

What: Estonia

When: June 30 - July 9, 2024

Price: \$2,500

Deposit of \$500 due by 4/30 (nonrefundable, needed to purchase airfare)

\$500 more by 5/15

\$500 more by 5/31

\$1000 more by 6/14

Frequently Asked Questions:

Background

Estonia is a country of 1.4 million people located in Northeast Europe, across the Baltic Sea from Finland and just to the west of Russia. Estonia is a modern country and is a member of the European Union. Freedom from the Soviet Union occurred in 1991. Only 1.5 percent of Estonians are evangelicals. Estonia is one of the least religious countries in the world, most Estonians would be considered atheist.

What will we be doing

Sunday, June 30 - Leave for Estonia. It will take at least 2 flights if not 3 to arrive in Tallinn, Estonia Monday afternoon or evening.

Monday, July 1st - Check into hotel and get dinner in Tallinn

Tuesday, July 2nd - Get over jet lag. Visit old town Tallinn. Stay at a hotel in Tallinn.

Wednesday, July 3rd - Catch the train to Tartu in the morning (2.5 hour trip). Meet with folks from Ruut church. Help prepare a meal at the Refuge with fellowship? Stay at the Refuge in Tartu.

Thursday, July 4th - Meet with leadership from Ruut church and talk about spiritual gifts, church ministries, life groups, outreach, and etc. Have a 4th of July BBQ.

Friday, July 5th - Meet with Ruut church and continue discussing spiritual gifts, church ministries, life groups, outreach, and etc.

Saturday, July 6th - Spend personal time with members from Ruut church and their families going to park and seeing Tartu.

Sunday, July 7th - Attend worship service at Ruut Church spend personal time with members from Ruut church and their families. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Monday, July 8th - Take the train back to Tallinn and spend the afternoon in Tallinn. Stay in a hotel in Tallinn.

Tuesday, July 9th - Catch flight back to Denver in the early morning.

How will we prepare for the trip? We will have **3 mandatory meetings** - April 21 (apps due by this time), and May 22, and June 12 at 12:30 PM (location to be announced before meeting). Believing that God has called us to go on this trip, He also calls us to prepare our hearts for what we are about to do. Our training will focus on preparing our hearts to be positioned spiritually as well as many logistics of the trip. Preparing ourselves, as much as possible, and staying flexible for changes along the way will help our trip go more smoothly.

How will we travel? We will fly to Tallinn, Estonia. Have a day of recuperation from jet lag and get to know some of Estonia's history. The next day we will travel by train about 2.5 hours to Tartu, in the middle of Estonia.

Where will we stay? A hotel when we arrive and leave Tallinn. In Tartu, where we will be doing all of our ministry, there is an apartment building called the Refuge. There is an eat-in kitchen with a fridge and a living room at the Refuge. There are three rooms with two or three single beds in each room. There is only one bathroom, so we will have to work out a schedule for who showers in the morning and evening. It is up to the team to keep this space clean and picked up throughout the week.

What will we eat? While in Tallinn we will eat breakfast at the hotel and have other meals as a group at restaurants. In Tartu we will eat most of our meals at the Refuge. We may need to prepare lunches before we head out for the day. We will also have a barbeque on Fourth of July for the Estonian families we will be working with.

Do I need a passport? Yes.

Is the water safe to drink? Yes

Do I need to take some money with me? While your travel and lodging and food are included, there may be meals to purchase on travel days, shopping, and offering. So a little cash is nice to have on hand. Credit/debit/ATM cards can be used.

What will the weather be like? Because we are at a higher latitude, similar to Anchorage, Alaska the summer time temperatures are comfortable, typically highs in the 70's. Tallinn is right off of the Baltic Sea which moderates the temperatures. Tartu is in the middle of the country

where temperatures might fluctuate a bit more. Bring an extra layer like a fleece or a sweatshirt and a rain jacket just in case.

Is there any downtime? There will typically be downtime in the evenings after dinner is finished and cleaned up, when you can reflect back on the day and what God has shown you. We will have a short devotional time in the evening to discuss how God impacted your day.

Do I need to speak Estonian? No, but it's always good to know a few words such as tere-hello and aitah-thank you. All Estonians take English beginning in third grade and many are quite proficient and almost all have a minimal understanding of English.

What are the ideal ages for kids to participate? 25 and up, there will be quite a few deep spiritual conversations about our church experiences and how to help a church grow.

Packing list

Carry-On Allowance: 1 small Bag + 1 carry on bag for the overhead. Julie and I will both have checked baggage (50 lbs each, but most of this will be to take items to the folks in Estonia).

Recommend Items for Estonia

- Passport (required)
- Rain jacket and/or umbrella
- Comfortable walking shoes (waterproof shoes are helpful)
- Try to pack light by bringing layers and items you can wear more than once before washing
- Nicer outfit(s) for church services
- Swimwear
- Phone charger
- Extra batteries and charging cords for your devices
- European power adapter (Type F)
- Bible
- Reading materials
- Journal and pen
- Thank you cards/notes to hand out as desired
- Small gifts representing the US or your state/city to hand out as desired
- Photos from home to share about your life (on phone is fine)
- ATM card (easiest way to get Euros. You can exchange currency in Estonia, if needed)
- Backup/secondary international credit card for emergencies
- Toiletries
- Medications (prescription and/or OTC)

- Extra eyeglasses or contacts
- Money for snacks on travel days. Meals will be served on the airplane, but if you want any snacks they will be on your own. The trip will pay for your meals while in Estonia.
- A camera. The pictures you will get will be priceless.