

# Estonia

**Continent:** Europe

**Languages Spoken:** Estonian

**Population:** 1,330,000

**Currency:** Euro (EUR)

**Area:** 45,227

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Tallinn Old Town', 'writeup': 'A well-preserved medieval city center, known for its cobblestone streets and historic architecture.'}
- {'name': 'Toompea Castle', 'writeup': 'A historic castle complex in Tallinn, currently housing the Estonian Parliament.'}
- {'name': 'Lahemaa National Park', 'writeup': "One of Europe's largest national parks, featuring forests, bogs, and coastal landscapes."}
- {'name': 'Alexander Nevsky Cathedral', 'writeup': 'A prominent Russian Orthodox cathedral in Tallinn, noted for its distinctive onion domes.'}
- {'name': 'Pärnu Beach', 'writeup': 'A popular summer destination known for its sandy beaches and spa resorts.'}

## Head of State / Government:

Alar Karis (President)

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Tallinn Music Week', 'writeup': 'An annual music festival showcasing local and international artists across various genres.'}
- {'name': 'Song and Dance Festival', 'writeup': 'A massive cultural event held every five years, celebrating Estonian choral and folk dance traditions.'}
- {'name': "St. John's Day (Jaanipäev)", 'writeup': 'A midsummer celebration featuring bonfires, singing, and traditional rituals.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Estonian cuisine features hearty dishes with rye bread, potatoes, pork, and dairy. Traditional foods include black bread, sauerkraut, smoked fish, and kama, a grain-based dessert.

## Brief History:

Estonia has a history of foreign rule by Danes, Germans, Swedes, and Russians. It declared independence in 1918, was occupied by the Soviet Union during WWII, and regained independence in 1991. It is now a democratic republic and EU member.

## Important People:

- Kristjan Järvi - Conductor and composer
- Arvo Pärt - Renowned composer
- Kersti Kaljulaid - Former President

- Jaan Kross - Influential writer
- Anett Kontaveit - Professional tennis player

#### **Current Conflicts:**

Estonia faces ongoing cybersecurity threats and geopolitical tensions with Russia, but no active military conflicts.

#### **Youtube Links:**

- Discover Estonia: A Baltic Gem
- Top 10 Places to Visit in Estonia
- Estonian Culture and Traditions Explained
- History of Estonia in 10 Minutes
- Estonia's Digital Revolution and E-Government