

## Sightseeing tour around St. Petersburg

Sightseeing tour around St. Petersburg is the great opportunity to get acquainted with one of the best cities in the world. During this excursion you will see all the main and most popular sights and enjoy the beauty of St. Petersburg.



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## Admiralty



 Admiralteyskiy Proyezd, 1  
 Admiralteyskaya, Nevskiy Prospekt, Gostiny Dvor  
 59.937515,30.308787

  
  
 0 ч. 20 мин.

The Admiralty takes one of the most important places in the military history of the city and country because it is the birthplace of the Russian Navy. It is the complex of buildings where the Main Admiralty of Russian Empire used to be situated. Nowadays it is a monument of the naval history.

The Admiralty was built in 1704-1706 by the design of architect I. Korobov. The building is decorated with different sculptures, which images are connected with the marine legends and myths. Many famous sculptors took part in the designing process of the sculptures: S. Pimenov, V. Demut-Malinovskiy, A. Anisimov, F. Shedrin, I. Terebenev and others. Reliefs, which depict the Greek goddess of justice Themis awarding warriors and craftsmen, are located in the pediments of the side porticos. The central arch is adorned with the statues of nymphs, who stand on the high pedestals and carry the globes. Above the arch there are soaring Glories and allegorical bas-relief "Establishment of fleet in Russia". In the corners of the first tier there are figures of antique heroes: Alexander of Macedon, Achilles, Ajax and Pyrrhus. Above the colonnade there are 28 sculptural allegories: fire, water, earth, air, four seasons, four cardinal directions, muse of astronomy - Urania and patroness of sailors - goddess Isis. This sculptural groups form the image of Russia as naval world power.

The famous ship on the spire of the Admiralty is one of the main symbols of Saint-Petersburg. The first ship was set up in 1711 during the reconstruction of the building. Under the ship the gilded ball, below which there was round moneybox from pure gold, was established. In this moneybox all the examples of gold coins, which were made in Saint-Petersburg since its foundation, were placed. This ball was never opened due to the irretrievable lost of the secret of its opening. The first ship occupied its place till 1815, when it was substituted for the new one, and the original ship was mysteriously lost. The second ship was replaced in 1886 by the exact copy as a result of the reconstruction works.

There is a supposition that the first Russian military ship-frigate "Oryol", which was built in 1667-1669, became the prototype of the Admiralty ship. There are several legends, according to one of which three flags on the ship's masts are made of pure gold, and in the ship's bows there is the personal surveying compass of Peter I. Also there is an assumption that the Admiralty ship has the same image as the first ship, which enter the just built port of Saint-Petersburg.

Nowadays the headquarters of the Main Navy Staff is situated in the Admiralty.

### **Additional information:**

This object is not available for visiting but it is possible to enjoy its architectural image twenty-four-hour.

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## Saint Isaac's Cathedral and the Colonnade



Isaakiyevskaya Ploshchad', 4  
Admiralteyskaya, Nevskiy Prospekt, Gostiny Dvor  
59.933893,30.306383

+7(812)315-97-32  
www.eng.cathedral.ru  
1 ч.

Saint Isaac's Cathedral is the biggest Orthodox church in Saint-Petersburg, has the museum status. It is the prominent monument of Russian classicism style. Wonderful panorama opens over the city from the colonnade.

### Admission fee

Entrance tickets: for adults - 250 RUR, for ISIC holders - 150 RUR, for young people (7 to 18 years old) - 50 RUR. Audio guide (in Russian, English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Finnish, Japanese, Chinese and Korean) - 200 RUR. St Isaac's Cathedral Colonnaded Walkway. Audio excursion "Panoramic View of St Petersburg" - 150 RUR.

### L The most well-known sights - Must see!

Saint Isaac's Cathedral is one of the main sights of the "Northern capital", which amazes with its beauty and sizes. For all comers inside the cathedral it is possible to order an excursion for both, groups and individuals. Also, you can use audio guide service to learn about the history of the cathedral and its inner decoration and particular features.

