



# **"MINDS into MATTER - the "Book of Business" sustainable training tool in the tourist industry"**

**Erasmus+ strategic partnership project**

**Project number 2016-1-IS01-KA202-017090**

# **The Taevaskoja Holiday Center**

## **ESTONIA**

### **Book of Business**

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## 1. Location: benefits to live in nature in the Heaven's Halls

The Taevaskoja Holiday Centre is surrounded by nearly 40 kilometers of hiking trails maintained by the State Forest Management Centre (RMK). In the wintertime it is possible to enjoy skiing on quality trails, which are over 10 kilometers long.



The Taevaskoja Holiday Centre is located just in 700 m from the Suur Taevaskoda sandstone cliff. The Suur Taevaskoda (Large Heaven's Hall) is considered one of the most popular natural sights in Estonia.

The Väike Taevaskoja (Small Heaven's Hall) sandstone cliff is also located only a brief walk away. The sandstone cliff rises 22,5 m from the river surface, the total relative height of the sandstone wall is up to 38 m. Many scenes for the Estonian cult classic "Viimne Reliikvia" (The Last Relic) were filmed around here. Over the years, many fascinating folk tales and legends about the sandstone cliffs, boulders and other objects in Taevaskoja have been created.



The Taevaskoja Holiday Centre is a pleasant place where to come for family holiday, to enjoy a romantic getaway or simply spend quality time with friends. It is place for summer camps and seminars.

Moving slightly upstream from the Suur Taevaskoda, you will find a big boulder by the name of Nõiakivi – Witch's Stone, also known as the Spy's Stone (Salakuulaja kivi). The legend says that an enemy spy, sent to listen in on the talks of the folk leaders, had hidden himself behind this boulder and as a punishment for his actions, he too was turned into stone.

Another visitors' favorite is the Väike Taevaskoda. Its sandstone cliff is up to 13 m high. Natural springs have carved a cave into the wall, which has been named the Neitsikoobas – the Virgin's Cave. Historians believe that the cliffs have been named Heaven's Hall (Taevaskoda) because Estonians believing in the Taara God used to hold their meetings there. The legend however says that the Vanapagan (Old Devil)



had been so enchanted by the place's beauty that he had built various rooms underground here and named them the Heaven's Halls.

The river flowing by the Taevaskoja cliffs is called the Ahja River, and it is one of the most popular rivers for canoeing and kayaking in Estonia. The nature in Taevaskoja is beautiful and fascinating. It is said that every proper Estonian must visit the place at least once in their lifetime. To get the most of the area, you should spend more than just a day here.



The surrounding forests have nearly 40 kilometers of hiking trails, maintained by the Estonian State Forest Management Centre (RMK).



### **The Taevaskoja Holiday Centre has several campfire sites.**

The Taevaskoja Holiday Center offers breakfast, lunch and dinner, coffee breaks and snacks to take along with you when you go hiking. The meals we prepare are made of finest quality ingredients. We also prefer to use the produce of local farmers.

Menu you can find here: <http://www.taevaskoja.ee/catering/?lang=en>

Special catering menu is here:

<http://www.taevaskoja.ee/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Special%20catering%20menu.pdf>

The group menu is offered to groups starting from 10 people.

## 2. Good accommodation for a reasonable price

The Taevaskoja Holiday Centre has two accommodation buildings and a lot of outdoor space for activities. The seminar house is the newer of the two and has room for up to 28 people. The camp building is a bit older and more basic. It houses up to 56 people. Both of the houses have been renovated in 2016 and the whole of the camp house has been redecorated.



**Camp house**



**Seminars building**

**During summertime you can also stay in your own tent on our premises.**



The camp house is located 100 meters from the seminar building. It offers authentic and cheap hotel style accommodation. The rooms have from one to six sleeping places and there is a communal bathroom and toilet on each floor.

The interior of the rooms is simple – wooden beds and chairs and some small cupboards. Next to the camp house is a big football pitch and a campfire site. In the forest there is the Taevaskoja.

