



Welcome to the Estonian Open Air Museum!

The museum is a place to meet oneself and one's ancestors. In the old buildings the old things tell us about the people who once used to live there.



EESTI VABAÕHUMUUSEUM

Vabaõhumuuseumi tee

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WESTERN ESTONIA

♦ SASSI-JAANI FARM

The early 19th century serf's household serves as an introduction to the exposition of the museum – exhibition of rural architecture, chronicle book of the farm, display of household utensils in the storages, kitchen garden with old crops and vegetables.

♦ KÖSTRIASEME FARM

The 19th century tenant farm reflects changes in the peasants' way of life – division of the farmyard into the clean yard and the cattle yard, apple-trees and farm flowers, clean chambers with bigger windows. One's eyes can be feasted upon the bright red-patterned bedcovers and textiles typical of Western Estonia.

♦ NUKI COTTER'S DWELLING

The dwelling of the landless peasant or cotter includes the scanty living rooms of the family, the householdry rooms and the small cattle-shed for the few farm animals.

♦ CHAPEL OF SUTLEPA

The old wooden chapel (1699) is an operating church where sermons are held on bigger church holidays. Candles are lit in the village chapel also on the occasion of wedding and christening ceremonies.

♦ NÄTSI WINDMILL

The mighty two-storey post mill from Western Estonia used to grind flour for several villages. It was turned into the wind with the help of the tail pole on the back side of the mill and a winch.



NORTHERN ESTONIA

♦ PULGA FARM

The tenant farm from the second half of the 19th century shows the skilful use of limestone in building. The outhouses around the spacious yard reflect the influence of our neighbours in the north, the Finns.

♦ KUTSARI-HÄRJAPEA FARM

The living house built apart from the barn (1909) from Virumaa county speaks of the striving of the Estonian peasants for better living conditions. The interior of the 1930s introduces the way of life in the Estonian Republic.

♦ AARTE FISHERMAN'S YARD

The peculiar house type from the Kuusalu headlands reflects close contacts of the coastal dwellers with the Finns. The small farmyard and the few outhouses testify that, above all, the sea acted as the fisherman's field.

♦ NET SHEDS

The net sheds from the northern coast for storing fishing equipment.

♦ KAHALA WATERMILL

The small watermill where water flows under the water wheel could grind grain only during the spring and autumn floods. The principle of work of the mill is introduced by a model.

♦ KUIE VILLAGE SCHOOL

The Kuie village school, built in the 1870s, holds the big classroom and the schoolmaster's living quarters. Now knowledge is shared there by the Kuie Educational Centre.

♦ KOLU INN

The roadside tavern of the 1840s offers refreshment and drinks to the modern traveller, too. The stable is suitable for celebrating weddings and other festivities.

♦ ORGMETSA FIRE STATION

The village fire station for storing fire-fighting equipment dates from the early 20th century – the heyday of the societies of voluntary fire-fighters.

♦ VILLAGE SHOP

The Lau village shop operated in the 1930s as a small shop with variable choice of goods, where food products and fancy goods, clothes and fabrics were sold (not completed).



THE ISLANDS

♦ JAAGU FARM

The smallholder's household of the Muhu Island from the turn of the 19–20th centuries.

♦ ROOSTA FARM

The late 18th century serf's household from the western part of the Saaremaa Island holds the oldest buildings and represents the oldest conditions in the museum. On the edge of the farmyard stands the 18th century prayerhouse of the Herrnhut Brethern (Moravian movement).

♦ KOLGA FARM

The barn-dwelling of the late 19th century tenant farm from the Hiiumaa Island has been extended several times. The furnishings and the textiles reflect the Swedish and Finnish influences.

♦ JÜRI-JAAGU FARM

The variety of buildings on the early 20th century full farm of the Muhu Island gives evidence of the art of the local stonemasons. The rooms and storage chambers are filled with original colourful and cheerful textiles – the unmistakably recognisable creation of the women from the island.

♦ NET SHEDS

The net sheds of different boats' crews.

♦ HUT OF SEASONAL FISHERMEN

The late 19th century hut of seasonal fishermen was built at the expense of the local estate for the islanders from Hiiumaa who used to go fishing by the coast of Pärnu at the spring spawning time of the Baltic herring.

♦ POST WINDMILLS OF THE ISLANDS

The small one-family post mills were gathered on knolls open to the winds. The windmill hills often served as meeting places for the village youth.

♦ ÜLENDI WINDMILL

The late 19th century windmill from the Hiiumaa Island has a characteristic log curb with dove-tail-notched corners built around its foot.

♦ VILLAGE GREEN

The spacious green in the middle of the village is typical of the islands and is suitable for having bigger gatherings and holding fairs.

♦ VILLAGE SWING

The seaside green is the traditional place for having Midsummer Eve bonfires in the museum.



SOUTHERN ESTONIA

♦ RUSI FARM

This late 19th century freehold from the south-eastern part of Estonia is the place where the Estonian sculptor Juhan Raudsepp (1896–1984) spent his childhood. The chambers are furnished according to the memories of the artist, biographical exhibition in the grain-drying room.

♦ RITSU FARM

The South Estonian smallholder's dwelling from the 1860s.

♦ KALMA WINDMILL

The wooden three-storey Dutch windmill with a rotatable cap (1897).

♦ KERASE FARM

By now, only the simple hay shed with log walls and shingle roof has been transferred to the museum of the big farm of the Viljandimaa county.

♦ SEPA FARM

The modest dwelling of the South-Estonian smith, the tiny sauna and the spacious smithy were once built with the help of the local village-folk. A good smith was treated with respect.

We are open daily
(except 01.01, 24.06, 24.,25.12 and 31.12)
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Guided tours, including audio guides
Museum's guidebook and other publications
in the ticket office



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