



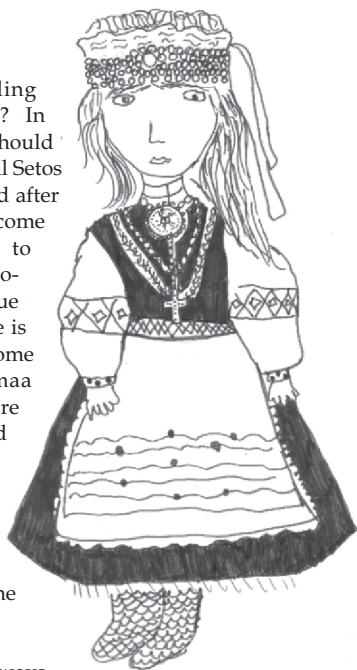
*Setomaa,
delightful sight!*

Instead of introduction

What lies behind this heading SETOMAA MI' SILMÄRÕÖM? In order to understand that you should come and see for yourself. We all Setos believe that you will be delighted after visiting us. And if you have become our regular guest, you start to understand how delightful Setomaa can be! Setomaa is a unique place in Estonia and Seto culture is rare in the entire WORLD, so come and see for yourself! Setomaa presents remarkable gems of nature calm lake with alluring shores and pine trees with sandy paths.

Where is Setomaa? Part of it is situated on the borderland of the European Union and part of it belongs to Russia, visiting of the latter requires visa!

Remember that all visitors are always welcome to Setomaa. Our people are kind and helpful. A friendly person in need is never left without assistance, so do not hesitate to ask for help if necessary!



Travelling in Setomaa

When travelling in Setomaa, make sure you come by the Tourist Information Centres in Värskä and Obinitsa. You will get detailed information about local places of interest, services, etc., and you can also buy maps, brochures and booklets that might come handy. In Seto region you can travel on foot, by bicycle, or by car. But remember that not all Seto roads are straight tarmac roads. Village and forest paths require an adventurous spirit but reveal the true charm of Setomaa. It is particularly exciting and memorable to stay in Setomaa during various Seto traditional holidays or festivities: kirmask, Seto Kingdom days, Seto leelo (folk singing) days, the Easter, and church holidays.

If travelling by car, you should keep an eye on your fuel supply to avoid getting stuck on the road at the most unsuitable moment. You should also keep the basic medicaments and first aid kit close to hand, because pharmacies are rather rare in the countryside.

Võõpsu-Värskä

Võõpsu

There are two settlements called Võõpsu at the mouth of River Võhandu. Võõpsu lies on a borderline between Estonia and Setomaa, naturally separated by rivers of Võhandu and Mäda jõgi. Võõpsu small town is situated on the left shore, i.e. on the Estonian side, Võõpsu village, which belongs to Setomaa, is situated on the right shore. Folklore provides two legends about the origin of place name Võõpsu. According to the one legend Võõpsu was called Voosu by Estonians (derivation from the former name of River Võhandu). But the Russians started to pronounce the name Voobsuu, which later on became Wõõbsu. That name was used until 1924, when Võõpsu was given its present name form. According to the second version of the story centuries ago Vepsian fishermen and hunters came to live there and therefore the place was called Veps.

Võõpsu village was first mentioned in chronicles in 1428. Historically, Võõpsu village was subject to Pihkva (Pskov) Province and at the times of the First Republic of Estonia, it belonged to Petseri (Pechory) region. Village was part of Poloda area. The village displays characteristic tsässon (chapel) traditional place of worship for the village community which was probably established at the end of the 13th century or in the beginning of the 14th century in the honour of



Saint Nicholas. In the vicinity of the tsässon there is an archaeological monument, an underground cemetery, which is currently protected under heritage conservation.

The very last passenger ships landed at Võõpsu in the 1950s.

Village holiday of Võõpsu is Migulapäev (Day of St. Nicholas), which is celebrated twice a year on May 22 and December 19.

Võõpsu is the birthplace of Daniel Palgi, literary critic and author of several academic works, and actress Olli Ungvere. Estonian conductor Richard Ritsing was born in Sülgoja village near Võõpsu (1.5 km). Our Olympic sportsman Indrek Turi also comes from Võõpsu.

Beresje village

The name of the village is most likely derived from a Russian word "berjoza" a birch. This village represents a typical fishermen village, where all the houses are built in rows parallel to the shore of the Lake Pihkva. The village was first mentioned in 1582 and it belonged to Poloda area. Main activity was fishing (mainly sparling) and fish processing. Today, besides fishing and fish drying locals are known for growing vegetables. They also dry roach and bream.

Beresje is the only village in Setomaa, which is still inhabited by Old Believers or "starovers". At the end of the village there is a village cemetery, which also includes the burial site of the Old Believers. Beresje mere is a relic lake of Lake Peipsi.

Lüübnitsa village

The village got its name from Tsar Peter I who had come here in the summer to rest and enjoy the beauty of those shores ("ljubovatsa" to enjoy, to like in Russian). The picturesque view from Lüübnitsa Hill probably brought the village its name.

The village was first mentioned in the registry-book of the make residents of the town and Pihkva County in 1582. The villagers are still engaged in fishing and growing vegetables. In spring you may spot hanged strings with drying fish attached to houses. Locals grow lots of onion and in autumn you can see huge piles of golden onions in gardens or in yards. A traditional fish and onion fair takes place here in August.

Near the village there is Lüübnitsa mere, which is surrounded by plain and hard grassland. The area of the mere is 10.8 hectares and its depth reaches 3.3 metres. An observation tower has been erected to the shores of Lake Pihkva nearby. A beautiful view unfolds from the 12.5 metres high observation tower from here you can admire Lake Pihkva and two Russian islands Kolpino and Mteð on the lake, nearby villages Beresje, Lüübnitsa and Audjasaare and mire reserve with an area of 1550 ha. This is bog land with unique vegetation, which is particularly colourful in spring and autumn.

Laossina village

There are two villages on the Western shore of Lake Pihkva: Laossina or Vanaküla (old village) and 200-300 m Westwards Liiva-Laossina or Uue- or Väike-Laossina (new village). The latter is also called Lüütja by the locals. There are many archaeological monuments under state protection in Laossina village and in its vicinity. The first written information about Laossina village, then called *Klavšina*, date back to 1780. According to popular division Laossina village belongs to Poloda area. In 1880 a tsässon was built to the cemetery and consecrated in the name of Virgin Mary. Laossina village holiday is "Väike-Maarjapäev" (Minor St. Mary's Day) (Sept 21).

Agriculture has been main field of activity for a long time. Due to nearby lake the locals are also engaged in fishing and fish drying.

Mikitamäe village

Presence and age of the cemetery give reason to believe that a human settlement existed at the site of current village ca 700 years ago. In

Moscow chronicles dating back to the 16th century Mikitamäe was first mentioned as Nikitina Gora in 1500.

Peasants had no family names during the rule of Russian Tsar. The first family names were bought from the authorities in Pihkva before the onset of the First World War and the first family name in Mikitamäe was Reisengof, bought in 1913.

Mikitamäe village with the population of ca 300 people is currently the centre of Mikitamäe rural municipality.

In the vicinity of Mikitamäe, at Usinitsa, there is a typical Seto chapel tsässon made from round beams, renovated in 1998.

