

AEGNA



Near Tallinn, only 14 km away from the city centre, there is a mysterious island called Aegna. A small island of only 3 km² in the northeastern part of the Gulf of Tallinn has diverse nature and an exciting cultural history. Traces of the past are mixed with those of the present and sometimes, when taking a walk on a lonely quiet forest road, time seems to stop. The island is a perfect place for both short-term trips and longer stays, and provides an enjoyable opportunity to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

We wish you pleasant experiences
and great discoveries!

AEGNA LANDSCAPE PROTECTION AREA

- 1** — **AEGNA HIKING TRAIL**
ca 6 km
- 16** — **LEMMIKU HIKING TRAIL**
ca 3 km

0 200 400 m

REGIO ©2020



NATURE

The diverse nature of Aegna is due to alternating relief and hydrological regime. The island is largely covered with a forest, with several patches of swamp in-between. Forested dunes and giant boulders illustrate the landscape and the small meadows can provide fascinating scenery. The old natural forests are enchanting and the mossy trunks are reminiscent of the passing of time. Old and fallen trees add biodiversity and conservation value. Alternating coastal types make the beaches look beautiful and the peaceful habitat attracts birds to nest. The nearly 10 km long coastline, where sandy beaches alternate with moraine beaches, offers many opportunities for birds to rest during their migration.



1630 – Coastal meadows



2180 – Forested dunes

The Aegna protected landscape belongs to the European Union's Natura 2000 network. The area's conservation objective is to protect habitat types such as coastal meadows (*1630), sandy beaches with perennial plants (1640), foredunes (2110), white dunes (mobile coastal dunes - 2120), forested dunes (2180), dry heaths (4030), old natural forests (*9010) as well as swampy deciduous forests (*9080). www.loodusveeb.ee and www.envir.ee/et/natura-2000



4030 – Dry heaths
Photo: Olev Abner

The island of Aegna is the 17th largest island in Estonia.



2120 – Mobile coastal dunes
Photos: Eliko Petser



1640 - Sandy beaches with perennial plants



9010 - Old natural forests





1220 – Shingle beaches with perennial plants
Photos: Eliko Petser

HERITAGE

The island of Aegna has an interesting history. The cultural landscape is very diverse, as Aegna has seen very different times and peoples. The small island has been visited by Swedes, Germans and Russians – for shorter and longer periods. The first written records of a permanent settlement date back to the 15th century. Based on archaeological finds, signs of human activity have been found to originate from the 12–13th century, sporadically also from earlier times. The medieval magical stone-maze of the Estonian Swedes is also a sign of the times. Many place names have changed over time. Previously, the island has been called Ulfsö, Wulfsö in Swedish and Wulf, Wolf in German, as well as the colloquial name Äigna. Later times of Aegna are marked by the military heritage, of which the buildings and structures can be explored all over the island.





Photo: Ly Kuzmin

HIKING TRAILS

A great way to learn about the diverse nature and changing landscape of Aegna island is on the hiking trails. The natural treasures of the island include natural forests, interchanging beach areas, small bog fields and erratics that add character to the landscape. Aegna is also home to Estonia's densest blockfield. Those interested in history will also notice the rich military heritage. The information stands on the hiking trails may be passed in the recommended order or separately. The island roads are equipped with signs.

GETTING TO ISLAND

Aegna is easily accessible. From May to October, a liner sails between the centre of Tallinn and the island of Aegna. The voyage takes about an hour. The fastest way to get to Aegna is by a speedboat or sea taxi. Aegna can be reached from Rohuneeme harbour in just five minutes. The peaceful and scenic island of Aegna is separated from the city centre by just a brief boat ride, after which an exciting holiday can begin!



Photo: Ly Kuzmin



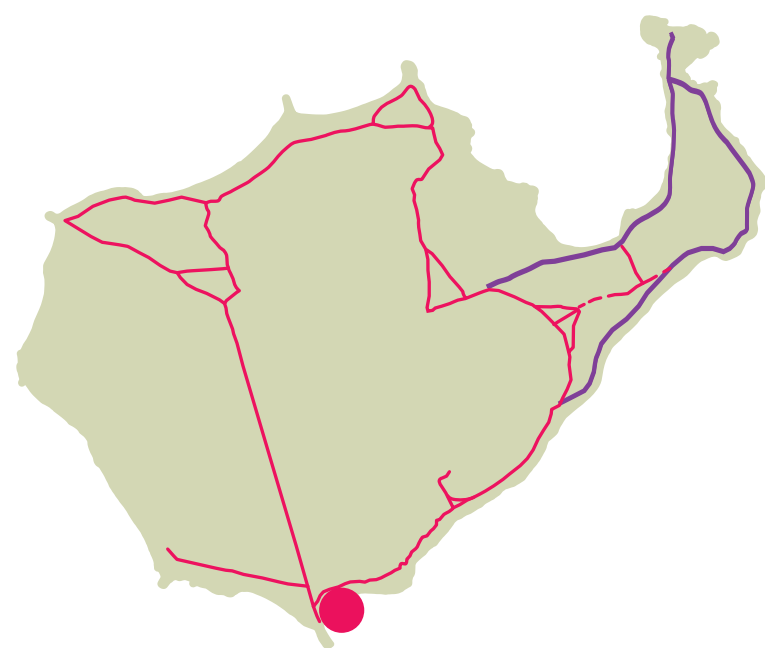
NOTES FOR VISITORS!

- I follow the restrictions and rules when visiting a landscape protection area.
- When on the island, I act in an environmentally friendly and caring manner.
- I am careful with fire, I know the woods on the island are a fire hazard.
- I only use the designated areas for camping and lighting bonfires.
- I keep tidy and take any rubbish with me back to the mainland for waste sorting. If necessary I'll use the trash can.
- I follow the environmental code of conduct (freedom to roam). www.loodusegakoos.ee
- I know that if I behave well, I am always welcome back.



White Japanese rose
(*Rosa rugosa* f. *alba*)
Photo: Eliko Petser

THE PORT OF AEGNA



The harbour located at the **Lohknase tip** is open to wind and waves. The **Aegna harbour pier light beacon** is located on the pier 7 metres above the sea. The metal pole with a balcony serves as a navigation point in the dark. West from the pier, open to abrasion on the shore of the Kalavälja bight (Kalaauk), is a gravel-pebble beach, and to the east, a till beach with a 2-3 m terrace and an abrasion bluff.

Aegna Landscape Protection Area (LPA) was established in 1991 and was added to the European Union Natura 2000 network in 2009, updated protection rules based on the Nature Conservation Act came into force in 2010. The LPA is divided into two **conservation zones** (Kurikneeme, Aegna) and three **limited management zones** (Kalavälja, Eerikneeme, Lemmikneeme).

Aegna MKA's habitat types were determined and assessed by the Tallinn University Institute of Ecology in 2005 and re-assessment was carried out in 2010. The presence of six habitat types of EU importance, three plant species and eight moss species have been determined. More than half **(53%) of the protected area is covered with Natura 2000 network habitat types**, incl. primary habitat types – coastal meadows cover 0.8 ha, western taiga 73.4 ha and Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods 12.8 ha.

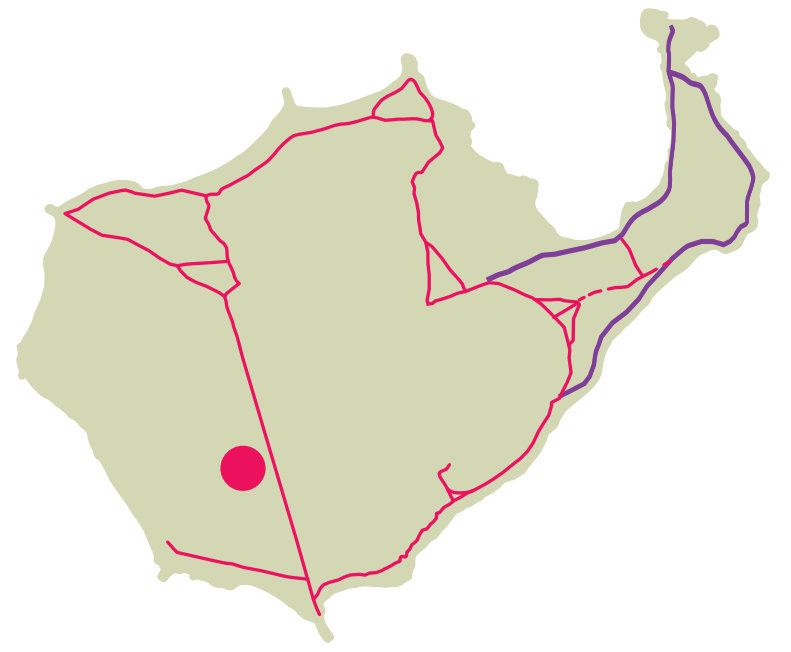


Sea pea (*Lathyrus maritimus*) (III cat.) is growing on the coast and is officially protected by law.

Photo: Eliko Petser



PALUDIFIED AND BOG WOODLANDS



Old common **haircap-blueberry** and **common haircap-spruce forests** grow on the wet sandy soils between Tagamaa and Karnapi roads, surrounding the Krõnkasoo bog equipped with ditches. The main ditch runs through the centre of the bog reaching the sea in the west. **Decaying bog woodland** of various ages grows in the bog with an up to 1.5-metre well-decayed peat layer. The tree layer is dominated by pine and black alder, with the occasional spruce and birch. The forest floor is covered with the **narrow buckler-fern** (*Dryopteris carthusiana*) and the **wood fern** (*Dryopteris expansa*). The **moss layer** is rich with **peat mosses** (*Sphagnum* spp.), **common haircap** (*Polytrichum commune*) and others. Fallen wood decomposed by several fungi is also covered in moss. Fallen trees are a natural part of the forest; trees in various stages of decay provide **plenty of habitats for mosses** as well. Storms take down the spruces with **spruce polypore** (*Heterobasidion parviporum*) damage along with the root turf, and pines usually break. As a result of the changes, the glades lose the shaded vegetation, some forest birds lose their habitat, but dead trees are the **basis of the food chain of the forest ecosystem**. Decomposing wood lying down or standing up provides an essential habitat for insects. Bugs feeding on decaying wood are in turn the main food for woodpeckers, passerines and insectivore mammals. Their existence is essential for birds of prey and small predators. This is how the fallen wood forms the **biodiversity** of the forest ecosystem; therefore, the **windthrow** caused by storms must be preserved in natural forests under protection.

