

St. Petersburg

**inyour
pocket**

December 2015 - February 2016

Put your skates on!

Discover the history of Russian
figure skating

As you meet the New Year, so will you spend it

The best New Year parties
in St. Petersburg

More than
12 years
in Russia!

inyourpocket.com

N°103



16+



BELMOND
GRAND HOTEL EUROPE
ST PETERSBURG

caviar

BAR & RESTAURANT

St Petersburg's only caviar restaurant featuring
eleven varieties of the finest caviar, including
fresh (non-pasteurised) beluga
and vodka sommelier

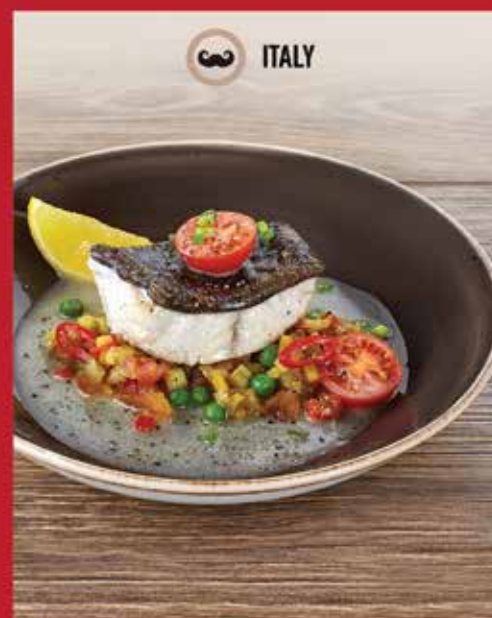
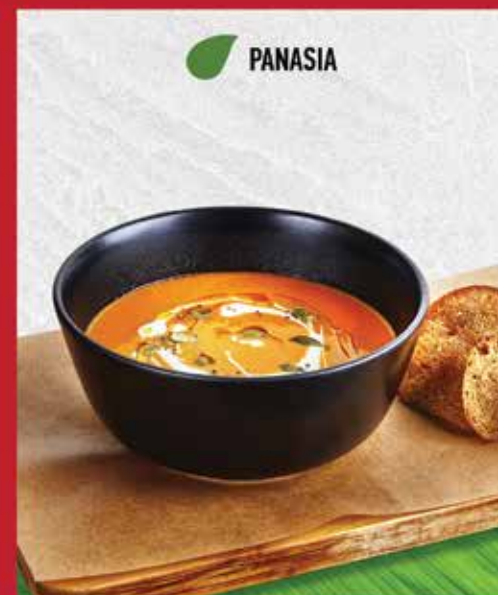


We-Su: 17.00-23.00

Nevsky Prospekt, Mikhailovskaya Ulitsa, 1/7,
St Petersburg, 329 66 22

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Restaurants with casual and cheerful atmosphere

47, Nevsky pr.
22, Nevsky pr.

6, Italiyanskaya st.
96, Nevsky pr.

4, Moskovsky pr.
205, Moskovsky pr.

8 800 220 20 20 | dvepalochki.ru



Marcellis - network of unique restaurants
Italian cuisine and Family atmosphere

Citizens of St. Petersburg come back again and again to their favorite Marcellis restaurants in the city. Each restaurant is unique, but all of them are united by friendly employees, a welcoming atmosphere and our love for traditional Italian cuisine. The pride of the restaurant is a live open kitchen which immediately attracts the guests' attention when you come in. Try our various pastas, pizzas and desserts paired with a glass of wine. Or, if you are looking for a refreshing drink, be sure to try one of our specialty lemonades that come in many different flavors. Whether you are a local resident or a guest that is visiting our city, you will surely enjoy your experience at Marcellis.

One of the popular restaurant of the Marcellis Project is located at the cross roads of Nevsky Prospect and Rubinsteyna street. Our panoramic windows allow guests to enjoy day and night views of our beautiful city.

Another Marcellis welcomes guests on Nevsky Prospect, 21. This cozy and relaxing place is nice to visit after a trip to St. Petersburg's largest museums and tourist sights.



The restaurant on Vosstaniya Street is the first in the Marcellis history and has its own charm. It is located in a heart of the city, but it is hidden from the hustle and bustle on a quiet street. There you can sit in a relaxed atmosphere, dine without hurry and relax.

The prices for both citizens and tourists are the same in all restaurants. Every Marcellis restaurant can offer you a special price on weekdays from 12 pm to 5pm. You can have a three course lunch (soup or salad, pasta or pizza, coffee, tea or juice and a mini-dessert) for only 340 RUR. The full dinner menu with wine is about 900 RUR.



PEKJAMA / ADVERTISEMENT

You are always welcome in Marcellis at

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 📍 Vosstaniya st., 15 | ☎ 8 (812) 986-91-11 |
| 📍 Nevsky pr., 21 | ☎ 8 (812) 986-21-11 |
| 📍 Nevsky pr., 43 | ☎ 8 (812) 984-41-44 |
| 📍 Moskovskiy pr., 205 | ☎ 8 (812) 986-06-50 |
| 📍 Aleksandrovskiy park, 4/3 | ☎ 8 (812) 986-06-05 |

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 ESSENTIAL
 CITY GUIDES

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www.facebook.com/StPetersburgYourPocket

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Congratulations dear readers! You've made the right choice in coming to St. Petersburg right now because you can enjoy the experience of a real Russian winter! It will be cold, white and beautiful, as always, so be prepared! This time of the year is a holiday season in Russia. New Year, Russian Christmas, Valentine's Day (yes, it is also popular here!) and more! The city has prepared a lot of things to see and to do, so let's get started.

First of all, to get in the right winter mood, go to page 20. We've dedicated our special feature to a very romantic topic – figure skating. As soon as you know everything about the history of this sport in Russia and feel inspired, you'll be sure to put on your skates and get to work on your skills on one of the numerous ice rinks in the city. It will be fun, we promise! When you are done with skating, you will need a little cultural break. Don't forget that St. Petersburg is the cultural capital of the country (the locals are more than happy with that particular designation!). The huge number of music festivals and concerts that the city has to offer is astounding (see page 12).

2015 was a great year for St. Petersburg. It has changed a lot: a large number of new restaurants, bars, art centres and museums have opened and the city doesn't seem to be stopping. But also don't forget about the classics – The Hermitage and the Russian Museum simply have to be on your to-do list. Go to page 46 to read our updated and entertaining material on the Russian Museum, we hope you will like it!

If all this is still not enough and you want to make your stay even more unique and unforgettable, check out our travel feature on pages 65–66 and maybe you will want to go to Northern Murmansk or even further to Tobolsk, Siberia's old capital. Siberia? Yes. Not a lot of foreigners go there but this part of Russia is one of the most beautiful places in the world. We hope you have enough time to do everything you have planned. And when you need a little break – head down to a welcoming cafe or a luxurious and elegant restaurant to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or a real 5-star Russian dinner (see page 25). Enjoy!

Ksenia Elzes, Russia In Your Pocket

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ABOUT IYP

Our new digital platform, online at inyourpocket.com, is a radically redesigned and restructured resource which places the visitor at the heart of the cities we cover. The new website puts you in total control of our content on whatever desktop, laptop, tablet or mobile device you are using. Give it a go: it's the biggest digital leap forward we have ever taken and entrenches our position as a game-changing publisher in all formats. Meantime, back in the world of print, we are close to completing the first issue of Kaliningrad IYP: watch this space for more info.

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

st-petersburg.inyourpocket.com

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FORUM

Culture lovers, this year's International Cultural Forum is going to be especially festive in light of several important historical events: the 70th anniversary of UNESCO and the 25th anniversary of inclusion of the first Russian landmarks into the World Heritage List – Kizhi islands wooden architecture, Moscow Kremlin and the historic center of St. Petersburg. The St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum is one of the leading discussion venues for cultural workers, public figures, politicians and businesspeople. This year the events of the program under the auspices of the IV St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum will commence in October and the program part of the Forum will be held on December 14th-16th. www.culturalforum.ru

NIGHT OF THE AD EATERS

In 35 years, The Night of the AdEaters has become the indispensable meeting place for lovers of advertising on all five continents. The Night of the AdEaters is an ALL NIGHT screening party of amazing, intriguing, shocking, and funny commercials, representing the creativity, passion and trends in the world of advertising. The event is dedicated to highlighting the best advertising from over 60 different countries on the big screen in a festive atmosphere and this year, it's coming to St. Petersburg on December 19th! www.adshow.ru



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN 2016

This is always on people's minds as the new year approaches: when do we get to relax and forget about work? Russian New Year festivities are especially generous, lasting from January 1st-10th and because the 2nd and 3rd fall on a weekend, these days will be moved to the 7th of March and 3rd of May. The Day of the Defender of the Fatherland means public holiday from the 21st-23rd but Saturday the 20th is a working day. Altogether 2016 has 119 weekend days and national holidays in store, which one day more than in 2015!

RUSSIA'S GOING GREEK

Next year (2016) has been pronounced the Year of Greece-Russia relations. President Putin said this would entail "cultural events, which will encourage the dissemination of the Russian language in Greece and the Greek language in Russia," as well the strengthening of economic trade and tourism between the two nations. The Russian side has offered to diversify the types of tours Greeks take around nations, expanding destinations beyond Moscow and St. Petersburg, to ancient Russian cities like Pskov and Veliky Novgorod. Special routes will be devised around Russia's Northwest, which will allow Greek tourist to find out more about Russia's rich culture and people. In addition, 2016 will also be the Year of Turkey-Russia tourism.

RUSSIAN HOSPITALITY AWARDS

Russian Hospitality Awards will take place for the first time on 18 February, 2016 at Lotte Hotel in central Moscow. This annual meeting of the business community and awards ceremony honors the best achievements in the hospitality industry. If you work in the sphere of hospitality, this event is a must in order to understand how to increase tourists attractiveness of the country, the quality of services in the hotel industry of Russia and to establish of the positive image of Russia at the international tourist market. Eighteen best Russian hotels will be awarded in different nominations. www.hospitalityawards.ru

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THE BASEMENT OPENING

The new bar The Basement was opened on Sadovaya 13-15, a five minute walk from Gostiny Dvor metro station. The interior is divided into two section: the bar, with a spacious dance floor, and the lecture hall which will be putting on various events along with an educational programme. Food is also served and includes both European and Eastern cuisine, while the bar menu presents a range of alcoholic beverages. The Basement is a unique space where one can both enjoy an evening with refreshing drinks and good food as well as learn something new from the excellent selection of lectures and talks. www.facebook.com/thebasementspb



Arriving & Getting Around



St. Petersburg has excellent public transport. The metro system is amazing - both attractive and efficient - and is the fastest way to get across town or into the centre of the city. If you find Cyrillic a bit of a squiggle, you'll love the metro as it has transliterations for all the stations. To navigate your way from the metro station to your destination you have a choice of buses, minibuses (*marshrutky*), trolleybuses and trams - these are less user friendly but once you know the routes and when to get off, they make getting around the city a breeze. If you want to hop into something a little more comfortable, you can always take a taxi.

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 traf-

fic police: the official penalty for driving 20-40km too fast is 300Rbl, for 60km over the limit, it costs between 1000 and 1,500Rbl. Driving through a red light will cost 700Rbl and not wearing a seatbelt will cost 500Rbl. 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.

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.

Vitebsk (Vitebsky) station is the destination for trains from the Baltic States and Eastern Europe. Trains from Finland arrive at the Finland (Finlyandsky) station and Ladozhsky station, while Moscow (Moskovsky) station is the hub for Moscow bound trains. Long distance trains within Russia arrive and depart from Moskovsky and Ladozhsky stations. There are taxi stands outside every station and the drivers there usually charge less than the ones waiting to pounce on the station platforms. If you are arriving from midnight onwards be prepared for city transport difficulties. The metro system will be closed for the night, so better take a taxi.

Departing St. Petersburg by train: If you'd just like to get out of the city for the day, local trains (*elektrichky*) cheaply connect the villages and suburbs to St. Petersburg. Elektrichky to Gatchina, Lomonosov and Peterhof depart from Baltic (*Baltiysky*) station, from Finlyandsky you can visit Vi-

borg, and Pushkin and Pavlovsk are covered by Vitebsky. 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, [M] Baltiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 457 28 59, www.ozd.rzd.ru.

FINLYANDSKY STATION

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

LADOZHSKY STATION

► Zanevsky pr. 73, [M] Ladozhskaya, tel. (+7) 812 436 53 10, www.ozd.rzd.ru.

MOSKOVSKY STATION

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

VITEBSKY STATION

► D-4, Zagorodny pr. 52, [M] 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. Currently on all above-ground transportation tickets may be bought from the conductor or driver - 28Rbl for bus, tram, trolleybus and up

to 40Rbl for a *marshrutka* (mini-bus). Probably after New Year, the price of public transport is set to raise, with metro fares rising from 31Rbl to 40Rbl and above-ground carriers rising from 28Rbl to 35Rbl. It is planned that private transportation, such as *marshrutkas*, will be free to set their own fare rates. 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 31Rbl 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

Arriving & Getting Around

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**Saint Petersburg
City
Tourist
Information
Bureau**
www.ispb.info

+7 (812) 310-2231, +7 (931) 326-5744
✉ service@ispb.info

WWW.ISPB.INFO, WWW.VISIT-PETERSBURG.RU

INFORMATION PAVILIONS
■■■■■■■ 10⁰⁰-19⁰⁰
 PALACE SQUARE · ST ISAAC'S SQUARE
 ALEKSANDROVSKY PARK · VOSSTANIYA SQUARE
 • AIRPORT PULKOVO ■■■■■■■ 09⁰⁰-21⁰⁰
 • MARINE FACADE (SEAPORT) ■■■■■■■ 09⁰⁰-18⁰⁰
 • RASTRELLI SQUARE ■■■■■■■ 08³⁰-16⁰⁰

Offices
■■■■■■■ 10⁰⁰-19⁰⁰
 14 Sadovaya str.,
 St. Petersburg, Russia, 191023
 37 Sadovaya str.,
 St. Petersburg, Russia, 190031
+7 (812) 310-2822

ST. PETERSBURG OFFICIAL APP

Multilingual city information center
Free dial

8 (800) 30-30-555
+7 (812) 30-30-555

Welcome to Saint Petersburg!

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 40Rbl) 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. Unfortunately, not all of these companies have English-speaking operators but in many big companies you can book a taxi online:

Taxi Vezoyt, (+7) 812 318 03 18, www.spb.rutaxi.ru

Taxi 068, tel. (+7) 812 068, www.taxi068.ru

Taxovichkof, tel. (+7) 812 333 00 00, www.taxovichkof.ru

Petersburg Card

SMART WAY TO EXPLORE THE CITY

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www.petersburgcard.com

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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.

BE ON GUARD!

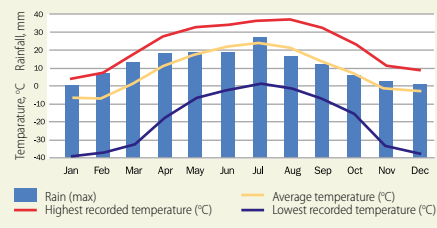
Avoid attracting unwanted attention by not speaking loudly in your mother tongue, or walking the streets if you have been drinking. If you are of African, Arab, or Asian descent exercise caution, particularly at night.

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.

CLIMATE

Winters in Russia are notorious – they've defeated both the armies of Hitler and Napoleon. In December the temperatures begin to drop, but there can still be wet days, whereas January is usually the coldest month and the city will be blanketed in snow. Time to wrap up warm!



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POCKET DICTIONARY: MORZH



Hairy, fat and with quite some *usy* (moustache) *morzhy* (walruses) are popularly referred to as the 'elephants of the sea'. In the Russian arctic they have been hunted for generations by the *chukchi* (native polar tribes) who rely on them for meat, oil and clothing. Outside of the polar regions if you hear locals talking about *morzhy* they're probably referring to Russian ice-swimmers. As soon as the frosts arrive *morzhy* like to gather together, cut a special whole in the ice and take a swim. They say that the freezing temperatures and general shock to the body is good for circulation, kills bacteria and cleanses the body.

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	seemnatsat	90	devyanosta
8	vosem	18	vosemnatsat	100	sto
9	devyat	19	devyatnatsat	500	pyatsot
10	desyat	20	dvatsat	1000	tysyacha

ALPHABET

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

USEFUL PHRASES

Basic 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
I don't understand	Ya ne panimayu	Я не понимаю
I don't speak Russian	Ya ne gavaryu pa-russky	Я не говорю по-русски
Do you speak English?	Vy gavariyte pa-anglisky?	Вы говорите по-английски?
Help!	Pomogitye!	Помогите!
I need some help	Mne nuzhna pomoshch	Мне нужна помощь
I don't want	Ya ne khachu	Я не хочу
I (don't) like it	Mnye (ne) nraivtsa	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/malenky	Большой/маленький
Good/bad	Khorosho/plokh	Хорошо/плохо
It hurts!	Bolno!	Больно!
Today	Sevodnya	Сегодня
Tomorrow	Zaftra	Завтра
Could you write it down?	Zapishite pazhalusta	Запишите, пожалуйста
Toilets	Tualet	Туалет
Stop here please	Ostanavite pazhalusta	Остановите, пожалуйста
When? At what time?	Kogda? Vo skolko?	Когда? Во сколько?
What time is it?	Katory chas?	Какой час?
Who?	Kto?	Кто?
How do you say that in Russian?	Kak skazat eto pa-russky?	Как сказать это по-русски?
No problem	Bez problem	Без проблем
Of course	Koneshno	Конечно
Happy Holidays!	S Praznikom!	С праздником!
Password	Parol	Пароль

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, [M] Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 312 15 45, www.alexandrinsky.ru.

BOLSHOY DRAMA THEATRE

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

MALY DRAMA THEATRE

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

MARIINSKY THEATRE

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

MIKHAILOVSKY THEATRE

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

GRAND PHILHARMONIC HALL

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

RIMSKY KORSAKOV CONSERVATORY

► C-3, Teatralnaya pl. 3, [M] Sennaya pl., tel. (+7) 812 312 25 19, www.conservatory.ru.

SAINT PETERSBURG OPERA

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

CONCERT HALLS AND CLUBS

AURORA CONCERT HALL

► E-1, Pirogovskaya nab. 5/2, [M] Pl. Lenina, tel. (+7) 812 907 19 17, www.aurora-hall.ru.

CLUB A2

► D-1, Pr. Medikov 3, [M] Petrogradskaya, tel. (+7) 812 309 99 22, www.a2.fm.

CLUB COSMONAVT

► D-4, Bronnitskaya ul. 24, [M] Tekhnologicheskoy Institut, tel. (+7) 812 303 33 33, www.cosmonavt.su.

LEDOVY DVORETS

► Pr. Pyatiletok 1, [M] Pr. Bolshhevikov, tel. (+7) 812 718 66 20, www.newarena.spb.ru.

OKTYABRSKY GRAND CONCERT HALL (BKZ)

► E-3, Ligovsky pr. 6, [M] Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 275 13 00, www.bkz.ru.

SPORT CONCERT COMPLEX (SKK)

► Pr. Gagarina 8, [M] Park Pobedy, tel. (+7) 812 378 17 10, www.spbckk.ru.

YUBILEINY SPORTS PALACE

► C-2, Pr. Dobrolyubova 18, [M] Sportivnaya, tel. (+7) 812 702 36 22, www.yubi.ru.

ZAL OZHIDANIYA

► E-4, Nab. Obvodnogo kanala 118, [M] Baltiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 333 10 68, www.clubzal.com.

DECEMBER EVENTS

05.12 SATURDAY

19:00 POLINA GAGARINA



Gagarina rose to international fame following her performance in the Eurovision Song Contest earlier this year. Since then she has gone on to become one of the voice coaches in Friday-night viewing favourite, "The Voice". Her own show will be very unlike anything else you've seen her in before, incorporating elements of theatre and video, with the singer performing songs within a theatrical frame, while accompanied by video-installations, dancing and some colourful outfits! ► Ledovy Dvoret, pr. Pyatiletok 1, [M] Pr. Bolshhevikov, tel. (+7) 495 665 99 99, www.gagarina.com. Tickets 600 - 5,000Rbl.

05.12 SATURDAY

19:00 ZVERI



December concerts in the northern capital have become something of a habit for Zveri, and this year is by no means an exception. Having just completed a year-long tour, which saw the group travel to more than forty cities, this concert will see the year out. Playing old favourites, as well as new ones from their

latest album "Odin na odin", this is certainly a good way to wish goodbye to 2015 and usher the new year in. ► D-1, Club A2, pr. Medikov 3, [M] Petrogradskaya, tel. (+7) 812 703 40 40, www.zve.ru. Tickets 1,500 - 4,000Rbl.

08.12 TUESDAY

19:00 RHYTHM OF THE DANCE



Combining music and dance, Rhythm of Dance features a live band, three tenors & some 22 dancers, to create a live homage to traditional Irish dance. The show is rated as one of the most popular and successful step-dance spectacles in the world; this year alone

the company has performed over 200 concerts, spanning four continents. With figures like that, you don't have to take it from us that this is certainly one of the entertainment highlights of the season. ► E-3, Oktyabrsky Grand Concert Hall, Ligovsky pr. 6, [M] Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 703 40 40, www.rhythmofthedance.com. Tickets 1,800 - 4,500Rbl.

10.12 THURSDAY

19:00 VANESSA MAE



Having made her first professional appearance at the age of ten, violinist Vanessa Mae has gone on to be one of the most commercially successful classical musicians of the last twenty years, her first album, 'The Violin Player', entering the charts in over 20 countries.