### L Religion and philosophy

The cathedral was consecrated in honor of the Saint Isaac of Confessor (Isaac the Dalmatian), which was highly esteemed by Peter the Great. Per se, Saint Isaac's Cathedral is the museum complex since 1991, but services are held here during the Orthodox holidays. Besides, in 1712 the wedding ceremony of Peter the Great and Catherine Alekseevna took place in the first building of the cathedral. Russian Orthodox Church never gave the special status to the cathedral, so that is why it is not officially a cathedral, however, known all over the world as Saint Isaac's Cathedral.

### L The city in architecture and monuments

The construction of Saint Isaac's Cathedral began in 1818 and lasted for forty years! It was finished in 1858. The main architect is considered to be Auguste de Montferrand, but, of course, not only he took part in such a scale construction, but also a lot of key persons of that time. That fact seems to make some special impact in to the image of the building, bring some extraordinary energy to its facades. The colonnades are adorned with the figures of twelve apostles, which rose up to the arches and appeared around the cupola. White facing marble, paintings and mosaics, canvases and frescos - the number of masterpieces exceeds all real expectations. There are three altars in the cathedral, which are worthy of notice. It is hard to describe such things, which when you look at them, you just lost the ability to speak. Inside the cathedral you also can see the prototype of scaffolding, which was used in lifting and setting up of colonnades process. Each of its colonnades weighted more than 100 tones. Stay here for a while and imagine the scale of what happened here 200 years ago, when this particular walls were about o be erected.

### L Captivating views

The cupola of Saint Isaac's Cathedral with its great sizes was set on 72 colonnades, at that, they all are monolithic. The colonnades, which were lifted up on a height of more than 40 meters - is a real miracle of the engineering. After all, even modern technologies are not always manage to solve such difficult tasks, so there is no need to tell how hard it was to do it that time.

The unique view, which is famous not only among citizens, but also numerous tourists of the city, opens up from the colonnade over Saint-Petersburg. The whole centre of Saint-Petersburg lies spread before the eyes - the Neva River, the Admiralty, Mariinsky Palace. However, you should remember that the height of the colonnade is 43 meters, almost 600 steps and it is better to count on your strengths only. The weather in Saint-Petersburg is always unpredictable, so even during summer time, you may need some warm cloth, just in case.

### R The sights - record-holders

Saint Isaac's Cathedral by its height can be compared only to the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow with 103 meters height, which is just 1.5 meters higher than Saint Isaac's Cathedral. Thus, it was the second highest Orthodox church in the world and the oldest one as well. There are the analogies with the St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, St. Paul's Cathedral in London and St. Marie Cathedral in Florence. Saint Isaac's Cathedral yields to its counterparts by its sizes, but in the sphere of engineering and constructing technologies Saint-Isaac's Cathedral takes the lead over them, as well as the whole engineering of its time.

### R Military and political history

As well as many other churches, Saint Isaac's Cathedral was plundered during the first days of the revolution in 1917, after which not the best times began. In 1921 the cathedral was closed, and in the beginning of 1930s severely and ironically the first antireligious museum was opened here. During the war building was damaged by shelling and bomb attacks. Even today you can see the signs of shell and bomb hits on the facades of the cathedral. After the war the cathedral worked as a museum up to 1948. In 1950s the scale reconstruction was held and renewed cathedral opened its doors. In honor of the sixtieth anniversary of Victory the exposition, which consists of the displays, which were brought from the city's and suburb's museums, was set in the cathedral. It is dedicated to the Great Patriotic War and the Siege of Leningrad.

## Kazan Cathedral



📍 Kazanskaya Ploshchad', 2  
🗺️ Nevskiy Prospekt, Gostiny Dvor  
📞 59.934634,30.324667

📞 +7(812)570-45-28  
🌐 [www.kazansky-spb.ru](http://www.kazansky-spb.ru)  
🕒 1 ч.

