

# Estonia



Estonia has come under the rule of many different countries including Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Russia. It first gained its independence in 1918 but was later incorporated into the Soviet Union until 1991, at which time Estonia declared its independence. It is now a member of both NATO and the EU.

Lying on the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Finland, Estonia is located between Latvia and Russia and is some 45,000 sq. km. In land mass, including 1,520 islands in the Baltic. It has nearly 4,000 km of coastline so its climate is considered maritime with wet, moderate winters and cool summers.

Natural resources include oil shale, peat, phosphorite, clay, limestone, sand, dolomite, arable land and sea mud. Its official name is the Republic of Estonia or Eesti Vabariik. The capital city of Estonia is Tallinn where the government, a parliamentary republic, resides. The country is divided into 15 counties.

Estonia has made the difficult transition from a central economy to a market economy, pegging its currency to the euro. Strong electronics and telecommunications industries are supported by Finland, Sweden, and Germany, its largest trade partners. Additionally, its industry sector includes engineering, wood and wood products, textile, and information technology. Estonia exports machinery and equipment, wood and paper, textiles, food products, furniture, metals and chemical products. It imports machinery, chemicals, textiles, transportation equipment and food.

