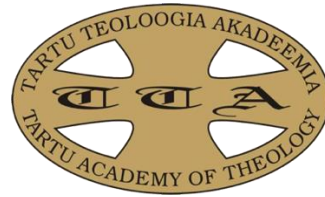


## Persecution Pilgrimage in Estonia [tatest.org/visit](https://tatest.org/visit)



- DATES:** June 5-13, 2026
- ORGANIZER:** Tartu Academy of Theology (TAT) [tatest.org](https://tatest.org) in co-operation with Spiritual Orphans Network (SON) [sonetwork.org](https://sonetwork.org)
- GROUP SIZE:** 15 people
- REGISTRATION:** Deadline: February 28, 2026  
Online registration form: [forms.gle/xSQqYFhZoViz5QtQ9](https://forms.gle/xSQqYFhZoViz5QtQ9).
- Please note that the group is filled on a first come first served basis. The earlier we receive your completed application and required documentation, the more likely you will receive a spot on the Persecution Pilgrimage.
  - Your spot is not reserved until ALL items listed below have been turned in (with the exception of those waiting on a passport).
    - Completed Persecution Pilgrimage registration form
    - \$400 non-refundable registration deposit
    - High quality (300 dpi or better) COLOR copy of your passport(If you do not have your passport, you will need to apply before submitting this application. Once received, you will need to send the required copy by email to [angela@sonetwork.org](mailto:angela@sonetwork.org))
- COORDINATOR & TOUR GUIDE:** Pastor Siimon Haamer, President of TAT  
[siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee](mailto:siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee)
- U.S. CONTACT PERSON:** Angela Breidenbach, Director of Operations and Youth Education of SON  
[angela@sonetwork.org](mailto:angela@sonetwork.org) +1 (505) 274-4156

### ABOUT THE PERSECUTION PILGRIMAGE

Watch the introductory video at [tatest.org/visit](https://tatest.org/visit).

The Persecution Pilgrimage in Estonia offers a unique opportunity to become part of the story of spiritual resistance, unwavering trust in God, and the suffering endured by an entire nation. To deepen your understanding of this history and its trials, we will guide you through the journey of one Christian family and their country. You will hear firsthand accounts of persecution and gain insight into what it truly means to suffer for your faith. **This experience will strengthen your relationship with God and reinforce the truth that there is no room for hopelessness in a life of faith.**

Estonia was occupied for 50 years after World War II by the aggressive, atheistic Soviet Union, which sought to destroy the nation's deep Christian roots. Sadly, they were largely successful. During the first 10 years of occupation, two-thirds of Lutheran pastors were killed, imprisoned, or forced to flee. Estonia lost one in every five of its citizens—more than 200,000 people—due to Soviet terror. **Before the war, 98% of Estonians identified as Christians. Today, only about 10-12% are affiliated with a Christian church.**

This pilgrimage will lead you along the path that **Pastor Eenok Haamer** walked during the most difficult and formative years of his life. His father, **Pastor Harri Haamer**, was arrested in 1948 and sent to a Siberian slave labor camp. The family was in danger of deportation to Siberia, and to escape it, Eenok, his mother, and his brother hid in the forest for six years—spending nearly four years in an underground bunker.

Pilgrimage participants will have the opportunity to visit the exact locations where Eenok hid, accompanied by his son, **Pastor Siimon Haamer**. You will hear the full story and learn about the miraculous provision of God they experienced.

Additionally, we will explore Estonia's broader suffering under communism, helping participants to better understand the context of current events, including the war in Ukraine.

