A Word from the Editor

The relationship between the traveller and the city has always been one of the hunter and the hunted – with the traveller often being preyed on.

We here at Like A Local want to keep you from falling into any tourist traps, and show you places the locals have come to appreciate. With a city as faceted and diverse as Tallinn, there's something here for everyone.

Happy hunting!

Mart Virkus
Like A Local editor / Anthropology student

Alternative

Lorem Ipsum 51

The oldest art house cinema in Tallinn, Sõprus offers a repertoire that caters to the more tasteful movie-goer while not swinging too far into obscurity. They also boast comfy lounge-like seating and a cool cinema bar which you'll actually want to hang out in!

Lorem Ipsum 52

A backpacker hang out that offers a chance to drink on the cheap while meeting fellow travellers, enrolling yourself in drinking games like giant jenga for beginners, playing pool for intermediates, beer pong for experts and Super Mario for the nerd in us all. Opens Dec 1st.

Lorem Ipsum 53

Every local knows this place for its tasty and absolutely massive pancakes. We bet that you can't eat more than one of these delicious monsters. Sweet or savory depending on your choice. One of the few places that still doesn't accept credit cards, though.

Lorem Ipsum 54

Levist Väljas is where parties go to die. Open usually until 6am, it contains a wide range of people from rastafarians and world travellers to dead drunk businessmen. The cheap drinks mean that whatever happens there, stays there. A truly legendary place.

Lorem Ipsum 55

This small stinky bar becomes lively at night, when students drop in for cheap drinks and irregular elderly regulars start to swing to live accordion music, the atmosphere turns into a realm of freaks. Try their infamous house shot "millimallikas"!

Useful

Lorem Ipsum 56

An invaluable source of information for independent travellers! Locals provide inside tips on where to eat, party or sleep & what's happening. Free Internet for guests, comfy hang-out area and booking services for international buses and ferries. Open every day 10am to 6pm.

Lorem Ipsum 57

Even though not on the main street of the Old Town, Tavid offers no-nonsense rates and friendly service, not like some others that surprise tourists with outrageous fees. To get there head out of the Old Town towards the Viru gates and turn left on Aia street.

Tours & Fun

Lorem Ipsum 58

Those folks want you to see the REAL Estonia. See the hidden corners of the Old Town Tallinn or get out of the tourist bubble. Fun and alternative daytrips take you to Lahemaa National Park or Paldiski and the surroundings. Book at www.traveller.ee or Tallinn Traveller Info.

Lorem Ipsum 59

Forget about expensive tours and join a lively group in front of the Tallinn official tourist office every day at 12. Since the tour is free the young and entertaining guides work double as hard to earn their tips. Good laughs and interesting knowledge guaranteed!

Lorem Ipsum 60

Sometimes you just feel like putting some paper targets and cinder blocks out of their misery. Tactical Shooting will let you do just that. Their arsenal holds a variety of weapons ranging from pistols and submachine guns to assault rifles. Booking at +372 5688 0888.

Museums

Lorem Ipsum 61

Puppets? We know what you're thinking, but it's probably the most interactive and fun museum in Tallinn. The high-tech gadgets, theater shows and puppet making workshops keep even grown-ups busy for hours. Open Tue-Sun 10am-7pm. Entrance €5, toddlers free.

Lorem Ipsum 62

This is worth a visit for Soviet Union lovers as well as haters. Room full of strange objects that were part of Estonians' everyday life during the Soviet occupation, like toys from the Soviet era and stalinist sculptures. Admission €2/€1. Open Tue-Sun 11am to 6pm.

Lorem Ipsum 63

The Viru Hotel used to live in its own little world in the Soviet times with a KGB surveillance point on the 23rd floor. Now that room is turned into an amazing museum. Tours leave Tue-Sun from 10am to 5.30pm, Jan-April weekends only. Pre-booking at +372 680 9300. Admission €7.

Bars & Lounges

Lorem Ipsum 34

In this place, having less than five shots at a time is considered a sin. The cheap prices also mean that it's easy to get that table full of shots you always dreamed of having. Good dancing music, a slick interior and party every night make Shooters a true hit.

Lorem Ipsum 35

Judging by the neat interior, live-DJ nights and the friendly service you'd never believe that this place is more than reasonably priced. Their house shot, the B-52, is shamelessly cheap compared to most places in the Old Town.

Lorem Ipsum 36

Our favourite place to start a night out. Open Wed-Sat 6pm till late, Noorus is a true bohemian stronghold. Uniquely in Tallinn, they offer the famous tapas, making it a perfect place for a quick snack. Also, to say their shot selection is impressive would be an understatement.

