

Republic of Estonia

Area: 45,227 km²

Population: 1 294 236

Capital: Tallinn

*Statistical Office of Estonia, 2012



Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors – **Estonia**



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1 LANGUAGES

1.1 General remarks

The official language of the Republic of Estonia (in Estonian: *Eesti Vabariik*, short form: *Eesti*) is Estonian. The language is spoken in Estonia by about 890,000 Estonians or 68.7% of the population (preliminary results from census 2012). In 1945 the percentage of Estonians was 97.3. Historical territorial minorities are Swedes and Russians (see 1.3). Many people have immigrated into Estonia since 1940; they have mainly settled in the big industrial towns of the North-East and the capital Tallinn. According to the last census in 2000 there were 346,000 (25.7%) Russians, 28,000 (2.1%) Ukrainians, 16,000 (1.2%) Byelorussians, 11,000 (0.8%) Finns.

The Constitution provides that in the municipalities where the majority of the population are non-Estonians, official documentation may also be in the language of the majority.

Place names in actual usage have been only monolingual (in Estonian, with some exceptions) since the 1920s.

1.2 National language – Estonian

Estonian is a Finno-Ugrian language using the Roman alphabet.

1.2.1 The alphabet

A a	H h	O o	Ž ž*	Ö ö
B b	I i	P p	T t	Ü ü
(C c)	J j	(Q q)	U u	(X x)
D d	K k	R r	V v	(Y y)
E e	L l	S s	(W w)	
F f*	M m	Š š*	Õ õ	
G g	N n	Z z*	Ä ä	

The letters shown in parentheses appear only in names of foreign origin. *w* was used in older orthography instead of *v* and it still appears in some family names. In alphabetic ordering *w* is often regarded as variant of *v* and names with these letters are grouped together. The letters indicated by an asterisk (*) represent sounds that appear in recent loanwords only.

The vowels *õ*, *ä*, *ö* and *ü* represent independent sounds and should be distinguished from the vowels *o*, *a* and *u*. Due to technical problems the letter *õ* ('*o* with tilde') may in some older typewritten or printed texts appear as *ô*, *ó*, *ò* or even *ö*, but in correct usage this must be avoided.

In recent maps on South-East Estonia (Võrumaa), the acute accent (') is used after some consonants to denote their palatalization, e.g. *Kol'o*, *Mar'amäe*. Though this is not considered to be part of normal orthography, this sign has been accepted as essential in writing local names.

1.2.2 Spelling rules for the Estonian geographical names

1.2.2.1 Capitalization

Place names always begin with a capital letter. If the generic term is written as a separate word, it begins with a small letter: *Tallinna laht*, *Pärnu jõgi*, *Kihnu saar*. If the name consists of more than

one word, all words except for the generic term are written with a capital initial: *Taani Kuninga aed*, *Väike Munamägi*.

1.2.2.2 Use of hyphens

The hyphen is used:

- (a) if the name is preceded by a qualifying word, like *Suur(e)*- 'Great', *Vana*- 'Old', *Põhja*- 'Northern', *Ala*- 'Lower', etc., incl. the name of a wider locality used to distinguish a too frequent name: *Vana-Võidu*, *Vastse-Roosa*, *Põhja-Tartumaa*, *Suur-Patarei*, *Hiiu-Suurtüki*, *Iru-Lepiku*.

Exceptionally, the hyphen is not used, if the qualifying word is an adjective that can be declined: *Suur Munamägi* (Adessive: *Suurel Munamäel*). Usually the second part of those names is a compound word containing a generic term (here: *-mägi*);

- (b) if the name is a copulative compound name (like *Austria-Hungary*, *Baden-Württemberg*, etc.): *Kohtla-Järve*, *Karksi-Nuia*, *Abja-Paluoja*.

1.2.2.3 Use of one or two words

Characteristic of Estonian place names is the abundance of elliptical names. Most of the names of populated places and several other place names are elliptical, i.e. they usually appear without a generic term. The generic term is used if confusion may arise, e.g. in official sources. In genuine Estonian elliptical names the nominative form coincides with the genitive form and the names end with a vowel (*-a*, *-e*, *-i*, *-o*, *-u*, exceptional vowels see 1.2.5).

- A. As a rule, the specific part of the name and the generic term are written as one word: *Emajõgi*, *Munamägi*, *Põhjalaht*, *Lasnamägi*, *Loodeots*, *Pelgurand*, *Mõisaküla*, *Rannavärv*, *Suveaed*, *Rohukabjasso*, *Tähigenotsumägi*, *Loodekarjamaa* (generic terms underlined). Exceptions to the rule are listed below (rules B-E).
- B. In elliptical names, where the name can be used with or without the generic term in the same meaning, the generic term is written as a separate word: *Peipsi järv* (= *Peipsi*), *Tartu linn* (= *Tartu*), *Aakre küla* (= *Aakre*), *Räpina alev* (= *Räpina*), *Surju mõis* (= *Surju*), *Kihnu saar* (= *Kihnu*).
- C. In names of streets, squares and other address features the generic term is written as a separate word: *Harju tänav*, *Vabaduse väljak*, *Estonia puistee*, *Lossi plats*, *Suitsu põik*, *Järve tee*. (There are a few exceptions, like *Keskväljak*, where the first part cannot be used as an independent word.)
- D. If the specific part is a declinable adjective, it is written separately: *Suur väin* (Inessive: *Suures väinas*), *Väike Emajõgi* (Adessive: *Väikesel Emajõel*), *Vaikne järv* (Adessive: *Vaikesel järvel*). In Estonian place names, however, adjectives often combine with the appellatives as compound names: *Valgjärv*, *Suurjärv*, *Vanaküla*, *Uuemõisa*, *Kõverlaid*.
- E. The generic term is also written separately, if the place name is a clear secondary name, i.e. arises from another geographical name: *Tallinna laht* (← town name *Tallinn*), *Endla järv* (← village name *Endla*), *Kihnu väin* (← island of *Kihnu*).