Common haircap
(*Polytrichum commune*)

Photo: Olev Abner



Girgensohn's bog moss
(*Sphagnum girgensohnii*)

Photo: Eliko Petser



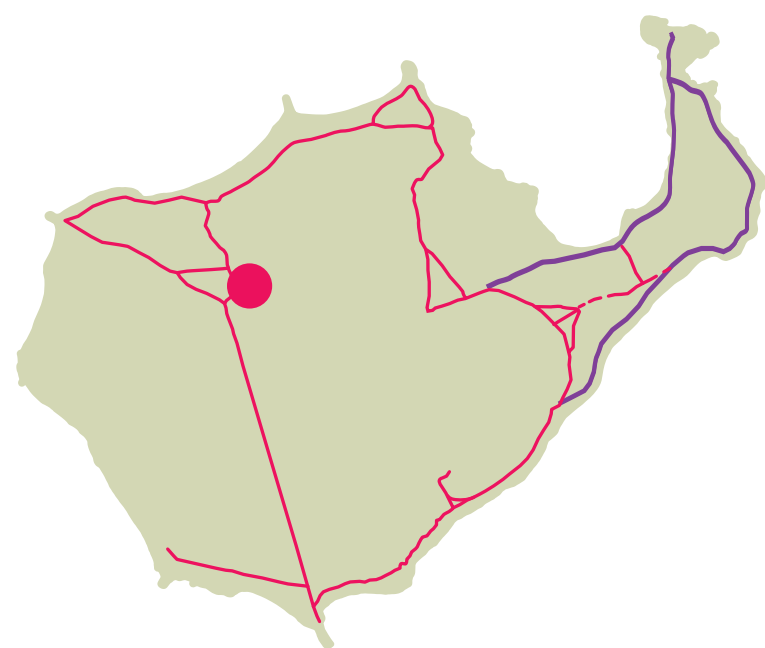
Photo: Mati Kalve



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Photo: Olev Abner

HISTORICAL CENTRE



The area has been a **central location** for the military, and later for vacationers. The rectangular building was finished in 1919. It is one of the largest buildings on the island and has been used as a common barrack and a dining hall. The building housed up to 250 men. From 1920-1930, Christmas celebrations were held and Independence Day was celebrated in the building. The building also housed a telephone exchange. Although the eastern wing of the building is no longer there, it nevertheless remains the largest building on the island. **During the Soviet occupation**, the centre building was used as a dining hall. The Aegna clubhouse was most often used as a movie theatre until the fire in 1988.

During the first years of the Republic of Estonia, the island had only a few buildings; old houses were repaired and new ones constructed. Vast construction works resulted in several buildings and facilities. A warehouse and an ice cellar were located near the centre as well as the officers' residence and a soldiers shop. An acoustic shell and sports field were located towards the east. The officers' casino and headquarters were established in the western section of the island, and since the soldiers' families also lived on the island, a library and the Aegna school also operated nearby.

The **railway** bypassing the centre was used for bringing construction materials (stone, sand, timber). Railway branches ran to other sections of the island as well. The total length of the narrow-gauge railway on the island was initially 3 km and later 5.5 km.



White-tailed bumblebee on common snowberry
(*Bombus lucorum*,
Symphoricarpos albus)

Photo: Eliko Petser

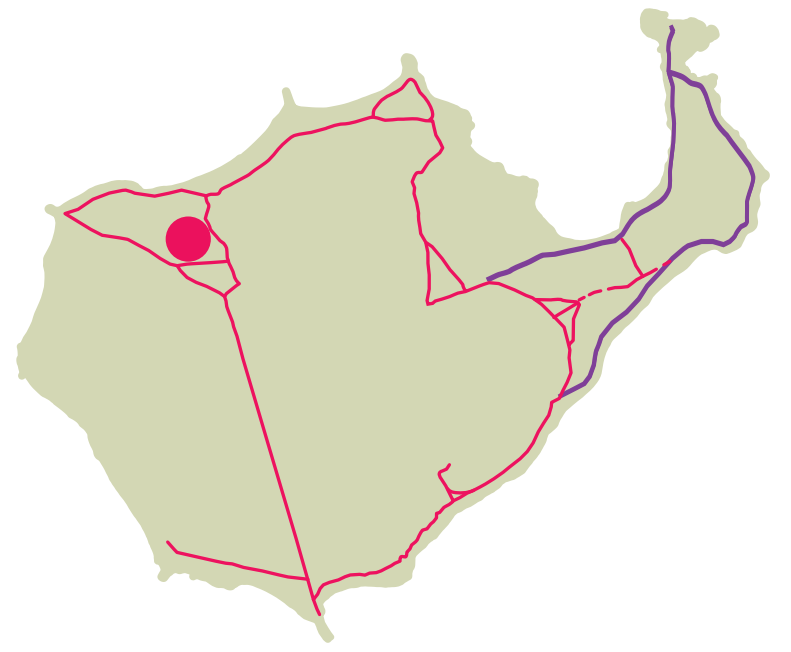


Sea pink (*Armeria maritima* subsp.
elongata) grows near the center (cat. III).

Photo: Olev Abner



MILITARY STRUCTURES



Aegna island has several **historical monuments**, most of which are related to **Peter the Great's naval fortress** (established in 1912-1918). **The fortress zone near Tallinn** was formed by the coastal batteries on Aegna island and Naissaar island, by Tallinn Bay, in Kakumäe and Suurupi, at Tallinn military harbour and at the land defence buildings near Tallinn. Aegna was secondary but not insignificant in defending the Tallinn-Porkkala line. If the Naissaar batteries were out of operation, the Aegna batteries would have been launched. Aegna's task was to protect Tallinn Bay with the batteries on the eastern coastline of Naissaar island. The battery shooting range covered Kaberneeme Bay, Rummu, Aksi and Prangli islands, Naissaar island and Suurupi.



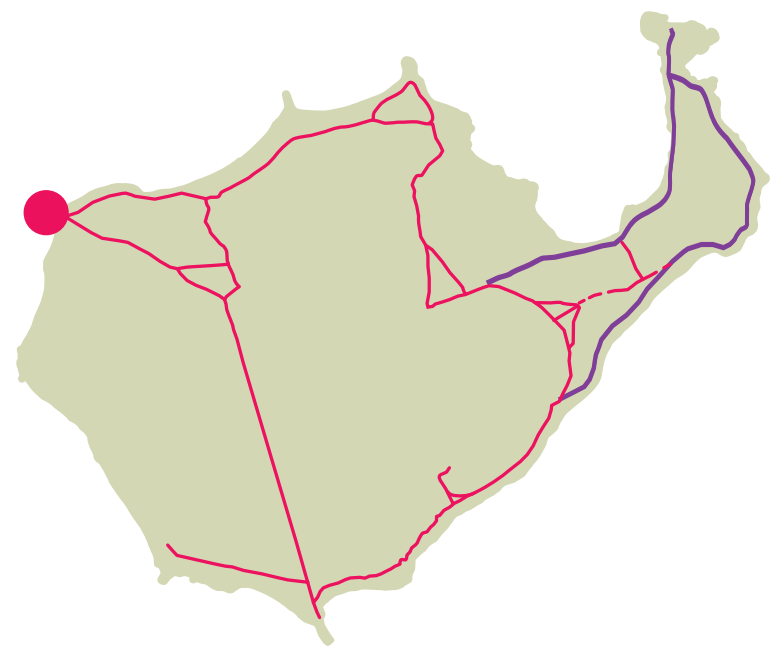
The largest building on Aegna is **coastal battery no. 15 included in Peter the Great's naval fortress (1)** (built in 1915-1917 and 1920-1936), also called the Aleksander Nevski battery, which was a 200 m powerful facility with two 12" cannons in each tower at either end. The battery rooms were located on two floors, the connecting corridor was deeper. The command point with an armoured dome was positioned between the towers, under which the diesel power plant was located. The towers turned on large ball bearings. The east tower cannons were positioned higher. The battery was blown up in February 1918 but was later restored because the cannons survived the explosion. The battery was blown up for the second time in August 1941.

Grass snake
(*Natrix natrix*)
(III cat.)

Photo: Eliko Petser



CAPE KURIKNEEM



The northwesternmost area of Aegna is open to storms. The waves coming in from the open sea mould the cape and have destroyed the base of the old searchlight, and strong winds have piled sand around the rose-hip bushes, forming low dunes. The underwater extension of the island stretches towards the north-west from Kurikneeme. **The Aegna light beacon** with yellow right angle boards on a red metal pole and a light height of 14 m above the sea, is located on the northern reef – **Vullikrunn** (Suurkari). Around 15 km north from this place, in the Gulf of Finland, is the **Tallinn shoal** (the Tallinn rock), which is dangerous to vessels. From 1858, a lightvessel was anchored there. The current reinforced concrete lighthouse with three balconies is from 1970 and the light is 29 m above sea level. A lighthouse warns vessels about a dangerous shoal, indicating its location.

Due to the abundance of reefs, navigation marks – lighthouse leading lines and sea marks – that mark the fairway have been used throughout the times to ensure safe entry into Tallinn Bay between Aegna and Naissaar islands. **Kesk-madal** and **Naissaare shoal** are shoals located east from Naissaar island, and **Litte-grund** is in the south. Sea traffic runs at a 2-4 km distance from Aegna and 7-9 km from Naissaar island. The modern dense ship traffic between the two islands often requires the help of a pilot. The average fairway depth between the islands is 50-80 m. Tallinn Bay, which starts between Aegna and Naissaar islands and is located between Viimsi and Suurupi peninsulas, is an approximately 250-km² part of the Gulf of Finland, with the greatest depth reaching 90 m.



