

instant

HAAPSALU

inyourpocket

2008



Introducing Haapsalu

Haapsalu is the sort of place that captures you. Different than any other city in Estonia, it has that small town feeling and with a population hovering around 12,000 indeed it is. Due to its picture perfect location and relative isolation this city by the sea has captured the interest and fancy of many creative people over the centuries including Tchaikovsky, who spent some time here. Haapsalu is a romantic and ancient city filled with fascinating stories and glorious architecture... all within walking distance.

Events
Sights
Hotels
Restaurants
Shopping

and a whole host of other useful information

This tiny .pdf guide has been written to start you off with a small taste of what the city has to offer and to help you plan your trip. The full version of the excellent, pocket-sized *Tallinn In Your Pocket* city guide with the Haapsalu supplement is available at newspaper kiosks, hotels, bookshops and other locales throughout town. Pick up a copy for a mere 35kr (€2.25). Now you can even buy our guide online and have it shipped to your home. Simply go to <http://www.inyourpocket.com/clickandbuy> for more details.

Customs

European alcoholics rejoice! When you leave Estonia headed to another EU country, you can take out as much booze as you can carry (or convince inspectors is for your personal use). Coming into Estonia from another EU country, each individual aged 18 and over may carry in duty-free 90 litres of wine and 110 litres of beer and 10 litres of hard alcohol (over 21%alc/vol), 800 cigarettes, 400 cigarillos, 200 cigars and 1kg of pure tobacco. When leaving, beware of stricter tobacco restrictions if you're headed to the UK, Sweden or Finland. Relatively unlucky travellers from non-EU countries can carry in a measly 2 litres of wine (not exceeding €175EUR in combined value), 2 litres of beverages up to 21%alc/vol and 1 litre of hard alcohol; 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250g pure tobacco. How much booze and smokes you can take home depends on your own country's restrictions. For more information, contact the Customs Department, Narva mnt. 9j, tel. 696 74 36/696 74 35, info@customs.ee, www.emta.ee.

Money

The Estonian kroon (rhymes with 'tone') is pegged to the Euro at €1 to 15.65kr. Keep in mind that Euros are not legal currency here yet since Estonia won't join the common currency until at least 2011. Paper bills come in denominations of 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100 and 500kr. Some luggage lockers take 5kr coins, which are rare and have to be requested. 1kr coins are in common use, and the nearly worthless 10, 20 and 50 senti coins are an unavoidable nuisance. ATMs operating on international systems are ever present. Credit cards are easy to use in Haapsalu - major hotels, most restaurants and a pretty much all downtown shops accept Visa, Mastercard and EC. American Express and Globus are less common. Banks offer cash advances on credit cards, usually for a fee. American Express and Thomas Cook travellers' cheques are exchangeable at most banks.

Visas/Passports

Now that Estonia is in the European Union, EU citizens can enter Estonia with just a national ID card. All others need valid passports. You can enter Estonia visa-free and stay 90 days if you're a citizen of any EU country, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand, Israel, Argentina, South Korea and a number of other countries listed on the website below. All others, including South Africans, Russians, Byelorussians and Ukrainians do need a visa to come to Estonia. South Africans may enter Estonia if they hold a visa for Latvia or Lithuania. Anyone staying in Estonia for more than 90 days (180 days for UK citizens) needs either a residence permit or a visa, though there are certain very specific exceptions for EU citizens. For all the details, contact the consular department of the Foreign Ministry, tel. 631 74 40, or check their website, www.vm.ee.

Symbol key

Old Town location	Facilities for disabled
Payment in cash only	Parking available
Live music	Take away
Smoking area	Child friendly
Fireplace	Outdoor seating
WiFi connection	Sauna

Making the call

Calling within Estonia To call any number within Estonia, either from a fixed line or a local mobile, just dial the number as it's written. There are no city codes in Estonia.

Mobile numbers Estonian mobile numbers all begin with '5'. Just dial the number as is. Again, there are no special codes.

Calling Estonia from abroad Estonia's country code is +372. Just dial your international access code (00 from most European countries), then 372 then the number, be it mobile or land line. That's it.

Roaming To call any telephone in Estonia from a foreign mobile account, dial +372 followed by the number, as outlined before.

Calling abroad from Estonia Dial 00, the country code, then the rest of the numbers.