Kazan Cathedral is the biggest Orthodox church, wonderful example of Russian classicism style, prominent monument of military glory. Inside the cathedral there is the wonder-working copy of the Holy icon Our Lady of Kazan.

### Admission fee

Free

### **L** The most well-known sights - Must see!

Kazan Cathedral is one of the most prominent monuments of architecture and fine art, as well as the biggest churches in Saint-Petersburg.

### **L** Religion and philosophy

Kazan Cathedral was erected for the wonder-working copy of the Holy icon Our Lady of Kazan, which is one of the main Orthodox shrines of Saint-Petersburg. Other venerable icons in Kazan Cathedral are: the icon of the Savior in iconostasis, icons of Saint Nicholas and Black Madonna of Czestochowa, presented by field marshal M. Kutuzov, Calvary with a granule of the tomb of Jesus, icon of the Resurrection with a granule of the tomb of Jesus. In 1932 in the church there was the Museum of atheism and religion, since 1991 Kazan Cathedral is a functional Orthodox church, and since 2000 - it is the cathedral of Saint-Petersburg eparchy of Russian Orthodox Church. Nowadays divine services take place every day here as well as christenings and wedding ceremonies, church services and services for dead.

### **L** The city in architecture and monuments

Kazan Cathedral was built in 1801-1811 by the architect A. Voronikhin in classicism style. For his work the architect was awarded with the Fourth class of the Saint Vladimir Order. Kazan cathedral was erected instead of the ramshackle church of the Nativity of the Theotokos. In 1930s the cathedral was robbed and closed in 1932. In 1950-1960s the restoration works were held. In 1991 services were resumed. The second consecration of Kazan Cathedral took place in 1998.

### **R** Military and political history

After the Patriotic War of 1812 Kazan Cathedral became the monument of military glory of Russia. There is a grave of renowned field marshal M. Kutuzov, also there are 107 trophy French banners and flags of the regiments, which were crushed, 93 keys of fortresses and cities, which were captured by Russian Army. In front of the cathedral there are two bronze statues of the great Russian military leaders M. Kutuzov and M. Barclay de Tolly, which were designed by B. Orlovsky in 1837.

## The Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood



📍 Канал Грибоедова, 26А

📞 +7(812) 315-16-36

 Nevskiy Prospekt, Gostiny Dvor  
 59.940213,30.328884

 [www.eng.cathedral.ru/spasa\\_na\\_](http://www.eng.cathedral.ru/spasa_na_)  
 1 ч.

The Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood is the prominent architectural monument, the biggest Orthodox church of the city, which was erected on the place of death of the emperor. One of the biggest collections of mosaic decoration in Europe. The church has a museum status.

### Admission fee

Entrance tickets: for adults - 250 RUR, for ISIC holders - 150 RUR, for young people (7 to 18 years old) - 50 RUR. Audio guide (in Russian, English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Finnish, Japanese, Chinese and Korean) - 200 RUR.

### The most well-known sights - Must see!

Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood, also known as the Church of the Resurrection of Christ, is one of the most prominent monuments of Russian architecture. Its outer decoration and the interior are the real masterpiece and annually attract a lot of tourists from all over the world. The audio guide service is available for visitors.

### Religion and philosophy

Since its consecration on the 19th of August 1907, the church of the Savior on Spilled Blood was not a parish church and was not meant for mass visiting. Here the certain services, devoted to the memory of Alexander II, were held. In 1920 it was decided to give the temple to the parish. In 1923 the church became a cathedral of Petrograd eparchy. In 1930 by the decree of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee the cathedral was closed. During the Siege of Leningrad in the cathedral there was a morgue, here all the dead were brought. After the war the church was taken by Maly Opera Theatre for storing all its decorations. In 1971 the temple was transferred to the balance of "Saint Isaac's Cathedral" museum. In 1997 the museum-monument "Savior on the Spilled Blood" was opened again for visitors. On the 23 of May 2004 the first liturgy after 70-year break was served.

