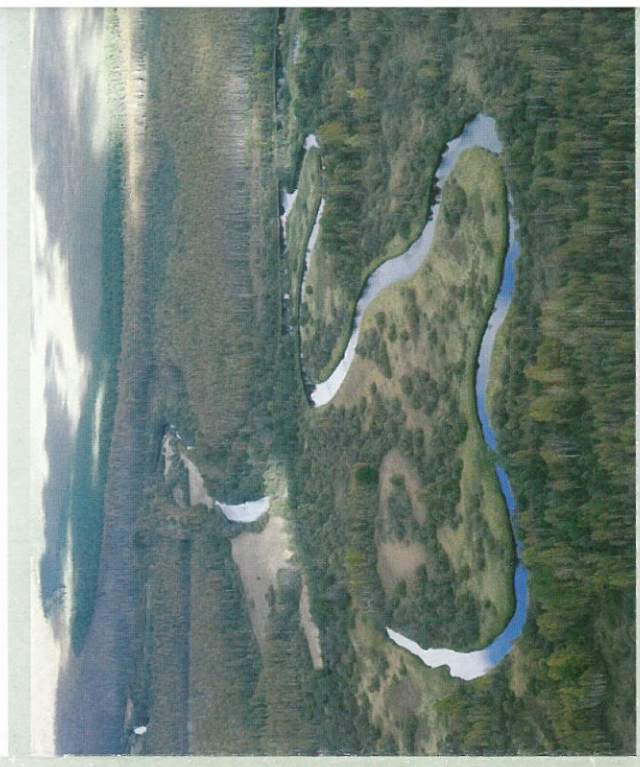


The Alam-Pedja Nature Reserve

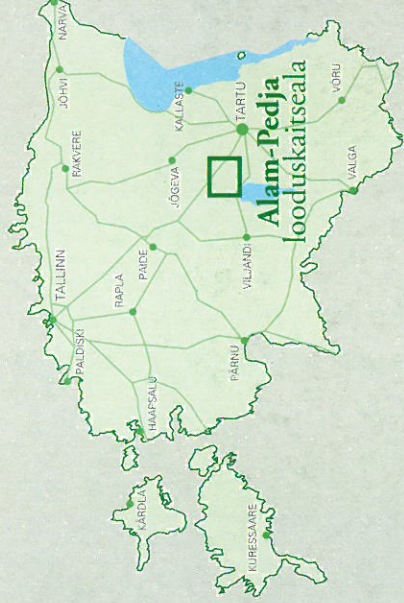
Riiklik Looduskaitsekeskus



Protection manager:
State Nature Conservation Centre
Jõgeva - Tartu Region
Tooma village, Jõgeva parish
48401 Jõgeva County
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View of the Sellii - Sillaotsa Nature Trail

At Maatsikingu the wooden trail stops for a bit. At that site you can see and hear grouses and cranes, golden eagles and grey wolves.

After crossing the small bog strip, you get to Kõrgepalu, a bigger bog island with a pine forest. The wood chip trail follows a known wild animal path. On this part of the trail you can see vipers, Labrador teas (*Ledum palustre*) and grouses (*Tetrao urogallus*).

The wooden trail starts again at Kõrgepalu and takes you through transitional bog to a bog island strip, which is called Jõhvi islet. Here in the sandy ground grow bog bilberries (*Vaccinium uliginosum*) and cowberries, and the sides of the trail are covered with the white "foam" of cladonia.

The wooden trail ends at the former site of the Sillaotsa farm; from here you can get back to the Laeva-Palupõhja gravel road.

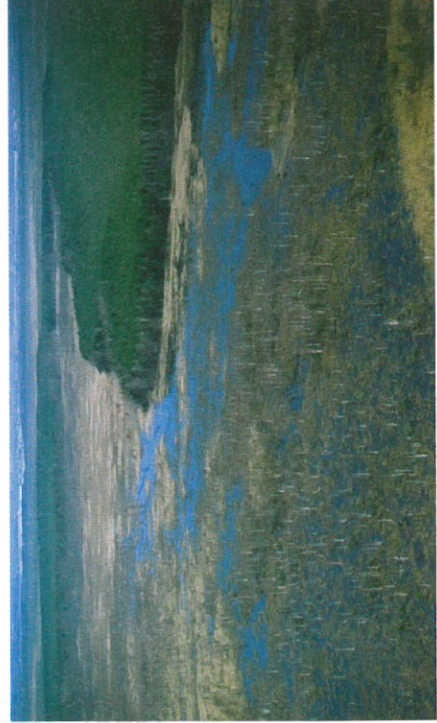
Kirna Hiking Trail

You can reach the trail from Tallinn-Tartu road turning south (toward Juriküla) at Puurmani. The dirt road (5 kilometers) leads to the beginning of the trail – information board and parking area.

