



THE 14TH BALTIC STATES TRIENNIAL CONSERVATORS' MEETING 2026 Tallinn

Connecting Histories: Conservation in a Shifting Landscape

All tours will be guided, scheduled for 1,5-3 hours. Please be on time!

Excursions and visits registration forms will be located next to the Conference Registration Check-In Desk.

Thursday, 23 April

1. Conservation and Digitisation Centre Kanut

Point for gathering: Pikk tn 2, Tallinn <https://maps.app.goo.gl/ju7sjY7dfTTBGdct5>

Number of participants: 20 + 20 (2 groups)

Schedule: 16:00-17:30

<https://evm.ee/conservation-and-digitisation-centre-kanut>

Kanut Centre, which has had different names over time, has been active for over thirty years. In 1986, the predecessor of Kanut, the National Restoration Centre, was established on the basis of the Estonian Open Air Museum, the National Museum of Art, and conservators of the National Library of Estonia.

Kanut provides a comprehensive range of conservation, restoration, and digitization services to culturally and emotionally valuable items of the museums, institutions, and individuals.

In Kanut, it is possible to visit various conservation studios and a digitization studio. Kanuti's advantage is the location of several different specialists in the same building. The best conservation and digitization practices have been implemented.

2. The National Archives of Estonia and The National Library of Estonia

Point for gathering: Endla 3, Tallinn <https://maps.app.goo.gl/FPu3Pxg6iQBi2oSz9>

Number of participants: 20

Schedule: 16:00-18:00

<https://www.ra.ee/en/>

<https://www.rara.ee/en/>

The National Archives of Estonia is the centre of archival administration in Estonia and has its departments in Tallinn, Tartu, Rakvere and Valga. The main task of the National Archives is to ensure preservation and usability of society's written memory, documented cultural heritage for today's and future generations. The National Archives collects and preserves records documenting history, culture,



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nationhood and social conditions in Estonia not depending on time or place of creation, or character of data medium.

One task of the National Library is to collect, preserve, and make available all national publications, i.e. printed materials, audio and video recordings, as well as electronic and online publications published in Estonia. They have been collecting these since 1918, when the State Library, predecessor of the National Library, was founded.

The buildings of the National Library of Estonia have undergone a major renovation in recent years, and the Estonian National Archives were also moved into the same building. It is possible to tour the newly built archive rooms and conservation studio. The library is not yet open to visitors, but during the tour you can also visit their newly renovated rooms.

3. Tallinn Old Town tour

Point for gathering: Balti jaam, near Circle K convenience store
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/qtafpG9xbTR28fRs7>

Number of participants: 35

Schedule: 17:00-18:30

Tallinn Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of Europe's best-preserved medieval, Hanseatic trading cities, dating from the 13th-16th centuries.

During the excursion we will visit the Old Town and get acquainted with Estonian history and how Tallinn as a city tells that story. We will see the most important landmarks but also hear interesting stories of life in the city dating back to medieval times. What was daily life like, how was the social hierarchy built up, who could actually do craftsmens work, how were people punished on the Town Hall square and where rests the famous mummy and what happened to his body.

Saturday, 25 April

1. Estonian Academy of Arts, department of Cultural Heritage and Conservation

Point for gathering: Põhja pst 7, Tallinn <https://maps.app.goo.gl/3z6bKURMuva1bebd8>

Number of participants: 25

Schedule: 10:00 - 12:00

<https://www.artun.ee/en/curricula/cultural-heritage-conservation/>

The Academy of Arts is the only school of higher education in Estonia where one can acquire an academic higher education in cultural heritage and architectural conservation and restoration, as well



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as the conservation and restoration of art. The department's faculty members are recognised and highly respected specialists in their fields.

The tour of the Academy of Arts takes you to the department's conservation studios - painting conservation and sculpture conservation. It also introduces objects currently under conservation and research, and shows the academic building in general.

