**Kadriorg**

Kadriorg is a quiet, leafy area within an easy walking distance from the Old Town. After Russian tsar Peter the Great conquered the Baltics in the early 1700s, he established an estate with a public park on this spot. He named the area Ekaterinenthal (Catherine’s Valley, or Kadriorg in Estonian) after his wife, Catherine I. The Baroque palace he had built – along with the surrounding forests, ponds and fountains – is still the neighbourhood’s prime draw. Over the next two centuries the streets near the park became lined with ornate wooden mansions as Kadriorg developed into the upscale residential district that it remains today.

The park is remarkable for its diverse architecture, which is showcased by the various smaller gardens on the estate, such as the Japanese Garden. Enjoy a refreshing cup of coffee and fresh pastries in one of the many cosi cafés in the area.

Culturally-minded visitors should note that Kadriorg is home to the nation’s best art museums, the quaint 1920-30’s style houses of many classic Estonian authors, and also the children’s museum – all the more reason to head to Kadriorg for a Sunday stroll. Kadriorg is also the birthplace of Estonia’s spa culture. The first seaside spa was established in Pirita by Georg Witte in 1813.

**Pirita**

Pirita wins hearts with its breathtakingly beautiful nature. Only a few kilometres from the city centre awaits a sandy beach, Pirita River and the refreshing scent of pine trees.

With its beach, adventure park and yachting harbour, Pirita is best known as a centre for summer fun. A quieter way to enjoy the area is to head across the road to the Pirita River delta, where row boats, canoes and water bicycles can be rented. Enjoy a meal and a view to the sea in one of the numerous pubs and restaurants by the coast.

Pirita is also remarkable for its own little piece of medieval architecture – the ruins of St. Bridget’s Convent from the 15th century. The convent is still active today, although it is housed in a modern building beside the ruins.

In 1980, the sailing regatta of the Moscow Olympic Games was held in Pirita, and the area was also the heart of the Olympic village.

Pirita can also boast the highest viewpoint in the area, from the Tallinn TV Tower. The Tallinn Botanic Garden is also located nearby. Filled with rare plant species, the garden by Pirita valley is a perfect place to go for a walk or do sports.

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**Kadriorg and Pirita** have throughout history been well-loved areas for locals looking to spend their leisure time. A baroque-style palace and park ensemble, several museums, a promenade, and the region’s highest view are only a short walk or drive away.