1.2.3 Pronunciation of Estonian geographical names

The main stress in Estonian place names is invariably on the first syllable. A weaker secondary stress may occur on the second, third or fourth syllable of a word, unless it is a short final syllable.

The pronunciation of Estonian is regular. The following notes are, however, important for the pronunciation of Estonian names.

- A. *n* before *g* and *k* is pronounced [ŋ]: *Angerja* ['aŋ.ɡer.ja], *Kunksilla* ['kuŋk.sil.la].
- B. *b*, *d*, *g*, *s* are pronounced voiceless or, between vowels, as half-voiced, weakened tenues. In genuine Estonian names *b*, *d*, *g* are not used in an initial position.
- C. With sounds *l*, *n*, *s*, *t* weak palatalization may occur which is not reflected in the orthography: *Kantküla* ['kan^t.ky.la]. Palatalization is almost regular in consonant clusters preceding *i* or *j*: *Väljaküla* ['væ^l.ja.ky.la], *Kõltsi* ['ky^lt.si]. In clusters only the first consonant is palatalized.
- D. Vowel and consonant lengths are significant. Long consonants and vowels are represented by double letters: *Saaremaa* ['sa:re.ma:], *Pööraküla* ['pø:ra.ky.la], *Kõnnu* ['kyn.nu], *Tallinn* ['tal^l.lin:].
- E. Long stressed syllables in Estonian can have either light or heavy accent which in most cases is not reflected in the orthography. In the case of simple sound sequences the light accent corresponds to long and the heavy accent to overlong vowels or consonants, e.g. *Kääniku* ['kæ:..nik.ku] - light accent or long [æ:], *Vääna* ['væ:..na] - heavy accent or overlong [æ:']. No regular rules can be given to identify correct accent from spelling, but usually names will be understood even if pronounced with an incorrect accent.

- F. Vowel letter sequences denote diphthongs and the vowels in diphthongs are pronounced the same way as they would be pronounced separately. The following diphthongs are in Estonian: *ae*, *ai*, *ao*, *au*, *ea*, *ei*, *eo*, *iu*, *oa*, *oe*, *oi*, *ou*, *ui*, *õa*, *õe*, *õi*, *õo*, *õu*, *äe*, *äi*, *äo*, *äu*, *öa*, *öe*, *öi*, *üi*.
- G. As a rule, the vowels *õ*, *ä*, *ö*, *ü* and *o* (except in the southern dialects), long vowels and most diphthongs appear only in the first syllable of a non-compound word. If they appear in other syllables, they signify that the word is compound.

The following table gives an idea about the relationship between letters and sounds in Estonian. The letters in parentheses are used only in loanwords.

Spelling	Pronunciation IPA alphabet	Spelling	Pronunciation IPA alphabet	Spelling	Pronunciation IPA alphabet
a	ɑ	l	l, l ⁱ	t	t, tt, t ⁱ , t ⁱ t
aa	ɑ:	m	m	u	u
b	p, b	n	n, n ⁱ	uu	u:
d	t, d, d ⁱ	ng	ŋɡ	v	v
e	e	nk	ŋk, ŋkk	õ	ɤ
ee	e:	o	o	õõ	ɤ:
(f)	f	oo	o:	ä	æ
g	k, ɡ	p	p, pp	ää	æ:
h	h	r	r	õ	ø
i	i	s	s, s ⁱ , z, z ⁱ	õõ	ø:
ii	i:	(š)	ʃ	ü	y
j	j	(z)	s, z	üü	y:, yi
k	k, kk	(ž)	ʃ, ž		

1.2.4 Linguistic strata recognizable in Estonian place names

- A. Names of Swedish origin are found, apart from the main Swedish-populated territories, in the coastal area of North Estonia, in the western county of Läänemaa, the islands of Hiiumaa and Saaremaa.

- B. For centuries German was the language of the nobility and many places had, besides Estonian names, distinct German or Germanized variants. The names of German origin in Estonian usage (e.g. *Heimtali*, *Vardi*, *Voorbahi*) usually proceed from the names of country estates, landlords' family names etc. and they appear throughout Estonia. Those names are often significantly adapted, e.g. *Stackelberg* → *Taagepera*.
- C. In the areas bordering with Russia and Latvia names of Russian or Latvian origin are encountered respectively.

