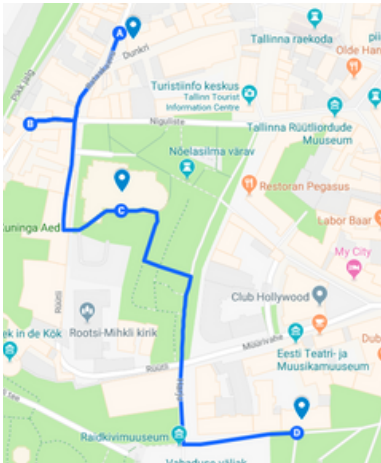


OLD TOWN TOUR

- CAT'S WELL
- LÜHIKE JALG
- ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH
- HARJU GATE



CAT'S WELL

Rataskaevu also known as Cat's Well, located in Rataskaevu 7, is one of the best examples of medieval old wells. Built in 1375, it was one of the major sources of water in Tallinn.

Animal sacrifices

In the old times it was believed that some kind of evil spirits were living in the well, wanting to destroy the city by flooding the streets. In order to keep that from happening residents started making animal sacrifices, the main objects of sacrifices being cats. Throwing cats into the well became so common that locals started to call it the Cat's Well. The well was closed in the middle of the last century because of hygienic reasons.

LÜHIKE JALG

LÜHIKE JALG IS A NARROW STREET WITH LOTS OF STAIRS, LOCATED BETWEEN RATASKAEVU STREET AND LONG FOOT, IT CONNECTS TOOMPEA WITH LOWER OLD TOWN. THE NAME OF THE STREET HAS BEEN CHANGED REPEATEDLY THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY, BUT SINCE 1966 REMAINED THE SAME: "LÜHIKE JALG"

Ghosts???

The Short-Leg Gate Tower and surrounding houses are known for having very persistent ghosts. People have witnessed huge bloody faces on the walls, life size ships sailing through the houses, and most commonly a dark monk like figure, sometimes bloody and sometimes not, praying with a glowing cross on the wall. The monk can be quite violent if he wants. He brakes and hides things but also hits the living.



ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

St Nicholas' Church is one of the most beautiful and famous churches in Estonia and is mostly known by the name of Niguliste. This magnificent structure is located in Tallinn Old Town and is only a minute walk away from the Town Hall Square. Once a medieval church dedicated to the patron saint of seafarers and merchants – Saint Nicholas, now used as a concert hall and an art museum.

History

St Nicholas' Church is believed to have been built in the middle of the 13th century by the German merchants. Niguliste was not used only as a shrine or a secure fortress, but also as a place to store highly-valued goods. Later, in the 14th century, it has lost its fortress functions and became just another medieval church. During World War II enormous destructions were caused to the church, almost everything that was left in the building was destroyed by fire. After the war St Nicholas' Church remained closed for years. The reconstruction started in 1953 and finally, in 1984, Niguliste was reopened for the public.

Sponsor ticket 8 € | Adults 6 € | Concessions 5 € | Family ticket* 12 € | Art Museum of Estonia 100 annual ticket 100 €

Open
May–September
Mon–Sun 10am–6pm
Tickets may be purchased until 30 minutes before the museum closes
October–April
Wed–Sun 10am–5pm
Tickets may be purchased until 30 minutes before the museum closes
One-Euro Wednesdays 2019
6 February, 12 June, 4 September, 4 December
The museum is open until 8pm



HARJU GATE

As one walks up to visit the War of Independence Victory Column in Tallinn's Old Town Freedom Square, the remains of the city's fortifications can be seen along the sides. One of the old city's gates was located near this site and the remains are visible in an excavated ditch in the Square.

HISTORY

As harju street was called Blacksmiths street the gate too use to have the same name-Blacksmith's Gate, which was first mentioned in 1361. The gates were closed in the 16th century as fortifications were then modernized, then reopened in 1767 with the main tower being demolished in 1875. The gate had four defence gates and five towers, a watermill and artificial lake. The remains were put on display when Freedom Square was renovated in 2009.

NOTIONS

- **MEDIEVAL-RELATING TO THE MIDDLE AGES**
- **RESIDENT-** A PERSON WHO LIVES SOMEWHERE PERMANENTLY OR ON A LONG-TERM BASIS
- **SACRIFICE-** AN ACT OF SLAUGHTERING AN ANIMAL OR PERSON OR SURRENDERING A POSSESSION AS AN OFFERING TO A DEITY
- **SEAFARER-** A PERSON WHO REGULARLY TRAVELS BY SEA; A SAILOR
- **MERCHANT-** A PERSON INVOLVED IN WHOLESALE TRADE, ESPECIALLY ONE DEALING WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES OR SUPPLYING GOODS TO A PARTICULAR TRADE
- **FORTRESS-** A MILITARY STRONGHOLD, ESPECIALLY A STRONGLY FORTIFIED TOWN
- **FORTIFICATION-** A DEFENSIVE WALL OR OTHER REINFORCEMENT BUILT TO STRENGTHEN A PLACE AGAINST ATTACK
- **EXCAVATE-** MAKE (A HOLE OR CHANNEL) BY DIGGING
- **DEMOLISH-** PULL OR KNOCK DOWN (A BUILDING)
- **SATE-** A PERSON ACKNOWLEDGED AS HOLY OR VIRTUOUS AND REGARDED IN CHRISTIAN FAITH AS BEING IN HEAVEN AFTER DEATH