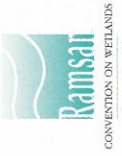


ALAM-PEDJA

Nature Reserve

Nature Trails



Agency responsible for the reserve:
 Jõgeva-Tartu region of the Environmental Board
 Aleksandri 14, 51004 Tartu
 Telephone: +372 730 2240
E-mail: tartu@keskkonnaamet.ee
www.keskkonnaamet.ee

Agency responsible for visits to the reserve:
 Nature Management Department of the State Forest Management Centre (SFMC/RMK)
 Tooma küla, Jõgeva vald, 48432 Jõgevamaa
www.rmk.ee

Alam-Pedja nature centre of Environmental Board
 Jürküla, Puurmani vald, Jõgevamaa 49005
 telephone +372 5341 9205

Text: Riin Vare
 Photos: Jaanus Järva, Arne Ader
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Kirna Study Centre



Pöder rabamännikus / Elk in forest

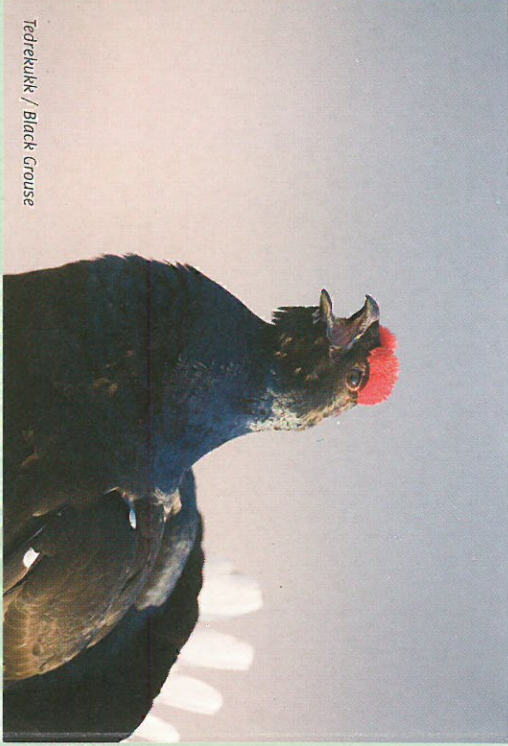
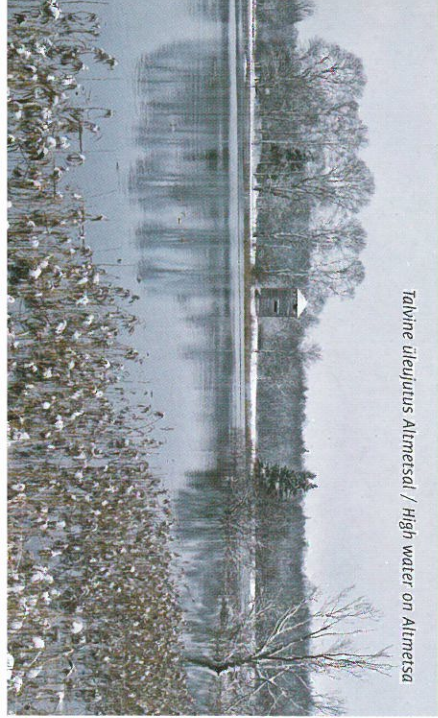
In Jürküla there is a Kirna Study Centre where Estonian Defence League and Environmental Board together operate. In the centre there is an exhibition about Alam-Pedja Nature Reserve, accommodation, catering and lecture rooms. You can reach the Kirna Study Centre by turning off towards Jürküla at Puurmani Bridge from the Tallinn-Tartu highway: around 5 kilometres after crossing the bridge you will see some buildings surrounded by a fence. The centre's guard will welcome you and guide you forward. The Kirna hiking trail is also located near the centre.

of the meandering Pedja River. You will see signs of beaver and wild boar activity in many places along the riverbank. The former riverbeds provide spawning grounds for many fish. The grand Mustutammi (Kissing oak), which gets its name from a beautiful legend, grows on the right side of the Pedja River bank. In some places the trail passes through thick shrubs - cranberry bushes, common buckthorns, glossy buckthorns and several willow species dominate here. A suspension bridge built in 1975 enables you to cross the river at the furthestmost point of the trail.