1.2.5 Estonian dialects

The Estonian dialects are usually divided into three groups: the northern dialects, the southern dialects and the north-east coastal dialect. They differ in phonology, morphology and lexis, esp. the southern dialects from the others. The literary language is based mainly on the central dialect of the northern group.

Local dialects are reflected to a certain extent in normalized place names. Dialectal features are preserved mainly in names containing local dialect words. Names of minor places tend to reflect more local colour than those with an established literary tradition. In writing place names the guiding principle has been that names are spelled as far as possible according to their actual local pronunciation.

Since 1995 a more favourable attitude towards dialectal features in place names has been adopted. On the Basic Map series of 1 : 20,000 the names of Võrumaa have been written close to their local usage. The main differences from Standard Estonian are the following:

- A. Vowel harmony is being preserved; in non-compound names only front vowels (*ä, e, ö, ü*) or back vowels (*a, õ, o, u*) may occur, e.g. *Härmä* {Standard Estonian: *Härma*}, *Sepä* {*Sepa*}, *Söödä* {*Sööda*}, *Mürgü* {*Mürgi*}, *Tammõ* {*Tamme*}, *Holsta*, *Pörstõ* {*Pörste*}, *Tsutsu*; *i* is neutral, occurring in both environments (*Silla*, *Niidü* {*Niidu*}). Vowel harmony is not complete, however; *o* occurs in words with front vowels instead of *ö* (*Käätso*, *Peedo*), also, syllables *he*, *gu*, *ku* may appear in words with front vowels.
- B. Raised heavy-accent long vowels *ee*, *oo*, *öö* are written *ii*, *uu*, *üü*: *Tiidlä* {*Teedla*}, *Suuveere* {*Sooveere*}, *Tüütsmanni* {*Töötsmanni*}.
- C. Affricate *ds* is used instead of *ts* in certain syllables: *Madsa*, *Nedsäjä*.
- D. Palatalization is marked with an acute accent: *Mar´a* {*Marja*}, *Kar´a* {*Karja*}, *Ton´a* {*Tonja*}, *Hul´aku* {*Hulaku*}, *Kol´o* {*Kolo*}.
- E. Local generic terms are used, if the specific part and generic term are written as one word: *Kirbumõts* (cf. *Väherü mets*), *Põdrasuu* (cf. *Ragandi soo*).
Not all local features are preserved, however, e.g. the raised back vowel [i] is written as *õ* (*Nõnova*, *Võõlastõ*); also, laryngeal stop [ʔ] (*q* in Võru local orthography) at the end of names (rarely occurring in older recordings) is neither reflected (*Hindsa*, *Määsi*).

1.3 Place names in minority languages

The new Place Names Act (see section 2) states (Articles 9 and 11) that place names of Estonia's historical minorities shall be entitled to official approval and use on maps, road signs, etc. In certain cases two parallel names are allowed, one in the language of the local majority, the other in the language of the local

minority. Linguistic situation prior to September 1939 will be taken into account when deciding the priority of local languages.

1.3.1 Swedish

Swedish, a Germanic language that belongs to the Indo-European family, used to be spoken before World War II by some 8,000 people on the north-west coast of Estonia (the islands of Vormsi, Osmussaar, Pakri, Naissaar and Ruhnu, Noarootsi Peninsula). Most of the Swedes were forced to emigrate to Sweden in 1944, at present there are only a few hundred persons able to speak Swedish. These areas have now been resettled mainly by Estonians. The place names in Vormsi (Swedish: *Ormsö*), Ruhnu (*Runö*), Osmussaar (*Odensholm*), Pakri (*Rågö*) and Riguldi (*Rickul*) are mostly Swedish while in Noarootsi (*Nuckö*), Risti (*Kors*) and Naissaar (*Nargö*) the toponymy is mixed. The standardization of local names has posed problems because of the archaic nature of the Swedish dialects spoken in Estonia. Initial approach has been to keep to the traditional (standard) spellings for names of populated places (e.g. in Vormsi *Norrby*, *Borrby*, *Rälby*, *Saxby*) while those of natural features would be represented in a form closer to the local pronunciation: *Austurgrunne* {Standard Swedish: *Östergrundet*}, *Västurvike* {*Västerviken*}, *Håubjärre* {*Högberget*}, *Äustrnäse* {*Östernäset*}.

1.3.2 Russian

Russian, a Slavonic language, is spoken as a minority language by the descendants of Old Orthodox believers on the north and west coast of Lake Peipsi, also by New Orthodox Russians in some border areas with Russia. Villages inhabited mainly by Russians include Permisküla (in Russian Cyrillic and in the 1987 UN romanization system: *Верхнее Село/Verhnee Selo*),

Vasknarva (*Сыренец/Syrenec*), Alajõe (*Олешиницы/Olešnicu*), Kolkja (*Кольки/Kol'ki*), Varnja (*Воронья/Voron'ja*), Piiri (on Piirissaar, *Межа/Meža*), Beresje (*Березье/Berez'e*). Russian uses the Cyrillic alphabet. Russian place names are written in Estonian texts according to a transcription table using the letters from the Estonian alphabet proper, e.g. *Smolnitsa* (cf. Russian *Смольница/Smol'nica*). If approved officially, they may be accompanied by romanization according to the 1987 UN romanization system, to record the original Cyrillic spelling.

