

Metsamoor (Wood Crone) Family Park

The Metsamoor Family Park operates in Võru County and is an association of eleven farm enterprises. The Metsamoor Family Park deals with offering adventure tourism services based on nature and local resources. Every farm has its own characteristics, which introduce local customs, skills, nature, spiritual riches, and these are all related to the introduction and promotion of close-to-nature lifestyles. These include a beekeeping museum, leech farm, mushroom and stone huts, folk medicine, and bakery, smoke sauna, berry farms, horse hut, handicraft, and many other keywords. Different programs are offered for different age and interest groups, camps for women or children, and topical events. Other family members are also involved in most activities. Irje Karjus is the initiator of the Metsamoor Family Park. She is the hostess of the Metsamoor's Home and the people in the area call her the Wood Crone. Irje's programs include herbs, folk medicine, spells, psychological and sensual exercises in nature, the preparation of weed dishes,

herbal beverages and tinctures, and tree therapy.



Within the context of a specific FEM-NET project, Irje offers the opportunity to participate in an international women's camp (10 women in July for three days), during which it is possible to become familiar with much of the knowledge of our Estonian forefathers in today's context and with folk medicine; to learn how to prepare food from ingredients available in nature, to visit the farms in the Metsamoor Family Park, and to spend pleasant evenings by the bonfire exchanging experiences and skills. The women's camp is oriented toward healthy, close-to-nature lifestyles, and it invites women to reflect on healthy, close-to-nature and self-preserving lifestyles. Irje and the Family Park are also willing to accept those

with similar views and are ready to share their experiences elsewhere.

Irje has contacts with many Estonian tourist associations, and is willing to help interested parties develop contacts in the tourism field.

Irje's native language is Estonian, but she also has satisfactory command of Russian, Finnish, and English. Irje graduated from the Viljandi Cultural College, the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Tartu with a degree in folklore studies; additionally, she has studied the Waldorf Education, and the development of rural life at National University of Ireland. She has received supplemental education in the United States of America at University of Tennessee, and been the initiator of many international projects. She is currently studying to be a homeopath at the Homeopathic Academy of Naturopathic Physicians of Finland. The Metsamoor Family Park and Irje Karjus, as an entrepreneur, have received several entrepreneurial and development awards.

For more information on the activities at the Metsamoor Family Park, see the website at

www.metsamoor.ee