Spotlight on Tallinn

HISTORY
There are few places in Europe where the aura of the 14th and 15th centuries survive intact the way they do in Tallinn’s Old Town. It is a jumble of medieval walls and turrets, nail-headed spikes and winding cobblestone streets. Nevertheless, Estonia’s capital is so modernized that it’s been dubbed “a suburb of Helsinki.” Toompea, the hill on which Tallinn is centered, is a treasure trove to be explored. You will find appealing medieval architecture, historic sites, and Baltic culture to mention but a few characteristics.

The city of Tallinn was built on a hill and a low plain and is flanked with narrow cobblestone streets, which is why visiting Tallinn seems like an adventure.

Fortunately, under Soviet occupation, little new construction occurred in Old Town, leaving Tallinn one of the most intact medieval cities in Northern Europe.

The 15th century was the prime of medieval Tallinn when Gothic style was prevailing. 13th century St. Nicholas Church is best for lovers of old art and good music and St. Olaf’s Church with its spire of 124 meters, was one time the highest structure in Europe.

A walk or horse drawn carriage ride around Old Town will acquaint you with the former Guild house including the Great Guildhall of the medieval Hanseatic League, a trading and mutual protection society of free port cities in northern Europe. At the north end of Pikk is Fat Margareit, the widest defense tower in the city walls. Its mate is Tall Herman, the city’s highest defense tower, which stands atop Toompea (Cathedral Hill), at the opposite end of the city. Toompea is home to the 19th century Russian Orthodox Alexandr Nevsky Cathedral. Toompea Castle, built in 1219 of fine Baroque style; the Riigikogu Toomkirik; the Lutheran cathedral founded in 1233; the Estonian Art Museum, housed in an 18th century noble man’s house; and Kiek-in-de-Kolk, a tall, stout tower built around 1475.

DOCKING
The cruise ship docks at the commercial port.

SHORE EXCURSIONS
Please check your tour ticket for the correct meeting time and location for your tour. Your cruise line representative will direct you to your transportation.

HOW TO GET TO TOWN
The center of Tallinn’s Old City is about a 15-minute walk from the Cruise Ship Dock, Once in Old Town, you can easily walk the area on foot.

TRANSPORTATION
Buses and taxis are the main forms of transportation within the city. Taxis are quite price and convenient, and buses are inexpensive but can be crowded and uncomfortable.

Note: The Viru Hotel is the tallest building in the city. All the recommended shops are in the old town. Follow the arrows on the street from the Viru Gate in the direction of Town Hall Square.

SHOPPING INFORMATION
 Shops are open Monday to Saturday and some are open on Sunday. (However, most of the recommended shops are open through out the day, when ever the ship is in port.)

BANKING INFORMATION
In case of emergency, dial 112.

A. TOOMPIA CASTLE
Built in 1219, nothing remains of the original Danish castle. However, an 18th century addition was made to the structure and is now used as the parliament building where Estonia’s governing body meets. It is a pink, classical style addition. The castle is located at the western end of Loissi plaza.

B. TOOMKIRK
This Lutheran church is Estonia’s oldest church and dates back to the 14th century. Inside you’ll find carved tombs, a coat of arms, and an organ that dates back to 1913.

C. TOWN HALL SQUARE
Tallinn’s Town Hall Square dates as far back as the 11th century. During that period until 1896, it was the center of Tallinn life, as residents converged here to do their shopping at the daily markets. It is now the square now, with a wide range of restaurants and shops. The square can be recognized by the warrior-and-flag weather vane at its top.

D. HISTORY MUSEUM
Known as Ajaaloomuseum, this prominent museum is located in one of the old Tallinn Guild Halls at Plač 17. It features Estonian history that dates back to the 13th century, and progresses up to the mid-19th century.

E. MAARJAMAE PALACE
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F. FLOWER MARKET
Enjoy the colorful local flower market, which is located on your way into the old town and the recommended shops.

GUARANTEE
Shop with confidence, knowing that all merchants on this map have been carefully selected and each offers a 60-day guarantee to passengers. This guarantee ensures buyers that all recommended merchants will repair or replace any unsatisfactory item, excluding buyer’s negligence or buyer’s remorse. For purposes of determining quality and value related to a buyer’s complaint, only appraisals secured by a buyer from independent graduate gemologists, not affiliated with any retail jeweler, will be acceptable. Please inquire about individual store return policies before finalizing any purchase. The port shopping program is operated by Onboard Media, Inc. Participating merchants have paid an advertising fee to Onboard Media for inclusion in this program. Cruise Lines receives a promotional fee from Onboard Media. Onboard Media handles all customer relations claims relating to the guarantee.

If you become aware of a problem during the cruise, please contact the Port & Shopping Guide onboard for immediate assistance. If a problem arises after the cruise but within 60 days of the purchase date, contact the Customer Relations Department at 1-800-396-2999.