Green shield bug
(*Palomena prasina*)

Photo: Eliko Petser



Vagrant darter
(*Sympetrum vulgatum*)

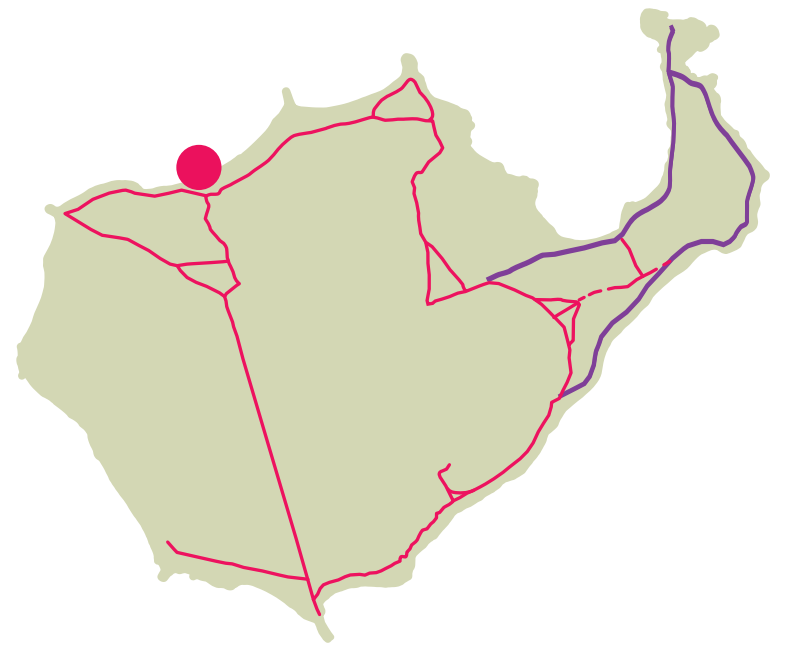
Photo: Eliko Petser



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European searocket
(*Cakile maritima*)

Photo: Ly Kuzmin



NORTH BEACH

Põhjarand with its beautiful wide sandy beach is one of two swimming beaches on Aegna with official camping grounds. As the area attracting the most visitors, the **beach** is only one part of the coastal area, reaching from the shoreline towards the internal part of the island and up to the sea water level line. The seaside part is called the **shoreface**. The beach is constantly changing due to storm waves and strong northern winds.

The **European searocket** (*Cakile maritima*) with its purplish bloom looms in large clumps, and the **prickly saltwort** (*Salsola kali*) with needle-sharp stingers at the tips of its fleshy leaves stands out in the **coastal vegetation**. The **grassleaf orache** (*Atriplex littoralis*) is also present in narrow strips on the ridges formed by the sea. The white dunes of the coastal area have **sand ryegrass** (*Leymus arenarius*) and the occasional **sea sandwort** (*Honckenya peploides*), both of which are important in terms of holding the sand in place. Areas less trodden may also have the **protected sea pea** (*Lathyrus maritimus*) (cat. III).

The beach is separated from the forest by an invasive alien species of **rugosa rose** (*Rosa rugosa*) that stops the sand from moving into the forest and keeps visitors on the walking paths, thus reducing trampling in gentle natural communities. However, if it spreads rapidly, the plant could start suppressing local native species. On the lichen pine forest floor, which is sensitive to trampling, several moss and lichen species are visible, many of which are quite rare. Lichen is extremely sensitive to trampling during dry periods.

Sea sandwort in bloom
(*Honckenya peploides*)

Photo: Eliko Petser



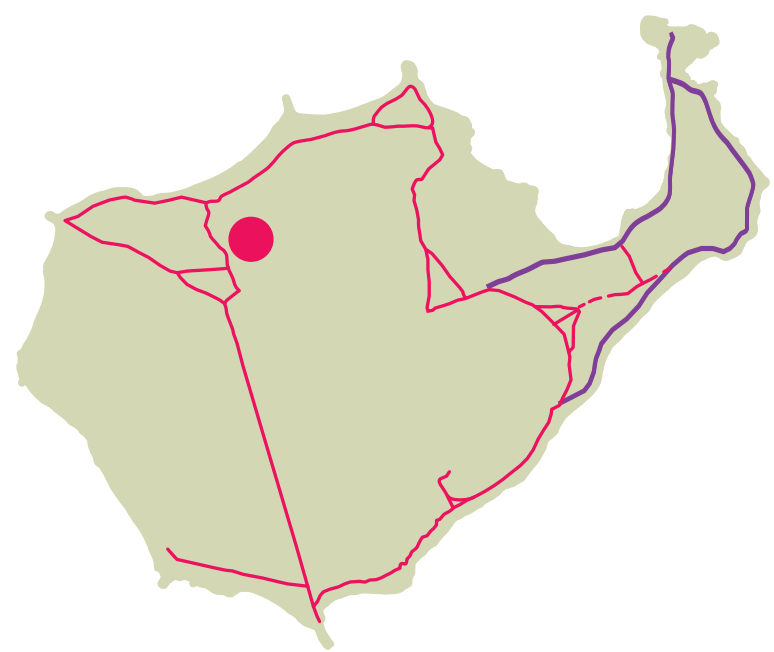
Sea sandwort
(*Honckenya peploides*)

Photo: Eliko Petser



Common nettle (*Urtica dioica*)
Common wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*)

Photo: Eliko Petser



SAMELIK BOG

Samelikusoo used to be called Sameliku puddle – it probably had at least a temporary body of water. Currently, the bog has a well decayed peat layer (>1 m) on sand. In the north, the bog is bordered by a high but narrow dune wall.

The bog has been dried and currently **a black alder swamp** grows here, with spruce in the understory. The tall, nearly 100-year-old **black alders** (*Alnus glutinosa*) grow on high mounds; the root bases are covered with moss. Signs of woodpecker activity are visible on the decaying stems; the fallen trees are covered in fungi, moss and ferns. Species drawn to moisture and nutritious locations, such as the **wood clubrush** (*Scirpus sylvaticus*), the **marsh violet** (*Viola palustris*) and the **marsh horsetail** (*Equisetum palustre*), grow in the dimples between the mounds. The spreading woodfern and the **narrow buckler-fern** (*Dryopteris expansa*, *Dryopteris carthusiana*) are present here, as well as **bunch grass** (*Calamagrostis arundinacea*), the **common nettle** (*Urtica dioica*) and others.



Marsh violet
(*Viola palustris*)

Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Narrow buckler-fern
(*Dryopteris carthusiana*)

Photo: Olev Abner



Wood fern
(*Dryopteris expansa*)

Photo: Olev Abner



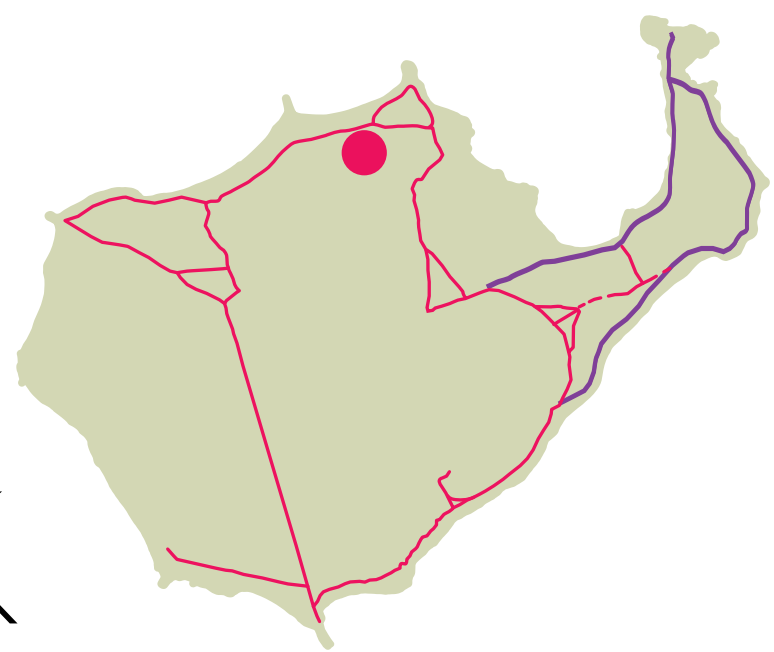
Eerikukivi or Maiekivi

Photo: Olev Abner



Forested dunes

Photo: Eliko Petser



EERIKUKIVI ROCK

The coastal pine forest on the Eerikneeme cape is home to one of the largest erratics on the island – the **Eerikukivi** or Maiekivi (circumference 23 m, height 4 m).

The boulders characterising the landscape have been carried here by continental glaciers from Scandinavia and Finland, where crystalline rocks are revealed on ground. Erratics provide information on the movement of glaciers. Nearly 80% of the erratics are formed of **rapakivi granite**. Many erratics are carriers of folk traditions and ancient tales.

There are nearly 30 **erratics** on the island, measuring more than 10 metres in circumference. The majority of the erratics are located in the eastern section of the island; many are also positioned in the coastal sea. The height of the boulders usually remains under 2 metres; the majority of a boulder is buried in the sand and only the top part is visible. The larger ones, measuring more than ten metres in diameter, are listed in the Estonian book of wildlife – the national database of geological natural monuments. There are many different species of fungi you can find in a pine forest.



