



Practical Information

Transport information

By Plane

The easiest way to get to St. Petersburg is via Pulkovo Airport which is about 23 km from the city centre (<http://www.pulkovoairport.ru/>).

How to reach the city centre from the Airport (<http://www.pulkovoairport.ru/en/transport/bus/>)

By Bus to the metro

City buses number **39**, **39Ex** and Minivan Taxi number **K39** run between the nearest **Moskovskaya** metro station and the airport every 15 minutes. The trip from the airport to the metro station *Moskovskaya* takes about 25-40 minutes (depending on the traffic).

Tickets for buses can be bought on the bus from the conductor. A *single bus ticket costs RUB 40, appr. 60 eurocents*).

By Metro to the city center

The fastest way to get to the city centre and the hotel is by the metro. To get to “Dashkova Residence Hotel” you need to go from **Moskovskaya metro station** to the **station Admiralteyskaya (Line 5)**.

To get to “Sokos Vasiliievsky Hotel” you need to go from **Moskovskaya metro station** to the **station Nevsky Prospect**, then you need to make a change to the green line and go to the **station Vasileostrovskaya (Line 3)**.

Tokens for metro can be bought at the cashier office in the metro, one token costs RUB 45. It is also possible to buy a card for the metro for several days/rides, which helps to save money (<http://www.metro.spb.ru/en/ticket.html>).

By taxi

If you plan to travel by a taxi, for safety reasons we strongly advise you to use only licensed taxi services offered at Pulkovo Airport, order it at the hotel or online. Taxi tariffs should be clearly displayed in the car window and there should be a taxi sign on the roof of the car.

Recommended taxi corporations:

TaxovichkoF TAXI 007(812) 330-00-02 <https://new.taxovichkof.ru>

RUTAXI 007(812) 6-005-006 <https://spb.rutaxi.ru/en/> if you order online, it is cheaper

The taxi fare from the airport to the city center is around RUB 800 (approx. 12 Euros)

Money

Currency

The official Russian currency is the **Rouble** (RUB). Practically all supermarkets, cafes and shopping malls accept bank card, though smaller shops might accept only cash.

Exchange rate

Money can be exchanged in banks and exchange offices (“Пункт обмена валюты” in Russian). The Central Bank’s exchange rates are available at <http://www.cbr.ru/>.

At the moment of publication of this guide the exchange rates are the following:

1 EUR = 69 RUB, 1 USD = 60 RUB.



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Banks

SPbU transfers daily allowance to the bank cards of VTB Bank. The full list of VTB banks and cash dispensers (BANKOMAT) in the city (**one is situated on University main campus**) is available on the website of VTB Bank http://www.vtb.com/group/contacts/geography/russia/st_petersburg/. You need to get VTB card in the bank office situated at the following address: Bolshoy prospect of Petrogradskaya side, 32 (Большой проспект П.С., 32).

If you plan to visit SPbU in future, we strongly advise you to keep the card and pin-code to use it later.

Weather

The weather in Russia and especially in St. Petersburg can be very unpredictable. The temperature in winter is usually from -15 to -5 degrees, but very frosty days with temperature about 10 degrees below zero (or even lower) occur quite often; in summer temperatures are from +15 to +24 degrees, but cloudy days with rains are quite often. In May/June it is usually warm (around +15 degrees), but the weather is very changeable and you must be well prepared for rainy and windy days. Umbrella is recommended! ☺ You can check the weather forecast on the website <https://www.gismeteo.ru/weather-sankt-peterburg-4079/weekly/>.

Contact

International Research and Technology Department, St. Petersburg State University, Universitetskaya nab. 7-9, 199034, St. Petersburg, Russia, Room 75, 2nd Floor, tel. (812) 324 08 88, <http://ifea.spbu.ru/en/contactsr/146-international-research-and-technology-department>. *Office hours:* Mon – Fri., 9 am – 5.45 pm, lunch break – 1 – 1.45 pm.

More practical info: <http://ifea.spbu.ru/en/academic-staff-exchange-programme>, <http://ifea.spbu.ru/information-for-the-visitors>

Registration

According to Russian law, if staying in Russia **seven working days or more**, foreign citizens should register their arrival in the Migration office at the first days after arrival. You can do this at the reception desk of the hotel or in the Visa department of SPbU.

<http://ifea.spbu.ru/en/registration-of-foreign-citizens-coming-to-spbsu>



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St. Petersburg top 12 sights



Hermitage Museum is the most famous and most popular museum in St. Petersburg. It is the largest art and history museum in Russia one of the best museums in the world. For 150 years the palace served as an imperial residence. In November 1917, after the October Revolution, it was declared a museum. The exhibition placed in the palace includes grand halls and chambers, collections of the antiquities of Eurasia and the East, as well as collections of European and Eastern paintings, sculptures and decorative art works.



The Mariinsky Theatre is a world-class venue for ballet, opera and orchestral music. Opened in 1860, it became the preeminent music theatre of late 19th century Russia, where many of the stage masterpieces of Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, and Rimsky-Korsakov received their premieres.



Peherhof is the first and main Summer Residence of Peter the Great. Modelled partly on Versailles, but with many features that reflected Peter's specific tastes and interests, the park was expanded under Peter's daughter, Empress Elizabeth, to greatly surpass its French antecedent in scope and grandeur. Peterhof excels in the diversity and range of its attractions, from the charming baroque buildings of the Petrine era to the extraordinary gilded extravagance of the Grand Cascade to the catalog of gardening styles encompassed in the Upper and Lower Parks to the ever-growing number of museums housed in the various buildings on the estate.



St. Isaac's Cathedral and Colonnade.

