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THE MEDIEVAL TIMES

Festival Season is Here!

After having made it through the short, dark days of the November through February, who isn't ready to sing to the heavens now that the full-light of summer has arrived? And with the long days comes something else to be excited about: all of Estonia is about to burst into celebrations. There is something for everyone and joining in one of the many festivals might be the perfect excuse for visiting a corner of Estonia you haven't traveled to before. What follows is merely the tip of the iceberg! Have fun, and Happy Summer to all!

The 27th Annual Tallinn Old Town Days

May 28th— June 3rd

With over 40 locations all over the Tallinn's Old Town and events ranging from concerts, to seminars, to a parade of vintage vehicles. More information available @ http://www.vanalinnaevad.ee/eng_index.shtml



Türi Spring Festival

June 7th— June 10th

This annual festival takes place in the "Estonian Springtime Capital," Türi. Uniquely combining the natural beauty of Türi's gardens, parks, forests, rivers and lakes, and annual flower market with the artistic beauty of music inspired by nature, this promises to be a memorable event. This year's theme is ornithology and the music presented, ranging from baroque to the present, will all have an element that links it to birds. More information @ http://www.festivals.ee/tyri/tyri_eng.html

Traditional Music

Festival, Maailmaküla (World Village)

June 7th— June 9th

The organizers of this festival refuse to define traditional and what results is a festival which features music from all corners of the world and from as many



styles as can be defined. Taking place this year in Tartu, the program will also offer films, conferences, and lectures. More information is available @ <http://www.maailmakyla.ee/?lang=en>.

50th Annual Saaremaa Velotuur

June 14th— June 19th

It's not exactly a festival, but anyone who can has witnessed a cycling race can tell you that watching dozens of incredibly skinny men whoosh past you in a flash is an event like none other and you are not going to want to miss it! I personally suggest finding a spot on the route on the June 18th as the riders battle for honors in the time-trial —this event allows you to see more riders over more time than any other. Much more information is available @ http://www.saaremaavelotuur.ee/index_eng.php.



X Youth Song and Dance Celebration "On the Threshold of the World Tree"

June 29th—July 1st

I've heard rumors that over 30,000 youths will join together in song in Tallinn's Song Grounds on the final day of this celebration. Additionally, this festival offers three days of dancing at the Kalevi Stadium as well as musical instrument workshops, games, singing, and fairytales. More information is available @ <http://www.culture.ee> or <http://www.laulupidu.ee/>.

What did I leave out?

- ◆ Jannipäev celebrations at the Open Air Museum and the Pirita River
- ◆ Saaremaa Waltz Festival
- ◆ Kuuresaare Midsummer's Day
- ◆ Rakvere City Days
- ◆ 13th Countryfolks Fair in Vastselinna Hamlet
- ◆ Victory Day Celebrations

Seriously, there is something for everyone in the coming month. Get out there and enjoy it!

I think the best information for these festivals can be found @ www.culture.ee

PHOTO of the Week



Who Knew Bees Could Leave Footprints?

Photo taken on Pirita Beach in late May.

Follow Up: Eternity Locks Story

Wedding couples secure the locks to the bridge and throw away the key that the union may never be broken. Very romantic!

Around Town: New Places, New Experiences

Tallinn's Zoo – A Great Outing!

Tallinn's Zoo, founded in 1939, is a great place for an outing, especially now that the weather is nice. It is on a large plot of land with various enclosures – some modern habitat-based spaces and some of the more old-fashioned cages. They have a nice collection of animals with the usual favorites (camels, bison, monkeys), as well as large birds and ungulates (i.e. hooved animals). The Zoo is working to upgrade its facilities, as funding becomes available. Some of the ISE schoolchildren have supported this work and there is a plaque outside the new lion enclosure with their names.

