



RMK 7. HÜPASSAARE ÕPPERADA SOOMAA RAHVUSPARK

Soomaa National Park

- õpperaja algus; the start of a nature trail
- infotahvel; information board
- parkla; parking
- lõkkekoht telkimisega; campfire site with camping spaces
- muuseum; museum
- okasmets; coniferous forest
- rohumaa; meadow
- raba; raised bog
- lehtmets; deciduous forest
- Hüpasaare õpperada; Hüpasaare nature trail

Hüpasaare study trail

The length of the trail is about 4.4 km, 1/3 of the trail is covered with wood chips and 2/3 is boardwalk. The beginning of the trail goes through the peatland forest. Peatland forests have originated from the drainage of swamp forest (wet-peatland forest). Moving forward, the ground starts to rise. If bog moss turfs appear, forest plants recede. Blackberries, heather, marsh rosemaries and other bog plants appear. From trees remain mostly pine. We have reached the edge of the marsh **Kuresoo**. Kuresoo is the largest bog in Soomaa. It is an 11 000 hectare-wide complex. Several names have been given to parts of this big bog; for instance it is named Suitsna in the south and Leetva in the north. The water network consists of hundreds of hollows, bog pools and funnels, as well as of overgrown outlet brooks and streams. Bog is overmoistured place where part of the plant remains don't decay completely and startify as peat. Usually peat is formed from sphagnum moss, cotton grass and reed. In the end the trail will take you to a picturesque wooded meadow and it finishes at the House Museum of Mart Saar. Wooded meadow is similar to the natural park. A sparse groups of trees alternate with shrubs. Under and around them grow wide selection of herbs. Although wooded meadow looks like a park, it has developed on different purpose: larch whisk, hay for animals, firewood etc. Usage of the grassland keeps the wooded meadows in life and beauty.

In **Hüpasaare farm**, on 28 of September 1882, was born **Mart Saar**, a composer and a founder of the Estonian national music. The farm was founded by his great-grandfather around 1816/17. There is the **House Museum of Mart Saar** in Hüpasaare now.

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

Instructions to reach Hüpasaare: from Soomaa nature and information center drive by the Kildu – Tõramaa road. Driving from Tõramaa to Tori direction, turn the first junction (500 m) to the right and drive on about 15.2 km to Ärma farm. At the crossing turn left and drive 3.6 km to Kibaru farm where is a signpost and a crossing. From there turn left and drive 3 km to the signpost indicating Hüpasaare House Museum. To the trail and fireplace it is 800 m. Heavy rain and spring floods make the access to Hüpasaare difficult.

Viljandi – Suure-Jaani – Väandra direction can reach to Hüpasaare along the road No. 57. In Kootsi village turn left after the Kootsi bus stop (200 meters). From the crossroads it is 6.5 km to drive to the study trail and the fireplace. NB! Heavy rain and spring floods make the access to Hüpasaare difficult.

To Hüpasaare can be reached by **public transport** from Viljandi – Suure-Jaani – Väandra direction, bus No: 16, 347, 352 departures from Viljandi. To get to Hüpasaare you choose Kootsi as destination and from there move on foot, by following the guidelines. View more: www.peatus.ee.

RMK Soomaa National Park visitor centre:
Tipu village, Kõpu parish, Viljandi county. Phone number: +37 2526 1924 or +37 2435 7164
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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:
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