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Instant Haapsalu

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Tallinn In Your Pocket is published by

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If you're looking for perfect day trip or weekend getaway, you'll find it in Haapsalu. A mere 99km from Tallinn, this quiet seaside town of just under 12,000 is steeped in history, filled with quaint, wooden houses, and it even has its own beach. It's no wonder that visitors of one sort or another have been coming here since the 13th Century, when the Episcopal Castle (now one of the town's main attractions) was built. Most of the castle was pulled down by Peter the Great in 1715, but that certainly wasn't the end of Haapsalu's story. In the early 1800's, Dr. Carl Abraham Hunnius discovered the curative properties of the local sea mud, and the town's new role as a resort destination was sealed. In 1825 the first spa opened in Haapsalu, and pretty soon everyone from Tsaikovsky to the Tsar and his family were coming here to take the cures.

This year Haapsalu celebrates its 183rd anniversary as a resort town – an industry that's still going strong. After doing your sightseeing you can contact the spa resorts listed here and make an appointment to get slathered in mud, or simply go for an aromatic massage.

If you've got more than a couple of days to spend in Haapsalu, we suggest you take the ferry trip to the Island of Hiiumaa, it's Estonia's second biggest island and ferries leave frequently. More info at www.laevakompanii.ee.

Getting there

Haapsalu is extremely easy to reach. More than 20 buses depart Tallinn for Haapsalu each day, making the southwest trip in 1.5 - 2 hours, depending on the exact route. Tickets cost 75 - 105kr. You can find the complete schedule and price information at www.bussireisid.ee. If you do decide to book a trip by bus to Haapsalu, make sure you choose the correct Haapsalu, several tourists have made the mistake of travelling to the other 'evil' Haapsalu instead.

If you're travelling by car, head out of town on Pärnu mnt. About 25km south of Tallinn the highway splits. Signs will direct you to veer right, towards to Haapsalu and Saaremaa. The drive usually takes less than 90 minutes.



Tourist information

Tourist Information Centre Posti 37, tel./fax 473 32 48, haapsalu@visitestonia.com, www.haapsalu.ee, www.westest.ee. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 15:00. In winter (Sept 15 - May 15) open Mon-Fri 09:00 - 17:00.

Summer events

Venue abbreviations

AT	Events take place all around town
CC	Haapsalu Culture Centre; Posti 3
CG	Haapsalu City Gallery; Posti 3
DC	Dome Church
EC	Episcopal Castle
EO	Evald Okas Museum; Karja 24
HK	Haapsalu Kuursaal; Promenaadi 1
KA	Kiltsi Airfield

June

Date	Event	Venue
01 - 28	Haapsalu International Graphic Design Festival	CG/CC
01-06	Music Days of composer Cyrillus Kreek	DC
22	Midsummer's Eve Bonfire	EC
27 - 28	15th All-Estonian Folk Music Fest	AT

July

Day	Event	Venue
01 - 06	Haapsalu Glass Days "Time of Glass"	EO
02 - 06	Culture Catapults 2008 - art week	EC
02 - 06	15th Haapsalu Early Music Festival	DC
11	Nato Bigband and Haapsalu Big Band	HK
11-13	American Beauty Car Show	EC/AT
19	Urmas Alender memorial concert "Minu Eestimaa" (My Estonia)	DC
23-27	15th International String Festival	AT

August

Day	Event	Venue
01 - 02	August Blues - blues festival	AT
01 - 02	Airport Jam (club music and street race)	AT
15 - 18	White Lady performance	EC
15 - 17	White Lady Festival	EC
16	Haapsalu Shawl knitting competition	HK

Legend of the White Lady

Each August, when the moon is full, the ghostly figure of a woman in white mysteriously appears on the window of the Bishop's Castle. Legend holds that long ago a young priest was having a secret affair with a local woman, and would sneak her into the castle dressed as a choirboy. When they were found out, the woman was sealed up alive in the castle wall as punishment. Before you declare this an X-file, consider that the common belief is that either an architectural quirk causes the moonlight to bounce in just the right way, or that the Dome Church's designers were pulling a colossal prank. In either case, Estonia's most famous ghost story is a town trademark, and the White Lady Days festival is timed to coincide with the woman's annual appearance. The annual return of the town's most famous ghost is marked by the White Lady Days festival, happening August 15 - 17.