Adult tickets are 90 EEKs; children under 3 are free; children between 3 and school-age are 8 EEKs; schoolchildren, students and seniors are 45 EEKs (see the website for more options). The petting zoo is open from June 1st to Sept. 1st, Wed-Sun, 10-16.

There are wagons you can rent for 15 EEKs to haul small children and their stuff. The wagons sell out quickly, so you may want to get there early or you'll have to wait around the rental area until someone brings one back.



The Zoo has two entrances (North Gate at Paldiski mnt. 145; West Gate at Ejitajate tee 150). Parking can be tight, so you may have to park on the road nearby the parking lot. There are several food stands with the usual junk food (chips, hot dogs, sodas, ice cream), as well as a stand selling cotton candy.

For more information, take a look at this link to

the Zoo's English-language pages on its website at <http://www.loomaaed.ee/index.php?nlan=eng&index=on>.



The Endla Reserve Bog Trails: An Addendum to the Bog Walking article (See April 27 issue of Medieval Times):

To get to the wooden bog trail at the Endla Reserve, walk from the parking lot, **through** the field that starts **behind** the Visitor Center, along the fence that by-passes the right side of the barn. (As a bonus, gorgeous horses usually graze in an adjacent field).

The 1.3 km trail has wooden planks for a short stretch, then becomes a path without boards.

The long trail has two options. Continue on the planks to a fork in the path. **The trail that turns left at the fork** goes in a loop, and is about a 3-hour hike.

For a longer hike, go straight at the fork, onto the path that heads off the wooden trail, through more forested area. It leads to a cabin, beyond which is another lake. The cabin and its cots and outdoor fire pit can be rented by a group for a barbeque and/or for overnight. Information is at the Visitor Center.

Can't Get Enough of Estonian Bog-Walking?



Those who are interested in bog-walking and nature in general might enjoy checking out the Soomaa bog in Soomaa National Park in central Estonia.

The park boasts a fifth season (spring floods!), several museums (including a Stuffed Animal Museum—that is, taxidermy, not Beanie Babies!), and programs that range from seminars on the dugout canoe (an ancient Finno-Ugric craft), guided canoe trips, and guided bog-walks.

Visit the website @ <http://www.soomaa.com/?id=129&lang=eng> for more information.



Around Town II

Day Trip Review: Hiiumaa Island

Off the west coast of Estonia is Hiiumaa, an island seldom promoted as a “must-see” destination. We spent a day going to all the sites mentioned in our Lonely Planet guidebook, then stayed the night at the cozy Padu Hotel in Kärkla. It was an all around fun-filled, memorable day! I hope this information will encourage readers to take a trip to Hiiumaa.

A surprise to us were the leftover WWII Soviet military bunkers, built in the forest, into the sides of mounds of dirt (hardly can call them hills). To go inside and explore the rooms and former ammo storage racks, be sure to have good flashlights.

There are at least three lighthouses on the island, one being the 350-year old Kõpu Lighthouse. Near the one



on the Tahkuna Peninsula point is a memorial to the M/S Estonia that sank in 1994, about which mysteries remain and conspiracy theories abound. A labyrinth of rocks also lies near the lighthouse.

We were inspired to visit Hiiumaa after reading the book: *In Search of the Elusive Peace Corps Moment*, by Douglas Wells. He was a Peace Corps worker assigned to Hiiumaa from 1992-

96. He left with an Estonian bride and became a Foreign Service Officer. He is a personal friend of our own Protocol Assistant, who was the Estonian Coordinator for Peace Corps. The book is a fast read, and contains anecdotes of his experiences on Hiiumaa.

One site promoted in the Wells book is an old stone church built in the thirteenth century. It was locked, so we didn't see the interior. The exterior wall is adorned by unique carvings.

The ferry is the only way to get to Hiiumaa. Go to this website for a map of ferry routes, timetable and reservation information: http://www.laevakompanii.ee/index.php?hinnakiri=1&keel=2&v_id=1&av_id=37

Fun facts about Hiiumaa (from <http://www.laevakompanii.ee>):

Did you know that ...

