

STREET PIKK JALG

The street together with Lühike Jalg was one of the two connections between the lower town and the upper town. The long leg was designed for commodity wagons, carriages and horse riders.

The part of Tallinn city wall next to the long leg was built between 1454 and 1455 and the current support wall opposite it was built in 1781.



Currently, only pedestrians can use Pikki Jalg street, but in the past centuries it was a tough road for those riding in a carriage. The sharp rise was difficult for the horses, and when driving downhill, the coachmen had to demonstrate a lot of skill.

THE VIRGIN TOWER

Opening times:
Mon: closed
Wed, Sat, Sun, Tue: 10-17
Thu: 10-20



The tower was first mentioned in 1373. The tower suffered severe damages during the Livonian War in 1577. The tower was later rebuilt and used as a prison until 1626. From 1842, the tower was used as a residential building and until the 1960s artists' studios were located in the Virgin Tower.

The name of the virgin tower sounds a little ironic, given that the tower has been used as a prison for prostitutes. It is said that once a deal was made in this tower between an ugly prostitute and Satan - the girl got beauty, the devil got the soul. As part of the agreement, the girl had to guide as many men as possible to sin. At first it went quite well, but the whole story ended with her execution on the charge of witchcraft.

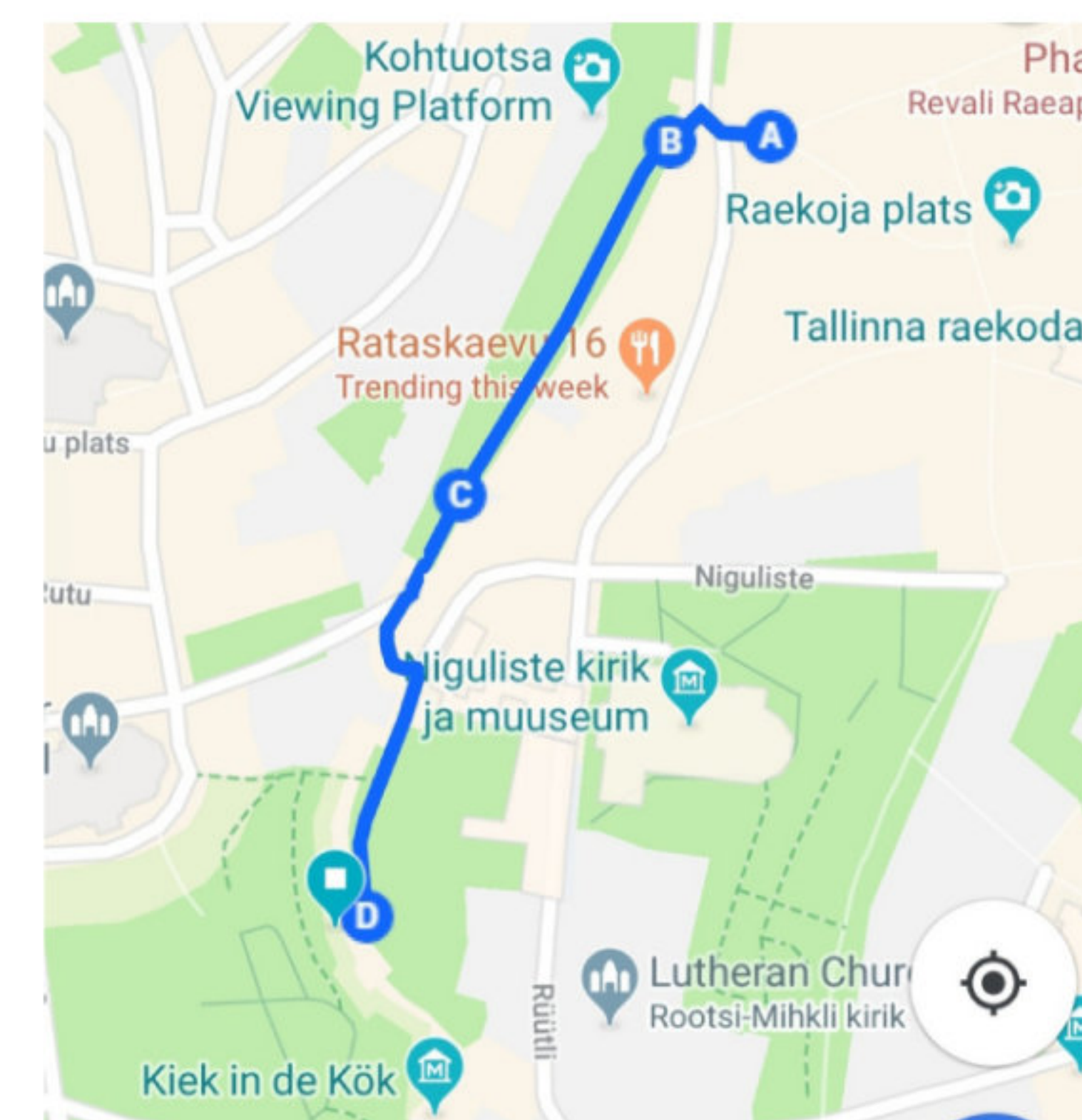
Address: Lossi plats 11, Lühike jalg
9a, 10130 Tallinn

