

Welcome to Estonia! / Tere tulemast!

Dear Cyber Diplomat,

As you prepare for your trip to Estonia for the Tallinn Cyber Security Summer School, here are a few essential details about your destination.

Estonia, a small Nordic country of 45,339 km² with a population of 1.3 million, is a global leader in digital innovation and cybersecurity. Approximately one-third of the population resides in the capital, Tallinn, where the local language is Estonian, though English is widely spoken.

While here, take time to explore Tallinn's Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site celebrated for its medieval architecture and rich history.

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Arrival to Tallinn

When arriving at Tallinn Lennart Meri Airport, we recommend taking a taxi (or Bolt) from the taxi stand located just outside the airport. A taxi from the airport to the hotel takes about 10 minutes, depending on traffic, and costs around 10 €. Taxis accept Visa/Mastercard, and ATMs are available within the airport terminal.

Hotel and Venue

The primary venue for the event, where most delegates will also be accommodated, is the [Nordic Hotel Forum](#), located at Viru Väljak 3, Tallinn. This modern four-star business and conference hotel is situated in the heart of Tallinn, right at the edge of the picturesque Tallinn Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

For side visits to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE), please carry your passport, as it will be required for security checks.

Weather

In November, Estonia experiences chilly and often windy weather as winter sets in. Average temperatures typically range from -2°C to 5°C, with frequent autumn rains and



overcast skies. Pack warm layers, waterproof clothing, and sturdy footwear to stay comfortable during your visit.

For evening dinners and events, transportation will be provided, so you won't need to spend much time outdoors in the rain. However, it's still a good idea to dress warmly for short walks to and from the bus.

Please check the local weather forecast before packing to ensure you're prepared.

Dress Code

For daily sessions, Estonian officials generally follow a smart casual dress code. While a suit and tie aren't required, you're welcome to wear an office suit if that's what you feel most comfortable in. The goal is to dress comfortably while maintaining a neat and professional appearance.

For dinners and fireside chats, a more relaxed, casual style is appropriate—no need for evening dresses or overly formal attire. Just aim to look polished yet comfortable. And for our beach party at [Teras Beach](#), dress as you would for a day at the beach! Sand-friendly footwear is recommended, but you're welcome to go barefoot. If you forget, we'll have extra flip-flops and towels on hand. Please note that outdoor shoes are not allowed on the sand.

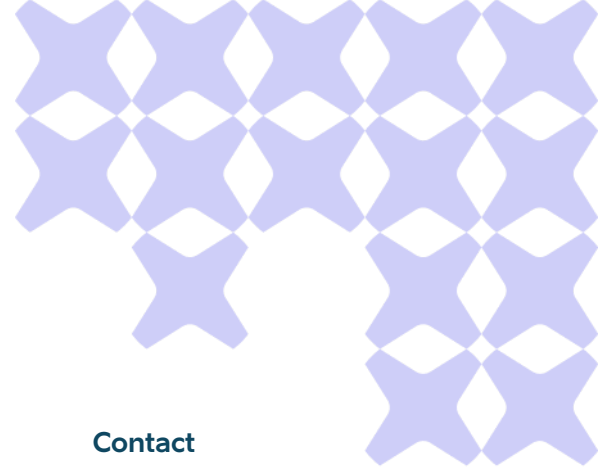
Estonians have a saying: "There's no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing." Prepare for unpredictable November weather and bring layers!



Taxi and Transportation

When using taxis in Tallinn, please note the following:

- A valid price list must be displayed on the passenger side window.
- The driver is required to provide a receipt at the end of the ride.
- You can always ask for an approximate fare before beginning your trip.
- If you need assistance, the hotel reception can call a taxi for you.
- **Typical taxi costs:** The base fare is around 3-4 euros, with a 5 km drive costing approximately 8-10 euros.

Popular Taxi Services:



Taxi	Picture	Contact
Tulika		Calling No 1200 when using a local SIM card / otherwise (+372) 612 0000
Tallink		Calling No 1921 when using a local SIM card / otherwise (+372) 640 8921

App-Based Services:

Bolt and Uber are widely used in Estonia. You can download the [Bolt app](#) for convenient, app-based transportation.