Since 1940, especially in the 1960s and 1970s, large numbers of people have immigrated into Estonia from parts of the Soviet Union. Their *lingua franca* usually is Russian and they make up the vast majority of the present-day non-Estonian population. They have mainly settled in the big industrial cities of the North-East (Narva, Sillamäe, Kohtla-Järve, Jõhvi), the capital Tallinn and the town and peninsula of Paldiski. These processes have had very little influence on local toponymy.

2 NAMES AUTHORITIES AND NAMES STANDARDIZATION

Basic principles in the standardization of Estonia's geographical names are laid down in the **Place Names Act**, originally adopted on December 11, 1996 and subsequently revised on November 5, 2003. Based on some of the earlier legal acts this Act incorporates all the main rules of names standardization. Short summary of the Act is as follows.

Article 5 determines the competence in establishing place names. The Government is responsible for naming administrative units. Naming populated places is, according to the latest version of the Territory of Estonia Administrative Division Act, the prerogative of the Minister of Regional Affairs. The names of rural municipality and city districts, streets and other features located in the territory of one local government are established by the local government authorities. Names for cross-municipality features and water area features are established by the Government or a minister.

Various requirements are to be followed in approving geographical names: publicity of naming procedures (Art. 6), giving reasons for changing names (Art. 7), etc. The place names of Estonia are in the Estonian language but exceptions may be allowed that are historically or culturally justified (Art. 9, see also 1.3). The spelling of Estonian place names will comply with the rules for the Estonian orthography but may reflect the local (dialectal) sound structure (Art. 10). The spelling of one and the same specific part of a name will be harmonized. In certain cases parallel official names are allowed, either with Estonian and non-Estonian name variants or double Estonian names (Art. 11). Names with long-standing local usage and wide distribution as well as those with more historical and cultural value shall be preferred in approving new official names (Art. 13).

National Place Names Register will collect and record all official place names, making the data available online (Art. 17–19).

The Place Names Board is formed (Art. 20–22) to advise the Minister of Regional Affairs and other names authorities in name matters. The Board may also approve, by a resolution, official place names for features that do not have official names yet, in the interests of cartography, etc.

Articles of the Act also deal with the use of place names in texts and signs, (Art. 14), the use of non-official place names (Art. 15), etc.

The **Place Names Board of Estonia** (*kohanimenõukogu*, address: Pikk 61, 15065 Tallinn; <http://www.eki.ee/knn/>), formed on 17 June 1997 and succeeding the former Governmental Place Names Committee, is the main advisory and coordinating body of the place names standardization activities in Estonia. The Board is advising the Minister of Regional Affairs. The Board consists of representatives of various ministries as well as name experts from scientific institutions, publishing companies, etc. The Board's statements are required before various name decisions are made and it has also a statutory right to approve certain official place names.

The **Institute of the Estonian Language** (*Eesti Keele Instituut*, address: Roosikrantsi 6, 10119 Tallinn; <http://www.eki.ee>) is the Office for Onomastic Expertise being one of the main research centres for names in Estonia. The basis of the onomastic research and the treatment of names is field research which has been conducted since the 1920s. As a result, a total of 540,000 commented entries have been included in the place names archives. The collections are arranged according to the ecclesiastical parishes that have been the most significant and stable territorial units in Estonia throughout history. In addition, there is a general card index listing all the collected place names in alphabetical order with references to the parishes where

they occur. Efforts are made to continue the field investigation of names. Apart from the collection, a computerized database KNAB (presently ca 44,000 records on Estonia) has been formed which contains mostly names from official sources, older maps, etc.

The **Võru Institute** (*Võru Instituut / Võro Instituut*'), address: Tartu 48, 65609 Võru; <http://www.wi.ee>) has been active in collecting place names of South-East Estonia (Võrumaa) and standardizing the Võru-based local form of the names. It also participates in the national mapping programme by providing names for the Estonian National Topographic Database. A computerized database of the toponyms of the historical county of Võrumaa AVKA is being compiled.

3 SOURCE MATERIALS

3.1 Maps

The production of official maps of Estonia is maintained by the **Estonian Land Board** (*Maa-amet*, address: Mustamäe tee 51, 10621 Tallinn; <http://www.maaamet.ee>). Since 2007 all the main cartographic programmes have been centralized into the **Estonian National Topographic Database** (*Eesti topograafiline andmekogu*, ETAK) that will serve as a core for producing all the maps in different scales (incl. the Basic Map, 1:10,000 digitally, and 1:20,000 in printed form). Toponyms in printed maps are usually carefully revised and more numerous than in the digital version, they can be considered as the most authoritative source for geographical names.

Extensive map data is available through the **Geoportal of the Estonian Land Board** (<http://geoportaal.maaamet.ee/eng/>) that has several public map applications, including the Basic Map, address data map, place names register map, cadastral map, and historical maps starting from the beginning of the 20th century. The maps can be queried using geographical names, the interface is bilingual Estonian-English. WMS service is also provided. All the spatial data on Estonia will be found in the newly opened **Estonian National Geoportal** (<http://inspire.maaamet.ee/>) that corresponds to the requirements of the INSPIRE directive.

