

# A Walk in Tartu

A walk that will keep Tartu beating in your heart for a long time!



- 1 Main sights
- 4 Other remarkable places
- Further away
- 200 m Distance
- Bar, café, pub, restaurant
- Public toilet
- Car park
- Bike Share station
- Bus stop

Tartu is the ideal size for a city where no stroll is long or boring. Along every step of the way, walkers are met with parks full of biodiversity, cafés bursting with the scent of coffee, and fascinating observations of history, culture, architecture and a city which is designed for people.

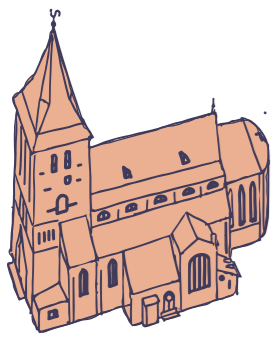
A walk in the city centre brings together everything that we feel extremely proud of in Tartu, and it is our sincere wish that this can be experienced by the locals as well as visitors. We hope that your walk will give you a good overview of life in Tartu and you will feel an immediate desire to share this tour with your friends.

Follow our recommended path for a walk in Tartu that is about 4 kilometres, or 2 hours long – or create your own path!

## Let's go!

- 1 Built in the 1780s, **Tartu Town Hall** was once also home to a prison and a weigh house. Today, the City Government, City Council, information centre, and a visitor centre all operate in the building.
- 2 **'The Kissing Students' sculpture and fountain** is one of the most recognised symbols of the city and a popular meeting place. The fountain has stood in the same place since 1951, the sculpture was added in 1998. The sculpture is by Mati Karmin.
- 3 The **Tartu Art Museum** operates as a permanent resident in the **Leaning House**. The 5.8-degree slope of the building is bigger than that of the Leaning Tower of Pisa.
- 4 The **Arch Bridge (Kaarsild)** is a pedestrian bridge connecting the city centre and the Ülejõe district. The bridge was built in 1957–1959 on the site of the former Stone Bridge (Kivisild). The students in Tartu have some fun and daring customs related to the bridge.
- 5 The **memorial square of Lydia Koidula and Johann Voldemar Jannsen**, great figures of Estonian national revival and former editors of the newspaper Eesti Postimees, is located next to the Arch Bridge (Kaarsild). The sculptures are by Mare Mikoff and Bruno Kadak.
- 6 The **street art gallery under the Arch Bridge** with a work of art by Kairo, and 'The Many Faces of President Päts', depicting the first president of the Republic of Estonia, by Edward von Lõngus.
- 7 **Culture Bar and Café Naiiv** is a unique and cosy venue on the Emajõgi River which operates as a café with a romantic view to the river during the day. At dusk, Naiiv transforms into a bar full of life and the best DJs in the city play music on the weekends.
- 8 The **city grove in Freedom park (Vabaduse puiestik)** is part of the project 'Curated Biodiversity' by the European Capital of Culture Tartu 2024, aiming to increase the natural biodiversity and bring more people into parks. The lying wood logs scattered around the park offer valuable habitats for insects.
- 9 The **street art gallery under Freedom Bridge (Vabaduse sild)** that is constantly renewed by different artists.
- 10 Spread over an area of 3.1 hectares, the **University of Tartu Botanical Garden** is home to more than 6,000 different plant species. It is definitely worth exploring the 22-metre tall palm house which is the largest greenhouse in the Baltics!
- 11 **Tartu New Theatre** is located in the former University of Tartu gymnasium building, directly opposite the Botanical Garden. The theatre offers productions that have new and unique approaches. The nearby **Genialistide Klubi** is a cool venue for evening events and concerts.
- 12 **Saiapalee Tüümian** is a small bakery where all products are prepared on-site and consist of pure raw ingredients. The selection includes pastries, kringles, macarons, cakes as well as coffee.
- 13 The **Estonian Sports and Olympic Museum** offers a wealth of knowledge and activities for sports fans of all ages. Especially exciting are the museum's hands-on attractions, such as virtual reality of legendary sports arenas, an interactive basketball corner, a retro room, the commentators' corner, and a historic gym.





