



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 sessions are planned for August 26, followed by a field trip from August 27-30, beginning and ending in Pärnu.

Important Dates and times

August 25, 2024	Arrival to Pärnu, check-in Hestia Hotel Strand starts at 3 PM, Ice-breaker event in seminar room Lahe Hall at 6 PM
August 26, 2024	Scientific Session(s), Hestia Hotel Strand seminar room Lahe Hall starts at 9 AM
August 27–30, 2024	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
August 30, 2024	Departures from Pärnu; closest airports are in Riga and Tallinn

Conference venue and registration

The conference will take place in Pärnu, [Hestia Hotel Strand](#) seminar room Lahe Hall. Registration is on August 26, from 8 to 9 AM.

Field trip

The 4-days 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 is opening the links between landscape and early settlement patterns.

List of localities to be visited (the map with the route is below):

Date	Route	Stop	Topics
August 27	Pärnu	Stop 1: Tolkuse palaeolagoon and Rannametsa dunes	Holocene RSL changes; wetland restoration
		Stop 2: Pärnu River	Buried Pärnu River valley, RSL change and landslides in proglacial clays
		Stop 3: Pulli archaeological site	Pulli archaeological site - the oldest known human settlement in Estonia
		Stop 4: Sindi-Lodja archaeological sites	Archaeology and shore displacement from Early Mesolithic to first seal hunters
		Stop 5: sandy beach in Pärnu	Coastal processes, coastal protection facilities, and catastrophic floods
<i>Overnight in Pärnu</i>			
August 28	Pärnu–Saaremaa Island	Stop 6: Audru River	Landslide site on the Audru River, recent landslide event.
		Stop 7: Muhu Island	“Bridge – tunnel or a ferry?”; mapping of a shallow seafloor and discovery of murtoos outside Scandinavia
		Stop 8: Kaali impact crater	Holocene impact event
		Stop 9: Järve beach	Coastal processes
		Stop 10: Salme Viking Age boat burials	Vikings and the oldest boat burial site
Stop 11: Harilaid Peninsula	Active coastal spit system		
<i>Overnight in Kuressaare, Saaremaa Island</i>			
August 29	Saaremaa–Hiiumaa	Stop 12: Tihu coastal spit system	6.5 ka palaeostorminess record from a coastal spit system
		Stop 13: Kõpu lighthouse	Kõivasoo palaeolagoon sediments, Stone Age seal hunters in Hiiumaa Island
		Stop 14: Ristna spit	Footprints of the Baltic Ice Stream in the shallow sea bottom
		Stop 15: Lehtma harbour	A century of anthropogenic influence on the coastal processes
		Stop-Stop: Rannapaargu at a seaside in Kärdla	Conference Dinner with fast food and seawater
<i>Overnight in Kärdla, Hiiumaa Island</i>			
August 30	Hiiumaa–Pärnu	Stop 16: Slope of Kärdla impact crater	Erratic boulder field, concentrated large boulders from glacial transport
		Stop 17: Kärdla impact crater	Palaeozoic impact structure and its influence on the glacial and post-glacial processes
		Stop 18: Palivere	Glaciofluvial fan or marginal esker – Palivere (ca 13.2 ka) ice-marginal formations; eskers mapping project in the southern and eastern Baltic
		Pärnu	Arrival to Pärnu latest at 6 PM; warm kisses and departure

Social events and business meeting

Ice-breaker: August 25, 2024, from 6-8 PM, Hestia Hotel Strand, seminar room Lahe Hall

Business meeting: August 29, 2024, at 5 PM on Hiiumaa Island at [Hotell Sõnajala](#), Kärkla

Conference Dinner: August 29, 2024, at 6 PM 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. Check-in starts at 3 pm. NB! Please mention in the reception that you attending the Peribaltic conference.

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

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

Organisers

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