

The PUJAHARVE HIKING TRAIL takes you to an exploration around lake Puhajaru. The walk is 12 km long and takes 4-5 hours. The trail starts and finishes at the Otepia Nature Centre, and is marked with white-yellow-white signs.

ACTIVE HOLIDAYS IN THE NATURE

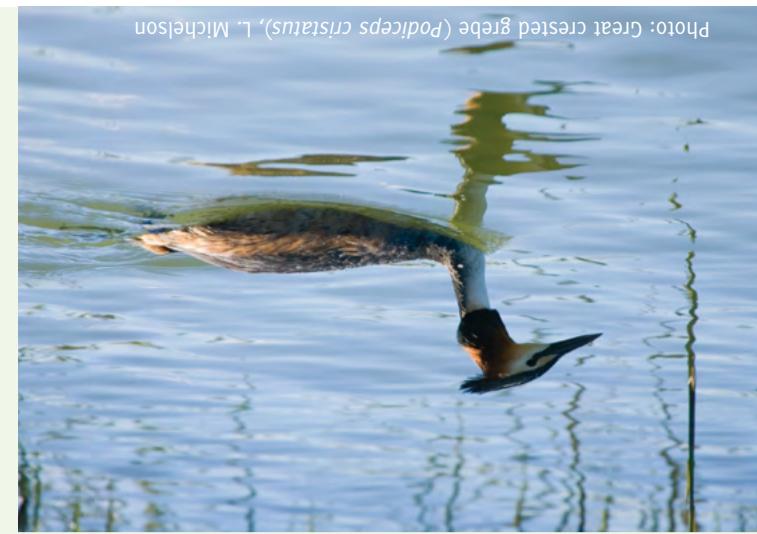
Take Puhajärvi and its closest surroundings offer various pos-
ibilities for spending active holidays in the nature: you can go hiking, cycling or fishing, or just listen to birdsong in the early morning.

ACTIVE HOLIDAYS IN THE NATURE

The source of the River Emajõgi (Mother River) has been the subject of numerous discussions. Both a spring on the slope of Lake Munamägi Hill and the spring of Emaläte (Mother Source) are acknowledged by geographers as the head of the Väike Emajõgi. The river which starts here and flows into Lake Vortsjärv is 83 km long.

The spring of Armuallikas is the best known of the springs near Lake Puhajärvi. Its water is enriched with iron compounds which, when contacting air oxygen, fall out and make the sediment rust brown. This is why the spring has also been called Veriläte (*Spring of Blood*). According to the folk stories, the water of the spring creates a big and ever-lasting love.

ARMULIKAS (SPRING OF LOVE)



1100: Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), L. Migratory

The lake has varied flora and fauna. On the shore, the common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and arrowhead (*Sagittaria sagittifolia*) and, on the water surface, the yellow water-lily (*Nuphar lutea*) and water smartweed (*Polygonum amphibium*). The roach (*Rutilus rutilus*), perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) and pike (*Esox lucius*) are the most numerous species of fish. On the lake, great crested grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*), common goldeneyes (*Bucephala clangula*) and common mergansers (*Mergus merganser*) and, on the shore, the traces of beavers (Castor fiber) can be spotted.

Lake Puhajárv (Holy Lake) is the largest lake in the upland. It is unique due to its winding shoreline and woody islands: the Sorsasari island, well to be seen from the northern shore, Kloodrisar island in the middle of the lake, and the islands Suur-Lepasaar and Väike-Lepasaar in its southern part. Mysticism is added by numerous springs which make the water cool in several places in summer. Despite its size, Lake Puhajárv is not very deep: the average depth is 4.3 metres; the deepest place is 10 m⁺.

LAKE PUHĀJÄRV (290.7 hectares)

The protection of the landscapes around Otepia started from the surroundings of Lake Puhajärvi. In 1929, lake Puhajärvi as well as its islands and the park on its shore were taken under health protection in order to "forbid changing them in an inappropriate direction for the public". The Otepia Nature Park (224 sq km) covers one fifth of the Otepia Upland and its aim is to preserve and introduce the local hilly landscapes.

OTEPAA NATURE PARK



Pilot: Pulaajive Beachi, M.M.I.U

The wooded area on Angrumia Peninsula is called Murrumetes or Murrumetes (Grass Forest) is supposed to be old, as it refers to the murrumetes, and at present it is enjoyed by holiday makers. The name murrumetes, it used to be a favourite walking place for ladies of the murrumetes. It is a 400-year-old War Oak (Sotjatamm) is approaching the end of its life. The tree is 22 metres high and its diameter is 698 cm in 1998. The oak was seriously damaged by the storms in the summer of 2010 and 2011 when several big branches were broken and the trunk was cracked. The War Oak was named after the peasants, revolt against the lord of the manor in 1841.

