

Tartu

Tartu, Estonia's second largest city (population 100,000) and the capital city of the country's southern region, is a perfect place to hold an academic conference. Home to the Estonia's top university, as well as a number of other institutes, research centres, biotechnology industries and several software companies, Tartu is the nation's education and innovation capital. The city's academic credentials make it a great choice for all types of scientific and medical conferences. Tartu is one of Estonia's prime conference destinations, hosting as many as 400 events each year.

The oldest city in Baltic states provides a charming backdrop: A hodge-podge of 18th- and 19th-century buildings line the street of its historic **Old Town**, itself centred on the handsome expanse of **Town Hall Square**. Adjoining Old Town on its western edge is the quiet, leafy Toome hill with its **13th-century cathedral ruins**, while on its east side the **Emajõgi river**, fronted by parks and spanned by foot bridges, drifts lazily past. **Tartu University**, established in 1632, dominates the historic town centre. Conveniently, many of its buildings and lecture theatres, both modern and classical, are available for use as conference venues.

Jaani (St John's) Church and Cultural Quarter, an Old Town block made up of the Medieval St John's Church and the **St Anthony's Guild**, is Tartu's best single spot for sights, activities and fun. With more than 1,000 terracotta statues, the church itself is a must-see as well as a prime concert venue. A few meters away the historic St Anthony's is home to 22 arts and crafts workshops where visitors can watch masters at work and browse their creations.

Thanks to the creative ambiance generated by its 20,000 students, Tartu has a café and bar culture that rivals that of the capital. There's never a shortage of interesting places for one-on-one discussions, relaxing breaks or evening unwinding. Tartu's neoclassical city centre is small enough



Town Hall

to cover on foot. With everything within easy walking distance, Tartu has a distinctively small town feel.

Tartu is also the launching point for trips to number of other interesting destinations around Southern Estonia. One of the most intriguing areas to visit is Setomaa, home of the Seto people, an ethnic group with its own unique traditions that's been living in this corner of Estonia since time immemorial. Those looking for a unique cultural experience should travel to the villages around Lake Peipus to visit the traditional communities of Russian Old Believers,



Estonia
Positively surprising.

who established their own way of life here after their ancestors fled Russia three centuries ago. Old Believers were well-known as onion growers and even today there are large fields of onions in the villages near the lake. The local cuisine has been influenced by that, as well as by the proximity of the lake, relying heavily on onions and fish.

GETTING TO TARTU Tartu is situated in southern Estonia and connects to the world through Tartu Airport and Tallinn airport. Tartu airport has regular connections to Riga and Stockholm. The distance between Tallinn, Estonia's capital, and Tartu is 186 km, or about 2 hours by express coach or car. There is also a regular train service between Tallinn and Tartu.

Unique Venues in Tartu



The University of Tartu



University of Tartu History Museum

ASSEMBLY HALL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TARTU Built in 1809, Tartu University's main building is the city's grandest example of stunning, neo-classical architecture. Its 470-seat assembly hall, ringed with white columns and topped with chandeliers, makes an unforgettable setting for any ceremony or gala event. *Capacity: 470 persons.*

UNIVERSITY OF TARTU HISTORY MUSEUM Part of the city's towering medieval cathedral ruin was renovated in the 19th century and is now home to this extensive museum. The museum's stylish White Hall is a popular venue for conferences, concerts and receptions, and is a traditional site for the university's showcase events. *Capacity: 100 persons.*



Tartu Old City



Dorpat Conference Centre



Tartu City

OTHER UNIVERSITY FACILITIES Many of the university's countless lecture halls, science centres and other academic facilities are available for outside use. Among them is Biomedicum, the main building of the university's Faculty of Medicine. It offers multiple study rooms, laboratories and a circular lecture hall for 175. The Tartu University Library is another great option for conferences, meetings and seminars. *Its main conference hall seats 220.*

VANEMUINE CONCERT HALL Tartu's largest concert hall can be used as a modern conference centre. The hall was built in 1970 and renovated in 2001. The centrally-located facility can provide seating up for 1,000 people, and is equipped with a removable chair system as well as teleconferencing facilities. The removable chair system enables the organisers to provide seating arrangements for a theatre, classroom or round-table working environment.

VANEMUINE THEATRE consists of three completely different buildings – the Grand Building, the Small Building and the Harbour Theatre – each offering different options to suit the size, style and needs of the event being organised. The buildings of the Vanemuine Theatre are suitable for theatrical performances and concerts, as well as conferences, banquets, festive family events, public ceremonies, product presentations and art exhibitions. *Capacity: 700 persons.*

The Small Building of the Vanemuine Theatre is a historical Art-Nouveau-style building constructed in 1914-1918. The Harbour Theatre is a multifunctional, modern theatrical and concert facility that can also accommodate various alternative events. The theatre is located in the immediate vicinity of the city centre, on the bank of the Emajõgi River.

DORPAT CONFERENCE CENTRE Tartu's largest and most modern convention centre is located right in



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the centre of the city. It has ten multifunctional rooms available, the largest of which can seat 500 guests. *Capacity: 1,100 persons; largest hall: 500 persons.*

ALANTIS CONFERENCE CENTRE This modern, multi-functional conference centre is equipped with everything required for a wide variety of events. Its spacious and airy rooms, combined with the panorama of Tartu that can be seen from every one of its halls, create a pleasant

working environment and will add flair to your events. *Capacity: 200 persons.*

ATHENA CONFERENCE AND CULTURE CENTRE Located in the heart of Tartu's Old Town, this recently restored, historic cinema building doubles as a full-service conference centre with two halls, catering, and all the high-tech trimmings. *Capacity: 100 - 500 persons.*



Atlantis Conference Centre



Athena Conference and Culture Centre



Estonian Convention Bureau

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