### Essential Information

Tallinn, the capital of Estonia and a seaport with nearly 420,000 inhabitants, is a vibrant city mixing old and new. Its charming historical center is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, but Tallinn is also often referred to as the Silicon Valley of the Baltic Sea, ranking as one of the top 10 digital cities in the world. On one hand, it is the birthplace of Skype and home to a big Ericsson production plant for Europe; on the other hand, it is home to narrow medieval cobbled streets and old churches. History buffs will admire the Gothic town hall, Alexander Nevski Cathedral, monasteries and churches, but the splendid KGB museum, the Rocca Al Mare Open Air Museum, Kadriorg Park or Lennusadam Seaplane Harbour do not lag behind in attractiveness. And when you are tired of architecture and culture, Tallinn offers a rich selection of cosy cafés, trendy bars and hip clubs. To put it simply, there’s something for everyone in Tallinn.

### Time Zone

UTC/GMT +2 hours, observes daylight saving time March-October.

### Contacts

**Tourist Contacts**
- Tallin Tourist Board: +372 645 7777
- Estonia Tourist Board: +372 6279 770

---

### Money

The Estonian currency is the euro = 100 cents.

The majority of larger restaurants, hotels and shops accept credit cards, but always have some cash on you, especially for taxis and bus tickets. Smaller shops, some petrol stations and B&Bs may not accept card payments, so always check in advance. ATMs are scattered around the city and it should never be a problem finding one. You can exchange money at any bank or exchange office. Try to avoid the exchange booths in the Old Town, the rates are not very good there. You can also just withdraw money from the ATM if you want to save yourself trouble.

Don’t be shy and try your bargaining skills at flea markets – you could save up to 20% of the initial price.

### Tax Refunds

Non-EU residents are entitled to a VAT refund if they spend more than €38.35 on a single purchase in a shop displaying the Tax Free logo. You should ask the store clerk for a Refund Cheque and present it at customs together with the purchased goods upon leaving the EU.

For any queries, call the customs helpdesk: +372 696 7435. You can also contact Global Blue Estonia at +372 669 0545.

### Prices

- Meal, inexpensive restaurant – €5.50
- Meal for 2, mid-range restaurant, 3 courses – €25
- Domestic beer (0.5l draught) – €2.50
- Cappuccino (regular) – €2
- Gasoline (1 liter) – €1.38
- Hostels (average price/night) – €10
- 4* hotel (average price/night) – €100
- Car-hire (medium-sized car/day) – €120

### Tipping

Tipping in Estonia is voluntary and tips are never included in the bill. You are not obliged to leave a tip, but a common practise is to leave 10% in restaurants if the service was satisfactory.
Electricity
Wall sockets in Estonia usually operate under 220V and the frequency of 50Hz. Estonia uses the European-style two-pin plug, type C (two round pins).

Languages
The official language is Estonian but a significant part of the population speaks Russian as their native language (mostly in Tallinn). English, German, Finnish, Belarusian and Ukrainian are spoken too.

Mobile Phones
Estonia is on the GSM 900/1800 frequency. There are three mobile phone operators: EMT, Elisa and Tele 2. If you have a European cell phone and provider, you shouldn't have any problems here. If you come from America or Asia, you should check to see if your phone is compatible.

Estonians prefer mobile phones to landlines and many services can be paid by mobile phone, such as parking: http://www.parkimine.ee/en/parking/tallinn/how-to-pay/mobile-parking.

The international country calling code of Estonia is +372. Estonia does not have city codes and any call will cost you the same price.

Internet
Wi-Fi hotspots are available almost everywhere in Tallinn, even in the parks. In fact, Tallinn is more or less one big hotspot. You can find a list on WiFi.ee (www.wifi.ee)

If you don’t have your laptop with you, public libraries offer free use of their computers. There are a few internet cafés in Tallinn and they charge €2-3 per hour.

Internet Resources
- Tallin Tourist Board (www.tourism.tallinn.ee)
- Estonia Tourist Board (www.visitestonia.com)
- Tallinn’s official city website (www.tallinn.ee)
- Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org)

HOLIDAYS
- 1 January – New Year’s Day
- 24 February – Independence Day
- Good Friday
- Eastern Sunday
- 1 May – May Day
- Whitsunday (Pentecost)
- 23 June – Victory Day
- 24 June – St John’s Day/Midsummer Day
- 20 August – Day of Restoration of Independence
- 24 December – Christmas Eve
- 25 December – Christmas Day
- 26 December – Boxing Day

Many shops are open on holidays except for Christmas and New Year’s Day, but they may close earlier.

