

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 take a walk!

1 Our walk begins at one of Tartu's most important and historic spots – the **Town Hall Square**. This lively square has been the heart of the city since ancient times, serving as a key trading hub between the fortress on Toome Hill and the harbours along the Emajõgi River. While wars and fires have reshaped the area over time, most of the current buildings date back to the 18th and 19th centuries, showcasing elegant Classical and Neoclassical architecture.

2 On the Toome Hill side of the square stands Tartu's elegant three-storey **Town Hall** with its distinctive hipped roof. This is the third town hall built on this site, completed in 1789. Its design follows the tradition of Dutch Baroque city palaces, with touches of early Classical style. Look up at the tower – it houses Estonia's oldest and largest carillon, with 34 bells playing beautiful melodies every day at 9:00, 12:00, 15:00, 18:00, and 21:00. Inside, the Tartu City Government is based, alongside the Information Centre and a 24-hour pharmacy.

3 The **Kissing Students** are one of Tartu's most beloved symbols. The fountain has stood here since 1948, and the sculpture, representing youth, love, and student life, was added in 1998. The fountain is surrounded by tiles featuring the names of Tartu's twin cities.

4 The **Leaning House**. This quirky house, built in 1793, has captured everyone's attention – it's tilted by 5.8 degrees, which is even more than the Pisa Tower! The tilt happened because the riverside section was built on an old city wall, while the other side rests on a softer, swampy foundation. Today, the house is home to the Tartu Art Museum, but it was once the workplace of Oskar Luts, the famous Estonian writer and former pharmacist.

5 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.

6 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.

7 The **street art gallery under the Arch Bridge** with a work of art by Kairo, and 'The Many Faces of President Pääs', depicting the first president of the Republic of Estonia, by Edward von Lõngus.

8 The "Curated Biodiversity" project, which was part of the European Capital of Culture Tartu 2024, started in the **city grove along Freedom Park (Vabaduse puistik)**. The aim was to increase natural biodiversity and bring more people into Tartu's parks. The lying wood logs scattered around the park provide valuable habitats for insects.

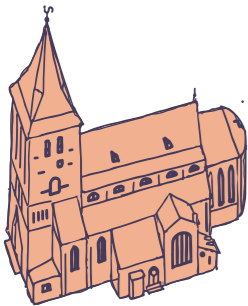
9 The **street art gallery under Freedom Bridge (Vabaduse sild)** that is constantly renewed by different artists.

10 Spread over more than three hectares, the **University of Tartu Botanical Garden** is home to more than 6,000 different plant species. Be sure to check out the 22-metre palm house, the largest greenhouse in the Baltics!

11 **Knorring Manor House** is named after its original owners, the von Knorring family. This centuries-old building is a prime example of Tartu's classical architectural style, with its beautifully preserved interior considered one of the most unique in Estonia.



12 The **Estonian Sports and Olympic Museum** offers a wealth of knowledge and activities for sports fans of all ages.



13 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.

14 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.



15 **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.

16 **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.

17 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.

18 **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.

19 At the foot of Toomemäe Hill lies **Pirogov Park**, which was created on the ruins levelled after World War II. In the park, you'll find a monument to Nikolai Pirogov. Pirogov studied and worked at the University of Tartu, where he established modern field surgery and introduced ether anaesthesia and plaster casts. The park is a popular gathering spot for students.



20 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. 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.

21 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.'

22 **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.



23 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.

24 The **street art** piece 'Cannabeard & Witch Hunter' by Edward von Lõngus.

25 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.

26 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.



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

28 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.

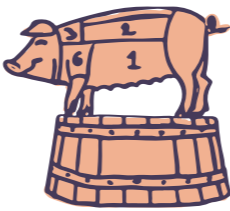
29 The **viewing platform** on Toome Hill (Toomemägi) offers a picturesque place to have a rest for a bit and lovely views of the city centre and its surrounding area.



30 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.

31 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.



32 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.

33 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. The buzz, music, and great food come together on both sides of the river. You'll surely notice the building on the other side of the river. Originally opened as the Kaunas restaurant in the 1960s, it later became the Atlantis nightclub, and today it is home to the Alexela Loomelava venue.



34 You've now made your way back to **Town Hall Square**, where your walk began. Take a moment to notice other interesting landmarks, buildings, monuments, and the natural beauty around you, and enjoy Tartu's delicious flavours at our cafés and restaurants.



Find more information about the sites you've seen, use the QR code and visit our website visittartu.com/a-walk-in-tartu.

Both the following list and the map markers include plenty of additional recommendations for places you won't want to miss during your time in Tartu. Enjoy your stay in Tartu!



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 **HOPP Design Shop** - a gallery shop in the Old Town offering creations by various local designers.

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 **Supilinna Pond** – cleaned in 2024 as part of the urbanLIFecircles project. It is an important habitat for several species.

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

29 **Barge Hall (Lodjakoda)** — a unique theme park where you can learn how traditional watercraft were built, take part in workshops, and sail on a wooden boat 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.



Tartu city and county tourist information

www.visittartu.com

Tartu Information Centre Tourist information
Town Hall **2** (Raekoja plats 1a)
telephone (+372) 744 2111

Find events and activities in Tartu and Southern Estonia

www.kultuuriaken.ee

Share your experiences
and mention us in your posts

@visittartu

Public Transport in Tartu

All inner city bus routes and timetables can be found at www.peatus.ee or in **Tartu bussiajad** 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.

Tartu Bike Share

Tartu Smart Bike Share is a public self-service bike share system for short trips with over 750 bikes and 100 stations. Visit ratas.tartu.ee for more information and tickets.

Extend your journey to Southern Estonia

Tartu County and the whole of South Estonia are full of wonderful places to visit. Find inspiration at www.visitsoutheastonia.com.

Once you've chosen your destination, you can find information about regional and long-distance bus routes and timetables at www.peatus.ee. Bus tickets can be purchased in advance at www.tpiilet.ee and at the **Tartu bus station** **6** (Turu 2). For train routes, timetables, and advance ticket sales, visit www.elron.ee or head to the **Tartu railway station** **18** (Vaksali 6).

Please check the official websites of the sights, institutions or service providers for the latest information.

visit TARTU