

Venue

The City of Tartu

Tartu is the oldest city of the Baltic States (first mentioned in 1030) and Estonia's premier University town, with students making up nearly one fifth of its 100,000 residents. Thanks to the large number of students, Tartu has a vibrant nightlife for a city of its size. Tartu lies on the shores of tranquil Emajõgi River and it has a number of parks, most notably the Toomemägi Park in the Old Town of Tartu. The park was established in 1805 and was given a free design that would be as close to natural form as possible. Tartu is a modern city with a rich historical heritage and culture. It has been a member of the Hanseatic League and an important trade center since the medieval times. Tartu was the cradle of Estonia's 19th century national revival and it escaped sovietisation to a larger degree than Tallinn, the capital city of Estonia. Its handsome centre is lined with classically designed 18th century buildings, many of which have been put to innovative uses. Tartu is a convenient gateway to exploring southern Estonia.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tartu>

<http://www.visittartu.com/>

Town of Võru



Photo: Arvo Meets (<http://arvomeeks.blogspot.com/2015/08/tamula-jarve-rannapromenaad-vorus.html>)



Photo: Silver Marge (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/V%C3%B5ru>)

Võru is located 252 km south from Tallinn and 69 km south from Tartu. Võru's population currently stands at a little over 12 000 people. Võru is known for the original wooden architecture and the beautiful environment and they have their local dialect of the Estonian language – Võru language. The town's pearl is Lake Tamula with the shore promenade connected to the historical centre of the town through picturesque Katariina Alley. The Tamula Lake has a wide sandy beach with a café, ball courts, open-air fitness zone and so on. Be sure to go for a stroll on the adjacent 800-metre promenade that begins at Tamula Hotel and ends at Roosisaare Bridge with a picturesque view of Võru and the lake. If you are interested in history, you should visit the Fr. R. Kreutzwald Memorial Museum and the Võru County Culture Chamber, which has both a museum and a gallery. Live rock music is regularly played at the Õlle 17 Pub while the Spring Café is the jazz venue and Steding Cellar the folk music venue.

Training School venue in Kubija Hotel & Spa, Võru



Photo: kubija.ee

In the middle of South Estonian pine forests and lakes you can find a cozy and comfortable hotel Kubija Hotel & Nature Spa. Kubija is located about 4 kilometers from the city centre of Võru, right next to Lake Kubija. The hotel and nature spa offers great opportunities for seminars and meetings in the picturesque natural environment utilizing seminar rooms with modern equipment that can accommodate up to 90 people. Conference rooms are equipped with the modern multi-media solutions that enable interoperability. After a busy day, participants can relax at the spa and sauna centre, enjoy spa treatments and explore physical activity options available locally, if they so desire. Each room is comfortably equipped with many amenities, including free internet access and beautiful views of the forest or the lake. In the forest near the hotel you will find both a walking track and an illuminated route for cycling.

<https://www.kubija.ee/en/>

<https://www.visitestonia.com/en/kubija-hotel-nature-spa-1>

Click here for Google Maps location: <https://goo.gl/maps/J8EYvYN3Ypgfcde8A>

Võru County, South-Estonia

The southernmost county of Estonia, Võru County, will surprise you with its natural records. One of the hilliest regions of the country, Haanja Uplands, can be found here. The highest peak in Estonia – Suur Munamägi (318 m above sea level) – is in Võru County. The viewing platform on the mountain offers an excellent view of the diverse nature of Southern Estonia with a 50 km range view in clear weather. Also the deepest lake in Estonia – Rõuge Suurjärv (38 m) – can be found in Võru County. A local landmark - the *Pesapuu* watchtower is also located near Rõuge, is 30 meters high and resembles a tree with two birdnests. From the top you can see picturesque views of the Nightingale Valley. Võru County is known for amazingly diverse and untouched, primeval nature. Approximately 30 km from Võru there is the medieval entertainment centre of Vastseliina Episcopal Castle that is a place full of legends, where you

can see ruins of the fortress and a sanctuary from the 14th century, the main building of the entertainment centre, a pilgrimage house and a small chapel. On our filed trip we will visit Haanja, Rõuge and also Vastseliina Episcopal Castle.

<http://www.visitvoru.ee/en>

<https://loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/nature-reserves/haanja-nature-park/oobikuoru-short-hiking-trail-450-m>

Travel and Accommodation

By air

The best way is first to fly to [Tallinn Lennart Meri International Airport](#) at Ülemiste (IATA code: **TLL**).

If you arrive at **Tartu Airport** there is only a late night flight from Helsinki and a very early morning flight back. It is operated by Finnair. If you arrive in on [Tartu Airport](#), you have to take a taxi from the Airport to your accommodation or the Airport Express to the centre. Read more from [here](#).

[Riga airport](#) has more numerous connections with rest of Europe than Tallinn has, so considering Riga is an option. There are about 6 bus services a day between two cities (250 km apart), both ways; see [Lux Express](#) or [Ecolines](#) for schedules and tickets. Some buses depart from airport but not all, so check Riga coach station as a departure point as well.

By bus

Arriving at Tallinn Airport it is best to take one of the frequent buses to Tartu, check the following [website](#) for information. The distance is 180 km and the travel time about 2:30 h. Please make sure that you put in "Tallinn Airport" (Tallinna lennujaam). The tickets can be purchased in advance from the website. However, if the plane is late you lose the ticket. The vending machine takes credit cards.

From Tallinn to Tartu it is also possible to travel by bus from Tallinn Bus Station (*Tallinna bussijaam*) to Tartu Bus Station (*Tartu bussijaam*). Check the schedules <https://www.tpilet.ee/en/>.

By train

Tartu has a train station so travel to Tartu by rail is also possible. From the [Tallinn Lennart Meri International Airport](#) you have to go to Ülemiste station (1 km walk). To do so, exit the airport to the tram station (on the right of the customs exit). Take tram number 4 (2 stations) To Ülemiste jaam. Check the schedules [here](#) for trains from Tallinn to Tartu.

Accommodation

Accommodation in Hotel Kubija is pre-booked for successful applicants by the organizers. Link to the hotel's homepage: <https://www.kubija.ee/en/>.