2. The Estonian Knighthood House

Place for gathering: Kiriku plats 1, Tallinn <https://maps.app.goo.gl/fFe6R4RioxhgkUhK9>

Number of participants: 25

Schedule: 10:00 -12:00

<https://riigikantselei.ee/ryytelkonna-hoone>

An opportunity to visit the newly renovated House of Estland's Nobility, now designated as the Statehood House of the Republic of Estonia. The oldest part of the building dates from 1690-1694. Over its 330 years of existence, it has housed various institutions, including Estland's Knighthood, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Library, the Art Museum of Estonia, and the Estonian Academy of Arts.

The walls of the Assembly Room display 280 coats of arms of the noble families of Estland's Knighthood. In the Üxküll Salon, the largest and oldest canvas plafond painting in Estonia is exhibited in its original location. The conservation of both the coats of arms and the plafond will be among the topics presented at the triennial.

As this is a high-ranking government building, certain security measures are required. We kindly ask that you register for the tour no later than by the 24th of April and provide your identification number for a background check.

3. The Kiek in de Kök Fortifications Museum

Place for gathering: Komandandi tee 2, Tallinn <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Rodgy4wrYps2hZiF9>

Number of participants: 20

Schedule: 11:00 - 12:30

<https://www.linnamuuseum.ee/en/kiek-in-de-kok/>

The Kiek in de Kök Fortification Museum is a museum complex over 500 metres long.

It comprises four medieval towers: Kiek in de Kök, the Maiden Tower, the Marstal Tower and the Short Leg Gate Tower. The Fortification Museum also includes the underground BASTION Towers of the earthworks, built at the end of the 17th century, and the Carved Stone Museum housed in them.



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The Fortress Museum presents the city's historical fortifications, the late 18th-century houses of the citizens built in the towers and along the wall, the artists who lived in the tower, and the famous café built in the 1980s in the Maiden Tower. Tallinn's longest gallery and towers offer sweeping views of the Old Town.

The Kiek in de Kök exhibition provides an overview of Tallinn's defensive history and fortifications. As Tallinn's first artillery tower, it was completed in its original form in 1483. The name of the tower as it is known today was first mentioned in 1577 in a description of the second siege of Tallinn. Kiek in de Kök is also the tallest defence tower in the city from the late 17th century, when a massive birch roof was added to the tower.

The tour will feature the latest permanent exhibition opened in 2024.

4. The Tallinn City Life Museum

Place for gathering: Vene tn 17, Tallinn <https://maps.app.goo.gl/C7SY2q6cfMR4JGrDA>

Number of participants: 20

Schedule: 11:00 - 12:30

<https://www.linnamuuseum.ee/en/linnamuuseum/about-the-museum/>

The Tallinn City Life Museum sits in the heart of the Old Town on Vene Street, in what was once a wealthy merchant's home. This medieval house brings the story of Tallinn to life through the people who have shaped the city across centuries. Visitors can explore how people lived, worked, and built their fortunes here. The exhibitions tell the city's history through personal, memorable stories, inviting everyone to dive into Tallinn's rich and diverse heritage.

Spread across five floors, the museum traces Tallinn's story from the Hanseatic League to 20th-century homes, fashion, and technological innovations. Interactive exhibits and rare treasures from the city's collections offer discoveries for all ages, from first-time visitors to devoted history enthusiasts.

The open repository in the medieval vaulted cellars takes visitors on a journey through time via the dining tables of Tallinn's residents, showcasing ceramic, metal, and porcelain tableware alongside rich collections of copper, brass, bronze, and tin objects.

The tour will feature the latest permanent exhibition opened in 2025.

5. The Kadriorg Art Museum. Exhibition: From Restorer to Conservator and visit to the conservation department in KUMU.

Place for gathering: Weizenbergi 37, Tallinn <https://maps.app.goo.gl/mq3nLUtrPXpT4fCd6>

Number of participants: 15



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Schedule: 11:00-13:30

<https://kadriorumuseum.ekm.ee/en/syndmus/from-restorer-to-conservator-kadriorg/>

The Conservation Department of the Art Museum of Estonia is celebrating its 50th anniversary with an exhibition in three different locations: the Kadriorg Art Museum, the Niguliste Museum and the Adamson-Eric Museum.

The jubilee exhibition in the Kadriorg Art Museum looks into the world of painting conservators: a field in which the hidden life of art works and stories of restoring them become intertwined in a coherent whole.

