

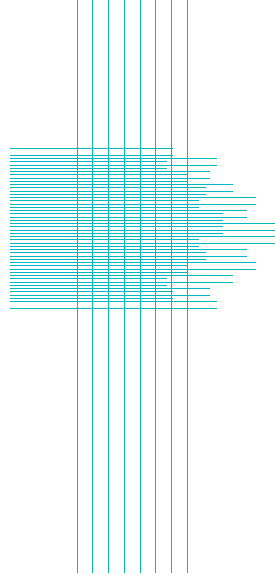
A panoramic night view of Saint-Petersburg, Russia. The city is illuminated with warm lights, reflecting on the water. The Peter and Paul Cathedral with its large golden dome is the central focus. To its left, the Spasskaya Tower of the Peter and Paul Fortress stands out with its tall, thin spire. The city is surrounded by lush green trees in the foreground.

SAINT
PETERS
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Saint-Petersburg

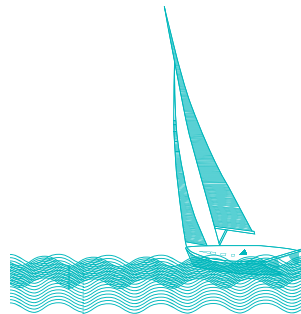
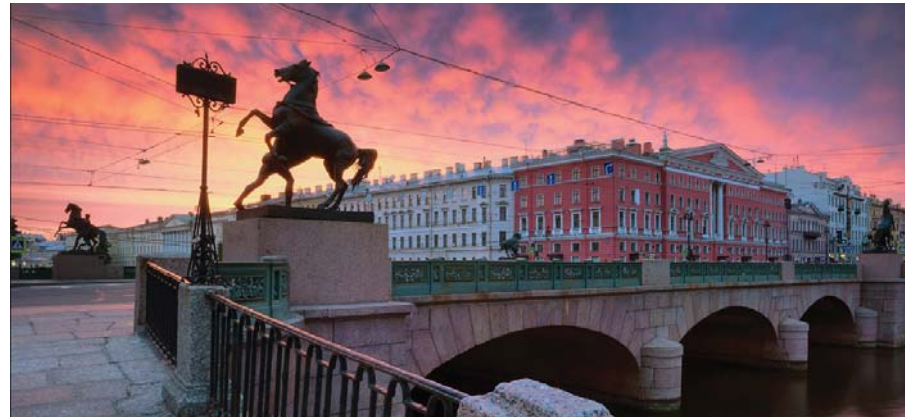
Basic traveler's guide





Dear traveler!

You're holding a guide to the magnificent and beautiful St. Petersburg! Experience the extraordinary history of the city, try a savory mix of cultures, take a breath of the crisp northern air, listen to the music of the waves of Neva, enjoy the sleepless white nights! You are in for affluent cultural and fun recreational activities! The city is constantly changing: every year new the city becomes home to thematic museums, vibrant festivals and fashion shops. Come here to discover your own St. Petersburg!





You're going to like it

Impressionism at the Hermitage Museum

One of the most comprehensive collections of impressionism masterpieces, including canvases by Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Paul Cezanne.

Catholic Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria

The architectural gem of the 18th century on Nevsky Prospect, where church services are held in multiple European languages.

Annenkirche – Lutheran Church of St. Anne

A cultural space with a mystical atmosphere – the perfect venue for unconventional performances, concerts and exhibitions.

Sevkabel Port

The well-attended waterfront overlooking the Gulf of Finland is where the cultural life of the city really happens: major music festivals, fairs and exhibitions are held here.

Street art museum

A unique art area filled with creative installations and exhibitions of contemporary artists.

Russian Vodka Museum

Visitors to the Museum are invited not only to hear the history of vodka, but also to try different varieties of the famous Russian traditional drink.

