

Ten Things NOT To Do In Estonia
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3Sv6NvyLU8>
transcript: <https://dontveter.com/ec/estonia3.pdf>

From its historical museums to its medieval castles in the capital of Tallinn, you will find a lot of reasons why you should plan a visit.

But here are 10 things to keep in mind when traveling to this Northern European country, know before you go!

1 Don't get easily offended.

Estonians have a great sense of humor but they tend to be more dry and sarcastic when it comes to cracking a joke.

If you find yourself the target of an offhand pun take it as a compliment and learn to laugh at yourself.

2 Don't talk about history.

In the 1940s, Estonian Jews were massacred by German police units and Estonian auxiliaries by the thousands.

These events may have occurred decades ago, but the memories of the death and destruction are still fresh in their minds.

3 Don't forget to wear reflectors.

If you plan on renting a bike and going for a ride after dark, smaller reflectors are required during the winter months.

If you're caught riding around without them you'll be subject to a fine ranging from 50 to 500 US dollars.

4 Don't ignore drink prices.

When ordering a drink in a bar, pay close attention to the drink prices.

Many people have noticed that some bartenders mark up the price of liquor for foreign tourists.

5 Don't keep your shoes on.

If you happen to meet a kind Estonian who invites you into their home, respect is required at all times.

They also expect you to take off your shoes when you step inside so make sure you're wearing some presentable socks.

6 Don't expect friendliness right away.

Many people ~~define~~ [say] Estonians as [are] cold and standoffish.

You'll probably feel a bit of tension, but it won't last long.

When they become more comfortable with you, their demeanor and communication will lighten up ~~drastically~~ [quickly].

7 Don't travel without insect repellent.

Tick-borne encephalitis and lyme disease is widespread, especially in the parks in Tallinn.

Bites from ticks and other insects are more common in forested areas so be sure to protect yourself before venturing out into nature.

8 Don't expect help when traveling with kids.

Estonia is definitely a children friendly destination, but public transportation isn't equipped to provide assistance for those with strollers and a lot of the streets in the old town are cobbled roads, making it difficult to push strollers with ease.

9 Don't use your cell phone while driving.

Talking on your cell phone while driving is prohibited but you can use a hands-free system of course.

Seat belts are always required and your headlights must be turned on at all times, whether it's daytime or nighttime.

10 Don't ask them to speak Russian.

Many people assume Estonians speak Russian, since the neighboring country is close by, but they have their own language, Estonian which they're really proud of.

However, many Estonians actually prefer to speak English.

Where would you like to know what not to do in next?

Comment below: