

St. Petersburg

**inyour
pocket**

No. 110, June - July 2017



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Summer festivals p.12
Vasilievsky Island p. 16
Best breakfast spots p. 34



N°110

16+

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Finally the glorious Russian summer is upon us and St. Petersburg has completed its transformation from a cold snow-covered city (it is hard to believe but it was snowing in the beginning of May!) to a warm and sunny summer paradise. You never know when summer will end in St. Petersburg, so enjoy it right here and right now.

I'm sure that you already know that and are totally prepared for this, but let me first mention our pride and joy – the White Nights! Yes, those White Nights make St. Petersburg famous all over the globe. I have lived my whole life here and every summer when I walk at night down one of the majestic embankments watching the bridges going up, I always feel just as happy and excited as I did the first time I saw it. It is breathtaking and really unique. My favorite place to watch the bridges is on the Split of Vasilievsky Island. We also prepared a special feature on Vaska (that is how locals call it) so check pages 18-23 to learn more and start exploring!

By the way, the longer the night the more excuses you have to tour the city's nice bars and restaurants. St. Petersburg is open 24/7 and a lot of places, especially in the summer, are open till the morning hours. So after watching the bridges you can go and enjoy one of the many open terraces in the city center.

Warm weather and the arrival of the midnight sun means it is time for the summer festivals to begin and this year St. Petersburg has a superb selection of cultural delights for all tastes: pop, rock, jazz, classical, electronic and more! Check out the cultural events on pages 10-16. For sport fans this summer is, of course, important because of the FIFA Confederations Cup 2017. Had to page 17 to see the list of sport bars we've chosen for you to watch the games and cheer for your favorite team.

Summer is also the perfect time to visit one of (or better all) the grand palaces and parks of the tsars: Peterhof, Pushkin, Oranienbaum, Pavlovsk. Enjoy an ice-cream or a glass of cold kvass under the leafy shade of a tree in one of these gorgeous parks where the Russian tsars were also having a great time 250 years ago! For more information, go to page 50.

Happy summer!

Ksenia Elzes, Russia In Your Pocket

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ABOUT IYP

In Your Pocket, the world's leading publisher of locally-produced city guides since 1992, recently launched a brand new smartphone app: **In Your Pocket City Essentials**. Featuring only hand-picked venues and sights alongside essential travel information, these city guides have been carefully crafted by our local editors and include only the places they are happy to recommend. The app - available on both *iOS* and *Android* - is free, and works offline. Go to iyp.me/app on your smartphone to download it.

To keep up with all that's new at *In Your Pocket*, follow us on *Facebook* (facebook.com/inyourpocket) or *Twitter* (twitter.com/inyourpocket).

FOOD - OH YES!



Food, glorious food - and all in one place! That's right, "Oda! Eda!" is back in town. It's Eastern Europe's largest gastronomic festival taking place in St. Petersburg (22-23 July). In previous years over 50,000 people turned up to sample delicacies from over 200 different gastronomic projects and restaurants. This year's theme is yet to be announced but if the last couple of editions are anything to go by, you will definitely not be disappointed! Aside from food – and lots of it! – there will be master-classes from famous chefs, "edutainment" events for kids, open-air lectures, film screenings in the outdoor cinema, DJ and band performances and sports events to help you work up an appetite - or burn off a few post-lunch calories! www.odaeda.me

KEMPINSKI 120 YEARS



Hotel group Kempinski is turning 120 this summer and it's planning to celebrate in true style! Guests of Kempinski Hotel Moika 22 can expect lots of fun and interesting gifts such as a very special excursion called "St. Petersburg – a European city", organized

together with @i_see_spb, which will show you the Europeans behind St. Petersburg's history and how they brought their cultures to Russia. If you want to spoil yourself with the Presidential suite and exquisite French champagne, book your stay at any time before July 31 to get the special birthday rates! And finally, take part in the "Travel in Style" competition and get a chance to win a unique 10-day holiday for two people around three Kempinskis (including airfare, limousine transport and deluxe rooms) – all you have to do is book a room here until July 31! www.kempinski.com

Find more news on our page
www.facebook.com/StPetersburgYourPocket

NEW MULTIMEDIA CENTRE

The Russian Museum just got way cooler than it already was! Now, you can immerse yourself even deeper into Russia's history at the newly opened multimedia centre. Several hundred items of the Russian Museum are now presented to the audience with the help of modern technology. Micro-mapping and kinetics, 3D modelling and films – all this will show you Russian history like you've never seen it before. The interactive exhibition "Our Romantic Emperor", dedicated to the life and reign of Emperor Paul I, is fascinating and educational for kids and adults alike. www.rusmuseum.ru



CHECKMATE!



This spring, an unusual new museum opened its doors to the St. Petersburg public. Now, chess fans of all ages have a place to marvel at their favourite game at the Museum of Chess and Ceramics. The museum is spread over seven halls and presents

both factory-made chess sets and signature works by artists and sculptors that were obtained during auctions - from classical sets to ones of the most unusual shapes and sizes! www.porcelainchessmuseum.ru

IMPERIAL GARDENS



The Imperial Gardens of Russia is an annual event that lasts 10 days in early June during the period of White Nights. The festival is renowned abroad and all over Russia and is even under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Michael of Kent.

One of the most exciting events of the Festival is a show-gardens contest. About 25 participants are judged by a professional international jury; visitors get to vote for their favourite gardens as well. Every year, top ranked Russian and foreign landscape designers participate in the Imperial Garden Festival so if you appreciate beauty, art and the outdoors – this festival is a must for you! www.igardens.ru



Pikalov bridge

ARRIVING IN TOWN

ARRIVING BY BUS

St. Petersburg has several bus stations, so make sure you know where you are going before you leave.

The central bus station (www.avokzal.ru) is a bit out of the way at Naberezhnaya Obvodnogo kanala 36, which is a short taxi-ride (around 200-300Rbl) to the centre of town and about a 15-minute walk to metro Ligovsky pr.

Eurolines buses (www.eurolines.ru) arrive at Baltiskaya metro station where you can take a taxi or just enter into the metro system. To find your way into the city centre make a bee-line for Nevsky Prospekt. Some bus companies have stops at the city's main hotels. The proliferation of bus companies operating out of St. Petersburg means that you could be dropped off at a number of different bus stops. The main rule of thumb is to find your way to the nearest metro station or take a taxi.

ARRIVING BY CAR

Are you driving your car all the way to Russia? Remember the following: your National and International Driver's licence, registration and insurance documents for the car and, of course, your passport with a valid Russian visa. At the border, ask for an Immigration Card and make sure it is stamped! Stay on the main roads, as you might get pulled

over for accidentally straying into a military zone (no, that is not a joke). Traffic police (recognizable by ДПС or ГИБДД or ГАИ) might also fine you for not having a fire extinguisher, a first-aid kit, or for exceeding the speed limit, which on the highway varies between 80 and 110 km/h. The normal procedure for pumping gas is that you first pay for a certain amount and then start filling up your tank.

The Traffic Police have stops when you enter a new zone of jurisdiction. You are required to proceed slowly and there is a chance you might get pulled off. Don't overpay the traffic police: the official penalty for driving 20-40km too fast is 500Rbl, for 60km over the limit, it costs between 1000 and 1,500Rbl. Driving through a red light will cost 1000Rbl and not wearing a seatbelt will cost 1000Rbl. Most of the policemen do not speak English, which might make things difficult, or perhaps very easy. In towns the speed limit is around 60 km/h, but road conditions often force you to drive more carefully and thus more slowly.

ARRIVING BY PLANE

St. Petersburg's international terminal **Pulkovo** is located in the south of the city (metro Moskovskaya). The airport offers the usual shops and restaurants within the terminal building and hotels nearby. Keep your eyes open for ATM machines and money exchanges (*obmen valyuty*) if you urgently need some roubles. If you want to relax with a coffee and cake before being collected or trying to find your way into the city, be aware that the airport prices have been known to cause heart failure!

Getting into town: To get into the city centre you can take Bus №39 or mini-bus (*marshrutka*) №39 to Moskovskaya Metro Station (seven stops – it will take 15-25 minutes depending on traffic) and then take the metro into town (another seven stops in the metro – about 15-20 minutes). Once you are in the metro system you can get to most parts of town quickly. Keep your eyes open for maps of the metro system if you need to find a particular station.

If you choose to take a taxi, beware of the airport taxi drivers! They are notorious for overcharging, asking 1500Rbl and up for the 18-km ride to the city centre. Always agree on a fare before getting in, keeping in mind that a reasonable price shouldn't exceed 700-800Rbl.

BRIDGES

Al. Nevskogo	02:20 - 05:10	
Blagoveshchensky	01:25 - 02:45	03:10 - 05:00
Birzhevoy	02:00 - 04:55	
Bolsheokhtinsky	02:00 - 05:00	
Dvortsovy	01:10 - 02:50	03:10 - 04:55
Liteiny	01:40 - 04:45	
Troitsky	01:20 - 04:50	
Tutchkov	02:00 - 02:55	03:35 - 04:55
Volodarsky	02:00 - 03:45	04:15 - 05:45

ARRIVING BY TRAIN

All the train stations are located next to metro stations, so you simply need to step off the train and enter into the bowels of St. Petersburg's underground system and find your way to the metro station nearest your destination.

Departing St. Petersburg by train: If you'd just like to get out of the city for the day, local trains (*electriciky*) cheaply connect the villages and suburbs to St. Petersburg. *Electriciky* to Gatchina, Lomonosov and Peterhof depart from Baltiyskiy station, from Finlyandskiy you can visit Viborg, and Pushkin and Pavlovsk are covered by Vitebskiy. There may be no toilets, but if you forgot to bring ice cream, band-aids or knife sharpeners a vendor might be wandering the aisle with just what you need.

BALTISKY STATION

▶ C-4, Nab. Obvodnogo kan. 120,  Baltiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 457 28 59, www.ozd.rzd.ru.

FINLYANDSKY STATION

▶ E-1, Pl. Lenina 6,  Pl. Lenina, tel. (+7) 812 436 67 46, www.ozd.rzd.ru.

LADOZHSKY STATION

▶ Zanevsky pr. 73,  Ladozhskaya, tel. (+7) 812 436 53 10, www.ozd.rzd.ru.

MOSKOVSKY STATION

▶ E-3, Nevsky pr. 85,  Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 457 44 28, www.ozd.rzd.ru.

VITEBSKY STATION

▶ D-4, Zagorodny pr. 52,  Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 812 457 59 39, www.ozd.rzd.ru.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Petersburg residents get around the city using a variety of transport options. The fastest and most efficient is the metro. On above-ground transportation you can buy tickets from the conductor or driver (40Rbl for **bus, tram, trolleybus**) and up to 50Rbl for a *marshrutka* (mini-bus). All forms of transport work from around 06:00 to just after midnight. Official taxis are inexpensive by European standards and there is also the possibility of getting an 'independent' driver.

St. Petersburg's **metro** is one of the deepest in the world and one of the most beautiful. Central stations and those on the red line are particularly impressive, featuring tons of Soviet symbology in bronze, glass and stone. It's also fast and efficient and, during peak time, you won't need to wait more than three minutes for a ride. The metro runs from 06:00 till around 00:30. First, you'll need to buy a token (*zheton*). *Zhetons* cost 45Rbl and can be bought from the window labelled *kassa*. There are five different metro lines, and to change lines, you usually need to change stations. There are underground passageways linking adjacent stations like Sadovaya/Sennaya Pl. and Nevsky pr./Gostiny Dvor. When you arrive at a station, it can be difficult to see the name of where you are. You will hear the arrival station announced, followed by the name of the next stop. This can be confusing, so it's best to count your stops. In rush hour, the metro can get a bit hectic and it's at this time you can see Petersburgers at their very worst: pushing, shoving and queue-cutting.

Buses and **trolleybuses** are another option and they have

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РЕКЛАМА / ADVERTISEMENT

the advantage of allowing you to take in the architecture of the city, sometimes very slowly and often over the leather-covered shoulders of a local commuter. Scrolling banners above the driver's cabin will list the next destination. Many also feature pre-recorded announcements for the current and following stop. Routes are indicated on window placards positioned on the side of each bus and trolley.

The **marshrutka** is a mini-bus taxi which follows a fixed route. The *marshrutka* concept emerged in the 90s as a reaction to overcrowded public transport. These days, they go just about everywhere within the city and out to the suburbs. Sadly, they no longer run on Nevsky, which disconnects them from much of the centre. They have set departure points, but otherwise, when you see the number you want, just hail it down like a taxi. To pay, hand your fare (up to 50Rbl) to the driver or to the person in front of you. When you want to get off, yell out loudly, *ostanovite pozhaluista*, and the driver will come to a screeching halt.

TAXIS

Taxis in St. Petersburg are relatively cheap. If you phone a legitimate taxi company, you'll be quoted an exact price for the journey. In many big companies you can book a taxi online: **Troika Cars**, tel. (+7) 812 333 83 33, www.troikacars.ru **Taxovichkof**, tel. (+7) 812 333 00 00, www.taxovichkof.ru The easiest way to get a taxi is to use one of the apps: **Gett**, **YandexTaxi**, **Uber**.

St. Petersburg Card

SMART WAY
TO EXPLORE
THE CITY

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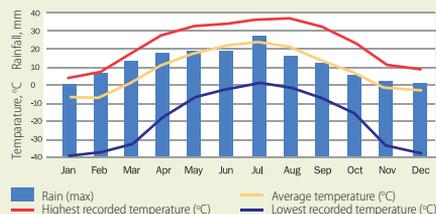
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REGISTRATION

Remember that you must be registered within 7 days of your arrival in Russia (excluding weekends and public holidays). Hotels are legally obliged to register you within 24 hours of arrival. Many travel agencies can also register you. If you don't get registered on time, you can expect serious problems when leaving, ranging from paying a fee, to missing your flight while officials interrogate you.

CLIMATE

In June and July, during St. Petersburg's glorious White Nights, the city's weather is usually at its best. Temperatures range from the low to mid teens at night (what little of it the city sees anyway) to warm and pleasant temperatures in the mid 20s during the day. Sudden storms and the occasional cloudy and windy day mean it's best to be prepared – think layers, an umbrella and a folding paper fan.



BE ON GUARD!

Avoid attracting unwanted attention by not speaking loudly in your mother tongue, or walking the streets if you have been drinking. If you are of African, Arab, or Asian descent exercise caution, particularly at night.

02 - Emergency hotline. If you have problems and don't speak Russian it may be better to call the English language tourist helpline 8 800 303 05 55 and (+7) 812 303 05 55.

The Tourist Information office, Ul. Sadovaya 14, can help you file a police report. Your consulate can help you if your passport has been stolen. The police here generally look for any excuse to fine you, so photocopy your passport and visa. Make sure that you always carry a few photocopies; if the police stop you (they check Russians all the time too) then show them the photocopy rather than the original.

MONEY

The national currency is the rouble (Rbl). Banknotes come in denominations of 50, 100, 500, 1,000 and 5,000. Rouble coins come in 1, 2, 5 and 10Rbl. There are 100 kopeks to a rouble and kopek coins come in 5, 10 and 50. It's illegal to pay in dollars or euros. Find ATMs at most metro stations, banks and large hotels.

FOREIGNER PRICES

The 'foreigner price' is a hangover from the good old days of Intourist-organised Soviet travel. At some theatres and museums, foreigners are required to pay two to five times more than the Russian price. Ouch! These institutions insist that Russian tickets are subsidised with foreigners paying the 'real price'. If you have a document (*propusk*), which says you work or study in Russia, you can usually get the local price.

ALCOHOL

The traditional Russian alcoholic drink is of course vodka. The most traditional way to drink it is straight as a shot, followed by a salty snack. Beer (*pivo*) is now the most popular alcoholic drink in Russia and *Sovetskoe shampanskoe* (Soviet champagne) is the national party drink. Take note that you cannot buy alcohol above 0,5% in shops between 22:00 and 11:00.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Russian drivers are your biggest danger, so cross roads carefully. In the winter icy streets and huge icicles can also pose a danger so watch where you walk. The city's water is chlorine treated due to parasites and heavy metals, so you can use it to brush your teeth or wash fruit. For drinking or making tea, it is better to stick to bottled water, or clean the tap water with a filter and give it a good boil first.



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POCKET DICTIONARY: NET SLOV!



Net Slov! – No words! As you wander around the many wondrous buildings or through the treasure-filled halls of the Hermitage, you may find yourself lost for words. If someone says to you, “*Shto vy dumaeete?*” (what do you

think?), a good reply is “*U menya net slov, odni emotsii!*” (I have no words, only emotions). We think this phrase will come in handy at any time, in a museum, as you wander around the city or even if you find yourself on a crowded metro train at peak hour!

ALPHABET

А	А	З	З	П	Р	Ч	CH
Б	В	И	И	Р	Р	Ш	SH
В	В	Й	У	С	С	Щ	SHCH
Г	Г	К	К	Т	Т	Ы	Y
Д	Д	Л	Л	У	У	Э	E
Е	Е	М	М	Ф	Ф	Ю	YU
Ё	YO	Н	Н	Х	Х	Я	YA
Ж	ZH	О	О	Ц	TS	Ъ, Ъ	no sound

NUMBERS

1	odin	11	odinatsat	30	tritsat
2	dva	12	dvenatsat	40	sorok
3	tri	13	trinatsat	50	pyatdesyat
4	chetyre	14	chetyrnatsat	60	shestdesyat
5	pyat	15	pyatnatsat	70	semdesyat
6	shest	16	shestnatsat	80	vosemdesyat
7	sem	17	semnatsat	90	devyanosta
8	vosem	18	vosemnatsat	100	sto
9	devyat	19	devyatnatsat	500	pyatsot
10	desyat	20	dvatsat	1000	tsyacha

USEFUL PHRASES

No/Yes	Net/da	Нет/Да
Hello	Zdrastvuite	Здравствуйте
Goodbye	Dasvidaniya	До свидания
Thank you	Spasibo	Спасибо
Sorry/excuse me	Izvinite	Извините
Please	Pazhalusta	Пожалуйста
Help	Pomogitye	Помогите
I (don't) like it	Mnye (ne) nraivitsa	Мне (не) нравится
May I?	Mozhno?	Можно?
Do you have...?	U vas est...?	У вас есть...?
I don't know	Ya ne znayu	Я не знаю
How much is it?	Skolko stoit?	Сколько стоит?
It's expensive!	Eta dorogo!	Это дорого!
Large/small	Bolshoy/ malenkiy	Большой/ маленький
Good/bad	Khorosho/ plokho	Хорошо/ плохо
Today	Sevodnya	Сегодня
Tomorrow	Zaftra	Завтра

LEARN RUSSIAN

Dictionary for Russian-learners:

“*Kak sneg na golovu*” –

“Like a snow pile falling on your head”

An emotional reaction to an unexpected event, both pleasant and unpleasant. Can be used as an excuse for an action taken too late, or not taken at all. English equivalent: Out of the blue.

LIDEN & DENZ



The school is centrally located next to Nevsky prospekt, close to two charming parks and the Russian Museum, in a historical and newly renovated building. All 13 classrooms come with a modern design and have access to natural light.

Liden & Denz offers a variety of Russian language courses for different levels, from group courses to individual classes tailored to your needs, as well as a special programme for expats. All courses are based on communicative approaches and combine learning common expressions used in everyday situations with thorough grammatical approach. Liden & Denz also organizes a lot of cultural activities for the students.

If you want to get most of your stay in Russia; feel, act and sound local; chat fluently in almost any real-life situation – Liden & Denz is the place to go. ▶ D-3, Italyanskaya ul. 17, M Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 334 07 88, www.lidenz.ru. Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.



Tatiana Navka and Roman Kostomarov in *Carmen*

Welcome to the cultural capital of Russia! After spending a day walking through the finest museums and historical locations, you can watch a play, ballet, opera, circus performance, rock or pop concerts any and every night you choose.

THEATRES

ALEXANDRINSKY THEATRE

► E-3, Pl. Ostrovskogo 2,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 312 15 45, www.alexandrinsky.ru

BOLSHOY DRAMA THEATRE

► D-3, Nab. reky Fontanky 65,  Sennaya pl., tel. (+7) 812 244 10 71, www.bdt.spb.ru

IMPERIAL HERMITAGE THEATER

► C-2, Dvortsovaya nab. 34,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 710 90 30, www.balet-spb.ru

MALY DRAMA THEATRE

► E-3, Ul. Rubinshteina 18,  Dostoevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 713 20 78, www.mdt-dodin.ru

MARIINSKY CONCERT HALL

► C-3, Teatralnaya pl. 1,  Sennaya pl., tel. (+7) 812 326 41 41, www.mariinsky.ru

MARIINSKY THEATRE

► C-3, Teatralnaya pl. 1,  Sennaya pl., tel. (+7) 812 326 41 41, www.mariinsky.ru

MIKHAILOVSKY THEATRE

► D-2, Pl. Iskusstv 1,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 595 43 19, www.mikhailovsky.ru

GRAND PHILHARMONIC HALL

► D-3, Mikhailovskaya ul. 2,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 710 42 90, www.philharmonia.spb.ru

SAINT PETERSBURG OPERA

► C-3, Galernaya ul. 33,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 315 67 69, www.spbopera.ru

CONCERTS

07.06 - 21.06 » CARMEN

Any self-respecting opera lover has seen *Carmen*, an opera in four acts set in southern Spain that tells the story of the downfall of Don José, a naive soldier who is seduced by the wiles of the fiery gypsy Carmen. You'd think this fiery opera is not suitable for the ice-rink but fire and ice are a fascinating combination! The brainchild of Ilya Averbuch (the 2002 Olympic figure skating silver medalist, the 2002 World champion and the 2003 European champion), the "*Carmen*" musical on ice was more than a hit in its first year (2015). It would be unfair to deprive St. Petersburg of the thrills and chills, so "*Carmen*" will help you cool off during the hot month of June. Figure skating legends such as Tatiana Navka, Alexey Yagudin, Tatyana Totmyanina and Maxim Marinin will bring the heart-moving story to life! ► C-2, Yubileiny Sports Palace, Pr. Dobrolyubova 18,  Sportivnaya, tel. (+7) 812 702 36 22, Tickets 800 - 3,500Rbl., www.carmen-show.ru.

15.06 19:00 » THE PIANO GUYS

Jon Schmidt, Steven Sharp Nelson, Paul Anderson and Al van der Beek - collectively forming the famous American music group The Piano Guys - are on their way to Moscow's Crocus City Hall for a show that simply cannot be missed! First rising to fame through YouTube, where they posted piano and cello renditions of popular songs and classical music, The Piano Guys have since signed a record deal with Sony, released six studio albums, amassed more than 5 million subscribers on YouTube and toured the world. On June 15, come and hear for yourself their renditions of anything from the Star Wars songs to Adele and the Jungle Book to David Guetta. ► E-3, Oktyabrsky Grand Concert Hall (BKZ), Ligovsky pr. 6,  Pl. Vostaniya, tel. (+7) 812 275 13 00, Tickets 1,200 - 5,000Rbl., www.thepianoguy.com.

21.06 19:00 » LP

Laura Pergolizzi - or LP for short - is an American pop singer and songwriter that has written for the likes of Cher, Cher Lloyd, Rihanna, the Backstreet Boys and Christina Aguilera. In 2010, the talented musician landed her first major breakthrough as a songwriter, co-writing Rihanna's song, "Cheers (Drink to That)", featured on Rihanna's fifth studio album Loud. Throughout her career, LP has released five solo studio albums and her song "Muddy Waters" (2015) was featured in the violent and emotionally charged closing scene of the season four finale of Netflix's original series Orange Is The New Black. ▶ **Ledovy Dvorets, Pr. Pyatiletok 1, M Pr. Bolshevnikov, tel. (+7) 812 718 66 20, Tickets 2,500 - 4,500Rbl., www.iamlp.com.**

22.06 19:00 » TURETSKY CHOIR

Established at the Moscow Choral Synagogue, the Turetsky Men's Choir made its debut in 1990 with Jewish liturgical and folk music in the philharmonic halls of Tallinn and Kaliningrad. Their repertoire has grown since to include opera, spiritual, folk and pop music in 10 different languages. Presently, the men's a cappella ensemble and musical collective under the direction of Mikhail Turetsky features voices ranging from tenore contraltino to basso profundo. ▶ **E-3, Oktyabrsky Grand Concert Hall (BKZ), Ligovsky pr. 6, M Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 275 13 00, Tickets 1,500 - 8,000Rbl., www.arthor.ru/en/homepage-eng.**

23.06 20:00 » EVANESCENCE

Evanescence, the world famous American metal band with Amy Lee's piercing female vocals and painfully profound lyrics, is coming back to Russia this summer to "bring us to life" with beloved hits like "Bring Me To Life", "My Immortal", "Going Under", "Everybody's Fool", "Call Me When You're Sober" and many others. This time around, the band is coming to Moscow (June 24) and St. Petersburg (June 23) with new members and Amy Lee firmly believes that this is the best line-up the band has ever had. ▶ **D-1, Club A2, Pr. Medikov 3, M Petrogradskaya, tel. (+7) 812 309 99 22, Tickets 2,500 - 7,000Rbl., www.evanescence.com.**

29.06 20:00 » TEQUILAJAZZ

One of St. Petersburg's most famous sons, Tequilajazz is an alt-rock band led by bassist Evgeny "Ai-yai-yai" Fedorov that disbanded back in 2010 after releasing six studio albums. Luckily for the band's numerous fans, the disbandment only lasted a few years and in 2015 the new line-up (but still with Evgeny Fedorov at the helm) slowly began playing more and more shows again together. For this summer, Tequilajazz have prepared a very special electro-acoustic program in which they'll perform their famous as well as obscure songs. ▶ **E-1, Aurora concert hall, Pirogovskaya nab. 5/2, M Pl. Lenina, tel. (+7) 812 907 19 17, Tickets 700 - 1,900Rbl., www.tequilajazz.com.**

BUYING CONCERT TICKETS

Tickets for most events can be bought at ticket offices and kiosks (*teatralnaya kassa*), of which there are many in the city centre – they are usually very easy to spot as they tend to be plastered in posters for concerts and shows. Of course each venue also sells its own tickets and some venues such as the Mariinsky Theatre also sell tickets online. There are also a number of online services that allow you to reserve and/or buy tickets online and most of them offer delivery anywhere in the city for an additional fee. Check out www.kassir.ru and www.bileter.ru.

30.06 20:00 » METRONOMY

Metronomy are one of Britain's most-loved, "quintessentially English", modern pop acts. Founder Joe Mount and his band quietly became a creative force to be reckoned with around the world and one of the must-see live acts with a legion of devoted fans. Their third album "The English Riviera" was Mercury nominated, selling a quarter of a million records worldwide, landing Metronomy on front covers of music magazines, playing huge sell out shows globally and a special, one off show at London's prestigious Royal Albert Hall in 2011. Metronomy's live shows include dance routines and light shows, most notable of which are the push lights stuck to their chests. If it's a good time you're after, make sure to get your tickets to Metronomy's gig on June 30 at St. Petersburg's A2 Club! ▶ **D-1, Club A2, Pr. Medikov 3, M Petrogradskaya, tel. (+7) 812 309 99 22, Tickets 1,800 - 4,000Rbl., www.metronomy.co.uk.**

Stay up-to-date

 facebook.com/StPetersburgInYourPocket

02.07 18:00 » AQUARIUM

There is hardly a Russian in the world that hasn't heard of the legendary underground rock band Aquarium and its leader Boris Grebenshikov. During the 70's and 80's Aquarium created an entirely unique musical and social aesthetic. Influenced by a variety of music styles and cultures, the group's sound nevertheless remained recognizable - whether performing quiet love ballads, light dancing reggae or powerful rock-n-roll anthems. Grebenshikov is also no stranger outside Russia. His albums were recorded and released throughout Europe and North America and he is widely known and respected among top Western musicians. Volumes can be written about Aquarium's work and the influence they had on Russia's musical scene but a concert speaks better than a thousand words. This is why you should see them on July 2 at the Yubileiny Concert Hall. ▶ **C-2, Yubileiny Sports Palace, Pr. Dobrolyubova 18, M Sportivnaya, tel. (+7) 812 702 36 22, Tickets 1,500 - 10,000Rbl., www.aquarium.ru.**

RUSSIAN MUSIC SEASONS



One magical hour of classical Russian music performed by a St. Petersburg orchestra in a historical Barocco palace. A pre-concert tour around the venue's beautiful main halls with a glass of wine in hand. Does that sound

like something you and your loved ones would enjoy? If yes, secure your spot at one of the sessions of this year's Russian Music Seasons, held on select evenings between May and October. Ideal for classical music enthusiasts and couples looking for a truly romantic experience, this unique experience allows you to lose yourself in the much-loved works by genius Russian composers, all performed by a local orchestra. Enjoy an interesting pre-concert tour of the palace's halls while leisurely sipping on a glass of sparkling wine and immerse yourself in the atmosphere of Russian aristocracy as you take in the beauty of the baroque style hall, abundantly decorated with bronze and gold, and see the other halls of the rich master of the house. **Tickets 3,200Rbl. Tel. (+7) 981 131 48 68, www.rmseasons.com.**

► Vladimir Palace (Academics' House), D-2, Dvortsovaya nab. 26,  Admiralteiskaya. June 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 19, 21, July 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, 29, 31.