- ◆ Kõpu Lighthouse is the third oldest working lighthouse in the world;
- ◆ People from Hiiumaa are well known for their good sense of humor. It's said that one can discover the details of a Hiiumaa joke even after some days have already passed. That's why one can't tell a Hiiumaa joke to the people of more serious nature from Saaremaa on a Thursday - he/she could interrupt Sunday's church services with his/her laugh;
- ◆ Kärkla meteor crater is one of the biggest in the world (Ø 4 km);
- ◆ The first Estonian yacht to sail around Cape Horn was the sailing ship "Hioma", which was built in Hiiumaa;
- ◆ Hiiumaa became well known in Estonia and the world thanks to the Kärkla Broadcloth Factory (1830-1941);
- ◆ The highest hills of Western-Estonia are in Hiiumaa at Kõpu peninsula (Tornimägi hill 68 m);
- ◆ Snow covers Hiiumaa about 4 weeks later and melts 2 weeks earlier than on the mainland of Estonia.



Upcoming Events in Tallinn

MAY 25: KUMU Night, an alternative music event at KUMU, 22:00. Tickets start @250 EEK.

Now THRU MAY 27: "Classics of the Modernist Era." KUMU. Weizenbergi 34/Valge 1. www.ekm.ee

NOW THRU MAY 30: Photo exhibition, "Churches in Tallinn," at the Town Prison—Museum of Photography, Raekoja 4. Open Tuesdays thru Thursdays. www.linnamuuseum.ee/fotomuuseum.

NOW THRU JUNE 30: "Song of Jewellery." Kristjan Raua Majamuuseum. K. Raua 8, Nomme. www.ekm.ee.

- ◆ **For a more complete listing, please check www.concert.ee or www.culture.ee/list.html.**
- ◆ **Anyone interested in something slightly less edifying might want to check out the full listing of available shows at Piletilevi: <http://www.piletilevi.ee/index.php?lang=eng&id=22,312227>**
- ◆ **Movie listings are available @ <http://www.superkinod.ee/?lang=eng>**



Tallinn on the World Wide Web

International School of Estonia:
www.ise.edu.ee

ISE's PTA Welcome Information:
www.ise.edu.ee/pta/info_packet_wholeframe.html

For local movie listings:
www.superkinod.ee

For local restaurant information,
Including online menus and ordering:
www.toit.ee

For a listing of local concerts:
www.concert.ee

USEFUL TALLINN-RELATED WEB SITES:

For tourism info:

www.tourism.tallinn.ee

For a schedule of fairs at the Convention
Center complex:

www.fair.ee

Local Golf Course:

www.egcc.ee

Local businesses and other listings:
www.inyourpocket.com/estonia/tallinn/

[en](#)

www.1182.ee

International Women's Club of Tallinn:

www.iwct.ee

Hash House Harriers Running Club:
www.hot.ee/harriers

For local bus, tram, & trolley schedules:
www.tak.ee

American Chamber of Commerce:
www.acce.ee

Bulletin Board

Recipe Corner

Limoncello

If you have ever been to Italy, you'll instantly know about Limoncello. It is a lemon liqueur that is served well chilled in the summer months. It is wonderful as a palate cleanser or as an after dinner drink. Keep your bottles of limoncello in the freezer until ready to serve. The ingredients are simple and few, and making a batch doesn't require much work, but you'll need some time. **Limoncello must steep for (80) eighty days.**

15 lemons*
2 bottles (750 ml) 100-proof vodka**
4 cups sugar
5 cups water

* Choose thick-skinned lemons because they are easier to zest.

** Use 100-proof vodka, which has less flavor than a lower proof one. Also the high alcohol level will ensure that the limoncello will not turn to ice in the freezer.

Wash the lemons with a vegetable brush and hot water to remove any residue of pesticides or wax; pat the lemons dry.

