



Vabamu Song and Dance Festival
curated program
ITINERARY



TUESDAY 1st July

6:30-9pm **Welcome reception** at Schlössle Hotel

Kick off the program with an exclusive welcome reception at the Schlössle Hotel. This evening provides an ideal opportunity to meet and connect with fellow participants.

Dress code: smart casual.

Location: Schlössle Hotel, Pühavaimu St 13-15.

WEDNESDAY 2nd July

9:15am Gather at Schlössle Hotel lobby. Bring your ID with you!

Dress code: please wear comfortable shoes and weather appropriate clothing.

Location: Schlössle Hotel.

9:30-10:45am **Tour of Tallinn Old Town**

Discover one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities with a guided tour through Tallinn Old Town. Wander through cobblestone streets admiring centuries-old architecture and immersing yourself in the captivating stories and vibrant history of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

11-12pm **Visit to Stenbock House and meeting with Prime Minister**

A special visit awaits with Estonia's Prime Minister at the prestigious Stenbock House, a stunning neoclassical building that overlooks the city from Toompea Hill.

Location: Rahukohtu St 3.

12pm Walk together to Vabamu

Location: Toompea St 8b.

12:30-1:30pm **Lunch** at Vabamu

1:30-3pm **E-Estonia presentation by Enterprise Estonia and discussion on digital society with Luukas Ilves, former CIO of Estonia**

Gain firsthand insights into the digital powerhouse that Estonia has become. This session will explore the lessons learned and opportunities in the world's most advanced digital society, offering a roadmap for future technology partnerships and innovations.

3-4pm **Tour of Vabamu**

Vabamu Museum of Occupations and Freedom recounts the story of the people of Estonia from occupation to independence and inspires to maintain and stand up for their freedom. This captivating tour unveils the story of resilience that transformed Estonia from occupation to a global leader in the digital age. It's a must-see for understanding the spirit that drives Estonia today.

4pm Walk together to the hotel. Free time

5.20pm Gather at Schlössle Hotel and walk together to Vabamu

Dress code: smart casual.

5:30-8:30pm **Vabamu reception**

Join us for an evening of networking and local encounters. The night features a fireside chat with President Kersti Kaljulaid and entrepreneur Sten Tamkivi, followed by live music and good company.

Location: Toompea St 8b.

THURSDAY 3rd July

8:45am Gather at Schlössle Hotel lobby and walk together to the bus

Dress code: casual.

8:55-10am Bus to Laulasmaa

10-12pm **Visit to Arvo Pärt Centre**

Immerse yourself in the world of Arvo Pärt, one of the most performed living composers globally. This visit to the Arvo Pärt Centre offers a serene and inspiring atmosphere, where you can explore the creative journey and philosophy behind his internationally acclaimed works, set amidst the beautiful natural surroundings of Laulasmaa.

Location: Kellasalu St 3, Laulasmaa.

12-12:30pm **Lunch** at Arvo Pärt Centre

12:40-1:45pm Bus to Schlössle Hotel

1:45-2:45pm Free time

2:45pm Gather at Schlössle Hotel and walk together to the bus. Bring your ID with you!

Dress code: smart casual or formal.

2:55-3:15pm Bus to Song Festival Grounds

3:30-4:30pm **Visit to Song Festival grounds and meeting with Valter Soosalu, Male Choir Director at the Song Festival**

Experience the heart of Estonia's cultural pride at the iconic Song Festival Grounds, a remarkable open-air amphitheater that has played a central role in Estonia's identity. This visit offers a behind-the-scenes look at how the organizers maintain the festival's deep-rooted traditions.

Dropoff location: Sea Gate.

4:40-5pm **Bus to the Office of the President of the Republic of Estonia**

Pickup location: Oru Gate.

5-7pm **Meeting with the President of Estonia**

This rare opportunity offers unparalleled access to the nation's highest official, providing a unique platform for candid discussions.

Location: A. Weizenbergi St 39.

7pm **Bus back to Tallinn Old Town**

Please note that dinner is not provided by the program.

FRIDAY 4th July

Morning **hike in the bog** OR “Quo vadis, Estonia?” **symposium**, subtitled “Resilience and Recovery”

Choose between a peaceful hike through Estonia’s untouched boglands, where serene beauty and unique wildlife await, or a Digital Society Symposium that is moderated by Sten Tamkivi, Estonian entrepreneur and investor. The symposium is held as part of the Estonia’s Friends International Meeting.

HIKE IN THE KAKERDAJA BOG

8:45am Gather at Schlössle Hotel lobby and walk together to the bus

Dress code: very comfortable shoes and weather appropriate clothing. Layers are best.