Performing using both electric and acoustic violins, her unique repertoire includes both classical disciplines as well as more modern genres, including techno, jazz and reggae. ► E-3, Oktyabrsky Grand Concert Hall, Ligovsky pr. 6, [M] Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 703 40 40, www.vanessamae.com. Tickets 2,000 - 7,000Rbl.

11.12 FRIDAY

20:00 AQUARIUM



Not content with being the frontman and lead songwriter of a successful rock band, Aquarium's Boris Grebenchikov is also a writer, artist, translator and connoisseur of eastern philosophy. This jack-of-all-trades will be performing alongside band-mates, Irish flautist Brian

Flanagan and native violinist Andrey Surotinov in concert, showcasing the group's catalogue of songs, which constantly seem to evade categorisation, their influences ranging from North American folk to Jamaican Reggae. ► D-1, Club A2, pr. Medikov 3, [M] Petrogradskaya, tel. (+7) 812 703 40 40, www.aquarium.ru. Tickets 2,200 - 8,000Rbl.

12.12 SATURDAY

20:00 APOCALYPTICA

Few groups can boast such a wide ranging spread of influences as can Apocalyptica, whose music incorporates elements punk, grunge, metal, Middle Eastern and classical music; it is fair to say that they have carved out a fairly unique niche in contemporary music! The band, who originally herald from Finland, will be showcasing their new album "Shadowmaker", at A2 club. With tickets going for just 1,500 roubles, this is not one to miss. ► D-1, Club A2, pr. Medikov 3, [M] Petrogradskaya, tel. (+7) 812 703 40 40, www.apocalyptica.com. Tickets 1,800 - 5,000Rbl.



STRAUSS SNOW-WHITE BALL



Greeting Christmas and the New Year with the music of Johann Strauss is an old European tradition. The exquisite harmony and beauty of his music has left generations of listeners gently beguiled. His Viennese Waltzes have long been considered the standard for classical dance music, being played across the ballrooms of Europe for centuries. Under the guiding baton of conductor, Igor Ponomarenko, some of Strauss' most famous waltzes will fill the gilded "Oktyabrsky" hall. 19:00 on December 19 and 20. ► E-3, Oktyabrsky Grand Concert Hall, Ligovsky pr. 6, [M] Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 275 13 00, www.bkz.ru. Tickets 800 - 2,500Rbl.

16.12 WEDNESDAY

19:00 ATAMAN COSSACK ENSEMBLE



Despite the recent loss of their leader and founder, Alexander Krasnoperts, the Caucasian singing troupe are going ahead with their St. Petersburg concert this December. Dedicated to his memory, the ensemble will continue under their usual leitmotif of love and respect

for the motherland - Russia. A night of remembrance for a remarkable musician coupled with a healthy smattering of patriotic fervour - something for everyone! ► DK im. Gorkogo, pl. Stachek 4, [M] Narvskaya, tel. (+7) 921 369 72 78, www.ataman-za-veru.spb.ru. Tickets 300 - 1,500Rbl.

18.12 FRIDAY

20:00 UNDERVUD. 20 YEARS

Twenty years ago medical students Maksim Kucherenko and Vladimir Tkachenko formed Undervud, finding the time not only to learn their Latin etymological roots but also play gigs on the roof of their student halls. Eight albums later they have built up a widespread following across the whole of the former Soviet Union, while also garnering the positive opinion of the critics too, having been awarded International Voloshin Prize "for aesthetics in contemporary music and poetic lyrics." They will be performing old favourites alongside songs from their latest record, "Bubble Gum". ► D-1, GlavClub, ul. Professora Popova 47, [M] Petrogradskaya, tel. (+7) 812 703 40 40, www.undervud.ru. Tickets 600 - 2,500Rbl.

FORTUNE TELLING

The period between Russian Orthodox Christmas (January 7th) and the epiphany (January 19th) is believed to be a particularly auspicious time for telling one's future and many Russians still like to take carry out various old Slavic fortune telling rituals. In the olden days it was believed that during this time the souls of dead ancestors would roam the earth checking on the lives of their children and grandchildren, although nowadays most people see it is a time for enjoying some superstitious fun.



WAX FORTUNE TELLING

This involves melting wax and pouring it onto water. It will solidify into a shape. From this shape, you must judge your future. If it is a house, you will live well this year. If circles, you will have good fortune. If some kind of fruit or animal, you will have good health. If it is a man, then you know what that means!

PAPER

Screw up some paper, put it on a tray and set fire to it. When it stops burning, lift the tray to a wall in front of some light. The shadow of the burnt paper should cast a shape onto the wall. You can predict the coming year's luck from the shape of this shadow.

LUCKY DIP

Take a golden ring, a loaf of bread and a hook. Lay them on a table and cover them with cloth. Then pick an object without looking. If you choose the ring, your husband will be vain. If the bread, your husband will be rich. If you get the hook, your future husband will be poor. Other versions of the lucky dip may feature a baby's sock (predicting an imminent pregnancy), a coin (for wealth), a ring (for marriage) and a key (for a new home).

BANYA

You have to be alone for this and it is considered the most accurate of all. There must be no light in the Banya (Russian bath-house) apart from your candle. Take a mirror (or two) and place it on a table. Put the candle in front of the mirror. Sit in front of the mirror and stare at your reflection for a long time - a very long time. It is said that you will envision your future in the mirror. It is believed that if a girl sees her coffin then she will die the same year, although usually it is the future husband who appears in front of her eyes.

26.12 SATURDAY

19:00 NEW YEAR'S HOLLYWOOD HITS



Hollywood's finest orchestral scores will be available for your delectation this December, performed among the echoing walls of Gorky's Cultural Hall. The concert will lead the audience through nearly 75 years of audio-cinematic history, from the glamorous hits of the 1950's, to the breathtak-

ing blockbusters of the present day. ▶ **Dvoret's Kulturny im. Gorkogo**, pl. Stachek 4, **M Narvskaya**, tel. (+7) 921 369 72 78, www.gorkogo.spb.ru. Tickets 1,000 - 2,500Rbl.

JANUARY EVENTS

02.01 SATURDAY - 10.01 SUNDAY

THE ZAPASHNY BROTHERS' CIRCUS FROM OUT OF THIS WORLD

Are there other forms of life out there? The answer to this is coming to St. Petersburg's Ice Palace in January 2016. The Great Moscow State Circus is moving away from traditional animal-based performances with its latest show. Although it is still run by famous animal trainers the Zapashny brothers, the only creatures in this show are aliens. Entitled "Circus From Out of This World", the show tells the story of a man who is captured by aliens. What happens to him? Does he manage to escape? Come see for yourself and be blown away by the laser and special effects, as well as the crazy tricks and acrobatics. ▶ **Ledovy Dvoret's**, pr. Pyatiletok 1, **M Pr. Bol'shevikov**, tel. (+7) 812 335 75 75, www.zapashny.ru. Tickets 500 - 2,500Rbl.



03.01 SUNDAY

19:00 FROST FEST

Since its inception in 2012, Frost Festival has gone from strength to strength, quickly becoming one of the best rock festivals in Russia. The festival, which in the past boasted headline acts including Roman Raine, Elysium, and Stigmata, will this year be lead by Russian bands "Louna" and "Slot". Incorporating elements of traditional Russian festivity, Frost prides itself on its friendly atmosphere. One for rock lovers and families alike! ▶ **D-1, Club A2**, pr. Medikov 3, **M Petrogradskaya**, tel. (+7) 812 309 99 22, www.frost-fest.ru. Tickets 1,100 - 2,500Rbl.

08.01 FRIDAY

19:00 MELNITSA

Calling all folk-rock fans! For more than a decade Melnitsa have been making melodic music, using traditional instrumentation, emerging as one of the most unique groups amidst a scene largely dominated by pure rock and indie outfits. Lead by Natalia O'Shea, an academic and expert in Celtic languages, the group draws heavily upon the folk cultures of Russia, Ireland and other Northern European countries, and frequently encompasses classical melodies as well as shades of Gothic orchestration. This is sure to be one of the most intriguing concerts of the season. ▶ **C-1, DK im. Lensovet**, Kamennoostrovsky pr. 42, **M Petrogradskaya**, tel. (+7) 812 346 04 38, www.melnitsa.net. Tickets 1,000 - 2,500Rbl.



20.01 WEDNESDAY

20:00 PICNIC

It is fair to say that Piknik have been around the block a fair few times. Having formed in Leningrad in the late 1970s, the group subsequently went on to release over twenty albums. 2016 year marks the sixtieth birthday of the group's leading man, Edmund Shklyarsky, in celebration of which the collective will be staging a unique spectacle at the Alexandrinsky Theatre. Alongside performances of some of the group's greatest hits will be readings from a selection of some of Shklyarsky's poetic works. ▶ **E-3, Alexandrinsky Theatre**, pl. Ostrovskogo 2, **M Nevsky pr.**, tel. (+7) 812 303 33 33, www.piknik.info. Tickets 3,000 - 4,000Rbl.



*Odin bilet - One ticket
Dva bileta - Two tickets*

THE HERMITAGE THEATRE



05.12 SATURDAY - 09.01 SATURDAY

In the late 18th century, Catherine the Great commissioned Italian architect Giacomo Quarenghi to construct a royal theatre next to the Winter's Palace. With lavishly decorated windows, and statues of Greek poets and playwrights lining the colonnade of the second level, the theatre is an outstanding example of Russian Neoclassicism. Though somewhat small, the interior beautifully adorned and allows for greater intimacy with the performers. This December two favourites of the winter festivities, "The Nutcracker" and "Swan Lake", will be performed in the grand concert hall of the Hermitage Theatre. "The Nutcracker", a ballet which has enjoyed enormous worldwide success since its inception in the 1890s, tells the fantastical story of Marie, and her nutcracker doll, a christmas present which comes to life and defeats the Mouse King, only to then transform into a handsome prince. "Swan Lake", which like "The Nutcracker" was also composed by Tchaikovsky and is similarly endowed with a fantastical story line, which sees a beautiful young woman turned into a swan by an evil wizard, to be set free only by a pledge of true love. There's something for everybody. ▶ **D-2, Dvortsovaya nab. 32, M Admiralteiskaya**, tel. (+7) 812 710 90 30, www.hermitagemuseum.org. Call them for the date of ballet. Ticket 2,500Rbl.

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.

26.01 TUESDAY

20:00 IMAGINE DRAGONS



Grammy nominees, Imagine Dragons, will be bringing some glamour and exoticism from their native Las Vegas to this cold Russian winter. Their music explores the territories of rock, pop and dub-step, while also employing the help of a choir in some of their songs. Having just completed a summer's worth of touring America, performing some new unreleased material, the outfit are poised to put on one of the best shows this winter. ▶ **Le-dovy Dvoretz, pr.Pyatiletok 1, M Pr. Bolshevnikov, tel. (+7) 812 703 40 40, www.imaginedragonsmusic.com. Tickets 2,500 - 5,000Rbl.**

FEBRUARY EVENTS

13.02 SATURDAY

19:00 ASTOR PIAZZOLLA'S TANGO OF PASSION

Beauty, passion, elegance - the Tango has it all. But you needn't buy a ticket to Buenos Aires if you want to see how it is performed properly: it is coming to you. Argentinian choreographer and winner of the Tango World Dance Championship, Silvo Grand, has joined forces with the IR Orchestra to present the music of the world renowned composer, Astor Piazzolla. A ray of South American colour to blow away the winter blues. ▶ **E-3, Grand Concert Hall, Ligovsky pr.6, M Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 275 13 00, www.bkz.ru. Tickets 700 - 2,500Rbl.**



For all the latest concert, event and exhibition news follow us on facebook at www.facebook.com/StPetersburgInYourPocket

20.02 SATURDAY

20:00 PARKWAY DRIVE

It's a long way from home for Australian surfer-dudes, Parkway Drive, who will be leaving their native summer sun to brave the Russian winter. Pioneers of the "metal-core" genre, their music is defined by indistinct vocals, soaring guitar riffs and massive breakdowns. Throw in some huge sing along hits and a mosh-pit or two, this is probably not one that you'll be wanting to bring any elderly relatives along to. ▶ **D-4, Zal Ozhidaniya, nab. Obvodnogo Kanala, 118, M Baltiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 333 10 68, www.parkwaydriverock.com. Tickets 2,000 - 3,600Rbl.**

22.02 MONDAY

20:00 GOD IS AN ASTRONAUT



The Irish post-rock trio will be showcasing their latest album "Helios/Erebus" in concert this Winter. The group, who take their name from a quote in the film "Nightbreed", are known for their dynamic and multifaceted live performances, which feature self-edited video footage along with lighting arrangements, to accompany each song individually. This is no ordinary concert - this is what the group describe as a "full audio-visual experience". Come with high expectations. ▶ **D-1, Glav-Club, ul. Professora Popova 47, M Petrogradskaya, tel. (+7) 812 703 40 40, www.godisanastronaut.com. Tickets 1,700 - 4,000Rbl.**

26.02 FRIDAY

20:00 NIRVANA TRIBUTE SHOW

Russia is awash with Nirvana tribute but none so energetic and zestful as "Nirvana Tribute Show Russia". Unique to Russian stages is the fact that they perform lyrical outpourings of the late Kurt Cobain in their original electric format - but also acoustically, in a similar vein to Cobain's famous 1993 MTV performance. Nirvana need no introduction being one of the greatest cult groups of the 20th century; if you missed them in the '90s, now's your chance to see the next best thing! ▶ **D-4, Club Kosmonavt, Bronnitskaya ul. 24, M Tekhnologicheskoy Institut, tel. (+7) 812 303 33 33, www.cosmonavt.su. Tickets 500 - 2,000Rbl.**



EXHIBITIONS

03.12 WEDNESDAY - 10.01 SUNDAY

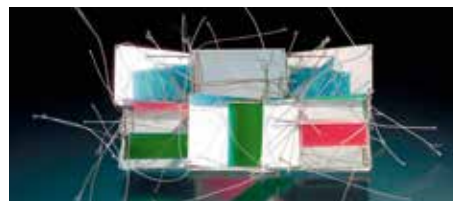
GIFTS FROM EAST AND WEST TO THE IMPERIAL COURT OVER 300 YEARS



During the 300-year period from the reign of Peter I to Nikolai II, Petersburg was the imperial capital city and played host to the empire's official meetings, visits and celebrations. During these diplomatic events it was customary to exchange gifts as concrete recognition of one country's respect for the other. The Hermitage collection traces the history of this practice, displaying gifts to Russia - from paintings to silver and porcelain tea sets to elaborate snuff boxes - from both Western and Eastern empires. Historically and aesthetically valuable, these objects silently bear witness to Russia's dynamic diplomatic relations with the East and West from the 18th to the beginning of the 20th century. ▶ **D-3, The State Hermitage, The General Staff Building, Dvortsovaya pl. 6/8, M Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 495 71 71, www.hermitagemuseum.org. Open 10:30 - 18:00, Tue, Fri 10:30 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission 300Rbl.**

03.12 THURSDAY - 10.01 SUNDAY

GIFTS FROM AMERICA: MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY APPLIED ARTS (1948 - 2013)



Assembled from between the years 1948 to 2013, seventy four items of jewellery and artistic objects made from glass, ceramic and pottery will be on display at the Hermitage this winter. Through the efforts of Helen Drutt English, an expert in contemporary applied art, and a gallery owner, items from the Hermitage Museum Foundation in New York have been lent to the Hermitage, showcasing a raft of American and European artists, many of whom have never been exhibited in Russia before. ▶ **D-3, The State Hermitage, The General Staff Building, Dvortsovaya pl. 6/8, M Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 710 90 79, www.hermitagemuseum.org. Open 10:30 - 18:00, Wed, Fri 10:30 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission 300Rbl.**

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THE RUSSIAN COUNTRY ESTATE IN PHOTOGRAPHS



13.11 FRIDAY - 24.01 SUNDAY

The lives of the Russian nobility largely revolved around their country estate, a place for both leisure and work, where the lives of some of the nation's wealthiest inhabitants intertwined with the lives of some of the nation's very poorest. In this exhibition, both amateur and professional photographs taken between 1860 and 1920 show some of the most intimate and personal snapshots of rural life, during the twilight period of the aristocracy. ▶ **D-3, The State Russian Centre of Photography ROSPHOTO, Bol. Morskaya ul. 35, M Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 314 12 14, www.rosphoto.org. Open 11:00 - 19:00, Tue, Thu 12:00 - 21:00. Admission 100 - 200Rbl.**

09.12 WEDNESDAY - 29.02 MONDAY TOMILOV-SHWARTS COLLECTION

Over the course of his lifetime, Alexey Tomilov acquired an astonishing contemporaneous collection of artistic works from the early 19th century, including the paintings of A.E Yegorov, A.O Orlovsky and P.E Zabolotsky, artists whom he also counted among his friends. After his death in 1848 for several years the collection was somewhat neglected until the husband of Tomilov's granddaughter, Evgeny Shvartz, took up the mantle in the early 20th century, amassing an equally impressive corpus to that of his forbearer. Now combined collections will be available for the delectation of the public. ▶ **D-2, Mikhailovsky Castle, Sadovaya ul. 2, M Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 314 34 48, www.rusmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue. Admission 150 - 300Rbl.**



ERARTA EXHIBITIONS

19.11 THURSDAY - 11.01 MONDAY
THE BIRTH OF SCULPTURE

The transition from canvas to three-dimensional space will be under the spotlight this december in an exhibition held at the Museum of Modern Art. Notable Russian artists Arsen Avetisyan, Sergei Kondrashkin and Armen Gasparyan will be pondering the topic of physical space, the artistic medium of sculpture and how it arose in human culture.

18.12 FRIDAY - 21.02 SUNDAY
RODARTE. RETROSPECTIVE OF THE WORK
OF KATE AND LAURA MULLEAVY

Teetering on the fault-line between art and functionality are sisters Kate and Laura Mulleavy, who in 2005 set up the avant-garde clothing brand Rodarte. Ten years on the Museum of Modern Art, Erarta, is celebrating a decade's worth of work by exhibiting 85 of the siblings' best work. Alongside those outfits created for the catwalk will be some of the costumes used on the set of the film "Black Swan" as well as from the ballet production of "Don Juan". The painstaking effort, alone, that went into the creation of each outfit is enough to impress, with each costume requiring up to 100 hours of manual work.

► B-3, Erarta Museum and Galleries of Contemporary Art, VO, 29-ya liniya 2, [M] Primorskaya, tel. (+7) 812 324 08 09, www.erarta.com. Open 10:00 - 22:00. Closed Tue. Admission 450Rbl.

THROUGH 16.12 WEDNESDAY
REMARKABLE STILLS FROM NATURE

Photographers wait years, and some even wait a lifetime, to capture the perfect shot; sometimes all the skill and expertise in the world is not enough – because you also need a lot of luck. Brought to you by the National Geographic magazine, this exhibition presents some of the most perfectly-time shots from some of the most remote locations on the planet. One hundred photographs will be on show, captured by the greatest photographers in the world. A perfect chance for a bit of escapism in the presence of some of the most extraordinary moments preserved in film. ► E-3, Loft Project Etagi, Ligovsky pr. 74, [M] Ligovsky pr., (+7) 812 458 50 05, www.loftprojectetagi.ru. Open 10:00 - 21:00. Admission 250Rbl.

16.12 WEDNESDAY - 29.02 MONDAY
ADVERTISING AND PACKAGING
IN PETERSBURG

The very best of Soviet and pre-revolutionary advertising will be on show (admittedly, somewhat incongruously) at the Peter and Paul Fortress. Having originally spawned in the mid -19th century, advertising was to boom in the second half of that century. Later, following the revolution, art and functionality were to converge as writers and artists – most notably Mayakovsky and Rodchenko – set their creativity to the selling of goods. An exhibition that will incorporate both social and artistic history – not one to miss. ► D-2, Petropavlovskaya krepost 3, [M] Gorkovskaya, (+7) 812 230 64 31, www.spbmuseum.ru. Open 11:00 - 18:00, Tue 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Wed. Admission 100 - 330Rbl.

16.12 WEDNESDAY - 29.02 MONDAY
THE TREASURES OF ANCIENT RUSSIA

Over four hundred items of wealth, splendour and rarity will be on show, taken from the Russian Museum's extraordinary collection. The items, which range in age from the 11th to the 16th century, are mostly decorative jewellery, made with long since forgotten handcraft skills, from gold, silver, enamel and other precious resources. So precious are some of the exhibited items, that during the Mongol attacks of 1237-1240, they were meticulously hidden in order to keep them from the clutches of the tartars! ► D-3, Mikhailovsky Castle, Sadovaya ul. 2, [M] Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 314 34 48, www.rusmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue. Admission 150 - 300Rbl.

THROUGH 31.01 FRIDAY
RUSSIA. REALISM. 21ST CENTURY

Presenting the various paths in the development of the Realist tradition in the work of contemporary Russian artists, who operate on the borderlands between pure realism, photorealism and other variants of the realist discipline, which arose in the last decade of the 20th century. The exhibition will be demonstrating the works of some of the most well-renowned, and predominantly young, artists and designers from Petersburg and Moscow. Want to stay up with the times and down with the kids? Here's your ticket. ► D-2, The Russian Museum, Benois Wing, nab. kan. Griboedova 2, [M] Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 314 34 48, www.rusmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 10:00 - 20:00, Thu 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue. Admission 150 - 350Rbl.

THROUGH 31.01 FRIDAY
DRONOV AND KORNEEV

Presenting some of the most renowned and founding works of sculptors Dronov and Korneev, the exhibition at the Russian Museum will give audiences not only a solid grounding in the oeuvre of the dynamic duo, but also in the development of Russian sculpted art around the turn of the 21st century. Now their second exhibition at the Russian Museum, Dronov and Korneev are one of the most interesting artistic collectives operating in contemporary arts, distinguished by their idiosyncratic stylistic flourish. ► D-2, Marble Palace, Milionnaya ul. 5/1, [M] Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 314 34 48, www.rusmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue. Admission 150 - 300Rbl.