The Taevaskoja Holiday Centre cannot be compared to an expensive hotel or manor. But people still enjoy staying with us time and again, for our facilities are good and the prices reasonable which starts from 14 euros per person.

The Taevaskoja Holiday Centre has been in operation for more than 18 years and during this time has welcomed over 70000 guests, who value spending a good time in beautiful nature and wonderful company. The Taevaskoja Holiday Centre is mostly favored by groups of 20-40 people.

Tents set up limit is the sky. You don't need to look for a flat camping site, just three trees are enough. We offer a chance to try out tentsile tents and stay for a night in our beautiful forest. We will set up the tent, you just need to bring your sleeping bag. The prices for a night in a two people tent is 30€ and 45€ in a three people tent. Do not forget to bring your own sleeping bag!



Rooms in the seminar house were renovated in 2017-2018 and have space for 2-4 people.



New tents were built on the trees near the seminar house and also in the forest.



More attractive accommodation is for them who like to stay close to nature.



### 3. Opportunities for seminars and conferences

In the big hall in the seminar house it is possible to hold an event for 20-70 people. There are space for plenaries and also for group work in the house and outdoors.

In summertime Taevaskoja Holiday Centre can host groups of up to 400 people, accommodating them in big outdoor tents.



- **Taevaskoja Turismi- ja Puhkekeskus has been opened 18 years ago.**
- **6-12 employees (depends on the seasons).**
- **Annual turnover (2016) was 250 000 EUR.**



## 4. Sport facilities and activities

There are on the grounds an exciting [adventure courses](#): 9 meters above the ground, a climbing wall, a football pitch, place to play volleyball and different games.



Staff organise [canoe](#) and [kickbike trips](#) and other activities. The canoe trips are suitable for children from 12 years of age. With smaller children we recommend a shorter trip, up to 8 kilometers, with an adult guardian.





## A kicksled ride is perfect for enjoying the winter scenery

The trip kicks off from Taevaskoja Holiday Centre. The participants will be introduced to their sleds and receive basic instructions. After which you will head off towards the Ahja river nature reserve. You will pass many interesting sights along the way.

You will visit the filming locations of the Last Relic movie in the Ahja River valley nature reserve, the Suur and Väike Taevaskoda and various other beautiful places. Along the route the trip guide will tell you interesting stories about wildlife and what makes the Taevaskojad (Heaven's Halls) so special. With any luck you will encounter interesting birds and animal trails on the route.



The kicksled is very easy to master. The pace for the trip is very relaxed and breaks will be held every 10-15 minutes. The route is a total of 8 kilometers long and takes approximately two hours.

The kicksled trip is suitable for children from nine years of age. Unfortunately the kicksled is simply too big for younger children. If the two hour trip seems too long for the children, then shorter routes are also available. If the weather conditions are suitable, ask for a kicksled trip on the frozen artificial lake! On the artificial lake you will see many breathtaking sights, signs of beaver activities and several magnificent sandstone cliffs.

The Taevaskoja Holiday Centre rents out its kicksleds on their own or with a tour guide. The price for a guided kicksled trip is: 18€ for adults and 12€ for students. Kicksled rental without a tour guide is 5€. Minimum group size is 10 people. For groups of 35 people and more we offer very tempting discounts. The guided tour includes a tour guide and kicksled rental.



## 5.Sauna and Jacuzzi with a fireplace room

There is wooden sauna in the seminar building which can be rented separately just for sauna party.

In the fireplace room on the ground floor of the seminar building there is a cosy fireplace and comfortable couches. Up to 8 people can enjoy the sauna at the same time. The fireplace room is perfect for birthday celebrations or for relaxing after a conference or some other event.

Up to 15 people, including a band, will fit in the fireplace room. Even 20 people have spent time there at a time. In good company, the lack of space is the last thing on people's minds. There is a door from the fireplace room to the outside terrace and the campfire and barbeque sites are also nearby.



Since 2017 there is also Jacuzzi where is possible to spend nice time after rafting or long seminar day.





## 6. Weddings and birthday parties

Taevaskoja Holiday Center is romantic place for weddings and birthday parties. Music and sound of forest can be combined in the perfect way.

