



Kõrvemaa in winter, I. Muusik

Järvamaa (Järva County) is located in Central Estonia and borders the counties of Harju, Lääne-Viru, Jõgeva, Viljandi, Pärnu, and Rapla. A part of Järvamaa lies on the western and south-western slopes of the Pandivere Upland; its southern part is on the Central-Estonian Plain while the north-western part stands in the West-Estonian Lowland. The north-west of the county extends over Kõrvemaa.

The location of Järvamaa on the slopes of the Pandivere Upland has shaped the peculiarity of the local nature. The Pandivere Upland is Estonia's most karstic region, which creates a "direct connection" between human activities and groundwater. In the Järvamaa karstland, one can see karst pits and sinkholes, swallow holes and cracks. The karst landforms in groups make up karst areas (Lüsinga, Kurla), which, in turn, form larger karst fields (Metsla, Kuksema).

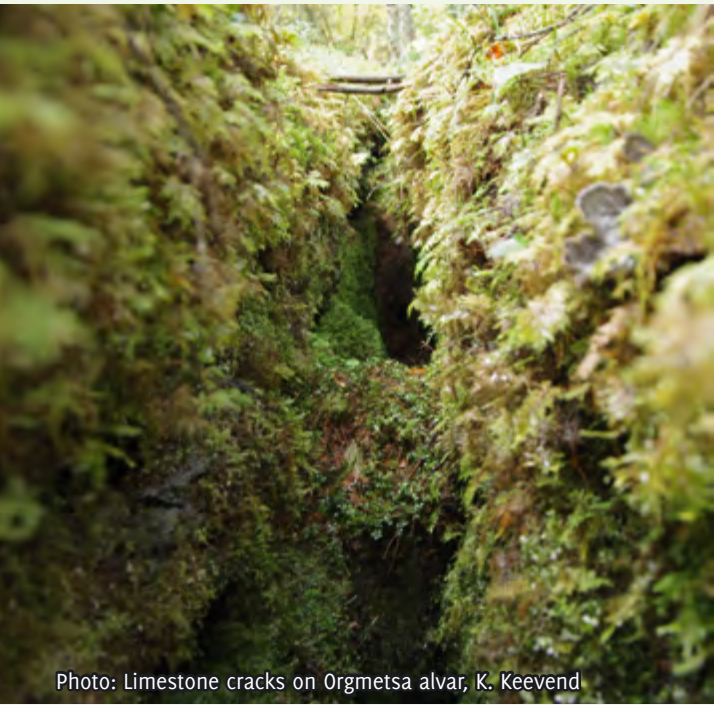


Photo: Limestone cracks on Orgmetsa alvar, K. Keevend

The precipitation water which has seeped in the earth on the slopes and foot of the Pandivere Upland comes out in the form of springs. In spring and in rainy autumn, the ground water may rise to the land surface and form karst lakes (Jalgsema, Tudre). The area of Norra-Oostriku Springs in the west of the Endla Nature Reserve is considered to be the most abundant water-source area in Estonia. Estonia's deepest spring – Sopa Spring (4.8 metres) – also lies here.



Photo: Sopa Spring, K. Keevend

The most representative group of rising springs called Oostriku has three funnels, the largest of which is the Oostriku Suurallikas (*Big Spring*) with its diameter of about five metres and the depth of approximately two metres. One of the falling springs, the Vöilingi Spring, gives birth to the Vöilingi Brook, which, thanks to plentiful small springs, quickly grows into a river. There are beautiful rising springs – the Vilbaste Springs – in the river and on its right side. The Vilbaste Siniallikas (*Blue Spring*) in the middle of the river has the diameter of ten metres and the depth of three metres.



Photo: Vilbaste Siniallikas (*Blue Spring*), K. Keevend

Information boards and signs help you to learn about the springs. Please be careful not to tread on the delicate plant community near the springs.



