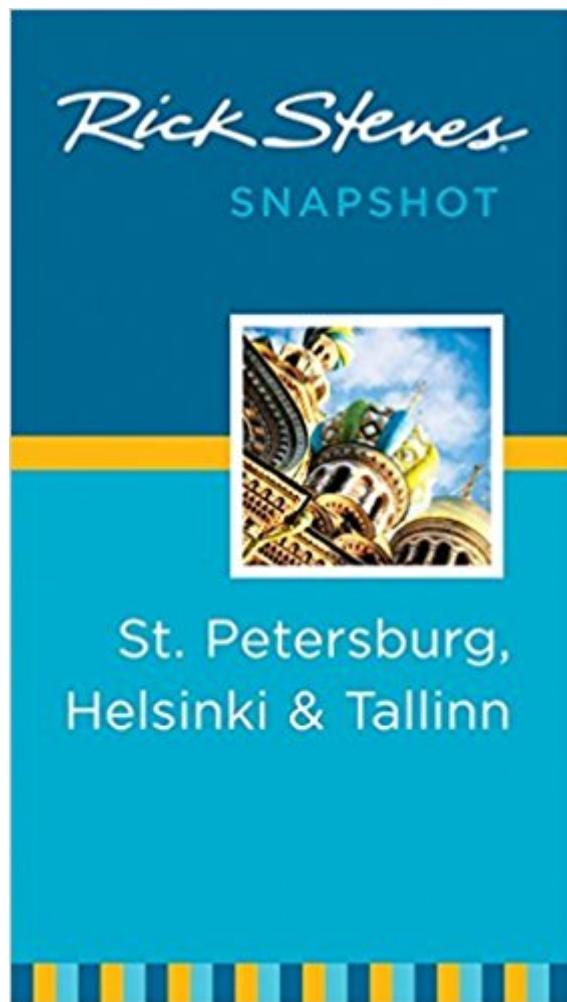


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# Rick Steves Snapshot St. Petersburg, Helsinki & Tallinn



## Synopsis

You can count on Rick Steves to tell you what you really need to know when traveling in St. Petersburg, Helsinki, and Tallinn. In this compact guide, Rick Steves covers the essential spots of each city, including the Hermitage, the Church of the Spilled Blood, Linnanmäki (a classic amusement park), and Toompea Castle. Take a day trip to the Peterhof, stroll through Kaivopuisto Park, or visit the Kumu Art Museum. You'll get Rick's firsthand advice on the best sights, eating, sleeping, and nightlife, and the maps and self-guided tours will ensure you make the most of your experience. More than just reviews and directions, a Rick Steves Snapshot guide is a tour guide in your pocket. Rick Steves Snapshot guides consist of excerpted chapters from Rick Steves European country guidebooks. Snapshot guides are a great choice for travelers visiting a specific city or region, rather than multiple European destinations. These slim guides offer all of Rick's up-to-date advice on what sights are worth your time and money. They include good-value hotel and restaurant recommendations, with no introductory information (such as overall trip planning, when to go, and travel practicalities).

## Book Information

Series: Rick Steves Snapshot

Paperback: 280 pages

Publisher: Rick Steves; 2 edition (October 13, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1631210637

ISBN-13: 978-1631210631

Product Dimensions: 4.5 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #38,436 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Travel > Europe > Estonia #5 in Books > Travel > Asia > Russia > General #7 in Books > Travel > Europe > Finland

## Customer Reviews

Since 1973, Rick Steves has spent about four months a year exploring Europe. His mission: to empower Americans to have European trips that are fun, affordable, and culturally broadening. Rick produces a best-selling guidebook series, a public television series, and a public radio show, and organizes small-group tours that take over 20,000 travelers to Europe annually. He does all of this

with the help of a hardworking, well-traveled staff of 100 at Rick Steves' Europe in Edmonds, Washington, near Seattle. When not on the road, Rick is active in his church and with advocacy groups focused on economic justice, drug policy reform, and ending hunger. To recharge, Rick plays piano, relaxes at his family cabin in the Cascade Mountains, and spends time with his partner Trish, son Andy, and daughter Jackie. Connect with Rick: [facebook.com/RickSteves](https://facebook.com/RickSteves) [@RickSteves](https://twitter.com/RickSteves) [Instagram: ricksteveseurope](https://instagram.com/ricksteveseurope) Born in Denver and raised in central Ohio, Cameron Hewitt settled in Seattle in 2000. Ever since, he has spent three months each year in Europe, contributing to guidebooks, tours, radio and television shows, and other media for Rick Steves' Europe, where he serves as content manager. Cameron married his high school sweetheart (and favorite travel partner), Shawna, and enjoys taking pictures, trying new restaurants, and planning his next trip.

I love Rick Steves' approach to travel, and this guide is perfect for Baltic cruise passengers who want to see the highlights of these 3 cities. We only had 5 hrs in Tallinn, but Rick's walking guide assured us of making the most of our time. I got a lot more from our tour of the Hermitage because of Rick's guide to the most important artworks. We had 3 days in Helsinki, and the book was all the guide we needed to get a good sense of the city. Having the ebook is both cheap and convenient.

I ordered the book for a recent trip to a conference in St. Petersburg as a guest of the Russian National Library on Sadovaya and Nevsky. My Russian is fluent. Since 1974, I have lived for extended periods in Russia and visit Moscow and other cities 3-4 times a year, but had not been in Petersburg for 10 years. The book was worth the purchase price for the updated information on the convenience store at Bolshaia Koniushnaia (so I could eat on my own), the taxi info. (to make my 6 a.m. Lufthansa departure flight) and the info. on internet cafes, websites, tickets and hours of concert halls, theaters and museums and bookstores (for a good map). An added tip for those unexpectedly living too centrally, as I was, might be that the renovated department store Gostinnyi dvor is open late and sells bottled water (for those who arrive late and need it) and flowers (for visits to friends) and that there are banks with the same currency exchange rate all along Nevsky (for those who prefer to change cash).

I use Rick Steves' guides to get oriented to a city or country. His guides are great for that. Nice details about the logistics of using trains and busses, and the layout of a city. I enjoy his self-guided walking tours. His places of interest (museums, shopping, night life) tend to be the same ones that

you can find in any guide. It's a nice place to start but you'll need other resources to find those quirky and rewarding experiences that are off the beaten path. What I have stopped using are his hotel and restaurant recommendations. They tend to be more main stream and therefore more expensive. I have found better and cheaper food when I simply get off the beaten path and just try small local cafes and restaurants.

The best part of the book is the walking tour suggestions. I would like the maps to be a little larger and more detailed and also wish that it had some color photos ... although that would drive up the cost. I know that people have different styles and needs with their travels but for us the restaurant and lodging listings are just wasted space. We travel to see the sights, not to sit in restaurants. We also plan our booking using the internet which has the most current prices and reviews.

The book was quite helpful for sightseeing, and we used some of the restaurant recommendations. We used the Helsinki and Tallinn sections of the book in May 2016.

Definitely worth the price! I went to all three cities in one trip and used this book in each place. Very helpful common phrases, restaurant recommendations and guides to sight seeing. In Russia the guide to the cyrillic alphabet was particularly helpful.

Excellent guide for short to longer visit in fascinating city. Helpful maps and very informative insights into the usual and the less well known attractions.

Very helpful background and travel tips. A guidebook to take with you. Info sounds current and authentic

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