

The Ancient Cult Sites for
Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



**Tourism route
„TOP 5 IN JUURU REGION”
Route for those who wish to explore the ancient
sacred sites and enjoy the picturesque
landscapes of JUURU region**

Date: 2012

TOURISM ROUTE	SIGHTS AND OBJECTS
<p>Pae – Hõreda – Helda – Juuru – Vankse – Härgla – Kalda - Pirgu - Järlepa crossroad – Jaluse – Mahtra – Atla - Kuimetsa (Iida)</p> <p>Total route length - 50 km Recommended mode of transport: car, bus, bicycle The route is passable in 4,5 – 10 hours (by car or bus), 6 – 11,5 hours (bicycle). The recommended time for travel is from late spring until early autumn. Also suitable in winter but only for those who are ready to walk in the snow.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pae karst area 2. Hõreda cup-marked stone 3. Juuru oaks 4. Järlepa crossroad 5. Lida cavern

The Ancient Cult Sites for
Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The tourism route introduces some of the natural sites of Juuru parish that have been given a special meaning by people who lived in the past. Some of them are natural sacred sites (Juuru oaks, Iida cavern), one is connected to a mythical being (Pae karst area), one is a place for healing and practicing witchcraft (Järlepa crossroad) and one is a cup-marked stone.

The tourism route is especially suitable for visitors who wish to get acquainted with the local nature and the non-material heritage of indigenous Estonians in the landscape. Respect, awareness and willingness to concentrate are the key words to be able to experience the special power of these sites.

The tourism route and its surroundings give a wonderful opportunity to visit various cup-marked stones. In the database there are 30 cup-marked stones that were mapped in the Juuru region in the course of the project “The Ancient Cult Sites for Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast”.

The visitor should consider weather conditions and be ready to take shorter or longer hikes in nature to get acquainted with the sites.

Mahtra Peasantry Museum gives an insight into the history of the region. There are several possibilities to eat and stay for the night in the nearby town Rapla.

The Ancient Cult Sites for
Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGHTS

Name	Description	How to find	Practical info	Photo
<p>Pae karst area, footsteps of the Devil</p>	<p>There are a number of dolines and concavities, small caves and corries that are all located in a fairly small area covered with deciduous forest. In the Eastern part of the wilderness preserve, on the border of the bog, there is a 1,8 m high outcrop – the onetime edge of the Baltic Ice Lake. The area of the wilderness preserve is 11 ha.</p> <p>Some corries of the karst area have been believed to be the footseps of the Devil.</p> <p>Cracks in the surface have been believed to be the traces of the Devil's fingernails.</p> <p>According to a folktale on Pae karst</p>	<p>X: 6539996 Y: 552175.1</p> <p>Kehtna borough, Pae village. Take the Juuru-Rapla road that leads to Pae village. Continue along the gravel road to the south of the village for 1,4 km until you reach a deciduous forest between Sepa and Lame farms.</p>	<p>Depending on the interests and aims of the visitor it takes 1 – 3 hours to visit the area.</p> <p>Parking lot.</p> <p>Access along a barely visible walking path.</p> <p>No toilet.</p> <p>Signs and information stand about the path, new information stand will be put up soon.</p> <p>The area is suitable for single visitors or small groups (up to 20 people).</p>	

The Ancient Cult Sites for
Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



	<p>area there was once a city with iron gates that sank into the ground. Later on the sound of church bells was often heard on the same spot.</p> <p>The Devil is one of the most well-known mythical beings of the Estonian folk heritage. The Devil is half giant, half nature spirit and often characterized as somewhat simpleminded and dumb.</p>			
Hõreda cup-marked stone	<p>A representative specimen of cup-marked stones due to the number and size of its cup-marks.</p> <p>Length 4,4, width 4,1, height 1,6 m. Punakas hallide tähnidega rabakivi. Kivil on 46 lohku läbimõõduga 5 - 9 cm, sügavusega 1 - 3 cm.</p> <p>There are ca 1750 cup-marked stones in Estonia with small (diameter 3 – 10 cm, depth 0,5-5</p>	<p>X: 6542486.2 Y: 553142.9</p> <p>Juuru borough, Hõreda village, 75 m to the left of the Juuru - Hõreda - Rapla road along a dirt road. 5 m to the north of the dirt road on an untended grassland.</p>	<p>Time: 0,5 – 1 hour.</p> <p>Parking: buses must stop by the road, cars can stop on the dirt road by the stone.</p> <p>No toilet.</p> <p>Road signs and information stand will be erected.</p>	

The Ancient Cult Sites for Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



	<p>cm) marks. A cup-marked stone usually has 1 – 10 marks.</p> <p>According to scientists making of the marks is connected to land cultivation. A few cup-marked stones have also been used for sacrificing.</p> <p>According to very few folk stories the marks were made to remember the dead. Also, the marks have been rubbed with sheep wool and fat for good fortune.</p>		<p>The area is suitable for single visitors or small groups (up to 20 people).</p>	
--	---	--	--	--