In Suure-Usinitsa village near Mikitamäe is the birthplace of folklorist Veera Pino. Journalist Nasta Pino also spent her youth here.

Tonja küla

Tonja village is an ethnically interesting Seto fishing village where all the houses are on the lake side of the road. Tonja village represents a one-street-village. The village lies between a beautiful calm lake and Võporsova-Tonja forest park soothing in the wind.

In the middle of the village stood the home of Anne Vabarna, Seto "Mother of Songs". In former Võporsova village just one kilometre away there is a monument erected in memory of Anne Vabarna, denoting the birthplace of the Mother of Songs. Although the songster was illiterate, she had great memory to compensate it. She remembered more than 100 000 verses of folk songs.

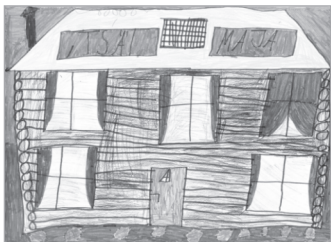
Värskä

Värskä was first mentioned in 1585. First inhabitants came to the shores of Värskä bay more than 7000 years ago. Värskä settlement has served as the landing place of trading boats from Pihkva for a long time. Hence the name Värskä: first of all it was called Verhoustje (upper mouth of river) or Verhoustinski pogost, then followed Verska and Värskä. Petseri Monastery built a small wooden church in the name of Great Martyr St. George in 1759. That church was demolished in 1907 after completion of a new stone church, which had been started in 1904. The building of the second church was financed by local people and cost 17 610 roubles. In 1926 "St. George's Bell" for Värskä church was cast in the factory "Teguri" in Tartu. The bell cannot be used today because of a fissure on the bell. Until 1920 Värskä congregation belonged to the Pihkva Diocese, after that it became a part of Estonian Apostolic Orthodox Church. According to popular divi-sion Värskä belongs to Tsätski area. Today the congregation has ca 2000 members. The church is surrounded by Värskä cemetery. Here rest the greatest bearer of Seto spiritual culture, Lauluimä (Mother of Songs) Anne Vabarna, and poet Paul Haavaoks, also known as „Bard of Peipsi “. Ca half a kilometre north of the church there is another cemetery, where the first priests of Värskä Congregation are buried. That cemetery features interesting tombstones with carved crosses, which are unique in Estonia.

The area of the congregation covers seven tsässons.

By today Värskä has developed into a small town with 600 people, where the contrast between old and new, past and present is greater than anywhere else in Estonia.

Village holidays in Värskä include St. George's days in winter (December 9) and in spring (May 6). Since 1977 Värskä has kept alive the tradition of Leelo Days (Seto Song Festival). Leelo days are currently held in every three years.



Värška-Podmotsa

Väike-Rõsna village

There are 10 burial mounds in the village. In the course of archaeological excavations from 1976 to 1977 the site revealed bronze items, pottery fragments, remains of a ritual wooden building. Mounds date back to the second half of the first millennium. Village has a tsässon.

In a pine forest on the shore of Värška bay there is Värška Health Resort (Värška Sanatoorium) which is famous for its therapeutic mud and excellent treatment. Here also delicious and invigorating mineral water comes to the surface. A Water Centre operating on the basis of local mineral water will be built in the village.

Podmotsa village

Cultural traditions both way of life and oral traditions related to village cemetery become most evident in Podmotsa village, 6 km northwards from Värška. Small cemetery at the border of current village has preserved the dimensions characteristic to ancient village cemetery. There is a small tsässon at Podmotsa cemetery. Tsässon is consecrated in the name of the Holy Trinity.

Over the doorway you can see year numbers 1760, 1893, 1932, 1995 and 2003. The first number denotes the time of building the tsässon, other numbers indicate repairs.

West from tsässon and 1.3 metres from the ground stands a huge stone cross (total height of the cross is 2.1 metres). There is a legend about the cross, according to which the cross had come to its current location by itself. Crosses date back to the 16th century.

Great cross of Podmotsa is believed to have healing powers.

Near the village cemetery was an ancient grove, where people came to pray and bring offerings in the past.

Värška Saatse

Õrsava village

The furthest part of Värška bay is Lake Õrsava. There was a military training camp on the shores of Lake Õrsava during the days of the First Estonian Republic and before the World War. Värška Camp - North Camp of Petseri.

After the entry of Soviet forces into Estonia in 1941 the North Camp was liquidated. In 1941 majority of officers were arrested in Petseri and sent to the prison camps of the USSR. Today former flag-square has been turned into singing grounds and former sports ground accommodates Seto Farm Museum. Seto Farm Museum is a living and operating museum which introduces the farm architecture, old tools and rich handicraft from the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. The first building in the museum complex a smoke sauna was completed in 1994.

Verhulitsa village

Tiny village is situated at the East shore of steep Mustoja valley. Here you can see dwellings and farmyards that are typical of this locality. People say that there were two gates at both ends of the Livonia-Pihkva road section passing through Verhulitsa. Gates were closed daily at sunset. In a couple of kilometres the road that runs along a steep slope leads to Pikamäe sands. "Laudsi pettai" (huge pine tree with diameter 3.35 m and height 12 m) in Verhulitsa provided a place for several religious rituals in the past.

Värška Vesi Ltd, the producer of the most popular mineral water „Värška originaal“ and other beverages is also located in Verhulitsa.

Lutepää village

Ca 7 km from Värška, between Lutepää and Saatse villages there is

Lutepää Sand an area of drift sand with the area of couple of square kilometres sometimes also called the Sahara of Setomaa. It is also called Pikamäe or Pikk Sand after Pikkmäe Hill (height 54 m). Most likely this drift sand area was generated after a huge forest fire in the 16th century. Both the sands and the area surrounding them have attracted the attention of several natural scientists. You can also reach the Sahara of Setomaa by taking the left path from Õrsava village. This footpath does not take long. The deepest experience can be gained on a hot summer day. However, most of the sands are on the Russian territory. Therefore beware of the national border!

Saatse village

It appears from the church registers that in distant past Saatse was originally called Korki or Gorki. Current name of the village comes from Russian place name "Zatðerenje", which was customized to Satseriks (Satserinna) and finally Saatse. According to popular division Saatse belongs to Satserinna area. The oldest building in the village is the Saint Paraskeva's (which means Friday in Greek, in Russian "Pjatnitsa") Russian Orthodox Church, built in 1801 and the cemetery surrounding it. Church exhibits polygonal linden carving from the 18th century. Wooden icon depicting the story of Paraskeva Päätnitsa, evangel, and salver for communion bread are placed under state protection as artistic monuments. There is also a 15th century stone cross in metal frame in the church. The cross was believed to have miraculous powers.

Kirmask (village party) is held in Saatse village on the second Sunday after the Easter and on Päätnitsapäev.

In an old schoolhouse at the end of the village there is Saatse Seto Museum, established in 1974. Currently it functions as a branch of Seto Farm Museum. The Museum collections contain more than 20 000 items of antiquities. The most abundant collections include agricultural tools and machinery, fishing equipment and ceramics. It also exhibits sculptures by Rinaldo Veeber, etc.

River Piusa flows nearby.