► Museum-estate of Derzhavin, D-4, Nab. Reky Fontanky 118,  Tekhnologicheskyy Institut. June 17, 24, 26, 28

LENINGRAD CENTER

Leningrad Center is home to a long-awaited premiere – Felix Mikhailov's production of "Goddess M" (June 30, July 1, 7, 8, 22, 28, 29, August 4 and 5) starring the famed ballerina Vera Arbuzova, who, after a long absence, has decided to return to the stage. "Goddess M" is the whimsical, vibrant, metaphorical story of the fate of a great actress who, at the sunset of her brilliant career, gives in to remembrances of days past, delighting spectators with a mystical journey through time and space. Another interesting performance is "Summer. Dreams about Russia" (June 9 and 10), a hip-hop extravaganza show based on Russian folklore with elements of modern dance and circus art –based on Felix Mikhaylov's concept of "mixed genres." The choreography of the show "Summer. Dreams about Russia" is close to the figurative type of performance with many quotes and allusions. The fistfight scene is presented as a hip-hop battle; air acrobatics follows the laws of ballet. ► E-2, Potyomkinskaya ul. 4,  Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 242 99 99, www.leningradcenter.ru

13.07 19:30 ► DEPECHE MODE

Depeche Mode really need no introduction. One of the most influential musical groups over the past four decades, this English trio has released a total of 14 studio albums, 10 compilation albums, 6 live albums, 8 box sets, 13 video albums, 71 music videos and 54 singles. The band have sold over 100 million records worldwide and inspired countless other artists to pursue music. Music critic Sasha Frere-Jones claimed that "the last serious English influence was Depeche Mode, who seem more and more significant as time passes". "Spirit", released on 17 March 2017 through Columbia Records, is their fourteenth studio album. ► Sport Concert Complex, Pr. Gagarina 8,  Park Pobedy, tel. (+7) 812 378 17 10, Tickets 3,500 - 25,000Rbl., www.depechemode.com.

16.07 19:00 ► IMAGINE DRAGONS

A Grammy Award-winning alt-rock outfit with a knack for crafting stylish, stadium-ready anthems as emotionally charged as they are radio-friendly, Las Vegas-based Imagine Dragons were formed in Provo, Utah, where vocalist Dan Reynolds met drummer Andrew Tolman while the two attended Brigham Young University. In 2009, the group made a name for itself regionally and relocated to Reynolds' hometown of Las Vegas to record a pair of well-received EPs (Imagine Dragons and Hell and Silence) at the Killers' Battle Born Studios. And the rest is history. As of January 2017, Imagine Dragons have sold 9 million albums and 27 million singles worldwide, won two American Music Awards for Favorite Alternative Artist, a Grammy Award for Best Rock Performance, five Billboard Music Awards, a World Music Award and performed in front of tens if not hundreds of thousands of fans around the world. ► Ledovy Dvoretz, Pr. Pyatiletok 1,  Pr. Bolshevnikov, tel. (+7) 812 718 66 20, Tickets 1,800 - 50,000Rbl., www.imagedragonsmusic.com.

26.07 20:00 ► BILLY TALENT



Billy Talent, the Canadian rock band with some aggressive punk undertones, existed for almost a decade before mainstream success. Most other people would have given up by then but not vocalist Benjamin Kowalewicz, guitarist Ian D'Sa, bassist Jon Gallant and drummer Aaron Solowoniuk. It was in the fall of 2003 that the band released their full-length self-titled album, "Billy Talent". "Try Honesty" was a successful first single, and was followed by other singles "The Ex", "River Below", and "Nothing to Lose" into late 2003 and 2004 leading the band to play sold-out shows in Canada and the US, as well as successful gigs in Europe. Having completed work on the sixth studio album "Afraid of Heights", Billy Talent are now touring the world performing new songs off their latest creation as well older hits so beloved by their fans. ► D-4, Club Cosmonavt, Bronnitskaya ul. 24,  Tekhnologicheskyy Institut, tel. (+7) 812 303 33 33, Tickets 1,800 - 4,000Rbl., www.billytalent.com.

FESTIVALS

02.06 - 04.06 » VII INTERNATIONAL STREET THEATER FESTIVAL

Returning for its 7th edition on June 2-4, the International Street Theater Festival on Yelagin Island is one of Russia's most important street theater events. As is tradition, the festival brings together the best of professional and amateur street theaters of Russia and Europe. This year 8 international collectives from England, France, Italy, Spain, Holland, Poland, Belarus and, for the first time in the festival's history, a troupe from Asia (South Korea)! Over three days, theater lovers can enjoy a wide array of genres and forms in the great outdoors - from spontaneous improv to sophisticated and complex performances.

► Yelagin Park,  Krestovsky ostrov, tel. (+7) 812 430 09 11, Admission free. You only have to pay for the entrance to the park., www.yelaginpark.org.



03.06 - 04.06 » URBAN CULTURE FESTIVAL

A smashing open air for lovers of urban culture with two music stages, a skate-park, bmx/streetball/tattoo and barber area, food and fashion convenience store, spray-art exhibition, exhibition of custom motorcycles and cars, Urban Culture Festival is back for a second time following last year's debut that still has St. Petersburg's youth raving. The full line-up is still being finalized but you can rest assured that this year it's going to be bigger, better and louder than last year's - if that's even possible. ► Street Art Museum, Shosse Revolutsii 84,  Novocherkasskaya, tel. (+7) 812 448 15 93, Tickets 600Rbl., www.ucfest.ru.

23.06 » THE SCARLET SAILS



The Scarlet Sails festival was first held in 2005 and since then has become a much-anticipated annual celebration. And it's no wonder! Just imagine this: a beautiful parade of vessels sails along the banks of the Neva to the sounds of classical music and fire-

works. This parade is led by the ship "The Secret," decked out with scarlet sails much like in a fairy tale "The Scarlet Sails" by Alexander Grin. The fairy tale tells the story of a young girl named Assol. It was predicted that she would meet a prince who would arrive on a ship with scarlet sails.

A wealthy captain falls in love with Assol and learns of her story. He docks his ship with scarlet sails and makes Assol's dreams come true. On June 23 see this wondrous sight for yourself. ► Admission Free, www.parusaspb.ru.

24.06 - 25.06 » GEEK PICNIC



Geek Picnic is the largest open-air festival in Eastern Europe dedicated to science. Established in St. Petersburg in 2011, it now travels all over the world. This year's highlight is, undoubtedly, the Tesla Show, a unique electrical power show and an outstanding performance at the intersection of science and fantasy. The Cosplay Opera of the Diva Plavalaguna song from the cult movie The Fifth Element, the most renowned and admired opera performance in the film's universe, will also delight this year's visitors. And, of course, there will be no shortage of science shows with explosions and chemical interactions performed right in front of your eyes and a series of specialized lectures on innovations, scientific progress and data security. ► Tickets 500 - 1,200Rbl., www.geek-picnic.me/saint-petersburg.

29.06 - 09.07 » THE 19TH INTERNATIONAL OPEN LOOK DANCE FESTIVAL

From June 29 to July 9, the XVIII International St. Petersburg Dance Festival "Open Look" will traditionally gather the most prominent representatives of contemporary dance from all over the world at the New Stage of Alexandrinsky theatre and Kannon Dance House. Open Look festival, launched in 1999, has come a long way from being a summer dance school to becoming the most anticipated dance event of the cultural capital of Russia. The festival organizers - Dance House Kannon Dance - annually present the best of the global trends in contemporary dance as well as related disciplines - performance, dance on camera, multimedia, etc. ► E-3, The New Stage of Alexandrinsky Theatre,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 401 53 41, www.open-look.ru.



What's On

THROUGH 30.06 » XII INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL "MUSICAL COLLECTION"



This year, the festival will be launched with a piano evening of Chopin and Chaikovsky by Nikolai Lugansky and a philharmonic orchestra. A few of the highlights also include the famous French piano duo Ludmila Berlinskaya and Arthur Ansell (June 5) and solo concerts of such musical talents as Miroslav Kuliyshv (22 June), Valery Afansiev (23 June) and Andrey Korobeinikov (June 28). The program this year is a true delight for classical music connoisseurs so be sure to check it out on the festival's website and get your tickets before they sell out! ▶ D-3, Grand Philharmonic Hall, Mikhailovskaya ul. 2, M Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 710 42 90, Tickets 100 - 4,000Rbl., www.philharmonia.spb.ru.

07.07 - 09.07 » STEREOLETO

The first independent annual musical festival in Russia, StereoLeto can easily vie for one of the most important symbols of the Northern Capital alongside the Hermitage, Zenit Football Club and the bridges. Since its very inception back in 2001, the organizers' main focus has been bringing artists that are relevant to the epoch. Here are just a few examples of the names that performed at the festival over the years: Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds, Apparat, La Roux, AIR, Ladytron, Future Sound of London, Asian Dub Foundation, Kid Koala, Royksopp, Morcheeba, Gus Gus and many many more. This year, put on your dancing shoes and the funkiest shades you've got and head to Yelagin Island on July 7-9 to see the likes of U.N.K.L.E., Sekuoia, General Elektriks, Too Many Zoos, Lucille Crew and many other international and Russian stars. When you've danced up an appetite treat yourself to something from one of the many street food stands and then do a spot of shopping at the Stereo Market while you digest. ▶ Yelagin Park, M Krestovsky ostrov, tel. (+7) 812 430 09 11, Tickets 1,800 - 4,500Rbl., www.bestfest.ru.



15.07 - 16.07 » VK FEST

Offline is the new online – at least once a year. Back for the 3rd time on July 15 and 16, VK Fest (organized by the Russian social media giant VKontakte) is aimed at bringing its vast online community together in the "real world" for two days of outdoor fun. On the shores of the Bay of Finland a whole new city will rise, divided into 18 zones: music,

innovation, games, sport, extreme, lecture hall, food, market, art, computer games, bloggers and a few others. More than 40 artists will take to one of the three music stages, dozens of bloggers and speakers will talk about what they know best, master classes, outdoor sporting events, computer championships, competitions and hundreds of other activities will keep you busy and food as far as the eye can see will leave your tastebuds spoiled for choice.

▶ Tickets 1,250 - 3,500Rbl., www.radiorecord.ru.

29.07 14:00 » USADBA JAZZ



The biggest Russian open-air festival joining jazz, funk, world music, acid-jazz, lounge, jazz-rock, blues and other directions of contemporary improvised music is back for yet another exciting edition on July 29! Held for the first time in May of 2004 in Moscow, Usadba Jazz has since branched out

to other major Russian cities, bringing many of the world's top names in jazz to a wide Russian audience. As has become tradition, the St. Petersburg edition is held on the scenic Yelagin Island. Confirmed artists include Auktision and VIA "Proletarskoe Tango". The final program is still being developed but rest assured that you will be grooving, funkling and jamming! ▶ Yelagin Park, M Krestovsky ostrov, tel. (+7) 812 430 09 11, Tickets 1,500 - 2,500Rbl., www.usadba-jazz.ru/sankt-peterburg.

28.07 - 30.07 » PRESENT PERFECT FESTIVAL

The third edition of the annual festival of electronic music and contemporary art Present Perfect will bring joy to St. Petersburg's trendy residents. This year, the festival has been expanded to a three-day program and includes a set of events at some of the city's key venues during the whole weekend: an opening concert, educational sessions, official afterparty and other events supporting the festival. The main event of the program will take place on the July 29 at the beloved Street Art Museum, located at an operational plastic lamination plant in the North of St. Petersburg. Some of the confirmed artists so far include The Black Madonna (US), Ben UFO (UK), Daniel Avery (UK), Atom TM (DE), Tobias. (DE), Jujū & Jordash (ISR/NL) and many more. ▶ Street Art Museum, Shosse Revolyutsii 84, M Novocherkasskaya, tel. (+7) 812 448 15 93, Tickets 1,500Rbl., www.runited.ru/ppf/2017. 18:00.



EXHIBITIONS

THROUGH 23.07 » MANOLO BLAHNIK: THE ART OF SHOES



Manolo Blahnik – any self-respecting fashionista will have one or more pairs of exquisite heels that bear the name of this iconic Spanish footwear designer. “Manolo Blahnik: The Art of Shoes” at the Hermitage is a retrospective of shoes created by the designer over a period of

45 years. The display is made up of six thematic sections, all self-explanatory in their names: Nature, Gala, Art and Architecture, Heart, Geography and Materials. Perhaps most notably, the Gala section contains shoes made from the most expensive materials and also footwear that Blahnik created for Sofia Coppola’s film Marie Antoinette. Altogether the exhibition presents 30 original designs and 214 shoes from Manolo Blahnik’s archive. ▶ D-2, Hermitage, Dvortsovaya nab. 34 (entrance from Dvortsovaya pl.), [M] Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 710 90 79, Tickets 600Rbl., www.hermitagemuseum.org. Open 10:30 - 18:00, Wed, Fri 10:30 - 21:00. Closed Mon.

THROUGH 24.07 » VASILY VASILYEVICH VERESHCHAGIN



Vasily Vasilyevich Vereshchagin was one of the most famous Russian war artists and one of the first Russian artists to be widely recognized abroad. The graphic nature of his realist scenes led many of them to never be printed or exhibited. This year marks the 175th anniversary of the

great artist’s birth and the Russian Museum is launching a very special exhibition to honor this momentous event for the art world. Between April 20 and July 20 more than 220 of his works will be on display at the Russian Museum. ▶ D-2, Benois Wing, Russian Museum, nab. kan. Griboedova 2, [M] Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 595 42 48, Tickets 200 - 450Rbl., www.en.rusmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 10:00 - 20:00, Thu 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue.

THROUGH 30.07 » UNDRRESSED: A BRIEF HISTORY OF UNDERWEAR

Having received raving reviews back home in the UK, London’s Victoria & Albert Museum is lending the “Undressed: A Brief History Of Underwear” exhibition to the Erarta Museum of Contemporary Art in St. Petersburg for a few months. The show will display more than 200 examples

GORKI GOLF CLUB



In case you didn’t know, St. Petersburg has more to offer than just art galleries and museums. For lovers of nature and sport, if you haven’t discovered GORKI Golf Club yet, then now is the time. As the first 18-hole golf course in the north-western region, GORKI golf club certainly holds some prestige. The vast, rolling green course spans across 6505 meters and is conveniently located just 50km outside of St.Petersburg. You may not be lucky enough to get a hole in one, but new friends, expansive nature and total relaxation are definitely par for the course here at GORKI Golf Club.

▶ Golf Club, Academy & Restaurant open 09:00 - 21:00. Gorki Golf village (2 km from Gorki) Lomonosovskiy district, Leningrad region, tel. (+7) 812 318 09 90, www.gorkigolf.ru.

Date Event

June

3	GORKI Cup (1 Stage)
9	Beginners only 36+
10	The Pirates tournament
11	Mens Only 1 Stage (Stroke play)
17-18	GORKI White Nights 24 HRS Golf Tournament
22	GORKI SPB OPEN
24	Ladies Summer Challenge Stage 2
24	Mens Only 2 Stage (Stroke play)
25	GORKI CUP (Stage 2)

July

15	Mens Only3 Stage (Stroke play)
15	Ladies Summer Challenge Stage 3
16	GORKI CUP (Stage 3)
22	Mens Only 4 Stage (Stroke play)
23	Family Cup
29	Beginners only 36+



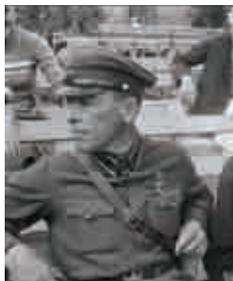
of underwear for men and women, highlighting the enduring themes of innovation and luxury, from the custom-made, such as a rare example of home-made "stays" worn by a working woman in England in the 18th century to pieces by designers including Agent Provocateur, Stella McCartney, Elie Saab, Dolce&Gabbana, Vivienne Westwood, Calvin Klein, Givenchy and other world known brands. After a brief few months at Erarta, the exhibition will hit the road so don't miss your chance to see this hit project. ▶ **B-3, Erarta Museum of Contemporary Art, VO, 29-ya liniya 2, M Primorskaya, tel. (+7) 812 324 08 09, Tickets 350 - 500Rbl., www.erarta.com. Open 10:00 - 22:00. Closed Tue.**

THROUGH 27.08 » PHOTOMANIPULATIONS



"Photomanipulations" is a solo exhibition at Erarta by Chema Madoz, the famous Spanish photographer who is also considered one of the best in Europe. The winner of many prestigious photography and art awards in Spain, Madoz finds new meanings of things through surprisingly accurate metaphors, hyperlinks, irony, absurdity and paradox. The artist photographs an idea, the mere materiality of which is not the final object of his work, but rather its frame, its portrait. That is why he sticks to black and white photography. The exhibition is divided into four major areas that facilitate the walk through the photographs with the least interference possible, as the images proposed by Madoz require the viewer's active participation. ▶ **B-3, Erarta Museum of Contemporary Art, VO, 29-ya liniya 2, M Primorskaya, tel. (+7) 812 324 08 09, Tickets 350 - 500Rbl., www.erarta.com. Open 10:00 - 22:00. Closed Tue.**

01.07 - 24.09 » KHENKIN BROTHERS



Two brothers, two tragic fates. Evgeny and Yakov Khenkin, natives of Rostov on Don, both shared a passion for photography. After the October Revolution, Yakov moved to Leningrad while Evgeny relocated to Germany. Yakov died on the frontlines and Evgeny was arrested and shot by the NKVD. Although there

is still a lot to determine about their fates, the brothers

are survived by films containing about 7,000 photographs showing the life of two cities – Leningrad and Berlin – during one of the most turbulent times in history. The aptly titled exhibition at the Hermitage Museum "Khenkin Brothers. The people of Leningrad and Berlin of the 1920s and 1930s" is the brothers' first exhibition. ▶ **D-2, Hermitage, Dvortsovaya nab. 34 (entrance from Dvortsovaya pl.), M Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 710 90 79, Tickets 600Rbl., www.hermitagemuseum.org. Open 10:30 - 18:00, Wed, Fri 10:30 - 21:00. Closed Mon.**

28.07 - 15.10 » HERMITAGE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TEXTILES. HISTORY AND RESTORATION



For lovers of art, textiles and history, the Hermitage has a very special exhibition in store. For the first time in its history, the museum will be displaying its textile collection in all of its variety – from primordial examples to textiles of the 20th century, from Antique times of the East to modern

day Europe. The exhibition consists of two parts: part one is all about the history of textiles, while part two looks at their restoration. In terms of the variety and size of its textile collection, the Hermitage is almost unparalleled, offering an encyclopedic reach of historic periods and geographic areas so if you want to know all there is to know about textiles, don't miss this event. ▶ **D-2, Hermitage, Dvortsovaya nab. 34 (entrance from Dvortsovaya pl.), M Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 710 90 79, Tickets 300 - 600Rbl., www.hermitagemuseum.org. Open 10:30 - 18:00, Wed, Fri 10:30 - 21:00. Closed Mon.**

THROUGH 03.09 » REALITY AND MAGIC. NELLY PETROVA'S CERAMICS



"Reality and Magic. Nelly Petrova's Ceramics" is an exhibition dedicated to this decade's works of Nelly Petrova, the main artist of the Imperial Ceramics Factory. Visitors will get to admire vases, dinnerware and a few original art objects for interior decorat-

ing. The artist masterfully creates true pieces of art that feature animals, poetic interpretations of Russian nature and allegoric scenes. More than 200 ceramic works, as well as pictures and project graphics will be presented at this exhibition. ▶ **D-2, Hermitage, Dvortsovaya nab. 34 (entrance from Dvortsovaya pl.), M Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 710 90 79, Tickets 300 - 600Rbl., www.hermitagemuseum.org. Open 10:30 - 18:00, Wed, Fri 10:30 - 21:00. Closed Mon.**



Football fans - rejoice! As a prelude to the 2018 FIFA World Cup, the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup will be held in Russia from 17 June to 2 July 2017. It's extra special because it will be the first time Russia hosts the tournament and the third time the Confederations Cup is held in the European continent. The matches will be played in four different stadiums across four cities: St. Petersburg (Krestovsky Stadium), Moscow (Otkrytie Arena), Kazan (Kazan Arena) and Sochi (Fisht Stadium). And if you like what you see, all four of these venues will also be among the 12 used for the 2018 FIFA World Cup so you can start planning your visit for next year.

If you're not sure about the rules, here's a quick recap. As hosts, Russia qualified automatically for the tournament; they will be joined by the six winners of the FIFA confederations championships and the 2014 FIFA World Cup champions, Germany. The final tournament will be played in two stages: a group stage and a latter knockout stage. In the group stage, each team will play three games in a group of four, with the winners and runners-up from each group advancing to the knockout stage. In the knockout stage, the four teams will compete in single-elimination matches, beginning with the semi-finals and ending with the final match of the tournament. A third-place match will also be played between the two losing semi-finalist teams.

If you're wondering how to get to the Confederations Cup (or to next year's World Cup), visit welcome2018.com, a website aimed at providing coverage of the preparation process ahead of the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup and 2018 FIFA World Cup. It's also your one-stop-shop, facilitating planning the trip to host cities for domestic and foreign fans alike. Generally, tickets are distributed in four stages: pre-sale for VISA owners, random draw, first come first served and last minute sales. All host cities (St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kazan and Sochi) have a wide range of accommodation options, some of which you can find in the guide on pages 62-63.

If you don't end up getting your hands on a ticket to one of the matches, do not despair! Russia is a football-loving country so there will be plenty of screens in public places as well as sports bars in all four cities hosting the Confederation Cup where you can sit back, have a beer and cheer your favourite team on. Check the best sport bars in St. Petersburg on page 39.

SCHEDULE

GROUP A

June 17, 18:00	St.Petersburg, Krestovsky
	Russia <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand
June 18, 18:00	Kazan, Kazan Arena
	Portugal <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Mexico
June 21, 18:00	Moscow, Otkrytie Arena
	Russia <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Portugal
June 21, 21:00	Sochi, Fisht
	Mexico <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand
June 24, 18:00	St.Petersburg, Krestovsky
	New Zealand <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Portugal
June 24, 18:00	Kazan, Kazan Arena
	Mexico <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Russia

GROUP B

June 18, 21:00	Moscow, Otkrytie Arena
	Cameroon <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Chile
June 19, 18:00	Sochi, Fisht
	Australia <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Germany
June 22, 18:00	St.Petersburg, Krestovsky
	Cameroon <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Australia
June 22, 21:00	Kazan, Kazan Arena
	Germany <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Chile
June 25, 18:00	Sochi, Fisht
	Germany <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Cameroon
June 25, 18:00	Moscow, Otkrytie Arena
	Chile <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Australia

SEMI-FINAL

June 28, 21:00	Kazan, Kazan Arena
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
June 29, 21:00	Sochi, Fisht
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

3RD PLACE MATCH

July 02, 15:00	Moscow, Otkrytie Arena
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

FINAL

July 02, 21:00	St.Petersburg, Krestovsky
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>



VASILIEVSKY ISLAND

Vasilievsky is the largest of St. Petersburg's islands, and thanks to the Spit of Vasilievsky's fame, the one most recognised by name. Indeed, it was originally conceived of by Peter the Great as his new capital's centre. Whilst this plan didn't come to fruition – its relatively exposed position and fewer mainland connections led to the favouring of St. Petersburg's modern centre by later builders – Vasilievsky remains one of the city's most beautiful historic districts, mostly centred around the easterly spit. Particularly during the reign of Catherine the Great, the island became a hub of St. Petersburg's intellectual and cultural life. A number of important institutions are therefore located on Vasilievsky, including the historic Stock Exchange, St. Petersburg State University, and the Russian Academy of Fine Arts.

Long before the city of St. Petersburg was founded, Vasilievsky Island was known by two names. The first, surviving name, is Russian: Vasiliev Ostrov, translating to "Vasily's Island". Although it's not clear who Vasily may have been, one possible contender may be Vasily Korchmin, a gunner and military engineer in Peter the Great's army who successfully warded the Swedish navy off the island. A statue to Korchmin may be found a couple of minutes' walk from Vasilieostrovskaya metro station, sitting jauntily atop a cannon. The second name the island went by was Finnish, Khirvisaari, translating to "Elk Island"; a hint as to the island's previous occupancy!

The history of the complex took an interesting turn in 1890 when one of the buildings was converted from a one-storey meat locker into a Navy laboratory.

Vasilievsky Island is full of places well worth exploring – from classy bars to alternative hangouts, all the way through galleries, theatres and monuments. If you have time, strolling aimlessly means you'll almost certainly stumble on a hidden gem or two. If you don't have a huge amount of time, however, we've put together a short tour for you to follow, taking in some of Vasilievsky's best spots. To start, take the metro to **Sportivnaya station**. Opened in 1997, it's one of the city's most modern metro stations and has a classical, Olympic-inspired theme; take a look at the mosaic representing Greek gods as you exit. You will come out onto **Makarova Embankment**.

Named after Russian vice-admiral S. O. Makarov, this was a fishermen's settlement in the 17th century, with stone buildings erected from the first half of the 18th century onwards.

The first place to note in the **Pavlov Institute of Physiology**. Most known for his work on classical conditioning, from which the phrase "Pavlovian reaction" is drawn, Ivan Pavlov became Russia's first Nobel laureate in 1904. He was also the Institute's first director, and a bust of the man himself now stands outside. Stemming from an initial goal of studying brain hemispheres and their physiology, by the 1930s the work undertaken by the Institute included brain hemispheres and their regulatory systems, nervous system types, experimental neuroses and nervous activity in primates. It remains important within the field, researching the fascinating workings of the human brain.

Following the embankment round, you will see the **Spit of Vasilievsky Island**, flanked by the two large Rostral Columns. The Spit is a popular place for wedding photos – don't be surprised if you see a bride or two! It's also one of the best views in St. Petersburg so make sure you stand at the edge to have a look. Some landmarks visible from the Spit are the Peter and Paul Fortress, the Winter Palace, St Isaac's Cathedral, and the Admiralty. On a clear day, it's possible to see for quite a long way; on a clear evening, the city glitters with lights.

The enormous **Rostral Columns** dominate this part of the island. Erected in 1805-10 to celebrate Russian victory over the Swedish navy, the six rostra (prows of captured ships) on each column serve as a declaration of Russian military might. At the base of the columns, sculptures depict Russia's great rivers in allegorical form; the Volga, Dnepr, Neva, and Volkhov, two of each on the north and south columns respectively. However, the columns are also functional; up until 1885 they served as lighthouses during nights and foggy days, and are lit to this day on holidays. Hidden inside the columns are spiral staircases which lead to the top and allow the beacons to be lit.

Behind the Spit is another of Vasilievsky's landmark buildings, the **Old Stock Exchange**. Erected between 1805 and 1810, it was inspired by the Greek Temple of Hera at Paestum and designed by French architect Thomas de Thomon. In 1826-32, the northern storehouse was added. It's decorated with monumental sculpture symbolising maritime commerce and a powerful-looking Neptune.



