

June 27th: official opening and guided tour Estonian National Museum



Main entrance Estonian National Museum



Jakob Hurt, founder of the museum



Opening Ceremony

After the opening ceremony in the entrance hall of the museum we got a guided tour through the museum.

The museum is built on the old landing strip of a military base. It is a very tall, modern building. The right wall inside is made of sand of the Estonian coastline.



In the museum you can find the history of the country from ice age until current day. Showcased in a very creative way.

The tour guide called it the wings and roots of the Estonian people. Education, development and innovation gives you wings, but don't forget where you come from, your roots.

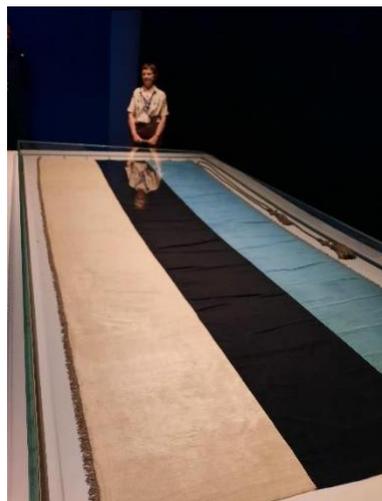


The ABC schoolbook with the rooster, that remind us of the beginning of every new day where you can learn new things.

From the 16th century the Russians dominated the country. There was work for the people but the shops were empty, they had to make everything by themselves, for example a homemade lawn mower. Everybody was watched by the KGB and if you did not follow the rules you could be banned to Siberia. To preserve the language, own printed books were important. During World War II the Germans occupy the land.

In august 23th 1989 a human chain (650 km) was formed from Tallinn through Riga to Vilnius in Lithuania. This event is very important to the people of Estonia.

Two years later in 1991 Estonia was declared independent. They then chose to sever all ties with the Soviet Union. A new constitution was drafted in 1992. Later this year, the first free elections were held, something that not happened at all in Estonia before. In May 2004 Estonia joined the European union.



What struck me is that the guide was very proud of her country and the progress the country made in the last 30 years.

Proudly she showed the first national flag in the colors blue (the sky), black (the fertile soil) and white (peace and love).

The national anthem - which has the same melody as the Finnish anthem - was made in 1896 and was first sung during the first national song festival also in 1896. Estonian people sing a lot. Second years later the Estonia people sung for freedom in their own language which the Russians could not understand.



There are 20 different regional traditional dresses.

It was an interesting trip through the history of Estonia, told by a very enthusiastic and inspiring tour guide.

After the official group pictures were taken we returned to the EMA, where at two PM the tournament was officially opened, starting with the first round.

