



ESTONIA LAKE PEIPUS SHORE



VARNJA - ALATSKIVI, 19 km

Visiting the onion farmers of Lake Peipus

A scenic and tradition-rich stretch of the Forest Trail symbolised by the onion. Onions were brought to the region by Old Believers in the 17th century. Ladies and gentlemen selling home-made onion strings on the roadside have become somewhat of a business card of the villages. The villages on the twenty-four kilometre stretch of road between Varnja and Kallaste are connected by the tourist route called Onion Road. The landscape is decorated by colourful wooden houses, small fish shops and a restaurant where you can enjoy tea made in the samovar, true to the traditions of Old Believers. The fish vendace (räabis) from Lake Peipus is served throughout the year.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

..... 19 km

🕒 6 - 8 h

🚩 Varnja museum

🚩 Alatskivi Castle Park

📍🗺️ Varnja - Kasepää - Kolkja - Lahe - Nina - Alatskivi

🌳🛣️ Mainly paved road, gravel road for a small part of the section

🟩 Easy

⚠️ Be careful when walking on the side of the road or street!

ⓘ Onions are sold starting from July. Onion Fair in August. Onion traders sell their produce by the roadside and at their homes August through September.



FORESTS

The villages have been established on shoreline of Lake Peipus featuring wet and fertile soil, flooded regularly during high water tables and heavy rains. Land, won from the paludifying and swamp forests centuries ago has developed specific lifestyle, land use practices and traditions of onion cultivation.

WORTH SEENING!

- 1 **Kasepää abulARTorium.** Photo gallery. +372 58050201; GPS: 58.530121, 27.231475
- 2 **Kolkja Old Believer's museum.** The museum exhibits traditional clothing, household items, handicrafts, tools, photographs, books and more of Old Believers. +372 56623980; GPS: 58.54872, 27.22161
- 3 **Chicory museum.** In the museum of Chicory, you can get acquainted with the history of chicory cultivation in row villages near Lake Peipus and see the tools related to chicory cultivation. +372 55639398; GPS: 58.55354, 27.21359
- 4 **Kostja's onion farm.** The host is happy to welcome guests, show onion cultivation and offer wonderful pies. +372 53588555; GPS: 58.54851, 27.21745
- 5 **Nina Orthodox church.** Nina Church has been recognized as a cultural monument since 1997. GPS: 58.60697, 27.20880
- 6 **Eduard Tubin's museum.** The exposition of the museum gives a good overview of the life and work of Eduard Tubin, one of the best-known composers of Estonia. +372 5286598; GPS: 58.60201, 27.13562
- 7 **Alatskivi nature centre.** The Nature Centre is located in the manor house built in the late 19th century. Located in the Alatskivi landscape reserve. +372 55511061; GPS: 58.60209, 27.13546
- 8 **Alatskivi castle.** The castle was built by the landlord Arved von Nolcken in 1880-1885. +372 5286598; GPS: 58.60375, 27.12899

SERVICES

Accommodations

- 1 **Kolkja guesthouse,** +372 56941921; GPS: 58.55491, 27.20715
- 2 **Kalamehe farm guesthouse,** +372 5537785; GPS: 58.59525, 27.20625
- 3 **Nina strawbale cabins,** +372 5067605; GPS: 58.59902, 27.21026
- 4 **Vaino tourist farm guesthouse,** +372 5073167; GPS: 58.60507, 27.20986
- 5 **Nina guesthouse,** +372 56225533; GPS: 58.60719, 27.20789
- 6 **Nina guard station (Kordon) guesthouse,** +372 5067605; GPS: 58.60918, 27.20297
- 7 **Sepikoja guesthouse,** +372 5200532; GPS: 58.60249, 27.13402
- 8 **Alatskivi castle hotel,** +372 5286598; GPS: 58.60375, 27.12899



Catering

1. **Fish and onion restaurant,** +372 5049908; GPS: 58.54980, 27.21754
2. **Café Tädi Šura kohvik,** +372 56629329; GPS: 58.55359, 27.21358
3. **Kivi Tavern,** +372 506 7605; GPS: 58.60179, 27.13607
4. **Tavern "Mõisa Talli Pubi",** +372 56478162; GPS: 58.60262, 27.13610
5. **Tavern "Sepikoja Trahter",** +372 5200532; GPS: 58.60249, 27.13403
6. **Restaurant of the Alatskivi castle,** +372 53032485; GPS: 58.60376, 27.12894

Shops

- Kolkja „Sadama kauplus”,**
GPS: 58.55130, 27.21659
- Kolkja pood,**
GPS: 58.55122, 27.21640
- Alatskivi A&O,**
GPS: 58.59966, 27.13305

Public transport

Bus connection Varnja-Alatskivi once a day.

Rest areas

1. **Kolkja recreational and beach area,** GPS: 58.55306, 27.22050
2. **At Nina village,** GPS: 58.59675, 27.21246
3. **National Geographic yellow window,** GPS: 58.60405, 27.13223

TOURIST INFORMATION:

Tartu Tourist Information Centre,
Tartu, Town Hall Square,
www.visittartu.com,
+372 7442111;
GPS: 58.37989, 26.72200

