



Photo: Pühajärve War Oak, M. Adamson

ARMUALIKAS (SPRING OF LOVE)

The spring of Armualikas is the best known of the springs near Lake Pühajärv. 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 Veriäite (*Spring of Blood*). According to the folk stories, the water of the Love Spring drunk from a silver cup at Midsummer Night will create a big and ever-lasting love.

HEAD OF VÄIKE EMAJÕGI RIVER

The source of the River Emajõgi (*Mother River*) has been the issue of numerous discussions. Both a spring on the slope of Väike Munamägi Hill and the spring of Emaläte (*Mother Source*) on the shore of Lake Arula Perjärv have been considered the head of the river. Lake Pühajärv, however, has been officially acknowledged by geographers as the head of the Väike Emajõgi. The river which starts here and flows into Lake Võrtsjärv is 83 kilometres long.

ACTIVE HOLIDAYS IN THE NATURE

Lake Pühajärv and its closest surroundings offer various possibilities for spending active holidays in the nature: you can go hiking, cycling or fishing, or just listen to birdsong in the early morning.

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



Photo: Great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), L. Michelson

PÜHAJÄRVE PARK

The north-eastern shore of Lake Pühajärv is regarded as the oldest gathering place at Pühajärv. 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 Pühajärve Manor House is under nature conservation. On the terrace, you can admire a splendid view of the lake.

FOREST OF MURRUMETS

The wooded area on Angunina Peninsula is called Murrumets or Murrumets. It used to be a favourite walking place for ladies of the manor, and at present it is enjoyed by holiday makers. The name Murrumets (*Grass forest*) is supposed to be older, as it refers to the times when the forest was a well maintained park. The 400-year-old War Oak (Sõjatom) is approaching the end of its life. The tree is 22 metres high and its diameter is 698 cm (as for 1998). The oak was seriously damaged by the storms in the summers 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. The oak wood with its radial planting was first marked in the map in 1845. On the 130th anniversary of the "Pühajärve War", a 2.5-metre-high monument, sculptured by Lembit Paluteder, was opened in the middle of the oak wood.

PÜHAJÄRVE WAR OAK AND WAR OAK WOOD

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

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.



ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Environmental Board
Põlva-Valga-Võru Region
28 Kolga Rd., 67405 Otepää
Phone +372 766 9290
otepaa@keskkonnaamet.ee
www.keskkonnaamet.ee

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

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HIKING TRAILS NEAR LAKE PÜHAJÄRV

Otepää Nature Park



Photo: Pühajärve Beach, M. Turb

OTEPÄÄ NATURE PARK

The protection of the landscapes around Otepää started from the surroundings of Lake Pühajärv. In 1929, Lake Pühajärv 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 Otepää Nature Park (224 sq km) covers one fifth of the Otepää Upland and its aim is to preserve and introduce the local hilly landscapes.

LAKE PÜHAJÄRV (290.7 hectares)

Lake Pühajärv (*Holy Lake*) is the largest lake in the upland. It is unique due to its winding shoreline and woody islands: the Sõsarisaar islands, well to be seen from the northern shore, Kloostrisaar 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 Pühajärv is not very deep: the average depth is 4.3 metres; the deepest place is 8.5 metres.

The lake has varied flora and fauna. On the shore, the common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and arrowweed (*Sagittaria sagittifolia*) and, on the water surface, the yellow water-lily (*Nuphar lutea*) and water smartweed (*Polygonum amphibium*) prevail. 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.



Photo: Otter, I. Muusikus



	Otepää looduskeskus / Otepää Nature Centre (Teabepunkt avatud / Information desk opened 1.06 - 30.08)
	Loodusväärtus / Nature sight
	Lõkkekoht telkimisega / Camp fire site with camping
	Lõkkekoht / Camp fire site
	Parkla / Parking
	Ujumiskoht / Swimming spot
	Veesõidukite laenus / Watercraft rental
	Pühajärve sihtkaitsevööndi piir / Pühajärve special management zone boundary
	Lepassaare sihtkaitsevöönd / Lepassaare special management zone
	Murrumetsa matkarada / Murrumetsa Hiking Trail
	Pühajärve matkarada / Pühajärve Hiking Trail
	Pühajärve tunnetusrada / Pühajärve Sensation Trail
	Pühajärve rattaring / Pühajärve Cycling Route
	Kõvakattega tee / Surfaced road
	Kruuskattega tee / Gravel road
	Pinnaste / Unpaved road
	Rada / Path

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