If you expect more than 50 people to attend event, it is best to rent out the whole complex. This way the price will be better and privacy guaranteed. In the summer we have hosted events with up to 400 attendees. Our catering will help you set the tables and we are glad to offer any kind of assistant if needed.



We offer breakfast, lunch and dinner, coffee breaks and snacks to take along with you when you go hiking.

The meals we prepare are made of finest quality ingredients. We also prefer to use the produce of local farmers. Menü and price are here <http://www.taevaskoja.ee/catering/?lang=en>



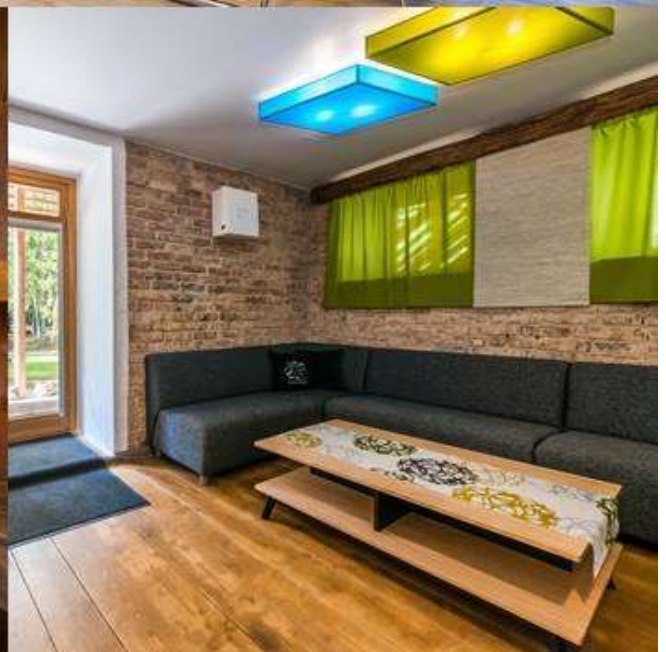
## 7. Development of territory and buildings

- Staff develops territory and facilities to make the Taevaskoja Holiday Centre more attractive to guests, local from Estonia and also foreigners. Prices are flexible. Staff is ready to discuss them and possibly modify the prices. 18 years of experience shows that the cheapest offer on paper might not be the best in reality.
- The idea is to see what clients and visitors looking for and consider that.
- In 2020, we hope to be more popular aboard. We also trying to develop our center and restore one house, where we want to make Eco Spa.