Essential sights

Episcopal Castle tel. 472 53 46, www.haapsalulinuus.ee. Haapsalu's most fascinating historic sight is the late 13th-century castle that lords over the centre of town. It served as both a religious outpost and military fortress when Haapsalu was the centre of the Saare-Lääne diocese, and managed to survive centuries of war and invasion until Peter the Great finally had it pulled down in 1715. Now its park-like courtyard acts as both a concert venue and a favourite place for locals to stroll. For a supposed ruin, it's surprisingly intact - most of the outer walls and a good part of the main structure are still standing. In summer a café sets up shop here, and visitors can climb the **clock tower** for a bird's-eye look at the town. The castle also has its own **small museum**, which offers the best way to get a look inside the beautiful **Dome Church** (see below). In addition to the museum, you can explore the underground **passage ways and cellars**, which are now open to the public for the first time since the 17th-century. Explore the castle grounds outside the church and you can hear the ghostly singing of the **White Lady** who was supposedly immured here. It's really just a recording, but don't tell anyone. This year also saw the opening of a **children's park** at one end of the moat and several areas to sit and ponder what it must have been like in the days of yore. ▶ Castle grounds open 07:00 - 24:00 (admission free), museum, cathedral and watchtower open 10:00 - 19:00 (admission 30kr).

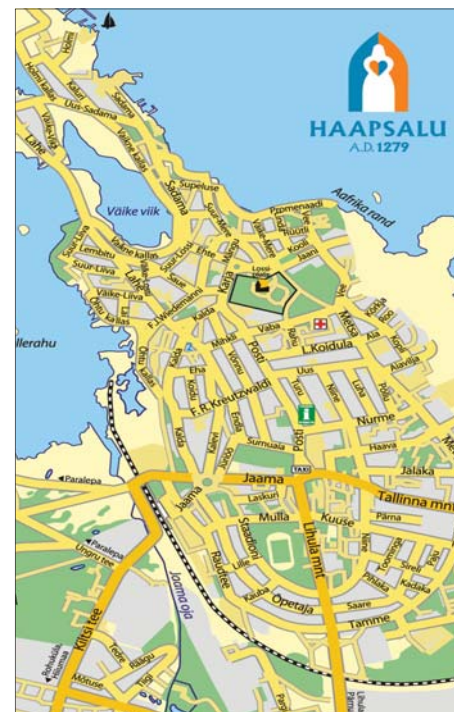


Dome Church Episcopal Castle. Built around 1260, the beautiful St. Nicholas Dome Church is an amazing piece of architecture. Its main body is one gigantic nave with 15.5m-high vaulted ceilings and hanging chandeliers, all in a style that straddles the Romanesque and the Gothic. Don't pass up the chance to hear a concert here.

Promenade Follow this short path that curves along the bay for a great view of the water and a glimpse into the town's history. This is the site of Aafrika Beach and Chocolate Beach, both of which were buzzing with life in the 1920s and 30s when Haapsalu touted itself as a summer playground. Along the path you'll find a talking, music playing bench dedicated to the great Russian composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky, who spent the summer here in 1867, the lacy, late 19th-century Kuursaal (resort hall), with its flower gardens and band shell, and a new bird-watching tower.

Estonian-Swedish Museum (Rannarootsi Muuseum) Sadama 31/32, tel. 473 71 65, toomas@alboland.ee, www.alboland.ee. This museum chronicles the history and culture of ethnic Swedes who settled Estonia's coastal areas and islands during the Viking era. Most of the country's 8,000 Swedes fled during World War II, though they retain a strong connection to their Estonian village roots. Don't miss the colourful timeline tapestry in the back room, and look for a special exhibition on those who fled in 1944. Traditional weaving and needlework is on display in the Vormsi room, upstairs. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Sun. Admission 20kr.

Läänemaa Museum Kooli 2, tel. 473 76 65, www.muuseum.haapsalu.ee. This well-outfitted museum in the old Town Hall tracks the history of this part of Estonia from the pre-Christian era right up to Haapsalu's success as a resort town in the 1930s. Displays include the recreated interior of an early 20th-century farm dwelling, a ship and the pre-war mayor's office. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Tickets 25kr.