Nautical charts of Estonia are produced by the **Estonian Maritime Administration** (EMA, *Veeteede Amet*, address: Valge 4, 11413 Tallinn; <http://www.vta.ee>) on scale 1:250,000, 1:100,000, 1:50,000, etc. Digital charts cover all coastal areas. For smaller ships 4 folios have been produced.

Various other maps are produced by cartographic companies. **AS Regio** (address: Riia 24, 51010 Tartu; <http://www.regio.ee>) has published the Estonian Road Atlas 1:150,000 (the latest edition, 2011, also available as a CD atlas and NAVI Garmin version) with an index of 11,000 place names. **AS Eesti Kaardikeskus** (Estonian Map Centre, address: Mustamäe tee 33, 10616 Tallinn; <http://www.ekk.ee>) is mainly participating in national mapping programmes by updating data for the topographic database. **AS E.O. Map** (address: Tondi 42, 11316 Tallinn; <http://www.eomap.ee>) used to publish mainly digital maps and atlases in different scales but is not active any more in this field.

3.2 Databases and gazetteers

All official geographical names are gathered into the **National Place Names Register** (<http://xgis.maaamet.ee/knrravalik/>) which is maintained by the Estonian Land Board. Currently (May 2012) the register contains 35,800 named features with some 39,000 names. Names can be queried online in Estonian or English. Named features can be viewed using a map interface.

Two other onomastic databases should be mentioned: **KNAB**, maintained by the Institute of the Estonian Language (<http://www.eki.ee/knab/knab.htm>, 44,000 named features with some 111,000 names), and **AVKA**, maintained by the Võru Institute (23,000 entries). The data in these registers is unofficial but they both can also be viewed using the Estonian Land Board's geoportal (as part of the address data).

The names of populated places were first standardized in 1977 when the number of official names was reduced from 7,400 to about 3,500. In 1997 and 1998 more than 1,100 names were restored to the list and some names were changed. Statistics Estonia and the Ministry of the Interior produced in 2000 an official listing (with national codes) of administrative units

and populated places (*Eesti Vabariigi haldus- ja asustusiüksuste klassifikaator*, EHAK). The current list of populated places (2012) holds more than 6,600 names, the full updated list is available on the Place Names Board's website (<http://www.eki.ee/knn>).

The Place Names Board has also approved a list of 1,166 official lake names. These have been published in *Eesti järvede nimestik. Looduslikud ja tehiskärved* (2006) by the Estonian Environment Information Centre. The publication contains descriptions of 2,804 lakes (some names have only been linguistically verified but not yet officially approved; there are also small water bodies in the listing that do not have a name).

The list of 1,253 island names was approved by the Place Names Board in 2008 but currently some names have already become outdated because of the changes in the shoreline according to the newest aerial photos.

Official names for rivers and streams are usually taken from *Eesti NSV jõgede, ojade ja kraavide ametlik nimestik*, Tallinn 1986 (Official Gazetteer of Rivers, Brooks and Ditches of the Estonian SSR), containing 1,755 names. This list is currently under review.

Lists of other names have no official status.

4 GLOSSARY OF APPELLATIVES, ADJECTIVES AND OTHER WORDS NECESSARY FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF MAPS

In parentheses the genitive form of the word is given, if different from the nominative. If the genitive form differs only in a vowel being added to the end of the word, only the vowel is shown, otherwise the word is spelled out in full. Some words are given in the genitive form only, as the nominative form is rarely, if ever, used in names. Plural nominative forms may be created by adding *-d* to the singular genitive forms, e.g. *järved*, *saared*, etc. For words typically used in dialects only, superscript symbols have been added: ^D - dialectal (general), ^S - South Estonian dialects, ^V - Võru dialect.

<i>abajas (abaja)</i> 'cove, inlet'	<i>alt-</i> 'lower'
<i>aedlinn(a)</i> 'garden city, garden suburb'	<i>aru</i> 'dry meadow'
<i>ala-</i> 'lower'	<i>asula</i> 'populated place, settlement'
<i>alev(i)</i> 'borough' /second-degree urban settlement/	<i>asundus(e)</i> 'settlement'
<i>alevik(u)</i> 'small borough' /first-degree rural settlement/	<i>ede</i> - ^S see <i>ees-</i>
<i>allikas (allika)</i> 'spring'	<i>edela</i> /Gen./ 'south-west(ern)'
	<i>ees-</i> , <i>ede</i> - ^S 'front, fore-'
	<i>heinamaa</i> 'meadow, hayfield'
	<i>holm(i)</i> ^D 'islet, peninsula'