Photo: River Oostriku, K. Keevend

Järvamaa's most water abundant rivers are the Pärnu River with its source at Roosna-Alliku and the Põltsamaa River, which starts in Lääne-Virumaa and forms, in its middle course, the boundary between Järvamaa and Jõgevamaa.



Photo: Otter, I. Muusik

The county's largest lake is Lake Väinjärv near Koeru. There are several exciting legends to be told about the temporary Jalgsema Karst Lake. However, there are more artificial lakes in the county than natural ones.

About a third of Järvamaa is covered with bogs and fens. Most of them have arisen as a result of the paludification of mineral soil but some have, however, appeared when lakes overgrew. There are fens and transition mires as well as raised bogs. The most remarkable is the Epu-Kakerdi swamp area, which consists of several bogs, the most typical to Järvamaa being the picturesque Kakerdaja and Kodru Bogs.



Photo: Iidva Bog, K. Keevend



Photo: English sundew, K. Keevend



The Türi Drumlins (Türi Landscape Protection Area) is Estonia's best-known and well observable drumlin range. The highest drumlin, Kõomägi (*Cuckoo's Hill*), has the height of 84 metres above the sea level and 20 metres above surrounding area.



Photo: Türi Drumlins, I. Muusik



Photo: Lady's slipper, K. Keevend

There are eight nature reserves, ten landscape protection areas and seven limited-conservation areas in Järvamaa. Four nature reserves are situated in the border areas, and are shared by Järvamaa and its neighbouring counties. 4,117 hectares of the 10,110-hectare-large Endla Nature Reserve lie in Järvamaa; the corresponding numbers for the Kõrvemaa Landscape Protection Area are 12,940 ha and 20,540 ha, for the Piiumetsa Landscape Protection Area 343 ha and 1,130 ha, and for the Saarijõe Landscape Protection Area 1,128 ha and 1,751 ha. Three out of seven limited-conservation areas have been founded to protect the natural rivers of Pärnu, Preedi and Vöilingi; the others protect semi-natural communities.



Photo: Lake Seli, I. Muusik



Photo: J. Rõuk's Dendrological Farm Park, K. Keevend

There are 32 protected parks and forest stands in Järvamaa. Parks, being mostly old manor parks by their origin, make up a part of Järvamaa's cultural heritage. The species-rich Albu Park on two terraces originates from the 19th century. There is a large square in front of the manor house. The Ambla River and the stone bridge across it constitute important elements in the park design. The Särevere Park consists of an older part, dating back to the middle of the 19th century, and a new part, established in the Soviet period. The front square is large, while the back yard, however, is narrow and bordered by an alley. Rõuk's Dendrological Farm Park was launched on private initiative. It was founded by Jaan Rõuk in the 1920s and was continued by his son August. Several natural stone sculptures have been collected into the farm park.



Photo: Albu Park, K. Keevend



Photo: Särevere Park, K. Keevend



Photo: Rava Oak, K. Keevend

The landscape protection in Järvamaa found its beginning when the old oak forest in the territory of the present Rava Landscape Protection Area was placed under a protection order. The Rava Oak Trees became the first objects in the Estonian pre-war nature protection register in 1936. The origin of the oak wood is not known but probably it was used as a sacred grove. The area has a diversified community and, several protected species of plants can be found here.



Photo: Water lilies, K. Keevend

Some individual objects, such as remarkable trees, big rocks or springs outside the conservation areas, are also under protection. Two giant erratic boulders with their girths of more than 25 metres are located in Järvamaa. The county's largest boulder is Eevakivi (*Eve's Rock*) in Ambla Rural Municipality; its diameter is 26.5 m. The Vissuvere Boulder has its diameter of 25.6 m and is situated in Väätsa Rural Municipality. The highest rock is the Kiigumõisa Boulder with its height of 4.95 metres. In Albu Rural Municipality, the Ausammaste Rock (*Rock of Monuments*) is located, which has donated splinters to the monuments of the Estonian War of Liberty and of the writer A. H. Tammsaare at Järva-Madise as well as to the memorial honouring the Estonian language in Kadrina.