GUARDIAN
Onboard Media.
1561 Brickell Ave, Suite 600, Miami Beach, FL 33139
Phone: (305) 398-2999, Fax: (305) 673-2741
email: inquiries@onboardmedia.com
Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm - Friday 9:00 am to 5:30 pm (Eastern Standard Time)

Please send a letter and include the name of the ship, cruise date, store name and merchandise problem. Also enclose a copy of the sales receipt and any relevant documents relating to the sale.

Onboard Media will contact the recommended store on your behalf and request an appraisal of the item. The merchant will repair or replace any unsatisfactory item, excluding buyer’s negligence or buyer’s remorse. In case of emergency, dial 112.

Many stores participating in the Value Added Tax (VAT) refund program in which non-European citizens may be entitled to reclaim a portion or all of the tax paid depending on the total purchase price of the item. Each store’s participating in the VAT refund program is discretionary, in addition regulations and conditions when claiming VAT are subject to change. It is the responsibility of each cruise ship guest making a purchase to ensure that the correct paperwork is obtained in VAT refund program and if the purchase qualifies for a refund. For general questions regarding the participation of stores, please see your Port & Shopping Guide.

SIGHTS TO VISIT WHILE SHOPPING
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Locations found inside on map

TALLINN PORT & SHOPPING MAP
CAPITAL
Tallinn is the capital of Estonia and is located only 53 miles by sea from Helsinki, Finland.

SIZE
Estonia is slightly smaller than New Hampshire and Vermont combined, roughly 45,230 square miles.

LOCATION
Estonia is located in Eastern Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Finland, between Latvia and Russia.

POPULATION
There are approximately 1,500,000 residents of Estonia. 65% of the population are Estonians, 28% Russians, 2.5% Ukrainian and 1.5% Belarusian.

LANGUAGE
Estonian is the official language of Estonia. Like Finnish, Estonian is a Fino-Ugric language, which sets it apart from Latvian, Lithuanian and Russian.

CURRENCY
The Estonian Kroon is the national currency in Estonia. Recommended stores accept credit cards Euros and United States dollars.

TIME ZONE
Tallinn is on Eastern European Time. The ship may not always follow local time. Please adhere to the ship’s time while in port.

TOURIST INFORMATION
The Tallinn tourist information office is located at Kullassepa 4.

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ATTENTION:
For More Information please contact Port & Shopping Guide onboard.
MARGARITA & ART

Amber, the Sunny Stone of Happiness and Health from the Baltic
Four Locations in Tallinn: Rataskaevu 2, Vanaturu Kael 10, Viru 9 and Viru 21
- Amber is a fossil resin from prehistoric coniferous trees, which dates back about 50 million years. It attracts money, luck, love and maintains youth. In recent years, the world’s amber supply has been heavily depleted, thereby increasing the stone's value.
- Amber Possesses Healing Properties: Wearing ornaments or articles made of this stone lowers stress and helps to cure many ailments.
- Derivatives of amber are extensively used in cosmetics and pharmacopoeia.
- Russian Souvenirs & Gift Items: Estonian national dolls, ceramic models of ancient buildings, leather artwork, wooden ornaments, watercolor pictures and oil paintings

Show your shopping map and receive 5% off

AMBER & ART

Amber & Silver Jewelry
Three Locations in Tallinn: Vene 1, Dunkri 3, Pikk 2
- Great Collection of Baltic Amber: One of the most highly valued and fashionable precious stones in the world
- Estonian Souvenirs & Gifts: National dolls, ceramics, paintings, wooden and leather artwork
- Traditional Russian souvenirs

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ANTIIK

Icons & Collectibles
Located at 5 Kinga Street, off Raekoja Plats
- Icons: Inside this store you can choose from over 500 antique and valuable Icons currently in stock.
- All purchases come with a certified authentic receipt.

Shopping Warning! Double check the location on the map, as there are many Icon stores called “Antiik”!

APLEKKS

Woolen Garments
Located at Viru Street 20
- Exclusive collection of woolen items made from individual designers; Over 500 different models for women, men and children
- Their works are appreciated in shows in Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, Paris, Zurich, Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki and Moscow.
- High quality machine washable soft yarn
- Representative store of manufacturing company

DINING IN TALLINN

PEPPERSACK RESTAURANT
Located at Viru 2/Vanaturu 6 in the Historic Neighborhood
- Enjoy fine food at reasonable prices
- Watch a sword fight every evening after 8:00 pm and an Oriental dance show every Thursday to Saturday at 8:00 pm.
- The Three Frogs Grill House: Delicious dishes prepared right before your eyes
- Café Elsebeth: Oven-warm pastries for morning cravings

SHOPPING NOTES

ONLY THE STORES LISTED ON THE MAP ARE GUARANTEED BY THE CRUISE LINE