Turn the corner of the Spit and it's time to go into some museums! First up is the **Zoology Museum**, one of the world's largest natural history museums and home to a breathtaking variety of zoological specimens. Around 30,000 animals are currently on display within its halls, running a gamut of preservation techniques from pickled to pinned. Notably, the museum boasts the world's only stuffed woolly mammoth. Over 30,000 years old, it was recovered from permafrost in the early 1900s and remains in surprisingly good condition. The museum is very old-school – lots of glass cases, spartan labelling and little in the way of interactivity – but this just adds to its charm.

Next up is Peter the Great's infamous **Kunstkamera**. Opened to the public in 1714, the museum – of Anthropology and Ethnography – contains nearly a million arti-



Vasilievsky Island

facts, and is one of the world's most complete records of human cultural heritage. It spans Old and New worlds, with a breathtaking variety of artifacts from both. However, it's most known for its 'natural curiosities', its human and animal specimens demonstrating medical anomalies. Preserved mainly in pickling jars, these include a mildly distressing amount of fetuses demonstrating the many and varied ways in which pregnancy can go wrong. It's possible to skip this room if you don't feel up to seeing two-headed babies; the museum has much more to offer. For those of strong stomach, however, it's a really interesting insight into medical research of the era. The Kunstkamera has been symbol and figurehead of the Russian Academy of Sciences since its opening.



Next are **The Twelve Colleges**. Completed in 1744, this building was originally designed to house the Russian government. It was given to St. Petersburg State University and is now its main building. The University numbers a host of distinguished alumni, including Dmitri Mendeleev (of Periodic Table fame),

Ivan Pavlov, Vladimir Lenin and Vladimir Putin (who both read Law, receiving their degrees in 1891 and 1975 respectively). The University now spills over to a number of nearby buildings and has around 20,000 students; the Twelve Colleges sits at its epicentre, rendered in Petrine Baroque style. Between the Twelve Colleges and the **Academy of Sciences**, you will see the monument to **Mikhail Lomonosov**. A polymathematical giant of Russia's Enlightenment, Lomonosov was born in deep Northern Russia in 1711 to a peasant fisherman and the daughter of a deacon; by iron willpower and a few white lies (at the age of 19 he enrolled in the Slavic Greek Latin Academy in Moscow by claiming to be the son of a provincial priest) he went on to father much of Russian science, develop one of Russia's first grammar books, and write several volumes of history and poetry. He was an instrumental figure in the development of many surrounding institutions and rector of the Academic University (predecessor of today's university) from 1758 until his death in 1765. Amongst his many discoveries was the atmosphere of Venus.

Moving further along University Embankment, the **Menshikov Palace** is worth popping into. Part of the State



Hermitage, but much smaller and quieter, its rusty orange walls conceal a luxurious palace interior carefully curated to display authentic works of art and interiors faithful to the past. Completed in 1714, this was the palace of Peter I's favourite and at the time surpassed the monarch's residence in elegance and design. Its upper windows permit rather nice views of the Winter Palace and St. Isaac's Cathedral. Originally the main facade led directly to the river, with a constructed marina for boats to moor at and a landscaped garden. The sculptures and trees were later moved across the river to the Summer Garden, and the marina is no more. Next stop is the **Russian Academy of Arts**. It's worth taking a while to stroll around its museum, which houses a unique collection encompassing both classical and contemporary art. Founded in 1757, the Academy's current building was commissioned by Catherine the Great in 1764 and took 25 years to complete. It underwent several name changes, and since 1991 has been called the St. Petersburg Institute for Painting, Sculpture and Architecture.



Across the road from the Academy of Arts are some particularly interesting monuments; facing onto the river stand **two sphinxes**. Dating from the 14th century BC, they are around 3500 years old. In 1820, they were excavated from the temple of Amenhotep III, near the Egyptian city of Thebes, by a Greek archaeologist named Yanis Atonasis. Placed at the entrance to the tomb, they were originally meant to protect the Pharaoh as he lay in rest (and amongst treasure). One of the sphinxes was sent to Alexandria, where it was seen by Andrei Muravyev, a Russian writer and diplomat. Keen to bring them back to Russia, Muravyev persuaded the Tsar to both approve of the plan and pay for the statues. A harder task was finding a ship willing to carry them – at a weight of 46 tons each, this was no small feat. Finally, an Italian ship agreed to take them, on a voyage which lasted a year, and the sphinxes arrived in St. Petersburg in 1832.

A little further down the same embankment is a much more recent addition to the city's monuments; the **Open Book sculpture** was unveiled in 2002 and is officially

named "The Message Through the Ages". Facing the Bronze Horseman sculpture across the river, The Message Through the Ages bears verses by Alexander Pushkin from his poem of the same name: "I love thee, City of Peter's making!" A giant stone book, it's worth keeping an eye out just for the photo opportunities presented.



Continue down the island's embankment. This route affords beautiful views of the Neva and buildings on the mainland. Ahead you will see the gold-domed **Church of the Assumption of Mary**; small and perfectly formed, it's one of St. Petersburg's loveliest churches. Built in 1897, it was used as a Soviet warehouse from 1935, not used for services again until 1993. It's very much a working church today so ensure you have appropriate headgear should you wish to enter. To the left of the main door, the church also runs a small cosy cafe.



A monument to **Admiral Ivan Kruzenshtern** is erected on this embankment. Of Baltic German descent, Kruzenshtern led both an expedition to the Far East and the first Russian circumnavigation of the globe. His monument has stood here since 1873; amusingly, it has become a (highly unofficial) tradition for graduating students of the Naval College to dress Kruzenshtern in a large telynyashka, the Russian Navy's distinctive blue and white striped vest. This side of the island is marked far more by St. Petersburg's history as a port city. In the distance, cranes can be seen at work over the Neva. There are also boat museums which you can visit. The larger of these is famous **icebreaker the Krasin**. Built in Newcastle, England in 1916, this boat has a distinguished career in polar exploration and rescue, and was used by both Russian and British navies. Now decommissioned, it has been a museum since 1992. The first ship to reach the northern shore of Navaya Zemlya in 1993, the Krasin also famously rescued the Italian General Um-

berto Nobile and his crew following an Arctic airship crash in 1928. Active in the Second World War, this is a boat that has seen many adventures – very interesting to visit!



Also of interest is the **submarine S-189**. This small museum gives an insight into what it would have been like to live and work on a submarine, with the interior largely preserved intact. Built in 1954, S-189 was decommissioned in 1990 and actually sunk in 1999, not raised and restored until 2005. To reach it you have to walk out on a wooden promenade, as it remains in the water.

At the corner of the embankment is the enormous neo-classical building of the **St. Petersburg Mining University**. Two large sculptures flank its doors; on the left, Hercules defeating Antaeus, and on the right is depicted the abduction of Persephone. Classical Greek influence is obvious, as is the underlying theme of the Earth's power; this is a building that oozes mightiness over the Earth. Many Russian rulers saw engineering and mining as vital in maintaining Russia's status as a great power, and the Mining University's grandeur demonstrates this. It was founded in 1773 by Catherine the Great to train engineers for the mining and metals industries. It is Russia's oldest technical university, and unusual amongst non-military institutions in that its members wear uniform.



Leaving the river and heading inland, it's a short walk to **Erarta**, St. Petersburg's contemporary art gallery spanning five floors. Showcasing Russian art produced in the last 60 years, the gallery is open until 22:00 and used by many St. Petersburg residents as a way to wind down in the evening. From the austere to the dreamy, their collection spans many different styles and themes – there's always something to catch your eye. Their cafe serves some of the city's best cakes if you need a little pick-me-up.

From here, you can walk back along the river, catch a bus or tram to the centre... or continue exploring Vasilievsky Island. Head onto Sredny Pr. or back towards the Spit for the island's best bars and restaurants. For our recommendations, read on!

Restaurants on Vasilievsky Island

Vasilievsky's location slightly away from the main centre means that its restaurants are often a little quieter, particularly at busier times; it's rarely difficult to find a walk-in table. There's a wide range of excellent food on offer, and after you've taken in some of the island's many sites, you'll definitely need sustenance! Luckily, Vasilievsky does not disappoint. We've gathered some of the best places to eat and drink here for you.

BAR OF BROKEN HEARTS THELMA & LOUISE

A deliberately nondescript entrance mean you'll have to keep your eyes peeled, or miss out on this lovely little bar; look out for "Thelma & Louise" scratched into the paint of the door like graffiti. A really alternative little dive bar, it's well worth finding. Like a pair of artfully ripped black jeans, it's not quite clear whether the shabby-chic décor is by accident or design, but it looks effortlessly cool anyway. The bar is cosy and intimate, serving spirits, cocktails, wine and draught beer. Fairy lights lead up a dark staircase into a second area upstairs, where there's space to boogie to the frankly excellent playlists. ▶ C-2, 1-ya Liniya 60,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 418 30 70, www.vk.com/thelma_louise. Open 11:00 - 23:00. €     

BUREAU



Bureau's high mirrored ceilings, booths demarcated by red enamel posts, and low mood lighting give this chic little bar a tinge of Oriental elegance. Think the hip districts of Singapore and you're along the right lines. Food is mainly burgers, with some interesting desserts – lavender cheesecake, anyone? It's well-presented and tasty, with fresh ingredients and attention paid to detail. However, the star of the show is the bar's extensive cocktail menu. The staff really know their stuff and produce delicious – and boozy – delights. We recommend the hot version of the Trans Siberian Express.

▶ B-2, VO, Sredny pr. 53,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 903 84 73, blog.barbureau.ru. Open 12:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 03:00. €     

BURGER LAB

Little sister to the Burger Lab on Pestelya Ulitsa, Vasilievsky's Bjork by Burger Lab serves fresh, healthy-tasting food. There are a wide range of burgers, including more than one vegetarian option and some interesting meat choices (for instance, crab and Hawaiian). Emphasis is placed on Burger Lab's fresh, seasonal produce so expect some menu rotation. The vibe is very much Scandi-chic, with fairy lights and some subtly quirky décor choices creating a cosy atmosphere. Food is tasty and well-presented; think wood serving boards and fries in tiny tin buckets. ▶ B-2, 10-ya Liniya 25,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 931 988 28 22, www.vk.com/burger_lab. Open 11:00 - 23:00. €     

BUTERBRODSKY



Buterbrodsky is a homage to local poet Josef Brodsky, whose features gaze enormously and only slightly disconcertingly down from the plaster wall, chiselled larger than life. It's also a play on the Russian word for sandwich, buterbrod. The décor is shabby-chic

and a little jazzy; the menu is executed in an elegant typewriter font, and slightly inexplicably there are two sets of flippers adorning the corridor by the toilets. Food is tasty and bursting with fresh vegetables. Particularly good is the drinks menu, with shots including smoked pear over dark rum, and the enigmatic Russian-Thai Friendship (vodka with something sharp, dark-berried, and a little tangy). Service is friendly and fast. ▶ C-2, Nab. Makarova16,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 911 922 26 06, www.facebook.com/buterbrodskybar. Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€     

CAFE CLUB ZAVTRAK

A popular location for Vasilievsky's hip young things to meet over coffee or brunch, Zavtrak is cool and minimalist. Chalkboard walls and lockers on one wall give the cafe a slightly American-high-school vibe. There are lots of books and magazines scattered around for those that want practice reading Russian. The menu is unpretentious and reasonable, ranging from 99-250Rbl. for omelettes, toasties, soup and cakes. Geared far more to Russians than foreigners, Zavtrak is a good place to slip out of tourist mode and into the local scene. Be ready to use your Russian – the staff don't speak much English! ▶ C-2, 1-ya Liniya 42,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 903 51 52, www.instagram.com/cafezavtrak. Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 21:00. €     

CASA DEL MYASO



Stairs from the street above descend into this atmospheric restaurant, located at basement level. High vaulted brick arches spilt the restaurant up, giving it a warmth and intimacy despite its relatively large size. Low lighting and a laid-back playlist create a relaxed ambience. As one

might expect from its slogan 'We Love Meat', the menu is predominately meat-based – think steaks and charcuterie. There are some salad options for the less carnivorous, however. The wine list is also good, with some excellent Italian wines that go beyond the usual fare. ▶ C-2, Birzhevoy proezd 6,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 320 97 46, www.we-love-meat.ru. Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€     

Restaurants on Vasilevsky Island

EAT AND ART

Combining restaurant and art gallery, this little gem shows contemporary and very interesting art, with exhibitions changing regularly. The artwork isn't just confined to the walls, though – the restaurant's décor is creative and characterful. Block colours and bold accents give a pop-art twist. The menu is delicious, and often surprising; this is possibly the only place in St. Petersburg where you can get pizza garnished with orange. Service is fast and staff are friendly and very helpful. ▶ C-2, Kadetskaya Liniya 25,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 407 80 00, www.eatandart.ru. Open 12:00 – 24:00. €.

ERARTA CAFE

Located on the ground floor of the Erarta Museum of Contemporary Art, this restaurant offers a good selection of traditional Russian culinary delights, including fish soup, pancakes with salmon caviar or spinach and homemade pickles. The restaurant also offers a range of more contemporary meals, including burgers made from Ladoga pie, baked potatoes with fennel, smoked salmon and cottage cheese. There's a particularly extensive wine list, with over 100 on the menu – you can easily find the perfect pairing for any dish. In the warmer months, a summer terrace allows for outside dining. ▶ B-3, 29-ya liniya 2,  Primorskaya, tel. (+7) 812 334 68 96, www.erartacafe.com. Open 12:00 – 22:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 – 23:00. €.

KETCH UP BURGERS

One of St. Petersburg's many hip little burger joints, Ketch Up delivers tried and tested favourites very well. Well-located just outside Vasileostrovskaya metro station, its first floor location separates it from the hustle and bustle of the street below. The atmosphere is pleasant, with a laid-back, funky playlist and plants growing literally in the walls. We'd recommend going for a late lunch here; the restaurant catches the afternoon sun well. There's a good drinks selection. ▶ C-2, 6-ya Liniya 29,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 985 60 40, www.ketchupburgers.ru. Open 11:00 – 23:00, Fri, Sat, Sun 11:00 – 01:00. €.

MEAT MAKERS



They say the best things come in small packages; this is true of Meat Makers! Care and attention is lavished on all aspects of this trendy little eatery, from the toilets (sparkling) to meat-based puns (so bad they're good). Craft beer is on offer, and the meat is high-quality and

well-cooked. It's not vegetarian-friendly at all, however, so you do need to have a passion for meat. ▶ B-2, 11-ya Liniya 26,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 989 12 43, www.meatmakers.club. Open 10:00 – 23:00. €.

PINOTEKA



With its exposed brick arches, shelves of wine bottles and minimalist décor, drinking in Pino feels like drinking in a wine cellar. And what a cellar! There's a wide range of wine on offer by the glass, and staff are extremely knowledgeable. They speak excellent English, so even if

you don't speak a word of Russian they can still recommend you the perfect wine. The bar is small and intimate, with only three tables and a lean-to against one wall. There's a small range of bar snacks – meat and cheese – but the focus here is on il vino. Adjacent to the bar is a bustling shop which sells bottles to take away. ▶ C-3, 9-ya Liniya 2,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 323 35 53, www.facebook.com/pinovino.vo. Open 11:00 – 22:00. €.

PIVNOY BUTIK 1516

Heaven for beer lovers! Pivnoy Butik 1516 is all about the beer, with an extensive and exciting range of hop-based goodness on draft and in bottles. Expect to see names from the best of craft beer; To Øl, Duchesse de Bourgogne and Beavertown all appear, amongst many (many!) others. You can buy bottles to take away, but it's worth staying to drink in the gloriously unpretentious bar itself; not only can you play table ice hockey, but there's also a friendly resident parrot. ▶ C-2, 8-ya Liniya 5,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 328 60 66, www.butik1516.ru. Open 13:00 – 22:00. €.

RADOSTI

Possibly the nicest staff in St. Petersburg! Radosti is a bright, airy café with lots of options for vegetarians, vegans and carnivores. It's a cosy twist on industrial-chic, with white-painted brick walls, feature lightbulbs and plants blooming green in every corner. Free wifi, lots of plug sockets and cosy corners mean there's normally a creative or two tapping away, but it also acts as a social hub for a wide range of people. And with good reason; it's lovely! It's also right next to the metro station Sportivnaya, so there's no excuse for not popping in. The bread is particularly good. ▶ C-2, Nab. Markarova 28,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 925 72 22, www.facebook.com/radosticoffee. Open 08:00 – 23:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 – 23:00. €.

SAKARTVELO

This little restaurant specialising in Georgian cuisine is without a doubt one of Vasilevsky's hidden gems. Tucked away on 12-ya liniya, its welcoming atmosphere wraps you in its arms the minute you step through the door. It can feel almost like a party in someone's house – live music is regular, décor and crockery are homely, and the walls are crowded with colourful, mismatched art. Service is friendly and informal; don't be surprised to see your waiter busting shapes on the tiny dance-floor. Both the food and the portion sizes are very hearty.

▶ B-3, 12-ya Liniya 13,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 328 07 72. Open 12:00 – 23:00. €.



Moika river

St. Petersburg is brimming with colourful, innovative and fun restaurants serving everything from traditional Russian to nouvelle cuisine. To be sure of getting a table, make sure to book in advance. Be aware that many restaurants morph into bars and clubs in the later hours of the evening, so make early reservations if you want some peace and quiet. Tip for good service only - 10% is considered fair.

Our price guide is based on the average price of a main course:

€ - 0 - 600Rbl €€ 600 - 1000Rbl
 €€€ 1000 - 1,500Rbl €€€€ 1,500Rbl plus

RUSSIAN CUISINE

BANSCHIKI

Banshchiki is a place where nostalgia of Russian food mixes with new and innovative cooking methods. All meat smoking, bread baking, vegetable pickling and pelmeni making is done in house. While some dishes stay true to their original recipes, other beloved classics get a new and exciting twist (think vareniki with suluguni cheese, cottage cheese and herbs or blini with venison and cowberry jam) from chef Stanislav Levokho. Natural materials and warm colors give the sense of being in a real Leningrad dacha without leaving the city center. ▶ F-3, Degtyarnaya ul. 1A, Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 921 941 17 44, www.banshiki.spb.ru. Open 10:00 - 23:00, Fri 12:00 - 24:00, Sat 11:00 - 24:00, Sun 11:00 - 23:00. €€.

CAVIAR BAR AND RESTAURANT

Caviar is a hallmark in Russian gastronomic culture, yet this is the only restaurant dedicated to the unique speciality. Boasting a dozen types of caviar and more than fifty kinds of vodka, the Caviar Bar will ignite the taste buds. Enjoy a caviar tasting conducted by a vodka sommelier in the minimalist restaurant with some of Russia's best vodka from an extensive collection of fifty varieties and experience Russian culinary culture at its most elegant. ▶ D-3, Belmond Grand Hotel Europe, Mikhailovskaya ul. 1/7, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 329 66 22, www.caviar-bar.com. Open 17:00 - 23:00. Closed Mon, Tue. €€€€.

F.M. DOSTOEVSKY

F.M. Dostoevsky is an elegant restaurant focusing on home style Russian cuisine. The atmosphere is chic and comfortable at the same time. Candles on the tables, soft lighting and crisp tablecloths give this place a warm and friendly glow. F.M. Dostoevsky serves Russian classics, so don't miss their famous Beef Stroganov and try one of the beautifully presented deserts. ▶ E-3, Golden Garden Hotel, Vladimirsky pr. 9, Vladimirskaya, tel. (+7) 812 334 22 44, www.goldengarden.ru. Open 13:00 - 23:00. €€€.

MOROSHKA FOR PUSHKIN

Serving up a tasteful blend fusion of Russian and Scandinavian cuisines, the restaurant is situated in Krugly Market (designed by the prolific architect of Imperial Russia Giacomo Quarenghi) and the dimly lit 1960's interior was masterminded by the Italian design bureau b-arch. Head chef Roman Palkin uses traditional Russian ingredients to make Scandinavian style dishes without making it too complex. Dishes like "muskun, prawn, honey, lemon, capers" speak for themselves. Wash it all down with natural and organic wine. The prices make Moroshka for Pushkin not an everyday treat, but rather a fun gastronomic adventure for special occasions. ▶ D-2, Nab. Reky Moiky 3, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 921 947 25 00. Open 18:00 until last guest. Closed Sun, Mon. €€.

PROSPEKT

Prospekt is located just around the corner from St. Isaac's Cathedral. Its almost invisible to the passerby but that doesn't mean it should be missed! There's an excellent selection of traditional Russian dishes with a few modern additions. Add to that a wonderful historical decor and a menu written in old Russian to go along with said decor. The fish was some of the best in the city, extremely fresh and full of flavor straight from the grill. Traditional Russian specials like borsch and potato pancakes (draniki) are as good as any Russian babushka can whip up. If you want a taste of some great Russian food with a quaint historical atmosphere, you can't go wrong in this little *restoranchik* as the Russians say. ▶ D-3, Mal. Morskaya ul. 21, Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 952 236 01 24. Open 12:00 - 23:00. €€.

RUSSKAYA RYUMOCHNAYA NO.1

Typically, a *ryumochnaya* is a stand-up, spit-and-sawdust kind of a place where working men wash down cheap vodka with salty snacks. This sophisticated *fin-de-siècle* inspired place is as far away from that kind of establishment as you can imagine. This is Russian food fit for tsars, complete with black caviar and reindeer meat. The historic dishes are rich and well made, making this a very recommended introduction to Russian cuisine. They also have possibly the biggest vodka list we've ever seen, as well as a vodka museum! ▶ C-3, **Konnogvardeisky bul. 4**, **M Admiralteiskaya**, tel. (+7) 812 570 64 20, www.vodkaroom.ru. Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€€. ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

ASIAN

AZIA

The AZIA is located in the Belmond Grand Hotel Europe where St. Petersburg's oldest prestige hotel looks out onto Nevsky prospekt. This is pan-Asian cuisine in its truest sense, taking in the "3 Asias": Southern, South-Eastern and Central. Given the arsenal of over 150 spices at its command, expect a varied menu, which in spite of its geographical reach is organised not by where the dish is from, but rather how it is prepared. Specialities include Singapore-style crab with chilli peppers, Peking Duck with pancakes and Crispy Eggplant Salad. AZIA also boasts a bewildering range of desserts and, naturally, a separate sushi zone. AZIA wine list counts over 500 labels, while in AZIA Vinoteka one can enjoy over 20 superior wines by the glass with elegant Asian-style tapas. ▶ D-3, **Belmond Grand Hotel Europe, Mikhailovskaya ul. 1/7**, **M Nevsky pr.**, tel. (+7) 812 329 62 00, www.belmond.com/grandhoteleurope. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Thu - Sat 12:00 - 01:00. €€€€. ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

TSE FUNG

Tse Fung is not your average New York take-out shop. This high-class restaurant's name translates into the Chinese word for "phoenix", and the interior here takes some inspiration from a firebird, with tasteful gold accents, rich upholstered red chairs, and feather-thin wallpaper prints. Tse Fung is modeled on its Swiss forerunner in Geneva, and chef Chan Yiu So received his training there. His extensive experience working in Chinese cuisine yields a strong menu of duck, beef, pork and chicken dishes. ▶ E-3, **Ul. Rubinshteina 13**, **M Dostoevskaya**, tel. (+7) 921 932 33 33, www.tsefung.ru. Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€€€. ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

SYMBOL KEY

☑ Air conditioning	☑ Credit cards accepted
☑ Live music	☑ Take away
☑ Child-friendly	☑ Wifi
☑ Home delivery	☑ Guarded parking
☑ Take note that it is not allowed to smoke in the restaurants and cafes in Russia	



BEER RESTAURANTS

BIERSTUBE

Serving beer from their own brewery, the Marriott's Bierstube restaurant is a good place to start if you are looking for some delicious local brews. Choose from a seat in the bright glass covered courtyard balcony or inside the wood and stucco-decorated centre of the restaurant. Either way be sure to load up on beer snacks like fried calamari and cheese sticks before the main events, Bavarian and Czech inspired meaty heavyweights, arrive. ▶ C-4, **Courtyard by Marriott St. Petersburg Center West Pushkin Hotel, Nab. kan. Griboedova 166** (entrance via **Kanonerskaya ul. 33**), **M Sennaya Pl.**, tel. (+7) 812 610 50 00, www.courtyardstpetersburgpushkin.ru. Open 12:00 - 01:00. €€. ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

BRUGGE

With six dozen varieties of excellent beer accompanied by Italian and Flemish cuisine, Brugge is the perfect place for a relaxed dinner with friends. The interior is typically Belgian; picture massive wooden tables and leather seats. The menu was crafted so that each dish emphasises a particular flavour of beer, try seafood stew with Belgian ales or lamb stew with Flemish beer. Brugge also offers beer themed evenings, where guests can learn about beer production and consumption, or you can simply relax in front of the wide screen TVs. ▶ C-2, **Nab. Makarova 22**, **M Sportivnaya**, tel. (+7) 812 600 23 90, www.inbrugge.ru. Open 12:00 - 02:00. €€. ☑ ☑ ☑

Restaurants

IDIOT



It's hard to find a place in St. Petersburg that has not been touched in one way or another by the city's extremely rich cultural and literary heritage. The Idiot Restaurant - situated in the historical part of St.

Petersburg between St. Isaac's Square and the Yusupov Palace - takes its name from one of the greatest novels to ever be written - Fyodor Dostoevsky's "Idiot". There's certainly nothing "idiotic" about this restaurant because if you have read the novel, you'll know that the novel's protagonist was far from an idiot. An easy and homey atmosphere of old Petersburg circa end of the XIX century takes you back to the days of Dostoevsky and other Russian literary masters. The menu is about as Russian as it gets, with mostly classical Russian dishes on offer. Expect to eat lots of caviar, blinchi-ki (crepes), pickled vegetables and traditional salads and soups, pelmeni (traditional dumplings) and various fish and meat offerings. Italian fare is also offered in a separate menu. Leave room for something off the dessert menu too. The drinks menu features a lengthy list of vodkas and other spirits, as well as fine European wines and extensive tea sorts - Russians do love their tea! Come for the food, stay for the fun: board games like backgammon, chess, cards and draughts are a great way to relax and socialize after a hearty Russian meal. Idiot is the perfect place for anything ranging from business meetings to late dinners, from family meals to simply spending time in a very relaxing atmosphere. ▶ C-3, Nab. reky Moiky 82, **M** Sadovaya, tel. (+7) 812 946 51 73, fax (+7) 812 571 59 05, www.idiot-spb.com. Open 11:00 - 01:00. €€.    

TYPICAL GEORGIAN DISHES



Khachapuri - cheese stuffed bread. Sometimes served with open with an egg on top (*po azharsky*)
Khinkali - giant dumplings, usually stuffed with meat and spices, eaten by hand
Lobio - spiced bean stew

with herbs, served hot or cold
Pkhali - spinach paste with nuts
Satsivi - chicken in a creamy nut sauce, served cold
Chakhobili - Spiced chicken stew

FARSH & BOCHKHA

Believe it or not, it's finally here! A hip yet unpretentious pub for bearded guys as well as the managerial types that serves about 30 different sorts of craft beers that the owners have personally tried and vetted, hand-made sausages out of real meat and the prices really don't bite - that's Farsch & Bochka, right in the city center. You can't miss it! And you really shouldn't miss it if spending quality time in a quality bar with quality beer and quality food is your idea of a great evening out. ▶ E-2, Ul. Belinskogo 11, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 941 51 70, www.beercard.ru. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. €€.   

PALM BELGIAN BRASSERIE

Located smack in the centre of the city, just off Nevsky, the Palm is a convenient and comfortable place, notably if you appreciate beer and comfort food. Their bottled Trappist beer selection is impressive and the White Trappist we tried on tap was excellent. If you're looking for something satisfying and Belgian to snack on, make sure to order one of their Belgian waffles with your choice of sweet or savory toppings. As a plus, their coffee is, perhaps surprisingly for a low-key beer restaurant, also truly delicious. ▶ D-2, Bol. Konyushennaya ul. 29, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 571 81 51, www.palminspb.ru. Open 11:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 06:00. €€.    