Railway Station/Estonian Railway Museum Raudtee 2, tel. 473 45 74, raudtee@jaam.ee, www.jaam.ee. The town's pride and joy railway station was built in 1907 to accommodate the expected visits by the Tsar's family. Ironically the Imperial train never pulled in here, but the town was left with one of the most impressive railway buildings in the Baltics. Visitors can stroll down the long platform and take a look at a few old engines parked on the tracks. Train service ended here in 1995, but there's a button you can press in the waiting hall to hear what it sounded like when an old locomotive pulled in. The outdoor areas are free and always open, but 25kr will get you into the museum, which is built into what was the Imperial waiting hall. Here you'll see a recreated railway office, lots of old equipment and other train-related treasures. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission 25kr.



Telecommunications Museum (Sidemuseum) Tamme 21a, tel. 473 36 64, info@sidemuseum.ee, www.sidemuseum.ee. An electronics nerd's paradise, this museum houses a mind-numbingly exhaustive collection of telephone switching equipment from the last century. The old radios and TVs here are probably more interesting. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission 15kr.

Paralepa Beach Haapsalu's main swimming beach is at the edge of town, just past the railway station. Besides being a centre of fun and frolicking, it's also where a number of sports events are held.

Hotels

Baltic Hotel Promenaadi Sadama 22, tel. 473 72 50, fax 473 72 54, hotel@promenaadi.ee, www.promenaadi.ee. Located right on the water next to the town's famous Promenade (hence the name), this hotel can make an important claim that others can't - all its rooms have balconies and face the sea! The rooms themselves are decent, with fridges and tea-making facilities. The restaurant with its sun deck makes for a great place to have breakfast with a view. ▶ 35 rooms (singles 1000 - 1200kr, doubles 1300 - 1400kr, suites 1600 - 1700kr, Family room 1800 - 1900kr). Extra bed 400kr, pets 150kr. Winter prices 800 - 1500kr. 🏠 🍴 📺 📶 🚿 🛏️ ★★★

Kongo Kalda 19, tel. 472 48 00, fax 472 48 09, kongohotel@hot.ee, www.kongohotel.ee. Jokingly named for the beer stand that was here in Soviet times, the Kongo is a modern, bright, comfy place to stay. Guests are treated to breakfast in the cosy, brick-lined restaurant and room price even includes morning sauna. The higher-priced doubles have their own little kitchens in case you want to be your own chef. ▶ 21 rooms (singles 1100kr, doubles 1300 - 1550kr, suites 2500kr). Extra bed 250kr. Low season prices: singles 850kr, doubles 1000 - 1200kr, suites 2500kr. 🏠 🍴 📺 📶 🚿 🛏️

Päeva Villa Lai 7, tel./fax 473 36 72, paeavilla@hot.ee, www.paeavilla.ee. Each room at this small, friendly hotel has its own name and theme, from the nautically-decorated Captain's Room to the slightly more regal Mannerheim suite. Unfortunately, we forgot to check whether the American Room has pictures of George W. Though the villa's not precisely seaside, some rooms do have views out onto the water. There's also a respectable restaurant and a sauna room for ending the day in a lazy steam. ▶ 20 rooms (singles 500kr, doubles 800 - 1100kr, suites 1300 - 1600kr). Extra bed 250kr, pets 100kr. 🏠 🍴 📺 📶 🚿 🛏️

Spa hotels

Even after all these years, Haapsalu still plays its role as a therapeutic haven. The following establishments offer treatment packages, but can work just as easily as hotel-style accommodation for those who just want a room.

Laine Sadama 9/11, tel. 472 44 00, fax 472 44 01, info@laine.ee, www.laine.ee. This large, seaside establishment offers everything from a 2690kr short relaxation package to a 4900kr complete health and beauty package. While the outside may look blocky and Soviet, the inside of the Laine is completely up-to-date, with modern facilities, a large bar/restaurant, a swimming pool and even an infra-red sauna. ▶ 98 rooms (singles 900kr, doubles 1300 - 1600kr, suites 2100kr). Extra bed 400kr. 🏠 🍴 📺 📶 🚿 🛏️