Ulitina village

Former Ulitina manor was the childhood and youth home of Elise Rosalie Aun. Several critics find her verse culture, particularly rhyming technique rather remarkable. Her contemporary critics believed her to be the successor of famous poet Lydia Koidula.



Värska - Piusa

Treski village

Treski village was first mentioned in 1652 (Trostka). The name of the village probably comes from Russian word "trostnik" (bulrush), because the villagers used bulrush instead of straws on their roofs. Treski is the home of famous Mother of Songs Akuliina Pihla (1908-1984). Her daughter Aino Närap is also a famous songster.

Village has a tsässon. The villagers celebrate traditional St. John's Day with bonfire and party. Ca 1.5 km in the South-East direction from Treski there is former refuge Pohmalamägi.

Matsuri village

This village was once called Võmorkova, sometimes also Piiroja. In a triangular area between railway and road there is a square burial mound, where people fallen in the battle of Võmorski (1709) are buried.

Mother of Songs Miku Ode (Jevdokia Kanniste) was born in Matsuri. Estonian folklorist Jakob Hurt wrote down over 20 000 verses heard from her.

Koidula

Koidula-Kunitšino Gora international border and customs point is located on the border of the European Union and the Russian Federation. If you already have your Russian visa, you may continue your journey to Russia from there.

Kolodavitsa

A map from 1867 includes Kolossova village on the border of Setomaa, classified as part of Võru district. The village has been a border region for a long time and its history depicts colourful legends and facts concerning wars, smuggling and other border incidents.

Its current territory represents a low-density village, with the 10 km distance from one end to the other. On the other hand, the village is squeezed between two railway branches.

Piusa village

Near Piusa railway station, glass sand mining has created massive manmade sandstone caves. Underground mining started in 1922 and by the late 1970s they switched to open mining. Five of the caves are still intact; high Sammaskoobas (Column Cave) is open for tourists. In the Piusa quarry, red and white sands from Devon era are exposed particularly impressively.

Piusa sandstone caves represent a unique sight – impressive endless labyrinths. These caves are also known for the largest bat colonies in entire Eastern Europe. Further information about the history and geology of Piusa quarry is available at the information booth opened for visitors.

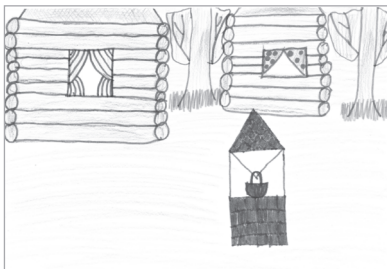
Near Piusa railway station, next to Petseri - Võru road you can see approximately 150 burial mounds from the second half of the first millennium.

Piusa welcomes visitors in a ceramics studio and handicrafts workshop.

Piusa-Tuderna-Lindora-Härma Müürimäed-Vastseliina

Tuderna village

Corresponding to archaeological findings Tuderna village was established at late Bronze Age, i.e. more than 2000 years ago. Near the village there are different sizes of sandy mounds where people have been buried ca 1000 years ago. On the right shore of Tuderna stream you can see Silmaallikas (Eye Spring). Folk tales say that its water has healing powers. At the times of the First Republic of Estonia the highest railway bridge in Estonia was located in Tuderna. In the 16th - 17th century Räpina -Vastseliina mail road passed through Tuderna, therefore several taverns were built. Tuderna tavern (Krug Tuderna) was first mentioned in 1789.



Lindora

Perhaps the best time to visit Lindora village is on October 28, when well-known Lindora Fair takes place. The tradition of Lindora Fair started a century ago. Other names for the fair include Sheep Fair or Border Fair of Setomaa and Võru County. Lindora burial mounds from the second half of the first millennium are situated half a kilometre to the east of Tabina village, near Lindora-Tabina road.

Härma Müürid (Härma Walls)

If you take a left turn before reaching Lindora village, you will enter into Piusa Primeval Valley. Here is the departure point of 15 km long hiking trail. Those who come by car can drive to Jõeveere village and then walk one kilometre. Devonian sandstone outcrops: Upper and Lower Härma Walls at River Piusa make that walk worthwhile. Upper Härma Wall is the highest Devonian sandstone outcrop in Estonia (43m). Near the Lower Härma Wall there is a place for camping or making fire.

Vastseliina fortress and Piiri tavern

At the place where Meeksi stream joins River Piusa there are ruins of a bishop's fortress. In 1342 the Bishop of Tartu and the Master of the Order of Livonia built a joint fortress at the borderline of former Pihkva Principality due to frequent border and trade conflicts. Most interesting elements of the ruins are colourful rotundas, made of bricks and limestone. Tsar Peter I and his cortege is said to have stopped at the Vastseliina fortress in 1697. After damages caused in the course of the Great Northern War the fortress was no longer restored.

Since the Middle Ages the shortest trade route from Pihkva to Riga has passed through Vastseliina. Piiri tavern was built next to road near the fortress; the tavern is mentioned in the road atlas of 1695. Nowadays Piiri tavern is the departure and arrival point of the hiking trail of Piusa Primeval Valley.

Obinitsa-Tobrova-Meremäe-Meeksi-Luhamaa

Obinitsa

Obinitsa is the second largest Seto centre in Estonia after Meremäe located in Võru County. First written data about Obinitsa date back to 1652, but archaeological studies have verified that Obinitsa and its surroundings had been inhabited at least since the 8th century. On the slope of Tuhkvitsa valley in Sakalovapalo you can see the oldest archaeological relics in Obinitsa and its vicinity, round and extended sandy burial mounds originating from the second half of the first millennium. In Obinitsa cemetery there are *palnik*-graves surrounded by granite stones. These graves date back to 14th century and are rare in West-Setomaa.

In 1904 a school-church, unique in the Baltics, was built in Obinitsa. Education was provided downstairs and church operated upstairs. The current Obinitsa Church of Transfiguration of Our Lord was completed in 1952 under father Vilemon's leadership. The most important church holiday in Obinitsa is the Passover Day (August 19). The tradition of annual Seto Kingdom Day, which takes place on the first Saturday in August in different villages, has also started from Obinitsa. Beautiful and clear Lake Obinitsa is good for swimming, fishing and boat trips. On the opposite side of the lake there is a sandstone denudation and a cave. The latter is associated with many legends and is called Juudatarõ (Jew's cave, Wolf's cave). On the high shore of Lake Obinitsa, near the school-church



towers beautiful sculpture of Seto Lauuluimä, „Mother of Songs“, surrounded by memorial stones for other famous Seto songsters. Obinitsa School has sometimes been called even the University of Setomaa, because its students became teachers. Belfry and altar in former school-church and tsässon (wooden chapel) in the middle of village was vandalised by the Soviet authorities in 1950.

In the village cemetery the grave of famous mother of songs Hilana Taarka is marked with an interesting gravestone. Several institutions introducing Seto culture such as Obinitsa Seto Museum House (Seto Muuseumitarõ), Seto Community Centre and art gallery “Hal’as kunn” are also located in Obinitsa.

The museum established by Liidia Sillaots in 1995 introduces the life of the Setos in *Mokornulga* (Obinitsa) area during 1920-1940. Textile collection of the museum is rich in beautiful and colourful handicraft by Seto women, starting from shirt patterns to towel laces. Several exhibitions of arts and handicrafts are organised; handicraft skills can be gained in the handicraft workshop.