Lorem Ipsum 37

It's had many names over the years, perhaps this one will stick. The one thing that hasn't changed here are the dark corners with their comfy sofas. Prices too have remained student-friendly. Great place for brainstorming on nighttime activities.

Clubs

Lorem Ipsum 38

THE club in town where everyone meets. Different theme parties attract a different crowd every night, but whatever is happening, you'll be guaranteed to stay up until 5am! Wednesday is the Ladies Night. Urban vibes on Fridays and clubbing tunes on Saturdays.

Lorem Ipsum 39

This club is the embassy of all things underground. Famous for its reggae parties, alternative rock concerts, the Mutant Discos, all kinds of performances and other legendary stuff. Always full of local art and theater crowd. During the day try the pancake rolls.

Lorem Ipsum 40

Called "The Apartment", this awesome alternative music club offers musical experiences from hip hop and reggae to dubstep and electro. Live music concerts from underground and above ground 360 degrees. An excellent alternative to the mainstream clubs.

Lorem Ipsum 41

An ironic counterpart to the more upclass places around and above it, Vabandust translates into "Apology". Apology for what? Failure to be square we figure. The parties here pick up late and die down with the morning light. A haven for the nihilist cool clique.

Shopping

Lorem Ipsum 42

A shopping center with a twist. They say life is beautiful – and it really is with all the different stores, cafes & diners, movie theaters and even a brand new concert hall. The best grocery store close to the Old Town for those self-catering!

Lorem Ipsum 43

No way we let you buy those plastic "made in China" souvenirs. A charismatic bunch of people behind Eesti Käsitöö stores fight for the real thing and keep Estonian folk arts alive. Their Lühike Jalg store also organizes workshops every now and then.

Lorem Ipsum 44

If you value original looks then skip the shopping malls and head to this small vintage store on the 2nd floor of Vana-Viru 6. Ring the doorbell and get sucked into a wonderful little world of quirky clothes, fabulous accessories and even a selection of vinyl records.

Lorem Ipsum 45

This colorful shop run by local artists & musicians offers a wide selection of amazing gifts like animal shaped bags, mobile & iPod pouches, voodoo dolls, local CDs, juggling instruments, psychedelic wallhangings, indian, fairy & trance style clothes and even Superfoods.

Sleeping

Lorem Ipsum 46

Art, Music, Harmony. As well as finding a comfortable bed travellers can play their musical instruments, swap stories & jam with local artists. Regular live events, warm kitchens, comfortable lounge and free Internet. Dorm prices from €11. Booking +372 58 373 602 or www.euphoria.ee.

Lorem Ipsum 47

What happens when travellers decide to settle down & open a hostel? Magic. And magic means no bunk beds, a cozy feeling & great company. It's also only a minute away from the Town Hall square! Dorms from €10, privates from €10. Book at www.flyingkiwitallinn.com or +372 5821 3292.

Lorem Ipsum 48

Had enough of sharing rooms? Step outside the Medieval bubble of the Old Town and you get to sleep in a hotel room for hostel prices. Besides staying in the trendy Rotermann district you can even have a free sauna in the morning. Book at www.16eur.ee or +372 501 3046.

Lorem Ipsum 49

Alur is the biggest hostel in the Old Town. It's located in a historical building, has spacious rooms, Russian-Estonian-English speaking staff and good rates. Suitable for groups, travellers of all age and even families. Book at www.alur.ee or +372 646 6210.

Lorem Ipsum 50

An absolute gem among the budget hotels in Tallinn! It's amazing what you get for prices starting from €45 (single) or €50 (double): cozy rooms, a comfortable lounge area and free wi-fi. Check in at Von Stackelberg Hotel. Book at www.uniquecityhotel.com or +372 6600700.

Backside

Good to know about Riga

Tourist Information

There are two main information providers for tourists. The city-funded Tourist Information Centers are located in the Old Town and Viru Shopping Center. Besides the official information points there's an alternative information center – the youth-run Tallinn Traveller Info at Vana-Posti 2. Recommended by the Lonely Planet they dispense valuable insider tips about what's happening. Ask for free internet, help with booking a bus or ferry ticket and/or discount flyers for parties & restaurants. Another i-point in Rotermann Quarter provides info on Culture Capital Year until the end of 2011.

Small City Center

Tallinn city center is really small, if you're here for only for a few days you almost don't need anything but your own little feet. Public transport is recommended only for sights in Kadriorg, Rocca al Mare and Pirita or for the ride to/from the airport.