Public Transportation:

Tallinn also offers a robust public transportation network, including buses, trams, and trolleybuses. A 1-hour ticket costs 1.50 euros. [Ticketing information is available here.](#)

Currency and Exchange

The currency in Estonia is the Euro (€), in use since January 1st, 2011. Most hotels, stores, and restaurants accept Visa and MasterCard.

Currency Exchange:

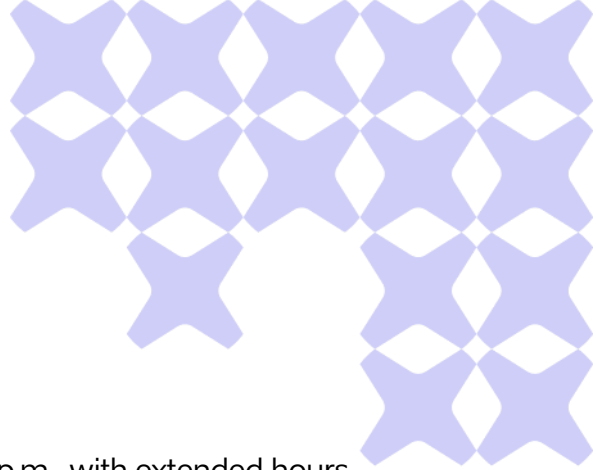
The most popular currency exchange office is **TAVID**, where you can easily exchange dollars into euros. ATMs are widely available for convenient cash withdrawals. Currency exchange services are available in major hotels, at the airport, the harbor, railway stations, and major shopping centers.

Payment Options:

You can pay with credit or debit cards almost everywhere, including taxis, shops, and markets. Cash is also accepted, especially in smaller establishments.

Banking Services:

Banks are easy to find in Tallinn and typically open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays, with some branches open on Saturdays until 2 p.m. All banks provide currency exchange services.



Health and Emergency

Pharmacies in Tallinn are generally open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., with extended hours (9 a.m. to 8 p.m.) in department stores. For 24-hour assistance, Tõnismäe Apteek (Tõnismägi Str. 5) is available. You can reach them at +372 644 2282.

In case of emergency, dial **112** for ambulance and police services. This number is free of charge from any phone.

Shopping

Shops in Tallinn are typically open from 10 a.m. to around 9 p.m. Most stores in the Old Town and department stores across the city are open seven days a week, and they accept major credit cards, including Visa and MasterCard.

Estonia offers a variety of unique and high-quality souvenirs that capture the essence of local culture and craftsmanship:

- **Handicrafts:** Traditional hand-knitted wool sweaters with Estonian folk patterns, carved wooden beer mugs, quirky felt hats, juniper coasters etc.
- **Estonian Music:** CDs featuring renowned Estonian composers such as Veljo Tormis, Arvo Pärt, Eduard Tubin, and Erkki-Sven Tüür, to name a few.
- **Estonian Chocolate and Sweets:** Kalev, Estonia's most famous confectionery, produces delicious chocolates and local treats.
- **Hand-Painted Marzipan:** Kalev also offers hand-painted marzipan—a traditional sweet made from almond flour and sugar, beautifully decorated as a keepsake.

Whether you're exploring Tallinn's Old Town or browsing department stores, you'll find an array of unique souvenirs to bring a piece of Estonia home with you!

Basic Estonian Phrases

Estonians appreciate it when visitors try a few local words. Here are some basics to help you connect:

- **Tere** — Hello
- **Aitäh** — Thank you
- **Jah / Ei** — Yes / No
- **Palun** — Please / You're welcome
- **Terviseks** — Cheers!
- **Head aega** — Goodbye
- **Vabandust** — Excuse me / Sorry
- **Kas te räägite inglise keelt?** — Do you speak English?

These simple phrases could come in handy, especially in smaller shops or restaurants.