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ESTONIA SETOMAA



KOLODAVITSA - VÄRSKA, 22 km

Historical heritage and living traditions in Setomaa, the land of Seto people

The Forest Trail leads through the vast forests of Setomaa, along mires and moors, which are painted a fabulous shade of purple in September. This is a sparsely populated region, and hikers have the chance to really connect to the nature. At Lake Õrsava, the Forest Trail crosses several pedestrian bridges, circles around the lake and leads to the centre of Värška borough. Take your time to discover local Seto traditions and cuisine.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 22 km

🕒 7 - 9 h

🚩 Kolodavitsa by Koidula motorway

🚩 Värška by Setomaa Tourist Information Point

📍 Kolodavitsa - Säpina - Õrsava - Värška



Small forest roads, trails, gravel roads, paved roads near Säpina and Värška.



Medium



Former railway bridge (arched tunnel) by Matsuri village, where water flows after spring showers. You may have to wade through or climb up/down the railway embankment.



Be careful when walking on the side of the motorway!



Some parts of the path from Kolodavitsa to Säpina and elsewhere may be covered in dense vegetation. Shoes and clothes may become wet in damp conditions. There are no shops or cafeterias on the Forest Trail from Obinita and Piusa caves to Värška. You can spend an entire day exploring the historical resort in Värška and the various trails in the vicinity of Väike-Rõсна.

FORESTS

The most beautiful part of the day is where the trail passes through the Mustoja landscape reserve. It is home to Estonia's largest and most embossed area full of bulge-like elevations, including sandy regions and lake plains, the Mustoja River primeval valley, heath and dry pine forests, and wooded and treeless bogs with large bog-islands. The vegetation of the area has been heavily affected by major forest fires, the most recent in 1963, when the forest burnt nearly on 600 hectares. From time to time, as a result of the fires, forests have been replaced by heaths. Pine crops have been established in the outcrops, which grow very well in some places, while in other areas the heaths remain. Old-growth forests, peculiar heath-heather birch forests, and occasionally uncrusted pine forests - these are examples of the rare and peculiar communities.

WORTH SEENIG!

- 1 **Koidula railway station.**
GPS: 57.837153, 27.575472
- 2 **Säpina village chapel.**
GPS: 57.852232, 27.583800
- 3 **Mustoja landscape reserve.**
GPS: 57.87372, 27.64089
- 4 **The Northern Camp.**
GPS: 57.94421, 27.64672
- 5 **Verhulitsa pine.**
GPS: 57.93971, 27.65191
- 6 **Väraska farm museum.**
You can see how Seto people lived in the late 19th and early 20th century.
+372 5054673; GPS: 57.942246, 27.651567
- 7 **House of the Captain of "Aurora".**
You can see a summerhouse with an interesting architecture, built by the captain of cruiser Aurora. GPS: 57.95933, 27.62801
- 8 **Väraska church.** The church has an original iconostasis or icon wall and numerous beautiful handcrafted sacred items.
GPS: 57.96028, 27.62971
- 9 **Väraska harbour.**
GPS: 57.9575, 27.62900
- 10 **Väraska Resort Hotel.**
+372 7993901; GPS: 57.98547, 27.62276
- 11 **Väraska resort beach and harbour.**
GPS: 57.98673, 27.61957
- 12 **Väike-Rõsna village chapel.**
GPS: 57.98870, 27.62170
- 13 **Saarõpää look-out tower.**
GPS: 57.990667, 27.651556

SERVICES

Accommodations

1. **Country house "Hundi Tourist Farm",**
+372 56649957; GPS: 57.83765, 27.54108
2. **Country house "Peko Holiday Home",**
+372 5256695; GPS: 57.93318, 27.65838
3. **Guesthouse "Koidu's Home",**
+372 53412864; GPS: 57.94576, 27.63230
4. **Country house "Veelinnu farm campsites",**
+372 521 7684; GPS: 57.94584, 27.63390



5. **Guesthouse "Helena holiday home",**
+ 372 5097865; GPS: 57.95050, 27.65587
6. **Guesthouse "Hirvemäe Recreational centre",**
+372 7976105; GPS: 57.95583, 27.62962
7. **Väraska Guesthouse,**
+372 5239697; GPS: 57.95666, 27.62978
8. **Väraska Spa Water Park Hotel,**
+372 7999334; GPS: 57.98282, 27.62430
9. **Väraska Resort Hotel,**
+372 7993901; GPS: 57.98547, 27.62276

Catering

1. **Café Seto Tsäimaja,**
+372 5054673; GPS: 57.94324, 27.65086
2. **Näki café in Väraska Water Park,**
+372 7999335; GPS: 57.98282, 27.62356
3. **Café Lahe,**
+ 372 7964698; GPS: 57.98602, 27.62263

Shops

- Väraska "A ja O",**
GPS: 57.959068, 27.631552
- Väraska "Lemmik",**
GPS: 57.95912, 27.63094

Public transport

Bus traffic between Koidula and Ristipalo goes ~7 times a day.

Rest areas

1. **Väraska campfire site,**
▲ (up to 10 tents are allowed) 🏕️
GPS: 57.94656, 27.63360

TOURIST INFORMATION:

- Setomaa Tourist Information Point in Väraska,** www.visitsetomaa.ee,
+372 56821268; GPS: 57.95786, 27.63356