Velvet bolete
(*Suillus variegatus*)

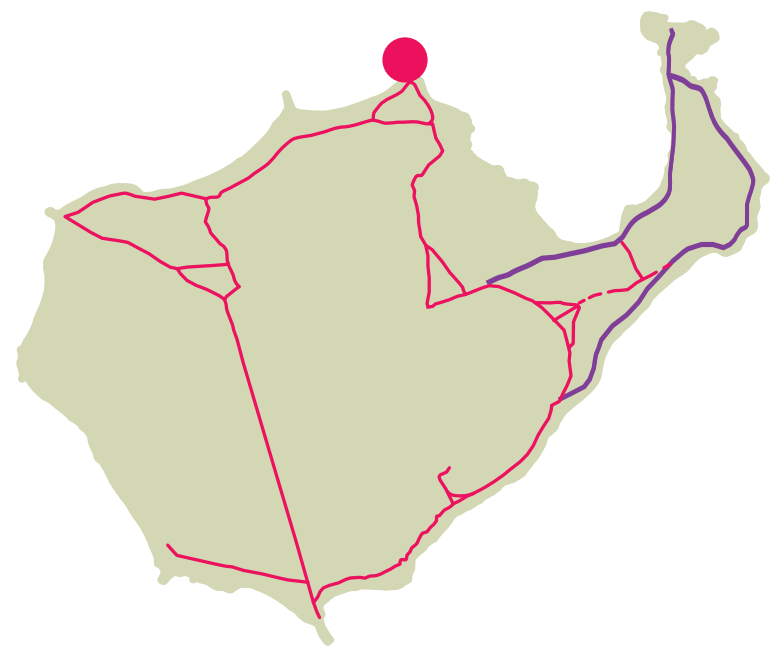
Photo: Neeme Möll



Black keelback slug
(*Limax cinereoniger*)

Photo: Eliko Petser





CAPE EERIKNEEM

Eerikneem is the northernmost cape on the island with a tiny **coastal meadow patch** in its lowest section. This is a remnant of the period when herds were kept on Aegna beaches. Coastal meadows are usually present on North-Estonian islands only in narrow strips and scarce patches. Estonian coastal meadows are usually developed on the land emerged from the sea due to the rising ground. As an even and low coastal area covered in herbaceous plants and partially flooded, a coastal meadow is characterised by salt-loving plants that are present in fronts according to the sea water level because part of the area succumbs to active abrasion from time to time.

Salt-prone coastal plants such as **black-grass** (*Juncus gerardii*), **seaside arrowgrass** (*Triglochin maritimum*), **sea plantain** (*Plantago maritima*) and **creeping bentgrass** (*Agrostis stolonifera*) grow here.

The open coastal communities with low grass also provide an excellent break stop for migratory birds.

The highest section of Eerikneem cape holds the position of the Republic of Estonia's coastal defence battery no. 2 searchlight (1924). A border guard watchtower from the Soviet era was also located here.

Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) and **Silver Y** (*Autographa gamma*)

Photo: Eliko Petser



Seaside arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritimum*)

Photo: Eliko Petser

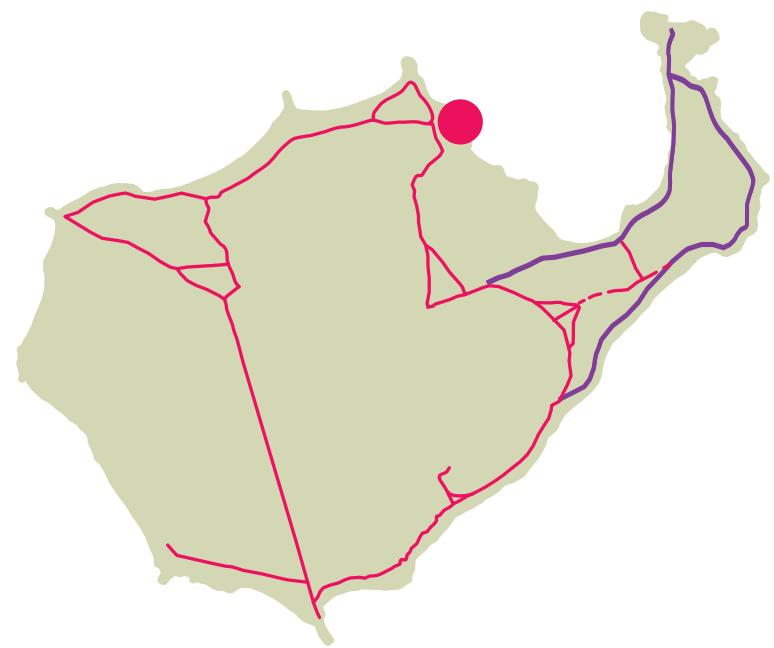


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Stone labyrinth

Photo: Ly Kuzmin

COMMAND POINT AND STONE LABYRINTH



The military facility built in the first years of the Republic of Estonia – the **Tallinn coastal defence central command point** – was a massive construction made of iron and concrete. The command point was completed on the Eerikneem cape in 1927. It was a two-floor concrete shelter surrounded by a high wall made of piled fieldstones. The roof was made of 8- and 12-inch armoured slabs with asphalt on top. A low cylindrical armoured tower with viewing slits stood in the middle of the roof. The ruins of the command centre and above-ground round iron structure are preserved; the underground passages are partially destroyed.

In the south-east from the central command point, you can see the classical **Aegna stone labyrinth** with 11 spirals, called Jerusalem, which is the oldest structure on the island and an integral part of the heritage culture. All over the world, labyrinths have been considered sacred locations and magic centres of force. The labyrinth thought to be destroyed was discovered in 1931 during the era of the Republic by the commander of the coastal defence battery no. 1 Lieutenant Commander Peeter Mey. In the same year, the labyrinth was listed as an archaeological monument under heritage protection. Over the years, the structure was buried under grass again, where the locals discovered it in 2009. The labyrinth has been restored to its original shape and has become one of the most popular attractions on the island.



Grass snake
(*Natrix natrix*)
(III cat.)

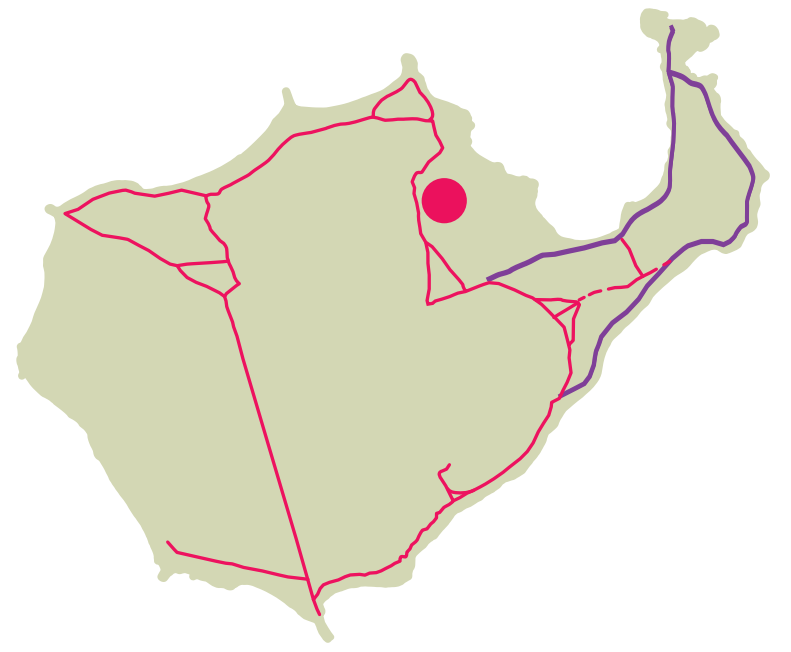
Photo: Eliko Petser



Tallinn coastal defence central command point is a construction monument under state protection



ABNEEME FORESTS



The dominant forest type among the Abneeme woodlands is **black alder swamp** growing on thin fen soil. The trees are aged 80–90 years. The understory is rather scarce. The grass layer is mosaic. On higher grounds, **common wood sorrel** (*Oxalis acetosella*) grows, the lower levels have **wood clubrush** (*Scirpus sylvaticus*) and the **marsh hawk's-beard** (*Crepis paludosa*), and in dimples, **bog arum** (*Calla palustris*) can be found. In addition to the **heart-leaved sparmoss** (*Calliergon cordifolium*), there is plenty of **river thyme-moss** (*Pseudobryum cinclidioides*), which is rather rare in Estonia. The bog is separated from the gravel-pebble beach by a narrow, slightly higher and drier area that reaches from the Tagaheinamaa ledge to Abneeme, where there is a pine forest with trees aged up to 200 years.



Bog arum
(*Calla palustris*)

Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Heart-leaved sparmoss
(*Calliergon cordifolium*)

Photo: Wikimedia Commons

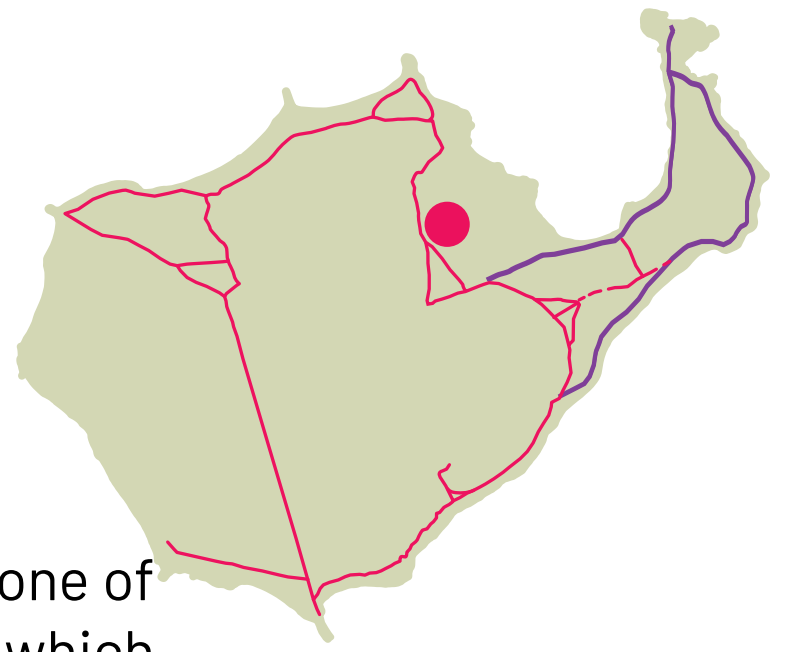


Tansy with pollinators
(*Tanacetum vulgare*)

Photo: Eliko Petser

HEATHLAND

Next to **wooded meadows**, the heath meadow is one of the most endangered meadow types in Estonia, which has developed on sandy soil after agricultural activities are stopped. First, the habitat of the **sea pink** (*Armeria maritima* subsp. *elongata*) (cat. III) can be noticed here. Soon the colourful **maiden pink** (*Dianthus deltoides*) will also catch the eye as well as the **tansy** (*Tanacetum vulgare*), the **narrowleaf plantain** (*Plantago lanceolata*), the **grand stonecrop** (*Sedum telephium* subsp. *maximum*) and the **goldmoss stonecrop** (*Sedum acre*). In spring, you might see the **spring draba** (*Erophila verna*) and the **little mouse-ear** (*Cerastium semidecandrum*). In summer, you can smell the prominent scents of the **common soapwort** (*Saponaria officinalis*) and the **yellow bedstraw** (*Galium verum*). The **red sandspurry** (*Spergularia rubra*) shows itself rarely. From the family Ranunculaceae, the **meadow buttercup** (*Ranunculus acris*) and the **multi-flowered buttercup** (*Ranunculus polyanthemos*) are present. **Ferns** are represented by the **field horse-tail** (*Equisetum arvense*). From **gramineae**, the meadow is decorated with plants twirling and rustling in the wind, such as the **wood small-reed** (*Calamagrostis epigejos*), the **common bent** (*Agrostis capillaris*), **meadow oat-grass** (*Helictotrichon pratense*) and **downy alpine oatgrass** (*Helictotrichon pubescens*), on the path the **sheep's fescue** (*Festuca ovina*) can be seen, colour is added by the **red fescue** (*Festuca rubra*) and a familiar scent is emitted from the **sweet vernal grass** (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*). The **cock's-foot** (*Dactylis glomerata*) and the **couch grass** (*Elymus repens*) emerge rarely, reminiscent of the old days when agriculture was practiced.



