Saaremaa Olavitee

St.Olav Way through Saaremaa and Muhu

A Cultural and Pilgrimage Route



Eesti
tuleviku heaks

Pilegrimsleden / St. Olav Ways



"Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certified in **2010**

ST.OLAV WAYS
THE PILGRIM PATHS TO TRONDHEIM

Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

https://www.pilegrimsleden.no/en/

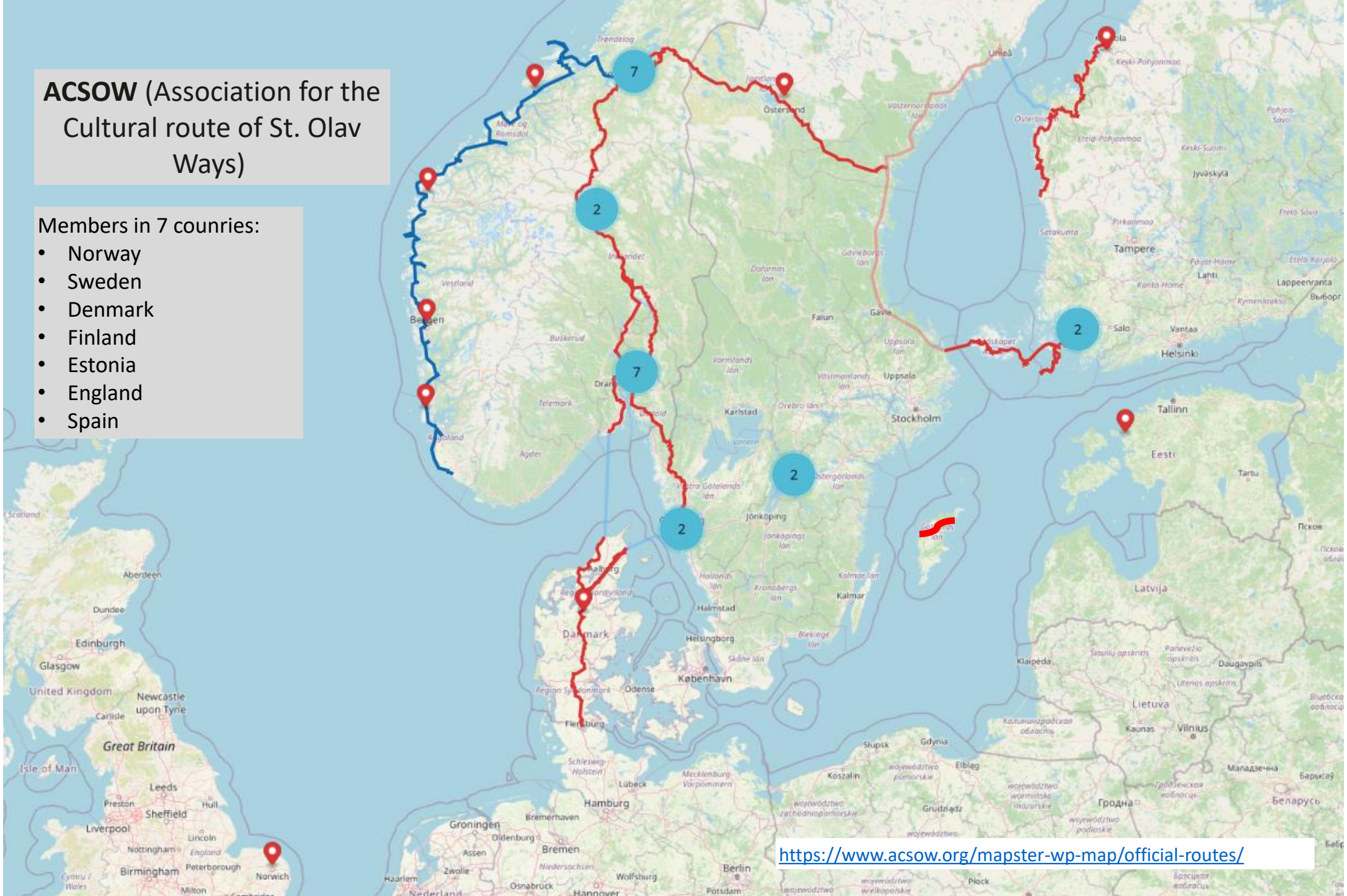


In Norway, there are 9 pilgrimage routes.
The most important and most visited is Gudbrandsdalsleden.
Oslo–Trondheim, 643 km