The Virgin Tower is a medieval defense tower where you will find a café with an excellent view over the Old Town.

Prepared by

KOOL 21. SAJANDIL

PIKK TOUR



- Pikki street
- Pikki Jalg Gate Tower
- Pikki Jalg street
- The Virgin Tower

TRADEWAYS

PIKK STREET

This street has existed for almost a millennium. It is the oldest and also one of the longest streets in the Old Town. During the Middle Ages, Pikk was the main street, along with Lai street, that led from Toompea to the sea.

In 1285, the city, then known as Reval, became a member of the Hanseatic League – a mercantile and military alliance of German-dominated cities in Northern Europe. The city saw a booming development between the 13th-16th centuries. The main street of medieval Tallinn, however, was Pikk Street. All the major public buildings such as the Great Guild Hall, the Blackhead Brotherhood Building, the Olev and Kanuti Guild buildings were located alongside it. Most of them are more or less preserved in medieval form.



Tallinn got the coining right in 1265 and the warehousing right in 1346, this meant that no merchandise could be transited through the town without using the local merchants as intermediators. Hence, the residents of Tallinn got a significant portion of the trade.

PIKK JALG

GATE TOWER

The long foot gate is a protective tower of the Tallinn city wall, which was built at the end of the 17th century, and is located above the former probably wooden gate.



A gate building was built around 1380. It was most likely reconstructed in 1450: it was expanded on two sides and raised by at least two floors, a staircase was also added. It served the purpose of dividing lower town from Toompea Hill and every day at 9 o'clock the gate was closed and no one could get in nor out.

Once, when an artist named Heinz Valk was napping he suddenly felt that someone or something was watching him. He woke up and went on the balcony to check the studio. There he found a giant, headless figure dressed in all white. Thankfully the artist wasn't harmed, but it did give him quite a scare.

Today, the tower is used as residences and studios.

Address: Pikk jalg 3, 10130 Tallinn

NOTIONS

Coachman-a driver of a horse-drawn carriage

Reval-Tallinn

Guild-a medieval association of craftsmen or merchants, often having considerable power

Commodity-a raw material or primary agricultural product that can be bought and sold, such as copper or coffee

Pedestrians-a person walking rather than travelling in a vehicle

Coining-make (coins) by stamping metal

millennium-a period of a thousand years

Lower town (in Estonian)-all-linn

Residence-a person's home, especially a large and impressive one

The Middle ages-the period of European history from the fall of the Roman Empire (5th century) to the fall of Constantinople (1453),