

## Safety Tips for Your Tallinn Trip

Tallinn is known for its Medieval charm, but despite the city's storybook appearance, it still hasn't managed to escape one reality that plagues all European capitals - street crime.

Don't make yourself a target. As signs posted around Old Town will remind you, it's always wise to be on the lookout for pickpockets, keep an eye on your valuables and generally stay vigilant regarding your personal safety.



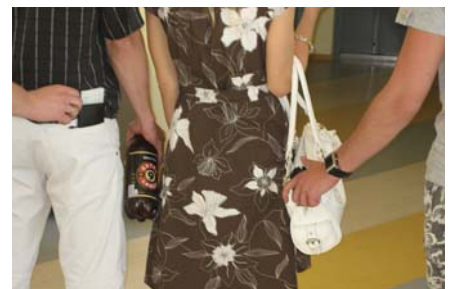
### Here are some wise tips that will help keep evildoers from spoiling your trip:

- ▶ Keep your passport in a safe place and copy down your passport data. A missing passport can be costly to replace and might even result in a missed flight. As much as the staff at your embassy may try to help, they can't always perform miracles.
- ▶ When in public areas, keep an eye on your bags and possessions. Teams of pickpockets love crowds, especially anywhere where people come into physical contact with each other. That "tourist" pushing past might not really be there for the scenery.
- ▶ Carry your bag zipped up or closed. An open bag is an open invitation. Don't leave your property unattended, such as hanging your bag or coat on the back of your chair in a public place. Unwatched items are favourite targets for nimble fingers.
- ▶ Avoid carrying large amounts of valuables or cash. That way the worst case won't be the worst case.
- ▶ Keep cash and bank cards safely in your pockets.
- ▶ Learn your bank card PIN codes by heart instead of keeping them in your wallet. A few minutes of memory exercises could save you hours of headache..
- ▶ Stay alert when withdrawing money from an ATM (cash machine) - make sure strangers aren't peering over your shoulder.



### A few more words of advice to ensure a smooth stay:

- ▶ Drink responsibly. The beer may be cheap in Estonia, but the cost of getting into trouble for drunken behaviour can be high. You came here to spend time in bars – not behind them!
- ▶ Don't use, carry, buy or sell drugs. This isn't Amsterdam and penalties are severe – even a small quantity could earn you a prison sentence in Estonia and a criminal record back home. If you have any doubt whether something is illegal, simply don't do it.
- ▶ Respect cultural differences. Estonians are tolerant but generally reserved. That means loud behaviour can be misinterpreted as aggression. Always think about how others might perceive your actions.
- ▶ Take extra care if visiting strip bars. While you may be tempted to explore the gentlemen's clubs in Tallinn, they are not always the safest places to enjoy an evening's entertainment. Keep your wits about you and take precautions.



### Should you fall victim to a pickpocket or any other crime, here's what to do:

- ▶ At the first opportunity, inform the police of the incident by calling **110**, then follow their advice.
- ▶ Block your stolen bank cards and the SIM-card of any stolen mobile phone.
- ▶ You can also inform the police of crimes by sending an e-mail to: [pohja.kesklinna-pj@list.politsei.ee](mailto:pohja.kesklinna-pj@list.politsei.ee)



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Põhja Prefektuur

***We sincerely hope that, with the help of these tips, you bring away only good memories of your stay in Tallinn, and that you come back and visit us again soon!***