European peacock
(*Inachis io*)



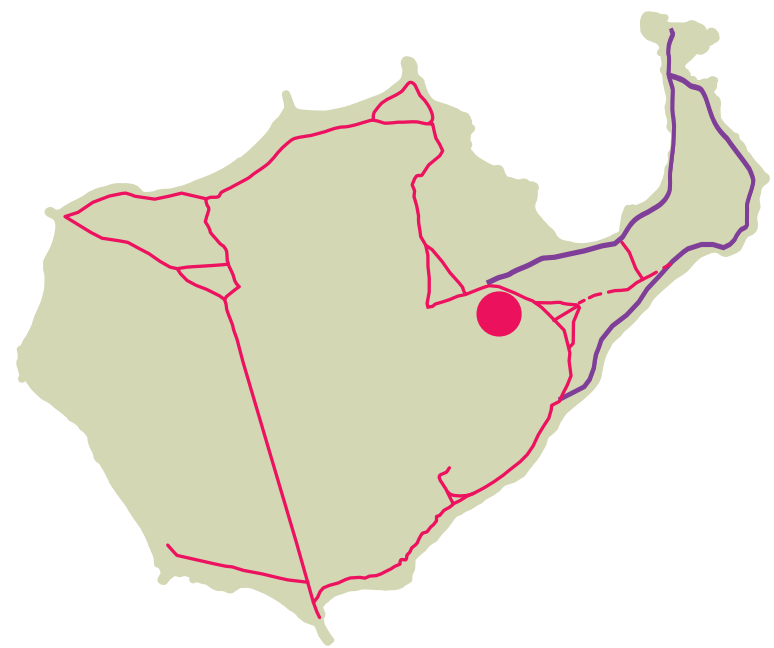
Heathland



Germander speedwell
(*Veronica chamaedrys*)

Photos: Eliko Petser





NATURE HOUSE

In 2006, the city of Tallinn started rebuilding the old forest warden's place in a nature house in order to provide training courses to children and adults. **Aegna Nature House** as an important **education centre** was finished in 2008, and training activities began in spring 2009. The education centre provides study programmes that support nature and environmental education curricula, an opportunity to carry out trainings and seminars as well as accommodation for the students. The main activities are aimed at introducing the island's nature, incl. different forest types, as well as the Baltic sea and its protection. In 2010, the Aegna landscape protection area protection rules were adopted, which record the island's condition and values and the aim of which is to protect the island's forest and coastline communities as well as the rare species and their habitats. Aegna's living nature is well studied; the forests, most of which are pine forests, fewer with dominating spruce or black alder, cover nearly 85% of the island. In terms of land use, 97% of the protected area is managed by the State Forest Management as a state forest.



European garden spider
(*Araneus Diadematus*)

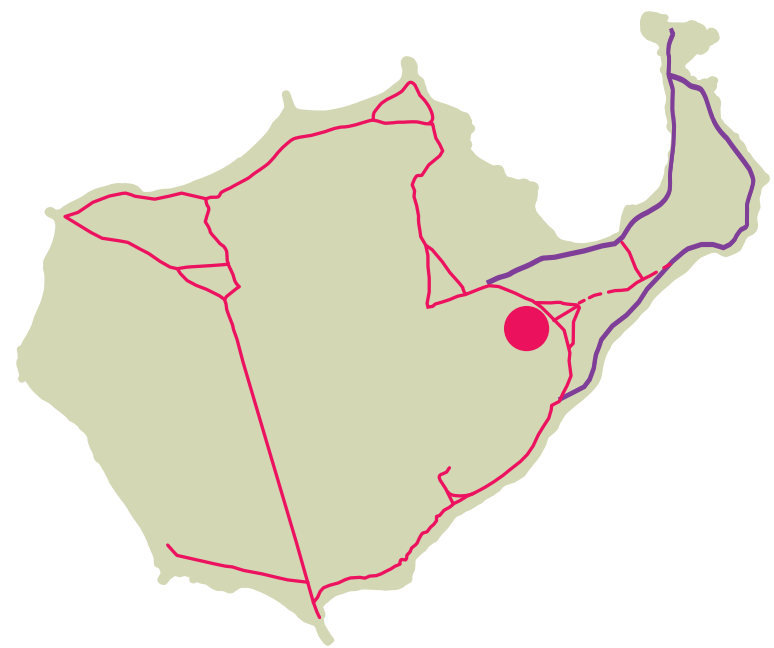
Photo: Eliko Petser



Viviparous lizard
(*Zootoca vivipara*)

Photo: Eliko Petser





CEMETERY

Aegna **cemetery** is located next to the blockfield. The first written information on Aegna cemetery is from 1736. In 1798, the Elisa chapel was built in the eastern section of Aegna. In 1882, the new wooden chapel next to the cemetery was blessed. People came together at the Aegna chapel on Sundays and holidays and for funerals. Several cast iron crosses from the mid-19th century are still present in the cemetery. The last burials took place at the beginning of the 20th century. The historical burial site with valuable grave markers used to be surrounded by a stone wall, later it was fenced using the discarded and demolished railway tracks, marking the location of the original stone wall.

Near the cemetery and the blockfield, an ever-green miniature bush with crawling and branching wooden stems can be seen – the **twinflower** (*Linnaea borealis*), whose stems can grow to a couple of metres, forms extensive patches of varying density across the mossy ground. You may also get a glimpse of the ever-green and eye-catching **club-moss** (*Lycopodium annotinum*), which belongs among fern plants, is low-growing and has crawling stems.

Club-moss
(*Lycopodium annotinum*)

Photo: Olev Abner



Twinflower
(*Linnaea borealis*)

Photo: Olev Abner



Aegna cemetery is a historical monument protected by the state



Photo: Tarmo Horn



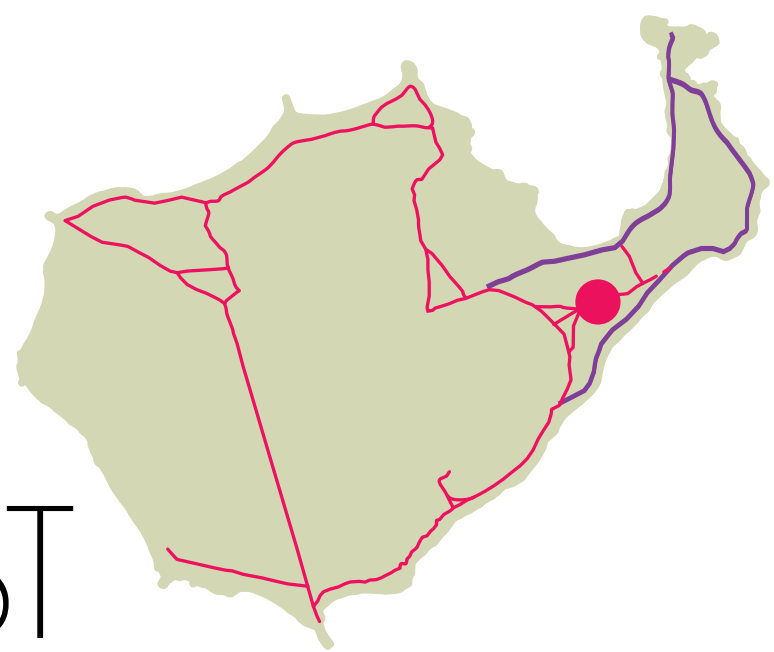


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Tulekivi

Photo: Merilin Laager

BOULDER FIELD AND DUNE PINE FOREST



Aegna erratics, i.e. the Lemmikneeme **blockfield**, includes 23 large and ca ten smaller erratics, forming the densest blockfield in Estonia. The blockfield is scarce in the west and north, but very dense in the southeast. The circumference of the largest erratics exceeds 20 metres, with a height of 3 metres.

The largest erratic is **Tulekivi** or **Sihi Suurkivi** (C 35.1 m; h 4.0 m) and it has been under protection since 1939. Tulekivi (fire stone) is said to have been used as a place of signal fire for fishermen, enabling them to find the island in the dark. Sihi Suurkivi (large ride stone) refers to the longest woodland ride that started from the west near Järvesoo.

But one of the most significant is the **cult** or **dimple stone** with round dimples. It has been under protection since 1973. The rock with dimples is related to agricultural and fertility rituals, ancestral cult and memory preservation as well as the importance of locations. Stones with dimples can be found almost everywhere in the world from different periods (appx. 2500 BC to 450 AD). In Estonia, appx. 1800 dimpled stones are known, the majority of which are located in northern Estonia. Dimpled stones are especially characteristic of ancient Scandinavian culture.

The lichen pine forest sensitive to trampling may have pines that are nearly 150 years old. On the ground, **grey cladonia** (*Cladina* spp.) and greenish **racomitrium moss** (*Racomitrium canescens*) have formed a patched carpet. The **common polypody** (*Polypodium vulgare*), the **white-tipped moss** (*Hedwigia ciliata*) et al. and many rare and protected lichen species grow in the cracks of the erratics.