Photo: Eve's Rock, K. Keevend



Photo: Ausammaste Rock, K. Keevend



Photo: Saare-Silmu Oak, I. Nilp

Järvamaa's most famous oak tree is presumably the Tammsaare Oak (also known as the Vetepere Oak), which grows near the writer Anton Hansen Tammsaare's birthplace in the Kõrvemaa Landscape Protection Area. Saare-Silmu Oak in Türi Rural Municipality, however, is more powerful: its diameter goes beyond six metres and its height is 24 metres.



Photo: Eastern pasqueflower, K. Keevend

The Raudemetsa Pine at the Türi-Väätsa road is also one of the first protected trees. The age of the pine tree is assumed to be about 380 years.



Photo: Raudemetsa Pine, K. Keevend

The habitat of one plant – the ghost orchid – which belong to protection category I has been registered in Järvamaa. Protection category I also includes three species of birds: the golden eagle, lesser spotted eagle, and black stork. A total of 31 nesting places have been registered here, five of which are inhabited by the golden eagles, five by the black storks and 21 by the lesser spotted eagles. A category II protected bird is the capercaillie. Their habitats cover 12,880 hectares in Järvamaa and, in addition to the protected areas, eleven species protection sites have been founded for them.

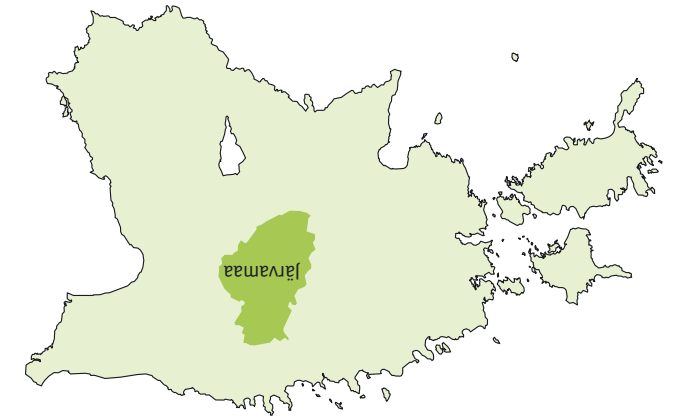
Järvamaa's forests are suitable habitats for the bear, lynx, elk, and other mammals. Estonia's largest representative of the weasel family – the badger – enjoys the local hills with sandy soil and forest cover. The badger setts with plenty of burrows may be centuries old, but the number of permanently inhabited setts has been decreasing due to logging.



Photo: Ghost Orchid, R. Miller

You can get information on Järvamaa's hiking routes, provided with signs and information boards, at:

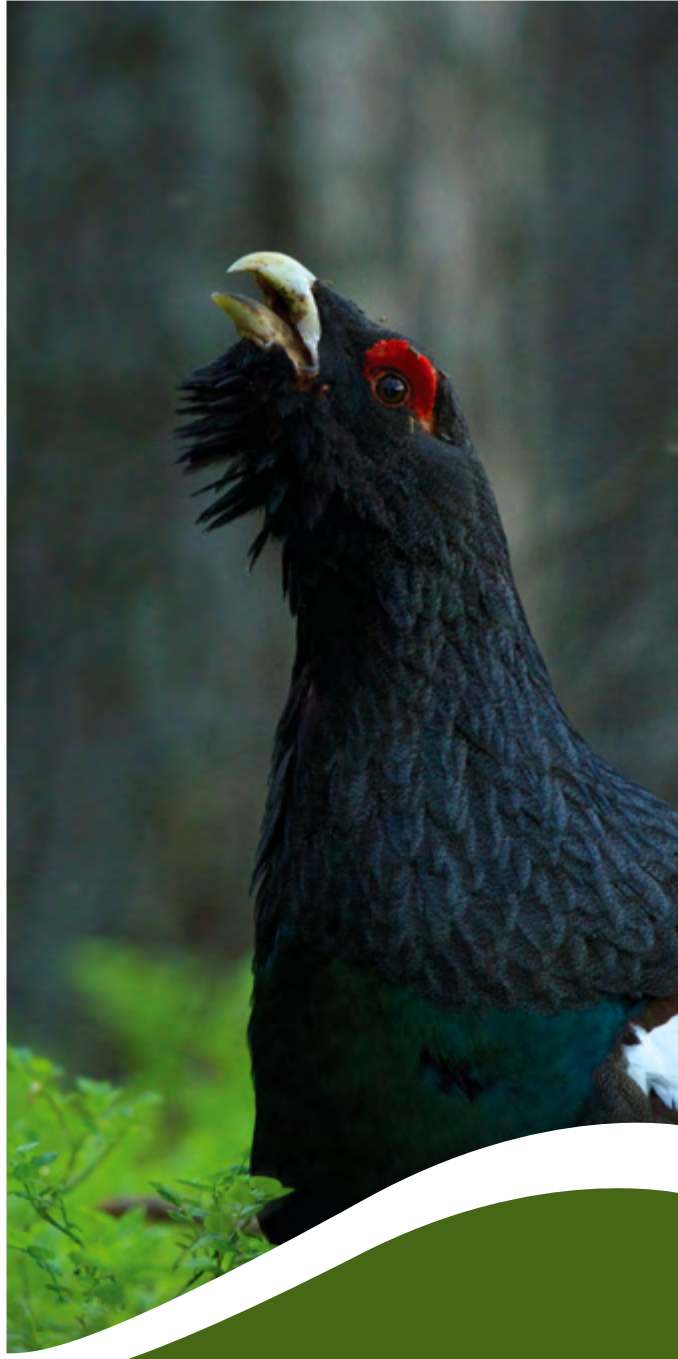
- Järvamaa Tourist Information Center (8 Keskväljak, Paide) www.jarva.ee/turism
- State Forest Management Centre (RMK) www.rmkk.ee