ida 'east, eastern'
jaam(a) 'station'
juga (joa) 'waterfall'
jõesuu 'river mouth'
jõgi (jõe, jõõ^V) 'river'
järv(e) 'lake'
kaasik(u) 'birch wood'
kabel(i) 'chapel'
kadastik(u) 'juniper scrub'
kaev(u) 'well'
kaevandus(e) 'mine'
kagu 'south-east(ern)'
kai 'quay, wharf'
kaitseala 'reservation'
kallas (kalda) 'shore, bank'
kalmistu 'cemetery'
kanal(i) 'canal'
kare 'islet'
kari 'reef, rocky islet'
kari (karja) 'cattle'
karjamaa 'pasture'
kerik see kirik
kesk- 'central, middle'
kihelkond (kihelkonna) '(ecclesiastical) parish'
kirde /Gen./ 'north-east(ern)'
kirik(u), kerik (kerigu)^V 'church'
kivi 'stone, boulder'
koppel (kopli) 'enclosure, paddock'
korgõ^V see *kõrge*
kosk (kose) 'rapids'
kraav(i) 'ditch'
kund (kunnu)^V 'wilderness, waste land'
kurk (kurgu) 'strait'

kuusik(u) 'spruce wood'
kõnd (kõnnu) 'wilderness, waste land'
kõrge, korgõ^V 'high'
kõrgustik(u) 'upland'
küla, külä^V 'village, hamlet'
külanõukogu 'village soviet, rural municipality' /1945 - 1990, since 1990 cf. *vald/laas (laane, laanõ^V)* 'primeval forest'
laht (lahe) 'bay, gulf'
lai(a), lai (laja)^D 'broad, wide'
laid (laiu) 'islet'
lamm(i) 'valley flat'
land (lannu)^V 'pool, puddle, muddy pond'
lennujaam(a) 'airport'
lennuväli (lennuvälja) 'airfield'
lepik(u) 'alder grove'
liiv(a) 'sand'
linn(a) 'town'
linnus(e) 'castle, stronghold'
lood (loo) 'rocky islet; alvar'
loode /Gen./ 'north-west(ern)'
looduskaitseala 'nature reservation'
loss(i) 'castle'
luht (luha) 'water meadow'
lõpp (lõpe) 'cove'
lõugas (lõuka) 'cove, inlet'
lõuna 'south, southern'
läte (lätte) 'source, spring'
lääne /Gen./ 'west, western'
maa 'land, county'
maakond (maakonna) 'county'

maalinn(a) 'fenced stronghold'
maantee 'road, highway'
maastikukaitseala 'landscape reserve'
madal(a) 'shoal, shallow'
madalik(u) 'lowland'
majakas (majaka) 'lighthouse'
majand(i) 'enterprise, farm'
meri (mere) 'sea'
mets(a), mõts(a)^v 'wood, forest'
must(a) 'black'
muul(i) 'pier'
mõis(a) '(country) estate, manor'
mõts(a)^v see *mets(a)*
mäe- 'upper'
mägi (mäe) 'hill'
männik(u) 'pine wood'
neem(e) 'cape, foreland'
niit (niidu, niidü^v) 'meadow'
nina 'cape, foreland'
nukk (nuki) 'cape, promontory'
nurm(e), nurm(õ)^v 'field, pasture'
nõmm(e) 'heath'
oja 'brook, stream'
org (oru) 'valley'
ots(a) 'end, cape'
palu, palo^v 'low meadow or forest'
pank (panga) 'steep limestone coast, rocky cape'
park (pargi) 'park'
pea, pää^s 'head, point, end'
peakraav(i) 'main ditch, canal'
pealt- 'upper'
peatu(s)(e) 'stop'
pere 'family, household'

piir(i) 'border, boundary'
pikk (pika), pitk(a)^p 'long'
plats(i) 'square'
poolsaar(e) 'peninsula'
puiestee 'avenue, boulevard'
põhja /Gen./ 'north, northern'
põik (põigu) 'lane, crossroad'
põld (põllu) 'field'
pää see *pea*
raba 'bog, swamp'
rahu 'reef'
rahvuspark (rahvuspargi) 'national park'
rajoon(i) 'district' /1950 - 1990, since 1990 cf. *maakond/*
rand (ranna) 'shore, coast, beach'
raudtee 'railway'
saar(e), saar(õ)^v 'island'
saarestik(u) 'archipelago'
sadam(a) 'harbour; port'
saun(a) 'small farm, cottage; bath-house'
soo, suu^v 'swamp, marsh, mire'
sild (silla) 'bridge'
suu 'mouth'
suu^v see *soo*
suur(e), suur(õ)^v 'great, large'
säär(e) 'narrow foreland'
taga- 'hind'
talu, talo^v 'house, farm'
tammik(u) 'oak grove'
tee 'street, way'
tehas(e) 'works, factory'
tiik (tiigi) 'pond'
tulepaak (tulepaagi) 'beacon'

tuletorn(i) 'lighthouse'
tuulik(u) 'windmill'
tänav(a) 'street'
uus (uue) 'new'
vabrik(u) 'factory'
vahe- 'middle'
vahtnõ (vahtsõ)^v see *vastne (vastse)^s*
vald (valla) '(civil) parish, rural municipality'
valge, valg- 'white'
vana 'old'

vastne (vastse)^s, vahtnõ (vahtsõ)^v 'new'
veehoidla 'water reservoir'
veski 'mill'
viik (viigi)^p 'bay, cove'
voor(e) 'hill, drumlin'
väike (väikse, väikese), väiku^v, väiko^v 'small, little'
väin(a) 'strait, sound'
väli (välja, vällä^v) 'field, plain'
väljak(u) 'square'
ülem- 'upper'

