

# 16 DIVERSITY OF PEIPSIMAA



## VARNJA – AVINURME Estonia

Itinerary: TARTU – VARNJA – ALATSKIVI – RANNAMÕISA – MUSTVEE – AVINURME – TARTU

Hiking route length:  **77 km**

Duration: **6 days (hiking 4 days)**

Difficulty level: 

*Onions, fish, villages that stretch out for several kilometres where the buildings are lined along the main street, ornate Old Believers' churches, small harbours with fishing boats and wooden houses, each painted in a different colour! Cafés, shops and a view of Lake Peipus, which looks more like a sea than a lake. This could be the description of this tour. This tour is a very interesting part of the Forest Trail, which will give you an opportunity to see and enjoy the Lake Peipsi region, the culture and lifestyle of local people as well as the nature.*

*The tour will start in Tartu – Estonia's second biggest city. You will go by bus from Tartu to Varnja where you will start to hike. During the tour you can visit Kostja's onion farm, where the host welcomes guests and presents 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. You will also see Alatskivi Castle. In Avinurme we suggest visiting the Avinurme wooden handicraft centre and get acquainted with the local woodcraft, spend quality time in woodworking workshops and taste or even prepare yourself a selection of Estonian traditional foods. At the end of the tour you will return to Tartu by bus.*

### PRACTICAL INFO:



**Varnja.**

**Avinurme.**

## DAY 1

Arrive in Tartu.

**Sightseeing in Tartu.**

**Accommodation** in Tartu.

## DAY 2



**Tartu – Varnja** in the morning (trip ~50 min.).



**Varnja – Alatskivi**

 **19 km**  **6 – 8 h**



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.

In the evening, explore the famous Alatskivi Castle and enjoy dinner from local products in the Alatskivi restaurant.

**Accommodation** in Alatskivi.



## DAY 3



### Alatskivi – Rannamõisa

→ 19 km ⌚ 6 – 8 h



Pavement in settlements, sandy and rocky beach in Kallaste, gravel roads, pavement for the last 6.5 kilometres of the section.



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



Lake Peipus vendace is sold throughout the year. Onion season starts in July, and onions are sold on the streets until late September. Private transfer back to Toila.

**Accommodation** in Rannamõisa or Kadrina.

## DAY 4



### Rannamõisa – Mustvee

→ 19 km ⌚ 6 – 8 h



Paved road, gravel roads for a small part of the section.

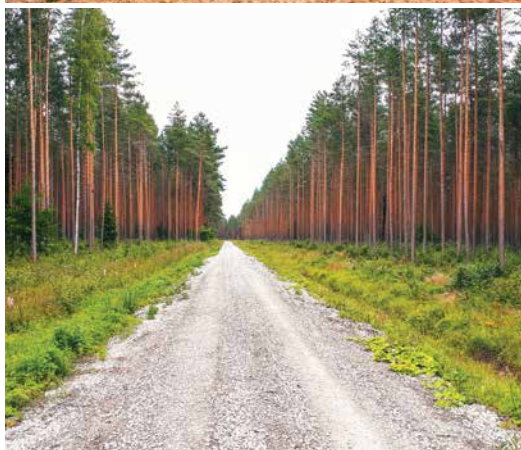


Be careful when walking on the side of the motorway!



Various festivals are held in the villages of Lake Peipus throughout the year, so make sure to check the calendar for events!

**Accommodation** in Mustvee.



## DAY 5



### Hiking Mustvee – Avinurme

→ 20 km ⌚ 7 – 9 h



Paved road in Mustvee and Avinurme, the rest of the roads are gravel roads and a dirt road for a small distance.



Be careful when crossing the Tartu-Jõhvi motorway (No. 3)!



No services between Mustvee and Avinurme. You need to take lunch boxes.

Visit the Avinurme wooden handicrafts centre.



### Avinurme – Mustvee

(~25 min.).

**Accommodation** in Mustvee.

## DAY 6



### Mustvee – Tartu (~1 h).

