



*Cultural Heritage
in Haapsalu*





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1 Haapsalu Bishop's Castle and Cathedral

The Haapsalu Bishop's Castle and Cathedral, which was established in the 13th century as the centre of the Saare-Lääne Diocese, is one of the best preserved castles in Estonia. Visit the museum complex in the convent building where you will find exhibition halls with finds from the castle and mysterious vaulted cellars. Climb the 38-metre-high bell tower to enjoy view over the city and the sea around it. During the full moon in August, you could see the White Lady in a church window. Rent an audio guide for tour commentary in six languages. Walking among the castle walls you will feel like you're in a romantic old movie.



2 Haapsalu Railway Station

This resort town was a favourite summer spot of Russian tsars. The railway station was built according to original drawings; the complex consists of four parts: passenger terminal, imperial pavilion, a sheltered passage linking those, and a unique covered platform that is 213.6 m long. The Russian Tzar himself was in favour of the idea to build this station and supported the construction. The first passenger train arrived in Haapsalu in 1904; the last one left in 1995. Take advantage of a unique opportunity to travel from Haapsalu to Riisipere (50 km) by bike – the old railway bed has been turned into Läänemaa County health trail.



3 Haapsalu Town Hall

The museum was established in 1929. During the 1930s, antiquities were displayed in the watchtower of Haapsalu episcopal castle only during summers because the museum did not have its own building. In 1946, the museum was given the town hall dating back to the 18th century and the first permanent exhibition was opened in 1950. In 2014, a new permanent exhibition called "Guide to the Resort Town" was opened.



4 Haapsalu Resort Hall

The timber-laced Resort Hall and the Bandstand on the seaside Promenade were built at the end of the 19th century and are the only ones of the kind that have survived in the original shape. The Resort Hall is today and was in the first half of the 20th century the centre of summer activities in Haapsalu. In 1898 the house was practically in water, later the small coves of the bay on both sides of the building were filled and the embankment got its present shape. The Resort Hall with the Bandstand was the favourite place of the Russian Emperor's court and the aristocracy from St. Petersburg. During the Soviet time the Resort Hall was used as a storehouse.



5 Tchaikovsky's Bench in Haapsalu

The world-famous Russian composer Pjotr Tchaikovsky stayed in Haapsalu in 1867. To commemorate him, a memorial bench was erected on the Šokolaadi Promenaad, where the maestro loved to watch the sunrise from the shore and marvel the swans. In Haapsalu, Tchaikovsky continued to work on his opera "Voevoda" and composed the cycle of piano pieces "Souvenir de Hapsal". After having heard the Estonian folk song "Dear Mary", he later used the melody in his famous VI Symphony, the first notes of the tune were also carved into the dolomite memorial bench. Today, the bench is equipped with a technical solution with the aid of which you can listen to the composer's music and information related to him.



6 Haapsalu Maria-Magdaleena Church

The Estonian Orthodox Maria Magdaleena Church is located in an idyllic area of Haapsalu – on the Promenade.

Russian Tsar Alexander II attended the opening of the church in 1852.

The church was restored to its present state only a few years ago. The church is open on Sundays from 9 am to noon. To visit at other times, please contact us in advance.



7 St John's Lutheran Church in Haapsalu

St. John's Church in Haapsalu which is rebuilt from a 15th century warehouse differs from other churches for its location of north-south orientation. When entering the church you should certainly pay attention to the 5-metre stone altar and the wooden pulpit. St John's Church has been a church for an Estonian congregation and under the floor have been buried the first Lutheran pastor Joachim Jacob. The clock in the tower of the church is one of the oldest in Estonia and the oldest in the west of Estonia. The church is accessible on the outside all year round; the interior of the church can be admired during the events in the church calendar.



8 Rudolf Tobias Monument

Rudolf Tobias was one of the leading figures in the formation and development of Estonian national music culture and the art of composing. He was the first Estonian composer to pursue academic studies in composition. Tobias composed choral music, orchestral work, chamber music and solo songs as well as organ and piano works. His musical works are in the grandiose classical-romantic style, characterised by romantic harmony, passionate image contrasts, polyphonic devices and monumental form shaping.



9 Carl Abraham Hunnius Monument

On the Promenade make a stop at the monument to Carl Abraham Hunniuse (1797-1851), who established the resort of Haapsalu.

Dr. Hunnius was the first to notice that the local residents used the sea mud to find relief for their ailments and was inspired to start investigating the properties of the mud. At his initiative, the first therapeutic mud baths were established in Haapsalu in 1825.





10 Ilon's Wonderland

Illustrator Ilon Wikland of the books by world famous children's book author Astrid Lindgren, donated 800 of her original drawings to Haapsalu as a gift. They are displayed in a gallery opened in Ilon's Wonderland. In addition to the gallery you find on the site the children's theme park with playroom. Haapsalu is the childhood hometown of the Ilon Wikland. In the 1930s she lived with her grandparents in a yellow house on the corner of Linda and Rütli streets. Wikland emigrated to Sweden in 1944. Her time in Haapsalu brought small town motifs to her drawings. In Ilon's work you will find images of Haapsalu's wooden houses, fortress walls and railway station.



11 Evald Okas Museum

The works of Evald Okas, a great figure in the Estonian art world and an honorary member of the Florence Art Academy, can be found in museum collections in Estonia and abroad. This museum has been enriching the art life of Haapsalu since 2003. The primary attraction is the constantly changing permanent exposition and exhibits in the museum gallery.



