

ESTONIAN CRUISING GUIDE



HOIA EESTI MERD
KEEP THE ESTONIAN SEA TIDY



2004
2005

Estonian sea area stretches as far North as 60 degrees latitude. Even for a seasoned blue-water sailor this is very close to the North Pole and sounds rather extreme. Let's compare: the average air temperature at 60° N on our planet is -15° C in January; in Estonia it is -6° C, and in July the respective figures are 13° C and 17° C. As you can see this is an area comparable to well known sailing grounds situated much farther South.

This book was published in order to convince you that, despite the high latitude, Estonian waters can offer at least five months of good sailing conditions every year, and in the middle of summer a long and refreshing swim in our brackish the seawater.

Most of all you will find uncrowded, sometimes even very lonely small harbours, uninhabited small islands, but also the temper of harbour towns. The Baltic storm can be as challenging as rounding the famous capes, but at the same time you will still be so close to the friendly and sometimes a little shy coastal Estonians.

We wish you a fair wind!

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Photographs © Hillar Kukk, Leida Lepik, Mart Saarso 2003

Road maps and thematical maps © REGIO 2003

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Foreword

In about the last ten years the number of yachts sailing in Estonian waters has more than doubled. In addition to our close neighbours from Scandinavia, even sailors from America, Australia and New-Zealand have discovered maritime Estonia.

Information about sailing opportunities in Estonia has, unfortunately, been insufficient. The availability of reference books such as the Mini-Pilot (published in 1993, 1994 and 1996) and the Navigational Notices for Boat Tourists (published in 1992, 1993, 1996, 1999 and 2001) has probably not met the demand for such books outside Estonia. This is evident due to the more and more frequent applications to the Estonian Maritime Administration and Estonian embassies abroad for such information.

Keep the Estonian Sea Tidy Association - a Non-Governmental Organisation - the initiator of the current publication, has helped to promote environmentally friendly management of small harbours over more than ten years. From 1994 the Keep the Estonian Sea Tidy Association has been the Estonian coordinator of the internationally known Blue Flag campaign. Close cooperation with small harbour managers has also been a prerequisite for the publication of this book.

Based on experiences gathered from sailing in different parts of the world, we have tried to give a true picture of Estonian harbours and sailing conditions. We have sailed through all the presented harbours in the summer of 2003. Together with the harbours that have been presented the Blue Flag and meet European standards, we have also described harbours that are half abandoned and offer practically no services, but which could in certain circumstances be cosy or even exotic stopping places. But sailors will have to choose suitable harbours, from among all those presented, for themselves.

In connection with the constant development of small harbours, some differences between the data presented here and the real situation may occur. In order to improve future Guides and make sailing in Estonian waters safer, we kindly ask you to inform us of all observations that may be of assistance, using the Correspondence Form at the end of the book. We would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the current publication is meant as a source of helpful information for boat tourists and should not be used for navigation, therefore the authors take no responsibility for possible errors.

Cruising Guide 2004/2005 could not have been published without the financial support of the Norwegian government, for which we would like to thank the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Safe sailing!



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Saaremaa



110

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112



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INDISPENSABLE GUIDES

Regio Estonian Road Atlas

PRESENTATION OF SIGHTS VIA MOBILE PHONE



For example, if you dial 171210881 you will hear information about Virtsu church. The rest of one call is 7 ECK. Last four digits of number guide can be found from other maps.

Saaremaa

Saaremaa is Estonia's largest island. A soft maritime climate and a diversity of substrates has given Saaremaa a species-rich flora that is preserved on alvars, shore and wooded-meadows, and in broadleaved forests.

In our northern landscape, wooded-meadows are exceptional for their diverse flora. They were widespread before the 2nd World War, but many of them have gradually overgrown and have now reverted to forest. One of the best-preserved wooded-meadows is situated on Tagamõisa Peninsula.

The fresh boreo-nemoral forest on Abruca Island is a remnant from a warmer and moister climatic period.

