



Did You know that
the world's oldest Viking ship was
discovered in the small town of Salme
in Saaremaa in the autumn of 2008?

Dating from the first half of the 7th century, the sailboat is the oldest both
in the Baltic Sea region and the world.

Tiesitkö, että maailman vanhin viikinkilai-
va löydettiin syksyllä 2008 Saarenmaalta
Salmen kylästä?

600-luvun alkupuolelta peräisin oleva purje-
laiva on vanhin sekä Itämeren alueella että
maailmassa.

Знаете ли вы, что старейший корабль ви-
кингов был найден в Эстонии в 2008 году?

Его обнаружили на острове Сааремаа в по-
селке Сальме. Парусник датируется первой
половиной VII века и является старейшим
как в регионе Балтийского моря, так и в
мире.

Kas teadsid, et maailma vanim viikingilaev
avastati 2008. a. sügisel Saaremaal Salme
alevikus?

7. sajandi esimesest poolest pärit purjelaev on
vanim nii Läänmere piirkonnas kui maailmas.



Photograph: Heikki Bauert

The crater of the Kaali meteorite is the most readily accessible and best preserved field of craters in Europe.
The approximate time of the falling of the meteorite: 7,500 to 7,600 years ago.



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In the 16th century, Kuressaare's cargo ships were the largest in the Baltic States. Today, Saaremaa has the most recreational craft manufacturers in Estonia. Every islander who sails is also very likely to have an ice yacht made in Saaremaa.



Orissaare has the world's most unique soccer pitch, with an oak growing in its middle.



By nature, Saaremaa's mediaeval churches are fortified churches, each one of them entirely unique. Of these, the church at Valjala is the oldest stone church.



If you do not have a sailboat yet, have the islanders build one for you. Saaremaa's harbours are waiting.



Lahetaguse Manor is the birthplace of the Antarctic explorer Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen (1776 – 1852). According to Ernest Hemingway, in every port in the world, at least one Estonian sailor could be found.



Panga Pank is the tallest limestone bluff in Western Estonia. Approximately 2.5 kilometres long, the bluff has a maximum height of 21.3 metres.



In the late 19th century, there were about 1,270 windmills in Saaremaa. Just as a well-to-do merchant would build himself a church in Gotland, in Saaremaa a hard-working farmer would have his own windmill – wind was freely available on an island with a shore rising high above the sea level.



Vilsandi National Park is the oldest nature reserve in the Baltic States, boasting the biggest grey seal colonies in Estonia, interesting seafloor fauna, a rich world of orchids and 247 observed species of birds.



In 1840, the first mud spa opened in Kuressaare, which has been a prized resort town ever since. With 1,200 beds at spas for about 14,000 residents, Kuressaare is likely the most spa-intensive city in the world.



The Kuressaare Citadel is the best preserved mediaeval citadel in the Baltic States. The history of the construction of the stone citadel begins as early as the 13th century.