CHATHAM HALL in FINLAND and ESTONIA
CODING, GAMING & ROBOTICS
MARCH 15-27, 2020

► DEPART WASHINGTON DULLES FOR HELSINKI, FINLAND (VIA REYKJAVIK) / SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020
Depart Washington Dulles International Airport for Reykjavik, Iceland on Icelandair #644 at 8:30 PM

► ARRIVE HELSINKI ~ GET SETTLED ~ ORIENTATION / MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020
Arrive Reykjavik at 6:30AM / Depart Reykjavik for Helsinki, Finland on Icelandair Flight #342 at 7:30 AM
Arrive in Helsinki at 1:50 PM
Clear Finnish/EU Immigration & Customs, meet Kristiina Seppala, your certified local guide, and transfer to the Crowne Plaza Hesperia or similar.
Check into the hotel.
Kristiina briefs us on the week’s local logistics, weekend touring, and the school-week to come.
Late afternoon at leisure
Dinner at the hotel
Overnight at the Crowne Plaza Hesperia or similar

► HELSINKI HIGHLIGHTS / TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020
Breakfast at the hotel
After breakfast, meet Kristiina in the hotel lobby
Morning Helsinki City Tour: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM / We’ll depart the hotel at 9:00 AM for a 4-hour guided excursion throughout Finland’s capital city.
Lunch
Suomenlinna: A UNESCO World Heritage site! Afternoon tour of this cultural treasure. Suomenlinna is an inhabited sea fortress built on six rocky islands just offshore from Helsinki harbor. Construction of the fortress commenced in 1748 as protection against Russian expansion.
Return to hotel at 5:00 PM
Dinner at hotel
Overnight at the Crowne Plaza Hesperia or similar

► FINLAND’S 3T PROJECT: TIME, TALENT & TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION/ SCHOOL VISITS & INTERACTIONS WITH LOCAL PEERS / UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI (‘FUTURE LEARNING’)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020
Breakfast at the hotel
Visit to a top technology school in suburban Helsinki. We will observe the 3Ts project - Time, Talent and Technology - at a local school. 9:00-11:00 AM
Welcome Remarks from School principal and students
At this coding- and robotics-oriented school, we will interact meaningfully with local tutor-students who will showcase what they do in the classroom and beyond!
Lunch at school and reflective discussion (11:30 AM)
Q&A / Farewell
After school visit, travel back to Helsinki (approx. 35min)
After lunch, transfer to second event
University of Helsinki/Faculty of Educational Sciences
1:00pm-3pm
Get started with Innovation! 21st Century: Coding and Gaming
Tour of the university’s Think Corner, an innovative center where creative, passionate young students and researchers deploy their craft
Depart for our hotel
Dinner & overnight at the Crowne Plaza Hesperia or similar

► INSPIRING SCHOOL DESIGN & ITS RELATIONSHIP TO ACTIVE LEARNING IN CODING, GAMING & ROBOTICS
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020
Breakfast at the hotel
Travel to Espoo, about 35 minutes outside Helsinki for a second school-based observation/interaction with local peers. This is also a coding- and robotics-oriented school.
Lunch at school with peer students
After school visit, travel back to Helsinki (approx. 35min)
NEW SCHOOL DESIGNS AND INSPIRING LEARNING SCHOOL SPACES / 1:00 – 4:00 PM
Visit Kalasatama, a school that embodies the new approach of how design solutions and space can be utilized and engaged in 21st technology learning ideologies.
This event includes another hands-on activity on a variety of coding, gaming & robotics-relevant topics, and how Finnish school design maximizes such learning!
Discussion with peer students about new trends in designing new spaces for learning – especially at their own innovative school!
Q&A / Farewell
Transfer to hotel at 4:00 PM
Dinner & overnight at the Crowne Plaza Hesperia or similar

► “CODING-IN-DISGUISE”: ASTRONAUT TRAINING / TRANSFER TO ESTONIA
FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020
Breakfast at the hotel
Transfer to “Coding-in-Disguise” - Astronaut Training (9:00 AM-12:00 noon)
Mindfulness activity on building focus – crucial for astronauts requiring a high level of presence at all times.
Body - Astronaut Balance: Body control is essential when practicing work in a compact space
Houston, we have communication! Team communication & process-in-place.
Landing safely! Nonverbal communication and team excellence.
Q&A / Farewell
12:00 -1:00 PM ~ Lunch and reflective discussion will end our morning in Helsinki.
Transfer to ferry terminal at 2:00 PM
Ferry departs at 3:30 PM for Tallinn, Estonia
Arrive in Tallinn at 5:30 PM
Hotel check-in, then dinner
Overnight at the Nordic Hotel Forum or similar