THROUGH 10.01 SUNDAY
FRIDA KAHLO –
SELF-PORTRAIT WITH MONKEY

As part of the "Masterpieces from the World's Museums in the Hermitage" series, Frida Kahlo's famous "Self-Portrait With Monkey" will be on loan to the Hermitage this winter. Having been involved in a car accident, and subsequently bed-ridden and with significant visual impairment, Kahlo set about painting self-portraits, her own reflection being one of the few things that she could see. "I depict myself as it is the topic about which I know the most." ► D-2, Hermitage, Dvortsovaya pl. 2, [M] Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 710 90 79, www.hermitagemuseum.org. Open 10:30 - 18:00, Wed, Fri 10:30 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission 300Rbl. Admission free first Thu of month.

THROUGH 15.01 FRIDAY
PAVEL FEDOTOV. 1815-1852

In celebration of the two hundredth birthday of the painter, Pavel Fedotov, the Russian Museum, in aided by the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, as well as the State History Museum, are throwing an exhibition his works. An erstwhile military officer, Fedotov depicted what he interpreted to be life's contradictions. Among those displayed will be "The Youthful Cavalier" and "The Eligible Bride", which were the first paintings to bring fame to the young artist in Moscow and Petersburg. Despite his brief life (dying at the age of 37), Fedotov's influence is felt throughout 19th century visual art. ► D-2, The Russian Museum, Benois Wing, nab. kan. Griboedova 2, [M] Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 314 34 48, www.rusmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 10:00 - 20:00, Thu 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue. Admission 150 - 350Rbl.

THROUGH 30.01 SATURDAY
GOLDEN GENERATION. MODERNISM IN FINNISH
ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

"Golden Generation. Modernism in Finnish Architecture and Design" at the State Hermitage Museum introduces the public to the history of architecture in Finland as well as modern designs and solutions of the country's urban planners. Until the 19th century Finnish architecture was dominated by Swedish and Russian influences. Then, a real revolution occurred as the Finns embarked on creating their very own architectural language. Today, Finland is home to many famous architecture firms such as "Lahdelma & Mahlamäki Architects" and "K2S". ► D-3, The State Hermitage, The General Staff Building, [M] Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 710 90 79, www.hermitagemuseum.org. Open 10:30 - 18:00, Wed 10:30 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission 600Rbl. Free entrance the first Thu of the month.

PERMANENT EXHIBITION ON THE HISTORY
OF RUSSIAN PUPPETRY

If you were hoping that this exhibition might be a chance to get your hands on some sweet little dolls, think again. This exhibition takes child's play to the cerebral realms of academic enlightenment. But don't let that put you off. These handcrafted dolls, many of which are hundreds of years old, tell the story of how our ancestors lived – or more accurately, how they played. In particular, dolls relating to festivals and public celebrations will be on display – just in time for Christmas. ► St. Petersburg Dolls Museum, Kamskaya ul. 8, [M] Primorskaya, tel. (+7) 812 327 72 24, www.museumdolls.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00. Admission 100 - 300Rbl.





The blossom of Russian figure skating

"WHAT KIND OF RUSSIAN DOESN'T LIKE FAST RIDES" – THIS IS A LINE ATTRIBUTED TO THE RUSSIAN DRAMATIST NIKOLAI GOGOL. RUSSIANS' LOVE FOR THE ICE IS SUCH A WELL-KNOWN FACT, THAT MANY BOOKS, SONGS AND FILMS FEATURE RUSSIANS DOING WHAT THEY DO BEST COME WINTER. THIS LOVE AFFAIR, HOWEVER, IS A RELATIVELY NEW ONE FOR THE NATION.

THE HISTORY

In Your Pocket would like to start this feature with a fun fact: did you know that a study by **Federico Formenti** of Oxford University suggests that the earliest ice-skating happened in southern Finland more than 3,000 years ago? Yes, it's been around for longer than many other sports we know!

Originally, skates were merely sharpened, flattened bone strapped to the bottom of the foot and skaters did not actually skate on the ice, but rather glided on top of it. As we all know, a lot has changed since then, especially after the Dutch added edges to ice skates in the 13th or 14th century. Ice-skating won the hearts and minds of the Dutch. Everyone skated – young and old, men and women, peasants, and princes. A unity of classes was established through the excitement of the sport.

This graceful and fun activity spread throughout the continent and found great popularity among the masses of the Russian Empire. In the second half of the 19th century the authorities of major cities like St. Petersburg, Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Saratov and Voronezh began creating special areas for ice-skating. The first such ice rink was created exactly 150 years ago (in 1865) in St. Petersburg over the ponds of the **Yusupov Gardens**. By 1877, the sport became so popular that St. Petersburg's ice-skating aficionados created a special society dedicated to this activity.

Just a few years later, in February of 1890, what is now called the "unofficial world championship" (that is a pre-International Skating Union championship) was held in St. Petersburg. Athletes from Russia, the USA, Austria, Germany and Sweden took part. The winner? A Russian by the name of **A.P. Lebedev**, who possessed immaculate technical skills, precision and astonishing grace.

"And on their skates the merry boys, now cut the ice with scraping noise" – these words are from Alexander Pushkin's classic novel "Onegin"

This competition laid the foundation for the International Skating Union's (ISU) decision to organize the first official worldwide competition, which was to be held at St. Petersburg's Yusupov Gardens in 1896 once again. The success of this championship became a stimulus to develop a training program at the Yusupov Ponds for aspiring ice skaters, which was started by Lebedev and then continued and perfected by **Nikolai Panin-Kolomenkin**, a two-time Russian champion (in 1902 and 1903).

Panin's success did not end there and he went on to represent Russia at the 1908 Olympics in London. At that time, the program of the IV Olympic Games in London for the first time included a non-summer sport – figure skating. The Russian skater took part in the "special figures" competition, which involved tracing complex patterns on the ice with the blade of one ice skate. Among Panin's competitors were several favorites to



Nikolai Panin-Kolomenkin

claim the gold in the event, like the seven-time world champion Ulrich Salchow from Sweden, European champion Henry Burger and two outstanding British skaters John Hall-Say and Arthur Cumming. Before the start of his routine Panin presented drawings of the figures that he was planning to draw on ice to the judges, as was required. The figures were so complicated that some judges deemed them impossible. But Panin proved them wrong, demonstrating perfect patterns and geometrically flawless figures on the ice. Most of his competitors, including Salchow, announced they would not continue with the event after seeing Panin perform.

Panin's immaculate skating earned him – and Russia – the first gold medal. The official report by the organizers of the London Olympics said: "Panin surpassed his rivals in both the complexity of the special figures and the ease he performed them with. He 'carved' on the ice a whole series of faultless drawings with near-mathematical precision".

Soon after the Olympics in London, Panin finished his sports career and worked as a coach. He also wrote several books dedicated to the art of figure skating and the history of the sport in Russia. In his books he predicted that the development of figure skating would lead to a harmony of athletic ability and artistic expression, which is exactly what we see today.

That was only the beginning of Russian and Soviet skaters' success on the international arena. At the 1964 Winter Olympics **Ludmila Belousova** together with her husband **Oleg Protopopov** won the first Olympic pairs gold for the Soviet Union and were victorious for the second time at the 1968 Olympics too.



Ludmila Belousova and Oleg Protopopov, 1971

The baton was then passed to **Irina Rodnina** and her first partner, **Alexey Ulanov**, ending the reign of Belousova and Protopopov. The Rodnina/Ulanov team brought a new energy and athleticism to the sport. During her 11-year competitive career, Irina Rodnina won 10 World Championship titles: four with Alexey Ulanov and six with her second partner, **Alexander Zaitsev**. By the time she retired in 1980, Rodnina had won more medals than any other figure skater in history.

It is not surprising that a Soviet team inherited the crown from another Russian duo, since the Soviets dominated the sport during the cold war era (1946-1991). Drawing on their cultural heritage of ballet, and taking advantage of a state-supported system of athletic training and competition, a Soviet pair won every Olympic gold medal, and 28 out of 34 World Championships, in figure skating between 1964 and 1994. At times, the Soviets competed mainly with other Soviet pairs for the gold, silver and bronze.



Adelina Sotnikova, 2014

The hardest of battles on the ice is always fought between men. When Salchow, Lutz, Rittberger and Axel Paulsen invented their jumps at the start of the 20th century, no one could even dare to imagine that one day these would be performed in triple spins and loops. Yet these days, all these moves must be performed in one program in order to attain victory.



Evgeny Plushenko

This brings two legendary Russian male skaters to mind: **Alexei Yagudin** and **Evgeny Plushenko**, whose rivalry defined an entire epoch in the history of figure skating. It all began in 1998 when Yagudin left his coach **Alexey Mishin** for **Tatiana Tarasova** after earning his World Champion title. This decision was motivated by Yagudin's feeling that Mishin directed most of his effort and attention towards Plushenko. For the next several years the gold went either to Yagudin or Plushenko, leaving very little room at the top of the pedestal for any other male skaters of the time. Until 2001 Yagudin almost always emerged on top but then the tables began to turn and his rivalry reached its peak at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

It was no mystery that Russia would win both gold and silver in the men's singles but who would win which? Psychologically Plushenko was better poised to get the top medal because, after all, in the pre-Olympic year it was him who won all the main tournaments and championships. In the end, Plushenko fell in his short program and made some minor mistakes in his free skate to "Carmen". Yagudin, on the other hand, skated what was probably the most brilliant and technically flawless men's program,

receiving first-place votes from every judge throughout the competition. He received four 6.0 scores for his long program. Yagudin's perfect marks are the most for an Olympic performance since Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean's free dance in 1984.

Yagudin went on to win his 4th World title after the Olympics, and received six perfect 6.0s for his short program and another two for his free skate at the competition, becoming the first singles skater to receive six perfect marks for the short program, including the first ever perfect mark for required elements. This record cannot be equaled or broken because the International Skating Union introduced its new scoring system after the 2003 season.

With such a colorful history of immensely gifted figure skaters, it is not hard to see why Russians spend a lot of their free time in the winter months at the numerous skating rinks and frozen ponds in and around the cities.

Stay tuned for our next feature, which will be dedicated to another sport on ice – hockey! After all, Moscow and St. Petersburg will be hosting the **hockey World Championships** in May.

So what's the best place to enjoy this favorite winter pastime? We've compiled a list of the coolest, hippest and most gorgeous ice rinks in Russia's Northern Capital.

ICE RINKS

CENTRAL PARK IM. S.M. KIROVA

Kirov Park on Yelagin Island is always a good option. The ice is artificial which means you can skate even when the temperatures rise above zero. Every two hours the rink gets closed down for half an hour in order to resurface the ice – this may be inconvenient for those who like to skate for hours on end but at least the quality is always top notch.

► B-1, Elagin Island 4, **M**Krestovsky Ostrov, tel. (+7) 812 430 09 11, www.elaginpark.org. Open 06:00 - 23:00. Free entrance. Admission weekend 30 - 70Rbl.

UDELNY PARK OF RECREATION

Those who like to stay active in the winter will surely enjoy a day out on the huge 7,000 square meter ice rink in Udelny Park, surrounded by a lush picturesque forest. Because the rink is also a training and competition spot for speed skaters, the management pays enormous attention to the quality of the ice. You don't have to be a professional athlete to



put your strength and abilities to the test here or to simply enjoy the fresh winter air and enchanting environment. Keep in mind, though, that this ice rink is open to the public only on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. ► **Ice rink Olympic Hopes**, Ul. Akkuratova 7A, **M**Udelnaya, tel. (+7) 901 317 19 47. Free entrance to park.



TAVRICHESKY GARDEN

The indoor ice rink at Tavrichesky Garden has become a popular place for the people of St. Petersburg. The ice is always in great shape, you can rent skates (for figure skating and hockey) in any size and it boasts a nice café where you can enjoy a nice snack or warm up with a hot tea if you get cold. Lockers and showers are also on location to give you the best and most comfortable experience after a long game of hockey or just skating around for a while. Instructors are available for hire to help improve your skating or hockey skills. A doctor is always on stand by just in case something happens. ► Potyomkinskaya ul. 4A, **M**Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 329 55 34, www.tavrsad.com. Free entrance to park.

THEATER OF THE YOUNG VIEWER

One of the most popular open-air ice rinks in St. Petersburg is located near the Theater of the Young Viewer. A convenient location, quality ice and a rich history make this ice rink so beloved by the locals. ► Pionerskaya Pl. 1, **M**Zvenigorodskaya, **M**Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 901 372 53 35.

"LAPLANDIA" RINK ON KRESTOVSKY ISLAND

Laplandia Park is an ice rink with artificial ice and a reindeer farm! The ice rink works in any weather and provides skate and helmet rental, as well as lessons from professional instructors. Children as young as 3 are allowed on the ice, under parental supervision, of course. The reindeer farm is inhabited by real reindeer! You can take a photo with them, feed them and step into a real reindeer herder's hut.

► Ledovy Dvorets, pr. Pyatiletok 1, **M**Krestovsky Ostrov, tel. (+7) 812 921 15 17, www.laplandia-park.ru.

THE ACADEMY OF FIGURE SKATING

The Academy of Figure Skating has 3 skating rinks: one for children (20x25 meters) and two for adults (30x60 meters). Everything here is of the highest caliber – the ice, changing rooms, rental equipment – so it really is one of the best spots for quality skating both day and night. Avoid Sundays, however, as this is when it tends to get the most crowded and expensive. ► Tupolevskaya ul. 4, **M**Komendantsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 342 66 61, www.figure-skate.ru.

ILYA AVERBUKH ICE SHOW



17.12 THURSDAY 19:30 CHRISTMAS MEETINGS

There are certain rituals that we all undertake to get into the Christmas mood – be that watching old films, singing carols, or burning Christmas dinner. And it is precisely this festive nostalgia that Ilya Averbukh wants to enliven in his audiences, with his figure-skating version of the old Soviet classic television programme, "Christmas Meetings". Viewers will be treated to a specially choreographed performance on ice, ably enacted by a host of Olympic skaters.

► Ledovy Dvorets, pr. Pyatiletok 1, **M**Pr. Bolshevnikov, tel. (+7) 812 703 40 40, www.ice-show.ru. Tickets 1,200 - 2,500Rbl.

26.12 SATURDAY - 05.01 TUESDAY JUNIOR AND KARLSON



Olympic champion
Alexei Yagudin

This year marks the sixtieth birthday of 'Karlsson', the fictional author of Swedish creation, Astrid Lindgren, whose character found overwhelming popularity in the 1970s in the USSR, and who still today remains to be a national icon. Now, for the first time, the cartoon character will be performing outside of

the confines of television screens this New Year, in Ilya Averbukh's adaptation for figure skating. In this brand new venture, the role of Karlsson will be played by Olympic champion, Alexei Yagudin, while supporting roles will be performed by world champions Maria Petrova, Alexei Tikhonov Elena Leonova and Andrei Khvalko. The show will also include impressive visual augmentation including a large screen which will play animated cartoon strips in the background. ► Yubileiny Sports Palace, pr. Dobrolyubova 18, **M**Sportivnaya, tel. (+7) 812 703 40 40, www.yubi.ru. Tickets 600 - 1,600Rbl.

NEW YEAR FAIRS

If ice-skating is not your thing but you do want a traditional winter experience, then make sure to head over to St. Petersburg's 10th annual Christmas Fair (December 18th-January 10th)! With the support of the local authorities and the Committee for Entrepreneurship and Consumer Market Development the festivities will be organized in the best traditions of old Russian fairs, like the ones that took place in Yaroslavl, Novgorod and Moscow in the olden days.

PIONERSKAYA SQUARE

For three whole weeks Pionerskaya Square (**M**Zvenigorodskaya) becomes the center of holiday fun for both locals and visitors alike! Russian merchants' and foreign countries' stalls are open everyday between noon and 22:00. Visitors can get acquainted with the cultures of the different peoples of Russia as well as the Christmas traditions of other countries. If you don't know how Italians and Germans celebrate Christmas, what songs are sung in India and China, what holiday dishes people enjoy in Latvia and Switzerland, then this is the place to find out. And don't forget to taste the traditional dishes of Russia's different regions and make your very own souvenirs.

A visit to Father Frost's (Russian equivalent of Santa Claus) residence is also a must for the young ones. Here they can take a photo with Russia's chief magician and tell him what they'd like to find under the New Year tree. Eating and drinking is not all you can do at this year's Christmas Fair. The more active visitors can put on their skates and glide around the open-air ice rink. The best thing is that you can visit the Christmas Fair every day and discover and experience something new each time thanks to the varied entertainment program, competitions and rides. Every day is dedicated to a different theme: fairytale day, national arts and crafts day, good deed day and so on. Speaking of good deeds, you can bring a present with you and leave it in a special box. These presents will then be delivered to children living in orphanages. Organizers expect more than 3 million visitors to enjoy themselves at this year's Christmas Fair – make sure you're one of them!

ART MARKET ON YELAGIN ISLAND

This traditional European-style Christmas market (**M**Krestovsky Ostrov) mainly sells toys and artisanal holiday decorations made of wood, textile, leather, etc. All the vendors are housed in stalls made to look like miniature cottages out of a fairy tale. Besides gifts, this is a great excuse to come out to this gorgeous area of St. Petersburg.



NEW YEAR FAIR IN NEVSKY PASSAGE

One of the most beautiful and atmospheric New Year fairs will take place in the Passage yet again (**M**Nevsky pr.). Visitors will have a merry time thanks to a fantastic entertainment program with artistic and music performances, interactive shows, master classes, competitions and gifts at "the most beautiful fair" of St. Petersburg according to the Time Out magazine. This fair draws inspiration from traditional European Christmas markets, which boast a magical atmosphere, music, entertainment and gifts during the most festive season of the year. This holiday fair in the Passage has become a New Year's tradition in the city on the Neva. After all, in the middle of the XIX century the Passage was not only a shopping center, but also the focal point of public life, a favorite place for business and friendly meetings and even an educational center! Designer and hand-made gifts, Christmas decorations and the delicious aroma of gingerbread, cinnamon and tangerines fill the Passage's gallery to create an unforgettable feeling of the approaching holidays. There's something for all budgets: Christmas decorations, handmade toys and dolls, New Year's cards, interesting souvenirs, home decoration, clothes or sweets.

It's impossible to imagine a European Christmas market without sweet gifts and New Year's delicacies decorating the central gallery: gingerbreads, cupcakes and apple fruit candy based on traditional Russian receipts, handmade chocolate and a variety of other tasty gifts deck the halls. A New Year's cafe will be set up so you can satiate your thirst and warm up with mulled wine or coffee and fill your belly with gingerbreads and yummy caramelized apples. We know what your mother told you: don't play with your food. But here, visitors are able to take part in various competitions and interactive shows involving food and so much more: drawing with chocolate, creating edible cards, making New Year's gifts with your own hands, sending exclusive photo cards to your family, etc.

GATCHINA

Every year, Gatchina Palace plays host to an elaborate Christmas festival. The festival includes special tours and programs within the palace, as well as Christmas carols and a Christmas Market in the courtyard of the palace. Beautiful lighting of the palace gives it that very special holiday look. And there's something fun for kids and adults alike! ▶ From Moskovskaya metro, in the street behind the Lenin statue take bus N431 or marshrutka 18 and 18A; from Baltisky station, take a train to Gatchina station, which is also called Baltisky. Gatchina Palace, Krasnoarmeysky pr. 1, tel. (+7) 813 719 34 92, www.gatchinapalace.ru.

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 - 400Rbl	€€ 400 - 800Rbl
€€€ 800 - 1,200Rbl	€€€€ 1,200Rbl plus

RUSSIAN AND UKRAINIAN

IDIOT

With numerous rooms filled with comfortable and cosy antique furniture, eclectic tidbits and reading material in English and Russian, Idiot is worth visiting just for the atmosphere. Here you can taste a variety of traditional Russian dishes, with a decent selection of vegetarian food and a reasonable kids menu. However many people come to Idiot simply to absorb the atmosphere, and to drink. Guests are given a complimentary mini-shot of vodka, while the cordial English speaking staff hand you the Dostoevsky inspired menu. ▶ C-3, Nab. reky Moiky 82, **M**Sadovaya, tel. (+7) 921 946 51 73, www.idiot-spb.com. Open 11:00 - 01:00. €€. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

KATYUSHA

Want to be transported past the Ural mountains without leaving Nevsky Prospekt? Just ask for "Katyusha"! This restaurant is designed to mimic a typical Cossack house down to the finest details: waitresses in flowery bell sleeves dresses embroidered with delicate white lace, jars of jam tied with twine and even travnaya rospis' - natural motifs - carved into the wooden bar. The menu is full of classic Russian dishes including juicy kotleti patties and a fine selection of blini pancakes, savory or sweet. ▶ D-3, Mal. Konyushennaya ul. 9, **M**Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 640 16 16, www.ginza.ru. Open 12:00 until last guest. €€. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

MAMA NA DACHE

"Mama na Dache" is located in the middle of Nevsky pr. This "fast food" restaurant can accommodate over a hundred people and its interior decoration will make you feel like at a real Russian Dacha and not in the center of the city! In the menu you will find popular dishes from different regions of Russia and a varied selection of very tasty shashlyks with a very fair price policy. If you want to feel the wind, take a breather out in their nice outdoor terrace. ▶ E-3, Nevsky pr. 88, **M**Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 273 15 94. Open 24hrs. €. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Check out our website
st_petersburg.inyourpocket.com

SUNDUK restaurant group



NEP Restaurant-Cabaret

Music theater show. Russian and european cuisine.
37, Moyka emb., St. Petersburg (Dvortsovaya sq.)
+7(812)571-75-91



PALERMO Restaurant

Musical programmes. Live music. Italian cuisine.
50, Fontanka emb., St. Petersburg
+7(812)764-37-64



SUNDUK Art Cafe

Live music and legendary interior. Mixed cuisine.
42, Furshtatskaya str., St. Petersburg
+7(812)272-31-00

RUSSIAN CUISINE

Traditional Russian food is rich and stodgy peasant-fare with a dash of French inspired creamy sauces and other scrumptious flavours. If you are wondering what that green grass stuff is, it's dill (*ukrop*) and it usually finds its way into everything.