PIVNAYA KARTA

With over 400 different kinds of craft and imported beers, this is a unique place in St. Petersburg. Standing in the New York-style interior, you'll find yourself being helped by the bar's professionals to find the specific kind of beer you like, or will learn to love. Don't be put off by the minimal food menu. This place is about what really matters - beer. All beers can also be purchased to take away. ▶ E-2, Ul. Vosstaniya 55, **M** Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 273 93 78, www.beercard.ru. Open 12:00 - 23:00. €€.    

TOLSTY FRAER

One of Russia's most famous bards - Alexander Rosenbaum - always had a dream. That dream was quite simple: to create a relaxed venue for people to get together and enjoy beer in all its colors, styles and alcohol contents. For quite some time now that dream has been a reality. Tolsty Fraer is a chain of simple beer hall style pubs scattered around St. Petersburg and decorated in a fun Soviet retro style to take you a couple of decades back in time. The beer is reasonably priced and there's a wide selection of beers from their own brewery, unfiltered and filtered light beer, scarlet lane, wheat beer, unfiltered porter, kriel, amber ale and kvass. With your first beer you get a complimentary beer snack in traditional style - a plate of salty pretzel sticks and some slivers of pickled fish. In addition to the very first Tolsty Fraer on Dumskaya ul., there are now 5 other locations for you to choose from. ▶ D-3, Dumskaya ul. 3, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 570 01 02, www.tolstiy-fraer.ru. Open 10:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 03:00. €€.    



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in St.Petersburg



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STROGANOFF GROUP



4 Konnogvardeisky Boulevard
+7(812) 570-6420
www.vodkaroom.ru

РЕКЛАМА / ADVERTISEMENT

TRAPPIST

Cafe Trappist is a Belgian pub that prides itself on offering good beer, good food and good service. Trappists are an order of Catholic monks who live by strict rules, but brew fantastic beer in their monasteries in Belgium and Holland. With an entire book filled with beer options ranging from affordable to over 2,000Rbl a bottle, Trappist is definitely a beer destination, as they have imported more than 100 beers from Belgium and Holland for your enjoyment. The food is also quite tasty with Belgian classics and traditional bar food to choose from. From Friday to Sunday, you can order fresh mussels delivered directly from the White Sea. ▶ E-2, Ul. Radishcheva 36, M Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 275 99 35, www.cafetrappist.ru. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. €€. ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

WATERLOO

Waterloo is a typical Belgian pub in all senses, with its dark vaulted ceilings, the heavy gleaming chandelier and the leather furniture. There is also a heated veranda with huge panoramic windows, where you can enjoy views of the city all year round with a traditional Belgian beer in hand, chosen from Waterloo's extensive list. The menu is packed with flavoursome dishes including smoked pork ribs, smoked chicken broth and baked potatoes. Aside from the rich menu, Waterloo shows sports events on its wide screen TVs to keep sporting fans happy! ▶ E-3, Ul. Rubinshteina 12, M Dostoevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 910 19 11, www.italy-group.ru/waterloo/. Open 12:00 - 02:00. €€. ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

CAUCASIAN

BAKLAZHAN

The open kitchen concept combined with beige rusticism seems to be the *mode du jour* for Ginza Project. The twist at Baklazhan (Aubergine) is in the touches of deep purple, the wine bottles lining the walls and a sort of market stall selling fruits and nuts near the entrance. The food itself is standard Georgian fare sprinkled with a few innovative dishes. Stick with baked goods, such as their stuffed *samsas*, *khachapuri* and the like and you'll be treated to piping hot goodness that'll stick to your bones. ▶ E-3, Galeria Shopping Centre, Ligovsky pr. 30, M Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. +7 (812) 677 73 72, www.ginza.ru. Open 08:00 until the last guest. €€. ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

KORYUSHKA

The restaurant on Zayachy Island located in the oldest part of the city - the Peter and Paul Fortress. The location affords great views of landmarks across the river, including the Winter Palace, and the restaurant makes the most of this fact, with lots of windows and terraces, giving the place a spacious feel. The menu offers classic European and Georgian dishes. You should definitely try *koryushka* - lightly battered and fried smelt. It is a city's speciality every April, but here you can eat this small fish year-round. ▶ D-2, Peter and Paul Fortress 3, M Gorkovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 640 16 16, www.ginza.ru. Open 12:00 - 01:00. €€. ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

Restaurants

KHACHAPURI & VINO

This Georgian cafe on a quiet corner of Sotsialisticheskaya ul. executes its chic concept well while remaining laid-back and warm. Bleached walls, bronze accents and woven patterns hit all the right cultural notes, and the menu also doesn't make any compromises, offering exclusively classic Georgian fare (except for a mysterious "Georgian Snickers"). Here you can try everything from the salty mineral water Borjomi, a range of leavened *khachapuri*, and pomegranate wine, and get a solid dose of the spice *adzhiki*, fresh herbs and beans in this cuisine. The prices and atmosphere make this a great place for students.

► E-3, Ul. Pravdy 9,  Zvenigorodskaya, tel. (+7) 952 232 25 43. Open 11:30 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:30 - 01:00. €.



KHOCHU KHARCHO

"*Khochu Kharcho!*" is Russian for "I want *Kharcho!*" - *kharcho* being a traditional Georgian stew with mutton/lamb, vegetables, rice in a highly spiced broth. Here they serve three different types of the dish and it is definitely worth trying as a warm and filling main course. This is not just a Georgian restaurant, it's a *Megrelian* restaurant and there is a big difference. *Megrelia* is a historic province in the western part of Georgia where walnuts feature prominently in the cooking and they like their food spicy. Other must-try dishes include the rich and cheesy *Megrelian khachapuri* and the fragrant *chakhokhbili* (spicy chicken stew). ► D-3, Sadovaya ul. 39/41,  Sadovaya, tel. (+7) 812 640 16 16, www.ginza.ru/spb/restaurant/hochu_harcho. Open 24hrs. €€.

MAMALYGA

Just a stones throw from Nevsky, this restaurant offers you an assortment of food from the Caucasus region, including Georgian, Imeretian, Armenian, Adzharian, *Megrelian*, and the cuisine of *Swaneti* and *Guria*. Authenticity is a word that the owners use quite often to describe their food and it comes through in the food that is prepared by local (to the region) cooks. The menu features a mix of well-spiced (the food is not watered down for local consumption) *shashliks*, salads, *khachapuri*, and pretty much anything else you could want from the South Caucasus. ► D-3, Kazanskaya ul. 2,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 640 16 16, www.mamaliga-mamaliga.com. Open 10:00 - 01:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 01:00. €€.

ITALIAN

FORNO BRAVO

Pizza and beer lovers should head over to Forno Bravo, a new pizza bar on Lva Tolstogo Square in the heart of the Petrograd part of the city! San Marzano tomatoes, fresh mozzarella, the very best cheeses, fresh Italian ingredients and a wood oven straight from Naples is a pretty good guarantee that you will be fully satisfied with your pizza. The selection of wine and craft beers will please even the most demanding guests.

► D-1, Pl. Lva Tolstogo 1,  Petrogradskaya, tel. (+7) 812 234 43 50, www.beercard.ru/forno-bravo. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 01:00. €€.

JAMIE'S ITALIAN

Admirers of the legendary chef Jamie Oliver should expect the usual high standards of cuisine and service: the menu offers traditional Italian dishes using recipes made by Jamie and his mentor Gennaro Contaldo. The pasta is made from Italian flour and farm eggs and is prepared right before your eyes, while the rustic bread is made according to original recipes and is baked in special ovens. The wine list is mainly Italian, and almost every wine is available by the glass. Lovers of a festive Italian atmosphere are exactly the type of people this place has in mind – it is quite noisy, with a lot of visitors, a large team of servers, and cooks hard at work in the open kitchen. ► D-2, Konyushennaya pl. 2,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 640 16 16, www.jamieoliver.com/italian/russia/st-petersburg. Open 9:30 until last guest. Sat, Sun 12:00 until last guest. €€.

JEROME

Jerome is a modern gastronomic restaurant, located in the very heart of St. Petersburg, just a few steps from the Hermitage, St. Isaacs and other main city attractions. Freshness is the keyword for their menu. Antonio Fresa, the incredible talented, aspiring chef from Tuscany, while paying tribute to his Italian roots, creates his own twist on favourite dishes from all over the world. Think *pastrami*, signature *vitello*, salmon *ceviche*, the Tuscan classic *stufato Sangiovese*, oyster risotto, oats with *ricotta* and pickled onions. For something sweet, there are perfectly-crafted desserts that play with the taste spectrum, from the heavenly -light apple dessert to deconstructed carrot cake. ► D-3, Bol. Morskaya ul. 25,  Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 918 69 20, www.probka.org. Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€.

MAKARONNIKI

Located on the Petrograd side close to the Petrogradsky sports stadium, this rooftop restaurant gets 11 out of 10 for style points. Enjoy unusual views of the Peter and Paul Fortress, the spit of *Vasilevsky Island* and the State Hermitage Museum in the background – along with the domes of other St. Petersburg landmarks. *Makaronniki* offers a Mediterranean menu with world class wines, cocktails, homemade lemonade and Sangria. ► C-2, Pr. Dobrolyubova 16,  Sportivnaya, tel. (+7) 812 677 60 88, www.makaronniki.ru. Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€€.

PROBKA

Probka is known for its large, open kitchen, designed so that diners can see how their food is being prepared from any location in the restaurant. The restaurant offers a traditional Italian menu and a carefully chosen wine list with over 100 wines from around the world. The building also houses the Probka Café, with its own kitchen and a separate entrance directly onto the street. The café offers prices significantly lower than those at the restaurant and in addition Italian cuisine it also has some sound Russian favourites. There is also the "Kvartira" (translated as "apartment") space here where you can celebrate any special occasion. ▶ C-2, Pr. Dobrolyubova 6, **M** Sportivnaya, tel. (+7) 812 918 69 10, www.probka.org. Open 12:00 - 01:00. €€€.



RYBA

We're not sure why Ryba (which means "fish") has chosen this name in particular, but pay no attention to that. This place is a sort of modern and stylish grand cafe restaurant in the top of a business centre with a sublime view of the city (the Petrograd Side). The food is mostly Italian and Japanese. Popular among both wealthy and middle class Russians, the prices are pretty reasonable and the staff are efficient and friendly. ▶ D-1, Ul. Akademika Pavlova 5, **M** Petrogradskaya, tel. (+7) 812 918 69 69, www.probka.org. Open 11:00 - 24:00. €€€.

FINE DINING

E.M. RESTAURANT

If you like haute cuisine but dislike the whole white table cloth and chandelier ritziness, E.M. restaurant is for you. It's open only for dinner and only a few days per week. There are only a few tables, one waiter and two chefs who prepare your food right in front of you in the open kitchen. The menu changes once a month and you can check it out online beforehand. Don't forget to make a reservation. ▶ C-3, Nab. reky Moiky 84, **M** Sadovaya, tel. (+7) 921 960 21 77, www.emrestaurant.ru. Open 20:00 - 23:00. Closed Mon, Sun. €€€.

L'EUROPE

Eating in this historic restaurant, the sparkling diamond in the sumptuous Belmond Grand Hotel Europe's crown, is an experience to be savoured. The service is in a class of its own, the interiors are stunning, especially the original Art Deco stained glass windows and ceiling, and all the dishes are made with the absolute finest ingredients available. Of the luxurious Russian dishes on offer the "egg in an egg" (a kind of posh scrambled quails egg with black sturgeon caviar on top) is an expensive one of a kind treat and the wild mushroom dishes likewise will be a pleasant surprise for the taste buds. We especially recommend visiting on Fridays, when a chamber orchestra and ballet dancers perform Tchaikovsky. ▶ D-3, Belmond Grand Hotel Europe, Mikhailovskaya ul. 1/7, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 329 62 22, www.europe-restaurant.net. Open 07:00 - 23:00. €€€€.

PALKIN

Palkin is as historic as they come, dating all the way back to 1785. Although restoration did take place, the interior is as sophisticated and tasteful as it was in Imperial times, which adds to the feeling that you are being treated to a meal in some rich aristocrat's home. The menu is bursting with luxurious foie gras, angus beef, truffles, black caviar and game moulded into historic French/Russian recipes from a bygone era. They also offer a seasonal five-course special menu with specially selected wines, themed around a different wine-growing region of the world. Booking in advance is recommended. ▶ E-3, Nevsky pr. 47, **M** Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 703 53 71, www.palkin.ru. Open 12:00 - 23:00. €€€€.

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

At just about the widest point of the Neva, the Letuchy Gollandets, or Flying Dutchman, affords panoramic views of the stunning uninterrupted architecture along the river's banks, with the glorious Winter Palace directly opposite diners. The Flying Dutchman complex includes three different restaurants. Our favourite is the restaurant Terrasa. Fresh fish is predictably a wise choice in such a venue and certainly doesn't disappoint and the wine list nonchalantly flows over several pages. Fantastic food with inimitable views of the Venice of the North makes this place one of the city's most desirable eateries. ▶ C-2, Mytinskaya nab. 6, **M** Sportivnaya, tel. (+7) 812 313 88 66, www.gollandec.ru. Open 10:00 - 24:00. €€€.

Restaurants



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PEKJAMA / ADVERTISEMENT

GEOGRAFIA

As you might have guessed from the restaurant's name, the menu includes cuisine from all around the world. Here you can enjoy the best from the Middle East, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Mexico, Peru, Europe and Russia. Choosing a single dish can be really tricky. But eating is only half the pleasure at Geografia; the restaurant takes great pride in its cocktails, offering more than 40 original concoctions that are aimed to make you cast away any preconceived ideas about matching food and drink. If making a choice is too difficult, ask one of the servers and they will be happy to be your guide on this exotic holiday. ▶ E-3, Ul. Rubinshteina 5, **M** Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 340 00 74, www.geo-rest.com. Open 12:00 until the last guest. Sat, Sun 14:00 until the last guest. €€.

☎ ☑ 🍷 🍷 🍷



INDIAN

APTEKA

Apteka is a restaurant with an innovative approach to marketing – its owners keep the location a closely guarded secret. So as to not spoil the mystery, all we can say is that the restaurant's entrance can be found in the restroom of another well-known restaurant on Nevsky prospekt. The restaurant, whose name literally means "pharmacy" or "drugstore", features a menu of original dishes from the Indian chef Jimmy Singh and unusual, aromatic cocktails prepared by the bartenders/chemists in his laboratory. Call to reserve a table and all will be revealed. ▶ D-3, Nevsky pr. 20, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 931 305 22 77. Open 15:00 - 24:00. €€. ☎ ☑ ☑

TANDOOR

Situated mere steps from St. Isaac's cathedral, Tandoor is about as far away from bland Russian food as you can get. For more than 20 years now they've been serving up real, authentic Indian fare and have won numerous "best restaurant" prizes for their efforts. They have all the usual favourites so you can try a couple and share amongst your buddies, whilst mopping up every last dollop of sauce with the thick naan bread. With two spacious rooms, this place is ideal for dining in large groups. ▶ D-3, Admiralteysky pr. 10, **M** Admiralteyskaya, tel. (+7) 812 312 38 86, www.tandoor-spb.ru. Open 12:00 - 23:00. €€€. ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

INTERNATIONAL

GASTRONOMIKA

You will be surprised to find such a vibrant place on the sixth floor of the shopping center Olympic Plaza. With views over the romantic rooftops of St. Petersburg and the ever-impressive Nevsky prospekt, welcoming, professional and friendly staff, you would think the food is not its main attraction. This could not be further from the truth; here everything is designed to excite your taste buds! Chefs inspired by French cuisine prepare delicious dishes. Among the most innovative of the dishes is the chef's special Pigeon with Polenta and Minted Plum, the deliciousness of which was discovered by the chef while on a snowboarding holiday in Andorra. ▶ E-3, Stremyannaya ul. 21/5A, **M** Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 640 16 16, www.ginza.ru/spb/restaurant/gastronomika. Open 11:00 - 23:00, Thu - Sat 11:00 - 01:00. €€. ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

HAMLET&JACKS

Hamlet & Jacks restaurant, located in a former jewelry workshop, is place to wine, dine and enjoy people watching. The menu is divided into three sections: "Our" with dishes prepared using only local produce; "World" with an emphasis on fresh, innovative and artistically presented food from all corners of the planet; and "Meat/fish", which, paradoxically, contains no meat or fish. Pair your meal with a glass of biodynamic wine from artisan producers. ▶ D-2, Volynsky per. 2, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 907 07 35, www.hamletandjacks.ru. Open 13:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 13:00 - 02:00. €€. ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑

MANSARDA

Turn into the building signposted with Gazprom's headquarters and head for the lift in the left side of the blindingly sleek Quarto Corti business centre. You will be greeted six floors up with a candid view of the nearby golden dome of St. Isaac's Cathedral. The interior is understated and the glass walls ensure that the view is the main focus. The cuisine is as crisp and modern as the restaurant in which it's served and shouldn't disappoint even the most discerning guests. Classic European tastes dominate, though Asian influences are also given some attention and the fresh fish based dishes in particular come highly recommended. ▶ C-3, Pochtamtsskaya ul. 3-5, **M** Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 640 16 16/(+7) 812 946 43 03, www.ginza-mansarda.ru. Open 12:00 - 01:00. €€€. 

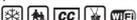
MOSKVA

This restaurant's rooftop location, on the 6th floor of the upscale Nevsky Centre, draws in a well-dressed crowd of wealthier diners looking to soak up the coveted view. The interior is done out in various shades of cream with comfortable furniture in muted colours. Potted plants brighten the place up, as does bowls of fresh fruit at the open, central cooking stations. The kitchen here keeps high standards: while the menu looks over ambitious, hitting all corners of the globe with sushi, pizza, Russian classics and continental mains - the food is definitely well-made. ▶ E-3, Nevsky Centre Shopping Centre, Nevsky pr. 114, **M** Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 640 16 16, www.moskvavpitere.ru. Open 10:00 - 01:00. €€€. 

PRYANOSTI & RADOSTI

This is a very cosy and already extremely popular restaurant. On entering, you might even say too popular. The tables are spaced close to each other and a quiet conversation looks like it will be impossible, but somehow it all works. You feel like you are in a busy, fun and thriving atmosphere. The menu includes European delicacies, Russian favourites and of course traditional Caucasian meals thrown in to spice things up. Also at Mal. Posadskaya ul. 3 (metro Gorkovskaya), 6-ya liniya 13 (metro Vasileostrovskaya) and Moskovsky pr. 191 (metro Moskovskaya). ▶ E-2, Ul. Belinskogo 5, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 640 16 16, www.ginza.ru/spb/restaurant/pryanosti_i_radosti_belinskogo. Open 24hrs. €€. 

TEPLO

In essence, this is a place that lives up to its name. As far as eateries go, Teplo, meaning "warmth" in Russian, is truly a winner. Things are done here subtly and well. The understated homey decor, the thoroughly intelligent menu and the delightful service all make coming here feel like dropping by your best friend's house and having a bite to eat in their living room or on their patio or in their kitchen, full of freshly baked pies and breads. Indeed wherever you end up eating, you'll linger, eat, drink and put off leaving. ▶ C-3, Bol. Morskaya ul. 45, **M** Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 570 19 74, www.v-teple.ru. Open 09:00 - 24:00, Fri 09:00 - 01:00, Sat 11:00 - 01:00, Sun 13:00 - 24:00. €€. 

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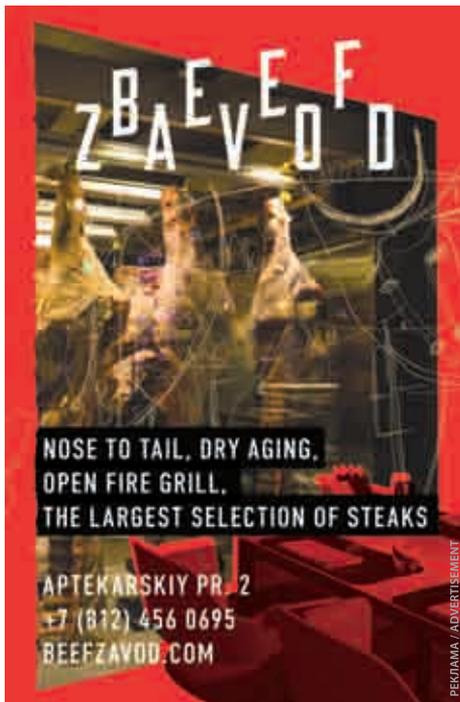


Pozharsky cutlet with whortleberry
sauce - favourite dish of Nicolas II



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www.authorhotel.ru dostoevskiyfm.com



THE SQUARE

Transfiguration Cathedral's domes are tucked away in a quiet circle off Liteiny prospect, but all this roundness doesn't stop The Square. This "bistro" is a comfortable place to settle down, with a warm gray and off-white interior, pale ceramic dishes and black-and-white photographs of architectural details decorating the walls. Concept-chef Fabriccio Fatucci is hard at work in the back, inventing creative, careful arrangements that delight all the senses (and also the imagination), and appear in the menu under two simple categories: "Hot" and "Cold". With its reasonable prices, quality wine menu and calm location, The Square is a lovely choice for lunchtime. ▶ D-2, Manezhny per. 2, Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 921 76 67, www.thesquare.spb.ru. Open 09:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 23:00. €€.

VOLGA-VOLGA

The restaurant Volga Volga can be found on a functioning riverboat. Between May and October the ship cruises up and down the Neva, providing breathtaking views and a literally dynamic atmosphere. The menu mainly relies on seafood and rightfully so: the place offers an unprecedentedly authentic Tom Yum and most of other fish offerings are refreshing and sophisticated enough to please a true connoisseur. ▶ D-2, Petrovskaya nab. 8, Gorkovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 640 16 16, www.ginza-volga.ru. Open 12:00 until the last guest. €€€.

STEAKS AND BURGERS

BEEFZAVOD

With a name like Beefzavod (zavod translates from Russian as factory), you can pretty much know what to expect: meat, meat and more meat. But it's not just your average steak house. The man behind the project is Maxim Torganov, a studious pupil of Dario Cecchini, the Tuscan butcher that preaches the "nose to nail" ethical approach to animals. No part of the animals goes to waste, so expect to see things like beef tongue carpaccio on the menu. It is worth mentioning that most restaurants are unable to offer dry aged steaks, but Beefzavod do. The interior is executed in a chic grunge fashion, as is so fashionable these days. ▶ D-1, Aptekarsky pr. 2, Petrogradskaya, tel. (+7) 812 456 06 95, www.beefzavod.com. Open 12:00 until last guest €€.

FRANK

If you are a big fan of "House of Cards" and if good, honest street food is your vibe, then Frank: Ribs and Rolls bar is made for you. Founded by four friends who wanted to create a menu based on good quality meat that is quick and delicious. Sample the juicy ribs, beef, lamb and pork or one of the fresh salads or try the colourful *shwarma* wraps, prepared just as you like them. The interior resembles a typical American backyard, with a big barbecue roasting meat 24 hours a day. Come along for tasty food and creative cocktails - it will be right up your street. ▶ C-1, PS, Bolshoy pr. 35A, Chkalovskaya, tel. (+7) 921 925 65 25, www.vk.com/frankmeat. Open 12:00 - 01:00. €.

SMOKE BBQ

Smoke BBQ is a restaurant for meat lovers specializing in Texas-style barbecue. It's got the only meat smoking machine from Dallas in all of Russia which is used to prepare pork ribs, a signature brisket and homemade sausages. Also, here you can savor "Prime" steaks as well as juicy burgers. The bar offers 20 sorts of local and American beer and a collection of bourbons and Russian wines. Inside, the vibe is that of a typical classical American diner: bare concrete walls, red leather couches and stylish Texas flag panel made out of beer cans. ▶ E-3, Ul. Rubinshteina 11, Dostoevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 905 53 72, www.beercard.ru/smoke-bbq. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri 12:00 - 02:00, Sat 10:00 - 02:00, Sun 10:00 - 24:00. €€€.

STROGANOFF STEAKHOUSE

If steak is your thing, a visit to this deluxe ranchhouse, perfect for the modern sophisticated cattleman, is sure to satisfy. The rich leather upholstery, the green bankers lamps, the sepia pictures from the bygone era are nothing compared to the delicious food. The steaks are the main attraction, but the buffalo wings and everything else on the menu are also worthy support acts to the main steak event. ▶ C-3, Konnogvardeysky bul. 4, Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 314 55 14, www.stroganoffsteakhouse.ru. Open 08:00 - 24:00. €€€€.

SEAFOOD

CRAB STORY

This place is aptly called Crab Story and the menu consists of good quality seafood (think Kamchatka crab, scallops, prawns and calamari) and Far Eastern cooking traditions, where Russian culinary sensitivities are intertwined with Asian ones. Enjoy delicious dishes like the signature crab burger for just 510Rbl, the Thai Tom Yum soup (410Rbl), the Primorsky style plaice (670Rbl) and many more in a relaxed atmosphere and without breaking the bank. ▶ E-3, Razyezzhaya ul. 12,  Vladimirskaaya, tel. (+7) 812 908 02 88, www.crabstory.ru. Open 12:00 - 22:00. €€.    

LA PERLA FISH HOUSE

La Perla Fish House is a real pearl of seafood gastronomy in the Northern Capital. Since the day of its opening on 7 March, 1999 La Perla has been serving guests dishes made of only the freshest Russian seafood and prepared by the best chefs in town. Currently, the restaurant's head chef is Stanislav Potemkin, a member of the International Association of Gastronomy "Chaîne des Rôtisseurs". The menu boasts oysters, sea urchins, scallops from the Sea of Okhotsk that are served on a tray of ice, traditional pomorsk fish soup prepared in accordance with a 17th century recipe, zander from Lake Ladoga slow-cooked in a liqueur of field worm-wood and served with a tender carrot puree, as well as

many other mouth-watering dishes that combine fresh local produce with the finest traditions of Russian and French cuisines. All together, this is what makes St. Petersburg's gastronomical traditions truly unique. ▶ E-3, Ul. Marata 54,  Ligovsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 764 44 13, www.mfh-spb.ru. Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€.    

YOUNGA SEAFOOD&BAR

Russian seafood has made a splash - literally - on the restaurant scene in recent years and is here to stay. Younga Seafood & Bar is a democratically priced seafood restaurant specialising on fish and seafood from Crimea, Murmansk, Karelia and the Far East. Traditional fish dishes share the menu with signature recipes; steamed bao buns with crab meat, Black Sea rapan julienne or alder smoked prawns. There's no shortage of good white wines to go along with your meal and the wine menu is divided into three sections to make navigation easier: "Summer Garden" features southern and Russian wines, "Raise Your Sails" is for those who like fresh and sour sorts and "When You Want Fruit" is all about the sweeter wines. ▶ E-3, Ul. Rubinshteina 23,  Dostoevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 926 66 46, www.youngaseafood.ru. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. €€.    

Shchyot budte dobry – Check please!



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PEKJAMIN / ADVERTISEMENT

Restaurants

ROOF TOP TERRACES

Summer is here! And lucky you - there are literally hundreds of places to hang out al fresco and enjoy the sun. Here we've picked out what we think are some of the city's best roof top terraces and bars where you can not only enjoy fantastic views and the unbridled sunshine but also try some very delicious food and fresh summer drinks!

BELLEVUE BRASSERIE

► D-2, Kempinski Hotel Moika 22, Nab. Reky Moiky 22,  Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 335 91 11, www.kempinski.com/ru/st-petersburg/hotel-moika-22/. Open 12:00 - 00:30.   

MAKARONNIKI

► C-2, Pr. Dobrolyubova 16,  Sportivnaya, tel. (+7) 812 677 60 88, www.makaronniki.ru. Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€€.     

MOSKVA

► E-3, Nevsky Centre Shopping Centre, Nevsky pr. 114,  Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 640 16 16, www.moskvavpitere.ru. Open 10:00 - 01:00. €€€.  

TERRASSA

► D-3, Kazanskaya ul. 3,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 640 16 16, www.terrassa.ru. Open 12:00 until the last guest. €€€.     

GASTRONOMIKA

► E-3, Stremyannaya ul. 21/5A,  Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 640 16 16, www.ginza.ru/spb/restaurant/gastronomika. Open 11:00 - 23:00, Thu - Sat 11:00 - 01:00. €€.     

6TH FLOOR TERRACE

► C-3, Renaissance St. Petersburg Baltic Hotel, Pochtamtanskaya ul. 4,  Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 380 40 00, www.rensaintpetersburg.ru. €€.    



