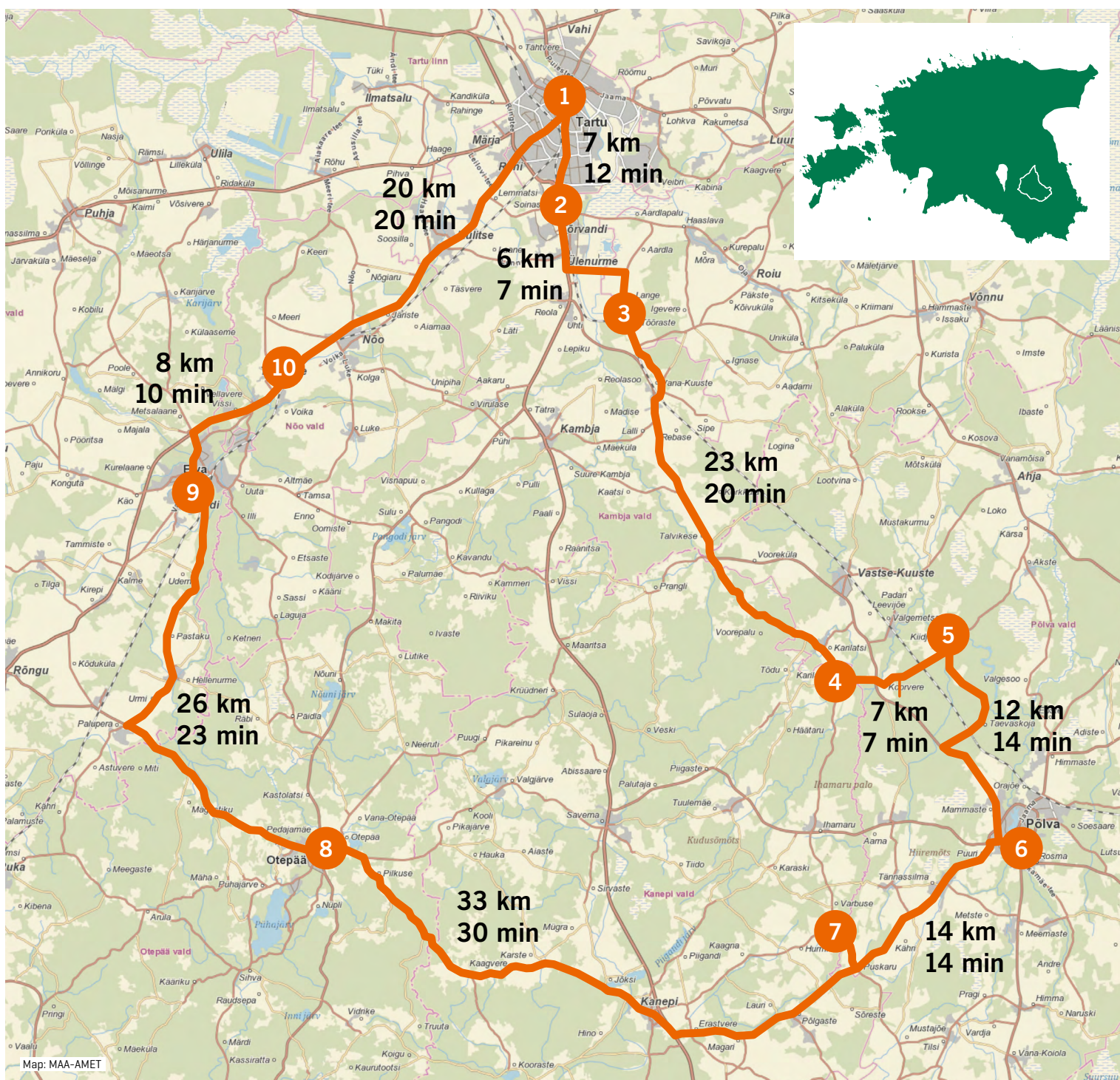


156 km

# KIIDJÄRVE-KOORASTE

touring route

This touring route takes you from the Estonian town Tartu to Kiidjärve-Kooraste Recreation Area and to the sights nearby and back to Tartu. On the way you can visit several museums near Tartu, make short hikes and have a picnic on campfire sites of Kiidjärve-Kooraste Recreation Area, admire outcrops of Devonian sandstone on the banks of Ahja river in Taevaskoja, visit nearby towns, discover Estonian Space Research Centre and travel back to Tartu. Depending on how many sites you visit and how much time you decide to spend on each one, the tour can last from 1-5 days depending how thoroughly you wish to explore the area.



