
Welcome to Tallinn, Estonia!

Here are some tips from LHC that hopefully help you to enjoy your time here

Where and what to eat?

First, special recommendations from Inga and then from all the rest of us by categories:

So, for good food and wine near the old town in my favorite quarter Rotermanni are:

- 1) Platz <https://www.platz.ee/en/> - it is 'mustbe' place for every MINT member, at least it has been so already last 10 years when they open their door, I/we (EMITA) have taken every MINT member who has visited Estonia to eat there AND and food and service have always been of a high standard! AND
- 2) R14 <http://www.rotermann.eu/en/place/r14/> - they having time by time DJ who playing vinyl records and the service and food is also superb, remarkably good choice of wine for reason that the owner is sommelier!

Street food/fast food

It is getting more and more popular in Estonia to offer high quality street food.

- One of the best burger places <http://www.jahugurmee.ee/>
- Best pizza in town <http://kajapizza.ee/kaja-pizza-eng.html>
- Yummy pancakes <http://kompressorpub.ee/en/>, but is closed for renovation 15.09-25.09
- Really good pastry <https://rost.ee/>

Traditional food

It is hard to say what actually Estonian traditional food is because mostly we have elements from German and Russian kitchen. But we have special sour-milk drink called "kama" and of course our dark bread.

- You can get the best traditional food from our open air museum <https://evm.ee/eng/home> and also we have modern Estonian food restaurant MEKK <https://www.tallinnhotels.ee/mekk/>
- In restaurants you can buy dark bread with garlic as an appetizer. The best one in town is here in Telliskivi <https://truhvel.ee/menuu/?lang=en>
- Some restaurants have interior that can be described as family restaurants and have really cozy Estonian feeling in them. For example <http://www.linnukyla.ee/> ; <http://restoranmimosa.ee/> ; <https://kohalik.ee/>

High-end options

Here are some restaurants that can be seen as the best ones in town

- The best view <https://www.noaresto.ee/en/>
- Interesting dishes <https://saltrestoran.ee/>
- From root to leaf idea <https://www.fotografiska.com/tallinn/en/restaurant/>

Veggie

Nowadays a lot of restaurants offer vegetarian options, but you should be careful of what they mean by that. Estonians still don't have the best understanding of what it means to be vegetarian or vegan.

- The most famous restaurant is ÜLO <https://www.facebook.com/Kopli16/>.
- If you would like to see our seaside then you should also visit Vigri Cafe. It can be hard to find, but worth of visiting <https://vigrikohvik.ee/en/> .
- In Kadriorg we also have <http://www.nop.ee/inglise> that has a lot of options.

Asian

Delicious Asian (more Asian fusion) food can be found from <https://www.villathai.ee/> , <http://taiboh.com/> and <http://toa.ee/en/>. A little bit cheaper, but good alternative is Lendav Taldrik in Telliskivi <https://www.facebook.com/Lendav-Taldrik-Resto-389723857828746/>.

And our best Japanese restaurant is Haku <https://haku.ee/en/>

Where to go in Tallinn and near the town?

Kalamaja is our popular so called “hipster and art area”. Here you can find a variety of different restaurants and galleries. Also you should visit Telliskivi Loomelinnak that is the centre of our creative artists. If you are in to photography then you should visit Juhan Kuus Gallery <https://dokfoto.ee/en/> and of course our new pearl Fotografiska <https://www.fotografiska.com/tallinn/en/>. Newly opened interesting art gallery can be found from here: <http://www.ecadc.ee/et/events/>

Vanalinn is Estonian word for the centre of the medieval part of Tallinn. Our social event is also being held in this region. Our advice is just to walk around the Old Town and enjoy the historical buildings. You should go to Patkuli viewing platform, Toompea, but also Tornide Väljak and Raekoja plats. In this area you can also find a lot of different shops and galleries. Tallinn Photomonth exhibitions may also be worth of seeing <https://www.fotokuu.ee/en/news/>

Pirita and Viimsi are places to visit if you would like to see the seaside and walk in pine forest. Pirita is well known for the Pirita Monastery and it's ruins <http://www.piritaklooster.ee/history/visit-monastery-ruins/?lang=en>

Also in Pirita you can find Olympic Yachting centre that is interesting building from Soviet times. https://www.inyourpocket.com/tallinn/tallinn-olympic-yachting-centre_54661v