### The city in architecture and monuments

The cathedral was built in 1883-1907 by architect A. Parland and Archimandrite Ignatius (Malyshev). The church of the Savior on Spilled Blood got its name because it stands on the spot where Alexander II, the Emperor of Russia, was mortally wounded on 1 March 1881. Then it was decided to build a chapel on the attempt spot. In 1881 the temporary chapel was consecrated and memorable services for the dead were held in it. In 1883 the construction of the new church began, it lasted 24 years. In the décor of the church different decoration materials were used - brick, marble, granite, enamels, gilded copper and mosaic - that made the image of the church such vivid and outstanding. Inside the church there is a real mosaic museum, the area of the mosaic covering is 7065 square meters. Also in the church you may see the richest collection of the semiprecious stones, jewelry enamel, colored ornamented tiles, which were made by the best artists. The special place in the church is the canopy right on the spot where Alexander II was wounded.

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## Bronze Horseman and Senate Square



 Senatskaya Ploshchad'  
 Admiralteyskaya  
 59.936532,30.302137

  
  
 0 ч. 20 мин.

Bronze Horseman on Senate Square - is the monument to the great Emperor Peter the First, which was glorified by famous Russian poet Alexander Pushkin. This monument is one of the main symbols of Saint-Petersburg.

### The most well-known sights - Must see!

Bronze Horseman - is a model of the equestrian statue of Peter the Great - it is the most famous monument to the Emperor. A lot of tourists come here, to Senate Square, to appreciate the beauty and monumentalism of this wonderful architectural memorial.

## L The city in architecture and monuments

Monument to Peter I adorns the Senate Square - the most longstanding square of the Northern Capital. It dates from the beginning of the XVIII century. Earlier the Senate Square was the part of the square in front of the Admiralty, but with the loss of its purpose as a fortress, this territory turned into a municipal area. It got its name thanks to the government department Senate, located on this territory in 1763. The square formed in 1834. This had contributed by the construction of the Senate and Synod building in this area. The building, which was erected in the Russian classicism style under the management of the architect A. E. Shtauberd, is the architectural monument. The construction of the buildings was completely finished by 1832, the decoration of the inner interiors began. A lot of masters took part in stucco works, works with marble, furniture designs. Master Torrichelli created the most difficult elements of the decorative molding. In one of the corner halls there is a church. This temple was a unique one because of the fact, that it is the only one church with the cupola, equipped with the glass lantern.

The adjoining arch over Galernaya Street is the symbol of the unite of the state and the church. For the creation of this arch one of the designs by C. Rossi, which he didn't use in the ensemble of the Palace Square, was used. The height of the triumphal arch is more than 25 meters and its width is 20 meters.

The sculptural ensemble "Godliness and Justice" is located over the arch. The bas-reliefs, which decorates the arch, flashy with the allegories to the Russian legislation and glorify the power of the state.

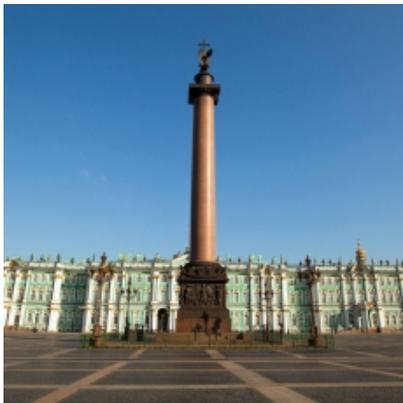
For a very long time, since 1925, in the halls of the Senate and Synod building there was the Historical Archive of the Russian Federation. Nowadays, there is the Constitutional Court of Russia and Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library.

The Bronze Horseman got its name thanks to the poem of the same name by the great Russian poet Alexander Sergeevich Pushkin. The sculpture was designed by the architect E. Falconet by the decree of the Empress Catherine II and with the assistance of his apprentices and followers (in particular, the head was made by M. A. Collo, and the snake under the hooves of the stallion - by sculptor F. Gordeev). The base of the monument is the natural rock, also known as the "Thunder-stone", which is still covered with legends and rumors. The stone monolith, which height was supposed to be 11 meters and more, was needed. Thanks to the Academy of Arts such stone was founded in Lahta area. So, according to the legend, the lightning hit the rock but didn't break it and just made a crack. Since that time, this monolith was called the "Thunder-stone". The wavy shape of the stone reminds that Peter the Great created the "window" not just in Europe, but also to the sea for our country. Monoliths with the approximately similar mass were transported just in ancient time, so the moving of this stone in the XVIII century was a big deal.