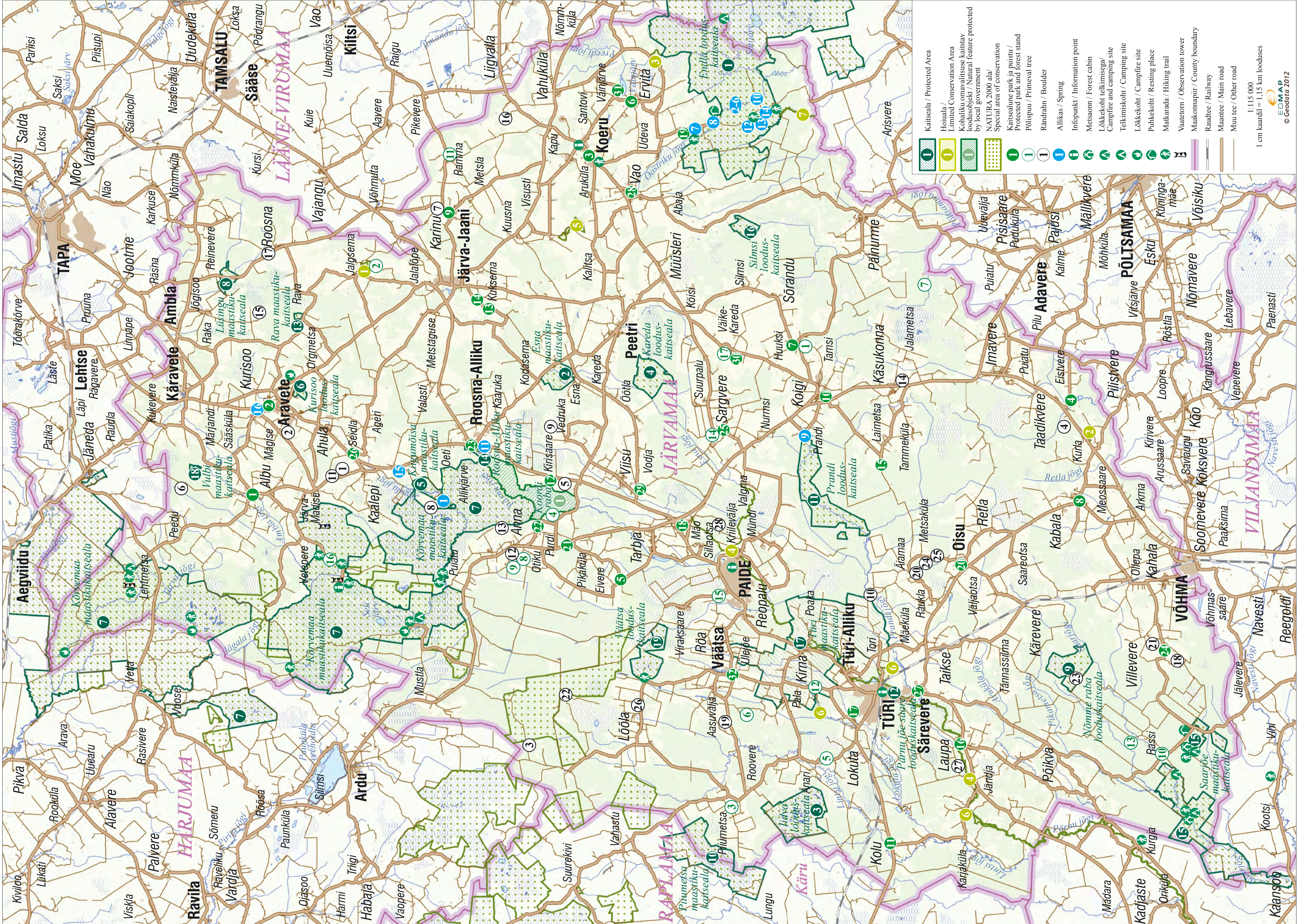
When you see damage done to the nature or visiting objects, inform the Environmental Inspectorate by phone 113.

- protected area.
- You can pick berries, mushrooms and other forests goods in the
- Keep your dog on the leash while moving about in the nature.
- You can use only non-power watercraft on the bodies of water. fire, even on special grounds, is forbidden.
- marked places. At the time of wildlife hazard, making an open
- You can put up a tent and make a fire only in the prepared and
- only in the car park.
- Drive your motor vehicle only on the provided roads and park it or marked. You will need the landowner's permission.
- You can move about on private land from sunrise to sunset unless you damage to the landowner, in case the private land is fenced

DOS AND DOWTS FOR VISITORS



Nature of JÄRVAMAA



1:115 000
1 cm kaardil = 1,15 km looduses

EGMAP
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- SPRINGS**
- 1 Kigumäe Springs
 - 2 Mesanurga Springs
 - 3 Mesanurga Springs
 - 4 Mesanurga Springs
 - 5 Mesanurga Springs
 - 6 Mesanurga Springs
 - 7 Nõra Spring Lake
 - 8 Nõra Spring Lake
 - 9 Prandi Springs
 - 10 Prandi Springs
 - 11 Prandi Springs
 - 12 Sopa Spring
 - 13 Viljaste Springs
 - 14 Viljaste Springs
 - 15 Viljaste Springs
 - 16 Viljaste Springs

- STONES, ROCKS AND Boulders**
- 1 Ausammaste Rock / Seda Boulder
 - 2 Rock of Evakivi (Eve's Rock)
 - 3 Epi Rock
 - 4 Kallaste Boulder / Kallaste Boulder
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- Trees**
- 1 Huuksi Twin Linden
 - 2 Jalgema Two Brothers' Birch
 - 3 Eight-branched Linden
 - 4 Kallaste Pine
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- Parks**
- 1 Albu Manor Park
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- Protected Areas**
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