BOLSHAYA KUKHNYA

► E-3, Galeria Shopping Centre, Ligovsky pr. 30A,  Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 984 04 84, www.big-kitchen.com. Open 10:00 - 23:00. €€.     

W TERRACE

► D-3, W St. Petersburg, Voznesensky pr. 6,  Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 610 61 61, www.wstpetersburg.com. Open 12:00 - 02:00. €€€.    

BREAKFAST

A Russian proverb says: "Eat your breakfast alone. Share your lunch with a friend. Give your dinner to your enemy" – in other words, while dinner won't do you any good, and you can scrimp on lunch, you should always eat a good breakfast. Luckily, St Petersburg has a number of places to partake of an excellent breakfast; you don't even have to eat alone! Must-try Russian breakfast items include blinis, Russian crepe-style pancakes served with a variety of sweet and savoury fillings; syrniki, fat cottage cheese pancakes usually served with jam and sour cream; and risovaya kasha, creamy rice porridge. There's also a wide range of other cuisines on offer in the city. Here, we've listed a few of St Petersburg's very best breakfast destinations here for you.

BONCH



Bonch's unassuming exterior masks a café that manages to be both ultrachic and incredibly cute all at once. The devil's really in the details here – tiny medicine-style bottles with sprigs of bright flowers, paper cranes fluttering

from the ceiling, beautiful presentation – but it's also unpretentious and both food and service are excellent. It's very much a place to stay and linger; there's a wide array of breakfast items (their freshly-pressed juice is lovely), magazines to read, and, should you linger into the afternoon, a long list of cakes to work through. Vegetarians are well-catered for. ► D-3, Bol. Morskaya ul. 16,  Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 740 70 83, www.bonchcoffee.ru. Open 08:30 - 23:00, Sat 10:00 - 23:00, Sun 10:00 - 21:00. €€.     

COCOCO



Almost under the shadow of St Isaac's Cathedral, Cococo serves Russian breakfast cuisine in a glamorous interior; its oeuvre is very much sophistication with a chic twist. It has a particularly good tea selection, which comes prettily presented in a little glass teapot. Portions are small and elegant rather than hearty, which means that you can sample more than one item – try the rice porridge followed by syrniki. As you might expect, the service is excellent; all the staff speak very good English and are attentive, even providing little footstools so your bag doesn't have to sit on the floor. ► D-3, W St. Petersburg Hotel, Voznesensky pr. 6,  Admiralteyskaya, tel. (+7) 812 418 20 60, www.kokoko.spb.ru/en/. Open for breakfast 07:00 - 11:00, Sat, Sun 07:00 - 12:00, lunch and dinner 14:00 - 01:00. €€.     

I'M THANKFUL FOR TODAY



I'm Thankful for Today caters for those of us who are less than early risers, serving breakfast until 9pm. With a large central table, it has a communal feel, given warmth by chandeliers and plants. It's popular both for socialising and working. The atmosphere is relaxed, and studious in a light-hearted way

– a chalkboard high on one wall jauntily proclaims “Let’s study English together!”, going on to detail the Russian-English translations of such vital phrases as “Free Love”, “Juicy”, and “Sex For Tips” (NB: this is not a service they offer!) Portions aren’t enormous but are tasty and well-presented. The smoothies are particularly good. ▶ D-3, Gorokhovaya ul. 24/24, ☒ Sadovaya, tel. (+7) 911 924 02 49, www.coffeeroomspb.com. Open 10:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 02:00. €€. ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

LE PAIN QUOTIDIEN



At the St Isaac’s Cathedral end of Nevsky Prospect, Le Pain Quotidien is a little splash of rustic French elegance in St Petersburg. As you might expect, there’s a focus on French bread and pastries, but Le Pain also serves a number of Russian breakfast dishes (rice and oatmeal porridge, syrniki, blinis). It serves some of the best croissants in St Petersburg, and bread, coffee and pastries to take away. It’s good for vegetarians, and surprisingly excellent for vegans – vegan dishes are marked as such on the menu, and there are several options available for all meals. ▶ D-3, Nevsky pr. 5, ☒ Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 602 02 10, www.lepainquotidien.ru. Open 08:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 23:00. €€. ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

MARKETPLACE

With a number of branches around St Petersburg and Moscow, Marketplace provides fast, fresh, no-fuss food. Bright and airy, with a bustling ambience and colourful décor, it has a youthful vibe and is popular with a wide range of patrons. It’s canteen-style; on entrance, you are given a card which your items are loaded onto as you col-



RYUMOCHNYE

“Ryumka” in Russian means a special glass used for drinking alcohol (mostly vodka). So a traditional Russian “Ryumochnaya” is a stand-up, spit-and-sawdust kind of a place where working men wash down cheap vodka with salty snacks. But they’re not all necessarily seedy. There are quite a few that are atmospheric and help you get immersed in Russian culture.

SNEZHINKA

▶ B-2, P.S. Maly pr. 57, ☒ Primorskaya, tel. (+7) 812 235 17 85, cafe-snezhinka.ru. Open 11:00 - 23:00. €.

MAYAK

▶ E-2, Ul. Mayakovskogo 20, ☒ Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 273 40 94. Open 12:00 - 23:00. €.

NA POSOSHOK

▶ D-1, Kronverksky pr. 53, ☒ Gorkovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 232 80 90, demyanova-ukha.com. Open 10:00 - 23:00. €.

PINTA

▶ E-3, Stremeyannaya ul. 22/3, ☒ Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 314 11 20. Open 09:30 - 20:30, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 18:30. €.

RYUMOCHNAYA NA VOSSTANIYA 14

▶ E-3, Ul. Vosstaniya 14, ☒ Pl. Vosstaniya. Open 12:00 - 23:00. €.

ZOV ILICHA

▶ D-3, Per. Grivtova 7, ☒ Sadovaya, tel. (+7) 812 571 86 41. Open 12:00 - 24:00. €.

lect them from the various different stalls. You then pay at the door as you leave. It’s therefore brilliant if you have a large group and don’t want to faff around splitting a bill, as each person’s card is loaded separately. Cuisine is multinational, with a wide range of options. ▶ E-3, Nevsky pr. 92, ☒ Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 981 128 23 69, www.market-place.me/ru/spb. Open 08:30 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 08:30 - 06:00. €€. ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒



MECHTATELI

Mechtateli is a trendy hangout with a dreamy industrial-chic interior. Cool, modern and monochrome, it’s worth a visit for the décor alone; it also looks out onto the Fontanka canal and the staff are welcoming and genuinely friendly. It’s also great for breakfast. Portion sizes are generous and the food is delicious, with a unique spin on many of the dishes – for example, smoked venison in omelette, or caramel sauce drizzled over syrniki. Its vegetarian options are not the most extensive but still delicious. It also has fabulous coffee; try the cappuccino made with coconut milk! ▶ E-2, Nab. reky Fontanny 11, ☒ Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 921 761 31 55, www.thedreamerscafe.ru. Open 08:00 - 23:00. €€. ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒



Night view of St Petersburg, Dvortsovaya Embankment and Troitsky Bridge

OUR FAVOURITE BAR WALKS

You can learn a lot about a city from walking its streets in day; however, exploring a city by night immerses you in the city's life in a totally different way. St. Petersburg has some particularly good bars; it's also a safe, friendly city to go out in. Vodka is an obvious staple, but St. Petersburg is (almost literally) overflowing with good drinks; cocktails, wine, whisky and craft beer are perennial favourites. During the summer, the White Nights mean nightlife goes on far into the morning. But don't take our word for it; try it yourself! We've picked some of the best bars in the centre of town, and put together a short tour for you to follow.

Starting off at the slightly classier end of town, **Bureau** (ul. Zhukovskogo, 29) serves fabulous cocktails in a relaxed, calm little bar. With welcoming, friendly staff and a gently buzzing atmosphere, it's the perfect place for a first drink (or perhaps two; their cocktail list is extensive). With two sister bars in the city, it's a popular – although never unpleasantly populous – hangout. It's also a good place to line your stomach, serving fresh and easily customisable burgers.

Next stop is **Dead Poets** (ul. Zhukovskogo, 12), a popular expat favourite. Trendy in a grown-up way, it's fairly quiet, allowing for both liquor and conversation to flow freely. The liquor is also very good! Over 80 whiskies, a selection of rock-solid cocktails and rotating house-infused vodkas are amongst the beverages on offer. Cosy lighting gives the bar an intimate feel. Dead Poets also hosts a number of interesting talks and events, many in English; keep an eye on their website for details.

Opened in May 2016, **2Taco&Co** (ul. Zhukovskogo, 13) is a relative newcomer to St. Petersburg's bar scene. Regular DJ slots and good playlists bring this bright bubbly bar to life; a glimmer of Mexican sunshine seems to snake through the bar. It serves Mexican food; the eponymous tacos and also particularly good guacamole. The thing to drink here is tequila by the shot!

It's worth popping into **Al Capone** (ul. Zhukovskogo, 7) as you pass, if only for the gloriously over-the-top Chicago gangster décor – everything that can be the shape of a gun, silhouetted fedoras are in abundance, and the bar staff are sharp. It's normally a lively spot, and boasts a jukebox to play around with.

Terminal (ul. Belinskogo, 11) is a small but perfectly formed bar serving cocktails, spirits and beer. It has a good whisky selection and is a favourite with St. Petersburg's cool crowd. The bartenders are lovely and the atmosphere good; a neon sign bearing the bar's name is a large feature of the interior. The many bottles lined up behind the bar glimmer enticingly in the dim lighting.

Next door, but with a very different atmosphere, you will find **The Hat** (ul. Belinskogo, 9). This is another bar known for its whisky selection; however, it's more famous as one of St Petersburg's best jazz bars. Free live bands play most nights. The bar is popular and can get very busy, so it's advisable to arrive early if you want a seat – although not too early, as music generally doesn't start until 22:00.

A few doors down from The Hat is **Pinch!** (ul. Belinskogo, 5). Pinch specialises in wine and tapas; the food is very good and comes well-presented in perfect snacking proportions. Food and wine demonstrate Spanish influence, but the (very good) cocktail list is straight-up Manhattan elegance. Try the New York Sour for a less-common twist on a classic cocktail. The atmosphere is convivial, and live music a regular occurrence.

From Pinch, a five-minute walk will take you down the Fontanka to **Mishka**, (Fontanka embankment, 40). Unobtrusively set behind a pink door, Mishka doesn't need to toot its own horn; the bar speaks for itself. A dreamy, quirky little bar, full of sparkles, neon lights and flamingo pink, Mishka is popular with good reason. The White Russian here is one of the best in the city, and the DJs play absolutely cracking tunes. Should you wish, the dancefloor here is an excellent place to end your night.

If you would like to continue, however, head to **Dumskaya Ul.** The bars and clubs here stay open considerably later, and are just a little wilder. Particularly recommended are **Poison** (ul. Lomonosova, 2), a rock-and-roll karaoke bar where you can sing your heart out to a constantly changing list of songs (don't worry, none are in Russian!) and **Bar Lomonosov**, (ul. Lomonosova, 1) where you can smoke hookahs, sing karaoke and dance on the bartops (although be warned, Bar Lomonosov is also known for its nearly-naked dancers). If karaoke isn't quite your thing, head to **Fidel Bar** (Dumskaya Ul., 9), a slightly bizarre homage to Fidel Castro; squeezed tightly into a crumbling old facade is a bar in the purest sense, a DJ station and an energetic dancefloor. Get ready to get sweaty.

ARTSY AND UNDERGROUND

BORODABAR

This hole-in-the-wall sized bar is a happy addition to St. Petersburg's burgeoning underground bar scene. Despite its diminutive size the atmospheric Boroda (beard) bar still packs in the people and is bursting with the kind of atmosphere that wouldn't be amiss in Berlin or Budapest. The homemade interior reflects the eclectic mix of clientele with industrial breeze blocks and exposed piping, graffiti by tattoo artists and reclaimed items of cheap furniture. Staff are very friendly and the DJ sets are often very good.

► D-3, Kazanskaya ul. 11,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 923 89 40, www.borodabar.ru. Open 17:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 17:00 - 04:00.     

CAFE-BAR PRODUKTY

Produkty's owner apparently was inspired by those quirky little hole-in-the-wall sized bars that make the Berlin nightlife scene so legendary and in terms of both design and vibe the inspiration really shows. Produkty rocks its retro 1960s reclaimed furniture so well, that even the guests in their boho beards and fake spectacles, look like they also were brought in as part of the decoration. The music is of course old-school jukebox and retro favourites or new wave and post-rock synth-pop, while for drinks its cocktails which take forever to construct or bottles of beer. Just to make you feel extra special, you have to ring the door bell to get in. ► E-3, Nab. reky Fontanky 17,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 312 57 54. Open 16:00 - 02:00, Thu 16:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 14:00 - 06:00.  

CAFE STIRKA

A small, alternative and unique hang-out; Stirka has a good sound system, old sofa's and small bar serving cold and hot drinks and snacks. Water-smoking pipes available. You can wash your clothes in the back room laundry machines and sup a beer while you watch them spin - all in a smoke-free environment. Terrace seating for the those who need a puff or just want to hang out in the (semi-)fresh air. Laundry services available. ► C-2, Kazanskaya ul. 26,  Sen-naya, tel. (+7) 812 314 53 71, www.40gradusov.ru. Open 09:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 01:00.   

ADDRESSES

It's time to make the most of summer! We've prepared a list of the liveliest partying venues in the city - new kids on the block and already local favorites. Join the St. Petersburg nighttime scene - enjoy summer and have fun!

2TACO&CO

► E-3, Ul. Zhukovskogo, 13,  Mayakovskaya, tel. +7 812 929 62 22, www.facebook.com/2tacoandco. Open 14:00 - 23:30, Thu 14:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 03:00, Sun 12:00 - 23:30. €€.  

AL CAPONE

► E-3, Ul. Zhukovskogo 7,  Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 911 733 99 48, www.alcaponebarspb.ru. Open 18:00 - 06:00. €€.   

BUREAU

► E-3, Ul. Zhukovskogo 29,  Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 940 30 08, www.blog.barbureau.ru. Open 12:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 03:00. €€.  

DEAD POETS

► E-3, Ul. Zhukovskogo 12,  Mayakovskogo, tel. (+7) 812 449 46 56, www.deadpoetsbar.com. Open 14:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 14:00 - 08:00. €€.   

FIDEL

► D-3, Dumskaya ul. 9,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 931 260 26 17, www.vk.com/barfidel. Open 18:00 - 06:00. €€. 

LOMONOSOV BAR

► D-3, Ul. Lomonosova 1,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 934 90 90, www.lomonosovbar.ru. Open 22:00 - 08:00. €€.   

MISHKA

► E-3, Nab. reky Fontanky 40,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 643 25 50, www.facebook.com/bar.mishka. Open 18:00 until last guest. €€.   

PINCH!

► E-2, Ul. Belinskogo 5,  Chernyaevskaya, tel. (+7) 921 905 89 11, www.pinch.wtf. Open 14:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 14:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Tue. €.
 

POISON

► C-2, Ul. Lomonosova 2,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 904 609 17 69, www.vk.com/poisonkaraoke. Open 18:00 - 07:00. €€.   

TERMINAL BAR

► E-2, Ul. Belinskogo 11,  Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 939 61 23. Open 14:00 until last guest. €.
 

THE HAT BAR

► E-2, Ul. Belinskogo 9,  Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 328 33 02, www.hatgroup.ru/the-hat-bar. Open 19:00 - 05:00. €€.   

UNION BAR&GRILL

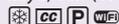
► E-3, Liteyny Pr. 55,  Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 644 54 14, www.unionbar.ru. Open 18:00 - 04:00.
 

MAXIMUS CLUB



If the Roman interior doesn't impress you, then the catwalk down the middle, with dancers flying around the iron bars, certainly will. Aside from great

shows, Maximus has a wide range of cuisine and an extensive wine list. You can get a private dance, and for an additional fee, you can shower with your dancer. ▶ D-3, Kirpichny per. 8, **M** Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 312 05 88. Open 19:00 - 06:00.



tails as well as modern favourites and there's also a kitchen serving fancy European and Japanese cuisine. ▶ D-3, Mal. Morskaya ul. 11, **M** Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 571 11 11, www.musicbar11.ru. Open 21:00 - 06:00, Fri, Sat, 21:00 - 07:00.

ZAVIST. CHAIN OF NIGHTCLUBS FOR MEN

If you want to escape your routine, let someone else dance your worries away. In Zavist clubs, that someone else will be one of St. Petersburg's sexiest and most sensual ladies, who will take you away to a world of champagne and pleasure.

▶ D-3, Bol. Konyushennaya ul. 29, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 701 03 88, www.zavistbar.com. Open 20:00 until last guest.

GENESIS

Welcome to the world of fun, beauty and pleasure. Genesis is a cosy erotic night club only for gentlemen in the historic centre of St. Petersburg. They offer everything for a great night out - relaxing and calm music, friendly staff, drinks and of course a wide range of exclusive massages to relax your body and invigorate your mind - enhanced with a sensual, erotic touch. A visit to this club is a true indulgence for your senses. Place yourself in the skilled hands of their charming masseuses and let yourself drift off into a world where all your day-to-day stresses and strains seem to melt away. ▶ D-3, Nevsky pr. 163, **M** Pl. Alexandra Nevskogo, tel. (+7) 812 922 44 72, www.eng.vsenamassazh.ru.

CLUBS

MUSIC BAR 11

Showing off on stage and performing karaoke in front of friends and strangers is hugely popular in Russia and here at Music Bar 11 they claim to have the city's best karaoke equipment with a high-tech professional sound system and snazzy light effects. If you prefer to see professionals performing then you are in luck as everyday at 23:00 there's a musical show on the bar's stage often featuring well-known Russian bands, which is followed up by DJs doing their thing. The bar card is filled with classic cock-

COCKTAIL BARS

BAR 812

Weeknights this narrow bar seems like a quiet, unassuming place to sip a cocktail and chat with a date or a friendly fellow patron. At the weekend, however, the beautiful people come out to glide past face control and play Carrie Bradshaw with their cosmos in hand and dance stilletos at the ready. No beer, just (expertly) mixed drinks. ▶ E-3, Ul. Zhukovskogo 11, **M** Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 956 81 29, www.bar812.ru. Open 18:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 18:00 - 04:00.

DAIQUIRI BAR

Sexy girls in racy outfits and handsome men in suits cover the walls in this red, white and chrome homage to Sex and the City. The staff are extremely friendly and the cocktails professionally made - the house daiquiris are particularly good. With more than 300 exotic yet reasonably priced cocktails on the list it can be a good place to start the weekend. Also at Gorokhovaya ul. 49. ▶ D-2, Bol. Konyushennaya ul. 1, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 943 81 14, www.dbar.ru. Open 16:00 - 04:00.

GRAF-IN

The English meaning of grafina is "carafe" which is fitting since the place is decorated with them. With its trendy interior, attractive staff and state of the art hookahs, it is clear that Graf-in caters to the more glamorous crowd. Wearing casual street clothes may make you feel a little uncomfortable among all the men in suits. Graf-in offers a huge cocktail menu that includes your standard drinks as well as more unusual cocktails like the delicious "Berry Cheesecake". ▶ C-3, Konngvarddeisky bul. 4, **M** Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 601 01 60, www.graf-in.com. Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri 10:00 - 06:00, Sat 11:00 - 06:00, Sun 11:00 - 24:00.

TSVETOCHKI

A café-bar in the true sense of the word. Guests are seated around a handful of small wooden tables alternatively drinking pots of tea or complicated cocktails and the music is a mash of country, jazz, soul and nostalgic pop. Décor is minimal brick walls and the odd splash of colour with the trendy good-looking staff an added bonus. Tsvetochki attracts a young, intelligent set looking to start the night in a laidback fashion so leave your bling at home. ▶ E-3, Ul. Rubinshteina 36, **M** Dostoevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 942 07 54. Open 09:00 - 05:00.

ZING BAR

Cocktails, Russia's beautiful artistic youth and a wicked soundtrack (yes, rock music instead of the Café del Mar soundtrack, it's possible!) are the draw cards of this stylish little cocktail bar. The interior is sleek and intimately lit, but not so much so that you can't actually see anyone or anything as can be experienced elsewhere. The menu focuses on the classics and is historically separated into 'old' (19th Century), recent and modern sections which also include their own Russian influenced creations. ▶ D-3, Ul. Lomonosova 14, **M** Dostoevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 939 39 44. Open 17:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 17:00 - 04:00, Sun 18:00 - 02:00.

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WHERE TO WATCH FOOTBALL

BARSLONA

▶ E-3, Ul. Rubinshteina 26, **M** Vladimirskaia, tel. (+7) 812 900 01 12, www.barcelona.ru. Open 12:00 - 06:00. €€.

DICKENS

▶ D-3, Nab. reky Fontanky 108, **M** Sennaya pl., tel. (+7) 812 702 62 63, www.dickensrest.ru. Open 13:00 - 23:45, Fri, Sat 13:00 - 01:00. €€.

LIVERPOOL

▶ E-3, Ul. Mayakovskogo 16, **M** Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 579 20 54, www.liverpool.ru. Open 12:00 - 01:00, Fri 12:00 - 03:00, Sat, Sun 16:00 - 01:00. €€.

MOLLIE'S MEWS

▶ D-2, Bol. Konyushennaya ul. 5, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 571 51 71, www.mollys.ru. Open 12:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 03:00. €€.

SHAMROCK

▶ C-3, Ul. Dekabristov 27, **M** Sadovaya, tel. (+7) 812 570 46 25, www.shamrock.spb.ru. Open 11:00 - 02:00. €€.

THE OFFICE PUB

▶ D-3, Kazanskaya ul. 5, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 571 54 28, www.mollys.ru. Open 12:00 - 02:00. €€.



Russian Museum

St. Petersburg's World-Heritage-Listed city centre is one of the most awe-inspiring in Europe. Designed by Europe's greatest architects, it was virtually untouched during Soviet times. They did however add a few hundred apartment monstrosities outside of town. The city has an enormous amount of individual tourist attractions which remain enchantingly beautiful and steeped in fascinating history.

THE ESSENTIALS

ALEKSANDER NEVSKY MONASTERY

Founded by Peter the Great in 1710, this orthodox monastery is the most important in St. Petersburg. The St. Trinity cathedral is worth a visit and so is the cemetery, where you can visit the graves of Russia's greatest composers and writers, including Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Glinka and Dostoevsky. You can buy fresh holy bread in the monastery's bakery in the afternoon (on your left as you approach the Trinity cathedral from the entrance). ▶ F-3, Nab. reky Monastyrky 1,  Pl. Aleksandra Nevskogo, tel. (+7) 812 274 17 02, www.lavra.spb.ru. Open daily 06:00 - 20:00. Admission free.

CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR ON THE SPILT BLOOD

This Moscow-style church with richly coloured onion domes looks a bit out of place in the European centre of St. Petersburg, but it's one of the city's most beautiful and memorable landmarks. It got its awkward name because it was built on the spot where Tsar Alexander II was murdered in 1881. Locals call it 'the mosaic church' because the interior is covered with magnificent mosaics, each wall featuring a particular Biblical theme. It was renovated in the early 1990s and reopened as a museum in 1997. ▶ D-2, Nab. kan. Griboedova 2b,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 315 16 36, www.cathedral.ru. Open 10:30 - 22:30. Closed Wed. Admission 50 - 400Rbl.

 St. Petersburg Card

CRUISER AVRORA



The famous Russian ship and symbol of the Russian Revolution has been towed back to the place of her eternal docking in a unique logistical operation! Where was it all this time? On September 21, 2014 the Aurora sailed out of St. Petersburg, watched by thousands, to the construction yard, the Admiralty Shipyard, for capital restoration. And why is it so important? It was her salvo that gave the signal for the storming of the Winter Palace on the night of 7-8 November, 1917 bringing the Bolsheviks to power in a coup that changed world history. Aurora is also the oldest surviving ship of the Russian Navy, having fought during the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905, WWI and during the Great Patriotic War her canons were used to defend Leningrad. Now the Aurora is a branch of the Central Naval Museum at the Petrograd embankment on the Neva. The exposition of the museum ship is located throughout six rooms. There are about 300 museum objects including model ships, paintings, objects of seamanship and life at sea, documents and photographs. ▶ E-1, Petrogradskaya nab.,  Gorkovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 303 85 13, aurora.org.ru. Open 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission 200 - 600Rbl.

Take note that most museum ticket offices close one hour before the official closing time. Also remember most museums ask you to buy an extra photography ticket if you would like to take photos or videos

KAZAN CATHEDRAL

This cathedral, which was modelled on St. Peter's in Rome, is one of the city's most majestic. It was built from 1801 to 1811 to house the miracle-working Icon Our Lady of Kazan. The dome is 80-metres high and the colonnade facing Nevsky has 96 columns. Be warned, it's a quiet place and they don't like you to talk a lot in here, it's place of prayer and contemplation.

► D-3, Kazanskaya pl. 2, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 314 46 63, www.kazansky-spb.ru. Open 07:00 - 20:00. Daily Services 07:00, 10:00 and 18:00. Admission free.

KUNSTKAMERA (PETER THE GREAT MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND ETHNOGRAPHY)

St. Petersburg's oldest museum is also its strangest. Kunstkamera (which translates as art house) was founded by Peter the Great in 1714. It is also known as the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography. It has anthropological and ethnographic collections on the cultures of people around the world as well as an eclectic mix of random items that Peter and Russian explorers collected on their worldly travels. Peter's Anatomical Collection, with its severed hands and malformed babies in jars, still draws crowds. ► C-2, Universitetskaya nab. 3, **M** Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 328 14 12, www.kunstkamera.ru. Open 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon and last Tue of the month. Admission 100 - 300Rbl.

RUSSIAN MUSEUM

A dazzling journey from thirteenth century icons to the cream of Russian avant-garde, the Russian Museum is housed in various buildings and palaces. With a maze of beautifully decorated rooms, the main Mikhailovsky Palace is a delight for art-lovers, whatever their favoured medium. It is widely acclaimed for containing the most outstanding collection of icons from ancient Rus. The Benois Wing has an especially strong display of work from the turn of the twentieth century. Tickets can include entrance to the Stroganov Palace, Marble Palace and Mikhailovsky Castle which host temporary exhibitions. ► D-2, Inzhenernaya ul. 4, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 595 42 48, www.rusmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 10:00 - 20:00, Thu 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue. Admission 150 - 450Rbl. All inclusive ticket 270 - 600Rbl. **St. Petersburg Card**

ST. ISAAC'S CATHEDRAL

Fully restored inside and out, St. Isaac's is one of the world's largest and most ornate cathedrals. The interior is adorned with gold trim, mosaics and paintings. Designed by Auguste de Montferrand and built between 1818 and 1858 the church was named in tribute to Peter the Great, who was born on the day of St. Isaac of Dalmatia. If it is a clear day we recommend climbing to the dome's top; the panoramic view is absolutely worth the effort. ► D-3, Isaakiyevskaya pl. 4, **M** Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 315 97 32, www.cathedral.ru. Open 10:30 - 22:30. Closed Wed. Colonnade open 10:30 - 04:30. Tickets for the Cathedral and the Colonnade are sold separately. Admission Cathedral 50 - 400Rbl, Colonnade 150 - 400Rbl. **St. Petersburg Card**

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Peter and Paul Fortress



Peter and Paul Fortress

Dress appropriately and head on over to Hare's island—the small piece of land situated at the mouth of the Neva and the heart of St. Petersburg, on which rests the foundation and first building of the city: Peter and Paul's Fortress. Officially labelled as a "Museum of the History of the City", the island in fact hosts a multitude of various buildings, museums, and exhibitions both permanent and private which are not always connected to the specific history of the fortress itself. The fortress, and all that lie within the walls and on the island is unique and central to the identity of St. Petersburg, and can justly be called a point of intellectual and active recreation. ▶ D-2,  Gorkovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 230 64 31, www.spbmuseum.ru.

MONUMENT TO THE HARE

Upon crossing over Ioannovsky Bridge, you will see a log erecting vertically from the water, and perched atop it a small sculpture of a Hare, the namesake of the Island. Legend has it that during a flood, a hare leapt into the boat of Peter the Great, and the hare was then saved, and this is how the island received its name. The small figure on the log was carved by the sculptor Petrovich. At some point, a tradition appeared which remains to this day: to attempt to throw a coin onto the top of the log where the hare stands. If the coin remains—your wish will be granted!