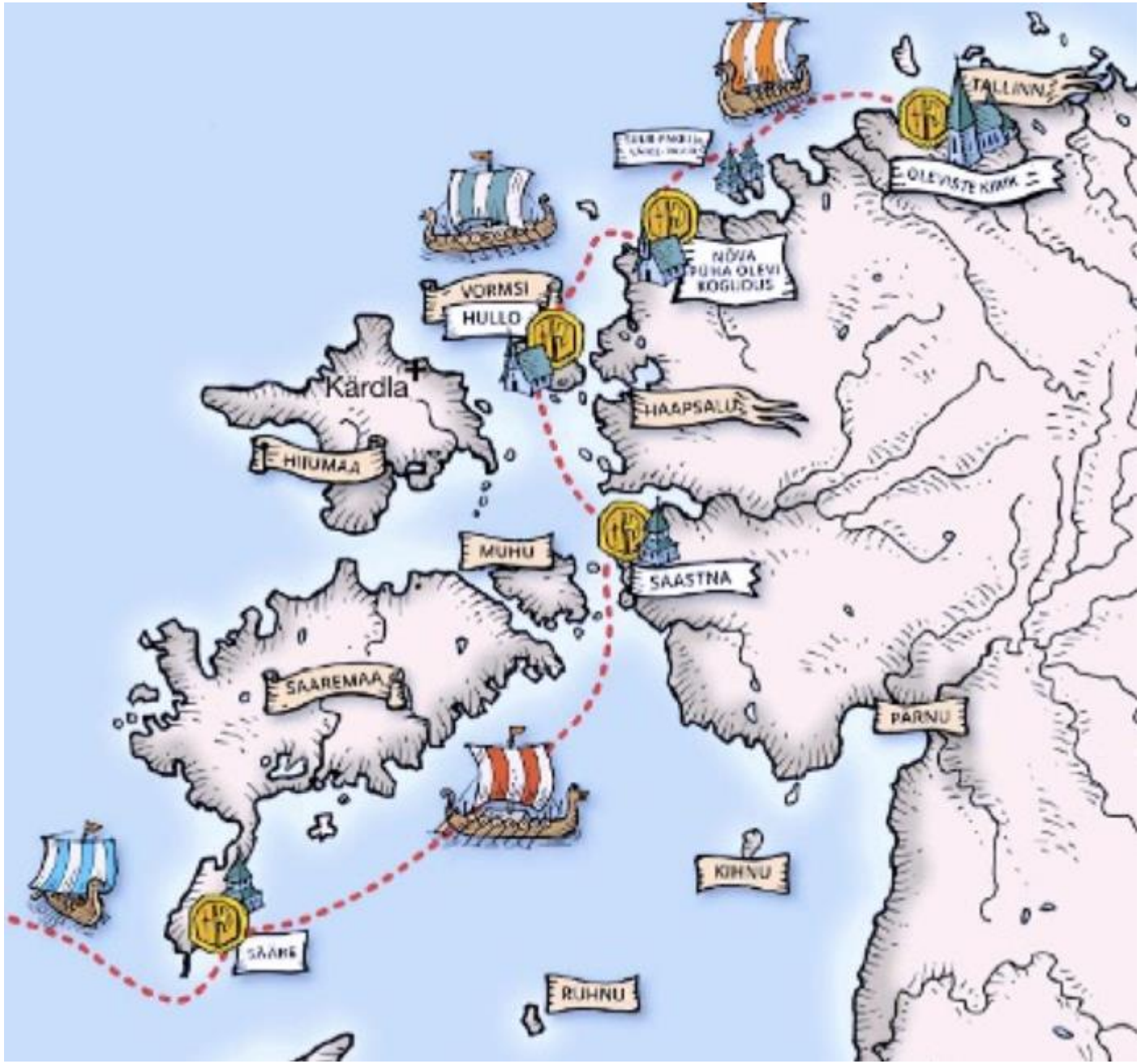
ACSOW (Association for the Cultural route of St. Olav Ways)

Members in 7 counries:

