

# CEV Symposium The Future of Volunteering: Concepts, Trends, Visions

4th-6th May 2011, Tallinn (Estonia)

## TALLINN PRACTICAL AND TOURIST INFORMATION

Dear Symposium guests,

Welcome to Estonia! ☺

You can find some general tourist information about Estonia at the following link:

<http://www.visitestonia.com/en/>

Especially useful for you will probably be the web page for Tallinn visitors:

<http://www.tourism.tallinn.ee/>

In this document, you will find some practical information and tips about Estonia and its capital city.

### WEATHER

The weather in Estonia and in Tallinn is moody, so check the weather forecast just before you start your trip to Estonia. May is mostly sunny, though light rain can fall, so bring an umbrella and waterproof jacket. Average temperatures in the beginning of May are between +7 and +12°C during daytime but nights are still cold – between +3 and +5 °C. For more information: <http://www.weather.ee/>

### TIME

Estonia is in the Eastern European Time Zone: GMT + 2 hours.

In summer: GMT + 3 hours.

### CURRENCY

Euro (since January 2011)

### PHONE NUMBERS

Country code for Estonia.....372

Emergency number.....112

Police .....110

### INTERNET

Public Internet access points have been set up all over Estonia. They are located in local libraries and post offices. There are about 600 Public Internet Access Points throughout Estonia, many of them in rather unexpected places - beaches, Old Town squares, stadiums, and concert halls.

### CONFERENCE VENUE

The Symposium will take place at the **Sokos Hotel Viru Convention Centre**: <http://www.sokshotels.fi/en/hotels/tallinn/>. Hotel Viru is located at the heart of Tallinn city, just a couple of minutes walk from the Old Town gates. Hotel Viru is attached to the big shopping centre Viru Keskus with many cafes and restaurants, a fitness centre and a nightclub all in the same building.

## TRAVELLING TO TALLINN

- **AIRPORT**

Tallinn International Airport: <http://www.tallinn-airport.ee/eng>

**From the airport to the city centre (ca 5 km):**

- **BY BUS**

Bus number 2 MÕIGU – REISISADAM

The airport's bus stop is located in front of the terminal of arrivals. Bus No. 2 travels on the route Mõigu - Passenger Port. In the city centre the bus stops next to Viru Keskus (where the CEV Symposium takes place) at A. Laikmaa street.

*Price:* The bus fare is 1,60 EUR and tickets are sold by the bus driver upon entering the bus. Tickets are also available from the R-Kiosk in the Passenger Terminal. Timetable is available at [http://soiduplaan.tallinn.ee/?a=p.routes&transport\\_id=bus&t=xhtml&l=en](http://soiduplaan.tallinn.ee/?a=p.routes&transport_id=bus&t=xhtml&l=en)

- **BY TAXI**

Tallinn Airport is located some 4-5 km from the city centre.

TULIKA TAKSO.....+372 612 0000.....short dial: 1200  
TALLINK TAKSO.....+372 640 8921.....short dial: 1921  
TALLINNA TAKSOPARK.....+372 655 5555.....short dial: 1555

*Price:* ca. 10 EUR.

- **EUROLINES BUSES**

From Riga, it is possible to join Tallinn by bus, with Eurolines Lux Express. More information at <http://www.luxexpress.eu/lang/>

Approximate length of the journey: 4h20  
Approximate price: 20 EUR

## INTRODUCING TALLINN

More information at:

<http://www.tourism.tallinn.ee/>

[http://www.tourism.tallinn.ee/fpage/explore/ideas/must\\_see](http://www.tourism.tallinn.ee/fpage/explore/ideas/must_see)

<http://www.portoftallinn.com/destination-tallinn?&prn=1>

### Tallinn

A modern city with a medieval twist, the Estonian capital is one place where the past is still alive and kicking. The Old Town, the centre of the oldest capital city of the Baltic Sea region, captures the feeling of the medieval era like no other place in the world.