**14** The oldest parts of **St. John's Church** date back to the 14th century. The church has the largest number of terracotta sculptures, dating from medieval Europe, inside the church and on the upper part of the outdoor facade of the church. In addition to church services, numerous important music events are also held in the church.

**15** The main building of the **Tartu Toy Museum** is one of the oldest preserved wooden buildings in Tartu. In 1998, the house became the home of the Toy Museum, offering lots of joy to children and fun moments of recognition to visitors of any age.



**16** **Gustav II Adolf**, the former King of Sweden, is the founder of the University of Tartu, whose original monument stood behind the main building of the university from 1928 until 1950. The restored monument was unveiled in April 1992 by the Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia.

**17** **Elektriteater** is the only art-house cinema in Tartu, focusing mainly on Estonian and European films and documentaries. The building was originally built in 1860 as the Lutheran Church of the University of Tartu and has also served as a library.

**18** The **Main Building of the University of Tartu**, opened in 1809, is one of the gems of the city. All of the university's important events have been celebrated in its main hall and thanks to its good acoustics, it has also become a popular venue for concerts and conferences.



**19** **Café Werner**, located close to the Main Building of the University of Tartu, is one of the oldest cafés in Estonia. Werner has historically been a popular place among the local intellectuals as well as the university's lecturers and students.

**20** **Pirogov Square** is a popular meeting place among students and open-minded people of all ages. The square is named after the University of Tartu Professor Nikolay Pirogov (1810–1881), who established modern field surgery and adopted the use of etherisation and plaster casts. Good to know, this is the only park where light alcohol can be consumed – from March to October.



**21** Located directly on the slope of Toome Hill (Toomemägi) is the **Gunpowder Cellar** which performed its intended function until the beginning of the 19th century. Later, the university acquired the cellar and leased it to the brewer Schramm. At the end of the 19th century, the cellar was used to study earthquakes and magnetic phenomena. Currently, the Gunpowder Cellar is home to a beer restaurant that has an 11-metre high ceiling.

**22** The **Angel's Bridge (Inglisild)**, completed in 1838, has a low relief on the Toome Hill (Toomemägi) side of the bridge that depicts the first rector of the reopened university, G. Fr. Parrot, and the Latin text 'Otium reficit vires', meaning 'Leisure renews the powers.'

**23** **Toome Hill (Toomemägi)** was home to the ancient Estonian stronghold Tarbatu, and later the medieval episcopal centre with a castle and a cathedral. At the beginning of the 19th century, the University of Tartu established a park and university buildings on the hill.



**24** Construction of the **Tartu Cathedral** began in the 13th century. At the end of the Middle Ages, it was one of the largest sacral buildings in all of Old Livonia and was destroyed during the Livonian War.

As part of the reopening of the university in 1802, the chancel section of the cathedral was reconstructed and is currently home to the University of Tartu Museum.

**25** The **street art** piece 'Cannabear & Witch Hunter' by Edward von Lõngus.

**26** The **Devil's Bridge (Kuradisild)** was built to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty in 1913. The bridge is one of the few concrete bridges preserved from the early 20th century.

**27** The **Old Anatomical Theatre** is a classicist-style building on Toome Hill (Toomemägi) that was built in 1805 as a teaching building for the university's Faculty of Medicine. The faculty's historic medical collections can now be viewed at the Science Centre AHHA.



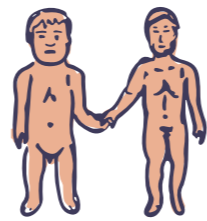
**28** The **street art gallery** with works of art, including 'Ouroboros' by Maari Soekov.

**29** Built at the beginning of the 19th century, the **Tartu Observatory** was one of the most important centres of astronomy in the world during its time. Nowadays, you can visit the observatory to view the permanent exhibition, try the world's finest telescope, count falling meteors and learn the constellations. In 2005, Struve's Geodetic Arc, one measurement point of which is located in the Tartu Observatory, was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

**30** The **viewing platform** on Toome Hill (Toomemägi) offers a picturesque place to have a rest for a bit and lovely views of the city centre and its surrounding area.