Wireless Internet

Tallinn is a wireless heaven. Most cafes and restaurants consider it a matter of pride to offer free wireless internet. Reval Cafe, Hell Hunt, Drink Bar & Grill and Sushi Cat are just a few of many places where you can feed your Facebook addiction or send an e-mail to your mom. If you don't have a laptop you can find free internet in the Traveller Info at Vana-Posti 2.

Money and Credit Cards

Estonia is a part of the Eurozone from January 1, 2011. For changing money we recommend Tavid Currency Exchange. You might not need too much cash, however, because most places in Tallinn accept Visa, Mastercard and EC. American Express and Globus are less common. Travelers' cheques are exchangeable in most banks.

Public Toilets

We marked the public toilets down on this map with an international WC sign, but we recommend using the ones in cafes, pubs or restaurants, cause they're generally nicer.

Drinking & Smoking

The Tallinn dry law restricts selling alcohol from 10pm to 10am. During those hours alcohol cannot be purchased in stores and you can buy drinks only in bars. It is also forbidden to drink in public places (you too, French people!). There's a €40 fine for that. As far as smoking goes, most restaurants either send you outside or have a designated room for that, just don't light your cigarette inside.

Transport in and around Riga

City Transport

Many local buses leave from the bus terminal underneath the Viru Shopping Center. You'll find trolley and minibus stops on the side of Kaubamaja and tram stops on both sides of Viru Center. All city transport usually operates from 6 am to 12 am. Tickets are €1/0.5 (10-pack for €8) from R-Kiosks or €1.6/0.8 from the driver.

Bus Station

Buses from the main Bus Station (bussijaam) take you to any village or town in Estonia. Eurolines and Ecolines will even take you all the way to Europe. Eurolines Baltic offers the best connections to neighboring countries. Info: 12550; www.bussireisid.ee. International bus tickets are available at Tallinn Traveller Info (See under Useful).

Trains

Balti Jaam (see the market under Kopli & Kalamaja) is the place for catching a train to Tartu, Pärnu, Valga, Narva or Moscow. From the center take tram no 1 or 2 direction Kopli and hop off at "Balti Jaam". If you are in the Old Town, it is better to walk. Trains are usually a little bit cheaper than buses and have wifi in the 1st class, but not as frequent. Info: 1447; www.edel.ee and www.elektriraudtee.ee.

Airport

Yes, there's only one airport in Tallinn and it's got free wi-fi as us Estonians like it. The best and most convenient direct transportation is the Airport–City Center bus no 90K that leaves every 30 minutes and stops in numerous locations around the Old Town (see the dark blue line on the map). Tickets of 2€ are sold on the bus and also at Tallinn Traveller Info. If your flight is early in the morning or late at night you have to walk to the bus-stop "A. Laikmaa" for the bus no 2. By taxi it shouldn't be more than €7 from the center. Open from 5am until the last flight. Info: +372 605 8888; www.tallinn-airport.ee.

Taxi

Local taxi drivers are notorious for overcharging tourists. Always ask for a price estimate first. If it's more than €10 you must either be going out of town or you're getting ripped off. 1 km should cost 30-70c, starting fee €2-3. We recommend Marabu Takso with a starting fee of €2.24 and €0.45 per kilometer. Call +372 6500 006.

Ferries to Helsinki and Stockholm

If you have some free time and extra money, take the first boat to Helsinki. Big ferries (Viking Line, Eckerö Line and Tallink) take 2-3.5h and there's numerous departures every day. Linda Line boats are smaller and faster (1.5h), but run only when the sea is peaceful i.e. mostly in spring and summer. The only direct ride to Stockholm is Tallink. Harbour is a 20-minute walk from the Old Town. The only public transport going all the way there is bus no 2. Ferry tickets (from €25) are available from Tallinn Traveller Info (See useful stuff) or at the ferry terminals.

Ferry to St Petersburg (no Russian visa required)

The only way to visit St Petersburg visa-free is the Sunday night St Peterline ferry that allows you to spend Monday in this lovely town and gets you back to Estonia by Tuesday morning. If you want to use all your 72 hours of visa exemption then you have to come back through Helsinki.

Riga Center

Tallinn has a whopping total of 6 "sky-scrapers" – because of the law, no building can be higher than the St Olaf's church. The City area is worth a walk because of the way old wooden buildings flirt with modern steel and glass. The area around Hirve Park is worth a walk with stopping at the Krõõt eco-shop and the Rotermann area on the seaside with its industrial buildings is an experience on its own.