Põitsamaa-Kärevere water trail

The Põitsamaa-Kärevere water trail runs alongside the Põitsamaa, Pede and Emajõgi Rivers. It is recommended that you start your hike in Põitsamaa River from the Kamari artificial lake dam and end it in Emajõgi River by Kärevere bridge. The trail is 75 km long. A complete journey normally takes about 2 to 3 days. The water trail is designed for non-motorised watercraft.
 Downstream from the Kamari dam, Kilmoja Creek flows as a small waterfall into the Põitsamaa River from the right. Going further, Annikvere stream flows into the river from the left bank - this marks the beginning of Alam-Pedja Nature Reserve. Near Põovere the river is wider and has more rapids. A view opens out here over a narrow flood plain where hay grows up to chest height in summer. At Roika you will see the ruins of a former glass factory. About ten kilometres downstream at Laasnoe there is a bridge across the river. A few kilometres further downstream near Polaste farm you will come across a cabin with campfire. Two similar 'stopovers' can be found on the right bank of the Pede River near Londoni farm.
 Moving downstream towards the Emajõgi River there is an oak grove called Naela on the left bank of the river. When you reach the Emajõgi River, the horizon broadens out significantly. Palupõhja village will catch your eye at one bigger crook in the river. The next village is Reku, which used to be a place to cross the river with rafts. The nature reserve ends at the estuary of the Ilmatsalu River, a couple of hundred metres before you reach Kärevere Bridge. The route ends at the bridge; although those who wish can continue on to Tartu (a further 25 kilometres).

Talvine ühejuurus Altnetsal / High water on Altnetsa



Tedrekukk / Black Grouse

bog rosemary, leather leaf *Ericaceae*, black crowberry, heather, hare's tail grass and turf with cranberry. Common reed or bog bean grow in places where water flows in the raised bog. Single peaky birches and pines grow in open areas. The boardwalk ends at Maastkingu. In spring, you can hear the calls of black grouse and the trumpeting of cranes; the paths that wolves follow also cross the bog island.
 Crossing the small bog strip you reach the Sillaotsa raised bog, where you may come across venomous vipers.
 The boardwalk continues from here and crosses the transition bog, reaching a bog strip called 'Jõhvi ash grove'. The sandy soil here is perfect for bog whortleberry and cowberry. The boardwalk ends at the former Sillaotsa farm.

Kirna hiking trail

Kirna hiking trail crosses through meadows and flood plain forests next to the Pedja River. You can reach the trail by turning off towards Jürküla at the Puurmani Bridge from the Tallinn-Tartu highway. After about 5 kilometres you will see an information board and parking area by the road, marking the beginning of the Kirna trail. The hiking trail is 7 kilometres long and it takes about 3 hours to complete it.

There are many meadows and flood plain forests, which are flooded during high water on the shores of the river. In spring globeflowers, dog violets and marsh violets, water avens, buttercups and lilies of the valley grow in water meadows along the trail. Corncrakes, great snipes, warblers, buntings and different kinds of eagles live in the area. The flood plain forests here are thought to be the most woodpecker-abundant locations in Estonia. Flood plain aspen groves are somewhat different. In addition to aspen you can see ash, linden, elm varieties and oak trees in the alluvial forests. Hop and bindweed often twist around these trees. From the viewing tower at Altnetsa farm you can catch a glimpse

Alam-Pedja Nature Reserve

Alam-Pedja Nature Reserve was established in 1994. It has an area of 34,220 hectares. This vast nature reserve covers three counties: Jõgeva, Tartu and Viljandi.

The reserve is located in the depression of Lake Võrtsjärv. 7500-10,000 years ago its bogs were largely covered in water. There are 12 watercourses in the area. The longest are the Pedja, Põitsamaa and Emajõgi Rivers. There are also 74 old rivers. During high water, rivers rise from their streambeds and in particularly water-abundant years they may flood nearly a third of the reserve. The rivers surround a region of marshlands, flooded areas and alluvial forests which are almost entirely unaffected by human activity.