Tobrova village

Left of Obinitsa-Meremäe road there is Tobrova village (first mentioned in 1561). The main places of interest in the village include Luikjärve farm and Tobrova Easter Holiday Tsässon next to it. Luikjärve farm represents an example of a well-preserved Seto farm with closed farmyard and high gates.

Meremäe Hill and Meremäe village

According to a legend the name of 204 m high Meremäe Hill (Sea Hill) in Vaaksaare uplands comes from the view of Lake Pihkva. Experienced observer may also notice the limestone ridge of Tiirhanna and Petseri town. Meremäe village, the second largest village in West-Setomaa, got its name after Meremäe Hill. Meremäe is current rural municipality centre. Archaeological excavations from the recent years have confirmed that people have lived in this area already 8000 years ago.

Piirimägi

Several different state borders have crossed Piirimägi (Border Hill) over centuries. Finno-Baltic areas were conquered from both East and West during the 10th 13th centuries. The territories of Tartu Diocese, Livonia, Polish Kingdom and in the 17th 18th centuries, Swedish Kingdom have lied on the Western side of Piirimägi. The territories of Old-Russia, Pihkva Principality, Moscovian Tsarist State, and Russian Empire have lied to the East of Piirimägi. Currently, Piiripettäi (border pine tree) on the hill marks the border between Estonia and Setomaa.

Miikse village

Riia-Pihkva trade road has been passing through Miikse village since long time ago. A small apostolic orthodox church was built in Miikse in 1953, despite strong opposition of the authorities, and was consecrated in the name of John the Baptist. Church holiday of Miikse village is the Old St. John's Day (July 7).

Across the church by the Meeksi stream there is Püha Jaanikivi (Sacred stone of St. John). According to the legend St. John had been sitting there to rest his feet and thus left certain marks on the stone surface. The stone receives offerings even today, because the stone and Miikse stream, also known as Silmaallikas (Eye Spring) flowing next to it are believed to have healing powers. Legend also tells that once upon a time the squire of Vastseliina manor had the stone blasted and placed inside barn wall. Shortly after that the cattle in the barn started to die and the stone had to be bought back to its original location.

Luhamaa

Luhamaa Apostolic Orthodox congregation was founded at people's wish. The Metropolitan blessed the founding of the new congregation and on July 14, 1929, the cornerstone of Luhamaa Church of Holy

Ghost was laid.

Luhamaa - Šumilkino international border and customs office is located on the border of the European Union and Russian Federation.

If you wish to visit the whole Setomaa you need to get the Russian visa. The easiest option would be to contact a travel agency providing visa services, and let them get the visa for you. But you may also address the Consular Bureau of Russian Federation.

For those crossing the border

Petseri-Radaja-Mõla-Irboska Petseri (Pechory)

Petseri area was populated 400-500 years ago; some findings suggest that the first settlements appeared already 1000 years ago. Petseri has become widely known since 1473 when the monastery was established on the slopes of Kamenka valley. Petseri town developed around the monastery and the market place next to it. The directions and names of main streets in Petseri indicate the main directions of trading and travel: Pihkva, Riga, Tartu, and Võru. Petseri was part of the Republic of Estonia at the period of 1920-1940, when it was the county centre of Setomaa (then Petserimaa). Today there are three churches in addition to the monastery churches. Estonian life in Petseri and the Setomaa area surrounding it revolves around Petseri Second (Estonian) Secondary School. The school functions as the centre for cultural life of the Setos living in Petseri.

Radaja

Petseri District is the mixture of different ethnic groups, as it borders with Latvia and Estonia. Over a long time the amalgamation of Russian Orthodox, Estonian Lutheran, Catholic and Seto folk culture has created unique face of the Petseri region. Sigova Seto Farm Museum is located in the Pankjavitsa rural municipality, Radaja village. Here are represented different types of home handicrafts spinning, weaving, etc. The museum introduces various tools, amongst which the most intriguing is the device for flax processing.

Mõla

Mõla village lies on the slope of Irboska valley, 5 kilometres to the north from Irboska. By the church road you can see an ancient stone cross from the 15th century. Mõla church was founded about 600 years ago. The current old stone church was built 500 years ago. A small stream flows out from underneath the church; the stream is believed to have miraculous powers. Church is surrounded by a cemetery; nearby are campanile and ruins of the monastery. The water of the deep Lake Mõla is very clear. River Optjok runs through the lake, receiving its water from the Lake Linnjärve beneath Irboska fortress, and flowing into Lake Pihkva.

Irboska (Izborsk)

Irboska is first mentioned in old Chronicles (letopiss) in 862. Irboska Fortress was established by the Slavic tribe, the Kriviches, around the 7th 13th centuries. The oldest settlement and the fortress were located in the so-called Truvor fortress about 1 km to the North West from the current Irboska fortress. A new stone fortress with one tower was built to Zeravje Hill in 1330. Slavic springs in Irboska are abundant in water. There are four churches in Irboska; two of them are still operational.



Accommodation Symbols



guest
house



seminar
room



beach



sanatorium



courier



minigolf
course



rest house



billiards



tennis



accommodation
in homes



place of a
fire possibility
of grilling



hunting



certified



sauna



canoeing



possibility of
paying
by card



fishing



horseback
riding



rooms/places



boat
hire



hiking
trails



camping
site



bicycle
hire



pets
allowed



shower



swimming



parking



bar



sky trails



playing
field



television

servicing languages
ENG, GER, FIN, RUS



Eve's Holiday Farm (Eve Puhketalu)



Võõpsu, Mikitamäe rural municipality

2 km from Võõpsu towards Käre

+372 5661 2623; +372 5665 1353



3/ 8 + extra beds and permanent tents 3/6

Self-catering option



In addition: arrangement of reunions, singing grounds, live music, smoke stove, grill, open air kitchen, tours on a launch, permanent tents.

Service in Estonian and **ENG, FIN, RUS**

Sadama rest area (Sadama puhkeala)



Rõсна, Mikitamäe rural municipality

+372 506 3301; +372 518 5170



2/6 + extra beds

Self-catering option



In addition: camping, open-air kitchen, grill, petanque, volleyball

Service in Estonian and **RUS, GER, ENG**

Värška Guest House (Värška külalistemaja)



Silla 1b, in Värška centre

+372 523 9697

varska.hotell@mail.ee

my.tele2.ee/candela_ket



10 / 24 + 6 extra beds

Prices include breakfast

Catering ordered in advance

Self-catering option



In addition: option to order local folk culture nights.

Service in Estonian and **GER, FIN, RUS**

Hirvemäe Holiday Centre (Hirvemäe Puhkekeskus)

Värskas

+372 797 6105, +372 522 9609

hirvemae@hotmail.ee, www.hirvemae.ee



12 / 29

Prices include breakfast

Catering of groups ordered in advance

Self-catering option



In addition: rafting, singing grounds, beach cafe, children's playground, option to order banquet catering, arrangement of seminars, summer and winter holidays, and reunions, sauna with „Generals' Bunker“, showers and kitchen for campers.