Thalasso Spa Fra Mare Ranna tee 2, tel. 472 46 00, fax 472 46 01, framare@framare.ee, www.framare.ee. Tucked away a quiet, forest area near the town's swimming beach, Haapsalu's newest health spa feels like an isolated world unto itself - it as its own restaurant, fitness centre and a little shop. The décor here is bright, with some nice historic touches. Procedures cover the gamut, from laser care to the traditional mud treatment. If that sounds too involved, you can stop into the café and order a piece of mud cake. ▶ 115 rooms (singles 1100 - 1450kr, doubles 1500 - 2000kr, triples 2000kr, suites 2000kr, family room 2000kr). Extra bed 350kr. Prices valid in the summer period. 🏠 🍴 📺 📶 🚿 🛏️ ★★★

Budget

Endla Hostel Endla 5, tel. 473 79 99, info@endlahostel.ee, www.endlahostel.ee. Located in the town's historic, wooden-house district within walking distance of pretty much anywhere, this clean and cheerful hostel is a good alternative for those who want to travel on the cheap. For a little more privacy, including a personal kitchen, inquire about one of the three apartments available. ▶ 9 rooms (doubles 450kr, triples 630kr, family room 800kr). Extra bed 160kr. 2 apartments 700-1200kr. 🏠 📶 🚿

Haapsalu KHK Summer Hostel Ehitajate tee 3, Uuemõisa, tel. 666 17 44/504 11 98, oplaskodu@hkhhk.edu.ee, www.hkhhk.edu.ee. This dormitory on the KHK college campus, about 2km from town, is available to the public during the summer months. All rooms come with a kitchen corner and internet access. Other amenities include a sauna (100kr/hr) and gym (50kr/hr). ▶ Open only from July through August. 102 rooms (singles 300kr, doubles 600kr). Extra bed 100kr, breakfast 50kr. 🏠 🍴 📺 📶 🚿 🛏️

Männi Holiday Home Käbi 11, tel. 513 35 43/510 92 99, info@männipuhkemaja.com, www.männipuhkemaja.com. Located on the edge of town in the lovely garden of a private home. Amenities include a large living room with a TV, a kitchen corner and a balcony. For an extra fee you'll be able to enjoy a relaxing sauna or soak your troubles away in the old-fashioned wood-heated hot tub. If you'd rather sleep surrounded by history, make sure to ask about the rental apartment attached to the castle wall. ▶ 4 rooms (singles 400 - 500kr, doubles 550 - 660kr, triples 770kr). Extra bed 200kr, breakfast 60kr. 🏠 📶 🚿 🛏️

Pikseke Camping Männiku 34, tel. 55 69 11 37/+358 405 52 92 51, info@campingpikseke.com, www.camping-pikseke.com. Adventure types travelling with caravan or tent can stop at this well-equipped, friendly facility on the edge of town. Here you'll have use of an outdoor kitchen, washing machine, shower and WC. You can even rent a couple old caravans to sleep in for 200-350kr. ▶ Place for caravan or tent 110-140kr + 15kr/per-person. Electrical hook-up 30kr. 🏠 📶 🚿 🛏️

Suur-Lossi Suur-Lossi 6, tel. 510 70 11, liivitamm@gmail.com, www.suurlossi.net. Probably the most unique place to stay in all of Haapsalu, this stunningly renovated home offers guests a chance to look deep into its past. However don't worry, you'll find all the modern amenities such as running water and in-house toilets. We found the kitchen rather interesting, but we don't want to spoil the surprise. They also have a sauna and a lovely garden for grilling. ▶ 3 rooms (singles 350kr, doubles 500kr). Breakfast 50kr. 🏠 🍴 📺 📶 🚿 🛏️

Vanalinna Hostel Jaani 4, tel. 473 49 00, info@vanalinna-bowling.ee, www.vanalinna-bowling.ee. Opened in spring 2006, this sparkingly new hostel near the castle offers nice, basic rooms, a guest kitchen and an easy location. Cheaper rooms share shower/WC. Extra entertainment is provided by the bowling and billiards club downstairs. ▶ 12 rooms (singles 495 - 650kr, doubles 495 - 650kr, triples 495 - 800kr, quads 880 - 980kr). Extra bed 180kr, pets 180kr. Breakfast 70kr for groups of min 20 people. 🏠 🍴 📺 📶 🚿 🛏️