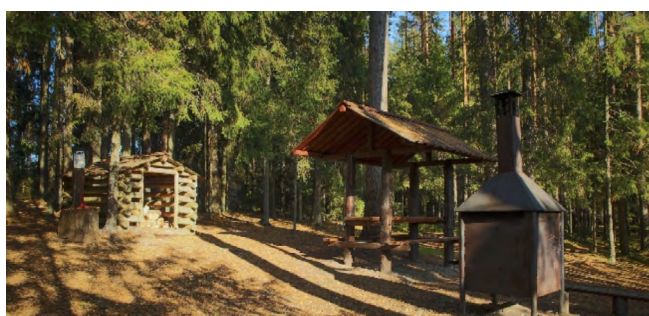
**1. Tartu.** You can hit the road towards Kiidjärve-Kooraste Recreation Area right away or first explore Tartu – the university town of Estonia. Since the route brings you back to Tartu, the city sightseeing can also be left at the end of the travel. Read more about Tartu [www.visitestonia.com/en/why-estonia/tartu-highlights-six-hours-in-the-spiritual-capital-of-estonia](http://www.visitestonia.com/en/why-estonia/tartu-highlights-six-hours-in-the-spiritual-capital-of-estonia).

**2. Estonian Agricultural Museum** – Rural heritage and culinary traditions proudly presented at Ülenurme Manor, read more [www.maaelu-museumid.ee/en/estonian-agricultural-museum/](http://www.maaelu-museumid.ee/en/estonian-agricultural-museum/).

**3. Estonian Aviation Museum** with the outside exposition of 26 aircrafts and 4 helicopters and inside exposition about aviation technique and launchers kit collection, more information [www.lennundusmuuseum.ee/en/](http://www.lennundusmuuseum.ee/en/).

**4. Karilatsi Open Air Museum** gives an overview of the life of the area about 100 years ago. You can see a school, a court, and an almshouse with their smaller buildings, a granary, a barn-dwelling, a cottar farm, a Dutch windmill, agricultural machinery and vehicles, more information [www.visitestonia.com/en/karilatsi-open-air-museum](http://www.visitestonia.com/en/karilatsi-open-air-museum).

**5. Kiidjärve-Kooraste Recreation Area**  
The recreation area is located less than hour drive away from Tartu. The area offers great possibilities for nature vacation: trails for shorter and longer hikes, campfire sites for picnic, beautiful rivers and lakes, berry- and mushroom-rich forests, marsh patches, extraordinary sandstone outcrops and campsites for spending the night in tent. Read more [www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area](http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area).



## KIIDJÄRVE VISITOR CENTRE

Before exploring the Kiidjärve-Kooraste Recreation Area visit Kiidjärve Visitor Centre, where you can get the most up to date information about the sites. Read more about the visitor centre [www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/kiidjarve-visitor-centre](http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/kiidjarve-visitor-centre).



## HIKING ROUTE

RMK hiking route is a network of three long trails going from state border to border. These trails go through all of Estonia, through different national parks and nature reserves. You can hike the full route or pick a section you like!

One of the hiking route branches - Peraküla-Aegviidu-Ähijärve – goes through Kiidjärve-Kooraste Recreation Area. Ask for more information from Kiidjärve visitor centre and read more about hiking route [www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/hiking-route](http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/hiking-route).