Service in Estonian and in **ENG, FIN, RUS**

Värskas Health Resort (Värskas Sanatoorium)

3,5 km from Värskas

+372 796 4666, +372 796 4793

info@spavarska.ee, www.spavarska.ee



69 / 127, additional 32 single rooms available since May

6 suites, 3 suites are equipped with sauna and

3 suites have whirlpool baths.

Prices include breakfast.

Catering of groups ordered in advance.



Spa treatments (natural mineral water and mud-baths, massage, physiotherapy, shin-do, yoga, water gymnastics, diagnostics, acupuncture, laser therapy, salt chamber, light therapy). Relaxation, rest, family, treatment, and light packages.

"Värskas light" package for 7 days (Mon-Sun):

* accommodation for 7 days in a double room, breakfast included

* 6 suppers

* medical consultation

* 7 mineral water baths (one bath procedure per day). Health days.

Pool, gym, bars, shop. Beauty services (hairstylist, manicure, pedicure), table tennis, carom (koroona), kids' playground, water bicycles, walking sticks, health path with partial boardwalk, beach, boat trips on Lake Lämmijärv, excursions to the surroundings of Värskas, folklore nights.

Service in Estonian and **ENG, FIN, RUS**.

Vahtraoru Farm (Vahtraoru talu)



10th km of Värška-Saatse road, right before River Piusa,
turn right to the sandy forest road and continue
for another 2.5 km towards the farm.

+372 529 9190

vahtraorg@hotmail.ee, www.hot.ee/vahtraorg



14 beds in the houses
+ places for 20 people in the barn loft

Breakfast ordered in advance

Catering ordered in advance

Self-catering option



In addition: canoeing trips, adventure lodging, various options for
active leisure, arrangement of summer gatherings and reunions,
adventure tourism, Red Indian village by the river.

Service in Estonian and **ENG, RUS**

Koidu Home (Koidu Kodu)



3 km from Värška on the shores of Lake Õrsava

+372 796 4911, +372 5341 2864



3 / 10

Breakfast ordered in advance

Self-catering option



In addition: smoke stove, swings, harbour.

Service in Estonian and **RUS**

Teini Farm (Teini Talu)



Väike - Kolodavitsa, Värška rural municipality

4 km from Koidula towards Võmmorski

+372 513 4809

teinitalu@hotmail.ee



5 kilometres to the Piusa sand caves and hiking trail. Arrangement of
reunions, singing grounds, lake, swing. Goat rearing.

Service in Estonian and **RUS**

Setomaa Tourism Farm (Setomaa Turismitalo)

Kalatsova village, Meremäe rural municipality
28 km from Võru towards Vastseliina.
+372 508 7399; +372 516 1941
seto@maaturism.ee
www.setotalu.maaturism.ee



2 houses with 21 beds + extra beds

Breakfast ordered in advance

Catering ordered in advance.

Self-catering option



In addition: carom (koroona), petanque. Various travel packages in Setomaa. Handicraft. Seto cultural nights. Banquet catering. Summer gatherings and reunions. Washing facilities for campers, smoke sauna.

Tabina Holiday House (Tabina puhkemaja)

Tabina village, Vastseliina rural municipality;
25 km from Võru towards Obinitsa
+372 782 9100; +372 509 0143
ingele@hot.ee

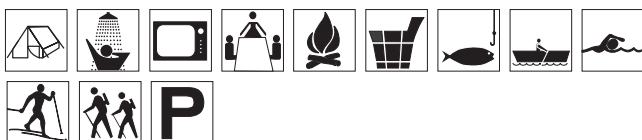


2 houses / 8 beds + extra beds

Prices include breakfast

Catering ordered in advance

Self-catering option



In addition: party services

Service in Estonian and **ENG, RUS**



Piusa Primeval Valley Holiday House (Piusa Ürgoru puhkemaja)



Väiko-Härma village, Meremäe rural municipality
31 km from Võru, 10 km from Vastseliina, near River Piusa.

+372 528 9134; +372 516 5515

info@puhkemaja.ee, www.puhkemaja.ee



4 / 9 + extra beds

Catering ordered in advance

Self-catering option



In addition: swing, petanque grounds, smoke sauna with fireplace hall (for 30 people), shelter (for 50 people), 6 places in the barn in summer. Bus rental, guide and hiking instructor services ordered in advance. Trout fishing. Summer gatherings and reunions.

Service in Estonian and **ENG, RUS**

Public Picnic Grounds

Saunas of Värskas State Forest Management Centre, Mäe Holiday House, beach of Obinitsa artificial lake, Meremäe Hill, Piusa campfire and picnic grounds, Härma lower sandstone wall, Piusa primeval valley hiking trail, Lindora Fair Grounds.

Catering

Seto Natonal Food

Seto Teahouse (Seto Tsäimaja)

Värskas

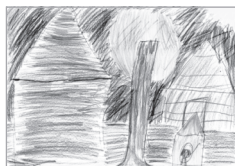
+372 505 4673, fax +372 796 4678

Open: in summer Tue-Sun 11 - 19, in winter Tue-Sun 11-17

setomuuseum@hot.ee

www.hot.ee/setomuuseum

Group visits ordered in advance.



Seto Community Centre (Seto Seltsimaja)

Obinitsa, Meremäe rural municipality

+372 78 61 412, +372 5620 3374, setoseltsimaja@hot.ee

Seats 40 people, catering ordered in advance, concerts of Seto leelo-choirs "Tsihibärbläseq" and "Helbi koor"

Siin saad süüa, juua ja tantsugi lüüa. Päälekauba asjakohast tiidust Setomaa inimeste ja parhillsõ elo kotsilõ. („Here you can eat, drink, dance, and you can also learn about the Seto people and way of life“)

KOS VIIL PAREB KU OBINITSAH!

(„THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE OBINITSA!“)

Cafes

Cafe "Hirve" (seats 40 people)

Silla 2a, Värška, Põlva County

+372 797 6105

Open in summer: Mon-Sun 11 - 22

Cafe-bar "Sommer" (seats 70 people, ordered in advance)

Silla 1a, Värška, Põlva County

+372 796 4635, +372 523 9697

Bars

"Reta" bar (at Värška Health Resort)

(bar seats 40 people + hall seats 100 people)

Värška rural municipality, Põlva County

+372 796 4698, +372 506 1680

Open: Sat-Thu 20 - 01; Fri 20 - 03

Live music on Fridays



Shops

Capital

Värška +372 796 4615 Open daily 9.30 - 20.30



Tooma pood

Mikitamäe rural municipality +372 795 4310 Open daily 8 - 20

Räpina Consumer Association shops

Mikitamäe

Mikitamäe rural municipality +372 797 6910

Open Mon-Fri 9 - 19 and Sat-Sun 9 - 17



Järvesuu

Värška +372 797 6266



Open Mon-Fri 8 - 20 and Sat-Sun 8 - 18. In summer open daily 8-20

Shop at Värška Health Resort +372 796 4700 Open Mon-Sat 10 - 17

Võru Consumer Association shops



Vastseliina Konsum

Võidu 21, Vastseliina +372 785 1081 Open daily 8 - 20

Misso +372 785 6136 Open daily 9 - 20

Obinita +372 785 4160 Open Mon-Sat 9 - 19 and Sun 9 - 16

Asunduse

Vastseliina rural municipality +372 782 8485

Open Mon-Fri 8 - 19 and Sat-Sun 8 - 15

Museums

Seto Farm Museum

Värška +372 505 4673, +372 521 7684, fax +372 796 4678

setomuuseum@hot.ee, www.hot.ee/setomuuseum

Open: From May 1 to November 1: daily 10 - 17.