**31** The sculpture of the Irish writer **Oscar Wilde** and the Estonian writer **Eduard Vilde**, in front of the restaurant Vilde ja Vine, depicts a fun speculation on literary history. The sculpture is by Tiit Kirsipuu.



**32** The **sculpture 'Father and Son'** symbolises the relationship of different generations, in which children are outgrowing their parents. Ülo Õun modelled the sculpture in 1977, depicting himself and his infant son.

**33** Built in 1937, **Tartu Market Hall** is a unique building and the largest one that has been constructed for the use of a market. For the market's 70th birthday, the sculpture 'Bronze Pig' was installed in front of the building, symbolising wealth and trading. The sculpture is by Mati Karmin.

**34** The area along the banks of the Emajõgi River is a nice place to visit at any time of the year, but it really comes to life at the beginning of summer when the weather is warm enough to go for a run, have a picnic with friends, or simply enjoy the moment. One of the more crowded places – where fun, music and good food come together – is the **Emajõe Riviera promenade**.



On the other side of the river, you can see an iconic Tartu riverside building, built in the 1960s as the restaurant Kaunas. A place of leisure for generations of locals, it also accommodated the nightclub Atlantis and is now the home to the Shaté dance school.

**35** For centuries, the centre of the City of Tartu has been the **Town Hall Square**, history of which dates back to the ancient times. Even at that time, the square was the main trading place which connected the stronghold, located on Toome Hill (Toomemägi), and the ports along the Emajõgi River.



Quite often you can find the **Tartu 2024 travelling landmark** here. It was created to celebrate Tartu and Southern Estonia as the European Capital of Culture in 2024 and it has become one of the most popular places in Tartu for taking a selfie or a group photo!



## Other remarkable places

**1** **Estonian National Museum** — an award-winning museum presenting Estonian culture in the most enchanting way.

**2** **Upside Down House** — a dizzying adventure.

**3** **Tartu City Museum** — tells the story of both the past and the present Tartu.

**4** **Tartu outdoor market** — operating on the shore of the Emajõgi River, the trading takes place mainly with seasonal produce, flowers, plants and industrial goods.

**5** Shopping centre **Tasku**.

**6** **Tartu Bus Station** — arrival and departure place of long-distance and county bus routes.

**7** **Science Centre AHHA** — the biggest in the Baltics, introducing science to everyone through the joy of discovery.

**8** **Aura Centre** — a water centre for the whole family with a swimming pool, a water park and a sauna centre.

**9** **City Centre Park Playground** — a playground, inspired by Southern Estonian hilly landscape, for children of all ages.

**10** Shopping centre **Tartu Kaubamaja**.

**11** Shopping centre **Kvartal**.

**12** **V spa hotel and conference centre** — the best place to enjoy spa treatments and excellent food as well as organise conferences.

**13** **Tartu Nature House** — Tartu Environmental Education Centre, surrounded by a spacious park with various species.

**14** **Barlova** — a beloved community bar located in the historic wooden district of Karlova.

**15** **The Widget Factory (Aparaaditehas)** — a culture factory, bringing together creative entrepreneurs, artists' studios, design shops, trade and entertainment with good food.

**16** **Theatre Vanemuine** — Estonia's only three-genre theatre, including drama, musical productions and ballet.

**17** **University of Tartu Library** — a library that is always full of scientific literature and students.

**18** **Tartu Railway Station** — historic railway building where trains across Estonia arrive to and depart from.

**19** **Ula** — one of Tartu's smallest bars, located on the edge of Toome Hill (Toomemägi), is especially famous for its outdoor snow bar in winter.

**20** **Tartu Song Festival Grounds** — a symbolic place where concerts, singing and dance festivities, sports events, and theatre performances take place.

**21** **A. Le Coq Beer World** — a museum where you can get an idea of what beer was like in the old days and how beer has been made in Tartu through the years.

**22** **Antonius courtyard** — culture, arts and crafts centre operating in the heart of the city.

**23** **Tampere House** and **24** **Uppsala House** — Tartu's oldest wooden houses. The core of Uppsala House was built around 1720, making it 300 years old!

