



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA



Area: 17,505 sq miles- *Larger than Denmark*; Population: 1.3m
Official Language: Estonian (*but people speak also Russian, Finnish and German*)
Government: Unitary Parliamentary Republic
President: Mr. Alar Karis; Prime Minister: Ms. Kaja Kalles
Ethnic Groups: 69% Estonian; 24% Russian; 5% Other; 2% Ukrainian
Religions: 65% No Religion; 34% Christian (of which 20% Orthodox; 12% Lutheran)
UN Human Development Index: 0.892 (29th) *very high*
GDP (PPP): \$49.6b; GDP (PPP) Per Capita: \$41,892 (41st)
Exports to U.S.: \$1b; Imports from U.S.: \$410m
Organizations: UN system, EU, Eurozone, OECD, Schengen Area, NATO, WTO, Baltic Council, UN Security Council (2020-2021)

After centuries of Danish, Swedish, German, and Russian rule, Estonia attained independence in 1918. Forcibly incorporated into the USSR in 1940 - an action never recognized by the US and many other countries - it regained its freedom in 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Since the last Russian troops left in 1994, Estonia has been free to promote economic and political ties with the West. It joined both NATO and the EU in the spring of 2004, formally joined the OECD in late 2010, and adopted the Euro as its official currency on 1 January 2011.

The territory of Estonia consists of the mainland, two larger islands and over 2,200 other islands. Average elevation is 160 ft., and the highest peak is 1,043 ft. Ancient Estonians were one of the last “pagan” civilizations in Europe to adopt Christianity.

Estonia has consistently ranked highly in quality of life, education, digitalization of public services and the prevalence of technology companies.

The U.S. and Estonia are strong allies and partners. Estonia has emerged as an example to the region and the world. The country’s integration of technology into public and private partnerships demonstrates the endless possibilities that technology can have when harnessed to benefit societies. Estonia is an effective and reliable Transatlantic partner in advancing peace, stability and democracy in Europe and beyond.

Fun Facts:

Estonia’s ” Singing Revolution” (1986-91) helped them sing their way out of the Soviet Union

Estonian and, now, Olympian sport: “wife carrying”

Estonia has the 4th best air quality in the world – 50% of the country is forest