

## Worksheet 2

### 1. Tallinn Old Town

Tallinn was first mentioned in 1154. The historic centre of Tallinn was once a home to wealthy merchants settling from Germany, Denmark and beyond. Today it is an outstanding, exceptionally complete and well saved example of a medieval European trading city. Unlike many other capital cities in Europe, Tallinn has managed to wholly preserve its structure of medieval and Hanseatic origin. Here you can find original cobblestone streets, medieval churches and grandiose merchant houses, barns and warehouses, many of which date back to the Middle Ages.

Due to its exceptionally intact 13th century city plan, the Old Town of Tallinn was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997.

### 2. Tartu

Tartu, which is the second largest city of Estonia with 120,000 inhabitants and a large student population of around 20,000 people, is considered to be the national intellectual centre. With the establishment of the University of Tartu in 1632, the city became a hub of research, innovation and creativity. Tartu was accepted into UNESCO's Creative Cities Network and received the international title of City of Literature in 2015.

### 3. Struve Geodetic Arc

The Struve Geodetic Arc was named after the astronomer Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve from the University of Tartu. Between 1816 and 1855 he and his colleagues calculated the first accurate measurements of a meridian to establish the size and shape of the Earth. Their survey marked an important step in the development of earth sciences and topographic mapping. The 2820 km long segment reaches through 10 countries from Northern Norway to the Black Sea. In 2005 the Struve Geodetic Arc was entered into UNESCO World Heritage List. Three out of the 34 listed original station points are found in Estonia, one of them is Tartu Observatory.

### 4. Seto singing tradition

Seto leelo is a traditional way of singing that takes you back centuries, to somewhere ancient and rural. Setos themselves consider singing natural and everyday tradition, a way to express thoughts and emotions, to collect memories and pass them on to the future generations. The singing tradition in Setomaa is kept alive and well by the older and younger generations alike. The most famous local singers throughout the history were able to recall up to 20,000 rhymes, earning the title "Seto Mother of Songs."

In 2009, UNESCO added the Seto leelo to its list of intangible culture. This means that the Seto leelo is highly valued as a cultural tradition of its kind in the world.

### 5. Võromaa smoke sauna

The smoke sauna tradition is an important part of everyday life in southernmost Estonian community of Võromaa. It comprises a rich set of traditions including the actual bathing customs, the skills of making bath whisks, building and repairing saunas, and smoking meat in the sauna. The sauna is a building heated by a stove covered with stones and with an elevated platform for sitting or lying. It has no chimney, and the smoke from burning wood circulates in the room. The smoke sauna tradition is primarily a family custom, practised usually on Saturdays but also before major festivals or family events to relax the body and mind. In 2014, UNESCO added the smoke sauna tradition to its list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

## **6. Estonian Song and Dance Celebration**

The first Estonian Song Celebration was held in Tartu in 1869. The growing interest and popularity meant that the festival soon needed a place to call its own. Since 1928 the home of the much-loved festival has been the Tallinn Song Festival Grounds. Dance celebration is a more recent tradition dating back to 1934 and today the two traditions are seen as inseparable by the modern audiences. The celebration takes place every five years and involves thousands of choir singers and dancers dressed in colourful national costumes. In 2003 Estonian Song and Dance Celebrations were listed as UNESCO oral and intangible heritage.

## **7. Kaali field of meteorite craters**

The approximate time of Kaali meteorite fall is 7500-7600 years ago. Meteorite fall caused big damages on already inhabited Saaremaa, it could be compared to explosion of atomic bomb. At the height of 5-10 km meteorite fell apart and came down to the ground in pieces the biggest of which created a big crater with diameter of 110 m and depth of 22 m and 8 smaller craters.

The many findings of the bones of domestic animals give a reason to believe that Lake Kaali used to be a sacrificial site.

Kaali crater is on the 8th place among the world's giant craters. Kaali field of meteorite craters on Saaremaa is the rarest nature wonder in Estonia, being at the same time the most spectacular in Eurasia.

## **8. Ööbikuorg (Nightingale Valley)**

Ööbikuorg (Nightingale Valley) is the most well-known tributary valley of Rõuge primeval valley. The valley is 300 m long and 12–15 m deep. It got its name from the singing nightingales who stay there during the springs, when bird cherries bloom.

## **9. Suur and Väike Taevaskoda sandstone outcrops**

The two Taevaskoda sandstone outcrops - Small Heaven's Hall (Väike Taevaskoda) and Large Heaven's Hall (Suur Taevaskoda), on the banks of the ancient valley of the Ahja River, are one of the most frequently visited sites in southern Estonia. The sandstone outcrops and ancient river form the most beautiful part of the Ahja River Landscape Reserve.

## **10. Jägala juga**

The Jägala Waterfall is a waterfall in Northern Estonia on Jägala River. It is the highest natural waterfall in Estonia with height about 8 meters.

## **11. Suur Munamägi**

Suur Munamägi, 318 metres from the sea level, is the highest point of the Baltics. The height of Suur Munamägi makes it one of the most important national symbols of Estonia.

The observation tower on Suur Munamägi provides its visitors with a splendid 50 km range view of the Estonian nature. A person standing on top of the tower is standing 346.7 metres above the sea level.