Apartment rental

Residence Apartments office: Suur-Karja 23, Tallinn, tel. 628 22 95, info@accommodation.ee, www.accommodation.ee. This Tallinn-based agency can book you into any one of three tasteful, seaside apartments in Haapsalu. ▶ 3 apartments 1200 - 1600kr. 🏠

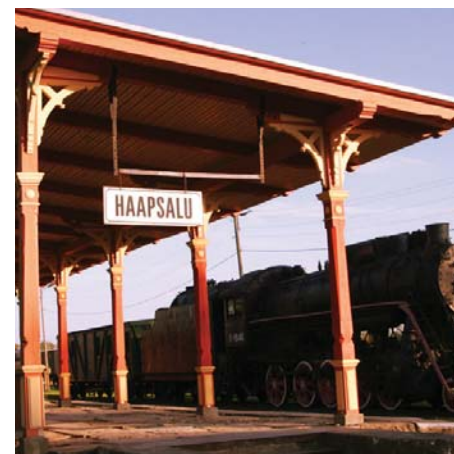
Art galleries

Epp Maria Kokamägi Gallery Kalda 2 (entrance from Karja 18), tel. 472 41 94/508 28 28, eppmaria@eppmaria.ee, www.eppmaria.ee. One of Estonia's most loved painters who's focus is on warm, ethereal nudes has opened up this gallery in a beautifully restored building. Pop by just to have a look or take one of her masterpieces home with you. ▶ Open 12:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu. The gallery will be open longer in summer. 📺

Evald Okas Museum Karja 24, eo.museum@mail.ee, www.evaldokasemuseum.ee. With a career that spans seven decades, 93-year-old Evald Okas is one of the nation's most accomplished artists. This museum of his works is open June 01 - Aug 31. ▶ Open 12:00 - 18:00.

Haapsalu City Gallery Posti 3, tel. 472 44 70/514 93 20, abusimbel@hot.ee, galerii.kultuurimaja.ee. The Haapsalu City Gallery is known for its displays of rather edgy modern art. Expect revolving exhibits and shows featuring some very talented, and often disturbed creations... where do we sign up? ▶ Open 12:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Free admission.

Ilon Wikland Gallery Kooli 5, tel. 473 70 65/527 62 44, haapsalu@ilon.ee, www.ilon.ee. A must-see for visitors of all ages, this large, new gallery presents the life and works of Ilon Wikland, most famous for illustrating children's books by Swedish author Astrid Lindgren. Before emigrating to Sweden in 1944, Wikland spend part of her childhood in Haapsalu, and recently donated the bulk of her collection to the museum. About 50 paintings and sculptures are on display, mounted low for easy viewing by smaller aficionados. Storytelling and videos add to the experience. ▶ Open 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission 25kr.



Artful souvenirs

Ehte Käsitöö & Kunstikoda (Ehte Handicraft and Art House) Ehte 4, tel. 473 55 98. All sorts of crafts and unique Estonian souvenirs. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Mon, Sun. Closed in Jan, Feb and March.

Liivia Leskin hat boutique Võnnu 2, tel. 473 72 52, liivia@liivia.com, www.liivia.com. This mad hatter has designed pretty hats for pretty much any occasion. ▶ Open 11:00 - 18:00, Sat 11:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

Fra Mare Thalasso SPA, Haapsalu, Ranna tee 2; tel: 47 24 600; www.framare.ee framare@framare.ee


Where to eat

In a town the size of Haapsalu, you have to look at all the dining options you've got. Hotel restaurants take up a large part of the culinary scene, and pubs are also an option.

Africa Tallinna mt. 1, tel. 473 39 69, info@afrika.ee, www.afrika.ee. Africa is decorated with a couple tribal masks that suit its name. For the most part though, this is a typical Estonian pub, and happens to be the town's biggest. Come by for pub food and weekend bands. ▶ Open 11:00 - 22:00, Wed, Thu 11:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 02:00. (70kr). 

Bergfeldt Ranna tee 2 (Thalasso Spa Fra Mare), tel. 472 46 05/472 46 00, restoran@framare.ee, www.framare.ee. Probably the classiest place to eat in all of Haapsalu, we found the service here far above the Estonian average. Although it's situated in a hotel and attached to a lively cafeteria, you'll still be able to enjoy the pristine ambience and fine culinary delights the Bergfeldt has to offer. You'll also be happy to know that the prices are quite a bit lower than you'd find in Tallinn for something half as good. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 24:00. (210kr). 