New Holland Island

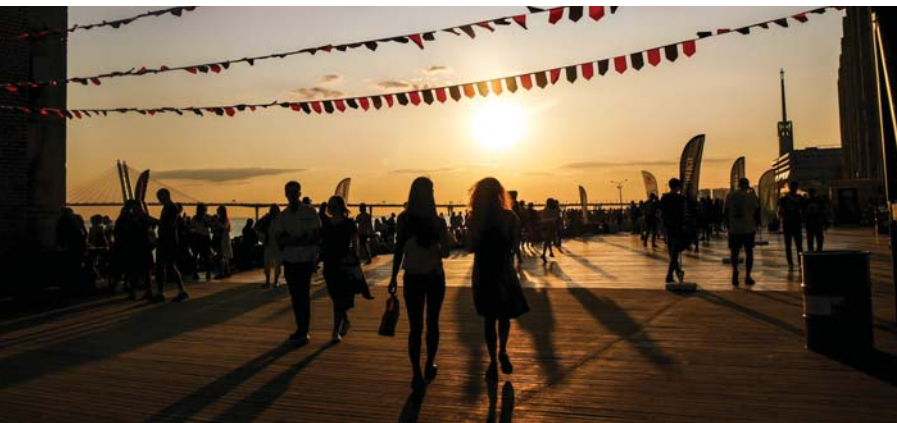
An atmospheric place for active and cultural recreation at any time of the year.

Mariinsky Theatre

Visit the imperial theatre to witness the famous Russian ballet and experience professional opera recognized around the world.

Mikhailovsky Theatre

The famous opera and ballet theatre, where classical traditions are intertwined with bold creative pursuits.





VISIT SAINT-PETERSBURG WITH A FREE E-VISA!



Starting October 1, 2019, citizens of 53 countries can apply for a free electronic visa to enter Saint Petersburg and the Leningrad region. All you have to do is fill out an application on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation at electronic-visa.kdmid.ru. The application review takes no more than 4 calendar days. After receiving the e-visa notification, you must print it out or save it to your smartphone and show it at the border checkpoint. This applies if you travel by air, by sea, or by bus. E-visa for entry and exit by railway will be available later.

! Be careful when filling out an e-visa application and provide your personal data exactly as indicated in your travel document (passport). Use only English (latin) alphabet letters!

Also, note that e-visa is valid for 30 days and allows the traveler to stay only in the territory of the specified region of the Russian Federation as indicated in the visa for the duration of 1 to 8 days.



72 HOURS NO VISA REQUIRED

For ferry and cruise travelers

A 72-hour visa-free visit to St. Petersburg applies to tourists arriving in St. Petersburg by ferry or cruise ship. To leave the port and visit the city, a cruise passenger must be registered as a member of a tourist group. To become part of such a tourist group, a passenger must purchase a tour or transfer that is available onboard the ship.

Please note that tourists must return to the cruise ship cabins for the night.



Buy a ticket to Helsinki.



Book a cabin on a ferry from Helsinki to St. Petersburg.



Book a transfer from St. Petersburg seaport of to the city center.



Select a hotel from the list of participating hotels located in the city center.

ST. PETERSBURG IS EASY TO GET TO!

It is easy to get to St. Petersburg from virtually anywhere in the world: the city is connected with cities around the world by a large number of air, water and rail routes.



Pulkovo Airport

23 km from the city center

Over **160** destinations

Over **75** airlines



Helsinki – St. Petersburg

High-speed train “Allegro”

Travel time: 4 hours

Moscow – St. Petersburg

High-speed train “Sapsan”