5 ABBREVIATIONS USED IN MAPS

A	asfalt, betoon	asphalt or concrete pavement
a-k	alevik	small borough, rural settlement
all	allikas	spring, source
as	asundus	settlement (old term)
bass	bassein	pool
gar	garaaž	garage
hgl	haigla	hospital
hot	hotell	hotel
j	jõgi	river
jhv	jahuveski	flour mill
jm	jaam	station
jsk	jaoskond	department, ward
jv	järv	lake
K	kruuskate	gravel pavement
kan	kanal	canal
klm	kalmistu	cemetery
kpl	kauplus	shop
kr	kraav	ditch
krk	kirik	church
krd	kordon	cordon
l	laht	bay, gulf
LK, lka	looduskaitseala	nature reservation
M	munakivisillutis	cobblestone pavement
m	mägi	hill
mk	metskond	forest district

mnt	maantee	road, highway
ms	mõis	(country) estate
mtsn	metsnik	forester, head gamekeeper
mv, mtsv	metsavaht	gamekeeper
n	neem	cape, foreland
nav	navigatsioonimärk	navigation aid
o	oja	brook, river
p	põld	field
pk	peakraav	main ditch, canal
prv	piirivalve	borderguard
prügi	prügimägi	dumping ground
ps	poosaar	peninsula
pst	puiestee	avenue, boulevard
põlevk	põlevkivikarjäär	oil shale quarry
rhvm	rahvamaja, klubi	culture house, club
s	saar	island
sd	sadam	port
SEJ	soojuselektrijaam	thermal power plant
sjsk	sidejaoskond	post office
std	staadion	stadium
t	talu	farm, house
th	tehas	plant
tk	tiik	pond
tlt	tuletorn	lighthouse
tn	tänav	street
vh	veehoidla	water reservoir
vk	väljak	square
vln	vallamaja	parish (municipality) house
vtn	veetorn	water tower

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF ESTONIA

(June 2012)

Estonia is divided into 15 counties (Estonian singular: *maakond*, plural: *maakonnad*). Counties are divided into municipalities which are of two kinds: rural municipalities (otherwise called communes, or parishes, *vald*, plural: *vallad*) and urban municipalities (or towns, *linn*, plural: *linnad*). Populated places are termed as towns (*linn*), boroughs (*alev*, plural: *alevid*), small boroughs (*alevik*, plural: *alevikud*) and villages (*küla*, plural: *külad*) but these have no administrative functions. Note that since at least 1998 the towns may be either self-governing municipalities or they may be incorporated into rural municipalities (*vallasisene linn*, town within a municipality). Some boroughs also have municipal status but in that capacity they are officially named rural municipalities (*vald*, only exception is Vändra where there are two separate municipalities: *Vändra vald* and *Vändra vald (alev)*, the second is the borough). Some towns are divided into districts (*linnaosa*, plural: *linnaosad*) with limited self-government: Tallinn consists of 8 districts (Haabersti, Kesklinn, Kristiine, Lasnamäe, Mustamäe, Nõmme, Piritä, Põhja-Tallinn), Kohtla-Järve of 6 districts (Ahtme, Kohtla-Järve, Kukruse, Oru, Sompa, Viivikonna).

For a chronology of administrative and territorial changes see a link <http://www.eki.ee/knn/asmuu2.htm> on the website of the Place Names Board.

Counties

County centres are in brackets.

- 1 Harjumaa (Tallinn)
- 2 Hiiumaa (Kärdla)
- 3 Ida-Virumaa (Jõhvi)
- 4 Jõgevamaa (Jõgeva)
- 5 Järvamaa (Paide)
- 6 Läänemaa (Haapsalu)
- 7 Lääne-Virumaa (Rakvere)
- 8 Põlvamaa (Põlva)
- 9 Pärnumaa (Pärnu)
- 10 Raplammaa (Rapla)
- 11 Saaremaa (Kuressaare)
- 12 Tartumaa (Tartu)
- 13 Valgamaa (Valga)
- 14 Viljandimaa (Viljandi)
- 15 Võrumaa (Võru)

Note: The names of counties have double variants in Estonian. The compound names ending in *-maa* have wider usage and these are used in most contexts. In official practice, however, the use of two-word names prevails where the ending *-maa* is replaced with *maakond* and written as separate word: Harju maakond, Hiiu maakond, Jõgeva maakond, Saare maakond, etc.

Municipalities (urban /linn/ and rural /vald/)

Numbers refer to counties above.

