

I Didn't Expect This in Estonia | Three Reasons to Visit Tallinn 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehPOniAzGSQ>

transcript: <https://dontveter.com/ec/estonia1.pdf>

[A] Few months ago, I've done [I made] a sensational trip to the Baltics.

In this video, I'm not just going to explain why we [you] should visit this area, but also I'm going to share three reasons why we [you] should extend our [your] trip a few days longer.

Welcome to the beautiful [city of] Tallinn in Estonia.

Hey guys, welcome back to the channel.

If you're new here, my name is Alejandro.

I'm an engineer based in the UK, and on this channel, we'll explore the engine that help us live a more purposeful life.(bizarre statement)

So I was in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, when we were still allowed to travel a few months ago.

I expected to see a cultural city with mainly Russian influence and relatively something [little] to see in 24 hours.

Fortunately, I was very, very wrong.

I stayed five days and it was absolutely stunning.

Bear in mind, I'm not the same guy, like [I was] 10 years ago, doing five countries in a week.

These days I'm a slow traveler.

Perhaps the older I get, the more I enjoy chewing the places I visit.

I feel like sometimes it's worth spending extra time to get a better flavor.

Yes, I get it.

We [You] have a full-time job, and we [you] don't have much time, but hey, these are just [my] thoughts and [about] how I enjoyed [enjoy] my trips these days.

So let's talk about these three reasons why we [you] should stay longer in Tallinn.

I want to save your [you] time, so I'm leaving timestamps below.

Feel free to skip and watch the one [ones] you actually care [about].

Before starting, I need to offer my apologies to the Estonian people watching, as many of the places I'll pronounce during the video might not be in line with [the] Estonian language pronunciation.

[I'm] so sorry about that.

Number one, Old Town.

Let's recap.

Estonia was once a socialist republic, but in reality, the Estonian culture takes little influence from Russian culture and instead positions itself closer to its Nordic neighbors like Finland.

Since gaining independence in 1981, the country's joined the EU and has firmly positioned itself as politically, economically, and culturally Western.

~~From my perspective~~ [In my opinion], this is the best preserved medieval city in Northern Europe.

It looks like a fairy tale with unbelievable Gothic spires, cobblestone streets, bars, [and] outstanding architecture.

In fact, it's been a UNESCO world heritage site since 1997.

To me, the old town feels mystical, mesmerizing and addictive.

It was once a home to wealthy merchants settling from Germany and Denmark.

But today, hey, it's a different story.

It has plenty of restaurants, bars, museums and galleries ~~putting in~~ [that give] so much life to this historical city center.

In terms of accommodation, we stayed at the Hotel Telegraaf and it was super, super, well located.

There's absolutely no need to stay there, but just because I had some extra points, I decided to use them and they have been a really good deal.

Actually, let me know in the comments below if you want to know why and how I managed to consistently get these perks.

perquisites

Plural form of perquisite, pûr'kwĩ-zĩt



•*n.*

A payment, profit, or benefit received in addition to a regular wage or salary, especially when due or expected.

•*n.*

Something regarded or claimed as an exclusive right by virtue of one's social position or rank: *synonym*: **right**.

•*n.*

A gratuity; a tip.

From the airport, we could have definitely taken the tram.

But because we were two and it was quite late, we got a Bolt.

We paid like, five euros or six euros to [go to] the Old Town.

Remember, Estonia's the house of Bolt.

We're going to talk about Estonian startups a bit later.

Getting lost in the alleys of Tallinn Old Town is a great idea.

There are passages everywhere.

One particularly interesting [one] is St Catherine's Passage.

It was built by monks back in the 13th century, so it's absolutely great.

Nowadays, the medieval park is still there, [but] an atmosphere with artisans and exhibitions gives it a little bit more of a modern look while still preserving the ambiance [of a Medieval town].

This is actually a great place to see Tallinn from the top.

This place is called Kohtuotsa in the northern side of Toompea Hill.

This is a viewing platform where we can see the red roofs and the towers of the Old Town.

In fact, ~~if we have good eyes~~, [on a clear day you can sometimes just see] ~~we can see in the background~~ the gulf of Finland and the port [on the horizon].

There's so many other places to see, such as the big Hermann Tower, Toompea Castle, Šnelli park, and the Town Hall square, the Alexander Nevsky [monument].

Nesky, Newsky, Nevsky?

All right, let's talk about food.

The Old Town has some amazing places for dining too.

~~The~~ one we ~~enjoy~~ [enjoyed] a few times is called Olde Hansa, perhaps the most authentic medieval dining experience in town.

Waiters and waitresses are dressed in the traditional ~~costume as if it was~~ [costumes of] 700 years ago.

And they have dishes with centuries of history.

All beers are handcrafted according to the medieval recipes and they [are] served in the old traditional style, ceramic char.

The place is full of candles, benches, tables and really gives you that medieval vibe.

I personally loved their mushroom soup and the golden lentil pot.