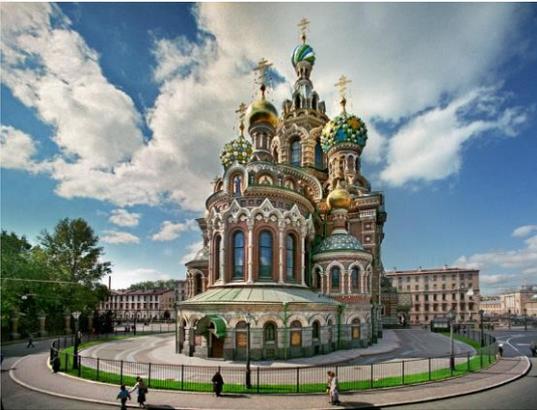
Completed in 1858, St. Isaac's took over forty years to build and decorate. Its strictly European Empire-style facades and colonnades are made unique by the employment of red Karelian granite, while the interiors also meld Orthodox tradition with Catholic influence and extraordinary extravagance in the choice of materials. Different types of semiprecious stone from all over Russia form the interior walls and columns, while an abundance of original art and sculpture goes only a little way to filling the vast hall of the cathedral, designed to accommodate 14 000 standing worshippers.



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The Peter and Paul Fortress is the place where the city of St. Petersburg began, the Peter and Paul Fortress never actually saw military action, but has fulfilled a variety of functions over its three-century history, from burial place for nearly all of the Romanov Emperors and Empresses to notorious political prison to the site of key experiments in the development of Soviet rocket technology. All of these aspects of the fortresses history are celebrated in diverse exhibitions across various buildings.



Church of Our Saviour on Spilled Blood

The Church on Spilled Blood is nonetheless one of St. Petersburg's most instantly recognizable landmarks, its riotously colorful Russian Revival architecture making a stark contrast to the elegant neoclassicism of the State Russian Museum next door. It's extraordinary also that a monument to mark such a tragic event (the assassination of Alexander II) should be so exuberantly colorful. The church contains over 7500 square meters of mosaics—according to its restorers, more than any other church in the world.



Tsarskoye Selo (Pushkin) is the home to not one but two vast 18th century palaces, surrounded by beautifully landscaped parkland with a rich variety of follies and monuments. Tsarskoye Selo is a testament to the immense wealth and lavishness of the Romanov Imperial family. The rococo Catherine Palace by Bartolomeo Rastrelli, a sister building to his Winter Palace in the city centre, is the most famous attraction, particularly thanks to the extraordinary Amber Room, but there are many other highlights to see, with almost every great St. Petersburg architect of the 18th and early-19th centuries contributing something to the ensemble.



Opening bridges

During the summer navigation season tens of cargo ships per day follow this important route, making it necessary to open bridges across the Neva in central St. Petersburg. This is done after midnight, and during the White Nights especially it has long been a tradition for crowds to gather along the embankments to watch the raising of the bridges. The raised arches of Palace Bridge make for one of St. Petersburg's most famous views, but its as much the atmosphere of lazy revelry and contentment inspired by the eternal twilight that makes this such an unmissable St. Petersburg experience.



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"There's nothing finer than **Nevsky Prospekt**, at least not in St. Petersburg." So begins Nikolay Gogol's famous tale of St. Petersburg's central avenue. Undoubtedly, Nevsky is one of the world's greatest streets. Running 4.5 kilometers from the Admiralty in the west to the Alexander Nevsky Monastery in the east, Nevsky Prospekt has a hardly single building dating from after 1917. Highlights include the magnificent Art Nouveau Singer Building, the baroque Stroganov Palace, Kazan Cathedral with its curved neoclassical colonnade, the Horse Tamers statues on Anichkov Bridge, and the 18th century shopping arcade Gostiny Dvor.



Bronze Horseman is St. Petersburg's most famous public monument, this equestrian statue to Peter the Great is not only one of the most instantly recognizable symbols of St. Petersburg - like the Statue of Liberty for New York or the Eiffel Tower for Paris - it is also the subject of one of the greatest poems in the Russian language, Alexander Pushkin's *The Bronze Horseman: A Petersburg Tale*. Completed in 1782, the statue took 12 years of work by the French sculptor Étienne Maurice Falconet. The pedestal of the monument, the "Thunder Stone", is purportedly the largest ever moved by man.



Strelka is a small promontory of land at the eastern end of Vasilevskiy Island right in the middle of the Neva River Delta, with magnificent views on all sides, including the Winter Palace, Palace and Trinity Bridges, the Peter and Paul Fortress and St. Isaac's Cathedral. The Strelka also has landmarks of its own, specifically the magnificent Rostral Columns, with their gas beacons lit for public holidays and maritime anniversaries, and the elegant classical temple of the St. Petersburg Stock Exchange, all works of the French-born architect Thomas de Thomon.



Summer Garden is located where the Fontanka River flows out of the Neva River. It was founded in 1704 by order of Peter the Great, who was personally involved in planning it, and is laid out according to strict geometrical principles. The Summer Garden is home to marble statues acquired from Europe especially for Russia's new capital, and also to rare flowers and plants, as well as fountains. It was a traditional location for courtly life outside the palace, and balls were held here by the nobility, who also enjoyed simply taking the air in the Garden. The Summer Garden is bounded by a fence designed by the architect Yury Felten in 1773-1786 which is included in the list of top 100 fences in Europe ever.



Practical Information

Useful links

Russia

<http://studyinrussia.ru/en/>
<http://rs.gov.ru/en>

Saint-Petersburg

<http://www.saint-petersburg.com/>
<http://www.visit-petersburg.ru/en/>

University

<http://english.spbu.ru/>
International Office
<http://ifea.spbu.ru/en/>