Nõmme is a beautiful area of wooden houses. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/N%C3%B5mme> and should be visited if you would like to walk around in more traditional part of Tallinn. You can easily get there by train (10-15 minutes from Balti Jaam). In this area you should visit Nõmme traditional marketplace (<https://www.facebook.com/nomme.turg/>) and Glehns Castle https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glehn_Castle. In Nõmme you can also find our loved donut place called “Sõõrikukohvik”. <http://soorikukohvik.ee/nomme-asukoht/>. Next to the marketplace you can find really good restaurant called KIUS <https://www.facebook.com/KIUS-1803021563047563/>

Kadriorg is the area of the office of our president (<http://www.kadriorupark.ee/park-eng/historical-buildings>). Also very nice area of wooden buildings. In Kadriorg you can also find our Art Museum KUMU <https://kumu.ekm.ee/en/> that has interesting building and worth to see of its own. Kadriorg also offers a lot of different restaurants. If you are a coffee lover you should visit <https://gourmetcoffee.ee/en/> and if you are a burger lover you should visit Vesivärava Grill <https://www.facebook.com/VesivaravaGrill>

Some interesting places to see near Tallinn

Rummu underwater prison is really worth of visiting if you are fan of scuba diving. You can find more information from here https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rummu_quarry and here <http://www.barrakuuda.ee/diving-in-rummu-lake-underwater-prison/>
You need a car to go to Rummu as it may be hard to do it with public transport.

Spa and seaside experience in Laulasmaa or Viimsi. Saunas and Spas is something that Estonians love. Very good places can be found near Tallinn in Laulasmaa (<https://www.hestiahotels.com/laulasmaa/>) and Viimsi (<https://www.spatallinn.ee/>). You don't have to stay there for the whole night, but can only visit the sauna centre and walk near the seaside. You can also get to Viimsi using only public transport (Bus nr 1A from Viru Keskus). Tip from the locals is that you should have your swimming clothes/bathing suits (we also recommend flip-flops) with you because they would not let you in without them.

Arvo Pärt centre in Laulasmaa. The Arvo Pärt Centre combines the composer's personal archive with an information and music centre. It is an open meeting place for musicians, researchers and music lovers—for anyone interested in Arvo Pärt's music and world of ideas.

Other useful information that you may need

Churches

You can find the best information in English from here <https://ee.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/local-resources-of-u-s-citizens/places-worship-tallinn/>

Medical care:

First aid: If you need help from an ambulance, rescue service or police, call 112 (<https://www.112.ee/en>). If you need information or tips, contact with help and information centre (<https://www.112.ee/en/instruction/help-and-information>).

In serious medical condition you can also seek medical help from the The North Estonia Medical Centre which is the biggest hospital in Tallinn and top healthcare providers in the country (<https://www.regionaalhaigla.ee/en>). The nearest hospital and emergency department to the Hotel Olympia and city centre is East Central Hospital (<https://www.itk.ee/en>) Eye Clinic is also there.

Health care: In less serious cases you can go to Confido Private Medical Clinic (<https://www.confido.ee/en/>) which is very high quality private medical clinic. You can find general practitioners, top specialists and opportunity for health packages from Confido.

Mental health: in case of mental health crisis you may contact with psychiatric clinic of The North Estonia Medical Centre (<https://www.regionaalhaigla.ee/en/outpatient-clinic>).

Pharmacies: you may find from every shopping centre, one of the nearest to the Hotel Olympia is Liivalaia apteek (<https://www.euroapteek.ee/apteegid/tallinn#>). The only one open 24/7 is Tõnismäe apteek (<https://www.sudameapteek.ee/apteek/tonismae/>).

Weather

You can never guess the weather in September in Estonia. It can be 20 degrees, but also only 5 degrees. So check the weather before starting your trip. Mostly it is quite cold during the night-time (around zero degrees Celsius) and can be really windy. Therefore we recommend to wear rain coat instead of bringing the umbrella.

What to pack?

- Of course everybody have their own preferences, but if you would like to visit the saunas and spas during your visit you should pack your swimming clothes/bathing suits as you are asked to wear them in every spa in Estonia.
- Also you may need comfortable shoes as lot of different interesting things are just a walking distance from your hotels. So mostly it is wise to walk instead of waiting the taxi.
- And leave room for our “Kalev” chocolate that you definitely want to take with you after the trip 😊