

# (un)TRADITIONAL TALLINN



## The People's Museum of Tallinn

The People's Museum of Tallinn is located in the medieval Nottbeck House, where the artist Ants Laikmaa's studio school first opened its doors in 1903. The museum's exhibitions highlight the rich heritage of the different nationalities living in Tallinn and their contributions to our cultural space.

### Museum programme "Let's Drink Tea: The Charms of the Miracle Beverage"

The tea culture dates back over 5,000 years, making tea drinking one of the world's oldest and most enduring traditions. In this programme, we will explore the origins of tea, its cultivation, and its many beneficial properties.

Where is tea most widely enjoyed today? Who were the first tea drinkers in Estonia? When did tea become popular, and how was it traditionally consumed? Along the way, we will also discover a variety of herbs used to make different kinds of tea.

We will conclude the programme, of course, by sharing a warm and comforting cup of tea together.

**Duration:** 60 minutes  
**Language:** English, Russian



## House of Peter the Great

Opened in 1806, the House of Peter the Great is Tallinn's oldest museum. This small yet remarkable building is a unique historical site, where Tallinn's role during the Northern War, the birth of the Kadriorg ensemble, and the beginning of Estonian museum culture are closely intertwined.

### Guided tour "Secrets of the Old Palace"

During the tour, we will discover the history of the 17th-century summer manor, which is also the oldest museum in the city. We will learn about its residents, including Peter I – how he came to Estonia, and why he chose to buy a house in Kadriorg, calling it the "old palace."

We will also explore the objects and paintings in the house, along with the stories of the people depicted in them. Come and discover the place where the story of Kadriorg began!

**Duration:** 60 minutes  
**Language:** English, Russian



Aleks Kase. Kalamaja. Vabriku street. Watercolour. 1993



## Kalamaja Museum

Kalamaja Museum is a vibrant community museum that captures a glimpse of the district's rich and colourful character. While the full story of Tallinn's oldest suburb extends far beyond its walls, the museum offers an engaging introduction to its past and present.

As you move through the building, you'll uncover stories of local houses and their residents – from the cellar and corridor to the garage and living room. Exhibitions can even be found in unexpected places, including the toilet.

Younger visitors can enjoy the family area, where a Tallinn-style doll's house and a retro play corner invite exploration and imaginative play.

### City tour "Suburban Stories: Life and Times of Kalamaja"

As we stroll through the streets surrounding the museum, we will explore both the past and present of this former suburb, now one of Tallinn's most sought-after districts. Along the way, we will admire Kalamaja's characteristic wooden houses and hear stories about everyday life, the historic Kalma sauna, and the people who have shaped the area.

And if we're lucky, we might even encounter Kalamaja's legendary cat, August – a charming highlight of the tour.

**Duration:** 90 minutes  
**Language:** English

# TALLINN WITH CHILDREN



## Museum of Photography

The Museum of Photography, located in a medieval prison building, and home to Estonia's photographic heritage, is where the history of photography and equipment meets contemporary photography art. During the summer season, the museum's exhibitions are also held at Gallery SEEK.

### Immersive exhibition "Colour Tickle"

The experiential journey will unfold throughout the atmospheric vaulted halls and corridors of the former medieval prison that house the museum. Designed for visitors of all ages, the exhibition explains the principles of colour physics, human colour perception, and the history of colour photography through hands-on exhibits. Along the way, visitors can enter the Eye, move through colour synthesis, colorize photographs, navigate the labyrinth of Estonia's oldest colour photographs, and engage in many other discoveries.



## Kiek in de Kök Fortifications Museum

### Exhibition "Moomin Peace. Joy and Wisdom"

This enchanting exhibition invites visitors of all ages to explore Moomin House and Moominvalley – peaceful sanctuaries like the Kiek in de Kök tower, offering safety amid the outside world's turmoil.

In this exhibition, you can wander beneath blooming trees, sit among rose beds, and meet beloved characters amid lush greenery. At its heart, Moomin House welcomes everyone as a place of beauty and shelter.

Come rest your body and mind in Moominvalley, guided by quotes from the Moomin stories that bring the house to life on this serene and joyful journey.



PHOTO: MEELIKÜTTIM

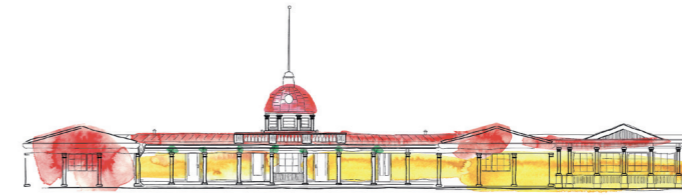


ILLUSTRATION: GERTU KALLAS



## Children's Museum Miiamilla

Miiamilla is a museum where fun and learning go hand in hand. The museum offers a vibrant and colourful environment for children and families to explore, learn, and play. In the courtyard, visitors can develop gardening skills while connecting with nature.

The permanent exhibition Children's Spaces invites visitors to see the world through the eyes of a child. Creatively designed themed rooms encourage both children and parents to play, explore, and discover, offering opportunities to express emotions, create miniature worlds, and shape playful fantasy environments.