Travel time: 4 hours



**Year-round ferry service
to Helsinki, Stockholm
and Tallinn**



Top-20 attractions

1. **Palace Square**
The main square of the City on the Neva and one of the most beautiful architectural ensembles in the world. Included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The square that witnessed landmark events in the history of the country is constituted by monuments of cultural heritage.
2. **State Hermitage Museum**
The largest museum in Russia located in the former official residence of Russian emperors. Luxurious halls and masterpieces of world art are waiting for art admirers.
3. **Church of the Savior on Blood**
One of a kind neo-Russian temple with an outstanding collection of mosaic icons and luxurious interior decoration made of semiprecious stones.
4. **Nevsky Prospect**
It is the main street of the city, where you can see extraordinary people, visit fashionable venues, and eye feast numerous historical buildings with elaborate facades.
5. **Fabergé Museum**
Private museum with the world's largest collection of jewelry masterpieces from House of Fabergé: Imperial Easter eggs, silverware, interior furnishings, and gifts once presented to noble persons.
6. **State Russian Museum**
An unrivaled Russian national art collection, including ancient Russian icons, masterpieces of the 20th-century avant-garde, as well as Russian applied art and folk crafts.
7. **Old Saint Petersburg Stock Exchange and Rostral Columns**
One of the most beautiful panoramic sites in St. Petersburg with the majestic Rostral columns and the aerial building of the Exchange.
8. **Peter and Paul Fortress**
This is where the history of St. Petersburg began: every rock reminds of the era of Peter the Great. Feel the history!
9. **Smolny Cathedral**
A delightful sky-blue baroque cathedral, from the bell tower of which you can overlook the whole city.
10. **Summer Garden**
A green oasis in the city heart for laid-back walks and intimate conversations among marble statues, small fountains and cozy bosquets.

11. Cruiser "Aurora"

This legendary naval vessel took part in several historical battles, starting from the Battle of Tsushima in 1905 and ending with the defense of Leningrad during the Second World War.

12. Museum of Political History of Russia

Created in 1919, the museum lets you follow the development history of the Russian political system and learn about the fate of prominent historical figures.

13. Bronze Horseman

The famous bronze monument to Peter I, that personifies the main character of the eponymous poem by the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin.

14. St. Isaac's Cathedral

One of the most beautiful domed structures in the world, decorated with 62 types of mosaics and decorative elements of marble, malachite, Afghan lapis lazuli and gilded bronze.

15. Kazan Cathedral

Built on the model of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, the cathedral gives an Italian flavor to the nearby area and fascinates with its grand 96-column colonnade.

16. Yusupov Palace

The mansion of the old noble Yusupov family with preserved authentic interiors, furniture and household items of the 19th century. At the exposition dedicated to Grigory Rasputin, you can get to know one of the vaguest and most mysterious personalities of the 20th century.

17. Monument to the Heroic Defenders of Leningrad

This place keeps a history in which blood, tears, and suffering are intertwined with the immortal act of bravery of the people. People come here to commemorate the long 900 days of the siege of Leningrad.

18. Pavlovsk Park and Palace

Discover the beauty and charm of the country imperial residence – one of the most romantic palace and park ensembles of the late 18th century.

19. Catherine Palace and Park

The Russian monarchs left a rich heritage to mankind: the ceremonial halls of the Golden Enfilade, the Amber Room and the golden-domed home church are just some of the pearls of the Catherine Palace.

20. Peterhof Grand Palace

"Russian Versailles", with its luxury, was designed to amaze high-ranking guests, foreign and domestic, at royal celebrations, balls, and masquerades. Currently, the beauty of the palace continues to fascinate visitors from all over the world.





Top-20 events

1. Christmas Fair

December – January

Feel the true Christmas spirit among festively illuminated cozy houses, happy people and magic in the air. Try national dishes of different countries and warm yourself with hot mulled wine.

2. “Christmas star” Fire Festival

January

You will witness vivid fireworks, fire tricks and stunts, taming the raging flame, and also laser and light shows.

3. Gatchina New Year Hoopla

January

Want to join the bustling New Year’s open air festival? Then visit Gatchina and walk around the New Year’s market, take part in workshops, a lush concert programme and interactive events with mummers.

4. Maslenitsa (the Pancake day)

End of February / beginning of March

Take part in a dashing farewell to winter: watch street theatres perform, join the Russian round dance, ride the Russian troika and watch the straw scarecrow burn.

5. Festival of Lights

April, November

Watch an exciting light show with cutting edge video mapping technologies that transform famous landmarks into lighting works of art.



6. Dance Open

April

Each spring, St. Petersburg turns into a grand gala concert of choreographic stars. The largest Russian ballet forum attracts world ballet stars, famous teachers and ballet school students from different countries.