BLINY AND SNACKS

Snacks (*zakuski*) are very popular and include all manner of pickled things as well as small open sandwiches (*butterbrod*). Pancakes (*bliny*) are very popular and may come with savoury fillings such as ham (*vetchina*), caviar (*ikra*), cheese (*syr*), mushrooms (*griby*) or sour cream (*smetana*) or with sweet filling such as honey (*myod*) or condensed milk (*sgushchanka*).

SOUPS AND SALADS

Russians are big on **soup** and there are literally hundreds of different kinds. The quintessential Russian soup is of course the beetroot and beef based borsch. *Ukha* a fish soup often made with salmon or trout is another favourite as is the heavy meaty 'hunters' soup *Solyanka*.

Russian **salads** invariably have mayonnaise in them and are a permanent feature on any menu. The classic Russian salad is *Olivye* - boiled potatoes, carrots, peas and eggs, pickled Cucumbers with either cheap spam ham or something luxurious like lobster, sturgeon or crayfish. *Selyodka pod shuboy* which translates as 'herring under a fur coat' is another popular salad consisting of layers of pickled herring, boiled potatoes and beetroot.

MAIN DISHES

Pelmeni - boiled dumplings stuffed with meat and served with sour cream. *Varenki* are the same but stuffed with vegetables or sweet fillings. Uzbek versions (*manty*) are slightly bigger and often steamed, while the Georgian versions (*khinkali*) are huge and eaten with the hands.

Beef stroganoff - a Russian classic, famous across the world. *Kotlety* - little meat patties usually made with minced beef (*govyadina*) or pork (*svinina*). Frikadelki are meatballs and similar in taste but made with rice and meat and usually served with a sauce.

FIDDLER'S GREEN

The term "Fiddler's Green" refers to a sailor's paradise, and indeed this pub has a merry, maritime feel. Bottles of Jameson's, Laphroaig and Jack Daniels sit on the shelves, and signs like "Nobody's perfect except the Captain" and "No Bloody Swearing" decorate the walls. The bar is the center of attention: the bartenders have a lot of space display their craft, mix drinks and talk to customers. Fiddler's Green is unique for its daily updated offering of one dish plus drink pairing of the day. ▶ E-3, Ul. Rubinshteina 5, M Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 325 65 00. Open 14:00 until last guest. €€. ☹ ☹ ☹

MOLLIE'S IRISH PUB

St. Petersburg's first Irish pub, located just off Nevsky on one of the city's best bar and cafe streets, Mollie's offers just what you would want from an Irish pub, if not more: lots of different beers, truly good food and music (although it might be a bit loud for an intimate conversation). The regulars are a well-mixed crowd: Russians, expats and the occasional tourist. The environment is very welcoming; come with a big crowd, as a pair, or just by yourself and you're sure to quickly feel right at home. ▶ E-3, Ul. Rubinshteina 36, M Vladimirovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 570 37 68, www.molly.su. Open 12:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 03:00, Sun 12:00 - 01:00. ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

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 Whittle 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. ▶ 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. €€. ☹ ☹ ☹

SIBIRSKAYA KORONA

The "Siberian Crown" restaurant takes its role of being a Russian pub very seriously. National pride is a big decorating principle here: a little model (complete with lights and trains!) of Russia's regions takes up the bar, and beautiful slideshows of the country flash in map-shaped displays. A generous drinks selection includes a refreshing cheery beer, creative cocktails, homemade spirits and many different Happy Hour-style deals. ▶ E-3, Nevsky pr. 66/29, M Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 966 79 10. Open 12:00 - 06:00. ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

STARGOROD

At this Czech brewery, every order of *pivo* (beer, that is) is accompanied by an hourglass that counts off remaining minutes of freshness. To keep a steady hands and try all four varieties (lager, desyatka, wheat and black) while they're still 'lively', bring a couple of friends and go for the set of 200ml samples. Your stomach also get its fill from the generous meat menu and crunchy bar snacks. ▶ D-3, Kazanskaya ul. 7, M Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 319 00 30, www.stargorod.net. Open 24hrs. €. ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

CAUCASIAN

CHAIKHONA №1

Chaikhona offers an eclectic taste of everything to the East of St. Petersburg. The waiters are very friendly, the food is good and the restaurant is so large that you can sit comfortably wherever and however long you wish. The cuisine is "Pan-Asian," and ranges from Ukrainian borscht to Japanese sushi. Early afternoon orders are 30% off, so hop a few escalators in the Galeria shopping centre to get here in time for lunch. ▶ E-3, Galeria Shopping Centre, Ligovsky pr. 30, M Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 602 02 07, www.chaikhona.ru. Open 10:00 until last guest. €. ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

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. ▶ E-3, Sotsialisticheskaya ul. 10/9, M Zvenigorodskaya, tel. (+7) 952 232 25 43. Open 11:30 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:30 - 01:00. €. ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

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, M Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 571 82 87, www.mamaliga-mamaliga.com. Open 10:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 01:00. €€. ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

EUROPEAN

CO-OP GARAGE

A café-garage in the best spirit of Brooklyn or Berlin, one of the most underground places of the city. Apart from its unusual place, the Co-op Garage has a varied choice of new tasty pizza recipes (like ham and peach). Their small pizzas blend perfectly with their delicious soups, e.g. the baked onion or cream of spinach with peanuts! While waiting for the orders, take the opportunity to sip a drink in the cool of the night in their yard. ▶ D-3, Gorokhovaya ul. 47, M Sadovaya, tel. (+7) 812 325 65 02. Open 16:00 - 24:00, Fri and Sat 12:00 - 02:00. €. ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹



MECHTATELI

Located along the banks of Fontanka river, "Mechtатели" is about to become an unavoidable gastronomic place in St. Petersburg. This modest sized café offers creative dishes with products that are typical of different culinary traditions, and has an extensive coffee menu. The attentive team can make you different sorts of coffee and also provide you with a short course about coffee. Wine amateurs will be happy too: choice of fifty different wine at the best quality/price ratio and the most representative of the entire wine world! ▶ E-2, Nab. reky Fontanky 11, M Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 921 761 31 55, www.thedreamerscafe.ru. Open 08:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 02:00. €€. ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

MOZHNO

Enter this whimsically decorated space and prepare to be transported to a new kind of dining experience. The menu is designed according to the diet principles of French nutritionist, Pierre Dukan. However, non-dieting customers can simply choose dishes at will and, likely, will not be disappointed. Be prepared for innovative preparations of classic protein-heavy foods - lots of fish and fowl, as well as beef tongue and tender leg of lamb - served with whole grain purees, fruits and vegetables. Beautifully arranged and amply sized plates will leave you satisfied and smiling. ▶ E-3, Ul. Marata 16, M Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 926 26 16, www.mozhno-est.ru. Open 12:00 - 23:00. €€. ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

INTERVIEW WITH THE CHEF



Interview with Larisa Kordik, Chef de Cuisine of AZIA restaurant.

Please tell us something about yourself.

I am a chef at the Belmond Grand Hotel Europe's new restaurant, AZIA, which opened this spring. Since 2012 I have been living and working in St Petersburg; three years prior to that I worked in some of Moscow's leading restaurants. The four of my latest restaurants were serving Asian cuisine, and this is no accident – I adore Asia.

Why is Asian cuisine your favourite? First of all, I love travelling, and Asian countries are the most alluring for me. While being there I enjoy the originality and freshness of the place, its people and their infinitely varied cuisine. When I go to China, Vietnam or Singapore, I can't stop eating! I feel a bit like the writer Anthony Bourdain, author of my favourite book "A Cook's Tour: In Search of the Perfect Meal". Participating in the everyday life of local Asian people I start to understand their world-view, which is informed by time-old wisdom and the beauty of the world around us. After I worked in my first Asian restaurant, I realised that I will never come back to European cuisine in my professional career.

As you know, Belmond Grand Hotel Europe is putting on a week of the cuisine of the Chinese immigrants in Peru. It will take place in Azia restaurant from 30th November to 13th December. What sort of dishes will you be serving then? For the first time in St Petersburg we will be presenting Chifa cuisine, which was started by Chinese immigrants when they arrived in Peru in the beginning of 19th century. Chifa fuses Chinese and Peruvian cuisines together and creates surprising tastes and flavours, while capturing the essence of both cuisines. Corporate Chef of Belmond hotels in Peru Hernán Castañeda has been invited to prepare the menu of his native country for these two weeks. The menu will include blue corn tortilla with roasted duck, char sui sauce on tender short ribs, spicy and sour soup made with Peruvian aji peppers and lime, as well as much more.

What is your advice to people who want to become a chef? To become a successful chef, one needs an unwavering love of his profession and the desire to constantly surprise guests. Learning every day is the key to success.

PITA'S

Fancy a break from your busy day? Or want to taste classic street food reinvented? Then Pita's is the place for you. Pita's offers versions of shawarma and falafel with the most inventive marriages of ingredients like mint and cranberry sauce, or cumin and sea buckthorn. Be sure to try their delicious desserts that are also shawarma stuffed with bananas fried in caramel! Also at Nevsky pr. 65 and in Galeria Shopping Mall. ▶ D-3, Gorokhovaya ul. 32, [M] Sennaya pl., tel. (+7) 911 822 12 28. Open 11:00 - 23:00. €€. [P] [CC] [P] [W]

SUNDUK

Sunduk is a restaurant with a style of its own. Tightly packed into two small chambers, the restaurant is crowded with memorabilia of the weird, the wacky and the wonderful. The bizarre collection creates a quirky and lively atmosphere. Live music aids digestion while this smoothly running restaurant is overseen by the resident cat who ensures everything is in order. This quaint restaurant offers a great atmosphere and stands out as being something different on the St. Petersburg scene. A dinner at Sunduk can turn into an entire evening of good company, and good music. ▶ E-2, Furshtatskaya ul. 42, [M] Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 272 31 00, www.cafesunduk.ru. Open 10:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 24:00. €€. [P] [CC] [P] [W]

FINE DINING

ASTORIA CAFÉ

Breathe history while dining at the newly renovated, freshly decorated Astoria Café. The hotel in which this restaurant is located has seen over a century of history. This history can be felt inside, and not just through the old pictures of dancers of the famous Mariinsky theatre. The modern interior and cuisine, with a mix of trendy recipes and traditional Russian dishes, makes for a perfect relaxed lunch or dinner after roaming the city. We recommend their signature dishes, especially their 'Pavlova' dessert, which is named after the famous ballerina. It is made from meringue, and is so light that it can be enjoyed after any amount of food. ▶ D-3, Hotel Astoria, Bol. Morskaya ul. 39, [M] Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 494 58 15, www.thehotelastoria.com. Open 07:00 - 24:00. €€€. [P] [CC] [P] [W]

AZIA

The AZIA is located in the 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 (or perhaps because of) its geographical reach is organised not by where the dish is from, but rather how it is prepared. Specialties include Singapore-style crab with chilli peppers, Tandoor-chicken with carrot and ginger, and steamed rolls stuffed with lobster and five spices. ▶ D-3, Belmond Grand Hotel Europe, Mikhailovskaya ul. 1/7, [M] Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 329 60 00, www.grandhoteleurope.com. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Thu - Sat 12:00 - 01:00. €€€€. [P] [CC] [P] [W]

CAVIAR BAR AND RESTAURANT

Cool marble envelops the intimate dining space atop the first tier of the Grand Hotel Europe's elegant staircase, but the impeccable service is as warm as the flickering candles. The Caviar Bar and Restaurant subtly and unquestioningly proves that the culinary arts also have a home in Russia. Not surprisingly, caviar makes many appearances on the menu, but never one that is out of place. You can try the Kamchatka crab in champagne sauce, or the delicious Beef Stroganoff, but only after touring your way around the heavenly hors d'oeuvres, while sampling the vodka recommended by the city's only vodka sommelier. ▶ D-3, Belmond Grand Hotel Europe, Mikhailovskaya ul. 1/7, [M] Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 329 66 22, www.caviar-bar.com. Open Wed - Sat 12:00 - 23:00, Sun 17:00 - 23:00. €€€€. [P] [CC] [P] [W]

PALKIN

Palkin is as historic as they come, dating all the way back to 1874. 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] Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 703 53 71, www.palkin.ru. Open 12:00 - 23:00. €€€€. [P] [CC] [P] [W]

INTERNATIONAL

GASTRONOMIKA

Only reachable via lift, you will be surprised to find such a vibrant place on the sixth floor of the Olympic Plaza shopping centre. With views over the romantic rooftops of St. Petersburg and the ever-impressive Nevsky prospekt, 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, creating original combinations of salads, fish, meat dishes or pizza. Among the most innovative of these 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. The pigeons are reared naturally in a special farm and are of the highest quality. ▶ E-3, Stremyannaya ul. 21/5A, [M] Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 640 16 16, www.ginza.ru. Open 11:00 - 23:00, Wed - Sat 11:00 - 01:00. €€. [P] [CC] [P] [W]

*Sukhoe - Dry
Polusladkoe - Semi-sweet
Sladkoe - Sweet*



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PELODAMA / ADVERTISEMENT

VEGETARIAN

Vegetarianism appeared in Russia in the 14th century through the followers of the Lenten mode of life. In the beginning of the 20th century St. Petersburg had a blooming vegetarian culture. However, the revolution of 1917 stopped all that as it was considered to be a reflection of bourgeois ideology. Nowadays it's again slowly becoming popular. While your friends may think that eating only potatoes and mushrooms for a couple of weeks will do, for a pleasant meat free stay in St. Petersburg you need more nutrition.

FRIDA

The cultures of many different countries come together in this café, named in honour of the famous Mexican artist. The influence of India is felt in the hookah selection, the burritos and Frida Kahlo's paintings that adorn the walls provide a Mexican hue, and European comfiness is achieved through the Beatles music that lightens the atmosphere. ▶ E-2, Ul. Chaikovskogo 57, [M] Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 272 68 16, www.chainydom.ru/cafe/frida. Open 11:00 until last guest. €.

KASHMIR

Don't come here expecting your classical Indian cuisine. It's far too hippy for that. They do esoteric Indian vegetarian fare, complete with fresh fruit garnish though dill also seems to be considered a staple here, as does a cucumber and tomato array that is often quite out of place. They've got samosas and dahl, raita, soy steaks and a lot of dishes we can't pronounce. ▶ E-3, Bol. Moskovskaya ul. 7, [M] Vladimirskaia, tel. (+7) 812 575 63 69, www.chainydom.ru/cafe/kashmir. Open 11:00 until last guest. €.

UKROP



This quaint vegetarian cafe is a nice place to relax and grab a healthy meal that won't break the bank. On the first floor there is a counter where you can order already prepared food for a quick bite and

on the second floor is a full-service restaurant. Its interior with books on the windowsills and green plants create a refreshing atmosphere that makes relaxed. The friendly waiters bring complimentary mint water to each guest and explain the menu, which includes vegan and raw food options. And, for those of you who are artistically inclined, feel free to draw with the colored pencils that sit on each table! Also at Mal. Konyushennaya ul. 14, ul. Vosstaniya 47 and 7-ya liniya 30. ▶ E-3, Ul. Marata 23, [M] Vladimirskaia, tel. (+7) 812 946 30 36, www.cafe-ukrop.ru. Open 09:00 - 23:00. €.

KORYUSHKA

Koryushka is a Georgian restaurant on Zayachy Island located in the oldest part of the city - the Peter and Paul Fortress, also a main tourist hotspot. 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 staff are helpful, and although the menu highlights fish dishes, there are also *shashlik* and salads available, as well as a decent range of drinks. It's the perfect spot to sit and enjoy the view after visiting this historic area of the city. ▶ D-2, Peter and Paul Fortress 3, [M] Gorkovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 917 90 10, www.ginzaproject.ru. Open 12:00 until last guest. €€.

MARKETPLACE

This democratic self-service chain on the main street of the city has a view overlooking Kazan Cathedral. The menu features dishes created in various corners of the world, which is prepared before your eyes and using only the freshest ingredients. The owner's idea was create a place that would resemble a market where one could find anything from Asian specialties to Russian classics, from Olivye salad to French dishes. This location is spread out over three floors and yet it is almost always busy. This restaurant format is quite popular in Europe: affordable prices, quick preparation, fresh ingredients, and an open kitchen. It is now becoming popular in Russian too it seems, as there are now nine Marketplace locations throughout the city. Central locations are: Ligovsky pr. 30A (Galeria shopping centre), 7-ya liniya 34/2, Moskovsky pr. 21 and new one on Nevsky pr. 92. ▶ D-3, Nevsky pr. 24, [M] Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 981 854 48 33, www.market-place.me. Open 08:30 - 06:00. €.

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. Another member of the Ginza Project family, the kitchen 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) 812 937 64 97, www.moskvavpitere.ru. Open 10:00 - 01:00. €€.

TERRASSA

Terrassa features an open kitchen, stylish interior and wonderful views from the sixth floor that almost make you feel like you're in the sky. The menu is almost shockingly gargantuan: each turn of the page is like discovering a new restaurant. A short list of the cuisines on

offer include Georgian, Russian, Thai, pan-Asian, sushi, pastas, pizzas, salads, seafood, and soups: you name it and they seemingly have it on the menu. The resident DJs make this restaurant almost feel like a club, but the music is not overpowering. ▶ D-3, Kazanskaya ul. 3, [M] Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 937 68 37, www.terrassa.ru. Open 11:00 - 01:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 01:00. €€€.

ITALIAN

JAMIE'S ITALIAN

Admirers of the legendary chef Jamie Oliver should except 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, [M] Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 600 25 70, www.jamieoliver.com/italian/russia/st-petersburg. Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€.

MARCELLIS

Marcellis is a chain of welcoming Italian restaurants with a simple style that reflects the usual images of Italy - jars of condiments and olives here, an Italian meat and cheese case there - although it's the tables full of noisy dinners that really make the atmosphere authentic. The pared-down menu tends towards pastas and risottos in marathon-runner-sized portions. The dishes pop with garlic and the delicious sauces are infused to the bursting point with tomato, chili and basil. Featuring an open kitchen, Marcellis offers diners yet another great opportunity to eat quality Italian food in the heart of the centre. Also at Nevsky pr. 21 (metro Nevsky pr.), ul. Vosstaniya 15 (metro Pl. Vosstaniya), Alexandrovsky park 4/3 (metro Gorkovskaya) and Moskovsky pr. 205 (metro Moskovskaya). ▶ D-3, Nevsky 43, [M] Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 984 41 44, www.marcellis.ru. Open 24hrs. €€.

PALERMO

Palermo is a cosy restaurant a stone's throw from Nevsky pr. and ul. Rubinshteyna. The restaurant is decorated in Italian style with frescoes giving you views of Italian beaches below. The muted, pale blue lighting is reminiscent of dusk. The soundtrack of classic movies plays softly in the background, putting you instantly into a relaxed frame of mind. In keeping with the Italian décor, Palermo offers a Mediterranean menu with healthy salads, plenty of olives and lean meat. Business lunch 12:00 - 16:00, 230Rbl. ▶ E-3, Nab. reky Fontanky 50, [M] Dostoevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 764 37 64, www.palermo-spb.ru. Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€.



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Bolshaya
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Nevsky prospekt

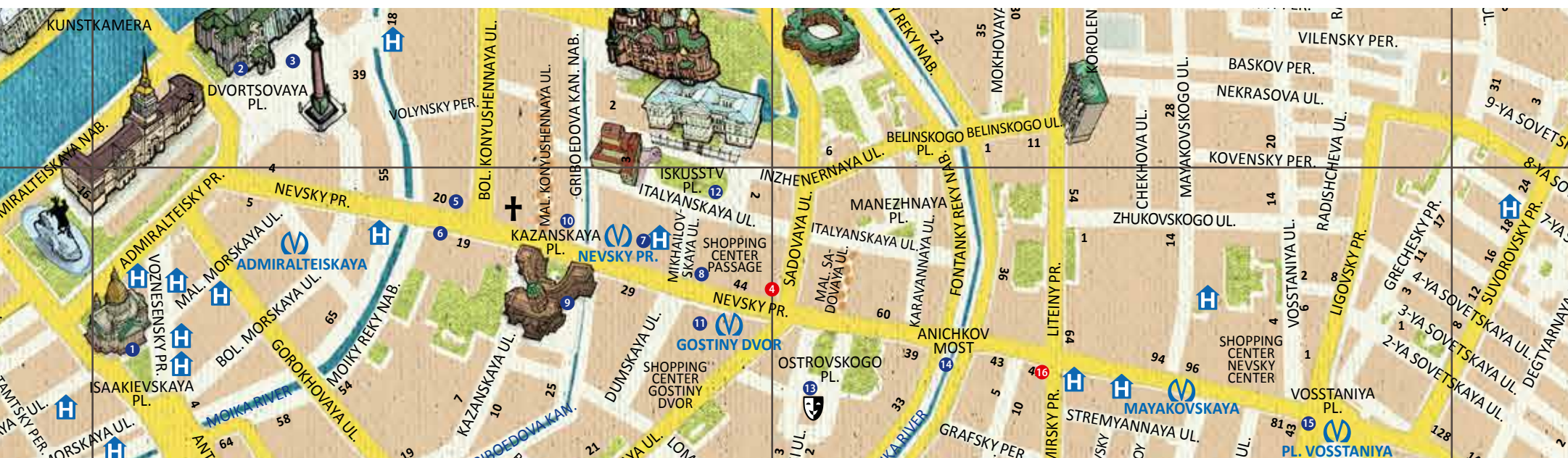
St. Petersburg's central street and runs for 4.5 kilometres. It is full of historic buildings and monuments and is a centre for the cultural life of the city. Initially established in the 1710s under Peter the Great it was known as the Road to Nevsky Monastery. Going through several name changes it finally became Nevsky prospekt in 1781. The Soviets were unable to refrain from renaming it and named it after the Proletkult artistic organisation before changing it to Prospekt of the 25th of October in honour of the 1917 revolution. The street came under artillery attack during the Blockade of Leningrad and you can still see damage on some of the buildings, plaques and the occasional bouquet. The avenue is used for most significant celebrations.