Grey cladonia
(*Cladina* spp.)

Photo: Eliko Petser



Racomitrium moss
(*Racomitrium canescens*)

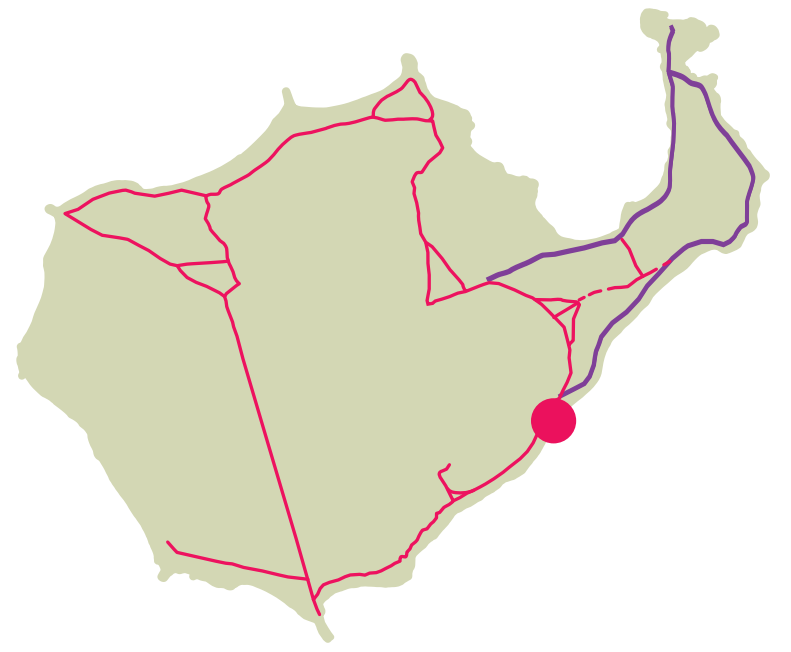
Photo: Eliko Petser



Lohukivi is a archaeological monument protected by the state



MUSTAMÄE BEACH



The former name of Mustamäe beach (Mustsadama, Mussadama, Mustame) incorporates the harbour marker, referring to the **harbour area**. The name (black hill) is probably also derived from the fact that it is naturally the highest spot on the island and possibly because of the black spruces visible far from the elevation or 'hill' near the beach. It has also been noted, however, that there is no hill near Mustamäe beach and the area where the waves roll onto the beach near the old cemetery has been called Mustamäe beach. This could be explained by the fact that the start and end of the beach area have not been marked on different maps, the beach names are set more or less in the middle on different maps and earlier measurements of heights are rather questionable.

Since in the Middle Ages the fairway ran from west to east between Aegna and Kräsuli islands, the anchoring of ships has been described near the Suurepaadiauk lough, and the blockfield area has also been mentioned, which indicates the closeness of Mustsadama. The location in the Suur salm strait has also been called a **storm shelter** (storm harbour).

Common toadflax
(*Linaria vulgaris*)

Photo: Eliko Petser



Tufted vetch
(*Vicia cracca*)

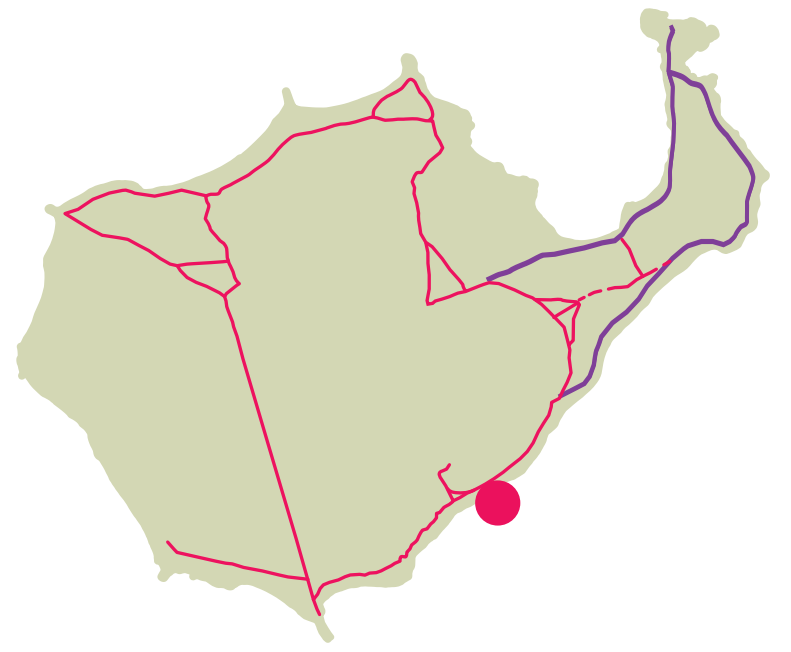
Photo: Eliko Petser



Creeping meadow foxtail
(*Alopecurus arundinaceus*)

Photo: Eliko Petser

HALLIKIVI BEACH



After Karnapi beach, Hallikivi (Hallkivi) beach begins. This till beach with a medium height terrace is eroded. The beach is named after the **Hallikivi erratic** located in the water, which is more or less visible depending on the tide.

Located near Hallikivi beach, the Raeõue or Vanaõue farm with a colourful history once housed the town security, who had defended the people of Aegna from **pirates**. Until the end of the 16th century, the island was tightly linked with pirates who plundered and robbed cargo ships and coastal areas. The pirates of the time ambushed the ships near the island on water or near the beach in small boats that allowed rapid assaults on ships passing the narrow **Suur salm strait**.

The abundance of beach types is due to the geological structure and developmental history of the area. The majority of the coastal area experiences active natural processes. Coastal erosion is dominant, shaped by strong storm waves that are formed in the coastal sea. The storm impact is enhanced by the high sea level, the lack of ice in the coastal waters in winter and the removal of the boulders that used to protect the beach.



Sea sandwort
(*Honckenya peploides*)

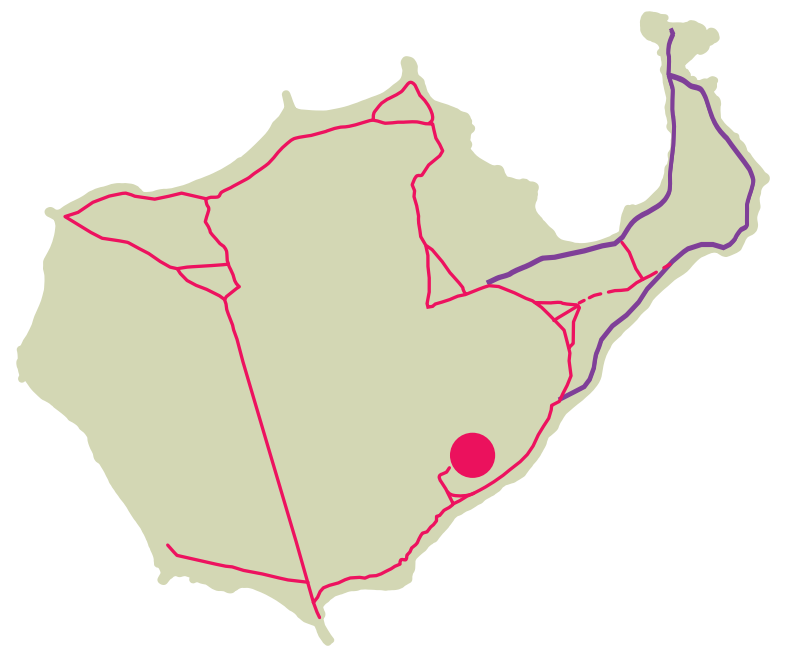
Photo: Eliko Petser



Silverweed
(*Potentilla anserina*)

Photo: Eliko Petser





HEATH FOREST

Heath forests are common on the higher and drier sandy areas of Aegna. The dominant soils are podzols. The dominant **trees** are 100-150-year-old pines. Spruces are aged 50-80, a few are 120-130 years. Spruces indicate vegetative reproduction. The spruces of Aegna with hairy and glandulous twigs represent the regular spruce transforming into the Siberian spruce – the **Finnish spruce** (*Picea abies* var. *fennica*). The **shrub layer** is dominated by the **common lingonberry** (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) which also gives the Estonian name to the forest type. The **European blueberry** (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) is common, **crowberry** (*Empetrum nigrum*) and **common heather** (*Calluna vulgaris*) bushes are also present here and there. The **grass layer** includes the **common cow-wheat** (*Melampyrum pratense*) and the **small cow-wheat** (*Melampyrum sylvaticum*). The dense and fluffy moss layer is formed by the **red-stemmed feather moss** (*Pleurozium schreberi*) and the **glittering woodmoss** (*Hylocomium splendens*). Multiple blueish-green patches of **leucobryum moss** (*Leucobryum glaucum*), which is listed as a vulnerable species on the Estonian red list (cat. III), are visible on and near the paths and as a bioindicator of a valuable habitat.



Beard lichen
(*Usnea* spp)

Photo: Eliko Petser

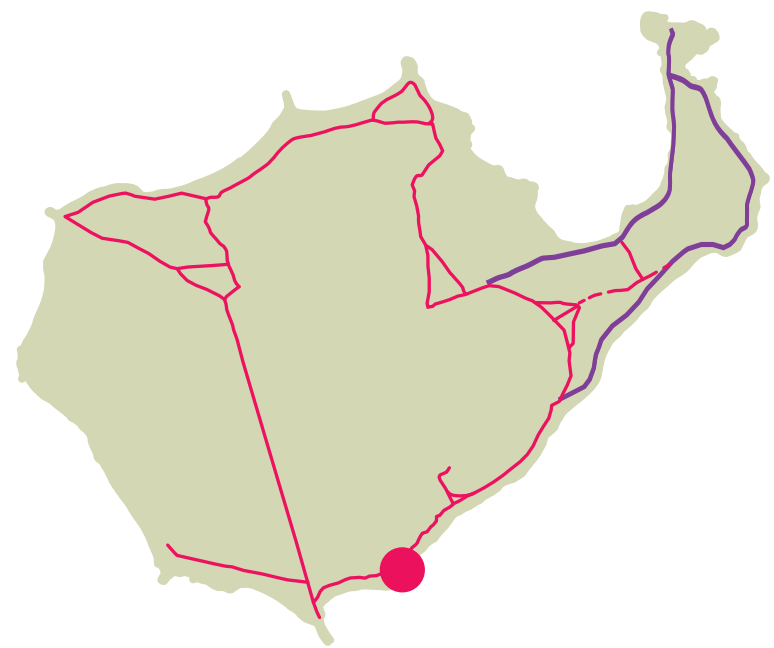


Leucobryum moss
(*Leucobryum glaucum*)

Photo: Eliko Petser



CAPE KARNAPI



Karnapi beach, which is a terraced till beach, has a clear abrasion bluff. The beach abrasion has been encouraged with the removal of the boulders from the beach and the sea floor near the beach for construction, which weakened the natural protection capacity of the beach.