## L Following the famous personalities, books, movies

The snake under the stallion of the Emperor Peter I symbolizes the enemy, which threatened Russia in different times and with whom the great commander successfully fight. Allegory to his victory - laurel wreath and belt sword. The inscription on the pedestal says: "To Peter I from Catherine II. 1782". Catherine II always paralleled his acts and herself, considering herself as successor to his achievements.

## Palace Square



-  Palace Square
-  Admiralteyskaya
-  59.938875,30.316159

- 
- 
-  0 ч. 20 мин.

Palace Square is the heart of Saint-Petersburg, its main square. Winter Palace, consisting the square ensemble, is the prominent architectural monument, which is worldwide famous as the State Museum Hermitage. Alexander Column, which is located in the centre of the square - is one of the main symbols of Saint-Petersburg.

## L The most well-known sights - Must see!

Palace Square is located in the very centre of Saint-Petersburg and is considered as the main one. It is famous not only with its width (although, it is at least twice bigger than the Red Square in Moscow), but also with its architectural monuments, which form it. Tourists from all over the world feel obligated to visit it.

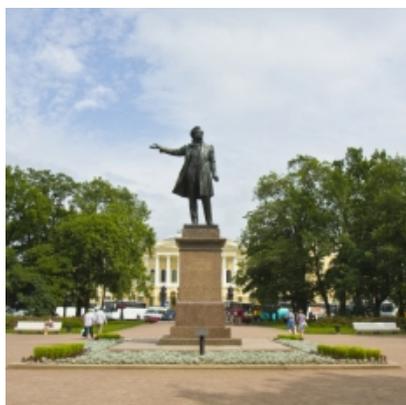
## L The city in architecture and monuments

Formerly, the square was called Admiralteisky Lug and included the territory of the Alexander Garden. The square got its name in 1766 because of the main building the Winter Palace, which was constructed in the middle of the XVIII century according to the design F. B. Rastrelli (the construction process took almost ten years). The inner decoration was created by the other masters – Y. M. Felten, J. – B. Wallin de La Mothe, A. Rinaldi. The Palace has three storey; four wings together with the inner garden and facades form the shape of the caret. The Winter Palace looks very light, but impressive and solemn at the same time. Vases and sculptures, which are set on the ledges around the perimeter of the building, make it look even more triumphal. Originally they were made of stone, but in the turn of the XIX-XX centuries were replaced by the metal one. Such buildings as Glazov House, Lansky House, Bruse House were constructed after the Winter Palace. All of these buildings were erected an arc of a circle and later were named Feltonovskie by the name of the architect Y. M. Felten, who designed them. Years later on the spot of these houses the General Staff Building was built (design by C. Rossi), however the main proportions and the location were preserved. Two wings of the central part were connected by the arch. All this construction represents the arc of almost 600 meters length. Triumphal Arch – is one of the main monuments, which was erected in honor of the Patriotic War 1812. Such masters as S. S. Pimenov, V. – I. Demut-Malinovsky worked on it. The arch is decorated with bas-reliefs and adorns the entrance to the square from the Nevsky Prospekt. In 1837-1843 the building of the guard corps headquarters was constructed on the opposite side. The Alexander Column was erected a little bit earlier and still has a status of the highest column in world, made of the stone monolith. On its top there is a sculpture of an angel (design by A. Montferrand), who tramples the snake, – the symbol of the peace, which Russia brought in Europe by defeating of the common enemy – Napoleon.