3 Palace Square: A large square in front of the Hermitage. It is the site of numerous historical events including Bloody Sunday in 1905 and the 1917 revolution. The central feature of the square is Alexander's Column, which is 47.5 metres high and weighs 500 tonnes. It was installed in 1830-1834.

THE BASEMENT

4 PEKRAMA / ADVERTISEMENT

Find our review on page 39



1 St. Isaacs Cathedral: Built from 1818 to 1858 and cost more than the purchase price of Alaska. The cathedral's dome is 101 metres high. During the Soviet period the cathedral was turned into the Museum of the History of Religion and Atheism and Foucault's Pendulum was hung as evidence that the Earth rotates around the Sun and therefore that God could not exist. You can visit both the cathedral and the columns (a separate ticket) which give you wonderful views of the city.

2 Hermitage: The Hermitage was the Winter Palace of the Russian tsars and is now one of Russia's leading museums. Its collection includes works from pretty much all of the leading western European painters, including a fine 19th and 20th century French collection. The Winter Palace as we see it today was largely constructed under Catherine the Great in the mid to late 18th century. The building was stormed by the Bolsheviks during the November Revolution of 1917.

5 Dutch Reformed Church: The church was constructed in 1834-1839 and is evidence of the long standing connection between the Netherlands and Russia. Shut down in 1926, it now houses a number of cultural organisations.

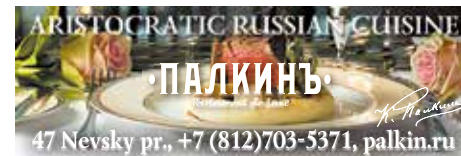
6 Stroganov Palace: built in the late baroque style in 1753-1754, the interiors were remodelled in the 19th century. The Soviets turned it into a museum of aristocratic life. It is still used as a museum.



7 St. Catherine's Basilica: This is the oldest Catholic church in Russia. The church was completed in 1783 with a dome that is 42 metres high. It was run by various monastic orders over its history. It was closed and ransacked in 1938. The church returned to active service in 2003.

8 Armenian Church: This church was financed by the wealthy Armenian businessman Ioachim Lazarev. This small, elegant church was built in 1771-1776. In 1930 the church was closed and the original interiors and iconostasis lost. During World War II it was used as the headquarters for anti-aircraft defence. It was returned to the Church in 1990.

9 Kazan Cathedral: Modelled on St Paul's Cathedral in Rome the Kazan Cathedral was built in 1801-11. The dome is 80 metres high and the colonnade facing Nevsky prospect has 96 columns. The two statues outside depict heroes of the War of 1812 Barclay de Tolly and Mikhail Kutuzov.



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Find our review on page 31

13 Alexandrinsky Theatre: The neo-classical theatre was opened in 1832 and is one of the best theatres in the country. It offers a range of classical and contemporary performances. In front of the theatre is a statue of Catherine the Great which was installed in 1873.

10 Dom knigi (Book house): One of St. Petersburg's best bookshops. The building was designed for the Russian branch of the Singer Sewing Machine Company. The art nouveau building was constructed in 1902-1904.



11 Gostiny dvor: One of the oldest shopping malls in the world, gostiny dvor is worth a visit. Full of boutique shops, it has been reconstructed several times since the original building in the 18th century but still retains its neo-classical appearance.

12 Arts square: is a monument to pre-Soviet centralisation. The square gives you access to The Russian Museum, the Ethnographic Museum, the Maly Opera and Ballet Theatre, the Large Concert Hall of the St. Petersburg Philharmonic.

14 Anichkov Bridge: Famous for its four horses, it was built in 1841-42, with the statues added in 1849-50. In 1941 when the bridge sustained heavy bombardment, the horses were buried in the garden of Anichkov Palace.



15 Ploshchad Vostaniya (Uprising Square): was originally named after a nearby church which was pulled down and replaced with the Oktyabrskaya Hotel. The square's new name celebrates the revolution. In 1985 an obelisk was placed in the centre of the square to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II. The square is a vital transport hub with the Moscow Railway Station, a metro station and a bus station all adjoining it.



NEW YEAR PARTIES IN HOTELS

In Russia there's a famous saying: "As you meet the New Year, so will you spend it". Therefore it's incredibly important to greet it right and St. Petersburg's finest hotels have you covered.

ASTORIA HOTEL



Winter holidays are one big fairytale. Escape reality for one night and travel to a faraway magical land at Astoria's New Year event called "Astoria in Wonderland". This unforgettable celebration will take place in the elegant historical interior of the "Winter Garden" and the hotel's grand Ball Room. Dancing, classical New Year's melodies, jazzy saxophone sounds, modern beat-boxing and, of course, a performance by the extremely talented Yulia Kogan will make this a night to remember. A Russian and European buffet carefully crafted by Astoria's head chef David Ayrault will truly spoil your taste buds on this night of celebration.

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

ANGLETERRE HOTEL

Hotel Angleterre invites you to "Midnight in the Venice of the North", an Italian-themed New Year party at Borsalino restaurant. So what's included? First off, a mouth-watering Italian homemade style menu finished off with an array of delectable desserts. Secondly, Italian dancing and singing, jazzy saxophone sounds, modern beat-boxing, gifts and a discotheque until the wee morning hours. The most unforgettable part? An enchanting view over St. Isaac's Cathedral as you raise your glass for a toast when the clock strikes 12!

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



BELMOND GRAND HOTEL EUROPE

If you want to celebrate New Year right, do it with someone who has 140 years' worth of experience in this! This year, Grand Hotel Europe will have the pleasure of taking its guests into the New Year for the 141st time with an abundance of entertainment programs and a feast worthy of the Tsars! Grand Hotel's "Europa" restaurant will host a spectacular show called "New Year Journey in St. Petersburg" accompanied by a sumptuous five-course meal. A fun and artistic voyage through the pages of Russian history in an ironic burlesque style also with a five-course meal will take place in the "Caviar Bar". If you'd like something more low-key, go for the festive dinner at the "Azia" restaurant to savor Asian tastes and get entranced by mystical ritual dances. Holiday brunches and kids' days will also be taking place in December and January.

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



CORINTHIA HOTEL ST. PETERSBURG

A tastier start to the New Year than that at Corinthia Hotel is yet to be found: your welcome champagne comes with a sea urchin & Oyster served with raspberry and lemon. This is then followed by a selection of Russian and Sicilian fish, Sicilian "Parmigiana" with Russian cottage cheese and Mediterranean sautéed mussels with a pumpkin soufflé. Choose between lamb and beef fillet with garden of stir-fried vegetables with pumpkin mash and mint sauce OR sturgeon, salmon, prawn, scallops, cod fish in lemon grass with vegetables and pumpkin puree dipped in salmon caviar sauce for your main course. Let's not forget about dessert: dark and white chocolate mousse with a light raspberry sauce. Coffee, tea and petit fours. All this for 8,500 per person!

► E-3, Nevsky pr. 57, Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 380 20 01, www.corinthia.com.



KEMPINSKI HOTEL MOIKA 22

Kempinski Hotel Moika 22 has prepared a special New Year's Celebration so you can greet 2016 in style without leaving your room! A Christmas tree in the room, a tea ceremony in the elegant Tea Room, a two-way transfer, luxurious breakfasts in the Beau Rivage restaurant, fruits, homemade chocolate and champagne in the room upon arrival and much more awaits guests. Special menus will be available at the Bellevue Brasserie restaurant and the Von Witte Bar as part of a festive New Year's Eve, Catholic Christmas (24 and 25 December) and Russian Christmas (7 January) banquet. In addition, from



1st December 2015 until 7th January 2016, Kempinski Hotel Moika 22 will host its own Christmas market in the hotel lobby (open daily from 9:00am until 8:00pm) and organize daily traditional Christmas concerts throughout December.

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

NOVOTEL ST. PETERSBURG CENTRE

Tis' the season to be truly jolly at Novotel! The celebration starts at 21:00 with a welcome drink, delightful canapés and entertainment in the lobby. By 22:00 the big festive buffet, carefully prepared by Novotel's head chef, will be ready to offer guests an assortment of mouthwatering appetizers, a meat carving station serving right-from-the-oven meat and main courses (dishes from around the world as well as Russian festive specialties). Make sure to save some room for a visit to the luxurious dessert table afterwards. Drink the night away with a full open bar and enjoy the start of 2016 to the fullest with magicians, Father Frost, contests, a live DJ set and many more surprises!

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

NEW YEAR IN STRELNA



31.12 THURSDAY

19:00 NEW YEAR

IN KONSTANTINOVSKY PALACE

If you are looking for something to do this New Year that is a bit out of the ordinary, look no further than the New Year's Celebration at Konstantinovsky Palace for thrills and excitement galore. The palace will be turned in to a Hans Christian Andersen fairy-tale, with elaborate decorations adorning the palace, including ice crystals, snow storms and more. All ticket holders will be able to stay at the five star "Baltic Star" hotel, and a lucky eight will have the chance to stay a night in a luxury cottage. Added to that, special bonuses include a delicious brunch and a trip to the spa on New Year's Day. An ideal way to spend New Year, with guaranteed fun for all the family! ► Strelna, Konstantinovsky Palace, Berezhovaya al.3, tel. (+7) 812 438 57 15, www.konstantinpalace.ru. Tickets New Year Konstantinovsky Palace 29,000Rbl, Baltic Star hotel 19,000Rbl.



The nightlife in St. Petersburg is brilliant. You can eat, drink and dance around the clock. The city has dimly lit jazz halls, groovy strip-clubs and a vibrant underground music scene.

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, M Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 923 89 40, www.borodabar.ru. Open 17:00 until last guest.

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, M Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 312 57 54. Open 14:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 14:00 - 06:00, Sun 14:00 - 02:00.

*Dva Mohito pozhalusta! –
Two Mojitos please!*

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, M Sennaya, tel. (+7) 812 314 53 71, www.40gradusov.ru. Open 11:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 04:00.

BARS AND PUBS

BIRZHA BAR

Birzha Bar is located on Vasilevsky Island, which was originally intended to be St. Petersburg's centre. Today the island is one of St. Petersburg's most attractive areas, and the Birzha Bar is located on the spit of the island in the old St. Petersburg Stock Exchange. The bar holds wild dance nights on Friday and Saturday with live DJs and attract Russian and foreign musicians to jazz up your night. ▶ C-2, Birzhevoy per. 4, M Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 925 88 06, www.birjabar.ru. Open 12:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 06:00. €

CHRONIKI

Chroniki (Chronicles) bar on ulitsa Nekrasova attempts to merge the drinking cultures of a modern Scandinavian bar and a classic Leningrad *ryumochnaya* (the traditional Soviet-era watering hole). The stylish interior is very modern yet cosy, simple yet edgy, with white-tiled walls, brass windowsills, gilded antique Soviet chandeliers. The bar gives you a great view of the classic St. Petersburg architecture on Ul. Nekrasova. The preferred order at Chroniki is, as per tradition at a Leningrad *ryumochnaya*, hard alcohol. The numerous types of vodka include Russian, Finnish, Swedish and Danish variations. ▶ E-2, Ul. Nekrasova 26, M Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 911 275 31 61. Open 18:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 18:00 - 04:00.

DEAD POETS

This is a European style whiskey bar for those who want a more relaxed atmosphere. Dead Poets markets itself at the discerning connoisseur who would rather spend the evening sipping whiskey or wine and playing chess or backgammon than running riot in a bar. The choice of whiskey is impressive and accompanied by a delicious range of snacks. The bar plays soft background music and has an art nouveau interior. ▶ E-3, Ul. Zhukovskogo 12, M Mayakovskogo, tel. (+7) 812 449 46 56, www.dpoets.ru. Open 11:00 - 01:00, Fri - Sun 11:00 - 03:00. €

HELSINKI BAR

This place is like a nostalgia trip to your familial home of the late 70s. Well, that's the case if you are Finnish and your parents spun vinyl while slugging horseradish home-brew liquor. At the same time there are classic Russian dishes in menu such as *kotleti*, but with reindeer meat and the cod is delicately prepared with sublime wild rice. We recommend coming with friends and getting a smattering of the well-priced and gracefully presented starters to share over above-rate lager and the aforementioned in-house flavoured vodka. ▶ C-2, Kadetskaya Liniya 31, M Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 995 19 95, www.helsinki.ru. Open 12:00 - 02:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 until last guest.

LIVERPOOL

If Beatles covers are your thing, you'll enjoy Liverpool - a pub with local bands playing British retro pop. Liverpool serves great food in large portions, has screens for sport events and quite a few beers on offer. Located just a short walk from Nevsky Prospekt it serves as a good place to relax, play pool and have beers with friends, while humming or singing along with your favorite songs. ▶ E-3, Ul. Mayakovskogo 16, M Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 579 20 54, www.liverpool.ru. Open 12:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 03:00. €

PIROGI

This bustling cafe-bar is one part bookshop, one part student hangout leaving the rest of the ample space for those people in the city who liked a relaxed atmosphere and fairly priced beer. The cute chequered tablecloths give Pirogi (meaning pies) its laid back cafe vibe, while the indie music and late open hours keep it in the bar bracket too. Nothing rowdy ever kicks off here, this is more the place for long chats over budget beer and pies and games of Jenga stretching off into the early hours. ▶ D-3, Nab. reky Fontanky 40, M Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 275 35 58, www.piterogi.ru. Open 24hrs.

TERMINAL BAR

Behind a long smooth bar stretching almost the whole length of the place, the wall reveals shelves groaning under the weight of just about any spirit you might fancy. Fortunately without the reputation of the infamous New York City Terminal bar appearing in Martin Scorsese's 'Taxi Driver', the space is popular with the trendy folk of the city spread across the bar stools peppered across the room. There is

even a piano here for those who feel like entertaining. The bar staff will be sure to whip you up a cocktail, a simple glass of wine or a beer on tap, and excellent sandwiches are on offer if you get peckish. ▶ E-2, Ul. Belinskogo 11, M Mayakovskaya. Open 14:00 until last guest. €

WARSZAWA BAR

Despite its Polish name this small cozy bar is if anything more related to Prague and even this conclusion is solely based on the nationality of the offered beers. The topographic name doesn't refer to anything Warsawian in particular but rather alludes to the relaxed ambience of East European brasseries. During the day the place functions as a café with a small selection of snacks and by nights turns into a laid-back bar. The interior is minimalist but so are the prices: treat yourself to some throat-burning Ukrainian pepper vodka, bittersweet Czech liquor or Polish traditional Zubrowka for a handful of Roubles. ▶ D-3, Kazanskaya ul. 11, M Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 314 53 71. Open 10:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 04:00.

CLUBS

BARREL

This slick black and neon looking place has got a bit of an attitude to it - one that says dress rich and spend money. Their cocktails are good compared to the sad orange juice and vodka ('the screwdriver') that you may get served in the average bar, although they take a long time to arrive. There's also an elaborate menu done up like a glossy magazine offering a bit of everything, but primarily this is a place to sit in your fox fur stole with a martini and look down at the fellow wannabe VIPs in attendance - until it's pole dancing time, of course. Free karaoke on Wednesday nights and frequent guest DJs at the weekend. ▶ D-3, Kazanskaya ul. 5, M Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 929 82 98, www.project-barrel.ru. Open 12:00 until last guest, Fri 12:00 - 06:00, Sat, Sun 15:00 - 06:00.

NEW PLACE IN TOWN

THE BASEMENT

Fancy a night out on the town that will also prove to be both cerebrally stimulating and mentally enriching? Are you looking for somewhere where you can simultaneously imbibe alcohol and learning? If so, you are in luck. The Basement, which opened at the end of October, is a bar, cafe and lecture hall all rolled into one. The multipurpose venue offers food throughout the day including sandwiches, European and Eastern dishes, and serves a wide range of cocktails during the evening (both classics and original mixes) along with wine, beer and cider. So if the combination of inebriation and education sounds appealing to you, head down to The Basement. ▶ E-3, Sadovaya 13-15, M Nevsky pr., (+7) 812 903 64 10, www.vk.com/thebasement. Open until the last guest.

NIGHTLIFE - KEEPING SAFE



A night out in St. Petersburg is an experience not to be missed. However, to keep it fun and safe, there are a few things to keep in mind. Always keep an eye on your jacket, your wallet and any documents you have with you – getting a new passport really ruins a holiday, especially if you've lost your wallet as well. Go out with friends, it's more fun and means you can look after each other, and makes you a harder target. Take registered taxis and don't just jump into any car. And although it might seem like a great way to finish the night, be careful whom you bring home – there are cases of people waking up at home without their wallet, laptop and that cute girl/guy they met last night. Have a great night out but keep your wits about you.

DACHA

This place gets *really* crowded during the weekend but then it also tends to be more fun. The later the hour the crazier the atmosphere with people dancing up a huge sweat in this tiny pocket of a place. Don't dress too fancy if you're coming here for the night, you're likely to get beer spilt on you and the place is smokier than a Cuban warehouse. Despite the mess the friendly and energetic atmosphere of Dacha is addictive. During the day they have a few tables outside and the same quality taste in music which is complimented by sandwiches, homemade lemonade and free wifi. ▶ D-3, Dumskaya ul. 9, [M] Nevsky pr. Open 18:00 - 06:00. [CC] [F] [W]

GRIBOEDOV

This literally 'underground' club is located in a bomb shelter and is definitely worth a look. The vodka is cheap, the crowd cool and the atmosphere intimate but laid-back. Griboedov has a good habit of booking alternative bands and a diverse range of DJs like during Happy on Mondays new electronic music nights. The cafe Griboedov Hill is upstairs and has regular parties on Saturdays (Sketch Show - hip-hop, break beat roots and reggae) and Mondays (jazz concerts and jazz-hop/deep funk DJs). Come hungry and early, as the tables fill up quickly at the weekend and the food is excellent, especially for the price. ▶ E-4, Voronezhskaya ul. 2a, [M] Ligovsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 973 72 73, www.griboedovclub.ru. Open 12:00 - 06:00, Sat, Sun 14:00 - 06:00. [CC] [F] [W]

ZAZHIGALKA

Descending to the basement, we find ourselves in a dark, intimate room. The black walls, and the red decorations and lighting complete the scene. Seated on the red velvet sofa, you can smoke the hookah which is prepared by a special hookah master. In the centre of the room there is of course a pole, where enchanting girls show off their skills in exotic dance. There are also VIP rooms and a private cabin. ▶ E-3, Shcherbakov per. 17A, [M] Dostoevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 572 17 22, www.russtriptease.ru. [CC] [F] [W]

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 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 18:00 - 04:00. [CC] [F] [W]

CUBA LIBRE

Upon entering this bar, it's immediately obvious that the theme goes well beyond just the name. The bar is adorned with Cuban flags, and the remarkable jumble of spirits behind the bar includes many delicious varieties of rum. More than sufficient seating makes Cuba Libre a good choice for an unplanned bite to eat. The classic burgers and platters to share will go down a treat, but it's really at night when the place comes alive. The heaps of fresh fruit behind the bar promise a refreshing cocktail, and indeed the menu is so long you might not let yourself leave until you've sampled a good few. ▶ E-3, Sadovaya ul. 7-9-11, [M] Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 983 55 26, www.barcubalibre.ru. Open 24hrs. €€. [CC] [F] [W]

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, Fri, Sat 16:00 - 06:00. [CC] [F] [W]

ZING BAR

Cocktails, Russia's beautiful artistic youth and a wicked soundtrack 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. [CC] [F] [W]

JAZZ AND BLUES

JFC JAZZ CLUB

It's hard to believe that this intimate, little club can hold more than 100 people. It has a stage, a handful of tables and standing space around the bar, for the people who forget to book a table. It's popular with the city's artsy scene and with people who know their jazz. It has original performances by top-notch musicians playing just about anything from experimental jazz, to acid jazz to blues. ▶ E-2, Shpalernaya ul. 33, [M] Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 272 98 50, www.jfc-club.spb.ru. Open 19:00 - 23:00. [CC] [F] [W]

JIMI HENDRIX BLUES CLUB

Russian blues stars play songs with their soul and other instruments on a small stage in this intimate cellar. Here it feels as though Jimmy Hendrix is still alive - if he is, he's probably a frequent visitor! The kitchen serves excellent Russian and Georgian food. If you wonder why it takes so long before you get your order: it's all made fresh. We recommend booking a table in advance, the joint is always packed. ▶ E-2, Liteiny pr. 33, [M] Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 579 88 13, www.hendrix-club.ru. Open 11:00 - 24:00. [CC] [F] [W]

To read about even more clubs and bars in St. Petersburg check out our website st-petersburg.inyourpocket.com

THE HAT BAR

If you add whiskey and jazz together you get The Hat. The Hat boasts 30 different types of whiskey and nine different types of bourbon. However, if you aren't a huge whiskey fan, the expert barmen can create any drink or cocktail you desire. The bar is designed to look like an old-time American bar that you would see in classic Hollywood road movies. There is live music everyday and when the live music stops, jazz plays continuously in the background. So, if you are looking for good drinks, good music and good company, The Hat is the place to be! ▶ E-2, Ul. Belinskogo 9, [M] Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 328 33 02. Open 19:00 - 03:00. [CC] [F] [W]

48 CHAIRS

Recreating the sizzling atmosphere of the jazz filled 1930s this restaurant is both a place to enjoy a decent good quality meal and also to hear some jazz. In fact it's the jazz that takes centre stage here with everyone from the guests to the waiters putting on their dancing shoes in the later hours. Choose from a quiet booth in the second room or do as we did and don one of the glamorous Chicago style hats helpfully provided by the flirty staff, get them to paint a moustache on for you and pretend your Bugsy Malone. ▶ E-3, ul. Rubinshteina 5, [M] Dostoevskaya, (+7) 812 315 77 75, www.48chairs.com. Open 12:00 - 02:00.