The display at the Kadriorg Art Museum is dedicated to the conservation of classic paintings. One part of the exhibition provides a systematic overview of the conservator's most important work processes and technical studies, offering visitors a behind-the-scenes look at conservation through videos and multimedia. Exceptionally, the exhibition also features a painting in a complex condition whose conservation has only just begun, allowing visitors to grasp the kinds of challenges conservators face on a daily basis.

The second part of the exhibition presents twelve masterpieces from the permanent displays of the Kadriorg Art Museum and the Mikkel Museum, each accompanied by fascinating and insightful stories about their conservation.

After the exhibition visit you will visit the conservation department studios located in KUMU. It unites conservators of paintings, works of art on paper, picture frames, contemporary art, sculptures and polychrome wood. Their task is to look after the art museum's works of art, which are made from a variety of materials in various techniques, from the Middle Ages to the present day.

6. Tallinn City Hall

The meeting point for the tour at Linnahall is in front of the Linnahall stairs (left side):

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/tzMQML3yPpoyEUZN7> You are at the right place if you see the stairs of

Linnahall at this picture: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/7jCcFCM95dPQrHrk8>

Number of participants: 25

Schedule: 14:00-15:30

Originally the V. I. Lenin Tallinn Culture and Sports Palace, now known as Tallinn Linnahall, was designed for the most important concerts, celebrations, and receptions. Its design emphasizes axial symmetry and mathematical beauty, drawing inspiration from the temple architecture of ancient civilizations like Mesopotamia and Egypt. The project was completed in 1976, and the Linnahall itself



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was finished in 1980, with the addition of an ice hall in 1981. The exterior design of the building—relatively low and blending well with the surroundings of the old town, the utilization of the building's roof for walkways and viewing platforms, as well as the simplicity and laconic nature of the exterior finish—quickly gained significant popularity.

The total length of the building is nearly 300 meters, and its width is 160 meters, covering a total area of 38,479 square meters. Apart from the opportunity to walk across the roof of the building, another astonishing experience is that the building is situated right at the edge of the sea.

This outstanding example of postmodern architecture offers recognition and surprises alike.

Please dress for the tour according to the weather (the tour also takes you on to the rooftop of Linnahall, where it can be windy or rainy, depending on the day). The building itself is not heated and is rather cold/chill all around the year.

As there are many 'dark corners' in Linnahall and the building has electricity just in parts of the building, you can bring along your own flashlights/torches (if you have) – more light sources will give you a better experience of the place!

We also have to acknowledge that people have to stay with the guide at all times in Linnahall and it is forbidden to separate from the group and explore the building on your own – if you have any doubts, please consult with your guide.

7. Patarei Sea Fortress

The meeting point for the tour at Patarei Sea Fortress will be the chimney next to Patarei Sea Fortress (Kalaranna 28). You will see the chimney when you approach the fortress from the direction of Seaplane Harbour. The chimney is also visible on the picture here - <https://qoo.gl/maps/qFLBWmrWtU2nZkdBA> the point for gathering is here:

<https://qoo.gl/maps/kfiuCUSNpciSC2qo6>

Number of participants: 25

Schedule: 14:00-15:30

Throughout history, Kalaranna Fortress has known many names and functions.

In the 1820s, Alexander I of Russia approved a fortification plan that included establishing a marine defence front around Tallinn. The next emperor Nicholas I started implementing the plan, and in 1830, construction works of the Kalaranna Fort were launched. It was an impressive stronghold with 2-metre seaside walls and three storeys of 72 larger and 18 smaller cannon chambers. The main structure of the fortress consists of a sharp-angled and two-winged building on the land side and a curved rampart on the seaside.



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By the mid-19th century, the fortress lost its military purposes and was refurbished into barracks that accommodated up to several thousand soldiers at a time.

After the Estonian War of Independence, prisons were overflowing, and the Ministry of Justice decided to re-purpose the underutilised military complex as a prison. Officially established on 30 July 1919 and called the Central Prison, people quickly dubbed it 'Patarei' meaning 'the battery' (like in 'artillery battery'). The prison era entails some of the building's most curious and notorious stories shared by the tour guides.