Carefully zest the lemons with a zester or vegetable peeler so there is no white pith on the peel. NOTE: Use only the outer part of the rind. The pith, the white part underneath the rind, is too bitter and would spoil your

limoncello.

Step One:

In a large glass jar (1-gallon jar), add one bottle of vodka; add the lemon zest as it is zested. Cover the jar and let sit at room temperature for at least (10) ten days and up to (40) days in a cool dark place. The longer it rests, the better the taste will be. (There is no need to stir - all you have to do is wait.) As the limoncello sits, the vodka slowly take on the flavor and rich yellow color of the lemon zest.



Step Two:

In a large saucepan, combine the sugar and water; cook until thickened, approximately 5 to 7 minutes. Let the syrup cool before adding it to the Limoncello mixture.

Add to the Limoncello mixture from **Step One**. Add the additional bottle of vodka. Allow to rest for another 10 to 40 days.

Step Three:

After the rest period, strain and bottle: discarding the lemon zest. Keep in the freezer until ready to serve.

Community Activities: Body, Soul, and Spirit

There is an Expat Women's Prayer and Fellowship Group which meets one Tuesday each month in the Kristiine area of Tallinn. Contact Wendy Mason for more information. Call 654-4428 or email her at wendy.mason@pobox.com.

If you have a favorite Tallinn-related web site not featured here or know of a church, group, or organization you would like to share with your Embassy community, please send the information to

USASaatkond@state.gov

Places of Worship

- **Eesti Baptist**, Kentmanni 3a, in the lecture room. Services in English and Estonian on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Additional events throughout the week, including youth activities on Friday nights. Call 5 373 7569 for more information. www.estonianbaptist.net.
- **Eleva Vee Kogudus (Living Waters Church)**, Merivalja tee 3 (Pirita). Tel.: 645-7677. Services Sunday mornings at 11:00 in English with Estonian translation. Classes for children and youth are offered. www.EVK.ee.
- **Estonian Jewish Center, Chief Rabbi Shmuel Kot**. 16 Karu Street, Tallinn, 10124 Estonia Ph: 372-662-30-50, Fax: 372-662-30-01
- **International Community Church of Estonia**, Ravala Pst. 3, Radisson SAS, 2nd Floor (Kesklinn). Services in English every Sunday at 11 a.m. www.churchofestonia.org. Classes for children are offered. Home cell groups are also available.
- **Mustamae Linnakogudus (Mustamae City Church)**, Laki tn. 14A (Mustamae). Tel.: 683-7810. Services Sunday evenings at 17:00 in English with Estonian translation. Classes for children are offered. www.mmlk.org.
- **Pühavaimu Kirik (The Holy Ghost Church)**, 2 Pühavaimu (Old Town). Tel.: 644-1487. Lutheran. Anglican services in English every Sunday at 15:00.
- **Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Tallinn Worship Group**. Meetings for Worship in a member's home, every other week, usually on Sunday at 14:00. Contact: Anna-Leena Vierumaki at anna-leena@vierumaki.com. Everyone welcome!
- **Rooma-Katoliku Kirik (Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church)**, 16 Vene. Tel.: 644-6367. Roman Catholic services available in Estonian, Polish, and Lithuanian. An English service is held every Saturday 18:00.
- **United Pentecostal Church**, Tulika Poik 4-228. Services are on Sundays at 3:00 p.m. Call Pastor Rick Reynolds at 5 362 5711 for more information.
- **Estonian Jewish Center, Chief Rabbi Shmuel Kot**. 16 Karu Street, Tallinn, 10124 Estonia Ph: 372-662-30-50, Fax: 372-662-30-01
- **The Tallinn United Methodist Church**. Narva mnt. 51. Estonian service, Sunday 10:00; Russian service, Sunday 13:00. Tel.: 668-8477. <http://www.bmk.ee/tumc/index.htm>.