ZAZHIGALKA Men's club

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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, M Pl. Aleksandra Nevskogo, tel. (+7) 812 274 17 02, www.lavra.spb.ru. Open daily 06:00 - 20:00. Admission free.**



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

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, M Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 315 16 36, www.cathedral.ru. Open 10:30 - 17:30. Closed Wed. Admission 50 - 250Rbl.**

Petersburg Card

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 09:00 - 20:00 Daily services 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. Pe-

ter'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 50 - 250Rbl.**

PETER AND PAUL FORTRESS

The Fortress is the cradle of the city and St. Petersburg's first settlement. Now a tourist complex, it houses the famous Cathedral of the Saint Apostles Peter and Paul, along with numerous museums, galleries and spectacular river-side views. The proudest offerings are the large Commandant's House museum which examines the history of the city and the smaller, modern and fun museum at the Neva Curtain Wall which focuses on the history of the Fortress itself. However, the more unusual Engineer's House and Museum of Space Exploration are really very quirky and good. The Mint displays coin collections and the Printing Workshop contains printing and ceramic relics. Visit the Neva Curtain Wall archway for the best view, and brave a dip in the bracing waters... at your own risk.

► **D-2, Petropavlovskaya krepost 3, M Gorkovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 230 64 31, www.spbmuseum.ru. The fortress is open 09:00 - 21:00. All details about museums and cathedral open hours on the website. Entrance to fortress is free. Entrance to cathedral and museums 30-330Rbl. 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 - 18:00. Closed Wed. Colonnade open daily 10:30 - 18:00. Closed third Wed of the month since November 1. Evening Colonnade until October 31 18:00 - 22:30. Tickets for the Cathedral and the Colonnade are sold separately. Admission in the daytime (10:30 - 18:00) Cathedral 50 - 250Rbl, Colonnade 150Rbl. Admission in the evening time (18:00 - 22:00) Cathedral 400Rbl, Colonnade 300Rbl. Audioguide 100Rbl. Petersburg Card**

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, Michaelangelo 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 Gauguin, 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. There is also a number of cafes and shops on the ground floor just to the right of the main staircase after the entrance to the museum.

► **D-2, Dvortsovaya nab. 34 (entrance from Dvortsovaya pl.), M Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 710 90 79, www.hermitagemuseum.org. Open 10:30 - 18:00, Wed and Fri 10:30 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission 400 - 600Rbl. Audioguide 350Rbl. You can buy tickets at the ticket offices inside the museum and via special terminals at the entrance to the Great Court-yard. Excursion bureau (+7) 812 571 84 46.**

CITY CARD

Petersburg Card Get the most out of your trip to St. Petersburg with the 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 40 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 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.

SAINTS OF ST. PETERSBURG

Russian orthodoxy has always been closely associated with pilgrimages and the worshiping of icons and holy relics. Across Russia there are hundreds of sites where the faithful come hoping for miracles and religious solitude. St. Petersburg of course is also no stranger to the phenomenon and hosts its own number of pilgrimage sites dedicated to locally interred saints.

ALEXANDER NEVSKY



Alexander Nevsky, Russia's great medieval hero who has lent his name to St. Petersburg's main thoroughfare, as well as a brand of local beer, was canonised in 1547, almost 300 years after he died. His greatest claim to fame was in

defeating the invading Catholic German and Swedish armies and making peace with the Golden Horde and thus bringing prosperity to ancient Rus. Nevsky died in 1263 and in 1380 (in response to a vision on the eve of a great battle) his grave was dug up and his remains were found completely intact and incorrupted inside. His relics then became highly venerated and when Peter the Great built the first monastery in St. Petersburg, he had Nevsky's holy remains moved there. To this day Nevsky's remains lie in the Alexander Nevsky cemetery alongside a massive 95 other saints and martyrs. St. Alexander Nevsky's feast days are celebrated on August 30 and November 23. ► **Alexander Nevsky Cemetery, Pl. Alexandra Nevskogo, M Pl. Alexandra Nevskogo**

ST. KSENIA

Deep inside the Smolensky cemetery on Vasilevsky ostrov you will find a tiny green church built over the grave of the city's most revered Saint Ksenia. Widowed at the age of 27, Ksenia gave up all worldly possessions to spend her life in prayer as a pauper. She was believed to be clairvoyant and soon became famous in the city for her predictions and miraculous and selfless actions. When she died in 1803 and was buried in the Smolensky cemetery, every year her grave had to be replaced as pilgrims would come and take the earth away from it, believing it to have healing properties. Eventually the locals decided to build a small church over the grave for her and ever since the faithful have come here in the thousands seeking Ksenia's help. Be warned the church is very small and popular so it can be a bit of an ordeal for those who suffer from claustrophobia. St. Ksenia's feast day is February 06. ► **Church of St. Ksenia, B-2, Smolensky cemetery, M Primorskaya.**

CHURCHES

St. Petersburg is home to many different churches and monasteries, all with beautiful architecture. Of course there is St. Isaac's Cathedral, which is the largest Russian Orthodox Cathedral in the city, and one of the largest domed cathedrals in the world. It houses a museum, and it is possible to walk up to the colonnade for fantastic views of the city. The distinctive Church of the Saviour on the Spilt Blood is no longer consecrated, but is now a museum of mosaics. The unique Kazan Cathedral dominates Nevsky Prospect, and the Troitsky Cathedral with its blue domes overlooks the Fontanka Canal. These buildings give wonderful glimpses into Russia's past.

ARMENIAN CHURCH

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

CHESMA CHURCH

► Ul. Lensovet 12, **M** 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.



SAMPSONIEVSKY CATHEDRAL

► E-1, Bol. Sampsonievsky pr. 41, **M** Vyborskaya, tel. (+7) 812 294 57 51, www.cathedral.ru. Open 10:30 - 18:00. Closed Wed. Admission free. **Petersburg Card**

SMOLNY CATHEDRAL

► F-2, Pl. Rastrelli 3, **M** Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 710 31 59, www.cathedral.ru. Open 10:30 - 18:00. Closed Wed. Admission 50 - 150Rbl, concerts 200 - 700Rbl. Bell-tower 100Rbl. **Petersburg Card**

ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL

► C-2, VO, 6-ya liniya 11, **M** Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 323 34 18, www.hramsp.ru. Open 09:00 - 19:00. Daily services 10:00 and 17:00.

ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL

► C-3, Nikolskaya pl. 1/3, **M** 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, Izmailovsky pr. 7a, **M** Tekhnologicheskyy Institut, tel. (+7) 812 251 89 27, www.izmsobor.ru. Open 08:00 - 19:00. Daily services 10:00, Fri - Sun 17:00.

VLADIMIRSKY CATHEDRAL

► E-3, Vladimirovsky pr. 20, **M** Vladimirovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 312 19 38, www.vladimirovskiy-sobor.spb.ru. Open 08:00 - 19:30. Services daily 09:00, 18:00. Sun 07:00, 10:00.

MUSEUMS

St. Petersburg has been described as a 'living museum under the open skies', and for good reason! There is something for everyone!

ARTILLERY MUSEUM

► D-2, Aleksandrovsy park 7 (entrance from Kronverkskaya nab.), **M** Gorkovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 232 02 96, www.artillery-museum.ru. Open 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Tue and last Thu of the month. Admission 100 - 400Rbl.

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

► D-1, Ul. Professora Popova 10, **M** Petrogradskaya, tel. (+7) 812 347 68 98, www.spbmuseum.ru. Open 11:00 - 18:00, Tue 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Wed. Admission 60 - 100Rbl. **Petersburg Card**

MUSEUM OF POLITICAL HISTORY OF RUSSIA

► D-2, Ul. Kuibysheva 2-4 (entrance from Kronversky pr.), **M** Gorkovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 233 70 52, www.politichistory.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Wed 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Thu and last Mon of the month. Admission 200Rbl. **Petersburg Card**

RUSSIAN ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

► E-3, Inzhenernaya ul. 4/1, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 570 54 21, www.ethnomuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon and last Fri of month. Admission 50 - 350Rbl.

RUSSIAN MUSEUM

► D-2, Inzhenernaya ul. 4, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 595 42 48, www.rusmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue. Admission 150 - 350Rbl. All inclusive ticket 200 - 600Rbl. **Petersburg Card**

VODOKANAL MUSEUM

► F-2, Shpalernaya ul. 56, **M** Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 438 43 75, www.vodokanal-museum.ru. Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon and Tue. Admission 50 - 250Rbl.

YUSUPOV PALACE

► C-3, Nab. reky Moiky 94, **M** Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 314 98 83, www.yusupov-palace.ru. Open 11:00 - 17:00. Group tours should be booked in advance by phone (+7) 812 314 88 93. Excursions 150 - 700Rbl.

MODERN ART CENTRES



ERARTA MUSEUM AND GALLERIES OF CONTEMPORARY ART

► B-3, VO, 29-ya liniya, 2, **M** Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 324 08 09, www.erarta.com. **Petersburg Card**

NOVY MUSEY

► C-2, VO, 6-ya liniya, 29, **M** Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 323 50 90, www.novymuseum.ru.

ROSPHOTO

► D-3, Bol. Morskaya ul. 35, **M** Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 314 12 14, www.rospfoto.org.

THE SIEGE OF LENINGRAD



STATE MEMORIAL MUSEUM OF LENINGRAD DEFENCE AND SIEGE

One of the darkest periods in Russian history was undoubtedly the siege of Leningrad. A trip to the State Memorial Museum of Leningrad Defence and Siege allows you to take a peek into history, and to gain a better understanding of just how desperate the situation was in these 900 dark days. The displayed food rations, munitions and propaganda posters may seem a bit morbid to those not interested in war history, but they are all of significant historical value. The museum's somewhat gloomy halls amplify the uneasy feeling you get when walking past a small silver scale with bullets; bullets that have actually been extracted from the body of a Russian soldier. Even though most of the writings near the exhibits are in Russian, the museum has translated some of the more important information to English as well. ► F-2, Shpalernaya ul. 56, **M** Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 438 43 75, www.vodokanal-museum.ru. Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon and Tue. Admission 60 - 250Rbl.



TANYA SAVICHEVA'S DIARY

Tanya Savicheva was a Russian diarist who lived through the siege. Aged just 11 when the siege started Tanya joined her family in helping the war effort by digging trenches and putting out firebombs. After having burnt her own diary to heat their home, on December 28th 1941 Tanya was given her missing-presumed-dead sister's diary. In it she began to record her family's toil. Every day her mother would walk seven kilometres to work in an ammunition plant, then donate blood before returning home. Every month of the diary holds a death, first was her second sister, then grandmother in January 1942, a brother 2 months later, followed by her uncles and then in May 1942 her mother. As an orphan Tanya was evacuated from the city in August 1942 to a village but died of illness in July 1944. The original copy of her heartbreaking diaries which was used as evidence during the Nuremberg trials can be seen at the Rumyantsev museum.

Russian Museum



RUSSIAN MUSEUM

The commonly held perception amongst many of the visitors who to the northern capital, that the Russian Museum is nothing but a poor man's Hermitage, a younger sibling to be briefly humoured but never fully indulged, is not only unjust, but woefully misinformed. The Russian Museum deserves equal precedence with the Hermitage in the travel itinerary of any would-be caller to the city of Peter the Great.

The Hermitage, of course, has the benefit of being able to boast one of the largest, as well as one of the oldest consistent collections, in the world and, added to that, a fair amount of historical significance encapsulated within the Elizabethan Baroque facade of the Winter Palace. The Russian Museum, however, is more than capable of fighting its corner: with over 400,000 exhibits it holds the single largest collection of Russian art in the world, housed across four resplendent locations, the Mikhailovsky Palace, the Stroganov Palace, the Marble Palace and the Castle of St. Michael, with a branch in Malaga (of all places) to boot. With a collection of works ranging from 10th century iconography to contemporary figurative art, the Russian Museum corpus is not only expansive, but dizzyingly diverse.

The downside of all this, of course, is that in order to see everything that the museum has to offer properly, you will need rather a lot of time, which sadly the stringent rhythms of day to day existence do not afford to most of us - especially if you're on a short-stay visit to the city. So here, for your convenience, is a guide to each constituent element of the museum, so that you can make the most of one of the nation's best collection of artistic works.

THE MIKHAILOVSKY PALACE

The Mikhailovsky Palace is the traditional epicentre of the Russian Museum, built in 1925. Located within the historic centre of St. Petersburg, it is a fine example of Russian Empire style, having been designed by the Italian architect Carlo Rossi, whose work is manifold across the city. The palace was originally built for Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich, whose father, Emperor Pavel I, set aside special funds for the building on the birth of his youngest son in 1798. It was to then house the Grand Duke and his wife, his children and their children successively until the 1890s when Tsar Nicholas II decided to purchase the palace for the purpose of becoming Russia's first national gallery. Over the course of two years, from 1895 to 1897, the Duke's former residence was renovated and adjusted for the requirements of a modern museum.

The palace's permanent exhibits form the major constituent of the Russian Museum's collection, with works spanning from folk art of the 12th century to avant-gardist masterpieces of the early 20th century. Among highlights including Jeff Koons, Cy Twombly and Pablo Picasso, the Ludwig Museum is the only permanent exhibition of art of the late 20th century that allows viewers to trace the development of Russian art in the context of world culture. Despite the partial destruction of the original interior during the 20th century, much of the palace's integral decor has been preserved. Thus, a strange, albeit pleasing, dichotomy exists; so that while looking upon Serge Essaian's Good Morning, one is simultaneously aware of the intricately decorated stucco adornments. Also on permanent display is the collection of brothers Jacob and Joseph Rzhnevsky. Visitors to the palace this winter are able to enjoy the Dronov and Korneyev temporary exhibit, which are showcasing the sculptural works of the two Moscow based artists, as well as another sculptural exhibition, dedicated to the work of Boris Vorobiev. ▶ D-2, Millionnaya ul. 5/1, [M] Nevsky pr., (+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 - 350Rbl.

THE MIKHAILOVSKY GARDEN

The Mikhailovsky Palace possesses not only an outstanding collection of artwork, but also a beautiful back garden. Like the palace itself, the garden was designed by Carlo Rossi. It combines the natural landscaping styles of both the French and the English, with the French style dominating the perimeter, and the English the centre. Having just undergone a revamp, the garden is without doubt one of the most scenic spots in the city - the perfect antidote to too many hours spent traipsing around art museums. ▶ D-2, Inzhenernaya ul. 4, [M] Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 595 42 48, www.rusmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 22:00. Admission free.



THE MARBLE PALACE

The Marble Palace has long been a centre for cultural exploits in the capital. It was built in 1785 by Antonio Rinaldi for Ekaterina II's favorite Grigory Orlov. During the late 19th century, under the ownership of Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich an accomplished poet and translator of Shakespeare and Goethe, the palace became a hub of cultural activity, hosting public readings as well as musical and theatrical performances. Following the revolution it was briefly used as a department for the Academy of the History of Material Culture before becoming a branch of the Central Lenin Museum in 1937. Many of the original interior decorations were destroyed in 1969 - 1970 after Lenin Museum exposition renovation. Then, after the break up of the Soviet Union, the fledgling state awarded it to the Russian Museum.

Russian Museum

The Marble Palace effectively operates as the Russian Museum's modern art department, having been gifted part of the collection of famous German collectors, Peter and Irene Ludwig in 1995. With highlights including Jeff Koons, Cy Twombly and Pablo Picasso, the Ludwig Museum is the only permanent exhibition of art of the late 20th century that allows viewers to trace the development of Russian art in the context of world culture. Despite the partial destruction of the original interior during the 20th century, much of the palace's integral decor has been preserved. Thus, a strange, albeit pleasing, dichotomy exists; so that while looking upon Serge Essaian's Good Morning, one is simultaneously aware of the intricately decorated stucco adornments. Also on permanent display is the collection of brothers Jacob and Joseph Rzhnevsky.

Visitors to the palace this winter are able to enjoy the Dronov and Korneyev temporary exhibit, which are showcasing the sculptural works of the two Moscow based artists, as well as another sculptural exhibition, dedicated to the work of Boris Vorobiev. ▶ D-2, Millionnaya ul. 5/1, [M] Nevsky pr., (+7) 812 595 42 48, www.rusmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue. Admission 150 - 300Rbl.



THE STROGANOV PALACE

In the west, the fame of the Stroganov family largely revolves around their christening of a dish comprised of cream and brandy. They were, however, at one point one of the most influential families of Petersburg, residing in their beautiful home, located on the intersection between Nevsky Prospect and the Moika. The house, or rather palace, was constructed in the mid-18th century by court architect Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli, who designed a large number of the city's facades from this time. After the revolution, the palace served for the majority of the Soviet period as the Institute of Plant Growing, with a brief foray into Shipbuilding during the Second World War. For the past ten years, the palace has served the purpose of exhibiting the Mineral Study, heavily restored since the fall of the Soviet Union. The study, which is considered one of the gleaming highlights of Russian interior architecture, was designed by Andrei Voronikhin in 1791-92. It was meant for the library of Count Alexander Stroganov and display of the collection of minerals.

In celebration of one thousand years of Russian monkhood on Mount Athos (now there's a phrase you don't hear every day) the Stroganov Palace will be putting on an exhibition



dedicated to the life and artistic output of Vladimir Makarov, or as he was better known, Monk Ephrem. Makarov, who died in 2014, spent most of his adult life engaged in the restoration of icons and monumental paintings, though he was also a painter of landscapes. On display until January will be a wide corpus of his works, as well as documentary material. ▶ D-3, Nevsky pr. 17, [M] Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 595 42 48, www.rusmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue. Admission 150 - 300Rbl.

THE CASTLE OF ST. MICHAEL

Between 1781 and 1782, the future Emperor Pavel I, secretly travelled across Europe under the pseudonym of Count Severny. Upon his return, Tsarevich dreamed of constructing a new royal residence, based on the palaces that he had seen on his travels. Upon assuming the title of Emperor, following the death of his mother, Catherine the Great, Pavel realised his creative vision, but was only to spend forty nights in his new residence: on the night of 11th March 1801, he was murdered in his bedroom during a palace coup. In the 1820s the castle was given over to the Central College of Engineering, from which time it was renamed the Engineers' Castle and served as a training college for students, among whom included one Fyodor Dostoevsky.

Three temporary exhibitions will be on show over the festive period this winter at the castle. They include a showing of the Tomilov-Shvartz collection of, mostly, 19th and early 20th century painting; a display of some of ancient Russia's most beautifully decorated treasures, and an exhibition detailing the artistic climate of Russia during the reign of Peter the Great. ▶ E-2, Sadovaya ul. 2, [M] Nevsky pr., (+7) 812 595 42 48, www.rusmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue. Admission 150 - 300Rbl.



HIDDEN ST. PETERSBURG

Apart from the inevitable attractions: the Hermitage, Smolny cathedral and the Peter and Paul Fortress, all of which are well worth visiting, St. Petersburg also has a number of hidden attractions, some of which are not even known to locals. They offer intriguing and sometimes amusing insights Russian culture and history.

LENIN STATUES



There are more than 50 Lenin statue in the city. The Botanical Garden on Petrograd Island (Aptekarsky pr. 1) have a serene image of Lenin on their grounds. In front of the City Administration Headquarters at Smolny (Smolny proezd 1), you can also find statues of Lenin, Marx and Engels. Ploshchad

Lenina of course has a statue of its namesake. But for the best example of Communist megalomania in town, go to the South and head for Ploshchad Moskovskaya (Moscow Square). Once it stood there with a statue of Stalin, but all "Man of Steel" statues were removed a long time ago. Keep a look out for the statue if you are heading to town from the airport.

RAILWAY MUSEUM

Even if trains aren't your thing, don't dismiss a visit to this outdoor museum. Hidden behind the dilapidated Varshavsky station, is one of Russia's finest collections of Soviet steam trains, all of which have been lovingly restored by volunteers. A stroll along the platforms is a stroll through Soviet history: see the L-2298 locomotive with Lenin and Stalin on its nose and the SO-2413, with the slogan "Onwards towards communism!" both of which - symbolically perhaps - have come to their final halt. ▶ C-4, Nab. Obvodnogo kan. 118/2 (behind Varshavsky station), M Baltiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 457 20 63, www.railway-museum.ru. Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission 50 - 100Rbl. Guided tours in English can be booked by phone.

THE EGYPTIAN HOUSE

In the 1990s this Egyptian inspired house was the home of an unusual artistic group who called themselves 'the new seriousness movement'. Nowadays most of the artists have moved out and it seems like any other local crumbling building. Apart from the fact that it's plastered with all manner of Egyptian imagery such as sun discs, ankhs, hieroglyphs and Egyptian eyes. Even the entrance to the humble stairway looks like the gates to an Egyptian temple. ▶ E-2, Zakharyevskaya ul. 23, M Chernyshevskaya.