Lorem Ipsum 64

This now quiet park was crowded during the Singing Revolution in the late 80s when Estonians fought for their independence by organizing midnight singing gatherings. The famous Hirve Park meetings certainly make this a special place for every Estonian. Now it is just a beautiful place to walk at sunset.

Lorem Ipsum 65

This little organic store with an unpronounceable name sells homemade products that make a great souvenir from Estonia. Strawberry-peppermint jam, local honey, herb cheese or local handicrafts are just a few options. They also make fresh pastry on the spot and you can book a rye bread making workshop for yourself and friends. Open Mon-Fri 10am to 7pm, Sat 11am to 3pm.

Lorem Ipsum 66

Some call it the new hippie district of Tallinn, we call it a group of active and aware citizens that organize all kinds of events to make their living environment better, including regular dinners in their communal house, a flea market and even a street festival.

Lorem Ipsum 67

The only rodizio style restaurant in Tallinn that offers lava stone steaks, grilled seafood and delicious cocktails. Occasional live music events and friendlier prices than in the Old Town restaurants and bars. On the 1st floor of the Kreutzwald Hotel.

Lorem Ipsum 68

The biggest library in the Baltics became even more known when the statue of the so-called Bronze Soldier was moved and that caused the biggest riots since 1991. Now there's just a huge flower bed there. If you want to go in and use the library or computers, the daily admission is €0.30.

Lorem Ipsum 69

Tallinn's history can be seen outside of the Old Town as well. In the midst of glass and concrete office buildings in the Tallinn City metro area, this little wooden church gets you by surprise and shares its story that reaches back to the 14th century. Today, it houses the Armenian Church.

Lorem Ipsum 70

Oh my god! Are we still in The Soviet Estonia? The only thing changed in this cafe in the last 15 years is that the waitresses are now older. Bartender might pick his nose while selling you a sprat sandwich. For a taste of the Soviet times or the cheapest coffee in town this place is absolutely obligatory!

Lorem Ipsum 71
Lorem Ipsum

A chance to see the inside of the Rotermann salt warehouse and get a crash course in Estonian architecture. The oldest pieces on display are the facade and interior design drawings of the house of Chivalry dating back to 1848. Open Wed-Sun 11am to 6pm. Admission €3/€1.50.

Silent Riga

This part of the town is for real adventurers! Soviet remnants, an old prison, an Estonian 1930s submarine and a Russian flea market mixed with a romantic wooden neighborhood produce a unique cityscape that is full of life. Trams no 1 and 2 (direction Kopli) take you to Kalamaja area.

Lorem Ipsum 72

Can you believe this place was used as a prison until 2005? Not comparable to the shiny new institutions, Patarei prison is a popular destination for shock tourism and occasional alternative parties. They also run a small bar with a great sea view. Open Wed-Sun 12pm-6pm (only June to September). Admission €2. During off-season only for pre-booked groups, but the harrowing place itself worth a visit any time. If you are with a group, book the full prison experience with fingerprints, mugshots, food and alcohol for €40 per person.

Lorem Ipsum 73

The incredibly cheap food always makes us order more than we can actually eat at this bohemian cafe. Sweet or savory crepes, salads and soups right behind the legendary Balti Jaam market are worth a walk even just to have a nice meal away from hordes of tourists.

Lorem Ipsum 74

A relieving alternative to classical city-malls – Russian oldsters selling homemade jam and local bums bargaining local "antique". This everything-for-sale market is a true cultural shock for a western tourist! Visit it until it's still alive, rumors say the owners want to build a big shopping center there instead.

Lorem Ipsum 75

Get sucked into the nostalgic vibe and retro interior for a drink in a relaxed environment different from the Old Town bars. Sandwiches and salads are on the menu, but creative house drinks in old Soviet tea glasses will probably make your day.

Lorem Ipsum 76

The 2.2 kilometer walking and cycling trail built for the Capital of Culture year offers funky views to the dilapidated seaside. Starting from the cruise dock it passes several interesting spots, including the Seaplane Harbour housing an old submarine, an ice-breaker and navy ships for a ticket of €7. The House of Estonian Design is also worth a visit, as is the Contemporary Art Museum of Estonia (CAME) inside an old power plant.

Lorem Ipsum 77

Kultuurikatel, or the "Culture Cauldron" is a funky new addition to Tallinn's already unconventional cultural scene. Located inside an old power plant, the complex was recently reno-