

Saaremaa GPS tracks

Sõrve



2014

Introduction

Sõrve peninsula climate is more marine and warmer than the rest of Saaremaa island. Sõrve is one of the most sunniest yet windiest area in Estonia. Nature of Sõrve is fascinating. The center of Sõrve peninsula with its lush flora is suitable for ungulates. If you step quietly, you will see dozens of deer, red deer and mooses. Wild boar also lives here. In spring morning you will hear a lot of birds and in autumn you will see migrating birds.

In the beginning of the 20th century, Sõrve was one of the most densely populated areas in Saaremaa island. Today the population is quite sparse. In 1944 there were really intense devastation of both people and buildings. You can walk along old railroad dam without seeing any people, while Sõrve lighthouse and visitor centre is one of the most popular object in Saaremaa. Sõrve peninsula is one of most richest area in bird species and interesting place in Estonia for all ornithologists.

The trail is best for hiking, but can be covered by bicycle.

Sõrve hiking trail is about 52 km long and guides you from Mäebe to Kaimri. Both of these places can be easily reached by public transport. There are a few local shops on the way and accommodation options nearby.



Location of Sõrve trail in Saaremaa

Points of interest

1. Port of Kaavi



A map from 1792 shows that the port was in use by the knights' post. The Port of Kaavi was a significant fishing port during Soviet times. On the shore is an old fish receiving point and foundations of the quay.

2. Mõntu springs

A natural feature in Torgu municipality. These are ascending springs on a coastal berm.

3. Mõntu Park



Mõntu Manor was owned from 1873-1919 by the long-time chairman of the Saaremaa knights, Oskar von Ekesparre, who spared no expense or energy to develop the manor's buildings and park to be worthy of distinction. In spite of irreparable wartime damage and decades of military use, the park still has many rare species of trees and Mõntu park is indeed the most biodiverse of all rural parks on Saaremaa, and of all protected parks on the island, it's second only to Kuressaare castle park. Mõntu Park also has the oldest and largest European silver fir. The seaside cliff within the park affords a lovely view of the Gulf of Riga and the Port of Mõntu.

4. Port of Mõntu



The harbour was established during World War I in order to supply the fortifications on Sõrve peninsula. Sõrve was a densely populated, prosperous area before the war, but was deserted before the 1944 battles, with the population transported – essentially, deported – to Germany. On 23 June 2002, a memorial stone was opened at the Port of Mõntu, which recalls the tribulations of the *sõrulased* (as the locals are called) in 1944.

5. Swimming place

6. Maanteeküla Military Base



Was a base established by the Red Army under the 1939 bases treaty. The residents were resettled and most of the homes were demolished. One of the barracks was used from 1941-1943 as a school.

There are four semi-collapsed barracks, a sauna and utility building, a number of bunkers, foxholes and other features. In the vicinity is a highway bunker surrounded by defensive fortifications.

7. 315th Coastal Defence Battery (Stebel Battery)



Built from 1940-1941. The most powerful and modern coastal defence battery of its time. The Stebel Battery consisted of a commando station, two underground artillery towers, an observation tower, boiler plant and barracks. The site is less accessible than others; 1 km from the main road.

8. Tip of Sõrve peninsula and Vesitükimaa (small islands)



The point of Sõrve that projects furthest out into the water. Four islands make up Vesitükimaa, a 2.7 km long chain south of Sõrve. Sõrve's farthest point is where the Gulf of Riga and the Baltic Sea

meet. Visitors often go out to the point and stand with one foot in each of the bodies of water.

9. Sõrve Lighthouse



The height of the tower at the tip of Sõrve sääri is 52 metres. The large, square stone tower built in 1770 survived until World War II. In 1960, the current reinforced concrete tower was built.

10. Sõrve Visitor Centre



The Sõrve Visitor Centre in a lighthouse complex introduces maritime rescue topics, shipwrecks and the lighthouses of Saaremaa. Sõrve sääri has many military sites, such as artillery positions from World War II, foxholes, and a border guard station tower and outbuildings. The border guard station is the last extant structure from the Russian border guard complex established at the tip of Sääre. The Sääre maritime rescue station was founded in 1859. In 1895, the ramp, still visible, was built. The original stone building was destroyed in 1915 and the later building was built of wood in 1944.

11. Sõrve Military Museum



The museum exhibits consist of various military and underwater objects found in the Sõrve area.

12. Sõrve Nature and History Museum



The museum boasts collections of butterflies, birds, fossils and much more. Besides nature, Sõrve's non-military history and farming implements are also covered.

13. Stebel Command Station



A two-storey underground command point is still extant. The lower level is flooded. A fire control tower that looks similar to a windmill and boiler plant.

14. Loode sea cliff



The southernmost active sea cliff on Saaremaa, 400 m long and over 1 m high at the highest point.

15. Ohessaare sea cliff



A limestone shelf about 0.9 km long and up to 4 m high. Located on the western side of Sõrve peninsula, Ohessaare cliff is still being eroded by waves today.

16. Sauemäe rock



An erratic, under nature conservation, with a diameter of 21.0 m and height of 4.0 m.

17. Jämaja cemetery



The cemetery closest to the sea in Estonia. The cemetery has two monuments to ship crews who perished at different times. The Buxhoevedens' chapel is the oldest stone structure on Saaremaa.

The Buxhoevedens were among the oldest and most distinguished noble families in Livonia.

18. Jämaja Church of the Holy Trinity



The church assumed its present form in 1864 after thorough renovations. The motif of the altar painting ("Save me, Lord") can be found in churches where the roar of the sea could be

heard from windows.

19. Bulla house



The summer home of a famous photographer who worked in tsarist-era Russia, Carl Osvald Bulla (1855-1929), built in 1910. After 1918, the photographer lived here full-time and opened a studio here. The building is now the Torgu municipality building. The building was renovated in 2006 in close to the original style.

20. Railroad embankment



Railroad building started in 1952. Railroad was unfinished and construction stopped in 1956. Today, there is no railroad lines, but visible embankment and several buildings.

21. Viieristi Recreational Area



Located in Viieristi nature reserve. The recreational site has information displays, benches, and a stair leading down the cliff.

22. Kõrgemäe sacrificial spring



Within Viieristi nature reserve is the Kõrgemäe sacrificial spring, which has been considered sacred for generations, the water being believed to have healing powers. The water is believed to

be a remedy for eye ailments, and thus the spring is also known as Eye Spring.

23. Viieristi Hiking Trail



Five roads cross on Sõrve peninsula in Saaremaa. The place gets its name from this unique junction. The length of Viieristi trail is 1 km and the trailhead is at the kilometre post 35 on the Kuressaare-Sõrve highway. The trail affords a view of the beach cliff. A species-rich spring fen can be found below the cliff.

24. Viieristi Cliff and Mire



The cliff runs continuously for 4 km from Koltsi to Mõntu. The edge is 24-27 m above sea level, and at its foot is a 10-50 m wide spring fen. A total of

22 protected species of plants and 13 entries in the Estonian Red Book have been found here. From the edge of the cliff, a stair leads down to an observation platform.

25. Vintri landing



The Vintri landing took place on the night of 12 October 1944, four days after the night-time battle of Tehumardi. It was an unsuccessful amphibious landing operation for conquering Sõrve peninsula. It was led by Ilmar Paul with the Soviet Army's 7th Estonian Rifle Division's 300th Rifle Regiment. They landed between Hindu and Vintri villages. Two hundred Estonians died and 215 were captured.

26. Lõpe-Kaimri anti-tank line



Lõpe-Kaimri anti-tank line was the third defense line of Soviet Union in Sõrve in 1941 and German defense line in 1944. There were great battles in October 1941. There is also a concrete monument at the end of the anti-tank line and it says "Lõpe-Kaimri anti-tank line, built in 1941".

27. Anseküla Church



The spire of Anseküla Church served as a lighthouse. The church was destroyed in the course of battles in World War II. All of the homes in the area also burned down. The current lighthouse was built in the early 1950s at the site of the former church.

Accommodation and others

1. Leemedi-Jaagu Holiday House
2. Kaavi lodge
3. Port of Mõntu Holiday Village and camp
4. Penumetsa hut
5. Ohessaare windmill
6. Sõrve Tourism farm
7. Torgu Holiday House
8. Sopi hut

Downloading track and viewing

Most suitable app for viewing track is Locus. Locus runs on Android platform and is downloadable in Google Play Store.

Importing track to Locus

1. Pick „Menu“  from top left corner.
2. Next pick „Import data“ 

3. Follow instructions on screen.

How to navigate on track?

- Pick „Data“.
- Pick „Tracks“.
- Choose imported track from folder.
- Click on the track.
- Press „Guide“  on the bottom.
- Pick „Navigate“.
- The track has no guidelines, Locus will generate them.
- Press „Navigate“. For that situation be in the beginning of the track with GPS turned on.