PUHAJÄRVE OAK AND WAR OAK

The oak wood with its radial planting was first marked in the map in 1845. On the 130th anniversary of the "Puhajärv War", 2.5-metre-high monument, sculptured by Lembit Paluteder, was opened in the middle of the oak wood.

PUHAJÄRVE PÄRK

The north-eastern shore of lake Puhajärv is regarded as the oldest bathing place at Puhajärv. The park on the hill slope and on the lake shore has been formed from natural wood groves. The free-shaped park (3.8 hectares) behind the former Puhajärv Manor house is under nature conservation. On the terrace, you can admire the free-spirited landscape of the former Puhajärv Manor.

- ## DOS AND DON'TS FOR VISITORS

 - You can move about on private land from sunrise to sunset unless you do damage to the landowner. In case the private land is fenced or marked, you will need the landowner's permission for passing.
 - Cycle only on the roads and trails and drive/park your motor vehicle only on the provided roads / in the car parks.
 - Use only non-power watercraft on the bodies of water.
 - Put up your tent and make a fire only at the marked places.
 - At the time of fire risk, you are not allowed to make open fire, even on special grounds.
 - Keep your dog on the leash while moving about in the nature.
 - Take the trash you have produced with you or put it into the trash can.
 - You are not alone in the nature, avoid making noise.

When you see damage done to the nature or visiting objects, inform the Environmental Inspectorate by phone 1313.



CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
Nature Management Department of State Forest
Management Centre, South-East Estonian District
Phone +372 676 7816
RMK Otepää information desk
Phone +372 5302 9609
otepaa.teabepunkt@rmk.ee
www.rmk.ee

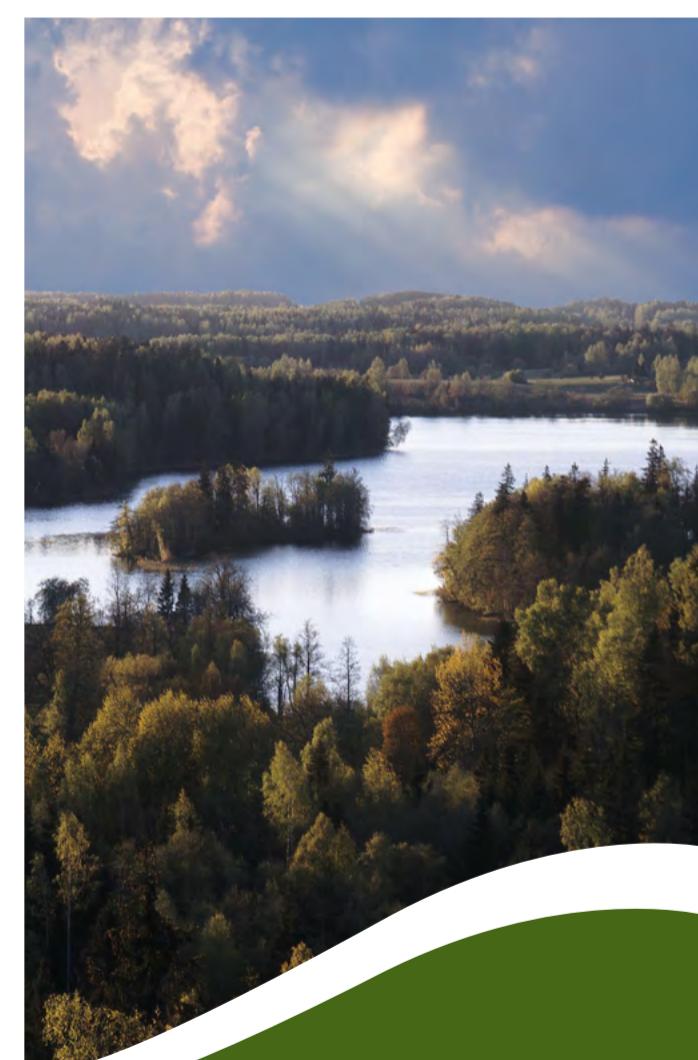
INFORMATION FOR VISITS
Otepää Tourist Information Centre
1 Tartu Rd., 67404 Otepää
Phone +372 766 1200
turism@otepaa.ee, otepaa@visitestonia.com
www.otepaa.ee, www.visitestonia.com

Compiled by: M. Turb
Front page photo:
Lake Pühajärv (*Holy Lake*), L. Michelson
Layout by: Akrilbia Ltd
Printed by: Aktaprint PLC

Publication supported by
Environmental Investment Centre



ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTMENT



HIKING TRAILS NEAR LAKE PÜHAJÄRV

Otepää Nature Park



Photo: Otter | Muusikus