Opening Hours
Shops in Tallinn are generally open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m, but they usually close earlier on Saturdays and closed on Sundays. Major shopping centres are open until 9 p.m. Many food shops open at 9 a.m.

Banks and post offices are open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays. Some banks are open on Saturday morning, while post offices operate from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Alcohol is sold from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Markets are generally open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5 p.m. on weekends).
Public Transportation

Tallinn is served by buses, trams and trolleybuses which run from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Some lines operate until 12 a.m.

You can either buy a ticket at any newsstand (€1) or directly from the driver at a stop for a higher price (€1.60). A packet of 10 tickets costs €8. Punch your ticket immediately upon entering or you might have to pay a fine for fare evasion if caught.

From January 2013 Tallinn has also introduced smartcards which can be topped up and then used freely. The €2 deposit is refundable, so don’t forget to claim it before you leave the city. You can buy them in kiosks, post offices and other places. You can top the smartcard up at sales points, over the internet or by your mobile phone if you have an Estonian SIM card. The prices of the tickets are somewhat cheaper (€1.10 for a one hour ticket).

If you are staying in Tallinn for more days, opt for one of these tickets to save money:
- 1-day (24 h) ticket costs €4 / €3 with a smartcard
- 3-day (72 h) ticket costs €6 / €5 with a smartcard
- 5-day (120 h) ticket costs €7 / €6 with a smartcard

Alternatively, if you have purchased the Tallinn Card (www.tourism.tallinn.ee) you can use the public transport for free. You will still need to validate your card when entering public transport.

For timetables check the official tourist website (www.tallinn.ee)

Taxis

Taxi drivers in Estonia can charge you anything they want as there is no fixed rate. The starting fare should be about 2-5 € and one kilometer should cost around 0.75 €. The trip from or to the airport should cost about 7 €. To get a fair price, it is always better to call the dispatcher of a trustworthy taxi company rather than hailing one on the street. Legal taxis have a price list visibly displayed on the dashboard and in the rear window. Always check the price prior your journey. Taxi stands are located next to the Drama theatre and at major hotels. Do not use taxis waiting at the train stations and the harbor, or those looking old or too luxurious.
- Tallink Takso (www.tallinktakso.ee) +372 640 8921 (do not mistake with Tallinn Takso which is a fake company!)
- Tulika Takso (www.tulika.ee) +372 612 0000
- Tallinna Takso (www.tallinnatakso.ee) +372 655 5555
- Sobra (www.sobratakso.ee) +372 1714
- Marabu (www.marabu.ee) +372 650 0006
- Krooni (www.kroonitakso.ee) +372 638 1212

Regional Transportation

Airport: Tallinn is served by Lennart Meri Tallinn Airport (www.tallinn-airport.ee) the largest airport in the country, situated about 4 km from the city centre.

Ferry: There is a ferry connection to Helsinki and Aegna Island run by Lindalini AS (www.lindalini.ee)

Buses: The regional buses for Harju County are run by Harjumaa Ühistranspordikeskus (www.harjuytk.ee)

Commuter Train: Commuters from Harju County use the Elektriraudtee commuter trains (en.elektriraudtee.ee) are free of charge. Check the city tourist website (www.tallinn.ee) for detailed information.

Trains: The Estonian railway is operated by the state-run Eesti Raudtee (www.evr.ee) and privately held Edelaraudtee (www.edel.ee)

Driving

Speed limits:
- 50 km/h – cities & inhabited areas
- 90 km/h – intercity roads
- 110 km/h – highways

Vehicles must have their headlights on at all times.

It is obligatory to have winter tires from December 1 to March 1.

There is zero tolerance for alcohol in the blood.

Everyone in the car must wear their seatbelt. Children must be seated in child car seats.

It is forbidden to use mobile phones while driving. Use a hands-free device.

Wear a reflective vest while attending to any breakdown.

