

## Kekkose Hiking Track

Kekkose hiking track is 15 km long. The track begins on Kääriku ski stadium and goes up and down through old farmsteads near Kääriku as well as through the largest forests of the area. In the summer, the track can be crossed by foot and by bikes, and in winter on skis. The highest point of the track is the massive Harimägi rise (211 m), on the top of which is a 25 m high lookout tower. From there open beautiful views to the landscape of the southern part of Otepää upland and the valleys of Väike Emajõgi.

Kekkose track has been named after the Finnish president Urho Kaleva Kekkonen, who during his legendary Estonia visit in March 1964 also visited Kääriku. In Kääriku, the president hiked on the 17 km ski track and spent the evening in Kääriku Sports Centre with the university students from the Faculty of Exercise and Sports Sciences.



☐ *Roe deer*

After Harimägi the Kekkose track heads towards the Sangaste forest – the large forest area between Harimägi and Restu. The spectacular landscape here has formed during the activities and retreat of the glaciers of the last Ice Age. Giant blocks of ice left behind hundreds of mounds, valleys and dimples; most known of them are Suur and Little Hirveauk, Alpiaas, Karukauss, Suur and Little Hirvehari, a lot of higher mounds (Partsimägi, Purakamägi, Päikesemägi). Sangaste forest is habitat

for mammals such as elks, badgers and roes, and the habitat area of a brown bear also extends here. Of birds, this forest area is suitable for goshawks, Ural owls, Black woodpeckers and a lot of other smaller Passeriformes.

## Lake Kääriku

By the end of the track, you can visit 19 ha large and up to 5.9 m deep Lake Kääriku. The bank of the lake is quaggy and muddy in western and northern part of the lake, and steep in northeastern part near Seinamägi and in south at swimming area. Lakebed is covered with 5 m deep layer of mud. It is thought that Lake Kääriku has thermokarstic origin: after the retreat of the glaciers of the last Ice Age, the ice beneath the surface slowly melted and surface above it fell into the hollow area that had emerged after the melting, thus forming the lakebed area.

### More information about nature:

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KESKKONNAMINISTEERIUM



Riiklik  
Looduskaitsekeskus



# KEKKOSE Hiking Track

Otepää looduspark

## Legend

- Community boundary
- Border of NP
- Surfaced road
- Gravel road
- Unsurfaced road
- River, stream
- Contour line
- Building
- Forest
- Lake
- Special management zone

- Kekkonen's track - 15 km
- Tartu maraton trail - 64 km
- Otepää-Kääriku hiking and cycling trail - 13 km
- Hiking trail
- Cycling trail
- Skiing trail
- Bonfire site
- View tower
- Archeological memorial
- Scenic view
- Fishing
- Natural feature
- Beach

