

ESTONIAN FOLK DANCE



- Estonian dancing culture is famous for its ancient rites, roundelays, and extemporaneous dances. It was customary in the old days to accompany folk dances with singing and playing musical instruments (psaltery, bagpipes).
- The first mentions of Estonian dances belong to the 13th century. Dancing in the Estonian villages had a ceremonial character and were often held on Midsummer night and at weddings. Estonian folk dances were often in some way connected with the sea. For example, one of the Estonian folk dances is called “Day at the Seaside” and symbolizes the life of Estonian fishermen.
- In the 19th century, the traditions of other countries began to penetrate into the Estonian dancing culture. Russian culture had a significant influence on Estonian culture at these times. This was reflected in Estonian folk dancing, which has changed
- Every year the Estonian Folk Dances are held in different cities, where Estonian showcase their national clothing. One of the most ambitious is The Song and Dance Celebration, which is regularly held at the Tallinn Song Festival Grounds and attracts a large audience of guests. It was first held in 1962 in Tallinn. Every year the number of performers increases. In 2014 the festival allowed 30,000 singers to perform.
- Estonian national costumes appeared in the 19th century. Women’s folk clothing includes a shirt like a tunic, striped skirt, belt and woven cloth top as a jacket or a vest. Married women wore an apron and headpiece. Men also wore a shirt like a tunic, long or knee-length pants, a jacket and a hat from felt. Linen clothes prevailed in the national costumes.