



Riisa study trail

Riisa bog trail is located at Jõesuu – Tõramaa – Kõpu road, 7 km towards Jõesuu from the National Park Visitors Center. It is easy to get to the trail because it is right next to the main road. Spring floods do not cause any problems for hikers here. In rainy weather the boardwalk can be very slippery! Circular boardwalk trail is 4,8 km long and has information boards to guide you along. **Riisa trail** passes through scenic raised bog, takes you to the forest twice, follows the bank of the Navesti river and passes several bog pools. Navesti river is one of the watery rivers in Estonia. After its 100 km long journey it flows into Pärnu river. On the road, it is possible to sit and relax, to enjoy the silence and climb to the observation tower.

All current Estonian bogs began to evolve after the last ice age. **The great mires of Soomaa** have reached the bog phase in their development. Raised bog subsists only on rainfalls, which stratifies a growing layer of peat. Raised bog gathers mire from the surrounding water level, because of that the creeks always flow out from the mire. Steep edge of a bog is also called as bog slope. In bigger bogs the water accumulates in numerous minor reservoir: hollows and bog-pools. **Bogs biota is poor.** All common bog plants may be found: bog moss, wild rosemary, cranberry, cloudberry, bog whortleberry and heather.

We recommend that you first visit the National Park visitor center before heading out to the hiking trails.

Access to Riisa study trail from **Tallinn – Pärnu – Tori direction:** drive to Tori settlement. Turn to Võlli road which bounds for national park, thence along the Jõesuu road to Jõesuu settlement (6 km). Before reaching the settlement Jõesuu signpost indicates the road to the right. To the Riisa study trail remains 6 km.

By the public transport from Pärnu to Soomaa National Park can be reached daily by the bus No. 339, which comes out two times a day from Pärnu. You should buy a ticket to Riisa. See more: www.peatus.ee. From Riisa you will have to go on foot, by following the instructions on the way. Pärnu bus info 12012.

Tartu – Viljandi direction: Drive along Tartu – Viljandi – Pärnu road to Kõpu settlement. After passing Kõpu cemetery turn to the right to Kõpu – Jõesuu road drive to Riisa village (28 km). From there it's 3 more kilometers to Riisa trail.

RMK Soomaa National Park visitor centre:

Tipu village, Kõpu parish, Viljandi county. Phone number: +37 2526 1924 or +37 2435 7164 e-mail: soomaa.teabepunkt@rmk.ee / soomaa.looduskeskus@rmk.ee



Soomaa National Park

Soomaa National Park is created in 1993 to protect large raised bogs, flood-plain grasslands, paludified forests and cultural heritage in south-western Estonia. The area of the park is 396 square kilometers and it is located in Pärnu and Viljandi county border. Soomaa park's diverse landscapes provide suitable habitats for different bird and animal species. The sights in Soomaa National Park are: big and virgin peat-bogs, numerous rivers, species-rich water meadows and wooded meadows. Soomaa is characterized by recurring floods every year. The flood is called "the fifth season", when the high water-level floats over the potamic meadows and floodplain forests. In Soomaa National Park the history of human habitation goes back to the Stone Age. Numerous stone and bone findings in Riisa and Sandra villages bear witness to the ancient settlements.

RMK Aimla visitor centre:

Aimla village, Suure-Jaani parish, Viljandi county. Phone number: +37 2513 2994 e-post: aimla.looduskeskus@rmk.ee