On this exclusive tour, the Estonian Centre for Architecture invites you to cast the last look at the sea fortress in its present form before it is transformed beyond recognition

We advise to dress according to the weather – inside the Patarei Sea Fortress it's rather cool at any season, it is also quite windy at the seaside. Please wear appropriate shoes for the tour (suitable for moving on uneven surfaces and on 'rubble', as the site is still under construction/renovation).

As there are many 'dark corners' in the sea fortress, we advise you bring along your own flashlights/torches (if you have) – more light sources will give you a better experience of the place!

We also have to acknowledge that people have to stay with the group at all times in Patarei Sea Fortress and it is strictly forbidden to separate from the group and explore the building on your own.

8. Adamson-Eric Museum. Exhibition: From Restorer to Conservator

Place for gathering: Lühike jalg 3, Tallinn <https://maps.app.goo.gl/zdGcohgctTsTaUgDA>

Number of participants: 20

Schedule: 13:00-14:00

<https://adamson-eric.ekm.ee/en/syndmus/from-restorer-to-conservator-conservation-department-of-the-art-museum-of-estonia-50/>

The Conservation Department of the Art Museum of Estonia is celebrating its 50th anniversary with an exhibition in three different locations: the Kadriorg Art Museum, the Niguliste Museum and the Adamson-Eric Museum.

The exhibition sheds light on the craft of conservators, as exemplified by seminal works from 20th-century Estonian art.

This exhibition focuses on works of art on paper, which is a delicate and fragile base material. Various techniques have been used to create art on paper: the display includes examples of different graphic art techniques, charcoal, Indian ink and pencil drawings, pastels and watercolours, and gouache, tempera and oil paintings.

Works are displayed at this exhibition in a manner that invites viewers to notice their structure, materials, techniques, lifespan and conservation history. Visitors have the opportunity to observe how



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conservators work and solve problems, and to find out how restoration developed into contemporary conservation. Every work on display is special in one way or another from the point of view of its artistic qualities or technique, which is why people working in the Department of Conservation of the Art Museum of Estonia have had to develop and apply innovative conservation methods.

9. The Niguliste Museum. Exhibition: From Restorer to Conservator

Place for gathering: Niguliste tn 3, Tallinn <https://maps.app.goo.gl/amEohcuxmmSQbhad6>

Number of participants: 30

Schedule: 13:00-14:00

<https://nigulistemuuseum.ekm.ee/en/syndmus/from-restorer-to-conservator-conservation-department-of-the-art-museum-of-estonia-50-niguliste-museum/>

The museum is housed in St. Nicholas' Church, built in the 13th century, and is one of the few museums in northern Europe located in a former church building, where ecclesiastical art can be enjoyed in its historical context. The stars of the museum's collection are late medieval altarpieces from northern Germany and the Netherlands, and Bernt Notke's painting *Danse Macabre* from the late 15th century. A particularly valuable part of the collection is silverware that used to belong to churches, guilds and the Brotherhood of Black Heads, currently displayed in the Silver Chamber.

The Conservation Department of the Art Museum of Estonia is celebrating its 50th anniversary with an exhibition in three different locations: the Niguliste Museum, the Adamson-Eric Museum and the Kadriorg Art Museum. The exhibition at the Niguliste Museum focuses on the conservation of art of the past and the present, highlighting cross-era challenges and solutions. In the main hall, the exhibition reveals the long and often contested restoration history of some of Estonia's most emblematic medieval works of art, a story of care and intervention that began in the early modern period and continues to the present day. Over the centuries, these works have undergone cleaning, repair and overpainting, reflecting changing understandings of the value and vulnerability of artworks.

On the third floor of the Niguliste tower, a separate exhibition explores the conservation of contemporary art, bringing into focus modern works of art and the specific challenges of their preservation. The diverse materials and concepts of contemporary art, from traditional techniques to video installations, immersive spatial works, kinetic mechanisms and ephemeral solutions, pose unique challenges for conservators. The selected works offer insight into how thoughtful and responsible preservation helps maintain the identity of artworks, and the integrity of their materials and ideas.