Thoughtfully crafted, the exhibition highlights the multifaceted nature of childhood, supporting mental well-being, fostering social connections, enhancing understanding of the world, and inspiring new learning. Visitors journey through the key cognitive environments of a child's life – the inner world, the outer world, and the world of imagination – experiencing the spaces that nurture growth, creativity, and curiosity.



PHOTO: MEELIKÜTTIM

# TALLINN: WHERE MANY STORIES MEET



# Welcome to Tallinn!

Tallinn City Museum brings together seven unique sites across the city, from the medieval Old Town to the districts of Kadriorg and Kalamaja. Founded in 1937, the museum is dedicated to preserving, researching, and sharing the history and cultural heritage of Tallinn.

At the Kiek in de Kök Fortifications Museum, visitors can explore medieval defence towers, hidden passages, and 17th-century bastion tunnels. The Tallinn City Life Museum offers a glimpse into everyday life in a medieval merchant's house, while the Museum of Photography presents the story of Estonian photography in a former medieval jailhouse behind the Town Hall.

Families can enjoy Children's Museum Miiamilla in picturesque Kadriorg Park, while Kalamaja Museum showcases the creative spirit of one of Tallinn's most vibrant neighbourhoods. The House of Peter the Great invites visitors into the former summer residence, offering a glimpse of Kadriorg Park's historic charm, and the People's Museum of Tallinn highlights the rich heritage of the city's diverse communities and their contributions to its cultural life.



## Contact

Should you have any questions or want to book a tour, please do not hesitate to contact us:

- by mail at [broneering@linnamuseum.ee](mailto:broneering@linnamuseum.ee)
- by phone at **+372 5887 0821** on weekdays from 9:00–17:00.

# MEDIEVAL TALLINN



## Tallinn City Life Museum

Located in the heart of the Old Town, Tallinn City Life Museum is housed in the former residence of a wealthy merchant. With a history dating back to the Middle Ages, the building brings Tallinn's story to life through the lives of the people who lived there. Visitors can discover what it meant to live, work, and accumulate wealth in the city across the centuries. The exhibitions tell Tallinn's history through personal everyday stories, inviting you to discover the city's rich and diverse heritage.

Spread across five floors, the museum traces Tallinn's story from the era of the Hanseatic League to 20th-century homes, fashion, and technological innovation. Interactive exhibits and rare treasures from the city's collections offer discoveries for all ages, from first-time visitors to devoted history enthusiasts.

### Guided tour of the Exhibition "The Wealthy and Handsome. The Brotherhood of the Blackheads in Tallinn"

The Brotherhood of Blackheads – young, unmarried merchant apprentices from abroad – were a hidden force in Tallinn's city life.

On this guided tour, you'll uncover fascinating stories, including why the world's first Christmas tree is often linked to the Blackheads' celebrations. Step behind the scenes of the powerful Hanseatic trade and even join in the fun as a merchant apprentice choosing a bride!

By the end of the tour, you'll discover how the brotherhood evolved into a social club – and learn what became of the Blackheads in the modern day.

**Duration:** 60 minutes  
**Language:** English, Russian, Finnish, Italian



## Kiek in de Kök Fortifications Museum

Kiek in de Kök is the tallest defence tower in Tallinn, and combined with the Stable Tower, the Maiden Tower, the Gate Tower and the Inger and Swedish underground passages, it forms a defensive complex stretching over 800 metres. With a further 340 metres of underground bastion passages on display, the museum is over a kilometre long! The towers are connected by the city's longest wall gallery, offering beautiful views of Tallinn's Old Town.

Kiek in de Kök's mighty artillery tower takes visitors back in time, telling stories of wars, the siege of Tallinn and the development of the capital's fortifications from the Middle Ages to the present day. You can see weapons, protective equipment and fascinating architectural engineering that helped to protect the city for centuries. The exhibition "Aut Vincendum, Aut Moriendum – Victory or Death? The Brotherhood of the Blackheads Defending Tallinn" showcases the Brotherhood as defenders of the city.

The permanent exhibitions in the Maiden Tower tell the story of a time when fortifications lost their military importance, towers were adapted for housing and homes were built along the city wall. With its unique character and spirit, the tower has provided a place to live and create for renowned artists since the 19th century. On the top floor of the tower, you can peek into Tallinn's café history and the restored original interior of the popular 1980s café. In the vaulted cellar you will experience the evolution of the Dannebrog flag and emblem as part of the history of Tallinn.

### Guided tour of the Exhibition "A Fortress City, A Safe Haven"

Kiek in de Kök's permanent exhibition, "A Fortress City, A Safe Haven," tells the story of Tallinn's remarkable defence history. A dedicated section highlights the Brotherhood of the Blackheads and their motto: "Victory or Death."

Tallinn holds a unique place in Estonian history as the only city never conquered or destroyed by enemy forces. The exhibition shows how this prosperous Hanseatic city invested in walls, towers, and fortifications, adapting to the age of firearms and cannons. Visitors can explore the massive bastion belts – earthworks built to protect the city – and learn how Tallinn became a true fortress and safe haven.

**Duration:** 60 minutes  
**Language:** English, Russian, Finnish, German, French