Next to Saaremaa's capital, Kuressaare, is the 450-500 year-old Loode oak stand.

Rare and beautiful orchids, 36 species of which are

found in Estonia, are also widespread on Saaremaa and the surrounding smaller islands. The juniper stand can be considered to be the calling card of the whole region.

Saaremaa's first nature reserve was founded on the Vaika Islands in 1910. Today it has grown to become the Vilsandi National Park, which includes Harilaid Islet, off the western coast of Tagamõisa Peninsula - a real bird "paradise".

All the West Estonian Islands lie on the water-bird migratory route that joins North East Europe and the Arctic. As a result, hundreds of thousands of birds visit Saaremaa and the smaller islands every spring and autumn.

When on Saaremaa, the unique Kaali Meteorite Craters are well worth a visit.

ESTONIAN FUND FOR NATURE

Places of Interest

Panga (Mustjala) Bluff (T-nr 171210547)

Panga bluff is the biggest and highest cliff on Saaremaa. The highest point is over 21 metres.

Angla windmills (T-nr 171210455)

Here we can see four trestle windmills typical of Saaremaa and all of western Estonia and one bigger so-called Dutch mill, and the village swing.

Karja Church (T-nr 171210690)

Karja Church is a pearl of Nordic Gothic art, with one of the most abundant collections of stone sculptures in Northern Europe. It is not known when the church was built, but the construction works were completed in the late 13th - early 14th century at the latest.

Muhu Museum (T-nr 171210624 , T-nr 171210965)

The museum at Koguva hamlet is centred around the native home of writer Juhan Smuul. The farm buildings are situated around a spacious courtyard typical to Muhu island. In the museum centre at Välja farm there is a permanent exhibition of Muhu textiles.

Koigi Bog

There is a hiking trail (4.2 km) with a wooden path with three observation towers in Saaremaa's largest bog.

Valjala Church (T-nr 171210691) and

Valjala stronghold (T-nr 171210400)

This is the oldest country church in Estonia (13thc). Valjala stronghold was the most powerful stronghold on Saaremaa at the end of the prehistoric era. In 1227 this stronghold saw the last battle of the Estonians' ancient

struggle for freedom. The stronghold is oval in general plan, and the courtyard area is 3 800 square metres. The height of the outer slope has been calculated to be from 4 to 10 metres.

Kaali Meteorite Craters (T-nr 171210549)

Scientists disagree on when this collision between the Earth and a giant meteorite might have taken place, but it is certain that the coast of the Baltic Sea was already inhabited at that time. Its collision with the Earth's surface resulted in the emergence of a main crater that is 110 metres in diameter and 22 metres deep and several minor craters, of which eight have so far been found.

Viidumäe Nature Reserve (T-nr 171210737)

Sometimes Viidumäe has even been called a natural botanical garden. The most famous rare plant is an endemic species - Saaremaa Rattle. The nature reserve centre is the starting and finishing point of all the local study trails. There is an observation tower nearby.

