



ESTONIA SETOMAA



VANA-VASTSELIINA – KOLODAVITSA, 26 km

Along the banks of Piusa, the fastest river in Estonia

The first part of this section of the Forest Trail winds along the magnificent Piusa River valley, then, at Härmä village, it turns towards Obinitsa, an important cultural centre of Setomaa, the Land of Setos. Here you can discover the traditions of the local Seto people. After Obinitsa, the Forest Trail leads through beautiful pine forests rich in heather, descends back into the depths of the Piusa River valley and turns east at Piusa caves. From there it follows the left slope of Piusa valley until it reaches the motorway and railway line by Koidula railway station.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 26 km

🕒 8 – 10 h

🚩 Vana-Vastseliina Episcopal Castle

🚩 Kolodavitsa by Koidula motorway

📍 Vana-Vastseliina – Piusa River valley – Lindsi – Obinitsa – Piusa – Kolodavitsa



Small forest roads, forest trails, paths through meadows in the Piusa River valley and its surroundings; gravel roads and paved roads elsewhere



Hard



Some slopes of the Piusa valley are steep and may become slippery in wet weather



Don't go too close to the edge of the sandstone outcrop!



Shoes may become wet in damp conditions. There are no shops and caterers in the destination. You can spend the night at the pilgrimage site next to the ruins of the Vana-Vastseliina Episcopal Castle.



The section can be split into two days, spending the night in one of the accommodation places in Piusa Valley or Obinitsa, and completing the stretch of road to Kolodavitsa in the second day.

FORESTS

From Vana-Vastseliina, the trail runs through the Piusa primeval valley landscape reserve in quite a length. Here the look of the forests begins to change. The Vastseliina Manor Park, rich in species, also includes hardwoods such as ash, oak and maple. Moving further, at first, on the steep banks of the primeval valley, there are still western taiga and, at the bottom of the primeval valley, fragments of floodplain forest. The main tree species of the landscape reserve area is pine, which is very evident in the northern part of the reserve. There is a large mass of dry pine forests there. Around Lindsi and Obinitsa the trail passes through a territory of large fields, but a few kilometres after Obinitsa, the trail once again reaches into dry pine forests filled with light. As the Devonian sandstone is exposed here and there around Piusa, small patches of heath pine forests grow in the driest areas.



WORTH SEEING!

- 1 Entertainment centre in the Vastseliina Episcopal Castle.** This is a place full of legends. Ruins of the fortress and a sanctuary from the 14th century. NB! When entering castle grounds additional fees will apply. GPS: 57.729180, 27.361285
- 2 Härma Walls (sandstone outcrops) in the Piusa River primeval valley.** The Upper Härma wall is Estonia's highest Devonian sandstone outcrop. GPS: 57.79475, 27.36323
- 3 Jõeveere museum (private museum).** +372 5280952; GPS: 57.80918, 27.35225
- 4 Seto Studio-Gallery.** You can see older and contemporary Seto art and folk art, the sale of arts and crafts is open in the historic shop. +372 5117361; GPS: 57.80974, 27.43965
- 5 National Geographic yellow windows** draw the guests' attention to special places, historical events, traditions, culture and nature in South-Estonia and tell the story of the local people. GPS: 57.810062, 27.439529
- 6 Obinitsa museum.** +372 56227732; GPS: 57.80978, 27.44289
- 7 Obinitsa village chapel.** GPS: 57.809472, 27.442778
- 8 Singing Mother monument.** You can see the memorial to all the "singing mothers" of Setomaa. GPS: 57.81115, 27.44695
- 9 Obinitsa church and cemetery.** The church was built in the 1952 and the cemetery is at least 1,500 years old. GPS: 57.81525, 27.44247
- 10 Piusa caves visitor centre.** The sandstone caves have been created during the mining of glass sand in 1922–1966. +372 5304 4120; GPS: 57.84125, 27.46628
- 11 Piusa Pottery ceramics studio.** An open ceramics studio and shop. +372 5233316; GPS: 57.84013, 27.46785
- 12 Koidula railway station.** GPS: 57.837153, 27.575472

SERVICES



Accommodations

- 1. Guesthouse "Vasekoja Holiday Centre",** +372 5038056; GPS: 57.74457, 27.34815
- 2. Guesthouse "Piusa Ürgorg (Primeval Valley) Holiday Complex",** +372 5289134; GPS: 57.77500, 27.36669
- 3. Country house "Jõeveere Farm",** +372 5280952; GPS: 57.80918, 27.35225
- 4. Guesthouse "Tabina Holiday House",** +372 5090143; GPS: 57.81507, 27.32105
- 5. Guesthouse "Obinitsa Holiday House",** +372 53536015; GPS: 57.80821, 27.43728
- 6. Country house "Hundi Tourist Farm",** +372 56649957; GPS: 57.83765, 27.54108



Shops

- Shop in Vastseliina,**
+ 372 7851081; GPS: 57.73208, 27.28435
- Shop in Obinitsa,**
+372 7854160; GPS: 57.80897, 27.43957



Catering

- 1. "Neuhausen tavern",**
+372 53030648;
GPS: 57.72886, 27.36230
Open only from June to August.

- 2. Cafe "Taarka Tarõ",**
+372 56203374; GPS: 57.81055, 27.44035
- 3. Cafe in Piusa Caves Visitor Centre,**
+372 53044120; GPS: 57.84125, 27.46628
Open only from June to August.



Public transport

Bus Vana-Vastseliina–Meremäe–Obinitsa–Koidula 3–4 times a day.



Rest areas

- 1. Make campfire site,**
▲ (up to 2 tents are allowed) 🔥
GPS: 57.75140, 27.35590
- 2. Härma campfire site,**
▲ (up to 5 tents are allowed) 🔥
GPS: 57.79733 27.36124
- 3. Piusa campfire site,**
▲ (up to 4 tents are allowed) 🔥
GPS: 57.83965, 27.46330

TOURIST INFORMATION:

- i Võro County Tourist Information Center,**
www.visitvoro.ee,
+372 7821881; GPS: 57.84790, 26.99440
- i Setomaa Tourist Information Point in Värskä,** www.visitsetomaa.ee,
+372 56821268; GPS: 57.95786, 27.63356