The beach is said to have had a primitive defence facility in the Middle Ages. Later, the beach hosted the midsummer celebrations of locals and had a primitive harbour pier. At the beginning of the 20th century, there were many boats on the island and the boat owners were obligated to go to sea only via the fishermen or **harbour pier**. The fishermen pier was located at Karnapi beach near the Mäeotsa farm, where several fish huts were also located.

A short railroad led to the former harbour pier of Peter the Great's naval fortress at Karnapi beach. To allow larger ships to arrive at the fortress, a larger **harbour** was built on **Lohnase cape**. The majority of the boulders needed for building the new harbour and naval fortress defence facilities were brought from the Viimsi peninsula through Rohuneeme harbour using barges. From this period, the Rohuneeme harbour cobblestone path is still present, which was used for carrying the rocks.

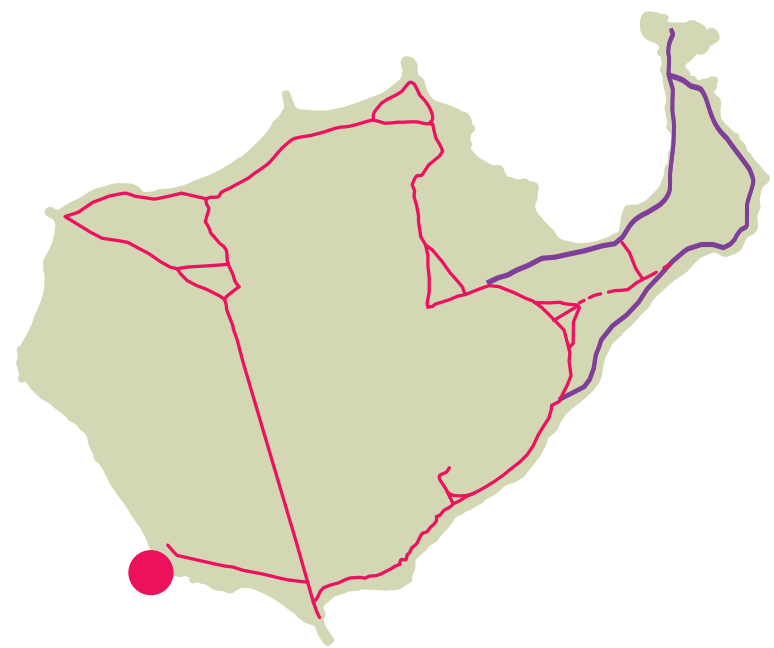


Dor beetle
(*Anoplotrupes stercorosus*)

Photo: Eliko Petser



CAPE TALNEEM



The position of the **searchlight of Peter the Great's naval fortress coastal battery no. 14** (built in 1915) illuminated the shooting range of the cannons. The power station and wooden searchlight shed were nearby to ensure the functioning of the searchlight. The searchlight was pushed on a bogie to the platform at the tip of the stone mole.

Common reed rhizomes
after storm
(*Phragmites australis*)

Photo: Olev Abner

The gravel and pebble beach located north from Talneem, with its moderate height terrace and abrasion bluff, is eroded by **storm waves**. Exposed rhizomes of the **common reed** (*Phragmites australis*) after a storm.



The abrasion bluff reduces considerably during the rare powerful storms – in the north, the terrace has reduced by 2-3 metres within ten years. The most recent major damage to Aegna beaches occurred during the storms of 1999, 2001, 2005 and 2010. Waves caused by ships also reach the coastal area of the island, but these are weaker than storm waves.

The characteristics of the beach structure and its development depend on the nature of the sediment and rock revealed here, the previous landforms and the openness to winds and storm waves. The majority of the island's beaches are gravel-pebble beaches, less prominent are sandy beaches (incl. turfed), till beaches and aleurite beaches.

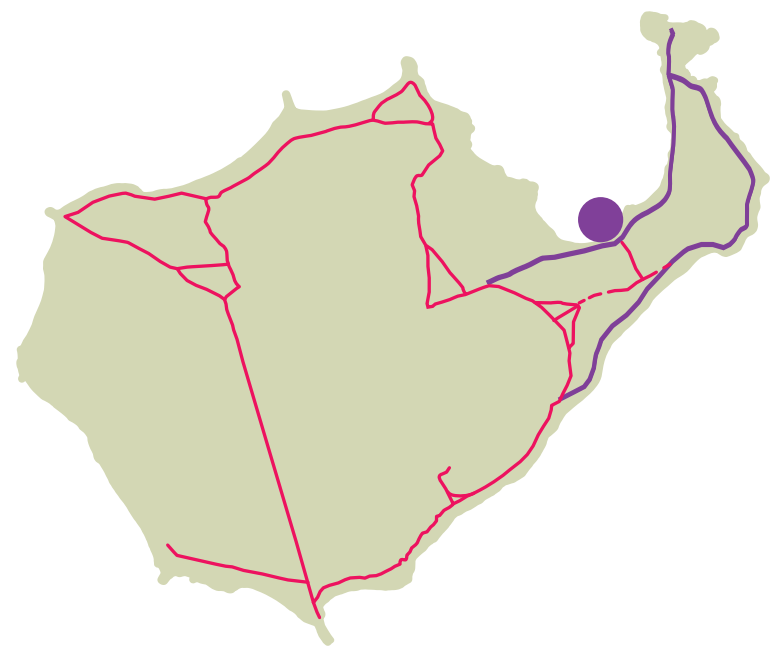


The searchlight of Peter the Great's naval fortress coastal battery no. 14 is a construction monument under state protection

Photo: Eliko Petser



THE NECK OF CAPE LEMMIK



The **Lemmiku cape neck** joins the main island with the long and narrow cape, Lemmiku cape, located in the northeast of the island. The cape emerged as a separate island and joined Aegna only recently. Between the two is the shallow **Külalaht Bay**, the north of which is dominated by active beaches, while the rear side of the bay offers turfed beach segments and reed beds. The cape neck surface includes sand from which a young **lichen pine forest** grows, the majority of which is cultured woodland established in the 1960s.



Meadow batches with **yellow bedstraw** (*Galium verum*) and **Breckland thyme** (*Thymus serpyllum*) growing on sand outcrops are located between the new beach and the pine forest, and the turfed ground is covered in **tufted hairgrass** (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). Several bird species can be seen on the low and reedy Külalahe Bay beaches.

Yellow bedstraw
(*Galium verum*)

Photo: Wikimedia Commons

The road between **Lemmiku neck** and **Lemmiku cape** runs along the Külalahe Bay coast on the western shore of Leemi-kneeme on the edge of the 2-3-metre terrace. The view across Külalahe Bay offers views of the Abneeme in the west from the cape, Tagaheinamaa ledge and Eerikneem cape. A young pine forest can be seen to the east from the path.



Breckland thyme
(*Thymus serpyllum*)

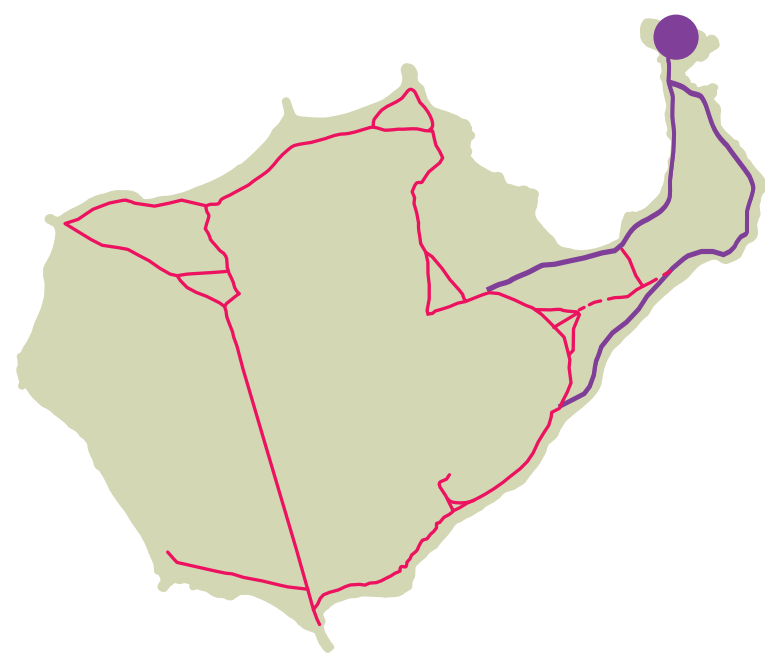
Photo: Olev Abner



Wavy hair-grass
(*Deschampsia flexuosa*)

Photo: Ly Kuzmin

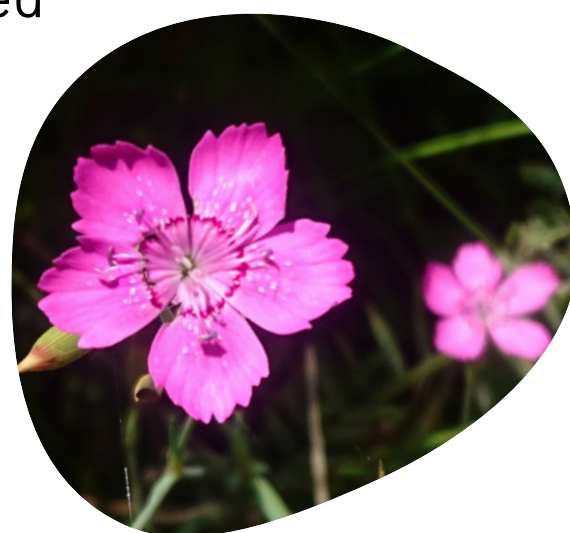
CAPE LEMMIK



Lemmiku cape offers views of the Eerikneem and Abneeme capes and the Tagaheinamaa ledge located in the west across the Külalahe Bay. Behind is the young pine forest. Walking forwards, the **Scots pine** (*Pinus sylvestris*) is slowly replaced by the **common juniper** (*Juniperus communis*).