## **SCHEDULE OF THE PERSECUTION PILGRIMAGE**

June 5, Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departure from the U.S.</li> </ul>
June 6, Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival at Tallinn airport – <a href="http://tallinn-airport.ee/en">tallinn-airport.ee/en</a></li> <li>• Transportation to Tartu (2,5 hour drive) – <a href="http://visittartu.com">visittartu.com</a></li> <li>• Accommodation: Hektor hostel, Tartu – <a href="http://hektorstay.com/en">hektorstay.com/en</a></li> </ul>
June 7, Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship service at Mustvee Lutheran Church (Pastor Eenok Haamer served here for 61 years)</li> <li>• Sightseeing in Eastern Estonia</li> <li>• Accommodation Hektor hostel, Tartu</li> <li>• Evening devotion</li> </ul>
June 8, Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer service</li> <li>• Visit to the KGB Cells Museum – <a href="http://muuseum.tartu.ee/en/kgb-cells-museum">muuseum.tartu.ee/en/kgb-cells-museum</a></li> <li>• St. Paul's Lutheran Church – <a href="http://tartupauluse.ee/en">tartupauluse.ee/en</a> (served by Pastor Harri Haamer before his imprisonment)</li> <li>• Visit to Home of Hope and Tartu Academy of Theology – <a href="http://tatest.org">tatest.org</a></li> <li>• Movie night: <i>The Singing Revolution</i></li> <li>• Accommodation: Hektor hostel, Tartu</li> <li>• Evening devotion</li> </ul>
June 9, Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer service</li> <li>• Trip to Southern Estonia to visit places where Pastor Eenok Haamer hid during 1949-1955 (includes short forest walk)</li> <li>• Visit to Forest Brethren Farm and underground bunker – <a href="http://metsavennatalu.ee/en">metsavennatalu.ee/en</a></li> <li>• Optional walk to the highest mountain in Estonia – Munamägi (1043 ft)</li> <li>• Accommodation: Kubija Hotel and Nature Spa, Võru – <a href="http://kubija.ee/en">kubija.ee/en</a></li> <li>• Evening devotion</li> </ul>
June 10, Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer service</li> <li>• Visit to Tarvastu church (served by Pastor Harri Haamer for 32 years after returning from Siberia)</li> <li>• Travel to Northeastern Estonia</li> <li>• Visit to the Sinimäe (Blue Hills) battle site and memorial</li> <li>• Accommodation: Liivarand hotel, Narva-Jõesuu – <a href="http://liivarandhotel.ee/?lang=en">liivarandhotel.ee/?lang=en</a></li> <li>• Evening devotion</li> </ul>
June 11, Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer service</li> <li>• Visits to several locations reflecting the legacy of communism</li> <li>• Museum of Occupations and Freedom – <a href="http://vabamu.ee/en/visit-us">vabamu.ee/en/visit-us</a></li> <li>• Accommodation: Metropol hotel, Tallinn – <a href="http://metropolhotel.ee/en">metropolhotel.ee/en</a></li> <li>• Evening devotion</li> </ul>
June 12, Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer service</li> <li>• Memorial for Victims of Communism (1940-1991) – <a href="http://memoriaal.ee/en">memoriaal.ee/en</a></li> <li>• Singing Stadium – <a href="http://lauluvaljak.ee/en">lauluvaljak.ee/en</a></li> <li>• Free time and sightseeing in Tallinn – <a href="http://visittallinn.ee/eng/visitor">visittallinn.ee/eng/visitor</a></li> <li>• Accommodation: Metropol hotel, Tallinn</li> <li>• Evening devotion</li> </ul>
June 13, Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return flight from Tallinn</li> <li>• Arrival in the U.S. (same day)</li> </ul>

## **PREPARATION FOR THE PILGRIMAGE**

- At least one group meeting will be held via Zoom or a similar platform to provide essential information and prepare spiritually.
- **Recommended reading:**  
*We Shall Live in Heaven* by Pastor Harri Haamer – a powerful testimony of his faith and survival in a Soviet labor camp.
  - Paperback available on Amazon: [amazon.com/dp/994999313X](https://www.amazon.com/dp/994999313X)
  - Free PDF, Kindle version, and Study Guide: [tatest.org/haamer-family/book](https://tatest.org/haamer-family/book)
  - The foreword, introduction, and epilogue offer a summary of Harri Haamer's family story and Estonia's suffering during Soviet occupation.

## **ARRANGEMENTS**

- **Flights:** Arranged by Spiritual Orphans Network (SON).
- **In-country arrangements (program, accommodations, catering, transportation):** Managed by the Estonian organizers.

## **COST**

- **Double room accommodation:** \$1,950 per person + airfare.
- **Single room accommodation:** \$2,250 per person + airfare.
- Includes
  - \$400 non-refundable deposit (required to confirm registration)
  - Accommodation, meals, transportation in Estonia and museum entrance fees

## **PAYMENT INFORMATION**

- The full pilgrimage fee will be paid to Spiritual Orphans Network (SON) once your registration is confirmed.
- **All payments are Tax deductible.**

### **Payment methods:**

By Check:

Spiritual Orphans Network  
Attn: Director of Youth Education  
8210 Louisiana Blvd NE, Suite B  
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Online:

Visit [here](#)

Fill in all required fields

In the designation field, write the name of the person whose fee is being paid

Note: SON is arranging flight tickets. The participation fee will be wired to the Tartu Academy of Theology.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE!**

This is a **pilgrimage**. While you will experience Estonia's history and natural beauty, the primary focus is your personal relationship with God and the deepening of your faith. Please keep this in mind when deciding to participate in the Persecution Pilgrimage.