- Norway
- Sweden
- Denmark
- Finland
- Estonia
- England
- Spain



https://www.acsow.org/mapster-wp-map/official-routes/



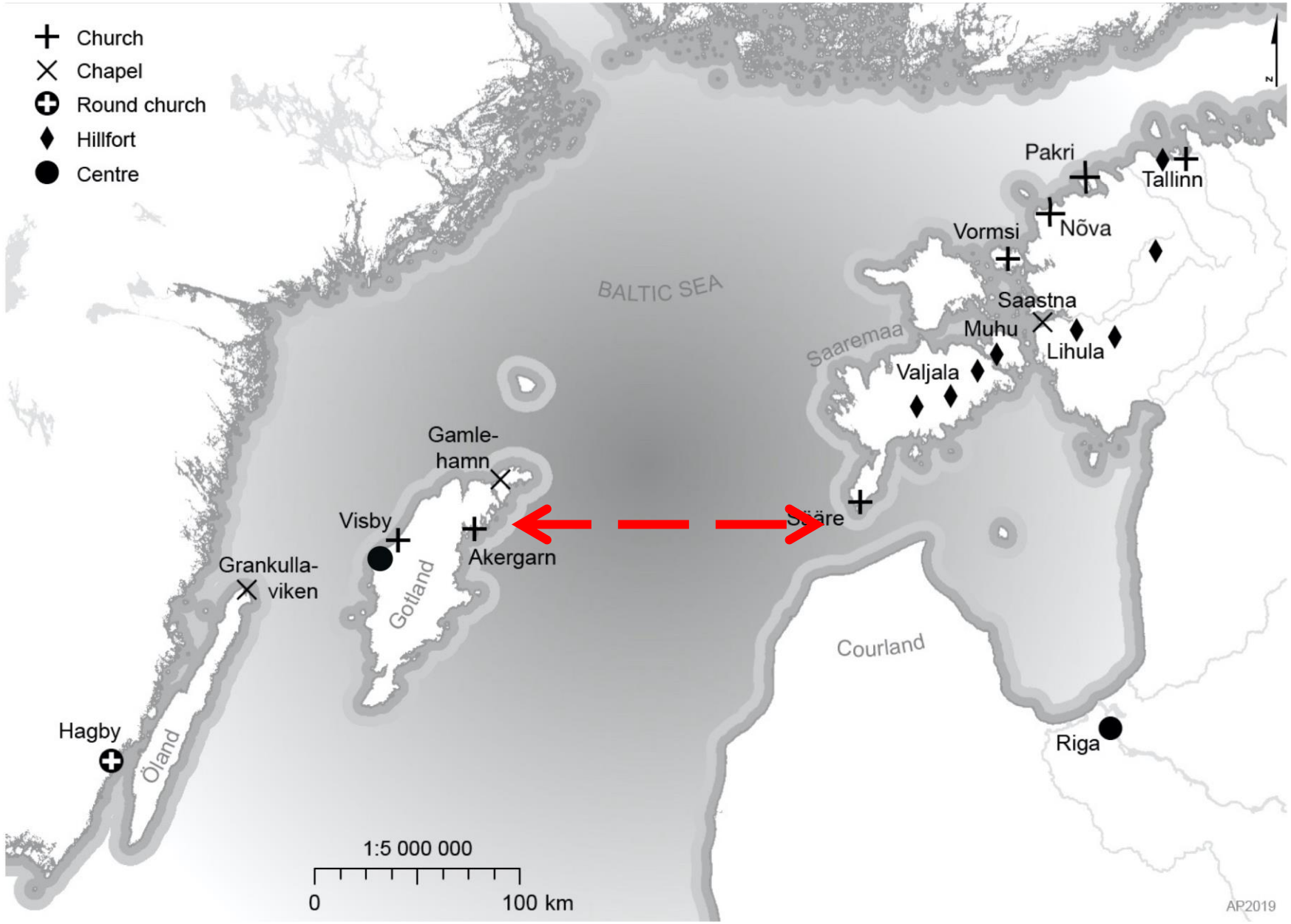
ESTONIA

The route follows the historical jorney of Viking ships along the Estonian coastline.