For vegans, ~~there's~~ [there are] many places in town but the one we ~~enjoy~~ [enjoyed most] a ~~lot~~ is called Vegan Restoran Five, or Number Five.

They opened like, seven years ago.

It's small, but super cozy.

I tried the spicy oven baked Seitan tacos with cheese and guacamole.

Kristina tasted some incredible beetroot ravioli with cashew cheese and basil pesto as starter, and some vegan fish and chips, which is tofu, deep fried potato, tartar sauce, green pea and mash as a main course.

At the end of the Soviet times, shops were empty and desserts were a luxury thing.

Luckily things have evolved.

For something sweet, we enjoy a place called Chokolala.

They do local handmade chocolate, and they have wide range of fresh assorted chocolates, bars and truffles.

They even ~~offer us to~~ [let us] taste some before buying.

So it's a hundred percent risk-free.

You like it, you buy it, you don't like it, you don't buy.

Number two, coffee and art.

There's something about Tallinn and coffee, perhaps a bit of a Finnish influence, but there's some sensational coffee shops everywhere.

There are three that I want to quickly mention.

And again, this is not a sponsored video but our real and humble experience.

First one is called Suur Lisanna.

It's an amazing coffee shop with a Scandinavian vibe, candles and great ~~deco~~ [decor].

~~Tons of alternative~~ There are tons of milk [drinks] for vegetarians and vegans.

I have [had] many coffees here, but what I loved the most was the berries and nuts bowl for breakfast.

The other one is Väike Lisanna.

It's [It has] the same owner, but ~~the~~ [it's a] smaller coffee shop, you have to be lucky to get a table but you can do takeaway in any case.

The other one was Toormoor. This is like having coffee in an art exhibition gallery, it's just insane.

You will see the pictures and videos but it's just absolutely insane.

We ~~try~~ [tried] some cabbage spread with local hummus and it was super tasty and creative.

I feel like the coffee experience in Tallinn was just so real.

When I think about coffee for me, there are two factors.

A, technical, it's about having a good balance of acidity, sweetness, and bitterness in one sip.

And I'm by no means an expert by the way, but that's how I like it.

B, how does the place make me feel?

And this is even more important than the technical side.

For me, having coffee, it's not just to drink something hot, but it's taking a break from ~~the~~ reality.

It's like an open eyes meditation where I pay more attention to what's around me while I release some stress.

So it's super important, the context or the place [where] I'll be buying my coffee.

In many places in Tallinn, I found myself in the right atmosphere to enjoy coffee which ultimately improved my state of mind.

Number three, brain expansion.

When you think about Tallinn, I try to think about the context.

So [when] I think about Estonia itself, ~~and there are so~~ [I think about the] many different things ~~contributing~~ [that contribute] to the success ~~as~~ [of] a society.

And we can see a lot obviously in Tallinn because one third of the population ~~live~~ [lives] there, right?

But I want to share six real examples.

First one, first female president and youngest of all time.

In October 2016, Estonia elected its first female president, becoming the first woman and youngest person ever to hold the position in the country, [she was] ~~age~~ 46 at the time of her election.

Number two, digital society.

Estonia has also fully digitized its government services and it was the first country in the world to allow its citizens to vote online in 2005.

The country's often referred [to] as the most digitally advanced society in the world and all government services are available online.

It's what they call e-Estonia.

~~From~~ [The services range from] voting to signing documents online.

Number three, free public transport.

The city also rolled out free public transport for residents in 2013 and is now making around \$20 million a year in profit from the project.

Number four, Silicon Valley of Europe.

Tallinn is often called the Silicon Valley of Europe, as it has more startups per person than any other European country.

Many of these small businesses have actually grown into global companies like Skype.

In fact, Estonia's economy and culture is heavily focused on technology.

In 2000, the country declared internet access to be a human right and has since established hundreds of free wifi zones.

So [when] traveling throughout Estonia [it] is incredibly ~~sleek with~~ [easy to access free] wifi hotspots all over the country, even in many forests.(cell phone service, not wifi in the forests)

Number five, clean air.

Perhaps [this is] not surprising given the amount of green spaces that they have, like 50% of the ~~country's~~ [country is] forest.

~~But~~ [So] Estonia has some of the cleanest air in the world.

The country ranks right up there for clean air indexes with other sustainable countries such as Finland and Iceland.

Six, education.

They have 99.8% literacy rate, and most of them speak multiple languages besides their native one.

So it's not strange to see them speaking English, Russian, German, and Finnish.

There's no doubt Estonia is modern, progressive, and highly developed.

The country's considered high income and consistently ranks highly in education, press freedom, quality of life and overall human development.

If we forget about the challenging winters, life in Estonia doesn't sound too bad, does it?

And Tallinn is definitely a place I love to come back [to].

If you like this video, you might also want to check this video over here, which is about my epic trip to the Scottish Highlands.

Thanks for watching and see you next time.