### Ancient & Modern

Tallinn has made huge strides in transforming itself into a high-tech, cosmopolitan over the past decade, but as much as Estonians are proud of the forward-looking nature of their capital, there's no question



that the city's most valuable treasure is its connection to the past. Tallinn is the best-preserved medieval city in Northern Europe, with its Old Town listed on UNESCO World Heritage list since 1997. The web of winding cobblestone streets and properties, dating mainly from the 11th to 15th centuries, has been preserved nearly in its entirety thanks to a strong defensive wall – much of which is still standing – and a strict ban on the use of combustible building material. That bit of foresight means that the 21st-century visitors can still stroll through Old Town's streets, wandering past the same churches, squares, towers, and rows of peak-roofer houses that their predecessors did centuries ago. Well, with the exception that today one can use a specialized audio guide playback device to take a self-guided tour.

### Kings & Tsars

Due to its auspicious geographical location the country has been a meeting point on the trading routes between East and West throughout history and this is also the reason why it has the background of being a battleground of empires. Although Estonia has, in fact, been a part of different kingdoms, Estonians have never actually had their own king. But each era has doubtlessly left their mark on the Estonians' way of thinking, architecture and given birth to multitude of legends. You are welcome to wake the legends and follow the steps of great kings and tsars strolling around the Old Town. For example the Swedish king Gustav Adolph built schools here and the Russian tsar Peter I a majestic palace with a baroque park in honour of Catherine I. It is said that the tsar himself laid the first foundation stones for the palace. Or beep into the Danish King's Garden, the spot where, according to old legend, the Danes first received their national flag.

### Modern Architecture & Design

Tallinn may have changed little over the centuries, but now it seems to be changing by the year. Actually it has been modernizing at breakneck speed. Next to the ancient pearls of the Old Town you find all the modern treasures with reflecting glass office, residential and public buildings. Among those modern gems of architecture the brand new Kumu Art Museum is a must to visit. Those more design inclined, could walk through the galleries present all over town or just drop in A-Galerii, one of the most unique original jewellery galleries in the Nordic countries, offering Estonian contemporary jewellery art to please even the most demanding of customers or then NU Nordic introducing the creations of young Estonian couturiers and designers.

## Great Shopping & Fine Food

Most shops in the Old Town and department stores throughout the city are open seven days a week, and major credit cards are widely accepted. The best places to find quality fashion, shoes, perfume and the like are the elegant boutiques along Old Town's Viru and Mürivahe streets, and the large, full-service department stores.

More intriguing for the adventurous shopper are the Katariina Passage and the Masters' Courtyard nearby. In Katariina Passage medieval-style workshops run by the Katariina Guild's artists, onlookers watch as glasswork, ceramics, leather goods, quilts and other items are created right before their eyes.

The city is also home to wide array of dining venues, everything from cosy cafes to exclusive gourmet restaurants, one of which even made Conde Nast Traveler's top-100 list. While in Tallinn, there is one place you just need to visit – medieval restaurant Olde Hansa, not just for eating delicious food and savouring good drinks, but also for the enjoyment of good music and the homely warmth of the Hanseatic times.

It is also advisable to sample true rural Estonian taste. Kolu Inn in Open Air Museum provides an excellent opportunity to refresh oneself with homey food and drinks in an old village inn with authentic interior.

## City Life & Outdoor Events

There's no substitute for experiencing the great outdoors in Tallinn. Gently rolling slopes, forested parks and fresh sea air have been attracting visitors for centuries. Besides, Tallinn has always been home to lively cultural scene. To shorten the long list of events, Old Town Days are the great way to



experience a lot in a short time: medieval traditions re-enacted, including jousting, parrot shooting and the election of the May Count; the streets filled with minstrels and craftsmen, artists and merchants; street markets in full swing.

However, the most impressive of traditions are the National Song and Dance festivals, held every five years. The tradition of song festivals is more than one hundred years old. Imagine some 130,000 (most wearing national costumes) joined in song - it's a breathtaking experience in a country with 1.4 million inhabitants only.

### Tallinn Top 10 – don't miss:

1. Town Hall and Town Hall Square
2. St. Olav's Church
3. Town Hall Pharmacy
4. Kadriorg Palace
5. Kumu Art Museum
6. St. Nicholas Church
7. Estonian Open Air Museum
8. Latin Quarter
9. Toompea Castle & Tall Hermann
10. Cathedral of Saint Mary the Virgin