Abja vald 14
Aegviidu vald 1
Ahja vald 8
Alajõe vald 3
Alatskivi vald 12
Albu vald 5
Ambla vald 5
Anija vald 1
Antsla vald 15
Are vald 9
Aseri vald 3
Audru vald 9
Avinurme vald 3
Elva linn 12
Emmaste vald 2
Haanja vald 15
Haapsalu linn 6
Haaslava vald 12
Halinga vald 9
Haljala vald 7
Halliste vald 14
Hanila vald 6
Harku vald 1
Helme vald 13
Hummuli vald 13
Häädemeeste vald 9
Iisaku vald 3
Illuka vald 3
Imavere vald 5
Juuru vald 10
Jõelähtme vald 1
Jõgeva linn 4
Jõgeva vald 4
Jõhvi vald 3
Järva-Jaani vald 5
Järvakandi vald 10
Kaarma vald 11
Kadrina vald 7
Kaiu vald 10
Kallaste linn 12
Kambja vald 12
Kanepi vald 8
Kareda vald 5
Karksi vald 14
Karula vald 13
Kasepää vald 4
Kehtna vald 10
Keila linn 1
Keila vald 1
Kernu vald 1
Kihelkonna vald 11
Kihnu vald 9
Kiili vald 1
Kiviõli linn 3
Koeru vald 5
Kohila vald 10
Kohtla vald 3
Kohtla-Järve linn 3
Kohtla-Nõmme vald 3
Koigi vald 5
Kolga-Jaani vald 14
Konguta vald 12
Koonga vald 9

Kose vald 1
Kullamaa vald 6
Kunda linn 7
Kuressaare linn 11
Kuusalu vald 1
Kõlleste vald 8
Kõo vald 14
Kõpu vald 14
Kõrgessaare vald 2
Kõue vald 1
Käina vald 2
Kärdla linn 2
Kärla vald 11
Käru vald 10
Laekvere vald 7
Laeva vald 12
Laheda vald 8
Laimjala vald 11
Lasva vald 15
Lavassaare vald 9
Leisi vald 11
Lihula vald 6
Lohusuu vald 3
Loksa linn 1
Luunja vald 12
Lüganuse vald 3
Lümanda vald 11
Maardu linn 1
Maidla vald 3
Martna vald 6
Meeksi vald 12
Meremäe vald 15
Mikitamäe vald 8
Misso vald 15
Mooste vald 8

Muhu vald 11
Mustjala vald 11
Mustvee linn 4
Mõisaküla linn 14
Mõniste vald 15
Mäetaguse vald 3
Mäksa vald 12
Märjamaa vald 10
Narva linn 3
Narva-Jõesuu linn 3
Nissi vald 1
Noarootsi vald 6
Nõo vald 12
Nõva vald 6
Orava vald 8
Orissaare vald 11
Oru vald 6
Otepää vald 13
Padise vald 1
Paide linn 5
Paide vald 5
Paikuse vald 9
Paistu vald 14
Pajusi vald 4
Pala vald 4
Palamuse vald 4
Paldiski linn 1
Palupera vald 13
Peipsiääre vald 12
Pihla vald 11
Piirissaare vald 12
Puhja vald 12
Puka vald 13
Puurmani vald 4
Põdrala vald 13

Põltsamaa linn 4
Põltsamaa vald 4
Põlva linn 8
Põlva vald 8
Pärnu linn 9
Pärsti vald 14
Pöide vald 11
Pühalepa vald 2
Püssi linn 3
Raasiku vald 1
Rae vald 1
Raikküla vald 10
Rakke vald 7
Rakvere linn 7
Rakvere vald 7
Rannu vald 12
Rapla vald 10
Ridala vald 6
Risti vald 6
Roosna-Alliku vald 5
Ruhnu vald 11
Rõngu vald 12
Rõuge vald 15
Rägavere vald 7
Räpina vald 8
Saarde vald 9
Saare vald 4
Saarepeedi vald 14
Saku vald 1
Salme vald 11
Sangaste vald 13
Saue linn 1
Saue vald 1
Sauga vald 9
Sillamäe linn 3

Sindi linn 9
Sonda vald 3
Surju vald 9
Suure-Jaani vald 14
Sõmerpalu vald 15
Sõmeru vald 7
Tabivere vald 4
Taebla vald 6
Taheva vald 13
Tahkuranna vald 9
Tallinn 1
Tamsalu vald 7
Tapa vald 7
Tartu linn 12
Tartu vald 12
Tarvastu vald 14
Toila vald 3
Tootsi vald 9
Torgu vald 11
Tori vald 9
Torma vald 4
Tudulinna vald 3
Tõlliste vald 13
Tõrva linn 13
Tõstamaa vald 9
Tähtvere vald 12
Türi vald 5
Urvaste vald 15
Vaivara vald 3
Valga linn 13
Valgjärve vald 8
Valjala vald 11
Vara vald 12
Varbla vald 9
Varstu vald 15

Vasalemma vald 1
Vastse-Kuuste vald 8
Vastseliina vald 15
Veriora vald 8
Vigala vald 10
Vihula vald 7
Viimsi vald 1
Viiratsi vald 14
Viljandi linn 14
Vinni vald 7
Viru-Nigula vald 7
Vormsi vald 6

Võhma linn 14
Võnnu vald 12
Võru linn 15
Võru vald 15
Väike-Maarja vald 7
Vändra vald 9
Vändra vald (alev) 9
Värska vald 8
Väätsa vald 5
Õru vald 13
Ülenurme vald 12



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