► TALLINN CITY HIGHLIGHTS / TALLINN AT LEISURE / SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020
Breakfast at the hotel
Morning historic and cultural tour of Tallinn with Kadi Kallas, our certified local guide, to include a walk-through of Europe’s most beautiful, well-preserved Old Town
Lunch, followed by an afternoon at leisure for shopping, resting, swimming in the pool at your option
Dinner and overnight at the Nordic Hotel Forum or similar

► LAHEMAA NATIONAL PARK VISIT / SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020
Breakfast at 7:00AM, then spend the day visiting Lahemaa National Park – to include manor visits, Viru bog hike, and the Käsmu Maritime Museum!
Lunch in Käsmu
Return to Tallinn at 5:00PM
Overnight at the Nordic Hotel Forum or similar

► CODING, GAMING, ROBOTICS COLLABORATIONS WITH ESTONIAN STUDENTS AT TALLINN HIGH SCHOOL #21
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020
Breakfast at the hotel
Meet in hotel lobby time at 8:10 AM
Transfer at 8:15 AM to Tallinn School #21, a prestigious, established local high school
Welcome remarks from students & overview of coding & gaming projects at School #21
Presenters: Juta Hirv (Deputy principal) & Rasmus (robotics teacher)
Campus tour, followed by greeting from the school choir
LUNCH
Student guides will lead and introduce us to their robotics class
COLLABORATIVE CODING, GAMING & ROBOTICS ACTIVITIES!
Reflections and final remarks
Depart Tallinn School #21 for the hotel
Arrive back at the hotel, then dinner & overnight at the Nordic Hotel Forum or similar

► CODING, GAMING, ROBOTICS COLLABORATIONS WITH ESTONIAN STUDENTS AT TALLINN HIGH SCHOOL #21
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020
Breakfast at the hotel
COLLABORATIVE CODING, GAMING & ROBOTICS ACTIVITIES CONTINUE
Depart Tallinn School #21 for the hotel
Arrive back at the hotel, then dinner & overnight at the Nordic Hotel Forum or similar

► CODING, GAMING, ROBOTICS COLLABORATIONS WITH ESTONIAN STUDENTS AT TALLINN HIGH SCHOOL #21
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020
Breakfast at the hotel
COLLABORATIVE CODING, GAMING & ROBOTICS ACTIVITIES CONTINUE
Depart Tallinn School #21 for the hotel
Arrive back at the hotel, then dinner & overnight at the Nordic Hotel Forum or similar

► SPECIAL ROBOTICS ACTIVITY: IN COLLABORATION WITH A SKYPE WORLD HEADQUARTERS TEAM
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020
Transfer to special event at Skype Estonia
Venue: SKYPE WORLD HEADQUARTERS. Here, Estonian students mentored by the Skype World Headquarters team will engage with us on projects of mutual design and interest!
Learning Format: TBA – to be designed collaboratively with Skype-mentored Estonian peers who are equally passionate about coding, gaming & robotics! This is an all-day activity.
Depart Skype Headquarters at 3:00 PM
Dinner: A small group of our Estonian peers may join us tonight.
Overnight at the Nordic Hotel Forum or similar

► TALLINN HELSINKI REYKJAVIK WASHINGTON / FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020
Breakfast at the hotel
Depart hotel at 6:30 AM for ferry terminal / Ferry departs for Helsinki at 7:30 AM
Arrive in Helsinki at 9:30 AM
Transfer to Helsinki airport, and check in for flight home
Icelandair Flight #343 departs Helsinki for Reykjavik at 3:05 PM; arrive Reykjavik at 3:30 PM
Icelandair Flight #645 departs Reykjavik at 4:50 PM; arrive Washington Dulles at 7:05 PM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Kind of Documentation Will I Need to Enter Finland and Estonia?
Citizens of the USA do not require a tourist visa to visit Finland or Estonia. Citizens of other countries may or may not require a visa. Ms. Waters will work with foreign students who need a visa to obtain one in a timely manner.

Where Can I Obtain Medications and Medical Care During the Trip?
Hotel managers and staff will contact their own on-call physician, based on your expressed needs. Finland and Estonia both boast first-world health facilities, with the very highest standard of care. Clinics and major hospitals are located a stone’s throw from our centrally located hotels. Please confirm with your health insurance carrier that you are covered while traveling overseas. Most major U.S. health plans provide such coverage. Extent of coverage varies from carrier to carrier.

