www.jaanihanso.ee](http://www.jaanihanso.ee)

Viiking Spa Hotel  
The largest venue up to 100 participants  
[www.viiking.ee](http://www.viiking.ee)

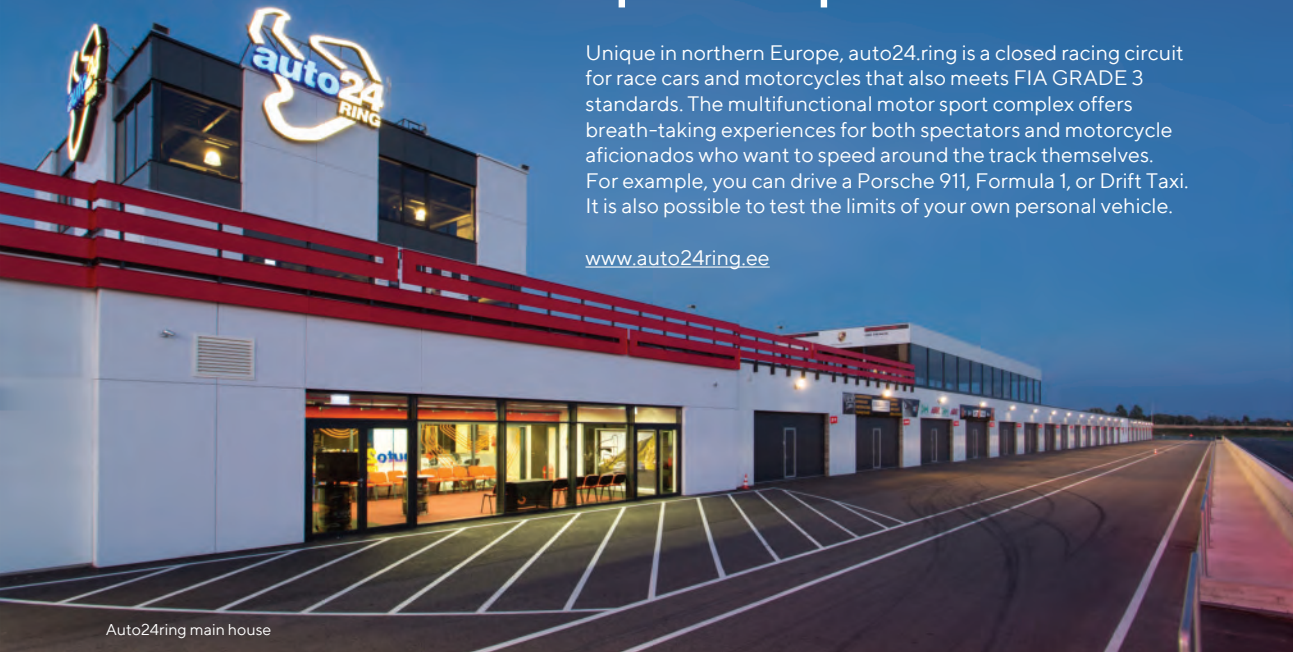
Ojako Holiday and Training Centre  
The largest venue up to 90 participants  
[www.ojako.ee](http://www.ojako.ee)

Hedon SPA & HOTEL  
The largest venue up to 70 participants  
[www.hedonspa.com](http://www.hedonspa.com)

# Top-class motor sport experiences

Unique in northern Europe, auto24.ring is a closed racing circuit for race cars and motorcycles that also meets FIA GRADE 3 standards. The multifunctional motor sport complex offers breath-taking experiences for both spectators and motorcycle aficionados who want to speed around the track themselves. For example, you can drive a Porsche 911, Formula 1, or Drift Taxi. It is also possible to test the limits of your own personal vehicle.

[www.auto24ring.ee](http://www.auto24ring.ee)



Auto24ring main house

## Good sporting opportunities

Pärnu Rannastaadion is Pärnu's newest sports arena, offering diverse program for its guests and the opportunity to enjoy top-notch sporting events.