TICKETS

Tickets for Admissions can be purchased directly at the entry points of all the major museums and exhibitions. However, if you already know exactly which museums or exhibitions you wish to see, and which to leave out, you can go directly to one of the central information desks and there purchase the required tickets all at once, and here one can pay with credit card. There are two of these locations on the island, one at Ioannovsky Ravelin and one at the Boat House, a small, single story building near Peter and Paul's Cathedral. Guided tour 450Rbl. (including visit to the Peter and Paul Cathedral, Grand Ducal Burial Chapel and Trubetskoy Bastion Prison and all other expositions of the Peter and Paul fortress). www.spbmuseum.ru 

PETER AND PAUL'S CATHEDRAL AND GRAND DUCAL BURIAL VAULT

In the middle of the fortress stands the most impressive and visible of all the structures—Peter and Paul's Cathedral. This is the burial place of all of the Russian Emperors from Peter the Great to Nicholas the Second. The Cathedral became the first one of the city that was built out of stone, and was built from 1712 to 1733. On top of the Cathedral is a gilded spire, and on the peak is a figure of a flying angel holding a cross. This is one of the main symbols of St. Petersburg and is the tallest building in the city with a height of 122.5 meters. The spire is visible from quite far away locations around the city. The interior of the cathedral reminds one of the inside of a palace and is completely authentic and pristinely preserved. Inside you will find antique paintings and icons, carved iconoclasts in the form of a triumphal arc and an altar canopy, in front of which is situated a magnificent gilded chair adorned with two statues of the apostles Peter and Paul. The royal seat is carved and decorated with



gold and crimson velvet. Several of the valuables of the Cathedral were lost after the revolution of 1917. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:45, Sun 11:00 - 19:00. Tickets 200 - 450Rbl.

The church has never held such ceremonies as a baptism or a wedding—on the funeral rites and burial services of the dead of the Imperial family, or of the commanders of the fortress. In 1896, next to the cathedral, another location was built, the Grand Ducal Shrine. In the summer of 1998, on the 80th anniversary of the execution of the last Tsar, Nicholas the 2nd, and his family, their remains were laid to rest here. In September 2006, the remains of Maria Fyodorovna were reburied next to the grave of her husband, Alexander III.

Peter and Paul Fortress

THE BELL TOWER

Visitors to the Cathedral are now allowed to ascend the bell tower of the Cathedral, climbing stairs to a height of 43 meters to enjoy a panoramic views and perhaps get acquainted with Orthodox music. Here one can look at the church bells and chimes—instruments which are connected to a clock mechanism and a Carillon, an instrument connected to a keyboard and a system of 51 bells, from which any music can be played with this specific and unique sound. For history buffs, along the tiers of the tower are drawing and photographs connected with the history and construction of the building, drawing of the metal spire and of the rotating angel weathervane.

TRUBETSKOY BASTION PRISON



This was the main political prison of Tsarist Russia which was built in 1872, and prior to this political prisoners (including the son of Peter the Great, Princess Tarakanova, and the Decembrists) were held in various locations on the island. To isolate the

prisoners, architects designed a two-storey, pentagonal building with 72 individual cells placed in a circle. The cells were measured out by 10 steps diagonally, and 6 steps long. Wallpaper, iron bed, table, toilet, wash basin, kerosene lamp, pea soup—almost VIP conditions, so long as you ignore the constant dark, wet walls and dampness, and the terrible and harsh punishments for offenders. In some cases were recorded 8000 lashes, or 400 blows and weeks of solitary confinement and only water and bread of sustenance. Some famous inhabitants of this prison are Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Maxim Gorky, Leon Trotsky, and Lenin's brother. ▶ **Open 10:00 -19:00. Closed Wed. Tickets 120 - 200Rbl.**

NEVA PANORAMA AND FOUNDATION STONE

This is a walking route along the top of the fortress wall from Naryshkin to Gosudarev Bastion, which opens gorgeous panoramic views of the other Bank of the Neva river and historical center of St. Petersburg. Here you can view the Hermitage, Marble Palace, spit of Vasilevsky Island, the Admiralty, the Dome of St. Isaac's Cathedral and the bridges of St. Petersburg. The pathway is made of wood and goes on for 300 meters, fenced on both sides with handrails, and from here you can also view the foundation stone, which symbolizes the moment when Peter the Great laid down and crossed two pieces of turf, and declared that here will be placed his city. ▶ **Open 11:00 – 18:00. Tickets 50Rbl.**



MINT

Within the Fortress works the oldest industrial enterprise in the city, which is only a few years younger than the city itself: The St. Petersburg Mint, founded by a decree of Peter the Great in 1724. In fact, it is one of the largest in the world and mints coins, medals, and orders of merit. Visitors to such a secure and important location are not permitted, but nearby in the St.Nicholas Wall of the fortress a company store is open where mint collectors and fans can purchase souvenirs.

STATUE OF PETER THE GREAT



A very unexpected and controversial statue lies in the heart of the fortress compound, which was created by Mikhail Shemyakin. The bronze statue sits atop the throne of the Tsar and was put in place in 1991 and remains controversial to this

day, due to the massive body of Peter being crowned by an abnormally small, bald head. The sculptor used the death mask of the Tsar to create the head, the original having been created by Carlo Rastrelli. Rastrelli added a moustache, wig, and dignified expression to the mask, but the modern sculptor left it bare, and we're left with quite an unnatural and creepy feeling whilst gazing upon the statue. The knees and fingers appear highly polished, as it is common for tourists to take photographs while sitting in the lap of the statue.

NEVA CURTAIN WALL

The exhibition of the history of the fortress lays within this wall, including archaeological finds, drawings, Russian and Swedish plans and maps, engravings, and photographs. Here is a private exhibition of "The Secrets of Da Vinci" which contains instruments of Torture and an exhibition of wax figures.

THE BEACH



Not many know this actually exists, but just outside the walls on the banks of the Neva, you can relax on a nice sandy beach right in the heart of St. Petersburg! If you're granted with good weather, of course. Even in the winter time, however, it gives a nice opportunity to get some sun, as the corners of the walls protect visitors from the cold winds. Although the sand goes right into the water, bathing here is not recommended due to water pollution. Many from the city come here just to relax, lie on the beach, read a book, and perhaps do a bit of tanning.



HERMITAGE

THE MAIN MUSEUM COMPLEX: WINTER PALACE, OLD HERMITAGE AND NEW HERMITAGE

The director of the Hermitage once said, "I can't say that the Hermitage is the number one museum in the world, but it's certainly not number two." With over three million works of art and treasures housed in five connected buildings along the Neva, the museum can't fail to impress. Give yourself plenty of time and try to go on a weekday to avoid the crowds. Four hours is probably an absolute minimum of time to spend there if you want to see the main state rooms and some of the most popular artworks. The museum's art collection covers all of the greatest European movements. Lovers of the renaissance shouldn't miss the Da Vincis, Canalettos, Michaelangelos and Raphaels of the Italian rooms. The Rembrandt room filled with works by the old master is another must as are the nearby El Grecos. The great impressionists like Gaugin, Van Gogh, Degas, Matisse, Picasso and the gang are all up on the top floor where there is also a very large selection of Oriental and Middle Eastern art. The ground floor houses the museum's treasures of ancient Greece, Rome, Egypt and Persia as well as antiquities from the near and central east.

One of the latest temporary exhibits in the **Old Hermitage** building is that of Korean ceramics, imported from the National museum of Korea in Seoul. The name of the exhibit 'Born in Flames' displays Korea's long illustrious career of pottery traditions. The Korean pottery display

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Tel. (+7) 812 710 90 79, www.hermitagemuseum.org. Open 10:30 - 18:00, Wed and Fri 10:30 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission 300 - 600Rbl. Free entrance 1st Thu of month. You can buy tickets to the Main Museum Complex and its branches at the ticket offices inside the museum, via special terminals at the entrance to the Great Courtyard and online (the visitors with e-tickets and gift cards can use the separate entrance to the Main Museum Complex through Shuvalovsky Proezd). Excursion bureau (+7) 812 710 96 88.

ranges from past times to contemporary artists. The St. George Hall and the Malachite Room, lined with white and gold are of special interest. The great Winter Palace gives a stunning insight into the astonishing wealth and extravagance of the Romanovs. For those who watched the BBC's January adaptation of War and Peace – the decadence present here is that captured by camera crews in the drama series. Particularly striking is The Peter the Great Throne Room, lined with reds and sumptuous golds and containing the allegorical figure of Minerva in a portrait.

The building of the **New Hermitage** was built by emperor Nicholas I and the Gallery of paintings is housed here. Particular highlights include the Hercules room, full of ancient Greek statues, the Jupiter Hall, containing an impressive 3 metre high statue of Neptune. ▶ D-2, Dvortsovaya nab. 34 (entrance from Dvortsovaya pl.), Admiralteiskaya.

OTHER PARTS OF THE HERMITAGE

THE GENERAL STAFF BUILDING

The General Staff Building, one of the most famous architectural monuments in St. Petersburg. Home to the impressionists, the General Staff building boasts an impressive collection of Renoir, Cezanne and van Gogh's finest works. ▶ Dvortsovaya pl. 6/8, Admiralteiskaya. St. Petersburg Card

THE MENSHIKOV PALACE



This section of the Hermitage Museum holds many curious modern treasures. Bizarre, if not slightly disturbing in nature one of the highlights of the main exhibit is a display of a Neanderthal couple: male and female are cut up and smashed up with various machines/weapons. The male Neanderthal sports an axe through his head, the female's shoulder is cut open with a razor blade. This raw mash of up blood and human flesh is highly unsettling, and demands to be noticed. In the background stands a broken piano, spliced shavings of wood hang in the air, cutting through the backs of the protagonists. The effect is highly disturbing and surreal: the prehistoric couple are works of death, life freezes for an instant and we are left wondering how the imminent catastrophe will unfold. Similarly disturbing are the surrealist portraits which hang on the walls- a man in his boxer shorts stands in the position of Christ, pinned up by guards. The image is grotesque and highly disturbing, a print of a futuristic Lord in some strangely secular posture.

▶ Universitetskaya nab. 15, Vasileostrovskaya.

St. Petersburg Card



New Holland | Photo by Peter Timofeyev

GOLITSYN LOFT

If only the walls could talk in this creative cluster made up of five buildings. One of the buildings is an old 18th century mansion that was once the home of the Turgenev brothers, who were close friends of the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin. Legend has it that it was in this mansion that Pushkin wrote his famous ode "Vol'nost'" ("Freedom"). Nowadays, Golitsyn Loft is a city inside a city numbering more than a hundred different shops, show rooms, cafes, beauty salons and barber shops, tattoo parlors, galleries, restaurants and bars, coffee shops, a theater and even a poetry workshop (because let's face it, it is St. Petersburg we're talking about). Every single occupant of Golitsyn Loft has creativity at the very core of their business. The gastro-quarter comprises a food truck park in the huge yard to suit any taste and inside there are dozens of very affordable cafes, coffee shops, restaurants and bars for any gastronomic persuasion. ► E-2, Nab. Reky Fontanky 20,  Cherny-shevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 291 30 10, luna-info.ru.

NEW HOLLAND ISLAND

Edged by canals, and covering an area of 7.6 hectares, New Holland Island was created in the time of Peter the Great as a center for shipbuilding. Over succeeding centuries, it has served as a naval prison, been home to a naval radio station and during Soviet times accommodated high-security naval and military facilities. The military recently ceded the island to the city, creating the opportunity for New Holland's dramatic reinvention as both a major cultural center and a self-sufficient city district. Although the island's complete transformation process is due to finish only in 2025 (some of the buildings are extremely tricky to reconstruct because of their cultural heritage status), already in the summer of 2016 it opened its doors to the public. Children can frolic and play in the wooden playground for children in the form of a historic frigate called Peter and Paul. A stage hosts musical performances, theatrical troupes and movies. During the summer months visitors lie on the grass, walk around the green zone, play frisbee, petanque and badminton and enjoy picnics on chairs resembling those found in the Luxembourg Garden in Paris. Aside from food stalls and kiosks, there is also Kuznya House (The Foundry), the island's first proper sit down restaurant by day and happening club on the week-

ends. The new "heart" of the island's social and cultural activity, Kuznya House is the kind of place that can easily become a second home for its regulars. In the same building there's Volkonsky Deli Cafe, a great place to grab a coffee and a pastry or something a little more substantial. ► C-3, Nab. Admiralteiskogo kan. 2,  Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 245 20 35, www.newhollandsp.ru/en/. Open 09:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 23:00.

LOFT PROJECT ETAGI

A pioneer in loft design and one of the largest exhibition spaces in St. Petersburg, Etagi has been occupying the former Smolninsky Bread Factory since 2007. This fantastic conversion just ten minutes' walk from Moskovsky Railway Station has plenty to keep visitors interested, including many of the original factory fittings seamlessly merged with the thoroughly contemporary design. Many of the interior elements of the old factory were preserved, such as the concrete pillars, a drilling machine and bread baking equipment. Apart from being an exhibition center for the arts, it is also a cultural center that holds the widest range of events, from film festivals to kid's workshops and from rooftop parties to pet adoption fairs. It's also home to the city's first ever "container city"- rows of containers that are now used for street food cafes, shops and more. ► E-3, Ligovsky pr. 74,  Ligovsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 458 50 05, www.loftprojectetagi.ru. Open 09:00 - 23:00. Admission depends on current event. Check the website for additional information.

TAIGA

Blocks from St. Petersburg's world-renowned Hermitage Museum, right on the Neva River, you will find Taiga - a whole house that hosts several design and architecture bureaux, a vegetarian and vegan-friendly Café Gronland, an exhibition and event space, the city's largest guitar showroom Guitar Bank, several small creative bureaux, a radio station, a bookshop and even a hostel. Taiga's White Hall hosts exhibitions, festivals, film premieres, lectures and concerts. You'll find a ping-pong table and one of St. Petersburg's few organized recycling systems in the constantly populated courtyard. The yard is great place for hanging out in the warmer months. ► D-2, Dvortsovaya nab. 20,  Admiralteyskaya, tel. (+7) 921 581 04 66, taiga.space.

RUSSIAN COSTUME



Traditional Russian clothing is different from clothing of other countries of the world and even from the neighboring countries and can be rightfully called part of Russia's artistic culture. Elements of pagan culture of the ancient Slavs as well as Old Rus' intertwined with regional artistic and craft traditions to form a unique costume of each geographic area.

Two sets of clothing were most common for women around Russia. The first one was a women's shirt with a skirt and a headdress ("soroka") and was especially popular in the southern regions of Russia. Here, women wore a long linen shirt, on top of which they wore a skirt ("poneva"). In the front they wore an apron and on top they put on some additional items – "nasov", "navershnik", etc. Women always wore a traditional headdress called the "soroka", which completely hid the hair.

The second typical set for women consisted of a women's shirt, sundress and a "kokoshnik". This set was common in the northern regions of Russia, the Volga region, the Urals and Siberia. Over a long shirt women would put on a sundress and on top of that a short chest clothing on straps called a "dushegreyda". Married women, as well as women in the south, wore a headdress known as the "kokoshnik", which completely covered the hair.

Hair was considered to have magical powers in the ancient times. It could be used to harm women and children so in order to avoid any misfortune, women carefully hid their hair. Married women wore "sorokas" and "kokoshniks" to fully cover their hair. Russian girls wore wreaths and headbands, leaving open a crown area of the head. The "kokoshnik" is perhaps one of the most famous elements of the national Russian costume for women. In ancient Rus', women didn't wear hats because hats were for men. Instead, women wore a headdress that was even more beautiful and comfortable – the "kokoshnik". These were made from expensive materials – silk, velvet, or brocade – and were decorated with pearls, lace, stones and embroidered gold thread. The word "kokoshnik" comes from the Slavic word "kokosh", which meant a chicken and rooster. This ancient Russian headdress in the form of a crest (fan or round shield) has long been a symbol of Russian fashion. The shape of the kokoshnik varied greatly from region to region, but tended to depend on the particularities of the tradition of putting hair up in a harness or two braids: around the head over the forehead, on the neck, on the temples, etc.

As a rule peasants had to sew clothes from their own fabrics – wool, hemp, staminate hemp and linen. Poor families could purchase garments extremely rarely and if purchases did occur, this was done in turn, by pooling together resources of several families. Even ritual garments, like wedding dresses, were only available for collective use. Dresses of the noblemen were, of course, made of expensive fabrics as well as gold, silver, pearls and expensive buttons.

In the present day, Russia's national costume still presents some mysteries for ethnographers and attracts the attention of art historians and fashion designers thanks to its stunning beauty.

► Russian Museum, D-2, Inzhenernaya ul. 4, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 595 42 48, www.rusmuseum.ru.

CHURCHES

St. Petersburg is home to many different churches and monasteries, all with beautiful architecture.

ARMENIAN CHURCH

► D-3, Nevsky pr. 40/42, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 571 99 90, www.armenian-church.org. Open 09:00 - 20:00. Admission free.

CHESMA CHURCH

► Ul. Lensovetu 12, Moskovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 373 61 14, www.chesma.spb.ru. Open 09:00 - 19:00. Daily services 10:00 and 18:00 (except Mon). Admission free.

SMOLNY CATHEDRAL

► F-2, Pl. Rastrelli 3, Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 710 31 59, www.cathedral.ru. Open 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Wed. Admission 50 - 150Rbl, concerts 200 - 700Rbl. Bell-tower 100Rbl.

ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL

► C-3, Nikolskaya pl. 1/3, Sennaya pl., tel. (+7) 812 714 70 85, www.nikolskiysobor.ru. Open 06:30 - 19:30. Daily services 07:00, 10:00, 18:00. Admission free.

TROITSKY CATHEDRAL

► D-4, Izmailovskiy pr. 7a, Tekhnologicheskyy Institut, tel. (+7) 812 251 89 27, www.izmsobor.ru. Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sun 06:00 - 20:00. Daily services 10:00, Fri - Sun 17:00.

PALACES

SHEREMETEV PALACE

► E-3, Nab. reky Fontanky 34, Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 272 44 41, www.theatremuseum.ru/ru/brn_shr.html. Open 11:00 - 19:00, Wed 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue, last Wed of month. Admission 70 - 300Rbl.

TAVRICHESKY PALACE

► F-2, Shpalernaya 47, Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 326 69 11. Excursions after preliminary reservations 10:00, 15:30. Admission 400Rbl.

YUSUPOV PALACE

► C-3, Nab. reky Moiky 94, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 314 98 83, www.yusupov-palace.ru. Open 11:00 - 18:00. Group tours should be booked in advance by phone (+7) 812 314 98 83. Excursions 250 - 800Rbl.

MUSEUMS

ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC MUSEUM

Situated in Avraam Melnikov's Church, this museum is currently the largest one dedicated to polar exploration in the world. Various scale models of famous Russian atomic ice breakers decorate the rooms. Full-sized replicas of Russian tents, hovels and equipment show how it is possible for researchers to survive under such harsh conditions. The museum also showcases some of the most impressive mounted animals you will ever see, giving you the opportunity to stare a polar bear straight in the eye with impunity. ▶ E-3, Ul. Marata 24A,  Vladimirmirskaya, tel. (+7) 812 571 25 49, www.polarmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon and last Fri of the month. Admission 80 - 300Rbl. 

FABERGÉ MUSEUM



As sure as eggs is eggs, the masterpieces created by the House of Fabergé are inextricably linked to St. Petersburg's imperial past, so it is perhaps surprising that until recently there was no museum in the city specifically devoted to them. In 2013 all

that changed, and now one of the world's finest collections is on display in the magnificently restored Shuvalov Palace. Pride of place goes, naturally, to nine Easter Eggs crafted for the last two Russian tsars, but the collection includes over 4,000 other items of all shapes, sizes and materials, some created by Fabergé's contemporaries who, while they may have lacked his flair for PR, were certainly masters in their own right. Notwithstanding the intrinsic and financial value of some of the pieces, they are not hidden away behind velvet ropes, in fact you can get right up to the display cases, and we suspect that the cleaners spend most evenings wiping nose-prints off the glass. ▶ E-3, Nab. reky Fontanky 21,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 333 26 55, www.fabergemuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 21:00, excursions 10:00 - 18:00 (the last tour starts at 17:00). Closed Fri. Admission 200 - 600Rbl.

MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF RELIGION



This exhibition used to be in the former Atheism Museum which was housed in Kazan cathedral. Exhibitions showing the beliefs, gods and objects from Northern Siberian pagan tribes, the Ancient Greeks, Egypt and Israel can be found here

(complete with English notes) as well as a huge exhibition outlining the long history of the Russian Orthodox Church as well as a new section on Buddhism. ▶ C-3, Pochtamtstkaya ul. 14,  Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 314 58 38, www.gmir.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Tue 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Wed. Admission 80 - 400Rbl. Free entrance first Mon of month. 

RUSSIAN VODKA MUSEUM



This small museum presents the long history of Russia's national drink, from 12th Century peasants through to 20th Century presidents. Display cases full of vodka bottles in unusual shapes, old advertising campaigns and some funny dioramas

explain the evolution of the Russian firewater. An official excursion is recommended as the exhibits are in Russian only. In the tasting room, there's also a chance to try out three different vodkas and traditional Russian snacks. ▶ C-3, Konnogvardeisky bul. 4,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 943 14 31, www.vodkamuseum.ru. Open 12:00 - 19:00. Admission 200Rbl. Excursion 450Rbl. Degustation 450Rbl. Excursion with degustation 600Rbl.

MUSEUM OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AVANT-GARDE (MATYUSHIN HOUSE)



Avant-garde is a bit of an umbrella term for a host of various artistic movements active in the early twentieth century. This museum is primarily dedicated to the activities and impact of two protagonists, husband and wife, Mikhail Matyushin and

Elena Guro. Located in Matyushin's home, a beautifully restored timber 19th century house for which its worth making the trip to see, there is a really wonderful non-stifling atmosphere here. ▶ D-1, Ul. Professora Popova 10,  Petrogradskaya, tel. (+7) 812 347 68 98, www.spbmuseum.ru. Open 11:00 - 18:00, Tue 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Wed. Admission 100 - 150Rbl. Free entrance Fri. 

CITY CARD

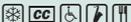
St. Petersburg Card

Get the most out of your trip to St. Petersburg with the St. Petersburg Card.

This convenient sightseeing card gives you access to a hop-on hop-off bus trip around the city and a free river cruise, free entry to more than 60 museums around the city and a free boat trip to Peterhof. It also gives you discounts for a number of tourist services and restaurants. Whether you are a visitor to the city with only a couple of days here or an expat wanting to get to know the ins and outs of this amazing city, the St. Petersburg Card is a great investment. The card is available in 2, 3, 5 and 7 day options for your convenience. More information at www.petersburgcard.com.

BOAT TOURS

CENTRAL LANDING-STAGE PIER WITH LIONS

One of the joys of St. Petersburg is the chance to go boating along the canals and rivers. You really get a different perspective of the city from the water and the reflections of the coloured sky and palaces are enchanting. At the central landing-stage Pier with Lions they offer regular water trips every hour along the Neva River, the Gulf of Finland, the city's canals and even to the fountains of Peterhof. They have tours with audioguides in different languages, special jazz tours, BBQ evenings, a bar and a VIP lounge. ▶ **D-2, Admiralteiskaya nab. 2, M Admiralteiskaya**, tel. (+7) 812 320 08 77, www.boattrip.ru. Check the website for the time of departure. Navigation until November 15. Admission 450 - 800Rbl. Check the website for information about all boat tours. 

NEPTUN SHIPPING COMPANY

What a genius idea - boat trips with audio guides! People walking down the streets don't have to listen to the blaring drone of the boat's speakers, people travelling on the boat can listen to a guide in one of seven foreign languages - and the kind owners even throw in a free glass of champagne too. Night tour allows you to see St. Petersburg famous bridges going up as well. Audio guides in Russian, English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Japanese. ▶ **D-2, Nab. reky Moiky 26, M Nevsky pr.**, tel. (+7) 812 924 44 51, www.neptun-boat.ru. Departure everyday at 13:00, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00, 21:00 in good weather. Admission 300 - 600Rbl. 

ODISSEY

No visit to St. Petersburg would be complete without cruising the rivers and canals, and what better way to do that than by private boat? The guys from Odissey will organise the perfect trip for you. Gather a group of friends, decide where the boat will pick you up, and enjoy the white nights or head to Peterhof for a stroll in the famous park. Ivan and Albert speak English and will make sure you have yet another great summer experience in the "Venice of the North". ▶ **D-3, Nevsky pr. 30, M Nevsky pr.**, tel. (+7) 812 923 27 09, www.katervspb.ru.



MUSEUM OF POLITICAL HISTORY OF RUSSIA



The State Museum of the Political History of Russia is the successor to the Revolution Museum. It is housed in two historic buildings of the modern era: the mansions of the ballerina M. Kshesinskaya, and baron V. Brandt. The new exposition 'Man

and Power in Russia in the XIX-XXI Centuries' is devoted to the relationship between man and the state at the crucial moments in the history of the country. The period of the revolution between 1917 and 1922 is presented in the exposition 'February of 1917. The Breakdown of the Monarchy', as well as the memorial rooms 'Lenin's Study' and 'Room of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of Bolshevik Party in 1917'. The exposition 'The Soviet Epoch: Between Utopia and Reality' reveals images of that time - Stalin, Khrushchev and Brezhnev - presented in documents, things, and reconstructed interiors. ▶ **D-2, Ul. Kuibysheva 2-4 (entrance from Kronversky pr.), M Gorkovskaya**, tel. (+7) 812 233 70 52, www.polithistory.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Wed, Fri 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Thu and last Mon of the month. Admission 200Rbl. Guided tours for groups from 700Rbl. 

RUSSIAN ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

Wanting to get deeper in touch with the lifestyle of Russia's various native ethnic minorities? The Russian Ethnographic Museum is the place to be. Situated right next to the Russian Museum, the large collection contains thousands of different traditional handcrafted items such as jewellery, clothes, weapons and tools used by different native cultures across Russia and Central Asia. ▶ **E-3, Inzhenernaya ul. 4/1, M Nevsky pr.**, tel. (+7) 812 570 54 21, www.ethnomuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Tue 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon and last Fri of month. Admission 100 - 300Rbl. Excursion in English 500Rbl. 

SUVOROV MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Although this museum takes the name of Suvorov, the great war general of Empress Catherine the Great, it actually covers much more than the military accomplishments of one man. There are comparative history displays of war and battle of the 18th century all over Europe, the deeds of Napoleon and the uniforms and regalia of the time. Did you know that it was only after the news that Suvorov died that Napoleon decided to invade Russia? The building itself is also worth seeing, built in 1904 following a decree from Nicholas II in a grand style to accentuate what is Russia's first memorial museum. To facilitate better understanding of the museum, we recommend taking a guide as they add that extra knowledge which prevents this from being just another visit around some glass covered exhibits. ▶ **F-2, Kirochnaya ul. 43, M Chernyshevskaya**, tel. (+7) 812 579 39 14, www.suvorovmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Wed 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission 50 - 400Rbl. Audioguide 150Rbl. 

ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM



This museum has a collection of 30,000 exhibits of fauna from every continent and climactic zone all stuffed and displayed in scenes depicting their natural habitat. There is also a small collection of live insects while it is the huge skeleton of a

44,000-year-old Mammoth that is a real highlight. ▶ C-2, Universitetskaya nab. 1,  Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 328 01 12, www.zin.ru/museum. Open 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Tue. Admission 100 - 200Rbl. Free entrance third Thu of month. 

LYRICAL ST. PETERSBURG

ALEXANDER BLOK MUSEUM



The first thing to note is that this institution can be quite a stumbling block: all the material is in Russian, so this place is really only worth a visit if you've read Blok before in some capacity. Besides the potential inaccessibility for foreigners, this apartment-

museum dedicated to the early 20th century Russian symbolist poem is excellently curated. Information sheets can be read under the watchful eyes of icons hung in upper corners. Perhaps the most well-executed part of this complex is the untraditional literary exhibit, which follows an associative, almost poetic organizing principle. Age is deduced from photos; time passes via dates of poems, copied out in full; and characters emerge from items arranged, collage-like, under glass displays with headings like "Cosmos - A Secret Freedom". ▶ C-3, Ul. Dekabristov 57,  Sadovaya, tel. (+7) 812 713 86 16, www.spbmuseum.ru. Open 11:00 - 18:00, Tue 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Wed. Admission 70 - 120Rbl. 