St Olav's churches

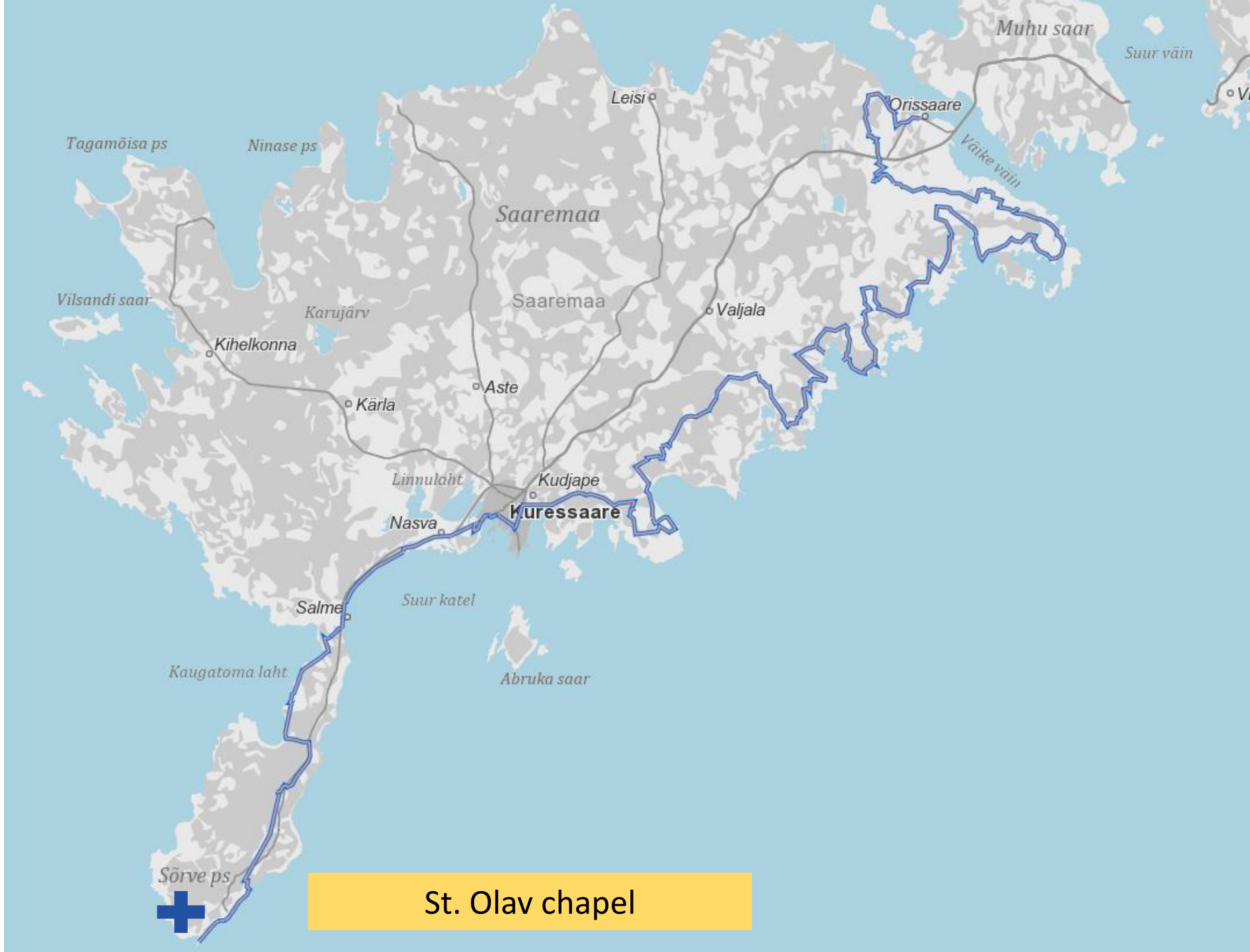


St Olav's church in Tallinn



Cultural route through Saaremaa and Muhu

NB! This is not an officially confirmed route



Symbolism of the route



- The logo is the official mark of the St. Olav Ways.
- The logo is used to designate and promote officially approved routes and is a core element of the visual identity of the St. Olav Ways.
- Any use of the logo must be approved by the Norwegian National Pilgrim Center, which owns and manages it.

What does the St. Olav Way bring to Saaremaa?