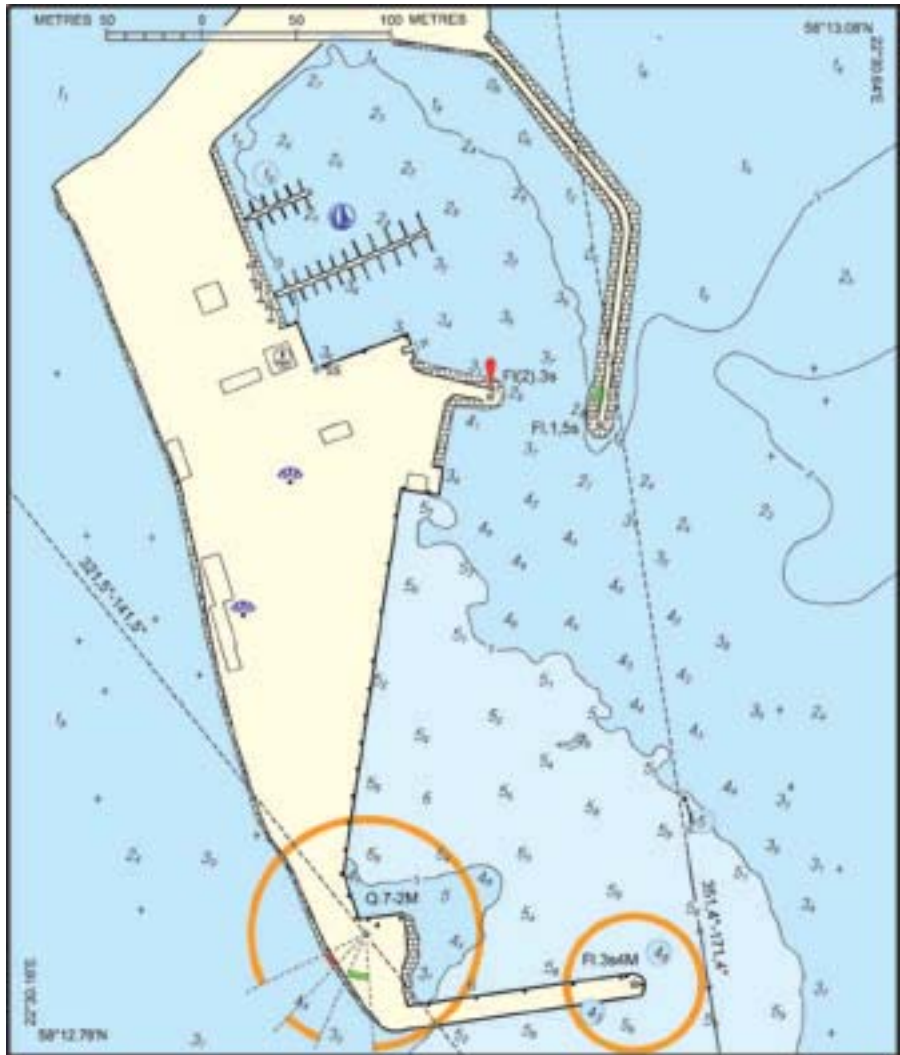
Scene of the Tehumardi Night Battle

(T-no 171210596) A sanguinary close-engagement battle between Red Army and German fighters took place at the Tehumardi road crossing in the evening of October 8, 1944. Five hundred men fell in this fierce battle.

Kuressaare (T-nr 171210871)

A well-restored town (17th-19thc) with Bishop's Castle (T-nr 171210456). The castle at Kuressaare is one of the rarest historical buildings in Estonia, being the only fully preserved fortress in the Baltic countries. Today the castle houses the Saaremaa Museum.

REGIO



GUEST HARBOUR

Charts

EC 305, 513, 519, 628, "Charts of Estonia" Vol.3
AC 2215, 2223



Shelter

From all winds

Max LOA

30 m

Max draught

3.0 m

Number of berths

20 + 50 for visiting yachts

Berthing

Alongside, finger pontoons

Navigation

When approaching from SE, steer along Roomassaare leading line 321.5° - 141.5° (Oc W/R/G 4s – Oc W 4s). Entry along Roomassaare harbour leading line 351.4° - 171.4° (Q R – Iso R 4s). Roomassaare harbour S-breakwater light Fl Y 3s (red metal column with a balcony). Roomassaare yacht-harbour E molelight Fl G 1.5s (green metal cylinder) and W molelight Fl (2) R 3s (red metal cylinder). When approaching from SW, Roomassaare new fairway directional buoy LFl W (58°11.97'N; 22°30.78'E). Entrance along Roomassaare harbour leading line 351.4° - 171.4° (Q R – Iso R 4s). Entry to the quest harbour via commercial and fishing harbour.

Radio telephone

VHF Ch. 14 & 16 "Roomassaare sadam"

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