HIDDEN MUSEUMS

It is no secret that St. Petersburg is one of the richest cities in the world in terms of culture. The Kunstkamera Museum, the Russian Museum and of course the State Hermitage are compulsory attractions for almost every tourist. One can only wonder if there might be an easier way of enjoying what Peter has to offer. Well, yes there is, and to make sure you can enjoy as much of St. Petersburg as possible, we have sacrificed some shoe leather in a quest for some of the lesser known museums of the city. These relatively unknown gems are often overshadowed by their bigger brothers, but now the time has come for them to enter the limelight and steal the show! We have found a whole range of museums where you can wander round in peace, far from the madding crowd - all of the Peter, none of the stress!

ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC MUSEUM



Dress up warm and dust off your snow boots, you're going on an expedition! The Russian State Arctic and Antarctica museum was founded in 1930 as part of the Soviet Arctic and Antarctic Institute. Situated in Avraam Melnikov's Church, it is currently the largest

museum dedicated to polar exploration in the world. Various scale models of famous Russian atomic ice breakers decorate the rooms, accompanied by official documents, pieces of machinery and emblems. 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, M Vladimirovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 571 25 49, www.polarmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sun 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon and last Fri of the month. Admission 70 - 250Rbl.

BREAD MUSEUM



The bread museum in St. Petersburg is the only one of its kind in Russia and one of just thirteen in the world. This unique museum showcases the importance of bread throughout history, something that many people have nowadays forgotten. The museum focuses on the role of bread in St. Petersburg, showing a wide range of baked products commonly prepared by bakers and confectioners in the nineteenth century. In more recent history, the importance of bread is magnified in a small corner showing the rations during the time of World War II and the siege

of Leningrad. The bread museum is relatively small, so it is the perfect venue to visit if you have some spare time and do not feel like loafing around. ▶ E-3, Ligovsky pr. 73, M Ligovsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 764 11 10. Open 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun, Mon and last Tue of the month. Admission 60 - 100Rbl.

COFFEE MUSEUM



What do we, the common folk, actually know about coffee, other than that it gives us the will to carry on? During the tour in museum you will learn about the history of coffee, different types of beans and various ways of processing,

turning you into a true coffee connoisseur. At the end of the tour you are, naturally, given the opportunity to buy various types of coffee. We recommend the museum's very own blend, which can only be bought and tasted here! ▶ E-2, Voskresenskaya nab. 14, M Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 275 87 36, www.mcof.ru. Open 11:00 - 20:00. Admission 200 - 250Rbl. Show-tasting 800Rbl.

FABERGÉ MUSEUM



One of the world's finest collections is on display in the magnificently restored Shuvalov Palace, just a couple of minutes' walk from Nevsky Prospekt. 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, M Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 600 11 44, www.fabergemuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00 (excursions only), 18:00 - 20:45 (non-excursion). Closed Fri. Admission 300Rbl. Petersburg Card

GRANDMAKET RUSSIA



Trying to fit the Russian Federation into one room is madness, surely? The creators of Grand Maket Russia thought so too, so they used two rooms instead. Covering 800-odd square metres, this grand layout of Russia is the second largest of its kind in the

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, M Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 570 64 22, www.vodkamuseum.ru. Open 12:00 - 19:00. Admission 150Rbl. Excursion 300Rbl. Degustation 300Rbl. Excursion with degustation 450Rbl.

world. Over four hundred artists, modellers and computer scientists helped create this all-encompassing, yet surprisingly detailed representation of Russia. Nifty day and night system integrated into the exhibit: when the sun sets in the west, the eastern part of Russia will gradually be bathed in the red light of the morning sun. During the night sequences the entire atmosphere of the rooms change: cars and trains turn on their headlights, houses become illuminated and the snowy regions of Russia seem to become even more magical than before. ▶ Tsvetochnaya ul. 16, M Moskovskie Vorota, tel. (+7) 812 495 54 65, www.grandmaket.ru. Open 10:00 - 20:00. Admission 400 - 450Rbl. Audioguide 150Rbl + 500Rbl deposit.

SIGMUND FREUD'S DREAM MUSEUM



Close your eyes and wander off into a world of dreams when you are in Sigmund Freud's museum. Do not keep them closed for too long though, or you might bump into something. In Freud's theories dreams were described as wish-

fulfilments, and they were linked to several aspects and recurring themes. The museum sets out to create a physical manifestation of Freud's dreams and theories. In the first of the two rooms you will find information about Freud himself and drawings of the dreams he described. The second room is a long hallway with glass walls on each side and a bright screen at the end. Behind the walls are many objects which seem to have no relation to one another. Or do they? It is up to you to find out. ▶ C-1, PS, Bolshoy pr. 18A, M Sportivnaya, tel. (+7) 812 456 22 90, www.freud.ru. Open Tue, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 17:00. Admission 100 - 150Rbl.



ST. PETERSBURG'S HISTORICAL OUTSKIRTS

Russia's winter offers pleasures of its own. There is no better weekend escape than spending some time at one of the many parks and palaces that surround the city. It is a great opportunity to see the palaces without the bustling crowds of tourists, or wander through the snow covered parks. The snow and the quiet, the soft crunch of snow beneath your feet all help to calm the soul and give you a chance to prepare yourself for the upcoming year.

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 1,500 acre park. Tall trees, winding streams and endless paths scattered with classical statues and flanked by benches make for many a secluded spot. If you have active children who need a place to blow off some steam, pack a picnic and make an

afternoon of it. The enchanting Pavlovsk Palace, with its magnificent neoclassical interior, is a feast for the eyes. The country residence of the Imperial family boasts beautiful architecture and captivating history. Certainly not as grand as Peterhof, but much less touristy, Pavlovsk is a great place to get away from it all. ▶Tel. (+7) 812 452 15 36, www.pavlovskmuseum.ru. Park open daily 06:00 - 21:00. Palace open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed first Mon of the month and Fri. Admission park free, weekend 10:00 - 17:00 50 - 100Rbl. Admission palace 150 - 400Rbl. **Petersburg Card**

PUSHKIN

Tsarskoe Selo or Pushkin? Both names still apply to one of St. Petersburg's most famous imperial villages. 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. ▶Tel. (+7) 812 415 76 67, www.tzar.ru. Catherine Park open 07:00 - 21:00. Catherine's Palace open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Tue and last Mon of the month. Admission: park free, Catherine Palace 200 - 400Rbl, audioguide 150Rbl. **Petersburg Card**



GETTING THERE

Pushkin and Pavlovsk are located about 20km south of St. Petersburg.

By bus/marshrutka: From Moskovskaya metro station: for Pushkin take marshrutka 286, 287, 342, 347, 545 or take public bus 187; for Pavlovsk take marshrutka 299. From Kupchino metro station: for Pushkin take bus 186 or marshrutka 286, 287, 347a, 545a, for Pavlovsk take marshrutka 286.

By train: For Pushkin take a train from Vitebsky train station (Pushkinskaya metro station) to Detskoe Selo. From there you can walk to Catherine's Palace (20min) or take bus 371, 382 or marshrutka 371, 377, 382. For Pavlovsk take a train from Vitebsky train station to Pavlovsk. From there you can take bus 370, 372, 375a, 383, 493 or marshrutka 299, 286, 513, 521. You can also take a train from Kupchino metro/train station.

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, **M** Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 494 56 66, www.angletterhotel.com. 193 rooms.

BELMOND GRAND HOTEL EUROPE

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

CORINTHIA HOTEL ST. PETERSBURG

▶ E-3, Nevsky pr. 57, **M** Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 380 20 01, www.corinthia.com. 388 rooms.

DOMINA PRESTIGE HOTEL ST. PETERSBURG

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

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL LION PALACE

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

GOLDEN GARDEN BOUTIQUE HOTEL

▶ E-3, Vladimirovsky pr. 9, **M** Dostoyevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 334 22 33, www.goldengarden.ru. 23 rooms.

HOTEL ASTORIA

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

KEMPINSKI HOTEL MOIKA 22

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

RADISSON ROYAL HOTEL

▶ E-3, Nevsky pr. 49/2, **M** Vladimirovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 322 50 00, www.radisson.ru/hotel-stpetersburg. 164 rooms.

SOKOS HOTEL PALACE BRIDGE

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

TALEON IMPERIAL HOTEL

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

W ST. PETERSBURG

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

Registrations: all foreign visitors to Russia are obliged to register within seven working days (this excludes weekends and public holidays). Remember your hotel is obliged to register you as staying in their hotel. If a hotel refuses to register you make sure you complain – the registrations is their responsibility, not yours!

PEKIDAMA / ADVERTISEMENT



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ASK THE CONCIERGE



Interview with Irada Agalarova, concierge at the Kempinski Hotel Moika 22.

My name is Irada Agalarova and I have been Chief Concierge at the Kempinski Hotel Moika 22 for almost exactly two years now. This year I celebrated 10 years in the hospitality industry and 5 years of Les Clefs D'Or membership. I actually graduated with a degree in chemical engineering, but I took a temporary job in a Hotel I never thought of leaving. Kempinski is my now the third hotel that I've worked in and is, frankly, the best; but the first one will always be in my heart.

What must-see events would you advise to visit for guests in St. Petersburg around December, January and February? The middle of December is peak season for theatres. You could enjoy two versions of Nutcracker ballet in Mariinsky and Mikhailovsky theater, as well as the premiere of the Cinderella opera in Mikhailovsky theater. Erarta Museum & Galleries of Contemporary Art is presenting the Genesis exhibition with fantastic stories on utopian future. For all shopping addicts, Christmas and New Year is a good chance to find better prices and visit different Christmas markets. Valentines day on February 14th is a good reason to care for your beloved ones and spend romantic evening with candles on one of the most beautiful rooftop restaurants of our city like Bellevue in our Hotel.

What is destination number one for you outside St. Petersburg in winter? Without doubts best destination is Pushkin and Pavlovsk, where you can spend half day enjoying cultural visits to Catherine's Palace with its Amber room and beautiful park, and maybe try a Troika ride in carriage with three horses in Pavlovsk.

What are the traditional tourists attractions during New Year season on the basis of your concierge experience? It is quite common for guests to request tickets to Nutcracker when all the tickets are sold out. In this case there is always the possibility to find seats through our Les Clefs D'Or family. During New Year celebration we try to hold reservations in the most trendy restaurants for those guests who decide to plan an evening last minute.

If you could choose a winter visage of St. Petersburg for a postcard, describe what it would look like? When I think of winter in my city there is a view of Hermitage museum standing on Palace embankment. The river is covered with ice, snow is falling, it is getting dark around 5pm, all the light decorations in the city are on and people are walking along the streets. Snow is always a very potent childhood memory for me; New Years Eve, long holidays, and a feeling of happiness.

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.

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT ST. PETERSBURG VASILIEVSKY

► C-2, 2-ya liniya 61/30 A, Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 380 40 11, www.courtyardsaintpetersburg.ru. 214 rooms.

CROWNE PLAZA ST. PETERSBURG AIRPORT

the hotel and the city centre and between the two airport terminals. ► Startovaya ul. 6, bldg. A, Moskovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 240 42 00, www.cpaairport.ru. 294 rooms.

CROWNE PLAZA ST. PETERSBURG - LIGOVSKY

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

HOLIDAY INN MOSKOVSKY VOROTA

metro. ► Moskovsky 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

and beds. ► 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, Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 406 00 00, www.radisson.ru/sonyahotel-stpetersburg. 173 rooms.

SOKOS HOTEL VASILIEVSKY

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

SOKOS HOTEL OLYMPIA GARDEN

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

3 STARS

AZIMUT HOTEL SAINT PETERSBURG

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

HERZEN HOUSE

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

IBIS ST. PETERSBURG CENTRE

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

GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS

CHOCOLATE MUSEUM

► D-3, Nevsky pr. 17, Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 315 13 48, www.muzeysokolada.ru. Open 11:00 - 21:00.

GALLERY MIKHAILOV

► D-2, Bol. Konyushennaya ul. 10, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 571 06 69, www.vmikhailov.ru. Open 11:00 - 21:00.

LA PETITE OPERA GALLERY

► D-3, Grand Hotel Europe, Mikhailovskaya ul. 1/7, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 329 65 89, www.lacquerbox.net. Open 09:00 - 21:00.

LOMONOSOV PORCELAIN FACTORY

► Pr. Obukhovskoy Oborony 151, Lomonosovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 326 17 44, www.ipm.ru. Open 10:00 - 20:00.

NEVSKY SOUVENIR SHOP

► D-2, Nevsky pr. 22-24 (entrance at Bol. Konyushennaya ul. 12), Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 954 78 53, www.nevskysouvenir.com. Open 09:00 - 22:00.

PAVLOPOSADSKIE PLATKI SHOP

► E-3, Nevsky pr. 87/2, Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 963 329 12 63, www.platki.ru. Open 10:00 - 22:00.

SOUVENIRS FAIR

► D-2, Nab. kan. Griboedova 1, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 962 26 13. Open 09:00 - 18:00.



SHOPPING CENTRES

BOLSHOY GOSTINY DVOR

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

GALERIA ► E-3, Ligovsky pr. 30A, Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 643 31 72, www.galeria-spb.ru. Open 10:00 - 23:00.

NEVSKY CENTRE

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

PASSAGE

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

ELISEEVSKY STORE

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

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. Since DLT opening, St. Petersburg finally got its own world-class fashion center. 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.

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, Ligovsky pr. 30A, Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 643 31 72, www.galeria-spb.ru. Open 10:00 - 23:00.



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:

CAVIAR



Black beluga caviar is still one of the most expensive foods on the planet and a small jar can set you back more than \$100 if you buy it in the market. Never buy caviar from street touts, more often than not it is fake and/or illegal.

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.

KHOKHLOMA



This traditional red, black and gold Russian design generally painted onto wooden household items dates back to the 18th Century. If you haven't much space in your luggage pick up a spoon and sugar pot, or if you

have space for more you can find almost anything with khokhloma on from tea trays to kitchen tables. Bosco sport (the company who dress the Russian Olympic team) also do a nice line in khokhloma inspired clothing.

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. Orenburgsky 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



Do you prefer *knigi* (books) to Kindles? Have some kilograms to spare in your carry-on? Then it's time to start your Russian library!

Bukvoed (literally, "Book Eater") is the best place to chow down on any genre - this chain can be found throughout the city, and has a wide selection and frequent discounts. **Dom Knigi** (House of Books), located right near the Nevsky metro station, is excellent both inside and out: it is located in one of the city's finest Art Nouveau buildings, originally constructed for the Singer Sewing Machine Company. If you're looking for privacy, **Podpisnye Izdaniya** has a lovely second-floor seating area with bar stools, the perfect place to retreat with a chosen volume. Do you take sugar with your Shakespeare? **Anglia British Bookshop** right off of the Fontanka Embankment will help restore your English accent.

Perhaps what you're really searching for, though, is not only literature but a literary salon. Poke around the courtyard until you find **Vse Svoobodny**, a hip hole-in-the-wall bookstore with a tea room and regular schedule of concerts and readings. **Poryadok Slo** also fills the role of a cultural center, hosting readings and film screenings. Check out the 'art club' **Knigi i Kofe** for those things - books and coffee- and then some: author talks, lecture series, exhibits and more.

And if you're still learning your A&B's and just want to fill out the crossword, buy a map or try reading the local newspaper – **Pervaya Polosa** kiosks dot every metro station.

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. For other locations check the website. **CC** **IT** **WF**

DOM KNIGI

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

KNIGI I KOFE

► E-2, Gagarinskaya ul. 2, **M** Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 272 49 90, www.bookcoffee.ru. Open 10:00 - 22:00. **CC**

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 SLO

► 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**

VSE SVOBODNY

► D-2, Nab. reky Moiky 28 (entrance through the courtyard), **M** Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 911 977 40 47, www.vse-svobodny.com. Open 12:00 - 22:00. **CC**

EXPAT CONTACTS

DUTCH CLUB ST. PETERSBURG

► www.nlvpetersburg.com.

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.

CULTURAL CENTRES

BRITISH BOOK CENTRE

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

DANISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE

► D-3, Nab. reky Moiky 42, **M** 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, **M** 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, **M** 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, **M** 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, **M** Sennaya pl., tel. (+7) 812 363 11 25, www.goethe.de/stpetersburg. Open 08:15 - 20:00, closed Sat. Library open 14:00 - 17:00, closed Sun.

INSTITUT FRANCAIS

► D-3, Nevsky pr. 12, **M** 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, **M** 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, **M** 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, **M** Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 812 327 08 87, www.nispb.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun. Closed Sat, Sun.

LEARN RUSSIAN

Dictionary for expats:

"To hang noodles on someone's ears" –

"Veshat lapshu na ushi"

If you hang noodles on the ears of your dialogue partner, you are either lying to them or exaggerating the truth. The origin of the meaning is that whoever is wearing the noodles is taken for a fool, because they are the only ones who cannot see it while it is obvious to everybody else. The English equivalent is: "To pull the wool over someone's eyes".

LIDEN & DENZ



The school is ideally located close to the famous shopping street, Nevsky Prospekt, close to two charming parks and the Russian Museum. The course centre has facilities which will allow you to learn Russian in

good conditions. For when you want a bite to eat, you will find vending machines in the hall. With the metro, which is located only five minutes' walk away, you will easily access the various attractions of the city. During your breaks, you will be able to go for a walk along the banks of the Fontanka river where magnificent residences of the former Russian nobility tower up. The school also offers free internet access to the students as well as iPads at the reception area. A tourist information and reservation service is available to you within the course centre. ► 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.

DERZHAVIN INSTITUTE

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. ► D-4, Nab. reky Fontanky 118, 3rd floor, **M** Tekhnologicheskyy institut, tel. (+7) 812 740 19 26, www.derzhavin.com. Open 09:00 - 18:00, classes till 21:45. Closed Sat, Sun.

THE EXPAT EXPERIENCE



Interview with Sjeffe Jansen, General Manager Belmond Grand Hotel Europe.

Please tell us something about yourself. I began my professional career

rather traditionally with chef training in Germany, before moving up the ranks to my current position of General Manager at Belmond Grand Hotel Europe. I have worked in many destinations around the globe, including Sydney, Cape Town, Riyadh, Beirut, Singapore, the Maldives and Mauritius. I've lived St Petersburg since January 2014, together with my wife, two daughters and three (overweight) cats.

What makes St.Petersburg special for you? Can you compare it with the other major cities that you've been to/ worked in? St Petersburg, unlike many other cities I have traveled to or worked in, has plenty of character and style. The entire city is filled with history, beautiful architecture and the most amazing cultural offerings, such as ballet, opera and the sheer endless array of theatres and museums is breathtaking. And it is beautifully green in summer with amazing parks and gardens to stroll around and relax in with the family.

What are your favourite places in St.Petersburg in winter? We enjoy going to the same parks and gardens in in both winter and summer. And when there is plenty of snow, the children have a great time building snowmen and making snow angles. For indoor activities we choose the House of Books (Singer House) to find some good reads and drink delicious hot chocolate, or go and watch the Nutcracker Suite at Mikhailovsky Theatre. Other great places are the Museum of Illusions and the Horror House.

How do you like to spend your free time in winter? I enjoy being at home with the family during the winter months. We usually get up very late on weekends and our extensive breakfast turns into brunch most of the times. From time to time we go ice skating at Tavrichesky Park.

There is especially big variety of traditional celebrations in Russia in winter: fortune-telling on Christmas, ice swimming at Epiphany and so on. Which are the most interesting for you? Ice swimming on the day of the Epiphany is certainly one of the most exciting events for me to look forward to. Especially when you consider the destinations I used to live for the past 10 years, such as the Maldives and Mauritius. I did not have the time, nor the guts, to do it this year, but I'm all set to give it a go in January of next year.

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

ROYAL THAI

► D-2, Bol. Konyushennaya ul. 1, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 315 54 06, www.royalthai.ru. Open 10:00 - 22:00.

THANN SANCTUARY SPA

► E-3, Nevsky Centre, Nevsky pr. 114-116, Pl. Vosttaniya, tel. (+7) 812 449 08 36, www.thann-spa.ru.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

BUDDHIST TEMPLE

► Primorsky pr. 91, Staraya Derevnnya, tel. (+7) 911 224 68 79, www.dazan.spb.ru. Open 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Wed.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

► E-2, Kovensky per. 7, Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 272 04 42, www.kovensky.ru. Daily services in Russian Mon 19:00; Tue - Fri 08:30, 19:00, Sat 08:30, 19:00, Sun 10:30, 12:00, 19:00. Service in Polish every Sun 09:00.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE

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

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. KATARINA (SWEDISH CHURCH)

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

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN PARISH OF ST. MARIA CHURCH

► 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 OF ST. PETERSBURG

► C-3, Lermontovsky 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. Daily services 09:00, 21:00.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PETER AND PAUL

► D-3, Nevsky pr. 22/24, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 312 07 98, www.petrkirche.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).



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

GERMAN SCHOOL

► B-2, Ul. Odоеvskogo 19A, Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 441 21 59, www.deutscheschule.ru. Open 08:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

INFANT SCHOOL (BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL)

► F-3, Nevsky pr. 136, Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 714 77 74, www.infantschool.ru. Open 08:00 - 19:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

MANDARINA DAY (PRESCHOOL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER)

► F-3, Nevsky pr. 147A, Pl. Al. Nevskogo, tel. (+7) 812 924 24 98, www.mandarinaday.ru. Open 08:00 - 20:00.