In winter: Tue-Sat 10 - 16 Other times: by prior arrangement

Seto Farm Museum exhibits farm architecture, old tools and handicraft from the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

You can book in advance: Seto handicraft workshop (coloured lace, belt, stocking, weaving, etc.), concerts by Seto folklore groups „Leiko“, „Kuldatsäuk“, etc., Seto wedding programme, farm work classes (forging, pottery, from grinding cereals to baking bread, etc.), smoke sauna.

In addition there are exhibitions on several subjects: from old to new, from handicraft to arts, about archaeology and history.

Saatse Seto Farm Museum

Saatse, Värskä rural municipality +372 505 4673, +372 5342 1428

Open: Tue-Sat: 12 - 16. Other times: by prior arrangement

Obinitsa Seto Museum House

Obinitsa, Meremäe rural municipality +372 785 4190

setomuuseumitare@hotmail.ee, www.zone.ee/muuseumis

Open:

From May 15 to Sept 15 Mon-Fri 10 - 17; Sat-Sun 11 - 17

From Sept 16 to May 14 Mon-Fri 10 - 17

Group visits ordered in advance. By prior arrangement groups may visit the museum at other times as well. Price according to agreement
Further information about various services provided by the museum (museum guide, handicraft workshop, seto leelo, etc.) is available at the museum homepage and can also be obtained by phone or on-the-spot.

Arts and handicrafts

Seto Farm Museum

Värskä +372 796 4678; +372 505 4673

Wide selection of local handicraft, various souvenirs, paintings, postcards, books on Seto culture and other publications, etc.

Obinitsa Seto Museum House

Obinitsa +372 78 54 190

Beautiful handicraft produced in Setomaa,

Seto-related postcards, stamps, publications, records, souvenirs, etc.

Seto Community Centre (Seto Seltsimaja)

Obinitsa, Meremäe rural municipality

+372 786 1412; +372 5620 3374, setoseltsimaja@hotmail.ee

Piusa Handicraft Workshop (Piusa Käsitöötuba)

Piusa, Orava rural municipality

+372 513 8379; +372 795 6337

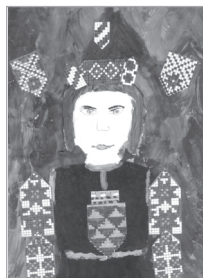
piusakasitoo@hotmail.ee

Open: from May 10 to Sept 10, 10 - 19 daily

Other times: by prior arrangement.

The souvenirs related to Piusa and other handicraft made by local people.

Workshop is open for persons interested in trying to produce some of the handicraft by themselves.



Office gallery "Hal'as kunn" in Obinitsa

Obinitsa, Meremäe rural municipality, Võru County

setomaal@hotmail.ee; kyy@hotmail.ee

+372 51 17 361 Evar Riitsaar; +372 56 569 079

Ordering and sales of murals and paintings. Permanent exhibitions Seto painting, children's gallery, state farm attributes. Seasonal exhibitions paintings, ceramics, sculpture, textiles of Seto and other ancient peoples. Art camps, seminars, cultural hiking trips, lecture-performances about Seto culture.

Seto musician

Raali Ain

+ 372 52 74 235 raaliain@hotmail.ee

Squiffer music from Setomaa and elsewhere

Seto folk dance groups and leelo-choirs

Folk dance group Hõbehall

Mikitamäe, 64301, Põlva County

+372 506 3301

hobehall.rta@mail.ee

Concert programmes with Seto leelo and dance

Leelo-choir Helmine

Mikitamäe, 64301, Põlva County

+372 5347 5784

Concert programme by Seto leelo-choir

Värška Cultural Centre

Pikk 12, Värška rural municipality

+372 796 4712 / +372 529 1619

merle@verska.ee

Leelo-choirs "Leiko" and "Kuldatsäuk"

Dance groups "Lustiline" and "Käokuld"

Youth folk-rock band "Zetod"

Folklore group "Hõpõhelmed ja Meremäe mehed"

Meremäe, 65302, Võru County; +372 5660 5168

helmed@hotmail.ee

Guides

Siiri Toomik +372 78 21939, +372 517 8827

Setomaa and Võru County - Estonian, Finnish, Russian

Maivi Laar

+372 506 3301 Setomaa, Southern Peipsi area - Estonian

Public access to the Internet

Värška Tourist Information

Centre +372 796 4782

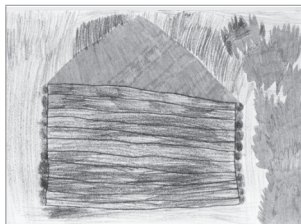
Mikitamäe Library +372 795 4335

Võõpsu Library +372 795 9345

Värška Library +372 796 4776

Obinitsa Library +372 785 4140

Meremäe Library +372 785 6634



Gas stations

Mahta Kütus

Pikk 32a, Värskas, Põlva County
+372 796 4850

Banks



Automatic teller machines (ATM):

Värskas, building of the rural municipality
government of Värskas (Pikk 12)
Vastseliina, Edu shop (Võidu 21)



Bank offices (incl. ATM):

Räpina, Kooli 1, Mon-Fri, 9-17, Sat 9 - 13
Põlva, Kesk 11, Mon-Fri 9 - 18, Sat 9 - 14
Võru, Vabaduse 10a, Mon-Fri 9 - 18, Sat 9 - 14



Post Bank

- bank transactions in Post Office:

- payment orders
- cash deposit in own account
- cash deposit in any other account
- cash withdrawal
- account balance inquiry
- printed account statement



Electronic Post Banks operate in the Post Offices of Räpina, Värskas, Misso, and Vastseliina. Other Post Offices have non-electronic Post Banks.

Before coming to Setomaa, you need to do some homework as well!

If you want to understand the Setos and Setomaa, find out about...

- a seto (representative of Seto people)
- potisetõ (historically, a Seto travelling around and exchanging pots for rags, which were later returned to paper factory for making Tsarist Russia's roubles)
- seto leelo (Seto archaic folk songs)
- killõ (the upper voice in leelo choir)
- seto kargus (traditionally men and women danced separately)
- kirmask (village party)
- pühasenulk (icon corner)
- tsässon (small chapel)
- Peko (god of crop and fertility)
- hamõh (women's blouse)

After learning these and many other things about the Seto people, you will find it much easier to get to know Setomaa in depth. But even if

you do not bother to learn these things, you're still most welcome. Do not worry the Setos will make it clear to you!

The Seto people who are they?

If you hear a word “seto”, you might first recall clinking leelo-choir or in a more negative case sense that contemptuous and tingling feeling underneath your skin, which makes you wonder if the Seto people were Estonian or not? Popular explanation for etnonym “seto” is said to originate from a verbal shrug “neither this nor that” (in Estonian “ei see ega too”).