The trail follows the meandering Pedja River along its banks, floodplains, alluvial forests and wooded meadows. The high water of spring covers the floodplains with water for several months. The trail is also under water in autumn. In the open floodplain grasslands you can see globeflower fields (*Trollius*) in the spring, as well as corn crakes (*Crex crex*), great stripes (*Gallinago media*), and spotted eagles. On the banks of the river there are signs of beavers.



Einar Tammur Sellii - Sillaotsa õpperejal



High water over the Alam - Pedja mire landscape

For nature lovers, Alam-Pedja offers the Sellii-Sillaotsa educational nature trail and the Kirna hiking trail.

Groups of 10 or more people need to apply for consent for visiting the Alam-Pedja Nature Reserve. For this, please contact the Estonian State Nature Conservation Centre's Jõgeva-Tartu Region office – nature education specialist Ms. Riin Vare (riin.vare@lk.ee, +372 5341 9205) or ranger Mr. Jüri Ketner (jyri.ketner@lk.ee, +372 525 5929).

In 1997 the Alam-Pedja Nature Reserve was recognized as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

There are four areas – Karisto, Peterna, Tõllasaare and Võiviku – under the strictest protection regime.

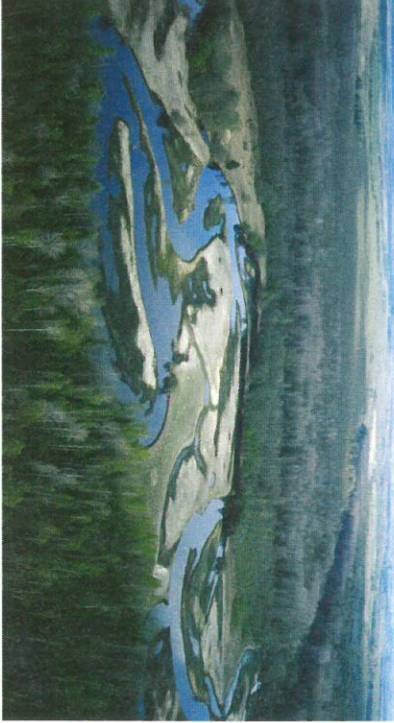
The reserve is located in the former basin of Lake Võrtsjärv, and about 7500 to 10 000 years ago most of the current mire landscape was covered with water. In the nature reserve there are 12 natural flowing water bodies with a combined length of 115 kilometres. The biggest of them are Pedja River, Põltsamaa River and River Emajõgi. Additionally, there are 55 old rivers and brooks totaling 55 kilometres in length. Between the rivers there are large mire complexes, floodplains and swamp forests that are virtually untouched by human activities.

The Alam-Pedja Nature Reserve was established in 1966 and covers 310 square kilometers of land spanning over three counties – Jõgeva, Tartu and Viljandi. Lake Võrtsjärv, which is located to the southwest of the reserve, is about the same size.

The river is full of bends near the trail, with a very slow flow. You can spot warblers (*Acrocephalus*) and reed buntings (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) in the canebrake, and wild boars eating canebrake rootstock. At times, previous riverbeds can be seen – old rivers. Such a place is suitable for the fish to spawn, and when the water level is low you can see the black stork (*Ciconia nigra*) looking for food.

There are plenty of forests on the valley flats that can be flooded. The most noticeable of them are the aspen forests, which are rare both for Estonia and its neighboring countries. In addition to aspens, you can see also ash tree (*Fraxinus*), basswood (*Tilia*), elm (*Ulmus*) and oak. Often you can see bines around the tree trunks. The most common undergrowth in the forest are greater birdweed, dog's mercury, nightshade (*Solanum*), and goutweed.

The alluvial forests near Pedja River are known to be the richest in woodpeckers in all Estonia. At times the trail goes through thick cranberry bushes, buckthorn (*Rhamnus*), black alder, and different willow shrubs. At the farthest point on the trail is a suspension bridge that you can cross to get to the other side of the river (built in 1975). The trail goes through a meadow that is filled with colourful blossoms in the spring. By the trail, on the right side of the river bank, there are some ancient oaks. One of the two, the forked ancient oak, is called Mustramm – the Kissing Oak. The Altmetea observation tower is built at the site of a former forester's farmstead, which overlooks the river, the floodplain grasslands, and the suspension bridge over the Pedja River. On the first floor of the observation tower is an exhibition of drawings about the area's flora and fauna.