7. Ice Breaker Festival

End of April / beginning of May

The festival programme features tours on icebreaker ships, a unique tugboats' waltz, large-scale historical reconstructions devoted to the development of the Arctic, and also a presentation of the contemporary icebreaking fleet of Russia.

8. Immortal Regiment

May 9

An impressive parade of thousands of people with photos of their family members who witnessed the events of World War II: those who took part in war actions, partisans, concentration camps prisoners, children of war, residents of besieged Leningrad and rear front workers.

9. Night of Museums

May

This night, many large and chamber St. Petersburg museums traditionally open their doors to visitors with special programmes: one-day exhibitions, thematic concerts, performances, specially designed excursions and historical reconstructions.

10. Tulip festival

May

Take a walk around the Yelagin Palace to enjoy the look of 120 varieties of tulips, including the famous black tulips and chameleon flowers.

11. Classics at the Palace Square

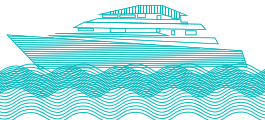
May

This open-air gala concert dedicated to the city's birthday is a free gift for residents and guests of the Northern capital. The best Opera singers, ballet dancers and choreographic ensembles perform here, accompanied by modern visual effects.

12. International White Nights Marathon

June

Thousands of marathon runners from all over the world gather on Palace Square to run their 42 km 195 m along all the Central streets and waterfronts of St. Petersburg. Running enthusiasts will also be able to try themselves at the 10 km mass run.





Top-20 events

13. Flower Festival

June

The festival begins with a parade of flower platforms together with horse-drawn carriages and brass bands. The procession goes along Nevsky Prospect to the Palace Square, gradually turning it into a fabulous flower garden.

14. Scarlet Sails

June

The most romantic and famous holiday of St. Petersburg. No matter whether you believe in a fairy tale or not: a ship with bright scarlet sails, festive music and vivid fireworks along the Neva river won't leave anyone indifferent.

15. Opera for Everyone

July

Instead of inside the magnificent imperial theatres, the opera performances of the festival are done open-air, among the most beautiful architectural ensembles of St. Petersburg.

16. St. Petersburg Maritime Assembly

July

A grand large-scale marine festival that includes yacht competitions, a river carnival, SUP-surfing and many other recreational activities in the Neva.



17. "Singing Bridges" music show

May – September

You will see the Palace Bridge raise to symphonic music among thousands of other spectators and listeners. The unique distributed sound system lets you get an indescribable impression from the show.

18. Autumn festival of fountains in Peterhof

September

Join the grand celebration at the Grand Cascade. In a programme: multimedia performance, powerful fireworks, laser and lighting effects, musical performance with the participation of soloists of St. Petersburg theatres.

19. Restaurant Festival

November / April

Don't miss the unique opportunity to try the best restaurant dishes of St. Petersburg, Russian and world cuisine in the format of a specially developed set menu, offered at a fixed price in the best restaurants of St. Petersburg.

20. "Art Square" International Winter Music Festival

December

Top world performers take part in the festival. Concerts are held on theatrical stages as well as inside the Church of the Savior on Blood and the Russian Museum.



More information on events in St. Petersburg can be found in the Unified calendar of events in St. Petersburg by visiting visit-petersburg.ru.



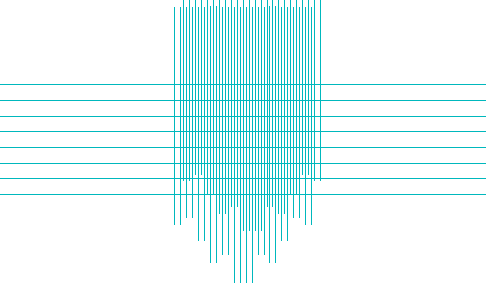


BRIDAL ST. PETERSBURG



Not only is St. Petersburg a perfect place for cultural and educational leisure and educational tours. The City on the Neva, among other things, has unique potential for organizing weddings: you can celebrate the birth of a family in the halls of the Imperial or Grand-ducal palaces; churches of almost all religions are available for weddings. Choose your wedding photo session set-up ranging from the romance of the canals, observation decks, waterfronts, parks and beaches of the Gulf of Finland. A wedding in the City on the Neva will be one of the brightest pages in the history of a family!





