

12 THROUGH THE ONION VILLAGES OF LAKE PEIPSI



VARNJA – ALATSKIVI

Estonia

Itinerary: TARTU – VARNJA – ALATSKIVI – TARTU

Hiking route length:

→ 19 km ⌚ 6 – 8 h

Duration: **2 days (hiking 1 day)**

Difficulty level: ●

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. You can visit the Kostja's onion farm, where the host welcomes the guests and shows them onion cultivation. It is also worth visiting the Chicory Museum in Kolkja to get acquainted with the history of chicory cultivation in row villages near Lake Peipus. At the end of the trail you will reach Alatskivi, where the famous Alatskivi Castle is located.

PRACTICAL INFO:



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



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 in August and September.



Varnja Museum (bus from Tartu or private transfer).



Alatskivi Castle Park (can stay overnight in Alatskivi or go by bus to Tartu).



DAY 1

Arrive in Tartu.

Sightseeing in Tartu.

Accommodation in Tartu.

DAY 2



Tartu – Varnja or private transfer from hotel.



Hiking Varnja – Alatskivi

→ 19 km ⌚ 6 – 8 h

Accommodation in Alatskivi or bus back to Tartu.