ANNA AKHMATOVA MUSEUM



It's easy to miss the Anna Akhmatova Museum, which is tucked away in the sun-lit, green courtyard of Sheremetev Palace. Here you can wander through the rooms where Akhmatova lived, loved, lost and continued to write for nearly 30 years.

Akhmatova's life is well-chronicled in the curatorial notes for the apartment, and an interactive room with sounds, manuscripts and electronic screens creates a dynamic stage for the words of the Silver Age muse. Akhmatova's poetry and personal biography are presented here in a way that creates a context for understanding and reacting to the terrifying years of Stalin's reign. Don't forget to

CITY SIGHTSEEING
ST. PETERSBURG

Bright red double-decker tour buses are prowling St. Petersburg's streets, giving visitors a great view of the city centre. The Hop On-Hop Off tour offers excursions around town in twelve languages, and you can buy a 2-day ticket and jump on and off the buses as often as you like. The tour includes the "greatest hits" of St. Petersburg's unique and unforgettable city centre, with its distinctive architecture, intriguing museums and exciting cultural life. Buses usually run at 20-minute intervals, depending on the traffic situation. There are also boat tours that cruise along the most famous canals bringing you to St. Petersburg's major museums. The system here is the same - your ticket allows you to hop-on and off as often as you like. Check the route on page 64-65. ▶ Buses leave from Isaakievskaya pl., city-sightseeing.ru/led. Open 09:00 - 20:00. 

check out the museum's website and brochures for their ongoing readings, concerts and new exhibitions! Audio-guides in English, German, French, Italian and Finnish. ▶ E-3, Liteiny pr. 53,  Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 579 72 39, www.akhmatova.spb.ru. Open 10:30 - 18:30, Wed 12:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon. Admission 50 - 100 Rbl. Audioguide 200Rbl. 

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY MUSEUM

The museum dedicated to the author of Notes from the Underground dips into the basement, then leads you all the way up. The main attraction here is Dostoevsky's apartment, where he lived with his young, dutiful wife Anya Snitkina and their four children. Luckily for Anglophones, every room is accompanied by a laminated page explaining the items and function of the space, including Dostoevsky's personal study, the family kitchen and Anya's office. A side exhibit in a darkened room displays biographical photos, personal paraphernalia and published books - there aren't any notes to be found here, though, so it's good to know your Fyodor Fast Facts in advance. ▶ E-3, Kuzhnechny pr. 5/2,  Vladimirskaaya, tel. (+7) 812 571 40 31, www.md.spb.ru. Open 11:00 - 18:00, Wed 13:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon and on public holidays. Admission 100 - 200Rbl. Audioguide 250Rbl. Guided tours should be booked in advance by phone. 

PARKS AND GARDENS

St. Petersburg is home to many parks and gardens in which you can while away an afternoon. They are romantic and beautiful, whether dipped in sunlight or blanketed in snow. The Summer Garden is the oldest, dating back to the 18th Century, and was designed by Peter the Great. A lot of the parks are home to cafes and other facilities for visitors. Yelagin Park, located on Yelagin Island, is one of the most popular parks in the city, and often hosts various events throughout the year. The parks are great places to get away from the chaos of the city and enjoy nature.

BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Botanical Gardens are a gardeners paradise and a perfect place to spend a few relaxing hours. The contemplative statue of Lenin fits in perfectly with the mood of the set up. Set amidst a large acreage to the north of the city centre, there's enough here to keep wanderers and green thumbs amused for ages. In parts, messy and overgrown, it seems frozen in time which makes it even more charming. ▶ D-1, Aptekarsky pr.1, [M] Petrogradskaya, tel. (+7) 812 372 54 64, www.botsad-spb.com. Open 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission 50 - 100Rbl.



PARK POBEDY

Moskovsky Park Pobedy (Moscow Victory Park) is full of life. On the southern side, there is a small cafe which has drinks and hot snacks. Park Pobedy is a beautiful, quiet, large park, where students drink beer, families walk and pensioners sit on benches. Besides a childrens play park it has a Walk of Fame, where you can find statues of Russian WWII heroes. There are also some water attractions available, with water bikes and boats in warm weather. The lakes are small though and the equipment doesn't always look trustworthy, but if you can swim... Just kidding! ▶ Moskovsky pr., [M] Park Pobedy. Open 24hrs. Admission free.

PRIMORSKY VICTORY PARK

Primorsky Victory Park is situated at the western end of Krestovsky Island. Here you can rent bikes and skates, or, if feeling less energetic, you can fill your stomach with shashlyk and beer at any of the tents or terraces scattered about the park or along the riverbanks. The Divo Ostrov amusement park has lots of fun for thrill seekers and the Zenit arena has just been opened after years of construc-

tion. The park's convenient location next to the metro makes it appealing for the more sportive locals who come to run, walk their dogs or cycle about the grounds. ▶ B-1, Krestovsky pr. 21, [M] Krestovsky ostrov. Open 24 hrs. Admission free.

TAVRICHESKY GARDEN

Half-naked people like to enjoy the sun in the Tavrichesky Garden. This is the park for ordinary people to come and take a short stroll, while fitness freaks go jogging. Once it belonged to Grigory Potemkin, the favourite lover of Catherine the Great. Red Mountain, the raised terrace and cafe, is marvellous for sun lovers, and the kebabs are great. The park also contains a bright spot: The Tavricheskiy Palace (closed to the public) held the first State Duma (parliament) meeting in 1906, as did the Petrograd Soviet following the February revolution in 1917. Lenin's statue has been removed and replaced by Russian poet Sergei Yesenin. ▶ F-3, [M] Chernyshevskaya. Open 7:00 - 22:00. Admission free.

YELAGIN PARK

Laid out on Yelagin Island, the Central Park of Culture and Leisure (TsPKiO) is one of the most popular parks in town. Its acres are packed with things to see and places to eat and drink. There are wonderful walking paths and it is a popular destination for bicyclists and skaters. You can also rent a boat and paddle around a pond. The Yelagin Palace is also open to the public. ▶ [M] Krestovsky ostrov, tel. (+7) 812 430 09 11, www.elaginpark.org. Park open daily 06:00 - 24:00. 30 - 100Rbl. Admission free, weekends and public holidays 30 - 70Rbl. Admission Yelagin Palace 75 - 600Rbl. Check the website for information about other museums.



YUSUPOVSKY GARDEN

A wonderful little imperial garden that's a perfect place to take a picnic made up from items bought from the nearby Sennoi market. You may notice some signs telling you that you can't sit on the grass, but you can ignore that rule like everyone else here and sprawl out on the lawn to catch some rays next to the pond. Look out for the babushkas near the entrance selling all kinds of nick-nacks from their homes, sometimes they actually sell some real gems, but most of the time it's just old records and pairs of shoes. ▶ D-3, Sadovaya ul. 50, [M] Sennaya pl. Open 24hrs. Admission free.



Pushkin

South of the "Venice of the North" and along the Finnish Gulf surely must be the region of the world most densely populated with imperial palaces. These are undeniable symbols of the decadence and absolute power of the Tsars. They are each as different as the tastes and fancies of those who owned them, from austere palaces and immaculate lawns to rolling parkland and landscaped gardens full of surprises.

KONSTANTINOVSKY PALACE

Once known as Putin's Palace, this palace is now one of the official Presidential residences. Historically speaking, the Palace's original owners were the Romanovs. Inside the palace are spectacular views over the gulf and sumptuous meeting rooms with huge sparkling chandeliers. Note you must show your passport when you enter (this is also an official government building).



ORANIENBAUM

Prince Alexander Menshikov, one of Peter the Great's best friends, started building the estate and its Grand Palace. Menshikov's Grand Palace hasn't changed a great deal over the centuries and it's one of the few palaces on the outskirts of the city that wasn't destroyed by the Nazis.

PAVLOVSK

Subtle, romantic, relaxing and quiet. All perfect words to describe Pavlovsk. Only 27km from the big city, it feels like a world away. The small town hosts the fascinating Pavlovsk Palace, encompassed by a huge about 15,000 acre park. The enchanting Pavlovsk Palace, with its magnificent neoclassical interior, is a feast for the eyes.

PETERHOF PALACE AND PARK

Accurately referred to as the 'Russian Versailles', Peterhof is one of Russia's number one tourist attractions. It is particularly spectacular from late-May to mid-October, when the 147 fountains are turned on, but even so it is well worth visiting at any other time of year. The Great Palace was built between 1709 and 1724 under the directions of Peter the Great. Other museums worth visiting within the grounds include the Hermitage Palace, the Marly Palace and Monplaisir, the little house where Peter the Great used to organise parties for his closest (and rowdiest) friends.

PUSHKIN

The summer home of the Romanov tsars for centuries, Tsarskoe Selo or the 'Royal Village' was renamed Pushkin following the communist revolution in honour of one of its other well-known residents, the poet Alexander Pushkin. In 2010 the town celebrated its 300th birthday and following intense restoration works Pushkin's many treasures are sparkling. Regardless of the time of year, sightseeing opportunities abound, from the spectacular Catherine Park filled with quirky monuments commissioned by the Empress and the sparkling Amber room of Catherine's Palace to the quieter Alexander Palace where the last Tsars spent their final days before they were arrested by the Bolsheviks and the literary school museum where the poet Alexander Pushkin studied.

CONTACT INFORMATION

ORANIENBAUM

► Tel. (+7) 812 423 16 33, www.orianienbaum.org.

PAVLOVSK

► Tel. (+7) 812 452 15 36, www.pavlovskmuseum.ru.

ru. [St. Petersburg Card](#)

PETERHOF

► Tel. (+7) 812 450 52 87, www.peterhofmuseum.ru.

Tour booking office (+7) 812 450 58 06. [St. Petersburg Card](#)

PUSHKIN

► Tel. (+7) 812 415 76 67, www.tzar.ru. [St. Petersburg Card](#)

STRELNA

► Tel. (+7) 812 438 53 60, www.konstantinpallace.ru.



Belmond Grand Hotel Europe

Whether you are visiting St. Petersburg for a night or a month, you should stay in a hotel which lets you make the most out of your visit. We have a selection of hotels ranging from luxury five star hotels to boutique mini-hotels filled with charm. You can find out where these hotels are located and what market they cater to. The traveller looking to stretch their budget will appreciate the centrally located hostels and dormitories just as much as the high flying business executive who is looking for a quiet place to unwind after a hectic day of negotiations and cultural programmes.

5 STARS

ANGLETERRE HOTEL

► D-3, Mal. Morskaya ul. 24, Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 494 56 66, www.angleterrehotel.com. 193 rooms.

BELMOND GRAND HOTEL EUROPE

► D-3, Mikhailovskaya ul. 1/7, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 329 60 00, www.grandhoteleurope.com. 276 rooms.

DOMINA PRESTIGE HOTEL ST. PETERSBURG

► C-3, Nab. reky Moiky 99, Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 385 99 00, www.dominarussia.com. 109 rooms.

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL LION PALACE

► D-3, Voznesensky pr. 1, Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 339 80 00, www.fourseasons.com/stpetersburg/. 183 rooms.

GOLDEN GARDEN BOUTIQUE HOTEL

► E-3, Vladimirsky pr. 9, Dostoyevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 334 22 33, www.goldengarden.ru. 23 rooms.

HOTEL ASTORIA

► D-3, Bol. Morskaya ul. 39, Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 494 57 57, www.thehotelastoria.com. 188 rooms.

KEMPINSKI HOTEL MOIKA 22

► D-2, Nab. Reky Moiky 22, Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 335 91 11, www.kempinski.com/stpetersburg. 197 rooms.

SOLO SOKOS HOTEL PALACE BRIDGE

► C-2, Birzhevoy per. 4, Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 335 22 00, www.sokoshotels.com. 324 rooms.

TALEON IMPERIAL HOTEL

► D-3, Nevsky pr. 15, Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 324 99 11, www.taleonimperialhotel.com. 89 rooms.

TREZZINI PALACE HOTEL

► C-3, Universitetskaya nab. 21, Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 313 66 22, trezzinipalace.com. 21 rooms.

W ST. PETERSBURG

► D-3, Voznesensky pr. 6, Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 610 61 61, www.wstpetersburg.com. 137 rooms.

4 STARS

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT ST. PETERSBURG CENTER WEST PUSHKIN HOTEL

► C-4, Nab. kan. Griboedova 166 (entrance via Kanonerskaya ul. 33), Sennaya pl., tel. (+7) 812 610 50 00, www.courtyardstpetersburgpushkin.ru. 273 rooms.

CROWNE PLAZA ST. PETERSBURG AIRPORT

► Startovaya ul. 6, bldg. A, Moskovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 240 42 00, www.cpairport.ru. 294 rooms.

CROWNE PLAZA ST. PETERSBURG - LIGOVSKY

► E-3, Ligovskiy pr. 61, Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 244 00 01, www.crowneplaza.com/ligovsky. 195 rooms.

HOLIDAY INN MOSKOVSKYE VOROTA

► Moskovskiy pr. 97A, Moskovskie Vorota, tel. (+7) 812 448 71 27, www.hi-spb.com. 557 rooms.

HOTEL INDIGO ST. PETERSBURG - TCHAIKOVSKOGO

► E-2, Ul. Tchaikovskogo 17, Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 454 55 77, www.ihg.com. 119 rooms.

NOVOTEL ST. PETERSBURG CENTRE

► E-3, Ul. Mayakovskogo 3A, Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 335 11 88, www.accorhotels.com/5679. 233 rooms.

PARK INN BY RADISSON NEVSKY

► E-3, Nevsky pr. 89, Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 406 73 10, www.parkinn.com/hotel-stpetersburg. 269 rooms.

PARK INN BY RADISSON PULKOVSKAYA

► Pl. Pobedy 1, Moskovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 740 39 00, www.parkinn.com/hotelpulkovskaya-stpetersburg. 841 rooms.

RADISSON SONYA HOTEL

► E-2, Liteiny pr. 5/19, **M** Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 406 00 00, www.radisson.ru/sonyahotel-stpetersburg. 173 rooms.

SOKOS HOTEL VASILIEVSKY

► C-3, 9-ya Liniya 11-13, **M** Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 335 22 90, www.sokoshotels.com. 255 rooms.

SOKOS HOTEL OLYMPIA GARDEN

► D-4, Bataisky per. 3a, **M** Tekhnologicheskyy institut, tel. (+7) 812 335 22 70, www.sokoshotels.fi. 348 rooms.

3 STARS**3 MOSTA HOTEL**

► D-2, Nab. reky Moiky 3A, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 611 11 86, www.3mosta.com. 26 rooms.

CRONWELL INN STREMYANNAYA

► E-3, Stremyannaya ul. 18, **M** Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 406 04 50, www.stremyannaya-hotel.com.

MATISOV DOMIK

► C-3, Nab. reky Pryazhky 3/1, **M** Sennaya pl., tel. (+7) 812 495 02 42, www.matisov.com.

AZIMUT HOTEL SAINT PETERSBURG

► C-4, Lermontovskiy pr. 43/1, **M** Baltiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 740 26 40, www.azimuthotels.com. 1037 rooms.

HERZEN HOUSE

► D-3, Bol. Morskaya ul. 25, **M** Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 315 55 50, www.herzen-hotel.ru. 29 rooms.

IBIS ST. PETERSBURG CENTRE

► E-3, Ligovskiy pr. 54, **M** Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 622 01 00, www.ibishotel.com/6157. 221 rooms.

MINI-HOTELS AND HOSTELS**ART-HOTEL RACHMANINOV**

► D-3, Kazanskaya ul. 5, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 571 97 78, www.hotelrachmaninov.com. 24 rooms.

AUSTRIAN YARD

► E-2, Furshtatskaya ul. 45, **M** Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 579 82 35, www.austrianyard.com. 4 rooms.

CUBAHOTEL

► D-3, Kazanskaya ul. 5, 3rd floor, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 911 921 71 15, www.cubahotel.ru.

ASK THE CONCIERGE

Interview with Elena Safonova, concierge at Kempinski Hotel Moika 22.

Say a few words about your career. What do you like the most about being a concierge? I was born in Novosibirsk, in the Academic City. During my first years in St. Petersburg,

I was always with a map in my hands, discovering all the places in and around the city. I was studying the hospitality business at the University of Economics and Finance: hotel and restaurant management, guiding excursions, the work of travel agencies, etc. After starting as a trainee in a five-star hotel, I decided to embark on a career in this very sphere. I chose the profession of a concierge in 2011. Soon, it will be four years that I have been working as a concierge at Kempinski Hotel Moika 22. In March 2017, I became a member of the Les Clefs d'Or association and had the honour of joining the International Congress of Hotel Concierges in Berlin. For me, the greatest pleasure of being a concierge is seeing happy guests and their smiles after providing a service, always based on my sincere intention to help and on professional knowledge. Creating special moments in people's lives is the biggest passion of a hotel concierge!

Each season has its advantages. What would you recommend to tourists for a real Russian summer

experience? When visiting St. Petersburg in summer, you should definitely take a boat trip across the Neva and the river canals to have an unforgettable experience. Marvellous embankments demonstrate the beautiful architecture of buildings, churches and dozens of bridges all over the city. Another "must do" for a tourist is a trip to Peterhof, the capital of fountains, which is world famous as a unique fountain complex operated naturally by the force of gravity. The exciting advantage of this summer is the extended working hours of the Tsarskoe Selo museum, enabling more tourists to visit the "Eighth Wonder of the World" - the Amber Room at the Catherine Palace.

Which touristic city route and trips around the city would you advise guests to take if they come only for a weekend? I would recommend starting at the Anichkov Bridge, then passing by the Shuvalovskiy Palace, Mikhailovskiy Castle by the side of Fontanka River and Sheremetevskiy Palace on the other side up to the Summer Garden with all of its ancient statues in tree shadows. In the evening, you can enjoy a ballet or an opera at the Mariinsky Theatre followed by a dinner at a rooftop restaurant with a breath-taking view over the city.

Summer is the high season for cultural events in St. Petersburg. What is at the top of your list of the June/July events that tourists should definitely attend? The season will be full of musical festivals, such as "Stars of White nights" at the Mariinsky Theatre or "Usadba Jazz" on Yelagin Island and others. One of the most spectacular events of the year is the Red Sails Celebration for school graduates. Fashion fans definitely have to visit exclusive exhibitions "Manolo Blaink. Shoes as an art" at the Hermitage museum or "Undressed: A Brief History of Underwear" at the Erarta museum.

RUSSIAN SOUVENIRS

Russia is full of beautiful souvenirs – and we are not just talking about Russian dolls and Lenin badges. If you are looking to take some extra special gifts home with you we recommend you consider buying some of the following:

BIRCH WOOD CRAFTS



The silver birch is the national tree of Russia, the further in to the countryside you get, the more you notice that the world's largest country is covered in them. It then comes as no surprise that Russians have been

experts at producing items carved out of the bark of their favourite tree. Birch wood combs are particularly popular as they are said to be very good for your hair.



MALACHITE

Malachite, with its beautiful, rich green color, leaves no doubt of its importance as a jewel. Its opaque strength and power demands respect and mesmerizes the viewer. This gem can be justly considered Russian – only Russia has those

huge deposits that made malachite world famous. It is one of the most beautiful minerals. Its color is full of shades - rich palette of all green tones - from light-blue green to saturated dark green. Russian czars used Malachite for ornaments and paneling for their castles, and intricate inlay work.

PLATOK



A perfect present for any female friend or relative. These beautifully designed and colourful scarves can either spruce up the outfit of a young lady by being worn around the neck or serve to make your grandma look even cuter than usual by being worn around

the head. Orenburgskiy platok is another highly desirable type of scarf made from the down hair of goats. The real hand spun ones are very warm and yet also so delicate and silk-like that the whole scarf can be pulled through a woman's wedding ring.

BOOKSHOPS

ANGLIA BRITISH BOOKSHOP

► E-3, Nab. reky Fontanky 38, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 579 82 84, www.britania-spb.ru. Open 11:00 - 20:00, Sun 12:00 - 19:00. **CC**

BUKVOED

► D-3, Nevsky pr. 46, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 601 06 01, www.bookvoed.ru. Open 24hrs. **CC** **IF** **WF**

DOM KNIGY

► D-3, Nevsky pr. 28, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 448 23 55, www.spbdk.ru. Open 09:00 - 24:00. **CC** **IF**

PODPISNYE IZDANIYA

► E-2, Liteiny pr. 57, **M** Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 273 50 53, www.podpisnie.ru. Open 10:00 - 21:00. **CC**

PORYADOK SLOV

► E-3, Nab. reky Fontanky 15, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 310 50 36, www.wordorder.ru. Open 11:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 21:00. **CC**

SHOPPING CENTRES

BOLSHOY GOSTINY DVOR

► D-3, Nevsky pr. 35, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 710 54 08, www.bgd.ru. Open 10:00 - 22:00. **CC** **IF**

NEVSKY CENTRE

► E-3, Nevsky pr. 114-116, **M** Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 313 93 13, www.nevskycentre.ru. Open 10:00 - 23:00. **CC** **IF** **WF**

PASSAGE

► D-3, Nevsky pr. 48, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 315 52 57, www.passage.spb.ru. Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 21:00. **CC** **IF**

ELISEVSKY STORE

► E-3, Nevsky pr. 56, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 456 66 66, www.kupetzeliseevs.ru. Open 10:00 - 22:00.

GALERIA



The largest shopping mall in the centre of the city and a stone's throw away from the Moscow Railway Station, Galeria cannot be missed. The huge and beautiful building fits remarkably well here. Inside, it's everything you would expect from

your modern shopping mall and more. It boasts the largest selection of brands in St. Petersburg, from high street brands like Topshop, Levis, Mexx and French Connection to more local Russian designer brands as well. It also features a huge supermarket, food court, movie theatre, bowling alley and some very good restaurants. When with children, head to the top floor where there is a huge entertainment area for the young and young-at-heart. ► E-3, Ligoivsky pr. 30A, **M** Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 643 31 72, www.galeria-spb.ru. Open 10:00 - 23:00. **CC** **P** **IF**

GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS

EXCLUSIVE AMBER COLLECTION

Amber is the sunniest of precious stones and combines well with light dresses and blouses. A sophisticated necklace or an elegant bracelet will make a stunning addition to your summer look and will bring back memories of your trip to St. Petersburg for years to come. An exclusive amber collection is available at the shop in the Passage. There you can find all manner of products made from natural amber (rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings and much more). Also on sale are icons, paintings and amber containing fossils. ▶ D-3, Passage shopping centre, Boutique 38, Nevsky pr. 48,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 961 35 14/(+7) 812 315 23 28, www.amber-collection.ru/en. Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 21:00. 

MATRYOSHKA

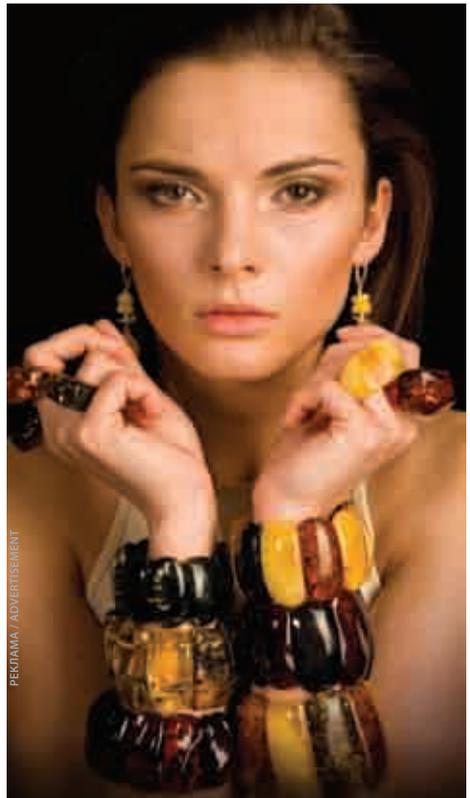


Ladies, stand out from the crowd in a true Russian style with Matryoshka! Nesting dolls aside, Matryoshka is an emerging Russian jewelry and accessories brand that is quickly winning the hearts of Russian beauties. The concept of Matryoshka

is the perfect combination of the globally recognized forms, symbols and colors of Russia. All the items fit any look and add a touch of sophistication and chic. All Matryoshka products are designed in Russia. ▶ C-3, Ul. Dekabristov 28,  Sadovaya, tel. 8 800 555 68 23, www.matryoshkadesign.com. Open 10:00 - 21:00. 

DLT DEPARTMENT STORE

Dom Leningradskoi Torgovli (DLT, House of Leningrad Trade) is one of the oldest department stores in St. Petersburg and a legendary name for Russian market. Since 2005, the building has been under control of Mercury, a leading luxury goods distribution company. In 2012, after a long-term restoration, DLT became the flagman of TSUM, Moscow based department store. DLT stands in a row with top Moscow and European stores with its developed infrastructure, excellent service and wide range of luxury goods. It is without a doubt a must-visit place of the city. DLT building has 6 floors with a total area of 32 000 sq. m. Each floor is assigned for a special category of goods: jewelry, accessories, cosmetics, perfumery and interior items are represented on the 1st floor; men's and women's clothing by luxury brands – on 2nd and 3rd floor respectively, women's clothing by modern designers, denim and luggage – on the 4th floor. On the 5th floor you will find kids clothing and accessories department, one of the largest of its kind in Europe. ▶ D-2, Bol. Konyushennaya ul. 21-23,  Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 648 08 48, www.dlt.ru. Open 10:00 - 22:00.   



РЕКЛАМА / ADVERTISEMENT

Exclusive Amber Collection

www.amber-collection.ru

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Banya is one of the oldest Russian traditions. Despite the fact that this tradition is several centuries old, the banya is popular even today. People from Tsars to peasants washed there. Spend a day at one of Russian baths and you will sweat in steam room and freeze in icy pool, enjoy birch brooms massage. And after all, walking out of the banya, feeling ten years younger with skin soft and smooth like babies, you will promise yourself to come back. If you would like to try this 100% Russian tradition, we recommend you to visit Degtyarnie bani – bath complex, located in historical centre of St. Petersburg, where you can enjoy modern comfort and experience like true Russian.

1A, Degtyarnaya Str., St. Petersburg, Russia, 985-1-983, www.d1a.ru

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 **LO, Vsevolozhsky district, Syargi village**

SPORTS AND RECREATION

OHTA PARK

You don't need to spend ages driving or a fortune on plane tickets to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Located just 10km from St. Petersburg, Ohta Park is your grand escape from the busy city life. Back in 1993 a group of skiing enthusiasts constructed a few ski lifts with their own hands for training purposes. Since then, the resort has come a long way: in 2015 opened its doors - and pistes - to the public after a massive renovation project. Now, anyone and everyone come and spend time in the great outdoors doing sports or simply relaxing. Aside from pistes of various difficulty levels, visitors can enjoy a wide range of other activities such as swimming, a real Russian bane, splashing around in the aqua park, air hockey and much more! In addition there are cafes, restaurants, kids clubs and even comfortable accommodation options for those wishing to relax for a little while longer. ▶ **Lenin-gradskaya obl., Vsevolozhsky district, Syargi Village, tel. (+7) 812 389 29 99, www.ohtapark.ru.**

BANYAS AND SPAS

DEGTYARNIE BATHHOUSES

Heaven. There's just no other way to describe the experience of having a banya here. Tucked away in this seemingly unremarkable building are multiple floors offering everything one could possibly need for a relaxing retreat. Men's and women's wings are complete with a traditional Russian banyas, Turkish steam rooms, rain showers and swimming pools. There are also massage therapists and salon treatments available, as well as cafes offering fresh juices, full meals, herbal teas and adult beverages. The family room is an ideal option for a private occasion, with all of the luxury essentials, including a powerful hydromassage Jacuzzi. And as if the facilities weren't enough, the whole complex has a homely atmosphere with staff and clients alike greeting you like family. ▶ **E-3, Degtyarnaya ul. 1A,  Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 985 19 83, www.d1a.ru. Open 08:30 - 22:00. **

ROYAL THAI

Royal Thai is perfectly located as a relaxing retreat right in the city centre. Soothing dark woods, calming Buddha statues and dim lighting greet you as you enter and set the tone for a calming and rejuvenating experience. Treatments from expert Thai masseurs are available from 30 - 120 minutes and can also include facials and scrubs and foot massages, and as well as an assortment of traditional Thai treatments like herbal and aroma therapy massages to choose from. The focus here is on mind, body and spirit. After one session here you'll feel at one with yourself and perhaps even the universe. Royal Thai has numerous other locations including one on the 6th floor of the Nevsky Center shopping centre at Nevsky pr. 114-116 (tel. (+7) 812 901 00 70). Gift certificates available. ▶ **D-2, Bol. Konyushennaya ul. 1,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 911 157 15 15, www.royalthai.ru. Open 10:00 - 22:00. **

CLINICS

AMERICAN MEDICAL CLINIC AND HOSPITAL

► C-3, Nab. reky Moiky 78,  Sadovaya, tel. (+7) 812 740 20 90, www.amclinic.com. Open 24hrs.