By visiting the Jõulumäe Sports and Recreation Centre, many different sports venues are available: ball game courts, disc golf tracks, athletics grounds, asphalted tracks and a stadium from where longer and shorter skiing, running, cycling and hiking trails start.



Photo: Priidu saart



Did you know?

Pärnu County kick-started the advance of Estonia's most popular sport – disc-golf, as the first official disc-golf course in Estonia was opened here Pärnu. There are currently 13 different disc-golf routes set up in Pärnu County, enticing both seasoned aficionados, as well as just the beginners getting into it.





# Pärnu's café and restaurant culture



Pärnu Café Week. Photo: Ragne Värk

Besides Pärnu's romantic cafés and acclaimed restaurants, local cider-houses and wineries are also flourishing.

[www.siidritalu.ee](http://www.siidritalu.ee)  
[www.jaanihanso.ee](http://www.jaanihanso.ee)  
[www.mammfrukt.ee](http://www.mammfrukt.ee)  
[www.allikukivi.ee](http://www.allikukivi.ee)  
[facebook.com/pootsimois](https://facebook.com/pootsimois)



Allikukivi Winery. Photo: Maksim Tund/Romantic Coastline

According to the Estonian Flavours (Eesti Maitse) restaurant guide, in 2020 the list of best restaurants in Pärnu included:

## **Rannahotell's Restaurant**

White Guide Nordic's pick as the top place to eat in Pärnu  
[www.rannahotell.ee](http://www.rannahotell.ee)

## **Restaurant Raimond**

[www.hedonspa.com](http://www.hedonspa.com)

## **Restaurant Hea Mae**

[www.heamaa.ee](http://www.heamaa.ee)

## **Mahedik**

Cafe for eco-gourmands

[www.mahedik.ee](http://www.mahedik.ee)

## **Restaurant Kalamajaka's Cafe**

[www.kalamajakas.ee](http://www.kalamajakas.ee)

## **Restaurant Villa Wesset**

[www.weset.ee](http://www.weset.ee)

## **Restaurant Mon Ami**

[www.monami.restaurant](http://www.monami.restaurant)

## **Pastoraat Cafe**

[rosenplanter.ee/pastoraat-cafe](http://rosenplanter.ee/pastoraat-cafe)

## **Wasa Resort Restaurant**

[www.wasahotels.ee/resort/restoran](http://www.wasahotels.ee/resort/restoran)

## **Café Supelsaksad**

[www.supelsaksad.ee](http://www.supelsaksad.ee)

## **Event**

Pärnu hosts its traditional Restaurant Week in April, when all participating establishments offer particularly enticing specials.  
[www.parnurestaurantweek.ee](http://www.parnurestaurantweek.ee)





Pärnu Restuarant Week. Photo: Ragne Värk



Photo: Julia Kivelä

## Authentic Estonian food

You are welcome to sample genuine Estonian food – in Pärnu County you can enjoy native dishes made on old-fashioned wood-burning stoves, preserves from home-grown berries and locally smoked fish and meat. Indigenous Estonian food also includes local dairy products from Pärnu County's farms, such as yoghurt, butter and various kinds of tasty spreads. The easiest place to find them is at the Farmers' Market in Pärnu Keskus. Products from Tamme Farm herb garden and farm store provide exceptional aromas and tastes.

**In 2018 Pärnu County was awarded the title of Estonian Flavours, borne for a year in order to promote the local food culture.**



Did you know?

The Romantic Coastline boasts food-themed events such as RäimeWest Fish Festival, Dandelion Festival and Pickle Festival.  
[www.rannatee.ee](http://www.rannatee.ee)

The Romantic Coastline, which runs along 250 km of Pärnu County's coast, unites food with culture, nature and history. See the lifestyle of coastal people, experience unique cultural traditions and feast on freshly prepared local food.

# Pärnu – stimulating also in wintertime

While Pärnu is lively and full of people in summer, it also offers ideal ways of escaping the everyday hustle and bustle at other times of the year in a more peaceful, relaxing, introspective setting.

