

## About Estonia and Tartu

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Estonia is a nation famed for its enormous forests, beautiful wetlands and remote offshore islands. Estonia is a member of European Union (since 2004) and a member of the Schengen agreement (since January 2008).

Tartu is situated in South-East Estonia, approximately 180 kilometres from the capital of Tallinn. Tartu is the capital of southern Estonia, the second largest city in the country and the oldest in the Baltic States. The Hanseatic city of Tartu lies on the banks of the beautiful River Emajõgi. It is the university city and referred to by many as the intellectual and cultural centre of Estonia. With a rich historical heritage and culture, Tartu is also a modern city where almost one-fifth of the overall population made up of students.

June and July are the best months for visiting Estonia. Not only are the days long &ndash; typically 20 hours of daylight &ndash; but the weather can be pleasantly warm giving a feel for summer in northern latitudes. Following the conference, tours can easily be arranged to places such as Finland, Russia and the other Baltic countries by boat, train, bus, or air.

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