

# Saaremaa GPS tracks

## Laimjala



2014

### Introduction

It is an opportunity to enjoy typical coastal Southern Saaremaa, old settlements, juniper shrubs alternating hardwood groves. Tõnija-Üüvere area offers great interest to archaeologists today as center of bronze era and Asva is probably one of the oldest insured settlements in Saaremaa.

In spring the landscapes of Southern Saaremaa are covered with white and blue anemones. It seems that someone has dropped big stones here and there, which shows that only a few thousand years ago the sea washed the soil of large area of Southern Saaremaa. Definitely go to Laidunina lighthouse, because the trip to former islet Kahtla is interesting and proves that cattle is suitable for maintain beach pastures and keep views open. Near to the path are numerous old quarries and remnants of limestones.

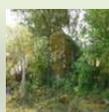
Laimjala hiking trail is about 30 km long and guides you from Kallemäe to Laimjala. Laimjala hiking trail starts from Kallemäe and finishes in Laimjala. Both of these places can be easily reached by public transport. There are a few local shops on the way and accommodation options nearby. The trail is best for hiking, but can be covered by bicycle.



Location of Laimjala trail in Saaremaa

### Points of interest

#### 1. Tõnija village rock



This natural feature with its origins in antiquity is located on the southern edge of Tõnija village, along a herder path leading to the west, across from agricultural-use buildings. The erratic boulder

is pyramidal, broader toward the bottom and features intense lichen growth. The length of the erratic is 4.3 m, width 2.7, height 1.9 m and the circumference is 11.8 m.

#### 2. Tõnija clubhouse

#### 3. Tõnija village memorial stone



Tõnija (derived from a 13<sup>th</sup> century name, Toneyegell) was a large village already back in pre-Christian times. The relatively large granite rock was installed at the edge of an open square in the middle of the village. The metal letters on the rock

were forged by a local blacksmith, Üülo Sink (born in 1930).

#### 4. Tuulingumäe stone graves



In the first century BCE or around the start of the Christian era, a *tarand* grave was established on a knoll today known as Tuulingumägi. Another burial site was built to the southwest in the period from the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE to the 5<sup>th</sup>

century. The site on the highest point of land in the area was suitable for a burial site. It was visible to locals as well as incidental wayfarers, attesting to the wealth and influence of the family buried here.

#### 5. River Maadevahe



After the 13<sup>th</sup> century division of Saaremaa (between Bishop and Order), the boundary in the southern part ran along the River Maadevahe from Pikkjärv, a body of water in Kareda bog, to Kunnati Bay. This boundary was in effect until 1564, when the King of Denmark purchased the order's holdings in the eastern part of the island and formed a single administrative unit.

#### 6. Stone graves in Kahtla village



Right along the road is an historical settlement site with numerous stone graves dating from the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE. The graves are under heritage conservation.

#### 7. „Valgevaretemägi“ stone grave



The burial site probably dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE and is under heritage conservation. The length of the site is around 40 metres. This is the southernmost grave of the group of burial sites on Kahtla's pastureland. The main part of the site is readily visible from ground level through the stones penetrating through the sod.

#### 8. Sacrificial spring and camping area

#### 9. Piret's rock

The circumference of this erratic boulder is 17.9 m; the height is 3.8 m. It is under nature conservation. From the main road, a path leads to the boulder. A signpost indicates the direction. A legend



says that Piret, the wife of mythological hero Suur Tõll, carried stones to Audla for a sauna to be built there. But her apron strings broke and a stone fell at her feet. She burst into tears, out of both pain and frustration. Her tears formed a mire and it now bears the name Naistesoo.

#### 10. Kõiguste linden



A tree under nature conservation with a circumference of 3.7 m and height of 20 m.

#### 11. Kahtla school



Operated as a school from 1914-1940. Built with donations collected by the priest Anton Laar. The school drew much of its furnishings and supplies from a previous basic school (up to the eighth grade) in the island's capital of Kuressaare. Built of red brick.

#### 12. Kahtla church



This Byzantine-style crossed-dome church was built in 1873 and consecrated in honour of St. Basil the Great. In 1912, the stylistically noteworthy 32-metre-high bell tower was added and the western wing of the church was extended.

#### 13. Kahtla cemetery and World War II fraternal grave



The grave is believed to hold the remains of 23 soldiers. The monument at the grave was opened in 1974. The sculptor was Aime Jürjo. The dolomite monument consists of three dolomite blocks placed on top of one another. The hollow in the lower part of the monument has a haut-relief depiction of a woman in mourning. Kahtla cemetery and the fraternal grave are under protection as a historical monument.

#### 14. Jaagu farm post mill



Jaagu post mill was built in 1822 and it is one of the five oldest post mills extant on Saaremaa Island. The post mill is a stylistically pure example of the genre, with a stone base characterized by high-quality workmanship, representing the oldest windmill construction traditions. In 2011, the local community pitched in to conserve Jaagu post mill, and the mill is protected as an historical monument.

#### 15. „Linnamäe field“ (ancient fortified settlement)



This settlement, built in the 9<sup>th</sup> century BCE on a small islet in what was then coastal waters, has a total area of 3,500 square metres and was surrounded by stone walls and possibly wooden fencing. The stone wall was 1.3-1.6 metres wide and a couple hundred metres long and buildings were located behind it. Today

earthworks are still visible; they date from a later period of use, in the beginning of the Viking era.

#### 16. Viltina post windmill



The post mill at Villemi farm in Viltina is a typical example of such early mills on Saaremaa and has a limestone and granite base. It was built in the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, most likely around 1770-1780. The windmill was last in operation in 1973. This is the second oldest extant post mill on Saaremaa Island and it is under conservation as an historical monument. Restoration of the mill was completed in summer 2005.

#### 17. Laidunina lighthouse



The historicist red-brick lighthouse, which has survived in its original form, was built according to a standard design in 1906 but it never actually served as a seamark. The height of the lighthouse is 24 metres, the top is 27 metres above sea level, and it is under heritage conservation as a monument.

#### 18. Blesta stones



Dedicated to Blesta, the beautiful goddess of the north. Blesta rock consists of fieldstone split by a bolt of lightning. It has been considered to be in the shape of an altar with the surrounding limestone forming a spiral.

#### Accomodation and other

1. Aavikunurga turism farm
2. Holmiranna Holiday home
3. Laevnina farm
4. Kallemäe Holiday Village
5. Sakla Holiday Home
6. Lause Tourism farm
7. Säaremäe recreational and camping area
8. Kalli bus stop
9. Tõnija bus stop
10. Kahtla bus stop

#### 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.