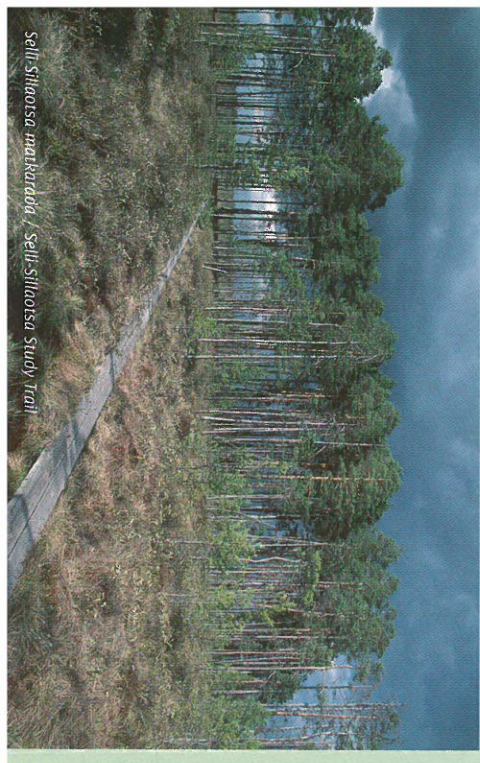
There are four strictly protected areas in this nature reserve: Karisto, Paterna, Tõllassaare and Võiviku reserves. No visitors are allowed there year around. Several nature trails and a nature centre yet welcome nature lovers at Alam-Pedja Nature Reserve.

Selli-Sillaotsa Study Trail

The study trail starting from the Laeva-Palupõhja road in Selli curves through the Laeva marshes and continues to the gravel road at Sillaotsa farm. The diverse landscape of the raised bog can be seen when hiking along the trail. You can reach the trail by turning off to Palupõhja at the Laeva crossroads from the Tallinn-Tartu highway. From there it is 7 kilometres to Selli. The nature trail is 4,6 km long and it takes about 2 hours to complete it.

To begin with, the trail runs along the Selli-Rehessaare winter road through a heath pine forest where blueberries and cowberries grow. From a former farm situated among the ancient trees, the trail turns off to the left from the winter road, towards Maastkingu. Emerging from a pine grove, we reach the swamp edge that is called 'Suuretüki shore'. A great view opens out over Laeva bog from the Suuretüki viewing tower.