Palace interiors

Bring a touch of aristocracy and exquisite taste to your celebration! The City on the Neva is ready to offer imperial palaces and parks, country estates of the nobility and the residence of the Grand Dukes, as well as luxury hotels with magnificent historical interiors as venues for celebrations.

Ideas

Get great use of unusual ideas for your celebration: take a romantic gondola ride along Tsarskoye Selo Pond, fly up to the sky in a balloon, ride around the city center in a retro car or in a carriage, arrange a wedding banquet on the shores of the Gulf of Finland.

Wedding fashion

Preparing for a wedding is no less important than the wedding itself. Brides are given a wonderful opportunity to choose the dress of their dreams in a large number of salons of St. Petersburg and also at the annual event "Wedding Fashion Week".

Online support on questions of registration of marriage in St. Petersburg

More detailed information on the organization of weddings in St. Petersburg can be found on the official city tourist portal www.visit-petersburg.ru. You can ask questions through the online consultant tool by clicking on the link: www.visit-petersburg.ru.

All questions you can ask through online consultant <http://www.visit-petersburg.ru/ru/guest/feedback>.



TOURIST PASSES

Tourist pass is a worldwide popular tool for exploring the city that helps travelers save money and time. The pass gives the right to free entrance to museums, numerous discounts and visits to various excursions. The main benefit of tourist passes is that you don't have to wait in line. In addition, the pass comes with an information booklet with a description of the attractions included in the package. The pass is available for purchase for 2, 3, 5 and 7 days, depending on the programme. Please read on 4 types of tourist passes and choose the one that suits you the most.

Visit SPb city pass
<https://spb.kassir.ru/visit-spb>

Visit SPb

City Tour Pass
<http://citytourpass.ru>



Guest card
<https://www.petersburgcard.com>

St. Petersburg Card

CityPass
<https://russiacitypass.com>



GOURMET PETERSBURG

The most “delicious” months in St. Petersburg are April and November, when the best cafes and restaurants of the city offer special set menus at fixed prices – 990 rubles and 1990 rubles. Guests can try Russian national cuisine, as well as original dishes. Draniki with sour cream and red caviar, beef tongue with chicken baked in cheese sauce, Napoleon cake with caramel cream, cranberry juice and much more.

True gourmet lovers will appreciate the authentic St. Petersburg cuisine, a unique gastronomic phenomenon that grew on the merger of two gastronomic cultures: traditional Russian cuisine and fine French cuisine with some additions of other national culinary recipes.

Leningrad-style “Rassolnik”

Soviet barley and pickle soup.

Beef Stroganoff

Fried beef slices with sour cream sauce.

Novo Mikhailovskaya cutlet

Pellet from minced meat with cream and butter with a delicate texture.

Sterlet in champagne

Royal fish in cream sauce.

Metropolki

Chicken and liver cutlets.

Arina Rodionovna's Pancakes

Pink beetroot pancakes.

Crumpets

Small buns with a hole in the middle, sprinkled with powdered sugar.



BOAT TOURS

A boat trip through the rivers and canals of St. Petersburg is a favorite way of spending time for all city guests: it's not merely exciting – the city looks completely different from the water. Normally the season of water tours and cruises lasts from April to October. Choose among classic sightseeing tours or thematic and individual tours. Here are just a few interesting options:

Hop-on/Hop-off tour – get off at any stop, see the sights, and return to the boat to continue your journey.

Firework water tours – get aboard a riverboat on holidays such as Scarlet Sails or Victory Day to watch an exciting show from the water.

Live music river rides – take a river trip with live piano music, jazz improvisations or a romantic saxophone.

Night river rides – ride on a boat under drawbridges and visit the Peter and Paul fortress at night.

Meteor tours – enjoy a hovercraft trip to Peterhof or Kronstadt.