The Ancient Cult Sites for
Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



<p>Juuru oaks, sacred grove oaks</p>	<p>Two sacred grove oaks:</p> <p>1. oak: perimeter 375 cm (diameter 1,3 m), height 18 m; 2. oak: perimeter 420 cm (diameter 1,3 m), height 16 m.</p> <p><i>Folk tales</i></p> <p>“At the site of the Juuru church there used to be an ancient sacred grove. Only two oaks of the grove still remain. People went there to sacrifice later on as well, these stories pass on from generation to generation. Old folks tell that in the old days, ribbons were also tied to the trees.”</p> <p>In the old days, the present day Juuru region was covered by a big oak grove. Those who built the church saw a lot of trouble with the strong oak roots (<i>juur</i> in Estonian).</p>	<p>X: 6546690.6 Y: 554982.7</p> <p>Juuru borough, at the southern edge of Juuru hamlet, behind the dwelling house at Staadioni 10, on the field by the small gardens. 110 m to the north of the Purila - Kaiu highway.</p>	<p>Time: 0,5 – 1 hour.</p> <p>Parking: behind the dwelling house at Staadioni 10.</p> <p>Access across the grassland and field. No road.</p> <p>No toilet.</p> <p>Road signs and information stand will be erected.</p> <p>The area is suitable for single visitors or small groups (up to 20 people).</p>	
--------------------------------------	---	--	--	---

The Ancient Cult Sites for Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



It was a lot of work to break them. After the church was ready they started to call it the Juuriku church. Later on the name became shorter and this is how the placename Juuru was born.

Sacred groves are among the most well-known and beloved natural sacred sites in Estonia. The area of a sacred grove can be up to 100 ha and it often includes sacred springs, stones, festive and burial sites. Sacred groves have been used by the people of at least one village for praying, bringing offerings, meetings, healing, festive occasions of the folk calendar. Sacred groves are the oldest nature preserves in Estonia, they have always been kept untouched and clean.

The Ancient Cult Sites for
Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



<p>Järlepa crossroad</p>	<p>Historical crossroad used for healing and practicing witchcraft. Järlepa is special because even though any crossroad in Estonia might have been used for witchcraft in the past, in Järlepa the traditions have remained.</p> <p><i>Folk tales</i></p> <p>“Järlepa crossroad was used for making the <i>kratt</i>. We found one half-ready <i>kratt</i> from there. It was full of pieces of rags tied up with red yarn and it had horns of wood. We broke it. One rag was tied around it. It had to be tied with ribbons taken from three stolen brooms.</p> <p>They also took things to the Järlepa crossroad. It was supposed to heal and help. Peole took handfuls of gravel from there. Old folks tell</p>	<p>X: 6554652.4 Y: 552103.9</p> <p>Juuru borough, Järlepa village, crossroad of Mahtra-Järlepa road and Lõiuse-Järlepa road.</p>	<p>Time for visit: 0,5 – 1 hour.</p> <p>Parking: by the road.</p> <p>Np toilet.</p> <p>Information stand will be erected.</p> <p>No limitations to the number of visitors.</p>	
--------------------------	---	--	--	---

The Ancient Cult Sites for
Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



	<p>that there was always something going on there. ”</p> <p>Women visited the Järlepa crossroad in secret to follow their traditions. They were dressed in white and carried a spinning wheel with them.</p> <p>The preferred time for practicing witchcraft has been full moon Thursday.</p>			
<p>Iida cavern (also known as Kuimetsa karst, Iie hills, Iie cavern, Hiide fir grove)</p>	<p>The area has been used as a sacred site and, during wars, a hideout. The area (ca 20 ha)is covered by deciduous forest.</p> <p>Many karst formations can be observed at one of the biggest and most unique karst area of Estonia: dolines, karst valleys, corries, canals and caves. 5 caves are big enough to enter. One of the most</p>	<p>X: 6547058.1 Y: 565488.3</p> <p>Kaiu borough, Kuimetsa and Vaopere villages, on both sides of the Kose-Purila highway.</p>	<p>Time for visit: 1 – 3 hours, depending on the interests and intentions of the visitor.</p> <p>Parking lot, information stand, dry toilet, table, benches.</p> <p>The area is located on</p>	

The Ancient Cult Sites for Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



	<p>exciting ones is a 12 m long and 8 m wide cave located in the bottom of a doline and shaped in the form of a bandstand. During high water it is possible to observe water running in the cracks and canals and listen to the sound of it underground, during low water it is barely visible.</p> <p>It is assumed that during the crusade of 1220 tragic events described in the chronicles took place in the Iida cavern: "The loot of the Livonians was enormous because they besieged the caves of the Harju people where they were used to hide, and they suffocated all men and women by making fires in the entrances of the caves for several days and nights. And if anyone came out of the cavern alive, they killed some of them and imprisoned the others and</p>		<p>both sides of the road. There is a road sign directing to the parking lot of the nature preserve and the hiking trail.</p> <p>Access along an unpaved trail and paths directly from the road or from the parking lot.</p> <p>The more exciting caves form a hiking trail marked on the map of the info stand. The caves of the hiking trail are marked.</p> <p>No limitations to the number of visitors.</p>	
--	---	--	---	--