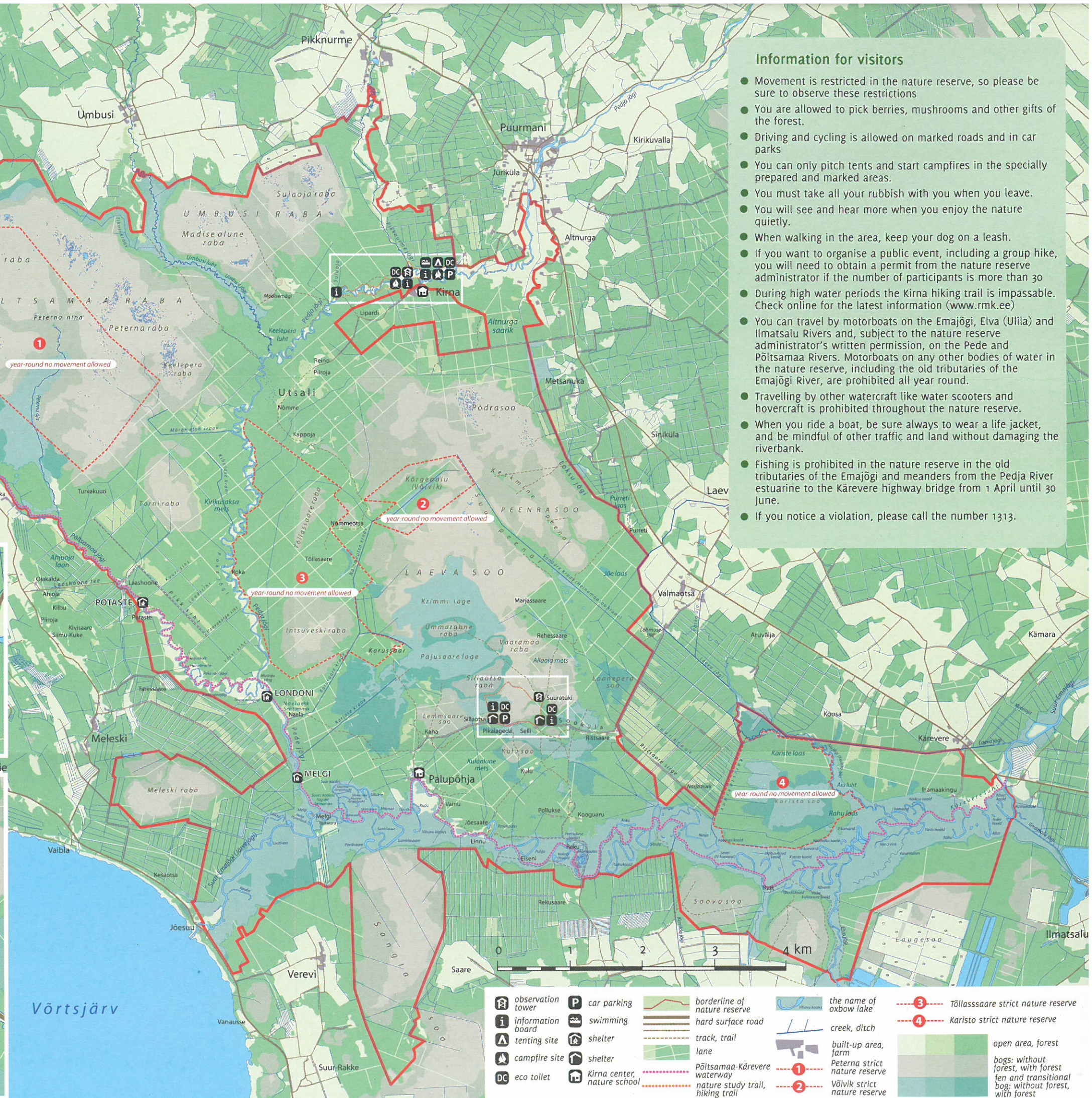
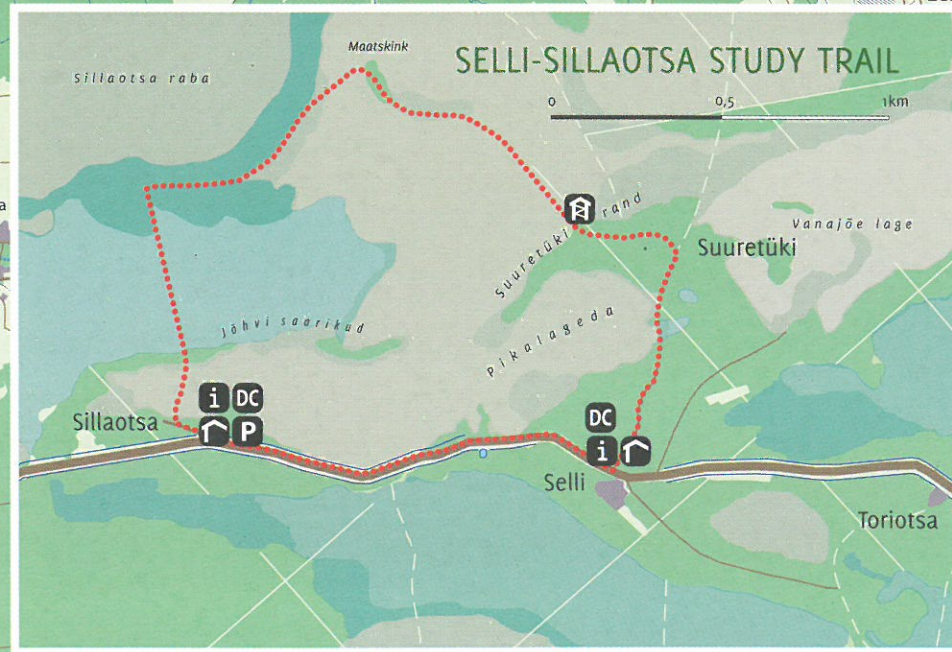
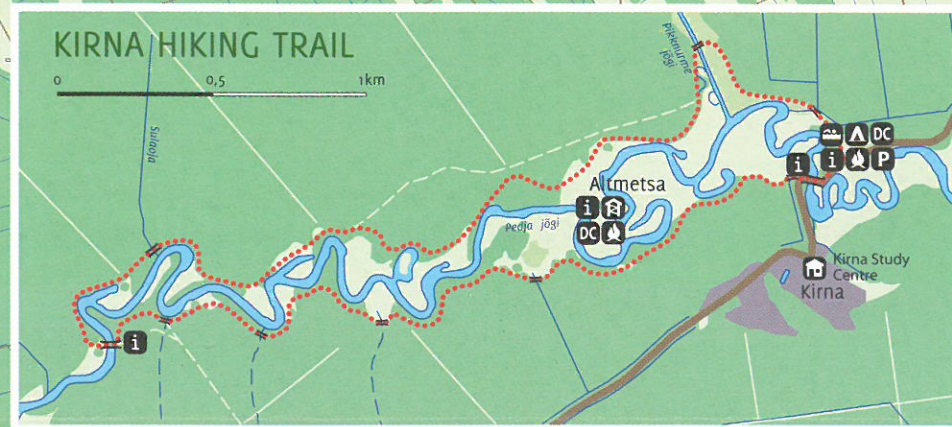
A boardwalk makes it easier to walk across the soggy transitional bog. Among the peat moss covering the raised bog you will find