It is illegal to use your horn in built-up areas unless in case of danger.

Drivers must stop for all pedestrians at pedestrian crossings.

Driving in Estonia can be a challenging experience. Unfortunately, your fellow drivers probably do not respect the driving rules much and can be aggressive and sometimes even drunk. In addition, you need to look out for the moose – an encounter with one of these at high speed could be lethal. The road system is quite extensive and, aside from the drivers and moose, doesn’t pose many challenges. Car rental is also very cheap.

Parking in Tallinn is paid. The first 15 minutes are free of charge. Check the city tourist website (www.tallinn.ee) for detailed information.

Walkability

Tallinn is a very walkable city. The Old Town is cobblestoned, and the streets therefore uneven so wear sensible shoes. Mind your step to avoid sprained ankles.

For detailed information on accessibility, visit the city’s official tourist website (www.tourism.tallinn.ee)
Estonian cuisine is of peasant origin. It is relatively healthy and based on fish, pork, potatoes, sauerkraut, black rye bread and dairy products. Like any national cuisine, Estonian food is influenced by its neighboring countries, in this case primarily Russian, Scandinavian, Polish and German cuisines. The most popular fish are Atlantic herring, sprats, flounder and sanders. Soups are very popular in Estonia and always come before the main course.

- rosolje – cold meat, fish, beetroot and potatoes, usually served at parties
- sült – boiled pork in jelly
- täidetud vasikarind – roasted stuffed veal shoulder
- braised goose stuffed with apples and plums
- verivorst – blood sausage
- küssel – fruit soup served hot or cold
- kama – finely milled flour mixture used for desserts or mush.
- kurd snack – made of curd with jam or raisins, coated in chocolate or various creams

Drinks

Apart from the obvious beer, the Estonians are big on milk, buttermilk and kefirs. Wine is becoming more and more popular. Kali is a drink made of bread, while Vanna Tallinn is a signature Estonian liqueur flavoured with herbs and spices. Mead is now only drunk at celebrations. The Estonians also make good vodka and are really proud of it.

Legal Age

The legal drinking age in Estonia is 18. Drinking in public is strictly prohibited. Bars and clubs do not have a fixed closing time. Smoking is forbidden in public spaces, but there might be special smoking rooms in some establishments.

**EVENTS DURING THE YEAR**

**April**
- Tallinn Music Week (www.tallinnmusicweek.ee)
- Tallinn International Festival Jazzkaar (www.jazzkaar.ee)

**May/June**
- Tallinn Old Town Days (vanalinnapaevad.ee)
- Öllesummer Festival (www.ollesummer.ee)
- The Estonian Song Celebration (laulupidu.ee)

**August**
- Birgitta Festival (www.birgitta.ee)

**November/December**
- Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival (PÖFF) (2012.poff.ee)
Free Things To Do

- Old Town – Stroll around the Old Town and feel the medieval atmosphere breathing from the beautiful old buildings and narrow streets.
- St Olaf’s Church – once the tallest structure in Europe.
- Katarina Käik – Watch the local craftsmen work in the romantic St. Catherine Passage.
- Kadriorg Park – a romantic and very popular vast park with a swan lake.
- Alexander Nevsky Cathedral – Tallinn’s significant landmark.
- Pirita Beach – a clean Baltic beach with lovely views, providing a break from the hustle.

Shopping

Viru Street and Müürivahe Street are best for souvenirs such as crystal, woolen sweaters, folk patterns, wooden kitchen utensils and amber (which is actually Lithuanian), as well as for designer boutiques, shoes and perfumes. Suur-Karja, Vaike-Karja and Kullassepa Streets are also good shopping destinations. Stockmann, located on Liivalaia Street, is the largest department store in the Baltic region. Another big shopping center is Kaubamaja on Gonsiori Street. Trendy De la Gardie on Viru Street is home to a number of smaller shops. St. Catherine’s Passage is excellent for glasswork, ceramics, quilts, jewellery and other handmade artistic items. It is located between Vene 12 and Müürivahe Tänava. Go to Central Market for local food.