The **dry heath meadow** located in the north of Lemmiku cape meets the nature directive's requirements for **dry heaths** (4030). The meadow is dominated by **wavy hair-grass** (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), the pebble walls with no turf cover grow several lichen species. Strong sea winds and coarse-grained ground stop the area from becoming a forest.

The cape has dominantly gravel-pebble beaches; there is a reedy coastal segment in the northern section. On the cape there was a large erratic named **Katlakivi** that was blasted in the beginning of the 19th century. Pardilõugas (duck bight) in the south-eastern section of Lemmiku cape is, as the name suggests, a calm resting and nesting spot for birds.



Maiden pink
(*Dianthus deltoides*)

Photo: Eliko Petser



Grand stonecrop
(*Sedum telephium* subsp. *maximum*)

Photo: Eliko Petser

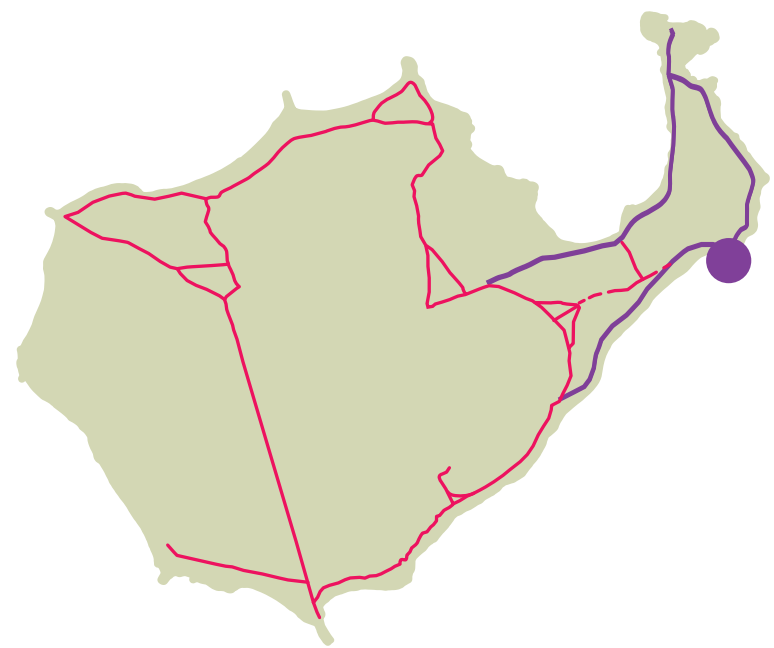


Mouse-ear hawkweed
(*Pilosella officinarum*)

Photo: Eliko Petser



CAPE TAGALOOME



Tagaloome cape is a rocky eroded cape. An old seamark is located here – the lower beacon of Lemmiku leading line installed at the end of the 19th century. A leading line is the notional line between two beacon lights. The aim of the leading line was to guide the ships past the Kuradi-muna and Nygrund shoals. In 1927, the north-eastern section of the island, Lemmiku, held the marks and the light beacon.

Near the cape, the storm waves have thrown rocks under the pine forest near the beach. From this place, the small islands between Aegna island and Rohuneeme peninsula – the square Kräsuli island with permanent inhabitants and a uniform shoreline (17 ha) and the shuttle-shaped Kumbli island (2 ha) – are visible. In the Middle Ages, fish were caught here for the city governors. It is possible that eel was caught from the Angerjakari, south-west from Kräsuli.

The Suur salm strait between Aegna and Kräsuli has been a **fairway of historical importance**. Fairways from Tallinn Bay to the north (to Porvoo and Vyborg) and east (Narva, Ladoga and Novgorod) went through the Suur salm strait. In the Middle Ages, the Suur salm was ca 5 metres deep and it was passable for all vessels of the time. In the middle of the 18th century, the depth of the strait was measured as 2 fathoms (3.6 m). The strait was deepened in 1905. Seamarks were located on either side of the fairway.



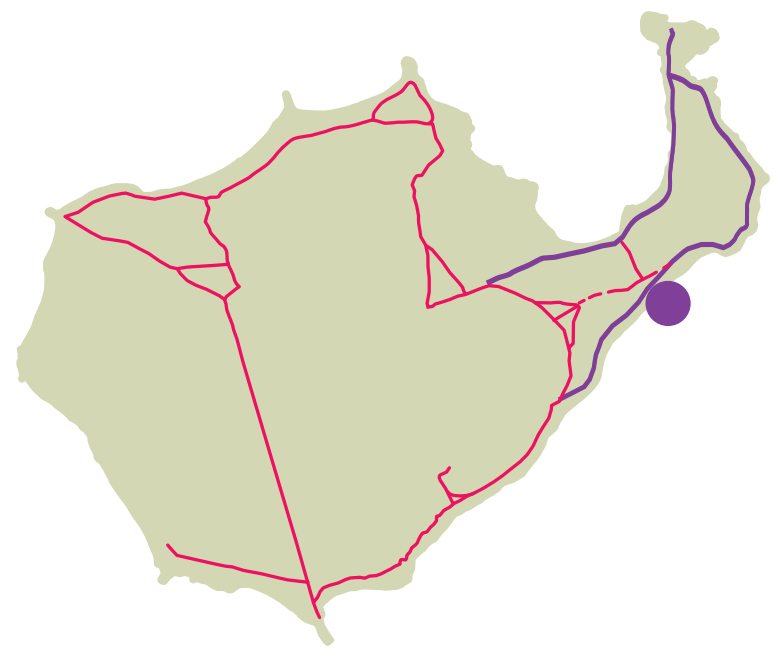
**Common
dog-violet**
(*Viola riviniana*)

Photo: Eliko Petser



A view of Tallinn from Lõunarand, with the
European searocket in the foreground
(*Cakile maritima*)

Photo: Eliko Petser



SOUTH BEACH

The **sandy beach** on the southern coast of **Cape Lemmik** is the smaller of the two official swimming beaches on the island, and it accommodates camping grounds. Sihi-otsaalune Bay is in the north and the Suurepaadiauk lough is in the south. These are separated by the long spit stretching towards the southeast which hinders sea traffic between Aegna and Kräsuli islands. The spit that does not join the islands is formed in a different shape every year according to the wind direction and the nature of the storm waves.

In the Middle Ages and later, the **Suurepaadiauk lough** was home to a storm harbour and an anchoring spot, and small boats were made on the coast. In the past, the **Suur salm strait** was an ambushing spot for pirates. Pirating increased on the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Finland in the second half of the 14th century when the Hanseatic League started developing active trade with the Livonian cities and Russia. The civil and international wars and the hostility that lasted until the middle of the 16th century were also favourable for the pirates. The cargo ships were mostly robbed by Swedish and Danish pirates. Tallinn implemented several measures against pirates, using security and war ships, among others.

The beach is bordered by a pine forest, in front of which grows invasive alien species **rugosa rose** (*Rosa rugosa*), which fixes the sand and adds colour to the island both in summer while in bloom and in autumn with its fruit. The beach also has a lot of **blue lettuce** (*Lactuca tatarica*), which was brought in by ballast during the age of sailing ships.



Blue lettuce
(*Lactuca tatarica*)

Photo: Eliko Petser

THE AEGNA GAME

Find the described object near the corresponding information post. Don't bring the item with you, just look for answers on the information post. Keep in mind that each plant is alive and wants to grow big just like you.



Find the following objects near the hiking trail information points:

- 1** The map of Aegna Island and get to know it
- 2** The fallen tree and guess the species of the tree
- 3** The big building and guess what the building was used for in the past
- 4** Defensive beach battery no. 15
- 6** A plant reminiscent of a small fir and find its name on the information post (don't break the plant!)
- 10** The magical installation and find out how to go through the trail
- 12** A plant that's unfamiliar to you and inspect it up close (don't break the plant!)
- 14** Lichen vulnerable to trampling and inspect it up close (don't pick it up!)
- 15** The only tilted big stone that isn't habited by species and climb on it
- 21** Hallikivi boulder
- 22** The protected lichen plant, tread carefully and inspect it up close, but don't pick it up
- 23** The dor beetle on the road and put it on the side of the road to save its life

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Website: www.sangha.ee



AEGNA PORT CAFÉ

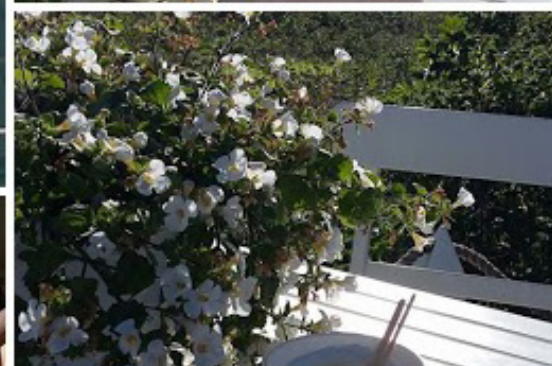
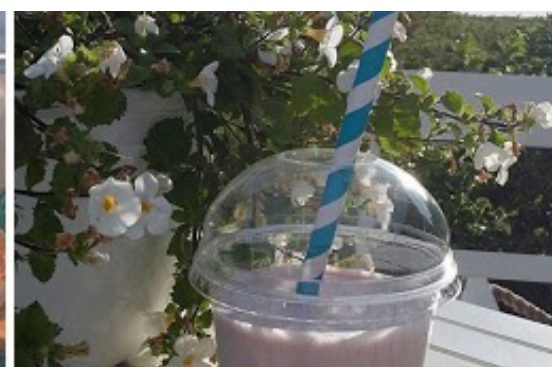
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SEE YOU SOON!



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Year 2021



Tallinn



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