Selli-Sillaotsa maastikurada / Selli-Sillaotsa Study Trail

Information for visitors

- Movement is restricted in the nature reserve, so please be sure to observe these restrictions
- You are allowed to pick berries, mushrooms and other gifts of the forest.
- Driving and cycling is allowed on marked roads and in car parks
- You can only pitch tents and start campfires in the specially prepared and marked areas.
- You must take all your rubbish with you when you leave.
- You will see and hear more when you enjoy the nature quietly.
- When walking in the area, keep your dog on a leash.
- If you want to organise a public event, including a group hike, you will need to obtain a permit from the nature reserve administrator if the number of participants is more than 30
- During high water periods the Kirna hiking trail is impassable. Check online for the latest information (www.rmkk.ee)
- You can travel by motorboats on the Emajõgi, Elva (Ulila) and Ilmatsalu Rivers and, subject to the nature reserve administrator's written permission, on the Pedja and Põltsamaa Rivers. Motorboats on any other bodies of water in the nature reserve, including the old tributaries of the Emajõgi River, are prohibited all year round.
- Travelling by other watercraft like water scooters and hovercraft is prohibited throughout the nature reserve.
- When you ride a boat, be sure always to wear a life jacket, and be mindful of other traffic and land without damaging the riverbank.
- Fishing is prohibited in the old tributaries of the Emajõgi and meanders from the Pedja River estuarine to the Kärevere highway bridge from 1 April until 30 June.
- If you notice a violation, please call the number 1313.



- | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| observation tower | car parking | borderline of nature reserve | the name of oxbow lake | Tõllassaare strict nature reserve |
| information board | swimming | hard surface road | creek, ditch | Kärevere strict nature reserve |
| tenting site | shelter | track, trail | built-up area, farm | open area, forest |
| campfire site | shelter | lane | Peterna strict nature reserve | bogs: without forest, with forest |
| eco toilet | Kirna center, nature school | Põltsamaa-Kärevere waterway | Võivik strict nature reserve | fen and transitional bog: without forest, with forest |
| | nature study trail, hiking trail | | | |