Central Karja 21, tel. 473 55 95, central@hot.ee, www.central-haapsalu.ee. Set in a large wooden building in the middle of town, the Central mainly caters to tourist groups, but anyone is welcome to stop in for a grilled fillet of pork or oven-baked trout in wine sauce. There's also a good, old-fashioned beer cellar in the basement for times when your overzealous tourguide drives you to drink. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. (80kr). 

Haapsalu Kuursaal Promenaadi 1, tel. 473 55 87, kersti.oim@hkhk.edu.ee, www.haapsalukuursaal.ee. A bit pricier than other options here, but worth it if you want the historic experience of dining in the town's beautiful resort hall, built in the 1890s. Cleverly named choices range from a salmon soup called 'Cat's dessert' to the 'All men are pigs' pork chop. Look for a rose garden outside in summer. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. Open from May to Aug. (145kr). 

Hermannuse Maja Karja 1a, tel. 473 71 31, fax 473 71 99, maja@hermannuse.ee, www.hermannuse.ee. This pub/café right next to the castle is a soothing stop, with a smart interior done up in earth tones. Reasonably-priced pasta dishes and chicken fillets are on the menu. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 02:00. (100kr). 


Klubi@Kaheksa Ehte 8, tel. 473 75 25, info@at8.ee, www.at8.ee. This funky eatery is ironically located in an old wooden house in a residential-looking courtyard. Here you can sample things like salads or pork in a hot pot, surf the net on the computer, or just chill out in a loungy corner. Watch for occasional live music, and events throughout the summer. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 01:00. Closed Mon. (85kr). 

Pizza Grande Karja 6, tel. 473 72 00, info@pizzagrande.ee, www.pizzagrande.ee. Friendly and central, Grande serves a dozen kinds of pan pizza that cost a mere 39 - 69kr each. Go for the courtyard seating if the weather allows. If you're too lazy to make it here, they also deliver. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. (60kr). 

Cafés

Agasta Butiik Café Posti 24, tel. 473 12 89, agaatabutiik@hot.ee. This quiet and cosy little café serves a variety of pastries, cakes, soothing beverages and an interesting assortment of souvenirs too. We found it particularly cool that they have framed a piece of the house's original wall complete with post-cards, and other nicks-knacks from the days of yore. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. 

Müüriääre Kohvik Karja 7, tel. 473 75 27, kohvik@muurilaare.ee, www.muurilaare.ee. The absolutely amazing interior design is reason enough to visit this comfy, downtown café, but the cakes look just as inviting (salads and sandwiches available too). Look for live jazz or blues on the terrace. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 22:00. 

Rondo Posti 7, tel. 472 05 55, info@rondokohvik.ee, www.rondokohvik.ee. Rondo is a busy, no-nonsense, old-fashioned café where locals queue up for their coffee and pastries. Other choices like salads and pancakes and even marzipan turtles are also on offer. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00, Sat 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. 

Wiigi Kohvik Suur-Lossi 25, tel. 473 47 04, info@wiigikohvik.ee, www.wiigikohvik.ee. Overlooking the Väike viik lake, and much more about location than anything else, this café allows you to sip your coffee and watch the ducks or the other attractive birds pass you by. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 23:00. 

Clubs

Africa Tallinna mt. 1, tel. 473 39 69, africa@afrika.ee, www.afrika.ee. Attached to the pub of the same name, Africa is the town's most popular disco. Note that it's only open on weekends. ▶ Open 22:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Sun. Admission 75-80. Ladies get a discount before 23:00. Age restriction 18+. 



Sporty fun

Haapsalu Golf 5km from town along highway to Pärnu, tel./fax 473 39 99, info@ridalagolf.ee, www.ridalagolf.ee. Just outside of town, this new golf centre has a 9-hole pay-and-play course and driving range.

Haapsalu Water Centre (Haapsalu Veekeskus) Lihula mt. 10a, tel. 472 50 65, www.sportibaasid.ee. A 1.5-hour ticket costs 50 - 70kr for adults, 40 - 50kr for kids. Under sevens get in for 15kr. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00. Also open Mon - Fri 06:30 - 08:00 for morning swimming.