

Cultural Program June 28th

Bog trip at Meenikunno bog



After arriving at Meenikunno bog, our guide Livo showed on the map the size and circumference of the nature reserve.



He invited us to take off our shoes and walk bare feet on the peat moss. Peat moss is growing here and that it is good for the skin and it is used for cosmetic treatments. It felt good to walk on the moss!



Peat moss is growing into the lake and will make the lake disappear in the future. This is a natural process. In this area there are only three lakes left.



In between the peat moss other plants are growing. You can find for example tussock cotton grass, blueberries, cranberries and cloudberry. The last one tastes like honey and they make jam of it.



We walked down the boardwalk to the lake, where some of the group went swimming in the orange colored water. The water contains a lot of iron and has medicinal properties. It is very good for the skin and eternal youth!



Estonian people are not so religious. They believe more in the power of nature. The power of bogs and rocks and chakra's.

A body was found in the bog, with a purse with coins in it. It turned out to be from the 16th century. It was well prepared in the bog.



Livo told us that the peat moss is growing 1,5 mm a year. Then he went with his arm up to his armpit into the swamp and grabbed a hand of soil from 700 years out!



700 years old hand of soil



Because the water in the swamp is sterile, you can drink it.

We went back to the starting point where we had a lunch with hot soup and bread.

It was a very beautiful, quiet, calm and peaceful place to be!
Very relaxing!



Then we took the bus to **The Piusa caves.**



We saw a movie about the 40 species of bats that lives in the caves. We visited the observation platform at the Show Cave.

The Piusa sandstone caves are the result of hand-mining glass sand during 1922–1966.

The biggest wintering colony of bats in East Europe is located in the caves.



We took a walking tour around the area where you could see the mine excavations.





On our way we saw a bomb crater and trenches from the second World War.



The last visit of the day was to **Estonian Road Museum**, at Varbuse.



We learned about the history of postal traffic and other kind of traffic.

The Rule of Machines – a fascinating interactive exhibition on car mechanics and traffic physics, safe driving, and building safe roads.



One of the buildings of the old postal station



An old stagecoach



The postal station buildings were in use until 1838.

Roadmasters were responsible for the roads until 1979.

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For example: they counted the cars so they could decide whether the roads should be paved or not.

The outdoor exhibition *Road Time* is a road going through time and space where you can see old and modern vehicles.



An old petrol station.





We could also explore Eastern Europe's largest collection of road construction machines.

On the picture some old (still working) snow shovel machines.



It was a very nice day filled with: beautiful nature, interesting sites and museums.