## R Captivating views

Architectural monuments and sights, located on the Palace Square, form wonderful combination and represent great panorama. All the objects are illuminated during the night time and the square looks even more beautiful. Nowadays, a lot of concerts and events are held here. Also, the Palace Square is in the list of the world heritage of UNESCO.

## Arts Square



-  ploshchad' Iskusstv
-  Nevskiy Prospekt, Gostiny Dvor
-  59.937257,30.331553



0 ч. 30 мин.

You can walk along the square right in the heart of the city and enjoy the architectural monuments, which contains the great ensemble of the square.

## **R The city in architecture and monuments**

Arts Square is one of the main architectural spots of Saint-Petersburg, located between Inzhenernaya and Italiyskaya Streets. The name of the square is an original reference point for citizens and tourists. It was built according to the design of the famous architect C. Rossi, whose name became almost a common noun in the first half of the XIX century. The square itself as a united complex of buildings is a part of the list of historical constructions of Saint-Petersburg and is guarded by UNESCO. Arts Square as an architectural unit was founded in 1816 on the spot of the famous greenhouses of Mikhailovsky Palace, when it was decided to build a permanent edifice for the residence of Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich. C. Rossi created a development project of surrounding area. He designed the square as a united complex of buildings and structures. In 1823 the palace was opened and Arts Square began to be created, taking in mind the new conception of the city centre.

The theatre building was decided to construct in the western part of the square, as it was planned according to original design. However, the construction works were managed by architect A. Brullov with the help of C. Rossi's designed project. So, Mikhailovsky Theatre was set up here. It was not an united project, rather the collection of ideas, but author's concepts were realized very successfully - as a result, the theatre building as a real pearl of the ensemble. Architects P. Vandamini, P. Jako, A. Postnikov, P. Svinin, A. Melnikov and I. Gaberzettel constructed almost at the same time the complex of other buildings, making small changes and taking into account the scale of construction works, causing huge temporary building site for that times. Nicholas I, who struggled for a bringing order to the central part of Saint-Petersburg in the nearest future, issued an edict in 1827 for creating a public garden on this spot. C. Rossi was charged with the lay-out project, and D. Bush as responsible for the planting of greenery design. Moreover, the foreground task was to create green plantations in constructing city, because, if to take into account the fact, that even nowadays there are no many of them, nevertheless, it applies to any European capital, which construction is rooted in centuries. In 1891 the main gardener of Saint-Petersburg V. Vise held the reconstruction of the public garden. Trees were removed from the centre, and the vista over the portico of Mikhailovsky Palace from Nevsky Prospekt side was opened up. In the end of the XIX century, in 1895, the fisc of the Russian Emperor was spent on purchasing a building to place there a huge collection of Russian art. The same year, on the 13th of April, it was renamed as Russian Museum of the Emperor Alexander III according to the Greatest decree. On the 7th of March 1898 it was opened for visitors after the thorough repairs.

According to the project documents of the architect V. Svinin quite grand works on reconstruction of the inner side of Mikhailovsky Palace, were held, and the building, which belonged to the Ethnographic Museum, appeared from the western side at short notice. Ensemble of the Arts Square is the united project of the complex of buildings: Russian Ethnographic Museum, the Grand Hall of Saint-Petersburg Philharmonia, hotel "Europe", house of architect P. Jako, Catholic Church of St. Catherine, house of Vielgorsky and Mikhailovsky Palace, and, of course, Benois Wing - Russian Museum and Mikhailovsky Theatre.

## **R Following the famous personalities, books, movies**

By the way, the famous monument to Alexander Pushkin is the part of this wonderful ensemble of buildings as well. The monument itself is located on the centre of the square, and was opened not so long time ago, in 1957, in memorial of 250-anniversary of Leningrad. Alexander Pushkin is the greatest Russian poet, who is well-known all around the world. Architects M. Anikushin and V. Petrov tried to create a monument, which would fit in the conception of the architectural ensemble, and they managed to do it. Incidentally, the monument itself and its visual appearance is one of the most replicable image of the poet and, perhaps, one of the most famous.