What About Flight Check-in at Dulles International Airport?
Your Icelandair flight – #644 – departs Washington on Sunday, March 15 at 8:30 p.m. The flight’s destination is Reykjavik, Iceland, with an immediate onward connection to Helsinki,
Finland. Alterra recommends that the entire group be at the ticket counter no later than 5:30 p.m. The return flight arrives at Washington Dulles on Friday, March 27 at 7:05 p.m.

**Who Will Meet Us at the Airport in Helsinki?**
Your port of entry is Vantaa International Airport near Helsinki, Finland. At Vantaa, you’ll proceed through immigration & customs, and then move to the public welcoming area. Kristiina Seppala will be there to offer a warm Finnish welcome; Kristiina is an in-country program manager affiliated with Alterra. She’ll escort you to the hotel & will remain with you throughout your stay in Helsinki. Mid-week, Kristiina will see you off at your Tallinn, Estonia-bound ferry; your ferry is a 9-story ocean-going luxury liner. Two hours later, Kadi Kallas, your Estonian guide will meet you at Tallinn port to begin the second half of your trip.

**What Type of Clothing Will I Need, and What Is the Weather Like in Finland and Estonia?**
By March, the long Baltic winter has broken, and spring is in evidence. The weather is likely to be temperate, but on the chilly side. Please be prepared for a mix of sun, wind, and rain-showers. Clothing suggestions run the gamut:

- Sweatshirts, old jeans, and a pair of hiking boots for our weekend excursions.
- One set of "smart casual" wear.
- Sunscreen and sunglasses.
- Umbrella.
- Light jacket and, in case of a cold day or two, heavier outerwear as well.

**Is Tap Water Safe to Drink?**
Throughout Finland and Estonia, tap water is purified and is safe to drink; city supplies are filtered to international standards. However, some of us are more comfortable drinking bottled water at home and abroad; bottled water is readily available for purchase.

**What Type of Food Will I Be Eating?**
Breakfast at the hotel will consist of assorted fresh fruit, cereals, yogurts, home-made jams with preserves, tea, coffee, fruit juices, and sausage or bacon with eggs to order. Lunches and dinners will be a mix of typical Baltic fare and international cuisine featuring vegetarian items, fish, chicken-and-rice, and more.

**What about Electrical Power?**
Power is supplied at 220-240 volts in both countries. Adapters are available on loan at the hotel reception.

**And Internet Access?**
Both hotels – the Crowne Plaza in Helsinki and the Nordic Hotel Forum in Tallinn – offer strong, reliable wireless internet access. On your laptop, tablet, or smartphone, you may open your browser in your room or in the hotel’s public areas.

**What Should I Know About Access to Money?**
The currency in both countries is the euro. As of this writing, in mid-June 2019, the euro is trading at 0.88 to the US dollar. You may acquire euros at ATMs throughout Helsinki and Tallinn by using your credit card or debit card. Making an ATM withdrawal is easily the most economical way to acquire euros. Be sure to call your card issuer before departing, just in case they have an overseas limit or other hold policy. With such notification, you can waive/override any limits or holds. You may also order euros ahead of time at a large bank in your home city. Of course, the amount that you choose to take or withdraw will depend on your own personal spending needs.

**What is the Helsinki Hotel’s Contact Information?**
You’ll likely be staying at the Crowne Plaza Hesperia, in central Helsinki. When parents or friends call you from the U.S., they must dial as follows: 011 358 9 2521 0000. Connections are typically clear to landlines in Finland, with little echo or delay. Connections to cellphones are also typically easy and clear. During your stay, Finland will be 7 hours ahead of the US East Coast.

**What is the Tallinn Hotel’s Contact Information?**
You’ll likely be staying at the Nordic Hotel Forum, in central Tallinn – walking distance from that modern city’s delightful Medieval Old Town. When parents or friends call you from the U.S., they must dial as follows: 011 372 622 2900. Connections are typically clear to landlines in Estonia, with little echo or delay. Connections to cellphones are also typically easy and clear. During your stay, Estonia will be 7 hours ahead of the US East Coast.

**May Our Group Use the Hotel’s Public Areas for An Informal Meeting?**

Chatham Hall and Alterra will work with both hotels to arrange a reasonable accommodation for periodic informal group reflections.