NEW ROUTES

St. Petersburg offers a wide variety of classic city center routes linked to the imperial family, famous writers and poets, palaces, cathedrals, etc. You should also know that the city has a lot of unexpected routes that help you learn St. Petersburg from an unusual side.

St. Petersburg for soccer fans

Get to know the places that became part of the history of Russian soccer and the St. Petersburg soccer club. The route will tell you about the personal stories of people who have left a significant mark in the history of soccer. The streets of St. Petersburg keep the memory of successful games from 1944 to the 2018 FIFA world Cup.



Cats of St. Petersburg

The tour tells about how cats saved the lives of many Leningrad residents during the Second World War, about stone sculptures of cats and cats of the Hermitage. You can pay a visit to museums and cafes dedicated to cats, temporary and permanent exhibitions, as well as personally meet charming cats of all breeds and colors.



Ballroom life of the Russian Empire capital

Russian emperors and empresses, as well as the nobility, loved luxury balls and masquerades. The parquet floors of numerous Petersburg palaces remember the refined steps and dance figures of past centuries. The route invites you to visit places that held lush celebrations and witnessed great love stories.

Following the filming sites of the "War and peace" TV series

The route will take you to the places linked to shooting the Anglo-American historical television series "War and peace", first shown on the BBC One channel in January 2016. This is a six-episode TV adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's War and peace starring Paul Dano, Lily James and James Norton.

Mystical St. Petersburg

Since its foundation, St. Petersburg was considered a mysterious city, filled with many legends and secrets. Ghosts still inhabit many of the palaces. Many houses in contemporary St. Petersburg are located in anomalous zones. On the route, you will learn the legend of the ghost of Emperor Paul I, the mysterious sphinxes, the spirits and ghosts of the Peter and Paul fortress, and the secret of the Queen of Spades.





PHOTO SHOOTING SITES



Old Saint Petersburg Stock Exchange and Rostral Columns

What you'll see: panoramic view of the Neva River and the promenade from the times of Peter the Great.

New Holland Island

What you'll see: monumental brick arch with dark waters around the island.

Three bridges

What you'll see: three bridges from a single point.

Street art museum

What you'll see: full-wall graffiti, works by popular street artists.

Sevkael Port

What you'll see: contemporary art space with panoramic views of the Gulf of Finland.



Street of the Architect Rossi

What you'll see: the perfectly proportional shortest street in St. Petersburg.

Quay with Sphinxes

What you'll see: 3,500-year-old egyptian Sphinx sculptures, historical mansions and St. Isaac's Cathedral.

Colonnade of St. Isaac's Cathedral

What you'll see: bird's-eye view of St. Isaac's Square and the Neva.

Roof of the building at 65 Ligovsky Ave

What you'll see: all the spires and domes of the city center.

Singer House

What you'll see: unique facades of historical buildings located along Nevsky Prospect.





1. House-ring on Fontanka
As soon as you get inside the circular courtyard at 92 Fontanka River Embankment, look up and make a wish: this place is believed to be magical, where all desires come true.

2. Atlantes of the Hermitage
If on the wedding day the bride and groom hold the big toes of the Atlantes of the Hermitage, they will have a happy marriage and beautiful children born in this marriage.

3. Chizhik-Pyzhik
If you make a wish and your coin lands on the pedestal of this bronze bird statue, have no doubt that it will come true!

4. Elisha and Vasilisa the cats on Malaya Sadovaya street
They say that the conveniently perched on the ledge of building #8 on Malaya Sadovaya street bronze cats Elisha and Vasilisa bring good luck to those whose coins land on their paws.

5. Hare at the Peter and Paul Fortress
The hare, who escaped from the flood, sits under the Ioannosky Bridge leading to the Peter and Paul Fortress. If your coin lands on the log base of the monument, the wish will come true.



6. Potseluev Bridge

If, when crossing the bridge, the lovers begin to kiss on one side of the Moika River, and finish on the other, they will never part, and they will live a happy life together.

7. Monument to the dog Gavryusha

If you whisper your wish in the ear of this good stray dog, it will make sure it comes true. Put a coin or candy in its mouth to make even surer.

