



ESTONIAN FUND FOR NATURE



Restoration work at Soosaare mire



Location on a map: <https://goo.gl/maps/v7Fs9tkRymA2>

Date: 20th Sept 2018

Schedule

- 09:00** Departure from Tartu (meeting point at hotel [Dorpat](#)); pick-up of lunch packages from Põltsamaa
- 10:30** Arrival to Soosaare; formation of work groups
- 10:45** Walking to work sites; restoration work begins
- 13:00** Lunch break
- 13:40** Restoration work continues
- 15:10** Return to bus
- 15:30** Transport to Põltsamaa
- 16:00** Degustation of wines at Põltsamaa Wine Cellar and excursion at Põltsamaa Castle
- 17:30** Departure from Põltsamaa
- 18:30** Arrival to Tartu



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Short Overview

Wetlands and mires are irreplaceable ecosystems which provide habitats for a variety of bird and plant species as well as regulate carbon storage. Modern industry and agriculture have exposed mires to drainage, which directs and enhances water flow out of the mire, thus degrading the ecosystem. Closing off the drainage network is absolutely paramount for any kind of wetland restoration. Therefore, our goal at Soosaare will be building a dam out of peat, which will block the water flow in the ditches.

In short, after arriving to Soosaare we will divide ourselves into 6 small groups. Subsequently, we will walk about 1-1.5 km from the bus stop to different work sites, which gives us the chance to take a glimpse on the unique landscape and local flora. Our main equipment at the work sites will be shovels, which we use to dig peat for building the dam. Loafs of peat will be handed from person to person from the digging site to the ditch until a proper width and height of the dam has been achieved. Note that there will be some heavy lifting, as loafs of peat are full of water and thus weighty. The work is physically demanding, but completely doable for people with average physique and stamina.

Necessary equipment

The restoration work in the mire is muddy and will probably make Your clothes dirty. Therefore we advise You to bring spare clothes, which You can put on after the work is done. The weather in Estonia during September is quite unpredictable and unsettled. There can be sun, light or heavy rain, strong winds etc. Temperatures may vary from 7 to 20°C. Thus, be sure to bring a light jacket and an extra sweater. A raincoat and rubber boots or wellingtons are a must-have! We also advise You to bring an extra pair of (woolen) socks, in case Your feet get wet in the mire.

The gloves and necessary tools for work will be provided by Estonian Fund for Nature.'





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External links

Additional information about the restoration site:

<https://soo.elfond.ee/en/taastamisalad/soosaare/>

Photos of Soosaare mire: <https://soo.elfond.ee/galerii/soosaare-album/>

Põltsamaa Wine Cellar: <https://www.visitestonia.com/en/poltsamaa-wine-cellar>

Põltsamaa Castle: <https://www.visitestonia.com/en/poltsamaa-castle>