9-10:15am Bus to Kakerdaja Bog

10:30-12pm **Bog hike**

Start your day with a peaceful walk through one of Estonia’s most beautiful wetlands, Kakerdaja bog. This scenic trail goes through a landscape of open bog pools, moss-covered ground, and quiet pine forests. It is a chance to experience Estonia’s unique natural beauty up close and learn more about the local ecosystem.

Location: Kakerdaja Bog.

12.30-1pm **Lunch** at the bog

Location: Kakerdaja Bog, Noku Lökkeplats.

1-2:15pm Bus back to Tallinn Old Town

“QUO VADIS, ESTONIA?” SYMPOSIUM, subtitled
“Resilience and Recovery”

9:15am Gather at Schlössle Hotel lobby and walk together to Vabamu. Bring your name card with you!

Dress code: smart casual.

9:30-1:30pm **Symposium** at Vabamu

The event will open with remarks by President Toomas Hendrik Ilves, followed by a keynote address from Minister of Education and Research Kristina Kallas and a panel discussion moderated by entrepreneur Sten Tamkivi.

Location: Toompea St 8b.

Free time for meetings and for exploring Tallinn

4:45pm Gather at Schlössle Hotel lobby and walk together to the bus. Take your Dance Festival Tickets with you!

Dress code: casual and weather appropriate clothing. Layers are best.

4:55-5:30pm Bus to Kalev Stadium

6-9:30pm **Dance Festival**

This spectacular evening brings together thousands of dancers from across the country in a dazzling display of synchronized folk choreography, colorful national costumes, and deep-rooted tradition.

Please note that dinner is not provided at the festival by the program but can be purchased from a number of onsite vendors.

9:30pm Bus back to Tallinn Old Town

SATURDAY 5th July

10:20am Gather at Schlössle Hotel lobby and walk together to the bus

Dress code: casual.

10:30-11am Bus to Kumu

11-1pm **Guided tour of Kumu Art Museum and a workshop**

An engaging guided tour and hands-on workshop at Kumu Art Museum that offers an unforgettable glimpse into Estonia's rich cultural heritage. After exploring the museum's exhibitions, participants will create their own tote bags inspired by the artwork on display. It is a unique and personal souvenir to take home.

Location: Valge St 1.

1-1:30pm **Lunch** at Kumu Art Museum

1-6pm **Procession through Tallinn**

Witness the grand procession through the streets of Tallinn, an event rich in tradition and celebration. Experience the energy and unity of thousands of participants as they proudly march through the city in their national costumes.

5:45pm Gather at Schlössle Hotel lobby and walk together to the bus. Take your Saturday Song Festival Tickets with you!

Dress code: casual and weather appropriate clothing. Layers are best.

5:55-6:30pm Bus to Song Festival Grounds

Dropoff location: Oru Gate.

7-11pm **Song Festival opening concert and the ceremonial lighting of the Song Festival flame**

Immerse yourself in one of Estonia's most iconic cultural events—the Song Festival. The first show of this monumental celebration features powerful choral performances that bring together thousands of voices, creating an unforgettable experience of music, tradition, and national pride.

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11pm Bus back to Tallinn Old Town

Pickup location: Oru Gate.

SUNDAY 6th July

9:20am Gather at Schlössle Hotel lobby and walk together to the bus. Take your Sunday Song Festival Tickets with you!

Dress code: comfortable shoes and weather appropriate clothing. Layers are best. Bring your flag!

9:30-10am Bus to Open Air Museum

10-12pm **Tour of Estonian Open Air Museum**

Step back in time and explore Estonia's rural history at the Estonian Open Air Museum. This unique experience provides a fascinating look into traditional Estonian village life, showcasing historic farmhouses and a vibrant glimpse of Estonia's cultural roots.

Location: Vabaõhumuuseumi St 12.

12-12:30pm **Traditional Estonian lunch** at the Open Air Museum

Savor a traditional Estonian lunch amidst the charming surroundings of the Open Air Museum. It's a perfect opportunity to enjoy authentic local cuisine while soaking in the serene atmosphere of Estonia's countryside heritage.

12:30pm One bus goes to Old Town for a quick stop, other bus goes straight to Festival

2-9pm

Song Festival grand concert

Witness the grandeur of Estonia's beloved Song Festival during the grand concert where the blend of choirs, wind orchestras, and symphony orchestras will fill the air with 40 powerful musical pieces. It is an event that will leave you with lasting memories of the power of song bringing people together.

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9:30pm

Bus back to Tallinn Old Town

Pickup location: Oru Gate.

9:30pm

Nightcap at Schlössle Hotel

onwards

End your journey in Estonia with get-together where you can reflect on the experiences shared and celebrate the connections made and ideas formed over your visit to this extraordinary country.

Location: Schlössle Hotel.

MONDAY 7th July

Departure day

Contacts

Regarding all practical issues you may turn to

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A WhatsApp group chat is available!

Link to chat:

