

# ST PETERSBURG

The canals and waterways of St Petersburg make it one of the most pleasant cities of Eastern Europe, and therefore often nicknamed 'the Venice of the North'. The Neva River is an essential ingredient to St Petersburg's charm, and runs right through the city. It was once intended to be 'the main street of the city'. The Neva is completely frozen during winter making it unnavigable by ship. There are a couple of attractions in St Petersburg that are a must for any visitor. These include the Hermitage, one of the largest museums in the world hosting an impressive European art collection, including works by Michelangelo, Rubens, Rembrandt, Picasso and Matisse. Another one of these must see attractions is the Summer Garden founded in 1704 by order of Peter the Great, from whom the city got its name.

Some of our favorite hotel picks in St Petersburg...



## From the airport

St Petersburg Pulkovo Airport is located approximately 20 km away from the city centre. The airport is easily accessible by taxi or bus. The drive to city will take approximately 30 minutes.

The majority of our tours to St Petersburg include a private transfer directly from the airport to your hotel. Your driver will be waiting for you at the airport after customs, holding a sign with your name in it. The drivers are easy to spot at the airport, they are all wearing black suits and ties and they will be waiting in the arrivals hall ready to escort you through the busy airport. If your flight is delayed, the driver will still wait for you, so no need to worry!

Good to know!

Going through the customs at the airport might take a long time. Be prepared to wait in the line and remember to bring a bottle of water with you. It also good to use a restroom before entering the customs area - you don't want to leave your spot in the line and queue up again!



Domina Prestige Hotel



Private driver for your Russian tours



Pushka Inn Hotel



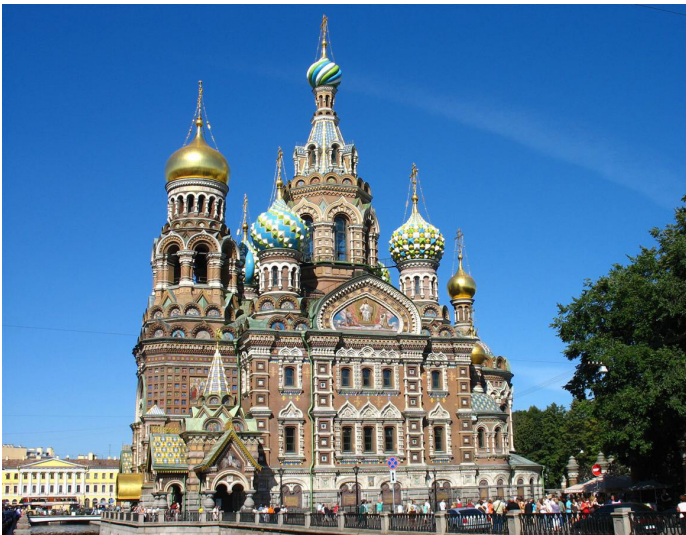
## Sights

**Church on the Spilt Blood** - Church of the Savior on the Spilled Blood, breathtakingly beautiful both inside and out, is also one of the highest buildings in St Petersburg. The church was built on the spot where Emperor Alexander II was severely wounded and died in 1881, hence the name. Conveniently located, we recommend visiting this church a few times at different times of day to enjoy the site. There is a small park near by selling snacks and lots of souvenir shopping along the river.

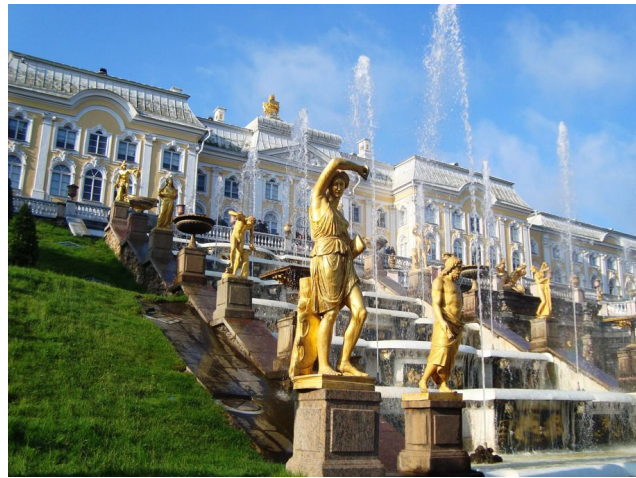
**Peter & Paul Fortress & Cathedral** – this fortress is a major landmark in the city. Tombs of all Russian emperors can be found inside the Cathedral, which is the centre piece for the fortress.

