Kalamaja is one of the oldest urban areas of Tallinn. During the middle ages, mainly fishermen and pilots lived here and they gave the area its name. (Kalamaja means fish house in Estonian).

The trendsetting Kalamaja district is in fact one of Tallinn’s urban areas. During the Middle Ages, mainly fishermen and sailors lived here, giving the area its name (Kalamaja means “fish house” in Estonian). Between the 19th and 19th centuries, the area housed strategically important defensive buildings. The end of the 19th century brought fast industrial development, and up until the beginning of World War II, Estonia’s most important fishing port was located here. Kalamaja came into its prime in the 1920s and ’30s when many new houses were built in the area. These new iconic dwellings are called “Tallinn houses”, they are built from wood and have two to three storeys.

In the 1930s, Kalamaja was idyllic – children’s laughter echoed in the inner courtyards behind wooden fences and there were large patches of greenery for gardens and orchards. In the 1940s, Kalamaja began to gradually fall into decline. However, the beginning of the 21st century saw the gentrification of the area. The new art- and culture-loving residents of Kalamaja have opened businesses and created a strong local community.

**ARCHITECTURE**

The showpieces of Kalamaja are its so-called “Tallinn houses”. The three-storey, stone staircase houses were built in the ’20s and ’30s. You’ll find the most magnificent of these buildings on Salme, Kungla, Valgevase, Kalevi and Uus-Kalamaja streets. The Seaplane Harbour is housed in the architecturally distinctive, centuries-old concrete seaplane hangars. A section of the former industrial blocks has been culturally revitalised and is now home to hotels, museums, galleries, leisure centres and restaurants, cafés and bars. Patarei Sea Fortress is a well-preserved classicist-style defence fortress, which is also a European heritage building.

**WELLBEING**

The calm Kalamaja area is perfect for strolling and cycling. Kalamaja Cemetery Park has become a favourite with local families. Seaplane Harbour’s outdoor area is superb for promenading by the sea on a day off. Bit by bit the sea side of Kalamaja is opening up.

**DESIGN**

Find the best Estonian design in the spacious Estonian design salon Talli, located right in the middle of Kalamaja. Here, established and budding designers sell their creations, from interior design to fashionable and practical items. The Telliskivi Creative City has its own shop street with design, interior and eco shops selling fashionable creations as well as fun recycled items.

**FOOD SPOTS**

Kalamaja is home to Tallinn’s new, trendy restaurants and cosy bakeries. New places open up regularly. A pioneering culinary hero is restaurant Moon, launched in Kalamaja in 2009. All the area’s food spots have a cosy atmosphere, simple and healthy menus and friendly service.

**MARKETS**

Kalamaja is the location of the city’s most colourful markets. On Saturdays, find the freshest fish at the Kalamaja Fish Market and the coolest second-hand stuff at the Telliskivi Flea Market. The newly-restored Balti jaam Market is the most modern of its kind in Estonia, bringing an extraordinary range of items together under one roof, with everything from children’s clothes to tasty street food.

**BARS**

Kalamaja has its own retro-style bar called Tops Pudel Baar, which specialises in beer from microbreweries, quality beer shop 5thP and wine bar Slips can be found on Telliskivi Street. The wine store Veinisõbra pood, a meeting place for wine lovers, is located on Kalasadam Street, and around the corner is Uba ja Humal, specialising in craft beer and quality coffee.
La Maa café-laboratory

This tiny, cozy laboratory is one of the most exciting spots in the city. La Maa is part of a larger complex that includes a restaurant, a bar, and a music venue. The space is a perfect spot for a casual meeting or a quick bite to eat.

Põhja pst 27A • FB: Korstenresto

Kalamaja Pagarikoda

A small and rustic restaurant located in the heart of Kalamaja. The menu offers a variety of dishes, including salads, soups, and main courses, all made with fresh and seasonal ingredients.

Nisse Rukki

This small cafe offers a selection of delicious sandwiches, pastries, and coffee. The atmosphere is cozy and welcoming, making it a great spot for a morning coffee or a quick lunch.

Söödi

A cozy bakery and cafe offering a variety of pastries, breads, and delicious coffee. The selection of cakes is particularly impressive, and the atmosphere is warm and inviting.

Telliskivi 60A • FB: Frenchy

Kärbes KITCHEN&BAR

This bar offers a unique atmosphere with its retro design and cozy seating. The menu features a variety of dishes, including salads, sandwiches, and burgers, all made with fresh and local ingredients.

Telliskivi 62 • stellasoomlais.com

La Muu café-laboratory

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