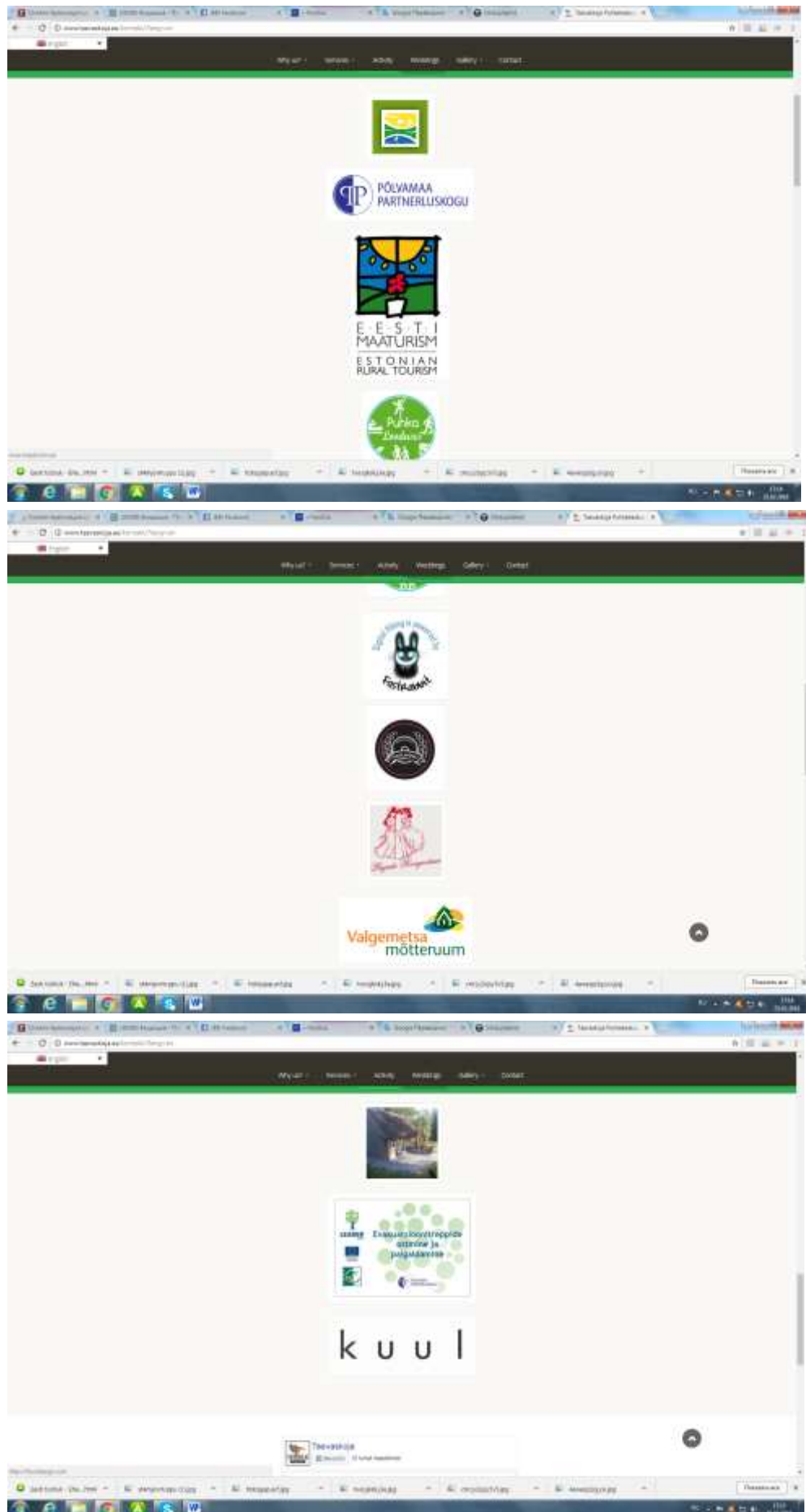




Taevakoja Holiday Center is great place for work and leisure time close to nature. Estonian national ornaments, wooden decorations, country side food and atmosphere give unforgettable memories for all who come here to work or just spend time in silent walking in the forest and listening birds and sound of wind in the top of the trees. Taevaskoja is great place all around the year!



## 8. Partners





**Lättekoda Summer Café** is one of the local partners in Taevaskoja village. There are 18 seats on the summer terrace.



Full menu with grill and deserts you can explore the website <http://www.lattekoda.eu/KOHVIK>  
There also is possible to order massaz and learn Kundalini yoga.  
<http://www.lattekoda.eu/Massoor-Kaja-Bleive>

## 9. Media about Taevaskoja

Video “How to prepare wooden sauna” created in the frame of M&M project:

<https://spark.adobe.com/video/ELk8qx9WvgnQd>



Article in the magazine „Reisimaailm“ (in Estonian)

Video about Taevaskoja nature:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=21&v=SjCmnh6SND0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=21&v=SjCmnh6SND0)

and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD2uj-2dFdk>

Video about Taevaskoja Puhkekeskus:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGndJl7u34k>

Video “We are one” created by youth in Taevaskoja during Erasmus+ project “Film it” in 2017

<https://www.facebook.com/1329177923861838/videos/1372180136228283/>

and “Youthpass – your path” project created in 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MLv0eajZa0&feature=youtu.be>



## 10. Staff members



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Siret works with M&M project mentor Pavel to make a wooden sauna 😊

## 11. Official information

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Taevaskoja village, Neitsikoopa road 10, Estonia

Website:

<http://www.taevaskoja.ee/?lang=en>



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<http://www.ptpest.ee/enid80.html>