



IS IT SAFE?

Tallinn

SOLO TRAVELER SAFETY GUIDE

SAFETY GUIDE SERIES

Overall Safety Assessment

RATING: Safe — one of Europe's safest capitals; petty theft and nightlife overcharging are the primary tourist-facing risks.

Tallinn is consistently ranked among Europe's safest capital cities, with low violent crime rates and strong public safety infrastructure. The Old Town, Telliskivi, Kalamaja, and Kadriorg are all comfortable for solo travel at normal hours, including after dark. Estonia carries a Level 1 (standard precautions) travel advisory from the US State Department and equivalent agencies.

The primary risk is pickpocketing in the most crowded Old Town tourist choke points (Town Hall Square, Viru Gate) during peak summer, plus occasional overcharging at nightlife venues and by unlicensed taxis. Winter ice on cobblestones causes more visitor injuries than crime does.

RATING SCALE

★★★★ = Very safe ★★★ = Safe ★★ = Use awareness ★ = Avoid at night ◻ = Avoid

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

Neighbourhood Safety at a Glance

AREA	RATING	NOTES
Old Town (Raekoja Plats, Toompea)	★★★★	Very safe day and night; well-lit and regularly patrolled. Watch bags in the most crowded summer choke points.
Telliskivi Creative City	★★★★★	Safe at all hours; modern, well-lit, active into the evening.
Kalamaja	★★★★★	Quiet, residential, consistently rated safe even after dark.
Kadriorg Park	★★★★★	Well-lit, family-friendly, safe area near the palace and KUMU.
Rotermann Quarter	★★★★★	Redeveloped, upscale, modern lighting — safe urban feel.
Suur-Karja Street (nightlife zone)	★★★	Safe from a violent-crime standpoint; the area for bar overcharging/table-fee scams — check prices before ordering.
Kopli / parts of Lasnamäe	★★	Residential, outside the tourist core; more caution warranted after dark. Not on the standard 48-hour itinerary.
Train station area (Balti jaam)	★★★	Standard vigilance advised, particularly at night.

COMMON SCAMS & RISKS

Common Scams & Risks

Pickpocketing:

Concentrated in the Old Town's most crowded tourist spots — Town Hall Square, Viru Gate, and the Christmas Market in December. Keep bags zipped and in front in dense crowds.

Bar/nightlife overcharging (“table fee” scam):

Bars near Suur-Karja Street occasionally hit solo visitors with inflated tabs, unrequested add-ons, or undisclosed “table fees.” Always check the menu price before ordering and ask for an itemized bill before paying.

Taxi overcharging:

Use Bolt or Uber rather than unmarked street taxis. If taking a licensed taxi, confirm the metered rate before departure — all licensed cabs post a rate card in the window.

ATM distraction technique:

Rare, but be cautious of unsolicited “help” at ATMs — decline and complete transactions before moving away.

HEALTH & MEDICAL

Health & Medical

North Estonia Medical Centre (PERH) — 24/7 ER

J. Sütiste tee 19, 13419 Tallinn. Tel: 617 1049 (or 617 1369 for the Emergency Department directly). Serves patients aged 16 and over.

East Tallinn Central Hospital — Emergency Department

Ravi tn. 18, Building C, 10138 Tallinn. Tel: 620 7040. Serves patients aged 15 and over; also handles eye emergencies from infancy.

Tallinn Children's Hospital

Tervise 28, 13419 Tallinn. 24-hour reception: 697 7146; Emergency Department (10am–10pm): 697 7194.

Family doctor advice line

1220 (English and Russian available; if necessary, transferred to 112).

Insurance note

An ER visit costs around €5 for EU/EEA visitors presenting an EHIC card; non-EU visitors should carry travel insurance.

SOLO WOMEN TRAVELERS

Solo Women Travelers

Tallinn ranks among the world's top 20 safest cities for women, with street harassment genuinely rare. Solo women routinely walk the Old Town, Kalamaja, and Telliskivi at night without incident — the medieval streets remain active and well-lit into the evening, and public transport runs safely after dark. Standard precautions apply: stick to well-lit main streets when walking alone late at night, especially outside the immediate tourist core, and use Bolt rather than walking through unfamiliar areas after midnight. The reserved-but-helpful local culture means unwanted attention is uncommon; the main advisory specific to women is the same nightlife-venue caution that applies to all solo travelers — watch your drink and confirm bar pricing up front.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Emergency Contacts

SERVICE	CONTACT
Emergency (Police / Ambulance / Fire)	112
Family doctor advice line (English/Russian)	1220
North Estonia Medical Centre (24/7 ER, 16+)	617 1369
East Tallinn Central Hospital (24/7 ER, 15+)	620 7040
Tallinn Children's Hospital ER	697 7194
Police non-emergency information line	+372 612 3000 (Mon–Fri 8:00–19:00)
Tourist Information Centre (lost property help)	Niguliste 2, Old Town