

On terrain, course and map

The terrain of the XXIII TAOK rogaine largely overlaps with the terrain of 2008 TAOK rogaine (<https://orienteerumine.ee/kaart/?eolcode=2008045>). The northern part of this terrain was also used for the 2008 World Rogaining Championships (<https://orienteerumine.ee/kaart/?eolcode=2008030>), while on the southern part of the terrain the 2011 Estonian Open MTBO Championships were held (<https://orienteerumine.ee/kaart/?eolcode=2011054>). However, a lot of water from the Gauja river has flown to the sea in these times. The terrain has obviously witnessed several changes over the last 15 years. Comparing the 2008 and 2023 maps will indicate the size of the forestry works that have taken place. But surely rogaine participants will experience these also directly. On the positive side – the white color denoting the forest still dominates on the map and most of the existing forest is either very well or reasonably well runnable.

The Võru-Valga road passes through the terrain and divides it into two somewhat distinct parts. In the northern part of the terrain the contours are more complex and landforms are intercepted with marshy areas. In the southern part there are also some nice landforms, but these are more dispersed and are not so complex as in the north. As the event center is in the central part of the terrain, you will have to choose either to proceed first to the northern or to the southern part of the map. As the Võru-Valga road is very close to the event center, please be extra careful when crossing this road either after the start or when hurrying to the finish. The course has been planned with the consideration that competitors wouldn't have to run much along the road, but just cross it at locations with good visibility.

There are 45 controls on the terrain with values ranging from 2 to 6. Most of the controls are on landforms in the older forest. However, on some legs recent or overgrown forest clearings can not be avoided. It may also be difficult to cross some wider ditches or streams. On the other hand, the edges of several ditches have been cleared recently, allowing to run along the ditch. The State Forest Administration has built several good gravel roads in the forest. Additionally, there is a rather elaborate network of forest rides and paths. The trans-Estonian long Aegviidu-Ähijärve hiking trail passes through the terrain (<https://t.ly/icgJH>), marked with green-and-white signs.

Apart from the villages (Taheva, Korkuna, Laanemetsa, Sooblase, Hargla) along the Võru-Valga road, there are rather few private homesteads in other sections of the terrain. When driving to or leaving the event center, it is worth taking a glance at the wooden sculptures and benches at the bus stops along the Võru-Valga road. These are made by a local sculptor Andres Rattasepp.

There are several out-of-bounds areas marked on the map with purple raster. These are mainly pastures for cattle, surrounded by electric fences – not only prohibited to enter, but also a risk of the electric shock! There are also some crop fields marked as out-of-bounds.

When planning the route take into consideration and avoid also the olive green private homesteads. Some of these have dogs running free.

More recent clear cut forest areas are marked on the map with the symbol of the semi-open area, whereas older and overgrown former clearcut areas are marked using the raster with green dots. However, in some occasions the contrast between such areas may not always be so sharp on the terrain as it may appear on the map.

Apart from Kilingi-Nõmme town area there are only few private homesteads in other sections of the terrain. When passing through the town, read the map carefully, stay on streets and trails and avoid private yards.

There are 2 water stations on the terrain, marked on the map with a purple cup. Additionally, in the eastern part of the terrain there is a Roodsi-Mõtsakunna spring (<https://allikad.info/springs/EE01772/>), which is indicated on the map with a blue cup. You can use this spring to drink and fill your camel back, but it is fully self-service.

The map scale is 1:30000, the contour interval is 5 meters. The size of the map sheet is ca 40x38 cm.