- **International visibility:** Joining the St. Olav Ways network increases Saaremaa's recognition among hiking and pilgrimage enthusiasts worldwide.
- **Growth in visitor numbers:** Climate change and increasingly hot summers are pushing European hikers to look north – including towards Estonia.
- **Community involvement:** Developing the route creates opportunities for locals – whether through accommodation, food services, or guiding.
- **Educational value:** Schools gain a new way to organise hike days while learning about nature and cultural heritage.
- **A path for everyone:** The Olav Way invites both locals and visitors to slow down and experience peaceful movement through Saaremaa's beautiful landscapes.
- **Opportunities for entrepreneurship** – the route creates conditions for offering a range of services to hikers in rural areas.



Activities Related to Route Development

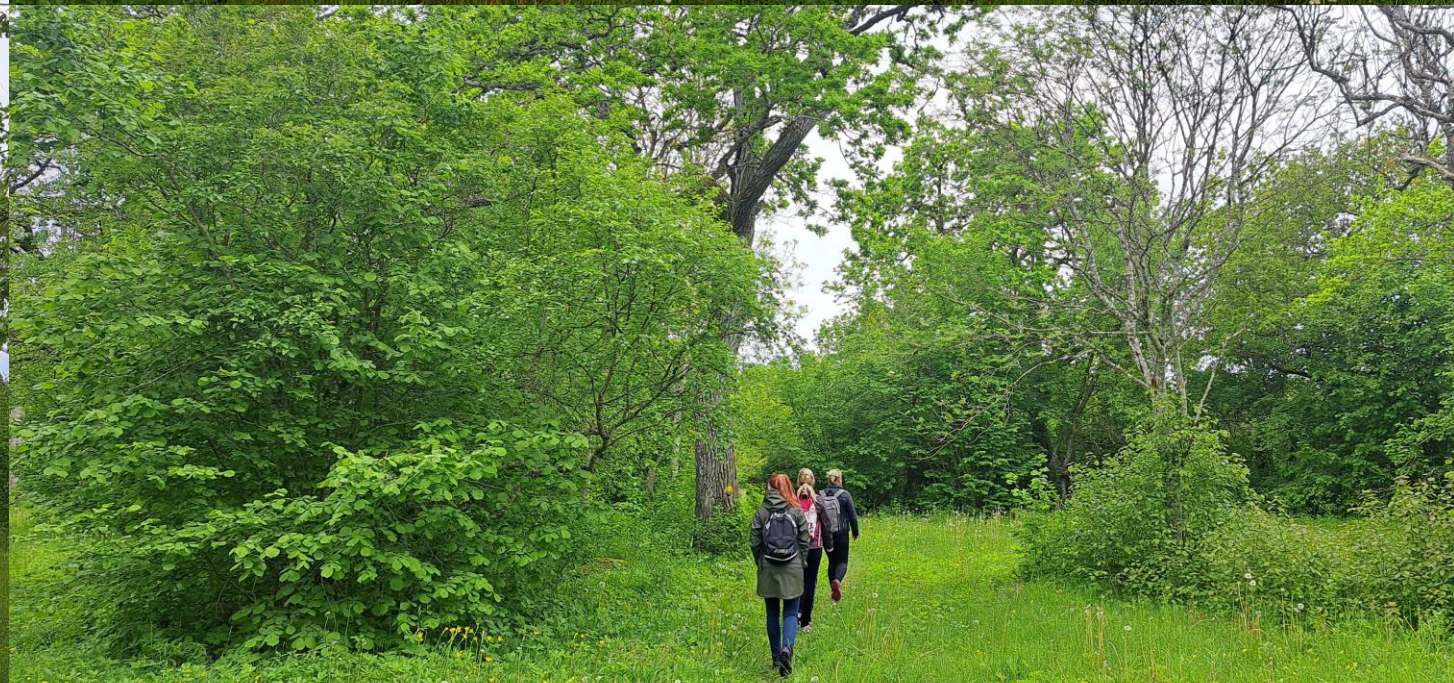
- **Mapping** services along the route and building a cooperation network
- **Creating** a cultural and historical background for the route
- **Marking** the route
- **Developing** an interactive map application
- **Publishing** route information on a website, digital map, and other informational materials
- **Organising** a study trip for businesses involved in the Olav Way network to a country where a similar St. Olav Ways route has been established











visit saare maa



Thank you!