There are different views and explanations about the origin and development of the culture of Seto people inhabiting the South-Eastern part of Estonia. By now we know that the first traces of human activity in Setomaa date back to the Mesolithic period. The only known settlement from that period in Meremäe probably dates back to Late Mesolithic period, i.e. 6500 - 5000 years BC. Several Neolithic settlements (Värskä and Väike-Rõсна) in Setomaa have also revealed findings from the Mesolithic period, which proves the arrival of first settlers in North and East Setomaa in the Mesolithic period. The first people came here from South and South-East and settled mostly near the bodies of water.

Setomaa has always been a borderland of different powers, and has thus developed a strong autonomous community. Medieval way of life preserved in Setomaa until the 1920s. At those times significant role was attributed to the village and its community. The importance of community and village during that period is reflected by popular division of Setomaa into areas. In summer people celebrated village parties “kirmask” and “praasnik”, which coincided with various religious holidays. “Praasnik” celebrations were associated with the names of village chapels or tsässons. Names were based either on a saint or on a religious holiday. For example Mikitamäe tsässon is known as “Oltuspühi” tsässon. Tsässons are small buildings, religious background of which is indicated only by a cross on the roof. Interior of the building is also simple. Tsässons constitute an integral part of Setomaa village landscape even today. At village holiday people invited their relatives to the village. Such identification by villages and areas suggests strong identity which is characteristic to the Setos until today. Significance of holidays also indicates the importance of Russian Orthodox religion, which was initially mixed with belief in the spirits of ancestors. In the past, while worshipping God, home priests and wise men made offerings to the spirits of nature, sacred trees and stones as well. That reflects from the abundance of ritual places e.g. eating on the graves and sacrificial places (St. John's Stone in Meeksi).

There are lots of archaic features in Seto culture, which has preserved due to centuries of separation Russians had different language and Estonians had different political and religious understandings. North Setomaa has particularly archaic culture and certain conservative approach. Estonian folklorists are pleased to collect lore and antiquities from Setomaa. That land charms them with silver jewellery, village chapels and local people. Separation has caused Seto culture to preserve and take its own course, thus rising either alienation or admiration amongst others. The role of the Setos in Estonian understanding of the world is not easy to comprehend. The

Setos have been mocked, yet now they are used for promoting Estonia. Are the Setos becoming a symbol of Estonia?

Folk costumes of the Seto people are unique in the world. The Setos wore folk costumes for longer time than other Estonians, even in the beginning of the 20th century. The most eye-catching part of the folk costume of the Seto woman is a plentiful set of silver jewellery. These pieces of jewellery provided certain information about the person carrying them. Huge conical brooch is an important detail, which was worn by married women. The oldest Seto brooch was made in Tartu during 1808-1818. Number of traditions related to the huge brooch assumes that Seto women decorated their clothes with some other chest jewellery before appearance of silver brooch.

Seto man wears a blouse on top of the trousers, Russian style. Shirt is decorated with red ornaments, later also woven belts. The most interesting elements of men's costume are vividly coloured and richly patterned woollen stockings.

Handicraft has always been honoured amongst the Setos. Unique Seto coloured crotchet lace was used to decorate the seams of icon scarves, towels, headscarves and aprons.

Alliterative song or leelo is not just part of history in Setomaa; this is a living tradition. Alliterative song has not turned into alienated and obscure cultural layer yet and the tradition of ancient folk songs are more honoured here than anywhere else in Estonia. Because of developmental factors other cultural effects have not yet become dominant in Setomaa.

Today Setomaa represents a region, where wonderful nature and good leisure opportunities go hand in hand with valuation of traditions and respect towards own language and religion.

Nature

The balance between man and nature in Setomaa is taking the turn in benefit of nature again.

The soils of NorthSetomaa are sandy and non-productive, covered with pine forests full of light. The surroundings of Värskä bay is characterised by the vicinity of lake.

The greatest and most important river in Setomaa River Piusa also functions as a border river. Piusa is well-known for its cold water and deep fall, several mills and beautiful sandstone outcrops. For ca 14 kilometres at its lowest part River Piusa flows on the Russian territory. Cold waters of Piusa come from ground water. Cool, sometimes even cold chemically clean water of Piusa has provided suitable spawning and living environment for Salmoniformes. Dozens of fish species live in the clear water of the river, including protected species such as European grayling, bullhead and brown trout.

Sandy pine forests of Setomaa, but particularly plain heath areas provide a refuge for vegetation from south. There are plants that originate from steppes and woodlands, which are unknown or rare in the rest of Estonia. These plants include everlasting, *Jovibarba globifera*, perennial plant *Gypsophila fastigiata*, species of Junegrass, etc. Heaths alternate with valleys; interesting locations are also grasslands, swamps, meres and streams in the valleys. The vegetation of Setomaa also includes fragrant orchid which is usually found in West-Estonian grasslands. Thus the most peculiar country region in Estonia is also rather unique with regard to its flora.

As for the mineral wealth in Southeast Estonia the first thing that comes to mind is Piusa white glass sand. Thousands of tonnes of sand have been mined from Piusa sand quarry over a long time. Piusa sand is used for producing glass and metal moulds. However, there is another sand quarry in Imana-Tabina, where the quality of sand is even higher. Both locations are in the close vicinity of Setomaa.

The construction sand reserves of Setomaa are mostly found in kames situated in the north and in the east of River Piusa. Thickness of sand layer may reach 20-30 metres at some places.

Besides its bright sands Setomaa is rich in other resources. Värskä mineral water renowned treatment, table and therapeutic water comes from several aquifers. The first bore wells were established in 1967. The deeper the water, the more it contains soluble minerals. The water from the deepest bore well of Värskä (at the depth of ca 600 m) contains 19 g of mineral substances per litre.

Värskä bay is filled to great extent with brown homogenous and slightly gritty mud. At the bottom of the lake there is up to two metres thick peat layer and on top of that layer there is lake mud, which is successfully used for therapeutic causes. The thickness of lake mud reaches 12 metres at some places and the area of the field of therapeutic lake mud is ca 76 ha. Mud of Värskä bay and mineral water have been used in the health resort built on the east shore of the lake for over twenty years.

The farthest south-eastern corner may also be proud of its limestone bed. A small quarry in Tiirhanna village shows limestone and dolomite. Clay can also be found in Setomaa. Clay from Setomaa feels smooth and slightly greasy between fingers. Clay from the shores of Tuhkvitsa stream was used for producing bricks already in 1931.

The majority of peat bogs are situated in North-Setomaa, but the thickness of peat layer is rather thin. It is more purposeful to pick mushrooms and berries in local bogs and enjoy intact bog landscape.