8. Fountain Ball

Make a wish, and standing with your back to the ball, throw a coin over your shoulder. Rotate the ball as many times as the number that the coin lands on.

9. Monument to the photographer

Take a picture with the photographer, taking his right hand, and your wish will be fulfilled. Touch his little finger for financial well-being.

10. Monument to the Janitor

If you dream of unlimited wealth, leave a coin to the janitor statue on Ostrovsky Square. After that, you will begin to row the money with a shovel.

**Share your photos with the #VisitPetersburg hashtag on social networks. The best pictures will be published on the Visit Petersburg page.*



“City Tourist Information Bureau”

Explore Saint Petersburg with us!



**CITY
TOURIST
INFORMATION
BUREAU**



3 offices:

14/52, Sadovaya St.,
(Mon – Sat, 10 AM – 7 PM),
37, Sadovaya St.,
(Mon – Sat, 10 AM – 7 PM),
25, Millionnaya St.,
(Mon – Thu, 9 AM – 6 PM;
Fri, 9 AM – 5 PM; Sat, 10 AM – 7 PM),



7 pavilions:

1A, Palace Square,
(daily, 10 AM – 7 PM),
Peter and Paul Fortress,
(daily, 10 AM – 7 PM),
1, Vosstaniya Square,
(daily, 10 AM – 7 PM),
1A, Rastrelli Square,
(May – September, weekdays,
8:30 AM – 4 PM),
Marine facade,
(May – September, daily, 9 AM – 6 PM),
Pulkovo Airport,
2 counters in the arrival hall
(daily, 9 AM – 8 PM)



and one mobile kiosk

Marine façade,
(May – September, daily, 9 AM – 6 PM).



You can find up-to-date information on working hours and services of St. Petersburg City Tourist Information Bureau State Budgetary Institution on the website at ispb.info.

Phone:

+7 (812) 242-39-09

E-mail address:

info@ipb.info



You can get free maps and guides from us.

We offer souvenirs.

We sell sightseeing bus and water tours.

We provide help in unforeseen situations.





Official city tourism portal **WWW.VISIT-PETERSBURG.RU**

Complete base of attractions.

Event announcement.

Leisure ideas.

Transport and accommodation.

Audio guides.

Personal account with an interactive map and filters.

Landing page in 9 languages.

Prompt feedback.

Visit-petersburg.AR mobile application with augmented reality function.

Visit Petersburg worldwide representative offices

Visit Petersburg is represented in many parts of the world. Currently, offices are open in 14 cities in Europe, Asia and the Persian Gulf (Paris, Taipei, Hong Kong, Tehran, New Delhi, Mumbai, Leipzig, Rimini, Dubai, Tokyo, Barcelona, Yerevan, Palermo, Doha). Work is underway to expand the network of information offices in other cities. Additional information available at http://www.visit-petersburg.ru/vp_offices/.

Visit the Visit Petersburg office near you and:

Get comprehensive information on what St. Petersburg can offer to tourists.

Get advice on obtaining a regular visa or an e-visa.

Ask all your questions.

Pick up printed info about St. Petersburg.

Buy a tour package to St. Petersburg.



Additional information
available

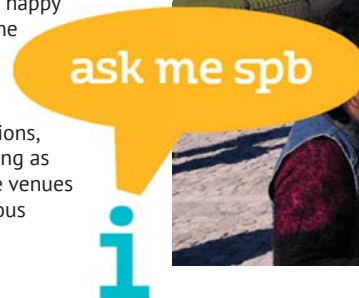
www.visit-petersburg.ru/vp_offices



“AskMe SPb / I know the city” service



Got a question while walking around the city center? Ask the Segway-equipped mobile assistants wearing bright blue uniforms with the letter “i” and the #askmespb hashtag. The service staff, who are fluent in English (and not only), cruise the central streets of the city from 9 am to 8 pm and will be happy to answer any question the guests of St. Petersburg may have. Besides helping you with info on the main touristic attractions, they can tell you something as casual as free admittance venues or where the most delicious borsch is served.



WWW.VISIT-PETERSBURG.RU

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