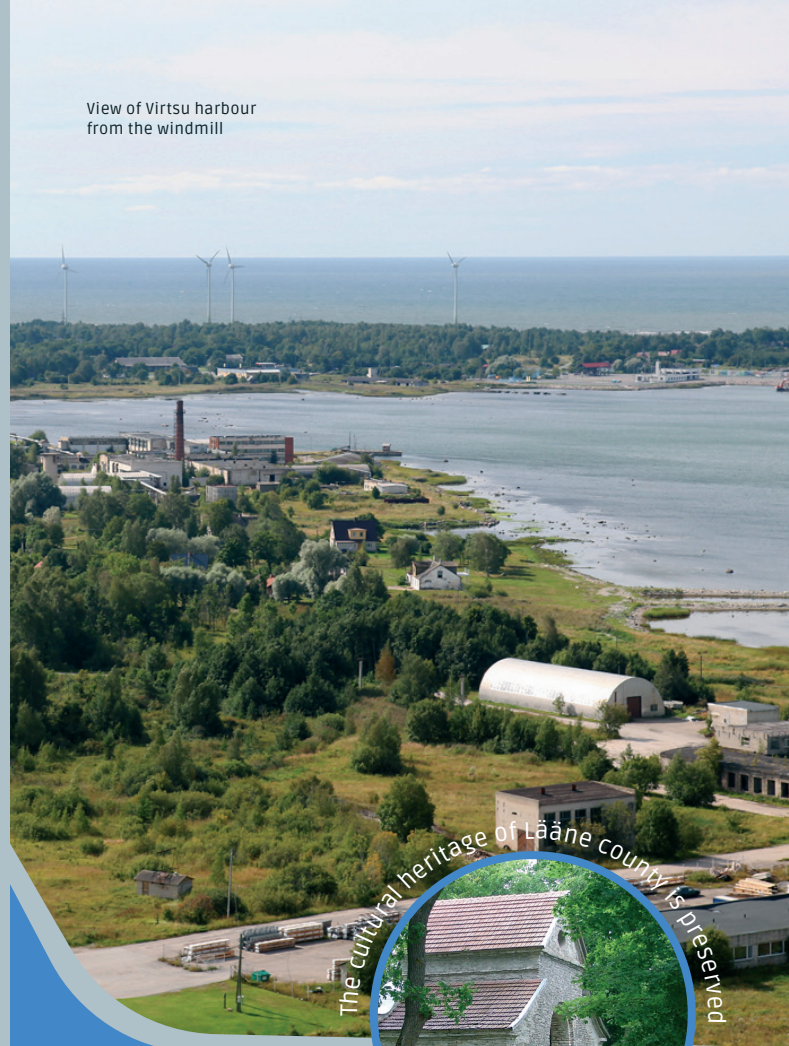




Fishermen with their catch in the harbour



Kayaking on the sea



View of Virtsu harbour from the windmill

Virtsu is located on a peninsula of the same name with its surface area together with Puhtulaid Islet expanding over about 7 km<sup>2</sup>



The third lighthouse in Virtsu in 1951

opening hours: by appointment

Contact:


Virtsu

- +372 515 1988
- [www.virtsu.ee/ajalugu/linnus.html](http://www.virtsu.ee/ajalugu/linnus.html)
- [www.virtsu.ee/ajalugu/virtsu-mois.html](http://www.virtsu.ee/ajalugu/virtsu-mois.html)
- [www.virtsu.ee/muuseum/index.html](http://www.virtsu.ee/muuseum/index.html)

The vintage car museum of Valeri Kirss

Open from April 15 to October 15 +372 516 5288

Compiled by: Jüri Mõniste  
Photographs: Arno Peksar, Aimar Roomets, Jüri Mõniste, Mart Mõniste, Tiina Mõniste, Jaan Vali  
Design: Valge Aurik OÜ 2017

NGO Kodukant Läänemaa 



Museum address QR code

The cultural heritage of Lääne county is preserved



# VIRTSU

## Castle, Manor, Hobby Museum

originally an island, it merged with the continent as a result of land rising and the construction of the causeway in the 19th century.





Renovations on Virtsu castle hill



An important port area for hundreds of years, Virtsu, with its former name Werder, gradually developed into a settlement.

Virtsu is located on a peninsula of the same name with its surface area together with Puhtulaid Islet expanding over about 7 km<sup>2</sup>. Originally an island, it merged with the continent as a result of land rising and the construction of the causeway in the 19th century. The settlement appeared around the harbour at the end of the 19th century. There are 538 residents (as of January 1, 2016). The ferry connection between Virtsu and Kuivastu harbours is the link between the continental Estonia and the islands of Muhu and Saaremaa.

### Virtsu Castle

The medieval castle considered one of the strongest in Estonia was constructed in about 1460-1465. It was destroyed in 1534 and has remained in ruins ever since as the reconstruction was prohibited by Valmiera Landtag decision in 1536. The castle had a square ground plan 25x25 metres with round towers in the south-west and north-east corners. The preservation and partial reconstruction of the castle walls was begun in 2014.

### Virtsu mõis

The first written records of Virtsu Manor date back to 1459. In 1669-1678, chronicler and historian Thomas Hjärne worked in Virtsu Manor and there is now a memorial in his honour in front of Virtsu school. Since 1777, Virtsu Manor was owned by Carl Thure von Helwig. At present, the gate

house (established in 1785), coach house (1807) and garner-stable building (1806) are preserved. Virtsu Manor and the summer houses in Puhtu were burned down by the retreating Russian forces in autumn 1917. The manor park has been the venue for larger social events for more than half a century. There are information boards of the history and nature of Virtsu in the park near the kindergarten.

### Virtsu Hobby Museum

was established in 1996 featuring the history of the area and its residents. The garner-stable building will be restored to house the permanent exhibition of the museum.

The historic stable (built in 1806) renovated for the museum



Triumphal gate at Virtsu manor