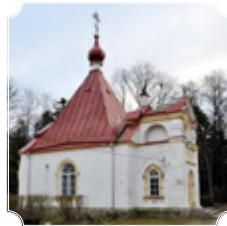
12 'Stick-breaker' sculpture

In front of the Laine health centre, on the shores of the Väike Viik in Haapsalu, you will find Juhan Raudsepp's sculpture 'Stick-breaker'. It symbolises someone who has gotten over their illness in Haapsalu and breaks their walking stick in half, since they no longer need it. In 1992 the sculpture was stolen and broken up into four parts. To the disappointment of the thieves, it proved to be hollow, so they sold it off. Thankfully the pieces were recovered and the sculpture was restored to its former glory.



13 Church of St Prince Alexander Nevsky

The church erected in 1896–1897 on the site of the old graveyard in Haapsalu was dedicated to Alexander Nevsky. A Moscow style tent roof crowned with a small onion dome and a vestibule with a belfry were added according to the project by architect A. F. Krassovsky from St. Petersburg.



The church was used as a venue for funerals all year round. A stove was built in the church in the middle of the 20th century and then it was used as the winter church. At the moment the Haapsalu Mary Magdalene (Alexander Nevsky) parish of the Estonian Orthodox Church of Moscow Patriarchate uses the church.

14 Haapsalu Old Town and Swedish Market

Haapsalu, which is bordered by the sea on three sides, fits on a piece of land with a size of just 10.59 km². The culturally and environmentally valuable Old Town of Haapsalu can be divided into its medieval section and the 20th century health resort area. It is surrounded by a belt of wooden houses and the Promenade, Aafrika beach and parks. Haapsalu's main street, Karja, begins at the Swedish Market. The name of the street ("herd") originates from the time when animals belonging to the citizens of the town were led out to pasture down this road. As late as the beginning of the 20th century, the Swedish Market was an empty square where the fish market was held. Many plots of land in the area belonged at that time to Estonian Swedes (or Coastal Swedish) families. In the 1930s, a small park with the town well was built here. To decorate the square, the sculpture "Boy With A Fish"



15 Ernst Enno Monument

Poet Ernst Enno came to Haapsalu in 1919, when he became a school adviser in Lääne County. His Haapsalu period was not the peak of his career, but it was here that he wrote his best children's songs. If you are walking on the Haapsalu embankment stop by the park named for him and monument dedicated to him. Ernst Enno's grave is in Haapsalu's Old Cemetery, where many famous cultural figures rest under the indigenous trees.



16 Memorial to Cyrillus Kreek
Come and see this memorial to one of Estonia's most famous composers, who grew up in Lääne County – Cyrillus Kreek (1889–1962).

The memorial, which was created by Aime Kuulbusch, is located in front of the composer's former home, on the shores of Väikese Bay. The majority of Kreek's works were created in Haapsalu. Kreek's most important "secret service" was composing sacred music and arranging sacred folk songs and choral canons, whilst publicly maintaining a standoffish attitude towards the church.



19 Museum of the Coastal Swedes

This museum in Haapsalu introduces the thousand-year-old settlements of the coastal Swedes in Estonia. In the house inaugurated by the King of Sweden, you can acquaint yourself with their unique cultural heritage and see a 20-metre embroidered rug that depicts the life of the Estonian-Swedes. There is a scene where Swedish peasant bought Large-Pakri Island from the Padise Monastery for 34 gold marks in 1345. Swedish King Carl Gustaf had great words of praise for the pictorial rug! In addition, other interesting undertakings take place and traditional wedding feasts are held.



17 The building of Läänemaa Upper Secondary School

The historic building has accommodated a school for almost 200 years, making it one of the oldest schools in Haapsalu. The oldest part of the schoolhouse was built at the end of the 18th century, the newest part in 1928. The completely renovated school that re-opened in 2013 is now called Läänemaa Upper Secondary School; formerly, it was named in the honour of linguist and scientist F. J. Wiedemann.



20 The Palace of De la Gardie

In 1827, Count Carl Magnus De la Gardie (1788–1856) purchased the completed building and its park, now called the Krahviaed, or Count's Garden. De la Gardie supported the creation of the first mud therapy establishment in Haapsalu. Many prominent figures of the Russian Empire, including the imperial family, used to stay at his palace during the summer season. From the end of the rule of Nicholas I of Russia until the fall of the empire, all Russian emperors up to Nicholas II of Russia visited Haapsalu to enjoy a mud bath. The palace of De la Gardie was renovated and from 2012. It is now used as a Lääne County hospital nursing home.



18 Haapsalu Sundial

There is sundial designed by artist Roman Haavamäe on the Haapsalu seaside Promenade. The face of the dial depicts the life of man – starting with a child and ending with an old man supported by a cane. On the Promenade also admire the decorative dolomite stairways and decorative columns by the same artist, as well as the ornamented stairs on both sides of the Assembly Hall.



21 Uuemõisa Manor

Uuemõisa manor a few kilometres away from the centre of Haapsalu was first mentioned in 1539 when it was an Episcopal manor. The last owner before the compulsory sale of the manor, which in the 17th century belonged to the de la Gardie family, was princess Yevgeniya Shakhovskaya. In 1833 a two-storey post-classicist main building was constructed in the manor. In the 1920s the building was reconstructed based on the design made by Karl Burman. As a result, long one-storey wings were added to the building. All of this made it an immensely long building. At present the manor is the seat of Ridala rural municipality government and Uuemõisa Primary School.





Tourist Information

Haapsalu Tourist Information Centres

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