Spas, museums, concerts and a city centre skating rink await you. The ice on the river is dotted with fishermen from early morning till late at night. The sea in winter is a sight unto itself



Winter sea. Photo: Silver Gutmann

## Winter – a good reason to leave the city

**Sledging makes for a fun outing.**

Some of the best expanses of ice are found in Soomaa National Park – the same areas that flood extensively during the fifth season there.

[www.soomaa.com](http://www.soomaa.com)

**Jõulumäe Recreational Sports Centre** has ski and hiking trails, disc-golf and curling amenities.

[www.joulumae.ee](http://www.joulumae.ee)

**Lottemaa Theme Park** hosts Estonia's biggest "Christmasland" theme area in December.

[www.lottemaa.ee](http://www.lottemaa.ee)



Snowboarding in Jõulumäe. Photo: Elen Juurma





Photo: Priidu Saart

## Invest in Pärnu

Pärnu was a port and Hanseatic town back in the Middle Ages, playing a key role in the east-west trade. With the onset of urbanization and industrialization in the early 20th century, the city's economy underwent a significant growth period. The largest wood processing plant in Europe – Waldhof – operated here during that period.

Besides the tourism industry, metal, textile and electronics sectors also have an important role in the current economic structure of Pärnu County. Due to substantial foreign investments, many of the larger companies are now subsidiaries of multinational corporations.

Companies that have found a good environment to support their organizational development include the polyurethane foam manufacturer Henkel Makroflex, the home textile maker AS Wendre, AQ Lasertool OÜ (an affiliate of the Aros Group of metal industries), the Finnish forest company MetsäWood Plywood Factory, the electronics manufacturer Scanfil OÜ (part of the Sievi Capital Group), and Laesti AS (Norvik Group-owned timber company). These and many other corporations benefit from Pärnu County's prime logistical position between Scandinavia, Russia and Central Europe, its secure and stable business environment, advanced employment culture and skilled workforce.

In addition, Pärnu offers a family-friendly and much more relaxed living and working environment, both for teleworkers and for independent entrepreneurs. Many of Estonia's largest IT companies have found their way to Pärnu. Also the Forwardspace co-operation center has a big role. They provide a supportive environment for start-ups where many good contacts can be found throughout the year.

[www.investinparnu.com](http://www.investinparnu.com)

## Facts about Estonia:

Population:  
About 1.3 million

National borders:  
sea border with Finland in the north,  
sea border with Sweden in the west,  
land border with Latvia in the south, and  
land and lake border with Russia in the east

Capital city:  
Tallinn

Largest cities:  
Tallinn, Tartu, Narva,  
Pärnu, Kohtla-Järve

Estonia is a member of the European  
Union and part of the Schengen area

Monetary unit:  
Euro

Official language:  
Estonian

Independence day:  
February 24th (1918)

Restoration of Independence Day:  
August 20th (1991)

[www.visitestonia.com](http://www.visitestonia.com)  
[www.puhkaeestis.ee](http://www.puhkaeestis.ee)

# visit estonia

## Facts about Pärnu and Pärnu County:

Population of the city:  
About 52,000

Area of city:  
859 km<sup>2</sup> (bigger than New York)

Pärnu County is Estonia's  
largest county by area

Pulli, the site of Estonia's oldest  
settlement dating back over 11,000  
years, is also situated in Pärnu County

Pärnu County contains 444 islands  
and islets, the largest of which are  
Kihnu and Manilaid, included in  
the UNESCO world heritage list

[www.visitparnu.com](http://www.visitparnu.com)

 visitparnu  
 Visit Pärnu  
 VisitParnu

# visit PÄRNU



**Pärnu Visitor Centre**  
Uus 4, 80010 Pärnu, Estonia  
Tel +372 447 3000, +372 5330 4134  
[info@visitparnu.com](mailto:info@visitparnu.com)

Publisher: Development Centre of Pärnu County, Pärnu City Government  
Cover photo: Elena Liik  
Translation: A&A Lingua  
Design: Reimo Meier, Kreatiiv OÜ  
Print: Joon OÜ  
© 2019