

Penijõe – Laiküla

Around the Largest Wetland in Northern Europe



The *Baltic Coastal Hiking Route* takes you on a stroll around the *Kasari* River delta where it flows into *Matsalu* Bay and where one of the largest wetlands in Northern Europe has taken shape with large reedy fields, coastal meadows, oxbow lakes and water from the shallow bay, being a notable nesting and stopover site for migratory birds. The itinerary mainly leads through farmland landscapes and small villages. In the surroundings of *Kirbla*, you can see an elevation of the terrain, which is a former Baltic Ice Lake Island with its ancient coast in the north.



Medium



None.



Be careful when walking along the small country and village roads, as well as along the motor road and ensure safety. The *Virtsu – Risti* road has to be crossed via tunnel.



The bus connecting *Lihula* and *Haapsalu* runs ~ 12 times per day. Twice a day, the bus turns into *Haeska*, which is the next day's starting point. You have the following options:

- match this day's hike, going in parallel with the road (No. 10), to the *Lihula – Haeska – Haapsalu* bus and ride to *Haeska*, where the closest accommodation place is ~ 3 km away;
- take the *Lihula – Haapsalu* bus to the turn to *Haeska* (on the *Laiküla – Haapsalu* road, No. 31, bus stop *Haeska teerist*) and then walk ~ 7 km to *Matsalu* Bay where you will find an accommodation place;
- make an agreement with the owner of the accommodation place regarding transfer. Bus timetable: www.peatus.ee, www.tpilet.ee.



It is worth spending at least a couple of hours or half a day observing birds near the *Haeska* birdwatching tower.

USEFUL INFORMATION

..... 22 km



7–9 h



Penijõe Manor: *Matsalu* National Park visitor centre,
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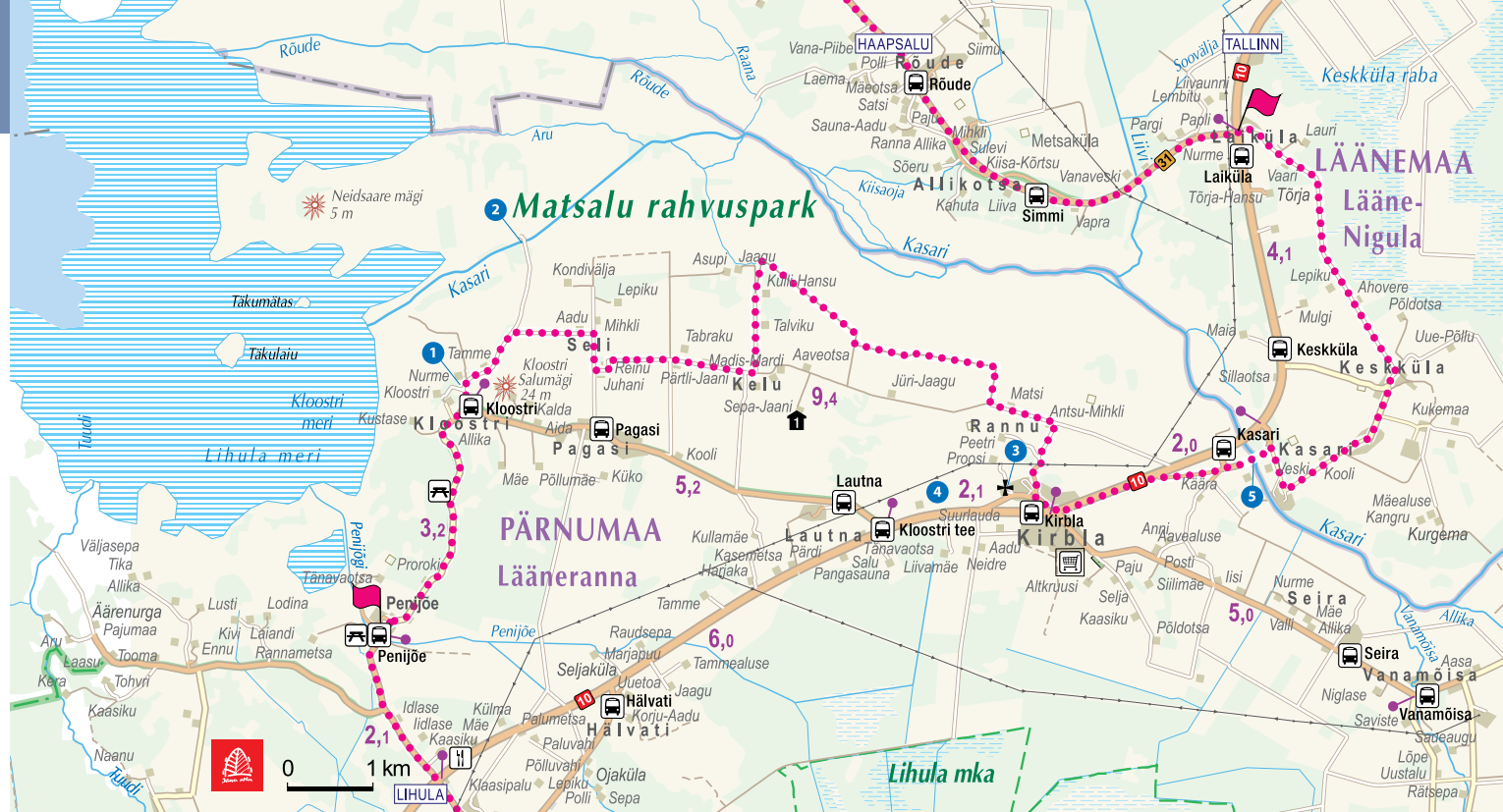
Laiküla village, the bus stop near *Virtsu – Risti* road (No. 10)



Penijõe – Kloostri – Kelu – Kirbla – the historic bridge across the *Kasari* River – *Keskküla – Laiküla*. Next, you have to take a bus or a transfer to get to *Haeska* (~ 24 km), which is the starting point for the next day. On this day, you can come back and spend the night in *Lihula* or continue to *Haeska*.



Roads covered in asphalt and gravel.



WORTH SEEING!

- 1** Kloostrimägi Manor Ruins (Kloostrimägi varemed). Lihula cloister medieval manor ruins. GPS: 58.73950, 23.83122
- 2** The Kloostrimägi birdwatching tower and the Kasari river flood-lands. You can see the river flood-lands from the sightseeing tower located on the left bank of the Kasari river; here the migrating birds rest during the spring flood period. GPS: 58.75424, 23.84404
- 3** Kirbla Church (Kirbla kirik). The Kirbla Niklav church, built in Southern Estonia in the 16th century in late gothic style, is one of the smallest churches in Estonia. GPS: 58.72873, 23.94164
- 4** The Kirbla terrace and the memorial to Professor Eerik Kumari. The commemorative stone for the academician Eerik Kumari born in Kirbla. GPS: 58.72846, 23.92791
- 5** The Kasari Old Bridge (Kasari vana sild). The bridge, paved with land stones and built in 1904, was damaged during World War II; in its time it was the longest concrete bridge in Europe and Russia with a foundation cut from granite blocks. GPS: 58.73186, 23.99208

SERVICES



Accommodations

1. Holiday home *Sepa-Jaani Puhkemaja*,
T: +372 521 5500; GPS: 58.736666, 23.899444



Shops

Kirbla, GPS: 58.726154, 23.9532



Public transport

Bus traffic Hälvati-Laiküla: approximately 6 times a day.

TOURIST INFORMATION



Pärnu Visitor Centre, Pärnu, Uus 4,
www.visitPärnu.com, T: +372 53304134;
GPS: 58.385303, 24.49909