Cultural calendar 2005

05.01.-08.01. Christmas (Talsipühad), Värskä Seto Farm Museum

07.-08.01. Christmas (Talsipühad), Obinitša

11.02. Shrove Tuesday, Misso

13.02. Võru county Brass Bands' Day, Misso

16.02. Ahunapäiv (Fish Day), Värskä Seto Farm Museum

18.-20.02. Estonian Championship in skiing orienteering, Värskä

25.02. The 20th anniversary of the new building of Misso Community Centre

22.-26.03. School holidays, Värskä Seto Farm Museum

03.04. The VIII Day of Vocal Groups in Võru county, Misso

11.04. Tobrovo "kirmask" (village party)

09.-10.04. Peko Spring, Värskä Orienteering Club PEKO

01.05. Easter. Egg rolling, Värskä swing grounds

01.05. Easter celebration, Mikitamäe swing grounds

01.-07.05. Easter, Obinita
 05.-15.05. XII Seto Lace Days, Värskas Seto Farm Museum
 06.05. Jüripäeva "kirmask" (St. George's Day village party), Värskas swing grounds
 08.05. "Oltuspüha" service and "kirmask" (village party), Mikitamäe
 21.-22.05. III Peko MTBO Mountain Bike Orienteering, Värskas
 22.05. Migulapäiva "kirmask" (St. Nicholas' Day village party), Helbi village
 03.06. Birthday of Obinita Museum House
 12.06. III Bicycle Marathon Värskas GP
 18.06. St. John's Eve, Mikitamäe
 23.06. St. John's Eve, Värskas
 23.06. II Lake Pulli Race
 23.06. St. John's Eve in the valley of the Teini Farm, Väike-Kolodovitsa
 30.06. Iloõdak (folk evening party), Värskas Seto Farm Museum
 07.07. Old St. John's Day, Mikkse
 07.07. Kuksina "kirmask" (village party)
 07.07. Iloõdak (folk evening party), Värskas Seto Farm Museum
 08.07. Seto St. John's Eve, party grounds of Käre village
 09.07. St. John's Day bonfire, Treski
 12.07. Piitrepäeva "kirmask" (St. Peter's Day village party), Uusvada
 14.07. Iloõdak (evening party), Värskas Seto Farm Museum
 15.07. Fun Day in Teini Farm, Väike-Kolodovitsa
 16.07. Folk party, Misso singing grounds
 21.07. Iloõdak (evening party), Värskas Seto Farm Museum
 28.07. Iloõdak (evening party), Värskas Seto Farm Museum
 29.07. "Päätantsapäev", Saatse
 30.07. Work and Play Bee, Värskas Seto Farm Museum
 04.08. Iloõdak (evening party), Värskas Seto Farm Museum
 05.-07.08. Setomaa III Dance Days, Värskas
 05.-18.08. Summer play "Taarka" near Obinita old schoolhouse.
 06.08. Seto Kingdom Day, Luhamäe
 07.08. Annepäeva "kirmask" (village party), Pelsi village
 11.08. Iloõdak (evening party), Värskas Seto Farm Museum
 13.08. Värskas/e Kurgi Rock IV, Värskas
 18.08. Iloõdak (evening party), Värskas Seto Farm Museum
 18.08. Procession led by a cross to Lake Obinita
 18.-20.08. Obinita Cultural Festival
 19.08. Passover, Obinita
 20.08. Lepa "kirmask" (village party)
 27.08. Onion, Fish and Handicraft Fair, Lüübnitsa
 27.08. Ancient Lights' Night, Lobotka village
 27.-28.08. Estonian Championship in orienteering, Kitsemäed
 02.-03.09. Meremäe Pottery Days
 10.09. Porovikupäev (Mushroom Day), Värskas Seto Farm Museum
 28.10. Lindora Fair
 01.-05.11. Värskas Seto Farm Museum's Birthday Week
 11.11. "Nahtsipühi" in the Küllätüva and Serga village
 26.11. Day of the Seto fairytales, Mikitamäe
 20.12. Day of the Seto "lauluimä" (Mother of Songs) Anne Vabarna, Värskas



Church holidays 2005

- 07.01. Nativity of Jesus Christ, Talsipühi
- 19.01. Theophany, Viiris´tmine (water baptising)
- 30.01. Pius Antonius the Great, Tennüspäiv
- 15.02. Celebration of Entry of Our Lord into the Temple, Kündlepäiv
- 13.03. Sunday of forgiveness and piimast loobumise, Maasenits
- 07.04. Annunciation of the Virgin Mary „Kapsta-Maara´päiv”
- 23.04. Saturday of St. Lazarus „Laasõrpäiv”
- 24.04. Palm Sunday. The Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem „Urbõpäiv”
- 01.05. THE EASTER, Celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Easter vigil „Lihavõõdõh”
- 06.05. Commemoration of Great Martyr George „Jüripäiv”, Värška
- 08.05. Sunday of St. Thomas „Oltuspühi”, Mikitamäe
- 10.05. All Souls' Day, annunciation of joy to the Dead „Raadovits” (cemetery holiday)
- 22.05. Commemoration of Archbishop Nicholas „Migulapäiv”, Võõpsu
- 09.06. The Ascension of Our Lord, „Suur Ristipäiv”
- 19.06. Pentecost Sunday. The Day of the Holy Trinity „Suvistepühi” (Whitsunday)
- 07.07. Day of birth of St. John the Baptist, „Jaanipäiv”
- 12.07. Commemoration of the Archapostles St. Peter and St. Paul „Piitrepäiv”
- 29.07. Commemoration of Great Martyr Paraskeva „Päätnits”, Saatase
- 02.08. Commemoration of Prophet Eliah „Iljapäiv”, Rääsolaane
- 07.08. Commemoration of Saint Anna the Righteous, Mother of Mary the Theotokos „Annepäiv”, Väike-Rõsna
- 19.08. Celebration of the Transfiguration of Our Lord „Paasapäiv”, Obinita
- 28.08. Celebration of the Dormition of the Theotokos „Maarjapäiv”, Petseri
- 11.09. Day of death of St. John the Baptist, Ivanaskorona
- 21.09. Celebration of Birth of Virgin Mary „Väike Maarjapäiv”, Laossina
- 27.09. Exaltation of the Cross „Vissenja”
- 14.10. Celebration of Protection of Mary the Theotokos „Mihklipäiv”, Mikitamäe region
- 05.11. All Souls' Day „Midrosk”, autumn Cemetery holiday
- 10.11. Commemoration of Great Martyr Paraskeva „Rämmänpäiv”, Saatse
- 11.11. Commemoration of Great Martyr Anastasia „Nahtsipäiv”
- 21.11. Commemoration of Archangel Michael „Mihalapäiv”
- 04.12. Celebration of Entry of Virgin Mary into the Temple
- 09.12. Commemoration of Great Martyr George „Väike Jüripäiv”
- 19.12. Commemoration of Archbishop Nicholas in winter „Migulapäiv”



Important numbers

Fee-charging information phone: 1188; 1182
Rescue service: 112
Police: 110
Ambulance: 112
Towing assistance "Voorimees": +372 517 2210
Technical assistance on road (from cellular phone): 1888
Lifeguard association: +372 796 2897, +372 529 6002
Border information:
Koidula border inspection post +372 786 6500
Luhamaa border inspection post +372 286 6351
Värskas cordon +372 786 6183
Saatses cordon +372 786 6191

Tourist Information Offices in Setomaa

Värskas Tourist Information Centre
Pikk 12, Värskas +372 796 4782
tik@verska.ee
www.verska.ee;
Open:
From May 15 to Sept 15: Tue-Sat 10-18
From Sept 16 to May 14: Mon-Fri 9-17

Obinitsa Tourist Information Office
Obinitsa, Meremäe rural municipality
+372 785 4190
setotour@hot.ee
www.hot.ee/setotour
Open:
From May 15 to Sept 15: Mon-Fri 10-17; Sat-Sun 11-17
From Sept 16 to May 14: Mon-Fri 10-17

*Stories have been compiled by
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