EUROMED MEDICAL CENTER

► F-2, Suvorovsky pr. 60,  Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 327 03 01, www.euomed.ru. Open 24hrs.

SCANDINAVIA CLINIC

► E-3, Liteiny pr. 55A,  Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 600 77 77, www.avaclinic.ru. Open 08:00 - 22:00.

CULTURAL CENTRES

BRITISH BOOK CENTRE

► D-4, Izmailovsky pr. 18 (Library im. Lermontova),  Baltiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 251 12 43, www.britania-sp.ru. Open 12:00 - 20:00, Sat 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

DANISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE

► D-3, Nab. reky Moiky 42,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 571 74 66, www.dki.spb.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

ESTONIAN CULTURAL CENTER JAANI KIRIK

► C-3, Dekabristov ul. 54A,  Sennaya pl., tel. (+7) 812 710 84 46, www.jaanikirik.ru. Open 14:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 19:00.

FINNISH INSTITUTE

► D-2, Bol. Konyushennaya ul. 8, 3rd floor,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 606 65 65, www.instfin.ru. Open 11:00 - 17:00, Fri 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

FOREIGN LITERATURE LIBRARY

► D-3, Nab. reky Fontanky 44/46,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 571 08 56, www.pl.spb.ru. Open 11:00 - 20:00, closed Sun. Foreign literature department 11:00 - 19:00, closed Sun.

GOETHE INSTITUTE

► D-3, Nab. reky Moiky 58,  Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 363 11 25, www.goethe.de/stpetersburg. Goethe Institute open 09:00 - 19:00, closed Sat. and Sun. Library open Tue. and Wen. 15:00-19:00, Thu. and Fri. 11:00-19:00, Sat. 14:00-17:00, closed Mon. and Sun.

INSTITUT FRANCAIS

► D-3, Nevsky pr. 12,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 571 09 95, www.ifsfb.com. Open 09:30 - 18:30, Fri 09:30 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI CULTURA

► C-3, Teatralnaya pl. 10,  Sennaya pl., tel. (+7) 812 718 81 89, www.iicsanpietroburgo.esteri.it. Open 09:00 - 13:00, 14:00 - 17:00, Fri 09:00 - 15:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

THE JAPAN CENTER

► E-3, Ul. Marata 69-71,  Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 326 25 50, www.jpcenter.spb.ru. Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

THE NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE

► E-2, Kaluzhsky per. 3,  Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 327 08 87, www.nisfb.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.



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THE EXPAT EXPERIENCE



Interview with Tako Plate, general manager at Crowne Plaza St. Petersburg-Ligovsky.

My name is Tako Plate and I have been in St. Petersburg for 1 year and 9 months. Before I held positions with Crowne Plaza in Amsterdam and I also worked in France,

the UK and the US. From an IT Manager I progressed to the position of General Manager via the Front Office.

What makes St. Petersburg special for you? How is it different from your home country (the Netherlands)?

St. Petersburg and Amsterdam have a lot of similarities, they have compact historical city centres that are filled with culture and great restaurants. But there are certainly differences, St. Petersburg is a truly imperial city with all its grandeur. The Netherlands and Amsterdam are very modest in displaying their riches. Also, of course the size. When driving for more than two hours you are in another country, here you will have barely left the Leningrad Oblast.

Can you name us three things about living in St. Petersburg that you enjoy the most? Can you compare it with other big cities you've been to/worked in?

What I like about St. Petersburg is the accessibility of culture - there are so many theaters, museums and places to visit. I feel very safe in the city, even the recent events have not changed my mind and there are so many talented people available on the job market, maybe you need to support them a bit more in the beginning as they might lack experience, but it is well worth it.

What are your favourite spots in and outside the city to visit in summer?

In the summer I like to read in the Summer Gardens or the park in Gatchina, which looks like a scene out of a fairy tale in winter. Or enjoy a drink or dinner on one of the many great roof terraces in the city (like the one of Hotel Indigo, for example). Also, just a stroll through the city centre especially in the evening is a great way to relax after a long working day.

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

► C-3, Ul. Yakubovicha 24, Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 448 16 46, www.amcham.ru/spb. Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

SPIBA - ST. PETERSBURG INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FOR NORTH-WESTERN RUSSIA

► D-3, Nevsky pr. 21, off. 506, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 325 90 91, www.spiba.ru. Open 09:30 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

ALEXANDER NEVSKY GOTHIC CHAPEL

► Peterhof, Park Aleksandriya, ul. Razvodnaya 2, tel. (+7) 812 450 74 25, www.peterhofmuseum.ru. Closed during the winter season (from October 1). Admission 100Rbl.

BUDDHIST TEMPLE DAZAN GUDZEHONEY

► Primorsky pr. 91, Staraya Derevnaya, tel. (+7) 812 430 97 40, www.dazan.spb.ru. Open 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Wed.

CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

► D-4, 1-ya Krasnoarmeiskaya 11, Tekhnologicheskoy Institut, tel. (+7) 812 316 42 55, www.uspenie.spb.ru. Mon - Sat 09:00-20:30; Sun 10:30 - 20:30.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

► D-3, Nevsky pr. 32-34, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 571 57 95, www.catherine.spb.ru. Open 08:00 - 20:00.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

► E-2, Kovensky per. 7, Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 272 04 42, www.kovensky.ru. Open 08:30 - 20:30, Sun 09:00 - 20:30.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. KATARINA

► D-2, Mal. Konyushennaya ul. 1/3, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 571 20 81, www.swedenabroad.com.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. MARY

► D-2, Bol. Konyushennaya ul. 8A, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 314 71 61, www.elci.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00.

GRAND CHORAL SYNAGOGUE

► C-3, Lermontovskiy pr. 2, Sennaya pl., tel. (+7) 812 713 81 86, www.jewsp.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Open for visitors 09:00 - 18:00. On Saturday and Jewish festivals from 10:00 to 13:00 for prayer only.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL

► D-3, Nevsky pr. 22/24, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 312 07 98, www.petrikirche.ru. Open Tue - Fri 10:00 - 18:00.

MOSQUE

► D-1, Kronversky pr. 7, Gorkovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 233 98 19, www.russian-mosques.com. Open only for services (5 times a day).

ST. ANNE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

► E-2, Kirochnaya ul. 8, Chernyshevskaya, www.stanna.ru. Open 09:30 - 20:00.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

► C-2, VO, Sredny pr. 18B, Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 323 33 17, www.stmihail.ru.

If you would like your expat or business group to be featured here, just drop us a line at ksenia@inyourpocket.com

EXPAT CONTACTS

ENGLISH COMMUNICATION CLUB

► tel. (+7) 911 163 56 45, www.encc.ru.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

► www.iwcstpete.com. General meetings are held once a month, in different locations in the city. Additional member based activities, events and groups are organised daily.

INTERNATIONS

► www.internations.org.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

► Lakhtinsky pr. 40/2,  Staraya Derevnaya, tel. (+7) 812 244 50 44, www.cisrussia.com.

GERMAN SCHOOL

► B-2, Ul. Odoevskogo 19A,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 441 21 59, www.deutscheschule.ru.

BRITISH INTERNATIONAL INFANT SCHOOL

► F-3, Nevsky pr. 136,  Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 714 77 74, www.infantschool.ru.

MANDARIN DAY

(PRESCHOOL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER)

► F-3, Nevsky pr. 147A,  Pl. Al. Nevskogo, tel. (+7) 812 924 24 98, www.mandarinaday.ru.

ACCOUNTANTS

ACSOUR

► D-3, Nevsky pr. 10,  Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 454 44 24, www.acsour.com.

AVENIR GROUP

► E-3, Vladimirsky pr. 23A,  Vladimirskaya, tel. (+7) 812 718 81 57, www.avenir.ru.

DELOITTE TOUCHE CIS

► C-2, VO, Sredny pr. 36/40, lit.K, business center Gustaf,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 703 71 06, www.deloitte.com.

EMG

► C-4, 10-ya Krasnoarmeiskaya ul. 22, off. 69,  Baltiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 313 77 81, www.emg-russia.com.

ERNST AND YOUNG

► D-3, Ul. Mal. Morskaya 23A,  Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 703 78 34, www.ey.com.

KPMG

► E-4, Ul. Marata 69-71A,  Ligovsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 313 73 00, www.kpmg.ru.

MANNHEIMER SWARTLING

► D-2, Ul. Mal. Konyushennaya 1/3A,  Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 335 23 00, www.mannheimerswartling.se.

MAZARS

► C-2, 7-ya liniya 76,  Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 332 94 96, www.mazars.ru.

MOORE STEPHENS INTERNATIONAL

► E-1, Bolshoy Sampsonievsky pr. 4/6A, business centre Monblan, off. 204,  Pl. Lenina, tel. (+7) 812 332 28 51, www.moorestephens.ru.

DERZHAVIN INSTITUTE



DERZHAVIN INSTITUTE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL

The Derzhavin institute is a great place to throw yourself into the romance of Russian culture. Situated in one wing of the refurbished 18th Century Derzhavin mansion, the school has a beautiful setting. There are seven classrooms, all with high-ceilings and large windows. There's also a library, common rooms and computers with free internet access for students. Short-term, long-term, intensive and private lessons are available at all levels of proficiency. They also offer special courses for expats. Classes are kept small, with a maximum of 8 students per group. The staff speak many different languages and have experience in teaching at both Russian universities and abroad. They can also organise accommodation, excursions and other social activities for students. ► **Troitsky pr. 6,  Tekhnologicheskoy institut, tel. (+7) 812 578 53 98, www.derzhavin.com. Open 09:00 - 18:00, classes till 21:45. Closed Sat, Sun.**

GORKI GOLF CLUB



The ethos at GORKI is one of a harmonious community who all share a love of golf and respect for the historical values and philosophy of the game. The Club operates a Golf Academy with a driving range, chipping and putting greens and three training holes. The opportunities at the club are endless for people of all ages. To begin, the club offers opportunities for golf lessons, and training with accredited Professional Golf Association Instructors. GORKI Golf Club in St. Petersburg broadens the horizons of its members by creating new opportunities for golf club members. GORKI Business Club: business networking based around a common joy. The success of the Club and for each of its residents the passion for golf became a reason to launch GORKI Business Club: here game goes hand-in-hand with common interests, establishing promising new contacts and finding solutions for business. Golf is time well spent in the company of people with whom it is both pleasant to communicate and useful to cooperate, an exchange of experience and access to the knowledge and insight of industry leaders. For the truly leisurely, just enjoy the opportunity for totally secluded relaxation. The Club is complete with a large clubhouse and a restaurant that spreads across two floors, offering both Russian and European cuisine. ► **Gorki Golf village (2 km from Gorki) Lomonosovsky district, Leningrad region, tel. (+7) 812 318 09 90, www.gorkigolf.ru. Golf Club, Academy and Restaurant open 09:00 - 21:00.**



Moscow river

GETTING THERE

Dozens of different night trains run to Moscow every day from Moskovsky vokzal, so there's little excuse for not making the effort to visit. If you have less time you can also take advantage of the new super fast Sapsan train, which leaves St. Petersburg six times a day and gets you there in just under four hours. Local airlines also fly to Moscow and the journey takes about one hour. Once at one of Moscow's three airports, hop on the aeroexpress train which brings you right to the centre.

MEGAPOLIS TRAIN

If you are looking for a comfortable night train to the capital it is worth considering taking a private train. The cheerful Megapolis train leaves for Moscow every night and offers a more hotel-like travel experience. After being shown to your cabin you will find your beds have already been made up with real duvets rather than blankets, and all round the carriages are spotless. Hot breakfast and coffee can be brought to your room in the morning and if at any moment during the trip you experience some problems you can call the train attendant from the comfort of your bed and they will come to you! If you want to wake up in Moscow truly fresh in the morning, it's worth the money. ▶ Trains leave Moskovsky vokzal (M) Pl. Vosstaniya) at 22:29 and arrive in Moscow at 05:57. For reservations call 8-800-777-20-19 or book online at www.poezdmegapolis.ru



PERKRAMA / ADVERTISEMENT

THE KREMLIN

There are a number of ticket offices (open 09:00-16:30), the most important being located in Alexandrovsky Sad (on the west side of the Kremlin), which in itself is a great people watching place. Having bought your tickets, leave any large bags in the cloakroom located near the ticket office, under the gate. You can also buy tickets in advance online at www.kreml.ru. ▶ C-3, (M) Alexandrovsky Sad.

THE CATHEDRAL SQUARE

▶ Open 09:30 - 18:00. Closed Thu. All-in ticket for visiting the architectural complex of the Cathedral Square 500Rbl.

KREMLIN ARMOURY

▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Sessions start at 10:00, 12:00, 14:30 and 16:30. Closed Thu. Admission 700Rbl. You can buy tickets 45 minutes before the session at the ticket offices in Alexandrovsky Sad.

THE IVAN THE GREAT BELL TOWER

▶ Session start at 10:15, 11:15, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00 and 17:00. Closed Thu. Admission 250Rbl. You can buy tickets 45 minutes before the session at the ticket offices in Alexandrovsky Sad.

DIAMOND FOND

▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00. sessions start every 20 minutes with a break from 13:00 to 14:00. Closed Thu. Admission 700Rbl. You can buy tickets at the ticket offices №4 and №5 in Alexandrovsky Sad.

RED SQUARE

GUM

▶ Red Square, (M)Pl. Revolyutsy, tel. +7 495 788 43 43, www.gum.ru. Open 10:00 - 22:00. (ca) (ff)

ST. BASIL'S CATHEDRAL (POKROVSKY SOBOR)

▶ Red Square, (M)Okhotny Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 698 33 04, www.saintbasil.ru. Open 11:00 - 16:00. Admission 250Rbl.

STATE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

▶ Red Square 1, (M)Okhotny Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 692 37 31, www.shm.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 11:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue and first Mon of the month. Admission 150 - 400Rbl.



Sochi embankment

Covered with palm trees and blessed with a subtropical climate, Sochi is one of the best places to stay in Russia - especially if you like warm climates. During summer temperatures in Sochi vary between 25 and 30 degrees Celsius.

It is the combination of beaches and mountains that make Sochi unique. 45km away from the Black Sea lies Krasnaya Polyana, a famous ski resort located at a height of 560 meters above sea level. The mountain tops have modern ski-facilities which reach heights of more than 2300 meters. Krasnaya Polyana has hosted the Olympic skiing, snowboarding and ski-jumping.

Sochi and its surrounding region finally became part of Russia 150 years ago, in 1864, after decades of war with the Turkish (Ottoman) empire and tribes living in the Caucasus highlands. The royal nobility loved the region, with its healthy water springs, and the first Russian sanatoriums were built along the coast.

After the Russian revolution in 1917, the working class received rights for holidays, promoted by Lenin. Sochi became the favourite holiday destination of Stalin and he visited the Black Sea for a few weeks every year. You can visit his dacha in Sochi, which is located near many other Soviet sightseeing spots, such as the Lenin mosaic.

In the 1960s, Sochi, and the whole Black Sea coast, was developed in to one big holiday resort. Forbidden to travel abroad, 50 million Russians went to Sochi every year, and the region was known by then as the Russian Riviera. With the fall of the Soviet Union, and the possibility of cheap holidays to Egypt or Spain, Sochi decayed in the 1990's and the region's economy suffered hard.

When Putin, a sport enthusiast and big fan of skiing at Sochi's Krasnaya Polyana, became the president of Russia in 2000, the resurrection and face-lift of Sochi began. In 2007 the city won the bid to stage the Winter Olympics in 2014, and so far 50 billion Euros has been invested in new facilities, sport stadiums and high-speed railways.

GETTING THERE

Train or plane? A quick or slow journey? If you choose the Russian railway, make sure your train will travel along the 145 km long Black Sea coast during the day, preferably in the morning. It is then that you will almost certainly spot dolphins swim-

ming in the sea, whilst you have breakfast in your carriage. This is an amazing sight, as we can say from experience.

BY TRAIN

At least ten trains per day travel from Moscow to Sochi. The trains leave from different train stations so check carefully at www.rzd.ru. The fastest train - which is also the most expensive and luxurious - brings you to Sochi in less than 24 hours. Other trains will take up to 40 hours. From St. Petersburg there are two direct trains to Sochi during summer, and one in winter. The journey from St. Petersburg takes between 35 and 48 hours.

BY PLANE

Russian airlines, such as Aeroflot, S7, Red Wings and UTair offer daily flights to Sochi. Flights from Moscow take around 2 hours 20 minutes, and flights from St. Petersburg take approximately 3 hours 10 minutes.

HOTELS

HYATT REGENCY SOCHI

► Ul. Ordzonokidze 17, tel. (+7) 862 227 12 34, www.sochi.regency.hyatt.com.

MERCURE SOCHI CENTRE HOTEL

► Ul. Ordzhonokidze 11A, tel. (+7) 862 262 97 40, www.mercure.com.

PARK INN BY RADISSON

► Ul. Gorkogo 56, tel. (+7) 862 296 82 28, www.parkinn.com/hotel-sochi. Room prices start at 3,614Rbl Extra bed 490Rbl. ★★★

RADISSON LAZURNAYA HOTEL

► Kurortny pr. 103, tel. (+7) 862 266 33 33, www.lazurnaya.ru.

RODINA GRAND HOTEL & SPA

► Vinogradnaya ul. 33, tel. (+7) 862 253 90 00, www.grandhotelorodina.ru. Room prices start at 20,000Rbl Extra bed adults 6,000Rbl and children 2,500Rbl. ★★★

SWISSOTEL RESORT SOCHI KAMELIA

► Kurortny pr. 89, tel. (+7) 862 296 88 01, www.swissotel-hotels.ru/hotels/sochi-kamelia/.

TULIP INN ROSA KHUTOR HOTEL

► Krasnaya Polyana, Esto-sadok, Rosa Khutor Alpine Ski Resort, tel. (+7) 862 243 00 00, www.tulipinnrosakhutor.com. Room prices start at 3,600Rbl Extra bed 1,500Rbl. ★★★



Kazan Kremlin

Popularly referred to as Russia's third capital, Kazan is the city (as accords their official slogan) 'Where Europe meets Asia'. As the capital of the Russian Republic of Tatarstan, Kazan mixes a rich Muslim Tatar culture - with its own language and government - with Western Slavic influences and is famous for being a particularly religiously tolerant and friendly city. The pride of Kazan is its impressive Kremlin which boasts both a mosque and an Orthodox cathedral and in recent years the whole city has been beautified and restored in preparation for the Olympiad - the international student Olympics - which was held here in 2013. For those looking to see where European and Asian Russia meet and enjoy a glimpse into one of the country's most vibrant non-Slavic republics, there's probably no better starting point than Kazan.

GETTING THERE

BY PLANE

Russian airlines Aeroflot and S7 are the main (and safest) airlines offering international transfers to Kazan. Air France and Etihad Air also offer flights to Kazan via Moscow (Domodedovo Airport). Flights from **Moscow** take around 1 hour and the airport is a 30 minutes drive from the city centre. Taxis from/to the airport should cost around 600-800Rbl.

There is also one direct flight to Kazan from **St. Petersburg** at 23:30 although all of the above mentioned companies offer connecting flights via Moscow.

BY TRAIN

From **Moscow** there are 8-9 trains a day which travel to Kazan and beyond. The journey takes between 11 and 13 hours depending on which train you take and all trains leave Moscow in the evening and arrive in Kazan in the early morning. Trains leave from Kazansky station (metro Komsomolskaya). We recommend you two convenient trains: №002Й (19:40 - 08:00) and №024М (23:08 - 10:45). From **St. Petersburg** there is only one direct train a day which leaves from Moskovsky station (metro PL Vosstaniya). The journey takes approximately 22 hours and leaves St. Petersburg at 15:30 arriving in Kazan the next day at 13:58.

KAZAN RAILWAY STATION

► Ul. Privokzalnaya 1, tel. (+7) 843 294 03 00, www.rzd.ru.

HOTELS IN KAZAN

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT KAZAN KREMLIN

► Ul. Karla Marksa 6, **M** Kremlevskaya, tel. (+7) 843 567 40 00, www.kazancourtyard.ru. 

  ★★★★★

IBIS KAZAN CENTRE HOTEL

► Pravo-Bulachnaya ul. 43/1, **M** Ploshchad Tukaya, tel. (+7) 843 567 58 00, www.ibiskazan.ru. 

  ★★★★★

PARK INN BY RADISSON KAZAN

► Ul. Lesgafta 7, **M** Ploshchad Tukaya, tel. (+7) 843 235 23 54, www.kazan.parkinn.ru. 

 ★★★★★

RAMADA KAZAN CITY CENTER

► Ul. Chernyshevskogo 39, **M** Kremlevskaya, tel. (+7) 843 294 00 00, www.ramadakazan.com. 

 ★★★★★

SHALYAPIN PALACE HOTEL

► Universitetskaya ul. 7, **M** Ploshchad Tukaya, tel. (+7) 843 238 28 00, www.shalyapin-hotel.ru. 

 ★★★★★

KAZAN KREMLIN

The pride of Kazan is its impressive Kremlin which boasts both a beautiful new mosque and an Orthodox cathedral. The Kremlin is also the centre of the Tatar government and houses the official residence of the President of the Republic of Tatarstan. Other highlights of the Kremlin include the Hermitage Centre which has regular exhibitions from St. Petersburg's Hermitage Museum. You can also climb the Kremlin walls behind the mosque, where there are also many vendors selling local souvenirs. ► **Kremlin**, **M** Kremlevskaya, tel. (+7) 843 567 80 01, www.kazan-kremlin.ru. Admission all-in ticket 700Rbl.

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

► Open 09:00 - 19:30.

EXHIBITION HALL MANEGE

► Open 10:00 - 18:00, Fri 11:00 - 20:00.

HERMITAGE KAZAN CENTRE

► Open 10:00 - 18:00, Fri 11:00 - 20:00.

QOL SHARIF MOSQUE

► Open 09:00 - 19:30.

 Lesnaya metro station is closed.





SYMBOLS

-  Museum
-  Church
-  Theatre
-  Hotel
-  Saint-Petersburg tourist information bureau

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City Sightseeing Bus Tour

4



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Street register

1-28-ya liniya	B-2,3/C-2,3	Konnogvardeysky bul.	C-3	Rubinshteina ul.	E-3
Admiralteisky pr.	D-3	Kovensky per.	E-2	Ryleeva ul.	E-2
Alexandra Nevskogo most	F-3	Krasnogo Tekstilshchika ul.	F-2	Sadovaya ul.	E-2,3
Angliyskaya nab.	C-3	Kronverkskaya nab.	D-2	Sampsonievsky most	D-1
Anichkov most	E-3	Kronversky pr.	D-1	Sapyorny per.	E-2
Arsenalnaya nab.	E-2	Kutuzova nab.	D-2/E-2	Shpalernaya ul.	E-2/F-2
Bakunina pr.	F-3	Lermontovsky pr.	C-3/C-4	Shvedsky per.	D-2
Baskov per.	E-2	Letny sad	D-2	Sinopskaya nab.	F-3
Belinskogo ul.	E-2	Leitenanta Shmidta nab.	C-3	Smolnaya nab.	F-2
Birzhevaya liniya	C-2	Ligovsky pr.	E-3/E-4	Solyanoy per.	E-2
Blagoveshchensky most	C-2	Liteiny most	E-2	Sotsialisticheskaya ul.	E-3
Blokhina ul.	C-2	Liteiny pr.	E-2/E-3	Sovetskaya 1-ya - 9-ya ul.	E-3/F-2,3
Bol. Konyushennaya ul.	D-2	Lomonosova ul.	D-3/E-3	Spassky per.	D-3
Bol. Morskaya ul.	C-3/D-3	Makarova nab.	C-2	Sredniy pr. (VO)	B-2,3/C-2
Bol. Podyacheskaya ul.	D-3	Mal. Konyushennaya ul.	D-2	Starorusskaya ul.	F-3
Bolsheokhtinsky most	F-2	Mal. Morskaya ul.	D-3	Stolyarny per.	D-3
Bolshoy pr. (PS)	C-1,2	Mal. Posadskaya	D-1	Stremyannaya ul.	E-3
Bolshoy pr. (VO)	B-3/C-2	Mal. Sadovaya	E-3	Suvorovsky pr.	F-2,3
Chernyshevskogo pr.	E-2	Maly pr. (PS)	C-1	Sverdlovskaya nab.	F-1,2
Chkalovsky pr.	C-1	Maly pr. (VO)	B-1	Tavricheskaya ul.	F-2
Degtyarnaya ul.	F-3	Manezhnaya pl.	E-3	Chaikovskogo ul.	E-2
Dekabristov ul.	C-3/D-3	Marata ul.	E-3	Teatralnaya pl.	C-3
Dostoevskogo ul.	E-3	Marsovo pole	D-2	Troitsky most	D-2
Dumskaya ul.	D-3	Mayakovskogo ul.	E-2/E-3	Tuchkov most	C-2
Dvortsovaya nab.	D-2	Mendelevskaya liniya	C-2	Tverskaya ul.	F-2
Efimova ul.	D-3	Mikhailovskaya ul.	D-3	Universitetskaya nab.	C-2,3
Furshtatskaya ul.	E-2	Millionnaya ul.	D-2	Vladimirsky pr.	E-3
Galernaya ul.	C-3	Moskovsky pr.	D-3/D-4	Vosstaniya ul.	E-2,3
Glinki ul.	C-3	Moiky reky nab.	C-3/D-2,3	Vosstaniya pl.	E-3
Goncharnaya ul.	E-3	Muchnoy per.	D-3	Voznesensky pr.	D-3
Gorokhovaya ul.	D-3	Mytninskaya nab.	C-2/D-2	Zagorodny pr.	D-3,4/E-3
Grafsky per.	E-3	Nekrasova ul.	E-2	Zhukovskogo ul.	E-3
Griboedova kan. nab.	C-3,4/D-2,3	Nevsky pr.	D-3/E-3/F-3		
Gritsova per.	D-3	Ostrovskogo pl.	E-3		
Inzhenernaya ul.	E-3	Pestelya ul.	E-2	Abbreviations	
Isaakievskaya pl.	D-3	Petrovskaya nab.	D-2	Ul. – Ulitsa	
Iskusstv pl.	D-3	Pirogovskaya nab.	E-1/E-2	Pr. – Prospekt	
Italiyskaya ul.	D-3/D-4	Pochtamtkskaya ul.	C-3	Pl. – Ploshchad	
Kadetskaya liniya	C-2	Poltavskaya ul.	F-3	Bul. – Bulvar	
Kamennooostrovsky pr.	D-1	Pushkinskaya ul.	E-3	Per. – Pereulok	
Karavannaya ul.	E-3	Radishcheva ul.	E-2/E-3	Kan. – Kanal	
Kazanskaya ul.	D-3	Razyezhzhaya ul.	E-3	Nab. – Naberezhnaya	
Kirochnaya ul.	E-2/F-2	Rimskogo-Korsakova ul.	C-3,4/D-3	Bol. – Bolshaya	
Kolokolnaya ul.	E-3	Robespyera nab.	E-2	Mal. – Malaya	



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