



INQUA Peribaltic Working Group

*International Field Symposium*

**"Quaternary Sediments, Landscapes, and Early Settlement History in Western Estonia"**

**August 25-30, 2024 | Pärnu, Estonia**

### Conference Overview

The Peribaltic Working Group conference will be held in western Estonia, encompassing the field trip to the islands of Saaremaa and Hiiumaa. Scheduled for August 25-30, the event will commence in Pärnu. The scientific session is planned for on August 26, followed by a field trip from August 27-30, beginning and ending in Pärnu. As with previous Peribaltic WG meetings, this symposium invites contributions on a broad range of Quaternary geological topics beyond those listed in title.

### Important Dates

<b>August 25, 2024</b>	Arrival to Pärnu and Ice-breaker event
<b>August 26, 2024</b>	Scientific Session(s)
<b>August 27–30, 2024</b>	Field trip in western Estonia and the islands of Saaremaa and Hiiumaa; Conference Dinner on August 29; field trip ends in Pärnu on August 30, at 6 PM
<b>August 30, 2024</b>	Departures from Pärnu; closest airports are in Riga and Tallinn

### Conference Venue

The conference will take place in Pärnu, Estonia's summer capital, [Hestia Hotel Strand](#)

### Field trip

The 4-d field trip will cover various topics through site visits, including:

- Environmental geology (landslides in proglacial clays, wetland restoration, flooding of coastal areas);
- Past and future relative sea-level changes and storminess scenarios;
- Recent discoveries in shallow sea-bed mapping;
- Contemporary coastal processes and the health of beaches in Estonia and elsewhere;
- Geoarchaeology opening the links between landscape and early settlement patterns.

Preliminary List of Localities:

Date	Route	Stop	Topics	
August 27	Surroundings of Pärnu	Stop 1: Tolkuse palaeolagoon and Rannametsa dunes	Holocene RSL changes; wetland restoration; past aeolian activity in Estonia	
		Stop 2: Pulli and/or Sindi-Lodja earliest archaeological sites in Estonia	Archaeology and shore displacement from Early Mesolithic to first seal hunters	
		Stop 3: Pärnu River	Buried Pärnu River valley, RSL change and landslides in proglacial clays	
		Stop 4: sandy beach in Pärnu	Coastal processes, coastal protection facilities; future scenarios of RSL and potential catastrophic floods in Pärnu area	
<i>Overnight in Pärnu</i>				
August 28	Pärnu–Saaremaa Island	Stop 5: 2022 landslide on the right bank of the Audru River	Landslides in the glaciolacustrine clays – human induced or natural phenomenon	
		<i>Ferry Virtsu (mainland Estonia) to Kuivastu (Muhu Island); transfer ca 30 min; early lunch onboard</i>		
		Stop 6: Muhu Island	“Bridge – tunnel or a ferry?”; mapping of a shallow seafloor and discovery of murtoos outside Scandinavia	
		Stop 7: Kaali impact crater	Holocene impact event and a crater - treasure of Estonian geology and target of many disputations	
		Stop 8: Järve beach	Coastal processes – a good example of lithomorpho-dynamics	
		Stop 9: Salme Viking Age boat burials	Vikings and the oldest boat burial site in the Baltic Sea area	
		Stop 10: western coast of Saaremaa Island	Windparks in coastal sea – topic of heavy discussions and a lot of geological research	
		Stop 11: Harialid Peninsula	Active coastal spit system and did we really place a lighthouse to the sea	
<i>Overnight in Kuressaare, Saaremaa Island</i>				
August 29	Saaremaa - Hiiumaa	<i>Ferry from Triigi (Saaremaa I.) to Sõru (Hiiumaa I) trip ca 1.15 h</i>		
		Stop 11: Tihu coastal spit system in western Hiiumaa Island	6.5 ka uplift chronology and the storminess record from ridge morphology	
		Stop 12: Kõpu lighthouse – the oldest in Estonia; the oldest .....	Kõivasoo palaeolagoon sediments tell us the story about - RSL change and the ‘rise of a Kõpu Island’; how did the humans find the island etc	
		Stop 13: Ristna spit	Footprints of the Baltic Ice Stream in the shallow sea bottom but not only in the surroundings of Hiiumaa but wider – BaltStream tells us the story	
		Stop 14: Lauka sinkhole	Karst phenomenon in Estonia (if we have a time for that left...)	
		Stop 15: Lehtma harbour	A century of anthropogenic influence on the coastal processes and dispute on the origin of the north trending Tahkuna Ps	
		Stop-Stop: ‘Rannapaargu’ at a seaside in Kärdla	Conference Dinner with ‘fast food and seawater – hard times’	
<i>Overnight in Kärdla, Hiiumaa Island</i>				

Date	Route	Stop	Topics	
August 30	Hiiumaa - Pärnu	Stop 16: Erratic boulder field at the distal slope of the impact crater	Where are they from, what they tell to us and why we have a nice song about boulders 'who are longing back home', and of course 'size matters!!'	
		Stop 17: Kärđla impact crater	Palaeozoic impact structure and its influence on the glacial and post-glacial processes	
		<i>Ferry from Heltermaa (Hiiumaa) to Rohuküla (mainland Estonia); trip ca 1.15 h, lunch onboard</i>		
		Stop 18: Palivere	Glaciofluvial fan or marginal esker – Palivere (ca 13.2 ka) ice-marginal formations; eskers mapping project in eastern Baltic	
		Stop 19: Velise	Archaeology and shore displacement; varve chronology for western Estonia	
		Pärnu	Arrival to Pärnu latest at 6 PM; warm kisses and departure	

## Social Events

**Ice-breaker:** August 25, 2024, Hestia Hotel Strand

**Conference Dinner:** August 29, 2024, on Hiiumaa Island at the beachfront restaurant with 50 years of history, [Rannapaargu](#)

## Travel and accommodation

The closest airports are in Riga (Latvia) and Tallinn (Estonia), both at a similar distance and well-connected to Pärnu. Pärnu is also accessible by car. For international bus lines visit [Eurolines](#) and for domestic bus tickets, check [TPilet](#)

Accommodation will be provided in twin rooms,

August 25-28, [Hestia Hotel Strand](#), Pärnu

August 28-29, [Meri Spa](#), Kuressaare

August 29-30, [Hotell Sõnajala](#), Kärđla

## Organisers

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