THE INTERNATIONAL PRE-SCHOOL

► E-2, Furshatskaya ul. 22, Chernyshevskaya, tel. (+7) 921 977 89 35. Open 09:00 - 15:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

ACCOUNTANTS

ACSOUR

► D-3, Nevsky pr. 10, Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 454 44 24, www.acsour.com. Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

AVENIR GROUP

► E-3, Vladimirovsky pr. 23A, Vladimirovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 718 81 57, www.avenir.ru. Open 09:00 - 19:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

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. Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

EMG

► C-4, 10-ya Krasnoarmeiskaya ul. 22, office 69, Baltiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 313 77 81, www.emg-russia.com. Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

ERNST AND YOUNG

► D-3, Ul. Mal. Morskaya 23A, Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 703 78 34, www.ey.com/cis. Open 08:30 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

KPMG

► E-4, Ul. Marata 69-71A, Ligovsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 313 73 00, www.kpmg.ru. Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

MANNHEIMER SWARTLING

► D-2, Ul. Mal. Konyushennaya 1/3A, Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 335 23 00, www.mannheimerswartling.se. Open 09:00 - 21:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

MAZARS

► C-2, 7-ya liniya 76, Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 332 94 96, www.mazars.ru. Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

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. Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

BANYAS



The banya is the Russian version of the sauna. For some, it is a social event, to be enjoyed with friends and much drinking. For others, including some of the city's communal-flat residents who don't have showers at home, this is the normal way to wash. For this reason, banyas come in all shapes and sizes. Communal banyas have large rooms with showers, hot rooms and places to chill out and get dressed. Banyas usually have male and female sections, or alternate between men and women's days. Private banyas are when you get a group of friends together and split the cost of a small banya between you. This can be a lot of fun. Don't forget to pick up some birch leaves, on the way, to beat yourself and your friends with.

DEGTYARNIE BATHHOUSES

Heaven. 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 cafés. The family room is an ideal option for a private occasion, with all of the luxury essentials, includes a hydromassage Jacuzzi. ► E-3, Degtyarnaya ul. 1, Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 244 41 04, www.d1a.ru. Open 09:00 - 24:00.

KAZACHIE BANY

Kazachie has a common and a private lux banya for up to 10 people. The whole place works in the old-school way - nudity only - strictly no underwear allowed and no-one speaks English, but it is a real Russian experience, especially when the old regulars cover you in honey and start beating the hell out of you with branches. This is one of the oldest banyas in the city - over 130 years old. ► D-3, Bol. Kazachy per. 11, Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 812 315 07 34, www.kazbani.ru. Open 24hrs.

INTERNATIONS

InterNations is the biggest global networking site for expats of various nationalities and their family members with almost 200,000 members in 235 cities worldwide. By becoming a member you gain access to the online social network where you can connect with other expats, browse the various forums, leave tips for other expats and interact with people who may have the same interests. Most importantly of course InterNations also host monthly get-togethers. www.internations.org.

Cruiser Avrora is in Kronstadt
for reconstruction until June 2016



1-28-ya liniya	B-2,3/C-2,3	Konnogvardeysky bul.	C-3	Rubinshteina ul.	E-3
Admiralteysky 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
Angliskaya nab.	C-3	Kronverskaya 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. (V0)	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	Streymannaya 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	Mendeleevskaya 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
Galerneya 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	
Isaakiyevskaya pl.	D-3	Petrovskaya nab.	D-2	Ul. – Ulitsa	
Iskusstv pl.	D-3	Pirogovskaya nab.	E-1/E-2	Pr. – Prospekt	
Italyanskaya ul.	D-3/D-4	Pochtamtskaya 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	Razyezhaya 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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16+



Fast-paced Moskva is Russia's political, historical and business capital and a magnet for the adventurous and ambitious from across the country and further afield. In all senses, this mega city of more than 12 million inhabitants is a melting-pot and its outstanding dining scene and vibrant nightlife reflect its cosmopolitan population. A city of contrasts, Moscow's busy streets all bear witness to Russia's turbulent history and dynamic future and while it's not for the faint-hearted, the Russian capital is a cultural experience not to be missed.

RED SQUARE

The centre of Moscow and indeed the heart of Russia, Red Square has seen it all. From the mass executions of Peter the Great's day to the huge military parades started by Stalin, not to mention the looting of Napoleon's troops, the protests of Perestroika and a certain Paul McCartney. Every stone of every building here has a story or two to tell. Standing proud at the top of Red Square is the iconic St. Basil's Cathedral topped by a swirl of fantastically coloured domes. At the other end you will find the State Historical Museum which details the long and turbulent history of the nation. Shopaholics will delight in strolling round the beautiful 19th Century arcades of the GUM department store whilst the Red Square ice rink is the perfect place to let off some steam whilst enjoying the magnificent view.

GUM

► Red Square, Pl. Revolyutsy, tel. +7 495 788 43 43, www.gum.ru. Open 10:00 - 22:00.

ST. BASIL'S CATHEDRAL (POKROVSKY SOBOR)

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

STATE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

► Red Square 1, 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 60 - 440Rbl.

THE KREMLIN

The street plan of central Moscow forms an impressively ordered pattern of concentric circles, clearly marking the city's development outwards over the centuries. In the middle of this great Catherine wheel is the Kremlin, the fortified hill which formed the heart of the ancient city, and which to this day houses the political HQ of the planet's largest nation. Within the world-famous red walls nestles a collection of buildings of various architectural styles, ranging from ancient Russian ecclesiastical, through Romanov imperial classicism, to 1960s Soviet modernism. While much is out of bounds to tourists, being part of the Government and Presidential estate, there are easily enough treasures open to the public to make the citadel an essential conquest.

Unlike Napoleon, who stayed here after his forces took Moscow in 1812, you will need a ticket to enter. There are a number of ticket booths, 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.

A 'Kremlin Territory' ticket gets you into the site itself, along with all of the cathedrals and the more ancient buildings. To visit the Kremlin Armoury (where all the sparkly diamonds, jewels and so on are stored) you must buy a separate - and considerably more expensive - ticket, which will have an entrance time on it. This ticket can only be purchased *before* you enter the Kremlin.

Note that some buildings - in particular the Patriarch's Palace - sometimes host special exhibitions, entrance for which you must pay extra. The tickets for special exhibitions can usually be bought at the entrance to the buildings in which they are held, although it is advisable to check before you enter the Kremlin.

► C-3, Alexandrovsky sad, Alexandrovsky Sad, tel. (+7) 495 697 03 49, www.kreml.ru. Open 10:00 - 17:00. Admission 250 - 500Rbl.

CHURCHES

CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE SAVIOUR

► Ul. Volkhonka 15, MKropotkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 637 28 47, www.xcx.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00. Mon 13:00 - 18:00. Admission free. Guided tours in English for groups for up to 10 people 6,000Rbl (pre-booking required call (+7) 495 637 28 47).

NOVODEVICHY MONASTERY

► Novodevichy proezd 1, Sportivnaya, tel. (+7) 499 246 85 26. Open 09:00 - 17:00. Admission 250Rbl.

POKROVSKY MONASTERY

► Ul. Taganskaya 58, Marksistskaya, tel. (+7) 495 911 49 20, www.pokrov-monastir.ru. Open 07:00 - 20:00. Admission free.

MUSEUMS

ALL-RUSSIAN DECORATIVE ART MUSEUM

► Delegatskaya ul. 3, Tsvetnoy Bulvar, tel. (+7) 495 609 01 46, www.vmdpni.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 11:00 - 19:00, Sun 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Tue and last Mon of the month. Admission 20 - 200Rbl.

GULAG HISTORY MUSEUM

► Ul. Petrovka 16, Kuznetsky Most, tel. (+7) 495 621 73 46, www.gmig.ru. Open 11:00 - 19:00, Thu 11:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon, last Fri of the month. Admission 150Rbl.

INSTITUTE OF RUSSIAN REALIST ART

► Novospassky Dvor Business Centre, bldg. 31, Derbenevskaya nab. 7, Paveletskaya, tel. (+7) 495 276 12 12, www.rusrealart.ru/en. Open 11:00 - 20:00, Thu 12:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission 50 - 150Rbl, Family tickets 200 - 350Rbl. Free admission the first Tue and the last Sat of each month.

STATE CENTRAL MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY RUSSIAN HISTORY

► Tverskaya ul. 21, Tverskaya, tel. (+7) 495 699 67 24, www.sovr.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 12:00 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Admission 70 - 250Rbl.

THE PUSHKIN STATE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

► Ul. Volkhonka 12, Kropotkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 609 95 20, www.artsmuseum.ru. Open 10:00 - 19:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission 300 - 400Rbl. Admission may vary according to the exhibition.

TRETYAKOV GALLERY

► Lavrushinsky per. 10, Tretyakovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 951 13 62, www.tretyakovgallery.ru. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu, Fri 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission 100 - 360Rbl. English audio guide 250Rbl.



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.

AEROEXPRESS TRAINS



All international airports in Moscow have a fast train connection to the capital's city centre. All? Yes, all!

Aeroexpress trains run between Belorussky Rail Terminal and **Sheremetyevo airport**, Kievsky Rail Terminal and **Vnukovo airport**, and Paveletsky Rail Terminal and **Domodedovo airport**. Each rail terminal is connected via the metro circle line. It takes 35-45 minutes to get to the airports from the centre of Moscow.

Aeroexpress tickets can be bought at Aeroexpress ticket counters or at automatic machines in the rail terminals, through the websites of partner airlines, travel agencies, and via air ticket agencies, either in Moscow, or indeed almost any other region of Russia. A list of sales outlets can be found on the company's website where you can purchase e-tickets using Visa, MasterCard, or PayPal. You can buy an electronic ticket from the official website www.aeroexpress.ru/en where you can also view train timetables. Download their free mobile app and you will be able to purchase Aeroexpress tickets using your smartphone with no need to print out the ticket: the turnstiles at the airport are able to read the ticket's QR-code directly from your smartphone/tablet screen.



If you are a Master Card PayPass or VISA PayWave holder, you can easily pay for the fare directly at the turnstiles Aeroexpress.

The Aeroexpress hotline is (+7) 800 700 33 77 (calls from within Russia are free).

RIVER CRUISES



Equipped with ice-breaking technology, these huge fancy yachts are the only river cruisers running all year around. The round trip journey takes two and a half hours and floats past all the big sights like the White House, Novodevichy monastery and the Kremlin. There's a large open air observation deck up top, while the main body of the ship houses a restaurant with a dance floor for a romantic post dinner dance. For a particularly romantic experience take one of the evening boats and admire the bright lights of the city skyline at night. Note that you can also join and depart the cruise from the pier in Gorky Park (metro Park Kultury), although it is advisable to check the departure times first. ► **A-3, Taras Shevchenko nab., Hotel Ukraina pier, M Kievskaya, tel. (+7) 495 228 55 55, www.radisson-cruise.ru.** From Pier Ukraina and from pier Gorky Park boats leave every day starting from 13:00. It is advisable to book tickets well in advance (tickets can also be bought online). Check the full schedule and prices online. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

LUXURY TRAINS TO MOSCOW

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 5:57. For reservations call 8-800-777-20-19 or book online at www.poezdmegapolis.ru**

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HOTELS

HILTON MOSCOW LENINGRADSKAYA

► Kalanchevskaya ul. 21/40, M Krasnye Vorota, tel. (+7) 495 627 55 50, www.moscow.hilton.com. 273 rooms (Room prices start at 6,000Rbl). ★★★★★

HOTEL BALTSCHUG KEMPINSKI MOSCOW

► Ul. Baltshug 1, M Novokuznetskaya, tel. (+7) 495 287 20 00, www.kempinski.com/en/moscow. 227 rooms (Room prices start at 12,000Rbl). ★★★★★

HOTEL NATIONAL

► Mokhovaya ul. 15/1, bldg.1, M Okhotnyy Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 258 70 00, www.national.ru. 202 rooms (Room prices start at 8,500Rbl). ★★★★★

LOTTE HOTEL MOSCOW

► Novinsky bul. 8, bldg. 2, M Smolenskaya, tel. (+7) 495 745 10 00, www.lottehotel.ru. 300 rooms (Room prices start at 15,000Rbl). ★★★★★

MARRIOTT MOSCOW GRAND HOTEL

► Tverskaya ul. 26/1, M Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 937 00 00, www.marriott.com/mowgr. 386 rooms (Room prices start at 8,000Rbl). ★★★★★

METROPOL

► Teatralny proezd 2, M Teatralnaya, tel. (+7) 499 501 78 00, www.metropol-moscow.ru. 388 rooms (Room prices start at 9,440Rbl). ★★★★★

SHERATON MOSCOW SHEREMETYEVO

AIRPORT HOTEL

► Mezhdunarodnoye shosse 28B, bldg. 5, M Planernaya, tel. (+7) 495 229 00 10, www.sheratonmoscowairport.com. 342 rooms (Room prices start at 5,000Rbl). ★★★★★

AZIMUT MOSCOW OLYMPIC HOTEL

► Olimpiyskiy pr. 18/1, M Prospekt Mira, tel. (+7) 495 931 90 00, www.azimuthotels.com. 486 rooms (Room prices start at 5,500Rbl). ★★★★★

MARRIOTT MOSCOW TVERSKAYA

► 1-ya Tverskaya-Yamskaya ul. 34, M Belorusskaya, tel. (+7) 495 258 30 00, www.marriott.com/mowtv. 162 rooms (Room prices start at 6,000Rbl). ★★★★★

NOVOTEL MOSCOW CENTRE

► Novoslobodskaya ul. 23, M Mendelevskaya, tel. (+7) 495 780 40 00, www.accorhotels.com. 255 rooms (Room prices start at 4,602Rbl). ★★★★★

IBIS MOSCOW CENTRE BAKHRUSHINA

► Ul. Bakhrushina 11, M Paveletskaya, tel. (+7) 495 720 53 01, www.accorhotels.com. 190 rooms (Room prices start at 3,990Rbl). ★★★★★

COMRADE HOSTEL

► Ul. Maroseyka 11, M Kitay Gorod, tel. (+7) 495 628 31 26, www.comradehostel.com. (Prices start from 600Rbl).

IVAN HOSTEL

► Petrovsky per. 1/30, app. 23, M Chekhovskaya, tel. (+7) 916 407 11 78, www.ivanhostel.com. (Prices start from 700Rbl).

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In Your Pocket in your hotel!*



TOBOLSK – SIBERIA'S OLD CAPITAL

By Luc Jones

Think of Kremlins and you tend to think of Moscow, and Red Square. You would also be forgiven for assuming that it's Russia's only Kremlin, yet there are in fact dozens, even if some have been reduced to rubble over the years. Fortunately, many have been restored to their former glory, and they stretch from north to south just as castles do throughout much of Western Europe. Heading east past the Ural mountains, much of the country is indeed little more than tundra, taiga and oil fields, yet journey into Asia proper, you eventually arrive at Tobolsk, a city which boasts Russia's eastern-most stone Kremlin.

Tobolsk was founded in 1587, during the first Russian advance into Siberia, and quickly became the capital of Siberia thanks to its strategic location with China to the east, and Bukhara (Uzbekistan) to the south. The glory days were very much in the 17th and 18th centuries when Tobolsk was used as a staging post for exploration towards the Pacific as Russia looked to expand its empire. However, the good times began to come to an end when the new **Great Siberian**

Trakt (road) was built using a more southerly route in the late 1700s, and Tobolsk's importance declined further when the Trans-Siberian railway between Tyumen and Omsk was built in the 1890s, and also bypassed the town.

Possibly this isolation acted partly as a blessing in disguise in terms of preservation, with the city remaining a centre for learning – but also for exile. The famous writer, Fyodor Dostoevsky was a 'guest' here en route to exile in Omsk, and **Tsar Nicholas II** and his family (i.e. the Romanovs) spent several months here in 1917 before eventually being executed in nearby Yekaterinburg.

The highlight, and the key reason for anyone to visit Tobolsk is of course the impressive, 18th century, white stone Kremlin complete with two cathedrals inside its grounds – St. Sofia and the Intercession, in case you were wondering. Between the two is the famous bell tower, where legend has it that the bell itself (which used to be located in Uglich, on the Volga river not far from Moscow) once signaled a revolt against Tsar Boris Godunov. In a fit of rage, the Tsar ordered the bell to be publicly flogged before being banished to Tobolsk for three centuries! **The Kremlin prison** is now a museum, and there are steps down to the old part of Tobolsk, although the best views across the Irtysh river are from outside the **Deputy's Palace Museum**, since much of the Kremlin area is perched upon a hilltop. Tobolsk has several other churches a short walk from the Kremlin, yet the one which stands out is the red brick **Catholic church** at the bottom of the turreted walls.

STAYING THERE

Most tourists visit Tobolsk either as a day excursion from Tyumen, or simply pass through it, and a day is more than enough to see the main sights. However, there are plenty of hotels if you want to linger for longer. Your best bet – particularly in terms of location is the **Hotel Yamskaya**, which is literally opposite the Kremlin. ► **Bol. Sibirskaya ul. 40, tel. (+7) 345 622 61 77, ямская-тобольск.рф.**

EATING THERE

There are numerous kiosks and restaurants in and around the Kremlin area, although they specialize in **Monastery food**, which might sound exotic, but is rather bland and tasteless. A better option is the small café **Kofeynya u Yershova** which funnily enough is on ul. Yershova, also only a few minutes' walk from the Kremlin. It won't win any Michelin stars but is cozy, friendly, cheap and the food is decent enough. ► **Ul. Semyona Remezova, 7, tel. (+7) 345 624 68 08.**



IT'S GRIM UP NORTH!



By Luc Jones

So, you've had your fill of chocolate box, picture postcard, golden-domed, towns where time seems to stand still; then it's time to venture further afield than the Golden Ring, and head north. No, not St. Petersburg – that's far too easy, but twice as far again to the tip of the **Kola Peninsula**, and on to **Murmansk**.

If you're expecting a quaint town with wooden fishing boats then you're in for a disappointment as Murmansk won't win any prizes in a beauty contest. But then again, it never entered into any as is a fully operational port founded a hundred years ago as **Romanov-na-Murmanye** due to its strategic location, and the convenient fact that the surrounding sea is ice-free throughout the year despite the city being inside the arctic circle. Thank the Gulf Stream for that particular quirk of nature.

Murmansk is essentially a mid-sized, normally functioning Russian city, albeit is one which has lost 50% of its population since the collapse of the USSR coincided with the importance (and the funding) of the military. Many left, yet slightly over 300,000 remain. It's possible to say that the city was born because of war and for war, gaining notoriety as it was one of the two key destinations – the other being nearby **Arkhangelsk**, for the Allied Arctic Convoys, bringing much needed supplies to the Soviet Union. As a result of German attacks during the Second World War, Murmansk was left almost totally destroyed on a scale rivalled only by the devastation in Stalingrad and Leningrad even though the Nazis never managed to entirely capture area. Then, in 1985 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the end of the war, Murmansk was formally designated a "Hero City", one of only 13 in the Soviet Union. Consequently nearly everything architectural comes across as Soviet-style, yet the central area has a kind of gritty charm to it; there are several museums and the football stadium remains despite the club – FC Sever Murmansk having folded in 2014 after it encountered financial difficulties.

As a foreigner, you have no chance of visiting nearby **Severomorsk** which is home to Russia's northern fleet, so you'll have to settle for a tour of the **Nuclear Icebreaker "Lenin"**, which is permanently on display in Murmansk's downtown harbour. Other sights are limited, but worth making it to if you've come all this way. Begin with a walk up the hill to visit **"Alyosha"**, a massive, 35 metre high statue commemorating the Defenders of the Soviet Arctic during the Great Patriotic War (that's WW2 to you and I), complete with fantastic views across the surrounding bay. It's a bit of a hike so lardasses can hop onto one of the many passing trolleybuses, although be sure to jump off to take in lighthouse monument part way up. It's just below the **Church of the Saviour** on the waters and despite being built in 2002 somehow managed to look rustic, but was constructed as a dedication to seamen who perished during peacetime – a reminder that the Kursk submarine sank in the nearby Barents Sea back in 2000 with the

loss of its 118 man crew. A little further along is the statue of the **"Waiting woman"**, erected to the wives and girlfriends of all seafarers who were left wondering if their men would ever return to them.

If wondering when to visit, Murmansk stays light 24 hours a day during the summer months, which feels bizarre when your plane lands in the early hours of the morning and your drive into the city with no need for headlights. The flip side of course is that the winter months keep Murmansk in almost complete darkness, although the **Polar Nights** give off an eerie glow of several colours over the frozen landscape. You choose what's best for you, but remember that Murmansk celebrates its 100th Birthday in 2016, so get up there for what promises to be one big party!

STAYING THERE

The newly-refurbished and centrally-located **Azimut Hotel** (formally known as the Hotel Arctic) is not only Murmansk's tallest hotel, but is the tallest building inside the arctic circle! Request a room overlooking the port on one of the higher floors and you can just see "Alyosha" in the distance! ▶ Pr. Lenina 82, tel. (+7) 8152 55 03 50, www.azimuthotels.com

EATING THERE

Steak-house Torro (no connection to the Moscow chain) is a great bet for locally caught delicacies, such as reindeer. Not cheap, but worth the splurge and is bang in the middle of town. ▶ Pr. Lenina, 80, tel. (+7) 815 245 17 00.

DRINKING THERE

It's a guaranteed "good-time-for-all" at **Pinta Pub**, which has live music on weekend evenings, and even brews its own beer on-site! ▶ Ul. Egorova 13A, tel. (+7) 815 245 24 95, www.pub-pinta.ru.



GETTING THERE

There are several flights per day between Moscow and Murmansk (MMK); flying time is around two and a half hours; the train takes 27 hours and costs nearly the same (unless you opt for *platskart*). There are also numerous flights to/from St Petersburg and a few other Russian cities, and busses to Ivalo in Finland, and Kirkenes in Norway, across the border.



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