## MATKARAJAD

If you prefer shorter hikes, the area offers various opportunities. Some examples:

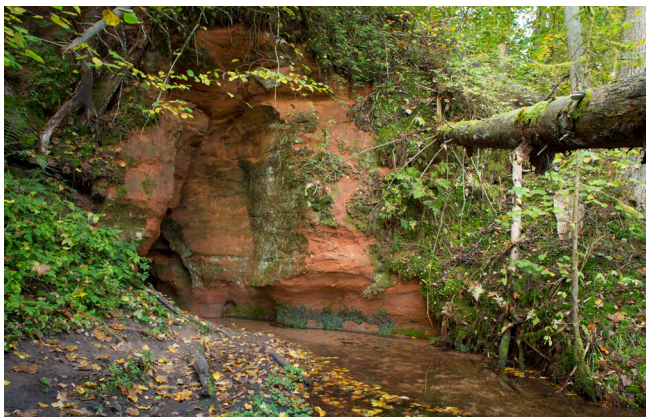
**Taevaskodade** hiking trail 3 km, where you can see the sandstone outcrops, read more [www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/taevaskodade-hiking-trail-3-km](http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/taevaskodade-hiking-trail-3-km);

**Taevaskoja-Otteni-Taevaskoja** 3.8 km long hiking trail takes you to the high banks of Ahja River, read more [www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/taevaskoja-otteni-taevaskoja-hiking-trail-3-8-km](http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/taevaskoja-otteni-taevaskoja-hiking-trail-3-8-km);

**Kiidjärve Wood Ants Trail** – 1 km long study trail introduces the life of ants, read more [www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/kiidjarve-wood-ants-trail-1-km](http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/kiidjarve-wood-ants-trail-1-km);

**Soontaga** 2.9 km long hiking trail introduces typical South-Estonian mixed forests, plants and the flooded meadows of the Väike-Emajõgi River read more [www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/soontaga-hiking-trail-3-dot-9-km](http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/soontaga-hiking-trail-3-dot-9-km);

**Tilleoru** 4.5 km long hiking trail leads to Merioone spring, read more [www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/tilleoru-hiking-trail-5-km](http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/tilleoru-hiking-trail-5-km).



## CAMPSITES

RMK campsites are suitable stops for the hikers to prepare a meal, take a rest and spend the night in tent. Campsites are equipped with fireplaces, tables, benches, woodsheds and dry toilets. You can choose from:

**Palojärve campsite** on the shore of lake Palo in a pine forest, read more [www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/palojarve-campsite](http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/palojarve-campsite);

**Erastvere park campsite** offers a possibility to swim and walk in the park, read more [www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/erastvere-park-campsite](http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/erastvere-park-campsite);

**Soontaga campsite** in Soontaga Nature Reserve, read more [www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/soontaga-campsite](http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/soontaga-campsite).



## RENTAL HUTS

It is possible to choose among three RMK rental huts in the area:

**Kooraste rental hut** for those in search of silence, read more [www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/kooraste-rental-hut](http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/kooraste-rental-hut);

**Otteni rental hut** near the places where one of the most popular Estonian films, “Viimne reliikvia” (The Last Relic) was shot, read more [www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/otteni-rental-hut](http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/otteni-rental-hut);

**Soontaga rental hut** for people who want to enjoy the silence, read a book, and take pleasure in sauna and the cool lake water in the evening, read more [www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/soontaga-rental-hut](http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/recreation-areas/kiidjarve-kooraste-recreation-area/soontaga-rental-hut).



6. **Põlva** – a town in Southeastern Estonia, read more [www.visitpolva.ee/index.php?lang=en](http://www.visitpolva.ee/index.php?lang=en).
7. **The Estonian Road Museum** situated in a formal Varbuse postal station. The purpose of the museum is to collect, preserve, interpret, and display items of Estonian roads, road building and traffic heritage. The museum collections contain about 43000 items, including the biggest road grader collection in Eastern Europe, read more [www.maanteemuuseum.ee/en](http://www.maanteemuuseum.ee/en).
8. Estonian Winter Capital **Otepää**, read more [www.visitestonia.com/en/where-to-go/south-estonia/otepaa](http://www.visitestonia.com/en/where-to-go/south-estonia/otepaa).
9. **Elva** – the town of pines, read more [www.visitelva.com/?lang=en](http://www.visitelva.com/?lang=en).
10. **Estonian Space Research Centre** for popularization of space science and technology, visits have to be booked on-line, read more [www.kylastuskeskus.to.ee/eng/](http://www.kylastuskeskus.to.ee/eng/).