The Ancient Cult Sites for Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



	<p>took all their belongings and clothes and money and everything else. And there were more than 1000 people of both genders who suffocated in the cavern. And afterwards the Livonians returned together with the Germans and praised the Lord for having submitted the arrogant hearts of the Harju people to Christianity.” Livonian Chronicle of Henrik, 2005, lk 141.</p> <p><i>Folk tales</i></p> <p>“During the ancient times of independent Estonians, there was the city of Iida in this area. After the Germans came and Estonians lost their freedom, the city sank into the ground. But it will rise again when Estonians win back their freedom. - It is said that Estonians in serfdom of the</p>			
--	---	--	--	--

The Ancient Cult Sites for Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



	<p>German feudals strongly believed in this story. Going to work every morning before sunrise, they had a look in the direction of the lost city to check whether its lights could be seen yet as a sign that the city would rise again and they would be free again.”</p> <p>The passages of Iida cavern are often regarded as the streets of the lost city of Iida.</p> <p>“In Kuimetsa there is the Iida forest. Animals called Iida often go there. There are big caves. So they live there – and people are afraid of them.”</p> <p>“On Christmas Eve food was taken to the cavern. The one who took the best food had the best luck. Food was also taken there on New Year's Eve.”</p>			
--	--	--	--	--

The Ancient Cult Sites for Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Rapla Tourism Information Centre: Viljandi mnt
4, Rapla

phone: +372 489 4359, e-mail: turism@raplamaa.ee

http://www.raplamaa.ee/en/tourist_information/

The Ancient Cult Sites for
Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



ACCOMMODATION

Name	Address	GPS	Photo
Jõe külalistemaja (Jõe Guesthouse)	Rapla, Jõe 31a E-mail: info@joe.ee Phone: +372 555 74 995 http://www.joe.ee/en/contact.html	X: 6540839.1 Y: 546180.4	
Nõmme kõrts	Nõmme village, Raplamaa E-mail: info@nommekorts.ee Phone: +372 48 94 988 http://www.nommekorts.ee/?lang=en	X: 6545284.5 Y: 549620.3	

The Ancient Cult Sites for
Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



CATERING

Name	Address	Lahtiolekuuag	Photo
Meie Pubi	Rapla, Viljandi mnt 15 E-mail: meiepubi@gmail.com Phone: +372 489 4700 http://www.facebook.com/meiepubi	Sun – Thu 11.00 – 24.00 Fri – Sat 11.00- 02.00 X: 6540870.5 Y: 545844.2	
Arturi trahter	Valtu village, Raplamaa E-mail: artur@arturcatering.ee Phone: +372 489 6088 http://www.arturcatering.ee/en/	Mon – Thu 12.00-21.00 Fri – Sat 12.00-22.00 Sun 12.00-20.00 X: 6537867 Y: 548798.4	

The Ancient Cult Sites for
Common Identity on the Baltic Sea Coast



Other sights/activities on or near the route

Name	Description	GPS	Photo
<p>Mahtra Peasantry Museum</p>	<p>Mahtra Peasantry Museum gives an impression of the life of Estonian peasants in the 19th century.</p> <p><i>„ We must stand out for justice together as one – without being afraid and without succumbing,“</i> said Ants Tertsius in „Mahtra War“, a novel by E. Vilde. Today’s Mahtra Museum is not only the museum of Mahtra War but also the central museum of the county of Rapla. The place gives an impression of the life of Estonian peasants in the 19th century. The Atla-Eeru tavern building of the museum is the only preserved peasant tavern in Estonia.</p> <p>Opened: 1. May – 30. September: every day 10–18 1. October – 30. April: Mon–Fri 10–18</p>	<p>X: 6546894 Y: 555405.8</p> <p>Muuseumi 1, 79401 Juuru, Rapla county E-mail: muuseum@mahtramuuseum.ee Phone: +372 484 4199</p> <p>http://www.mahtramuuseum.ee/Mahtra_Peasantry_Museum_119.htm</p> <p>To reach the museum, you should follow Tallinn-Viljandi highway and on the Rõa crossing turn towards Juuru - it takes another 10 km to get to Mahtra Peasantry Museum.</p>	



For more information on ancient sacred sites in Estonia, Latvia and Sweden - www.anciensites.eu

Literature:

The Diversity of Sacred Lands in Europe. Proceedings of the Third Workshop of the Delos Initiative – Inari/Aanaar 2010
<http://julkaisut.metsa.fi/julkaisut/pdf/luo/delos3.pdf>

Sacred Natural Sites - Guidelines for Protected Area Managers
<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/PAG-016.pdf>

Sacred Natural Sites in Estonia: Study and Maintenance
http://hiis.ee/files/SNS_Plan_Estonia_2008-2012.pdf

Sacred natural sites. Values and protection
<http://hiis.ee/sacred-sites/sns2007>