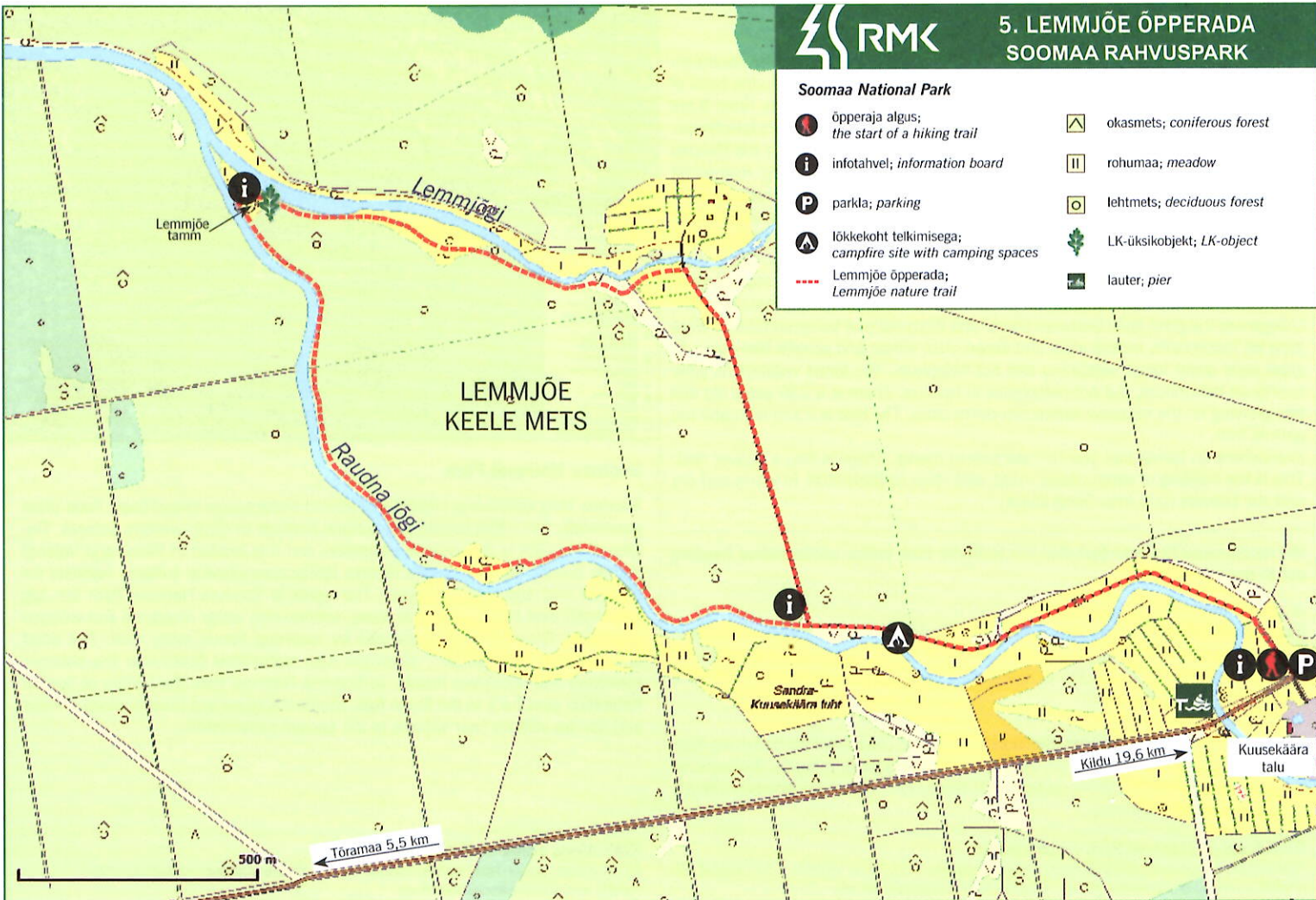


**Soomaa National Park**

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| õpperaja algus;<br>the start of a hiking trail              | okasmets; coniferous forest |
| infotahvel; information board                               | rohumaad; meadow            |
| parkla; parking   | lehtmets; deciduous forest  |
| lõkkekoht telkimisega;<br>campfire site with camping spaces | LK-üksikobjekt; LK-object   |
| Lemmjõe õpperada;<br>Lemmjõe nature trail                   | lauter; pier                |


**The Lemmjõgi study trail**

The length of the trail is about 5,8 km. First the path will go along the floodplain meadow bordering the Raudna river, then through the riverside forest to the bank of the Raudna until the meeting point of the Raudna and Lemmjõgi river. From there the trail will take you back along the bank of the Lemmjõgi to Kuusekäära farmhouse. It is a forest soil trail and impossible to walk at the times of flood. By the Raudna river there is a place where to put a tent and make fire. The Lemmjõgi river forest is a floodplain forest which 60 hectares are located in the area between Raudna and Lemmjõgi. Floodplain forest is the forest which grows on river floodplain and is flooded by the river. Floods shape the look and the characteristics of the forest. Thousands of years ago, floodplain forests were widespread in Estonia. These were broad-leaved forests, where oaks, ash, elm and soft-leaved elm grew. Moving away from Raudna river the flood plain forest changes to wet peatland forest. After the changeover the grass layer becomes poorer and the moss mat becomes thicker. Trees grow on hummocks, mostly alder and aspen. Also rowan and spindle tree occur. In grass layer occur forest vegetation and bot helophyte. The forest vegetations grow mainly on hummocks, but bot helophytes in hollows. There is a 200 years old oak tree growing on the meadow where two rivers cross. The tree is 23 m high and the girth is 5 m.

Everywhere on hiking trail you can see beaver marks. There is also a beaver nest. This is the building of strain, sticks, mud, and other suitable stuff. In warm and dry nest the beavers have their living space.

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

Access to the Lemmjõe study trail:

**from Soomaa nature center 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 5,5 km to Kuusekäära farm house, the signpost marks the beginning of the hiking trail.

**Viljandi – Suure-Jaani – Vändra direction** can reach to Oksa fireplace by driving from Kildu village to Soomaa NP about 19,6 km to Kuusekäära farmhouse, the signpost marks the beginning of the hiking trail. NB! Heavy rain and spring floods make the access to Lemmjõe difficult.

**RMK Soomaa National Park visitor centre:**

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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:**

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