DOS AND DO NOTS

- DO wear comfortable shoes.
- DO wear reflectors when going out at night.
- DO purchase a Tallinn card to save money if you stay more than 1-2 days.
- DO hire a rickshaw when your feet are sore – you’ll support a student and it’s fun.
- DO NOT carry too much money on you.
- DO NOT hail a taxi but call for one.
- DO NOT buy your souvenirs near the Town Hall Square – they are too expensive.

Safety

Tallinn is a safe city, but like most other European capital cities, it has problems with street crime. The most common incidents are pickpocketing, mugging and credit card fraud. Use your common sense and you’ll be fine. Don’t carry large sums of cash with you and be careful when you withdraw money from an ATM. Learn your pin code by heart and do not have it written in your wallet. In case your credit card is stolen, call your bank immediately and have it blocked. Keep your bag zipped and beware of pickpockets, especially in the Old Town, at train stations, at the Central Market and other crowded places. Don’t go near the waterfront. Avoid groups of youngsters and the Kopli area. Pedestrians must have a reflector on themselves at all times if walking around at night or in poor visibility conditions – the Estonian police enforce this rule. You can buy them in kiosks and other shops.

The tap water is safe to drink.
**Town Hall Square** / Raekoja Plats
The historic heart of Old Tallin surrounded by beautiful architecture, and a traditional venue for festivals and markets.
Mündi 2, 10146 Tallinn, Estonia
GPS: N59.43762, E24.74527

**Tallinn Town Wall** / Linnamüüri
There aren't many city walls like this one left in the world. The extent to which the walls are preserved is truly unique. A definite must-see.
Komandandi tee 2, 10130 Tallinn, Estonia
GPS: N59.43426, E24.74234

**St. Catherine's Passage** / Katariina Käik
A charming example of medieval architecture, this narrow street is full of craftsmen's workshops and artists displaying their beautiful work.
Katariina käik, 10140 Tallinn, Estonia
GPS: N59.43763, E24.74835

**St. Olaf's Church** / Oleviste kirik
Once the tallest building in the world, the church offers a beautiful panoramic view of the Tallinn Old Town.
Lai 50-52, 10133 Tallinn, Estonia
GPS: N59.44157, E24.74734
Phone: +372 641 22 41

**"Peep into the kitchen" Tower** / Kiek in de Köök
Tallinn's first line of defense, this part of the city's unique fortifications takes visitors on an interactive trip through history.
Komandandi tee 2, 10130 Tallinn, Estonia
GPS: N59.43470, E24.74112
Phone: +372 644 6686
### Viru Gate / Viru värav
The impressive entrance to the Town Hall Square positioned on one the trendiest shopping street of Tallinn is the true heart of the city.
Raekoja 1, 10146 Tallinn, Estonia
GPS: N59.43715, E24.74532

### Toompea Castle / Toompea loss
The impressive medieval fortress which also houses the Estonian parliament is a definite must-see in Tallinn.
Lossi plats 1A, 15165 Tallinn, Estonsko
GPS: N59.43576, E24.73877
Phone: +372 631 6331

### Tallinn Town Hall / Tallinn raekoda
The ancient gothic town hall is the only one of its kind in Northern Europe, a place of legends and photogenic beauty.
Raekoja 4, 10140 Tallinn, Estonia
GPS: N59.43694, E24.74514
Phone: +372 6 457 900

### Alexander Nevsky Cathedral / Aleksander Nevski katedraal
With its typical onion shaped towers, both admired and hated, the cathedral crowns the hill of Toompea as a symbol of Russian oppression.
Lossi plats 5-10, 10130 Tallinn, Estonia
GPS: N59.43569, E24.73888
Phone: +372 644 3484

### Long Street, Tallinn / Pikk tänav
Tallin's busiest and most picturesque street in the historic centre of the city. Perfect for an afternoon stroll.
Pikk, 10111 Tallinn, Estonia
GPS: N59.44034, E24.74759

### Great Guild Hall – Estonian History Museum / Maarjamäe lossis – Eesti Ajaloomuuseum
If you're into history this is a must-see for you. Learn all there is to know about Estonia and its culture.
Merepuieestee, 10111 Tallinn, Estonia
GPS: N59.43886, E24.75447
Phone: +372 6 228 600

### St. Nicholas' Church / Niguliste kirik
A beautiful church which adds to the specific panorama of Tallinn. Inside you will find an art museum and regular music performances.
Niguliste 3, 10146 Tallinn, Estonia
GPS: N59.43626, E24.74256
Phone: +372 631 4330

### Town Hall Pharmacy, Tallinn / Raeapteek
Certainly a place with unique atmosphere, this is one of the oldest continuously running pharmacies in Europe, operating for more than 400 years.
Raekoja plats 11, 10146 Tallinn, Estonia
GPS: N59.43778, E24.74602
**St. Mary's Cathedral** / Toomkirik

The oldest church in mainland Estonia and the only building to survive the great fire of Toompea in the 17th century. A magnificent piece of history.