**25** **Rüütli street** — a lively street with plenty of cafés and bars.

**26** **City wall** — a section of the wall that was two kilometres long and two metres thick when it surrounded the medieval heart of Tartu.

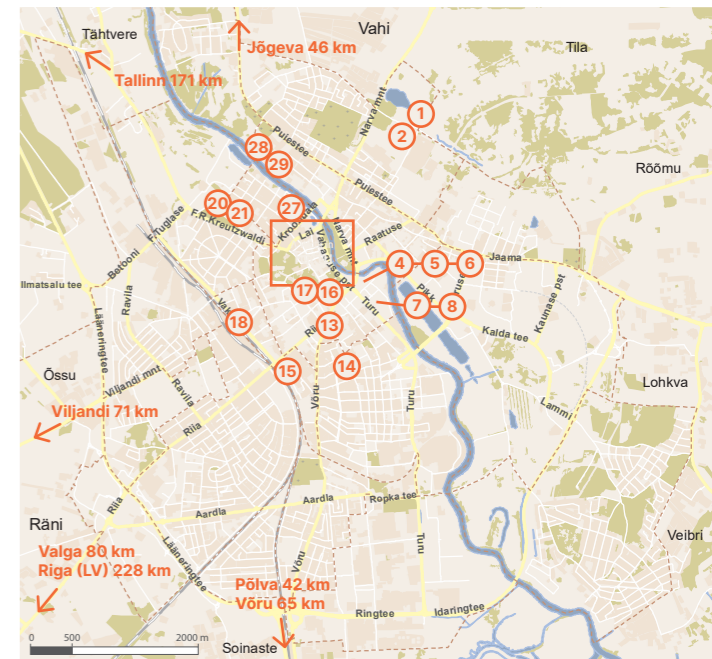
**27** **Käkk** — a pastry café located amongst the colourful houses in the Supilinn district, that becomes a cosy bar called **Mülä** during the evening.

**28** **City's outdoor swimming pool** — a swimming spot located on the left bank of the Emajõgi River.

**29** **Barge Hall** — a theme park where you can see the construction of a barge, participate in workshops and tours, and sail on a barge along the Emajõgi River.

**30** **University of Tartu Delta Centre** and the outdoor stairs — a favourite place among the residents of Tartu to enjoy urban nature and the Emajõgi River.

**31** **Tartu City Library** — a well-stocked reading space and a venue for literary events.



## Visit Tartu

[www.visittartu.com](http://www.visittartu.com)

@visittartu  
on Facebook, Instagram

**Tartu Visitor Centre:**  
Town Hall 1 (Raekoja plats 1a)  
telephone (+372) 744 2111

## European Capital of Culture Tartu 2024

[www.tartu2024.ee](http://www.tartu2024.ee)

@tartu2024  
on Facebook, Instagram,  
TikTok, Twitter

## Find events and activities in Tartu and Southern Estonia

[kultuuriaken.ee](http://kultuuriaken.ee)

## Share your emotions by using

#visittartu #tartu2024



## Public Transport in Tartu



All inner city bus routes and timetables can be found at [www.peatus.ee](http://www.peatus.ee) or in **Tartu Bus Schedule** smartphone application.

One-hour ticket can be bought on the bus from the on-board validator also with contactless bank cards. Read about other ticket options at [tartu.pilet.ee/buy](http://tartu.pilet.ee/buy).

## Tartu Bike Share



Tartu Smart Bike Share is a public self-service bike share system for short trips with over 750 bikes and 94 stations. Visit [ratas.tartu.ee](http://ratas.tartu.ee) for more information and tickets.

## Public Transport in Estonia Public Transport to Riga in Latvia

Find regional and long-distance bus routes and timetables at [www.peatus.ee](http://www.peatus.ee). Bus tickets can be bought in advance at [www.tpilet.ee](http://www.tpilet.ee), and in **Tartu Bus Station** 5 (Turu 2). Find train routes, timetables, and buy tickets in advance at [www.elron.ee](http://www.elron.ee) or in **Tartu Railway Station** 17 (Vaksali 6).

Please check the official websites of the sights, institutions or service providers for the latest information. We wish you an amazing stay in Tartu!

visit TARTU

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European Capital of Culture