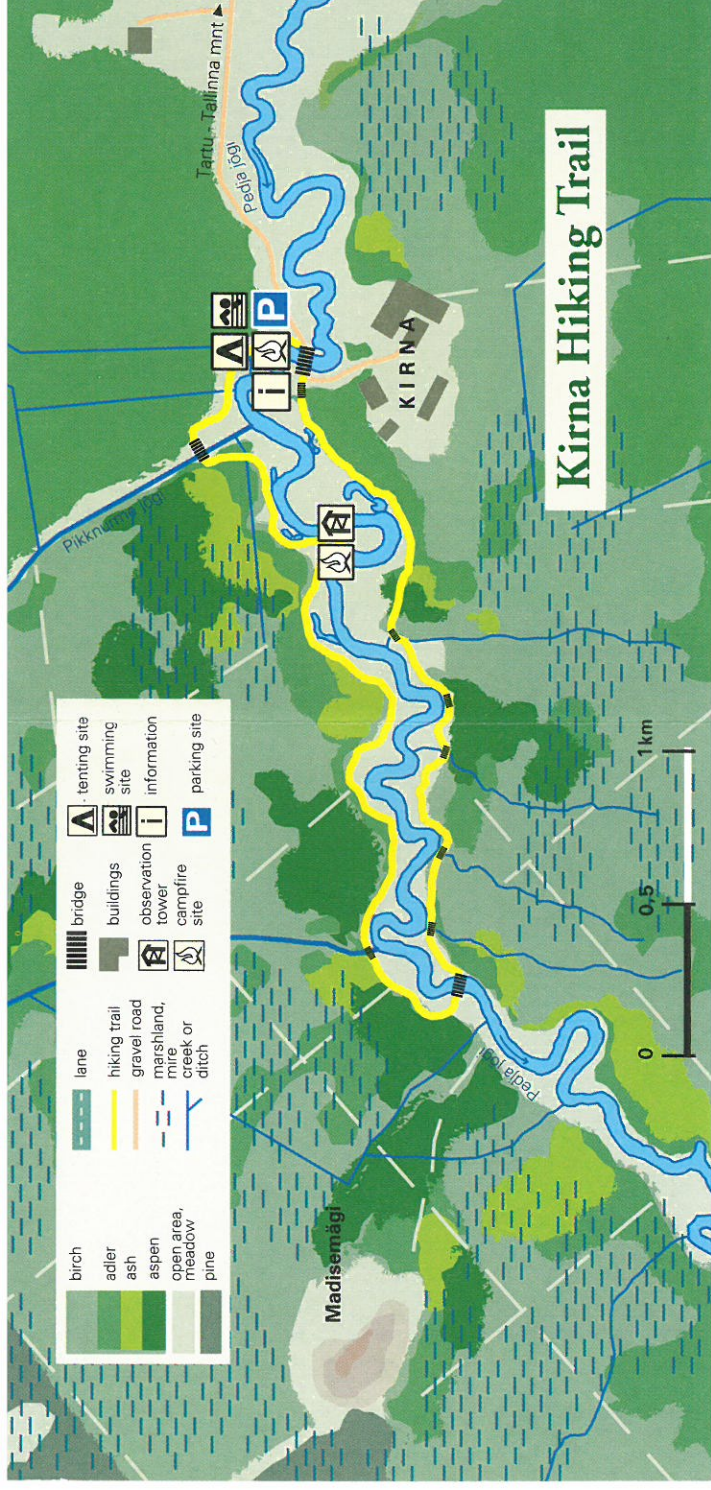
Pedja jõe üht Kirnal

Kirna Hiking Trail

The length of the trail is 7 kilometres and it takes about 3 hours to walk from one end to the other.

There is an information board and a parking lot at one end of the trail, the beginning. Campfire sites are in the beginning of the trail and by the observation tower. There is a lot to see on this trail, so make sure you have enough time for it!

NB! During high water periods the trail is not passable (relevant info will be posted on our website, <http://www.alam-pedja.ee>).



Kirna Hiking Trail



Selli - Sillaotsa Nature Trail



Pedja jõe tulvaveed Kirinal

Selli-Sillaotsa Nature Trail

You can get to the trail if you follow the Tallinn-Tartu road up to the Laeva intersection, then take the road to Palupõhja. It's about 7 kilometers from Laeva crossing to Selli, one of the end points of the trail.

The length of the trail is 4.8 kilometres and it takes about 2 hours to walk to the other end. There are information boards and parking lots at both ends of the trail.

Dogs are not allowed on the trail!