Toom-Kooli 6, 10130 Tallinn, Estonia

GPS: N59.43754, E24.73864

Phone: +372 644 4140

---

**Tallinn City Museum** / Tallinna Linnamuseum

Explore the rich history of Tallinn with its legends and stories from the Dark Ages to Estonia's newly gained independence.

Vene 25-30, 10123 Tallinn, Estonia

GPS: N59.43869, E24.74818

Phone: +372 6155183

---

**Church of The Holy Spirit** / Puhavaimu Kirik

The oldest church in Tallinn. The original destroyed in a fire, only a copy now stands in its place, though the magnificent beauty remains.

Pühavaimu 2, 10123 Tallinn, Estonia

GPS: N59.43811, E24.74555

Phone: +372 644 1487

---

**KGB Museum** / KGB Muuseum

Explore the dark history of the Soviet era in this authentic museum. Experience what it was like to be spied on by the KGB.

Viru väljak 4, 10111 Tallinn, Estonia

GPS: N59.43661, E24.75456

Phone: +372 680 9300

---

**Danish King's Garden** / Taani Kuningas

One of the most beautiful parks in Tallinn serves as a remnant of the centennial Danish rule over the city.

Lühike jalg 9B, 10130 Tallinn, Estonia

GPS: N59.43577, E24.74097

---

**Kadriorg Palace** / Kadrioru loss

A real gem of Tallinn, this popular landmark served as a manor for Peter the Great as well as Estonia's first president.

Weizenbergi 37, 10127 Tallinn, Estonia

GPS: N59.43803, E24.79063

Phone: +372 602 6001

---

**Freedom Square** / Vabaduse väljak

The vast square commemorates the Estonian War of Independence, with the impressive Victory Column serving as its centerpiece.

Vabaduse väljak, 10142 Tallinn, Estonia

GPS: N59.43338, E24.74452

---

**Olde Hansa Restaurant** / Olde Hansa

A true restaurant of the Middle Ages. No electricity, no modern-day inventions, just pure medieval gastronomy at its finest.

Vana turg 1, 10140 Tallinn, Estonia

GPS: N59.43670, E24.74588

Phone: +372 627 9020

---
Estonian Maritime Museum / Eesti Meremuuseum
All you ever wanted to know about ships in one place. Explore maritime history at one of Tallinn's many piers.
Pikk 70, 10133 Tallinn, Estonia
GPS: N59.44244, E24.74936
Phone: +372 6411 408

Beer House
Pick from a variety of seven kinds of home-made beer, in this cosy and stylish pub with its own micro-brewery, first of its kind in Estonia.
Dunkri 5, 10123 Tallinn, Estonia,
GPS: N59.43694, E24.74375
Phone: +372 58190670

Kalev Marzipan Museum / Kalevi martsipanimuuseumituba
The famous Estonian producer of chocolate runs probably the only marzipan museum in the world; be sure to pay a visit if you're into sweets.
Pikk n 16, 10123 Tallinn, Estonia,
GPS: N59.43856, E24.74540
Phone: +372 64 64 192

Museum of Occupations / Okupatsioonide muuseum
Travel in time through more than 50 years of German and Russian occupation Estonia had to endure during the 20th century.
Toompea 8, 10142 Tallinn, Estonia
GPS: N59.43267, E24.73973
Phone: +372 668 0250

Kalma Sauna / Kalma Saun
The oldest bath in the city in combination with marvelous architecture and lasting tradition creates a special atmosphere of relaxation.
Vana-Kalamaja 9, 10414 Tallinn, Estonia
GPS: N59.44392, E24.73755
Phone: +372 271811