**Summer Neva river cruise** – the city will show it itself in a very different view from the water. St Petersburg is built over 42 islands, and you can see canals and rivers everywhere you go. It is called the Venice of the North – for a reason.

**Nevski Prospect** – the main street in St Petersburg and probably also most well known street in whole Russia. It reflects the history of the city and acts as a setting for many writers and their stories.



Church on the Spilt Blood



Peterhof Palace



Hermitage

## Tip!

Try something different

Why not try kayaking to explore the city from a different angle - early morning risers will enjoy a kayak past the Church on the Spilt Blood.

Strolling at night – be sure to visit some of the main sights in the evening as most are lit up beautifully. Some of the main streets are very busy during the early evening with lots of rock bands busking and livening up the atmosphere.

**Hermitage**, also known as the Winter Palace – no doubt the most well-known visitor attraction in St Petersburg, and a place not to miss. The collection comprises of over 3 million items. Definitely pay the extra entrance fee to see the Diamond and Gold room. It is small but has some incredible gems and antique pieces to consider.

**General Staff Building** – part of the Hermitage, the General Staff Building is a new gallery that houses the modern art collection. It is directly across the square from the Hermitage. It doesn't have any signage outside but it is definitely worth finding. Most of the time the ticket into this gallery is included in the Hermitage ticket but this is not actually guaranteed. You just need to ask on arrival.

**Peterhof Palace** - A series of palaces and gardens, which are often referred to as the "Russian Versailles". The palace ensemble is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Peterhof's Palace comprises of The Grand Cascade and Samson Fountain, The Lower Gardens and The Grand Palace. Peterhof's Palace is definitely one of the most visited sights in St Petersburg.



## Dining

### Pushka Inn Restaurant

Next door to the Pushka Inn Hotel, you will find a simple restaurant offering appealing Russian food at a good price and with an English menu. It is perfect if you have arrived hungry and still getting your bearings. This is also the breakfast room.

Address: Moyka River Embankment 14  
Web: [www.pushka-inn.com/restaurant/](http://www.pushka-inn.com/restaurant/)

### Yat

For authentic, reasonably priced and delicious local food, we suggest also visiting Yat, 20 metres from the Pushka Inn Hotel. You will see the sign in English outside and then you head down into the cellar. It is larger than you think down there, although it gets busy so we recommend securing a booking earlier in the day. There is a playroom for children.

Address: Moyka River Embankment 16  
Web: <http://eatinyat.com/home-english.html>



Russian blinis with caviar

## Tip!

There are lots of fine dining options in St. Petersburg as well as modern rooftop bars and funky areas. After long days of sightseeing, these options really depend on how close they are to your hotel of choice. It is a big city so local is often preferable.

Try one of the most known Russian dishes - blini. It is a small pancake made of a wheat or buckwheat flour and is typically served with sour cream and caviar. These are very popular at cocktail parties!

## Good to know!

There are public restrooms available in the city squares that are housed in trucks, you pay a very small fee to enter. Your guide will also assist in finding restrooms. Cloakrooms are available for free in most galleries and buildings.



Neva River

### Chekhov

Despite a totally nondescript appearance from the street, this restaurant's charming interior perfectly recalls that of a 19th-century dacha and makes for a wonderful setting for a meal. The menu, hidden inside classic novels, features lovingly prepared dishes such as roasted venison with bilberry sauce or Murmansk sole with dill potatoes and stewed leeks.

Address: Petropavlovskaya ul 4  
Web: <http://restaurant-chekhov.ru>

### Food Hall: Kupetz Eliseevs

The Kupetz Eliseevs food hall, located in a beautiful building on Nevsky Avenue, St. Petersburg's main street, is well worth a visit just to have a classic Russian tea under a giant pineapple and listen to the self-playing piano in the museum-like environment. Enjoy a homemade lemonade, a Russian pancake, or the traditional Russian alcohol-free beer kvass. In the cozy restaurant downstairs you can eat next to the open kitchen and get great food at good prices.

Address: Nevsky pr 56.  
Web: [kupetzeliseevs.ru](http://kupetzeliseevs.ru)



Food Hall Kupetz Eliseevs